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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 13 APRIL, 2019



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Govt elevates technical, agriculture schools' role

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government is set to restore secondary schools that major in technical and agricultural science subjects to their former glory next year after renovating and equipping seven institutions at a cost of 7bn/-

Speaking here yesterday during the 35th anniversary of the death of then Prime Minister Edward Sokoine at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the Minister for Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training Prof Joyce Ndalichako said all these schools have been put to major renovation and supplied with modern equipment.

The minister used the occasion to direct the Commissioner for Education to ensure that the schools open next January as technical and agricultural science institutions.

"The government has decided to restore the schools to produce more technicians and agriculture experts to help build an industrial economy," she said.

The revival plan issue came up as the minister was answering a question on when the institutions' former strength in the subjects would be restored after years of neglect. This was vital to boost the country's aspiration to become an industrial economy, an academic participant had emphasized.

"For us to achieve our aspiration of becoming an industrial economy and maintain that status, we must produce more experts in technical and agricultural science education," Prof Ndalichako affirmed.

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Chinese embassy launches Dodoma consulate office

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CHINESE Embassy in Tanzania yesterday launched its consulate office in Dodoma, becoming the first country to have a subsidiary diplomatic presence in the political capital since the government started shifting most of its activities here last year.

Speaking at the event, Chinese Ambassador Wang Ke, said that the fifth phase government has put in place initiatives that have generated a new trend and provided strong impetus to economic and social development.

Among those initiatives is shifting



The Chinese embassy attaches great importance to the president's proposal when he handed out title deeds to diplomatic

the capital to Dodoma which is a long-cherished wish first proposed by founding president Julius Nyerere in 1973.

"It is significant for the central government to maintain closer ties with the regions and strengthen linkages between the coastal areas and inland regions to promote common development," she told the gathering.

"President John Magufuli is committed to realizing this long-cherished wish within his term of office for he has shown extraordinary courage and resolve by overcoming various difficulties and making remarkable progress," the envoy asserted.

The Chinese embassy attaches great importance to the president's proposal when he handed out title deeds to diplomatic missions for plots to build embassies in Dodoma two months ago.

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Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro receives a dummy key from the Home Affairs Permanent Secretary Major General Jacob Kingu, shortly after Chinese embassy official Xu Chen (not in picture) handed over seven buildings funded by the Chinese government at the Moshi Police Academy (MPA) in Kilimanjaro region yesterday. Photo: Tanzania Police Force

35th anniversary: JKT hands Sokoine family grand house

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE family of former Prime Minister Edward Moringe Sokoine yesterday commemorated 35 years since his death with a new modern house built by the government.

Five years ago, in 2014 during the 30th Anniversary of Sokoine's death, President Jakaya Kikwete who attended the memorial mass, ordered the construction of a family house at the former premier's residence.

The National Service (JKT)

had meanwhile refurbished the old house belonging to Sokoine, erected a perimeter wall fence in the previously unprotected homestead and built a mausoleum which marks the former premier's grave.

The leading religious dignitary of his denomination, Polycarp Cardinal Pengo who is outgoing archbishop of Dar es Salaam, led hundreds of leaders and residents of Monduli and Arusha Region in the reminiscence mass held in honour of the departed premier who died in a road ac-

cident on Thursday, the 12th of April 1984.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa represented the government in the memorial mass, restating the state's position in honouring Edward Sokoine as a true patriot.

Sokoine, who was MP for Monduli, died without many properties or even personal belongings, owning only three pairs of Kaunda suits, without a private personal car while his house in Monduli was but a humble homestead.

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TPSF teams up with Africa 118 in SMEs digital packs initiative

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) in collaboration with Africa 118, a Nairobi-based digital service provider for small businesses has launched a programmer to provide a Digital Starter Pack for up to 1000 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to help promote their goods and

services.

The project aims at providing an effective digital marketing platform to enable the selected SMEs in Tanzania to promote their goods and services especially in export markets.

Currently, only 15-percent of Tanzanian micro, small and medium enterprises have access to the internet, falling behind other mar-

kets in the world (South Africa 30 percent, India (40 percent), (Europe/ North America 65 percent) hence keeping Tanzanian SMEs at a competitive disadvantage.

"We believe that this will go a long way to help them access export markets as the vast majority of Tanzanian exporters can't reach these buyers for not having an on-

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SPECIAL FEATURE ON INDUSTRIALIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

"NCHI YA VIWANDA"



The Guardian Ltd, through its Leading Newspaper, The Guardian and Nipashe in collaboration with CITI will publish special supplement focusing on Industrialization Development in Tanzania, phase one on 18th April 2019.

We are inviting The Government and Private Institutions to participate in this special feature.

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Chinese embassy opens Dodoma consulate office

FROM PAGE 1

"In order to start the construction of a new embassy at an early date when the necessary conditions become available, we have been accelerating communication with the relevant authorities in the government," she stated.

The launching of the consular office is not only to respond to President Magufuli's proposal but to show China's firm support for implementation of major development initiatives and strategies set by the government at present.

To set up the office, the Chinese embassy is seeking to deepen China-Tanzania cooperation for even more tangible results, she said.

Officiating at the event, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi commended the embassy for opening a representative office in Dodoma, noting that it is a significant and welcome gesture.

"China is one among the very first embassies to open a consulate here in Dodoma. To be precise, it is the second after the Federal Republic of Germany," the minister noted.

"This is a testimony to the importance of diplomatic relations between the United Republic of Tanzania and the People's Republic of China and it reflects the close relations that exist between our two countries," he said.

"From the outset of our bilateral relations, China has assisted Tanzania with a variety of generous economic aid programs, the most notable being the TAZARA Railway built from 1970 to 1976 with Chinese funding, labour and technical assistance," he pointed out.

The minister observed that despite it being a time in which China's economy was frail and developing, the TAZARA railway was built in record time.

"To date, the Tanzania-Zambia Railway remains one of the biggest projects China has ever undertaken overseas and one of its largest aid endowments," he said in tribute.

In recent years, Sino-Tanzanian ties have evolved into more modern and pragmatic relations with greater and diversified engagements in trade, infrastructural development and investments, the minister affirmed.

China remains Tanzania's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade volume amounting to US\$ 1,550.4 million as of December 2017.

As of 2018, China is a lead investor and has invested in 723 projects worth USD 5.96 million, creating 87,126 jobs. China is also Tanzania's second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Prof Kabudi noted that economic, financial and technical relations between the two countries have transcended from government-to-government engagement to include exchanges between private companies and individual traders.

Today there are more than 600 Chinese companies registered with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), he added.

35th anniversary: JKT hands Sokoine family grand house

FROM PAGE 1

The country marks 35 years since the late Sokoine died in Dakawa area, as he travelled from Dodoma where he had just adjourned a parliamentary session, returning to his office in Dar es Salaam.

His official Mercedes Benz was rammed by a runaway Toyota Land-Cruiser BJ40 being driven by Dumisani Dube, a South African national who was among ANC fighters hosted at the freedom fighters' camp in Mazimbu.

On the 1st of August this year, Sokoine would have marked his 81st birthday anniversary. He was survived by two wives, Napono and Neketeto, along with 11 children. His youngest daughter, Namelok Sokoine is the only one who followed her father's footsteps in joining politics.

Tanzania water coverage to reach 95 pc rural and urban population in year 2020

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed its commitment of to deliver water services to 95 per cent of urban population and 85 per cent of rural population by 2020.

Deputy Minister for Water, Jumaa Aweso, gave such commitment before the National Assembly here yesterday when responding to a question by Busanda MP, Lolesia Bukwimba (CCM).

He pointed out that the goals of the fifth-phase government of delivering water services at the said percentage also covered areas of Katoro and Buseresere in Geita Region.

In her question, the lawmaker has sought to know when the government would start implementing the major project of Katoro-Buseresere intended to draw water from Lake Victoria.

The deputy minister explained that the government has started preparations of implementation of the project of clean water from Lake Victoria to Katoto and Buseresere Towns.

Currently, he said, the preliminary negotiations between the government through Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MWUWASA) and donors from the European Investment Bank (EIB) have been done.

According to him, the EIB has shown the desire of supporting the water project for the towns. "The Water Project Proposal for Katoro and Buseresere towns has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Planning so that the application can be officially submitted to EIB," he said.



IPP Executive Chairman, Dr. Reginald Mengi (L) shares a light moment with Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda at an event to award prizes for police officers who performed well in 2018, held at Oysterbay Police Station in the city yesterday. Looking on (from R-L) are the Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander SACP Lazaro Mambosasa and Kinondoni District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Govt elevates technical, agriculture schools' role

FROM PAGE 1

The minister did not name the beneficiary institutions but hitherto popular technical secondary schools include Ifunda in Iringa region, Tanga, Moshi, Mtwara, Musoma in Mara region and Iyunga in Mbeya region.

On the other hand, the big name agricul-

tural science secondary schools included Ruvu in Coast region, Kibiti in Lindi region, Ifakara in Morogoro region along with Kilo-sa, and Kantalamba in Rukwa region.

These institutions reigned as technical and agricultural science subjects in the country from the 1960s through the 80s and early 90s when they began to fade out.

Students will obtain free technical and agricultural skills following renovation and equipping of the schools as ordinary level secondary education in government schools has no fees component.

Tanzania's 2014 Education and Training policy, officially launched in February 2015, declared 10 years of free and compulsory

basic education: six years of primary education and four years of lower secondary education.

In actual fact it is 11 years of free education, with seven years in primary school and four years to ordinary level secondary school, observers noted.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) chief executive officer Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja (L) launches water supply project at Mkuranga in Coast Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPSF teams up in SMEs digital packs drive

FROM PAGE 1

line presence," said Louis Accaro, TPSF director of membership services.

The 1000 candidate firms will be selected in strategic sectors such as agri-business, gemstones/ handicrafts, tourism and manufacturing,

he stated.

The pilot project will seek to ensure that a minimum of 50 percent of the selected SMEs are owned or managed by women.

Africa I18 Managing Director Ezana Raswork said each SME will

be provided with a Digital Starter Pack which includes a professionally designed website, professional photography, customized domain name hosting and search engine optimization, to maximize exposure in export markets.

He said the Digital Starter Pack will be provided free of charge for the first year. Thereafter it is anticipated that the entrepreneur will bear the cost of annual renewal as the increased business generated by the website will more than off-

set the cost.

"Based on the experience with a similar programme, it is expected that the SMEs will create at least 2,200 jobs based on the growth they will generate," he added.

Govt avails 29.9bn/- for the construction of classrooms

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has availed 29.9bn/- in the 2018/2019 financial year for the construction of 2,392 classrooms in the country, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister of State in President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Mwita Waitara revealed that among such funds, 512.5m/- was allocated for Lushoto District Council.

The funds so allocated, he said, were spent on completing unfinished 46

classrooms at secondary schools. The deputy minister said, "The government will continue to improve and education infrastructures as per availability of funds."

Waitara was responding to a question by Shabani Shekilindi (Lushoto-CCM).

The Member of Parliament wanted to know when the government would repair Kwemashai, Bandi, Milungui, Kilole primary schools and Ntambwe, Ngulwi, Mazashai and Mdando secondary schools.

The deputy minister told the House that in the 2018/2019 financial year,

the government through the Education Programme for Results (EP4R) disbursed a total sum of 467m/-.

Such funds, he said, were used for constructions of two dormitories, six toilet holes and two classrooms at Shekilai primary school (Special Education School).

The deputy minister further said that such money was also used for the construction of two dormitories at Magamba secondary school and one dormitory and two classrooms at Uмба secondary school.

Dr Shein underscores the unique Union relationship

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has underscored the need to further work on the foundations of the Union and strengthen the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry.

Dr Shein made the statement at the State House in Zanzibar yesterday when he met and held talks with Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

Prof Kabudi paid a courtesy call to the Zanzibar President following his recent appointment by President John Magufuli to head the foreign affairs ministry.

Dr Shein said it was important to embrace and develop the Union basis as the country is about to celebrate the 55th Union anniversary on April 26. He said embracing the union foundations honours the late Julius Nyerere, first Tanzania president and the late Abeid

Amani Karume of Zanzibar who founded the Union.

He said the good foundations that were put by the founders of Tanzania and Zanzibar have resulted into the prevailing peace and development in both parts of the Union.

The President noted that the Ministry Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation play an important role in strengthening Tanzania's diplomatic relationship with other countries. He commended the current system of exchanging civil servants between the Isles and mainland insisting it helps them share experience.

Dr Shein assured Prof Kabudi that his government will work closely with the ministry to achieve the set diplomatic and economic targets.

Meanwhile, Prof Kabudi thanked President Magufuli, President Shein and Vice President Samia Hassan Suluhu for offering him a change to serve Tanzanians in the foreign ministry.

"We must embrace the Union basis that our great national leaders founded. It is because of these bases that we have recorded a number of development strides in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar", he said.

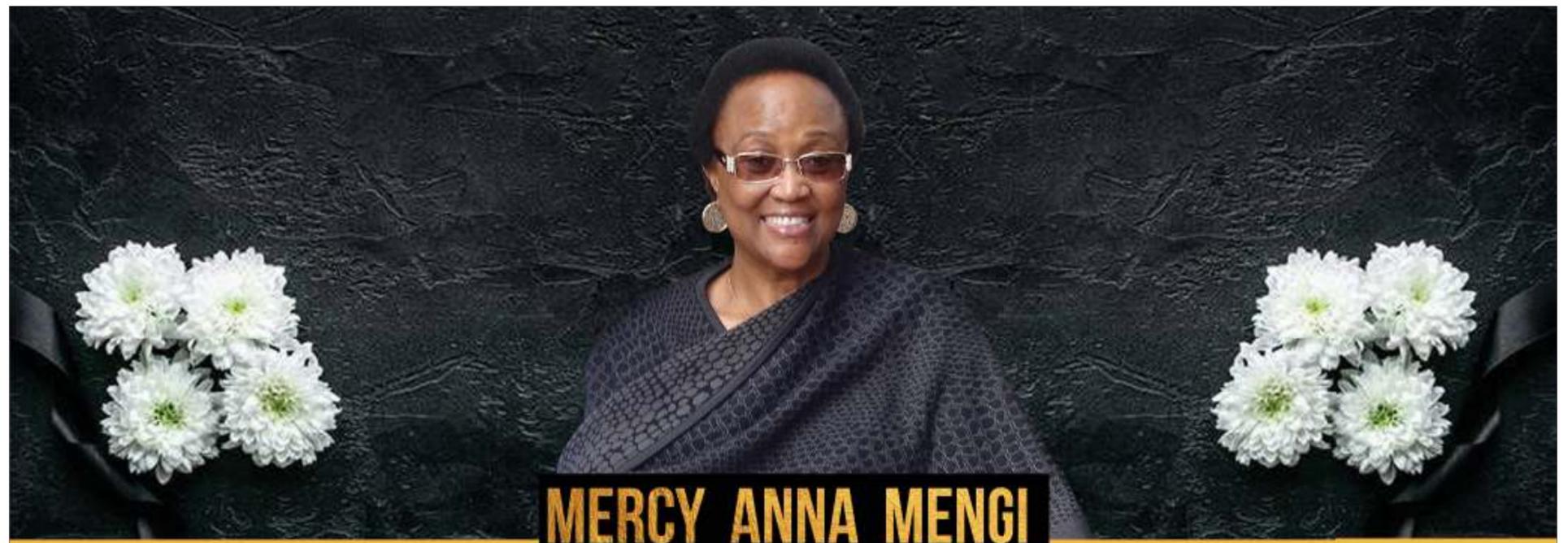
He said that ministry workers at the headquarters in Dar es Salaam will continue exchanging experience with their counterparts in Zanzibar. He promised to work collaboratively with civil servants in the Isles as well as implementing union matters.

Prof Kabudi informed the President that he will consult Zanzibar officials in preparation of the Tanzania Diaspora Policy because Zanzibar had successfully prepared its policy—the Diaspora Policy of Zanzibar.

He briefed the President on the progress construction of the Tanzania Embassy building in Muscat, Oman, whereas its completion will strengthen the existing bilateral relations.



Hai District Commissioner Lengai Ole Sabaya (R) presents identity cards to Maasai pastoralists petty traders at KIA in Kilimanjaro yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Godfrey Mushi



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FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Today we celebrate our beloved Mother's birthday.

We thank the Lord for giving us a **Mother** who showered us with her love, guided us, protected us and sheltered us, unconditionally and for all this we are forever grateful.

Although our **Mother** is no longer physically with us, we still feel her presence. Our hearts are and will forever be filled with her love, her guidance and her very beautiful smile.

Mama we miss you so much. We believe and pray that one day our good Lord will unite us and let us laugh, hug and dance with you again.

Almighty Lord, you have blessed us with pillars in the form of family, relatives, friends and community, to lean on before and throughout our trials. Their love and support is a testimony of your mercy. We would like to take this opportunity to appreciate each one of them for being part of our lives and for comforting us.

Ma,
Today we CELEBRATE your life,
We THANK YOU for all,
We MISS you so so so very much,
We LOVE you today and ALWAYS.

Dear Lord, may our beloved Mother's soul continue to rest in eternal peace and please send our love to her.

AMEN.

265 demonstration farms established in various councils in the country - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 265 demonstration farms have been established in various councils in the country to enable farmers to learn about the production of best animal feeds and therefore increase reliable availability.

Deputy Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said

yesterday in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Special Seats MP, Sikudhani Chikambo (CCM).

In addition, he said, in the 2018/2019, the government has increased 2,500 hectares in its farms for the production of animal feeds.

Earlier, the Member of Parliament (MP) had explained that the population in the country is

increasingly in line with the growing demand for land for agriculture and livestock farming.

He, therefore, wanted to know the government's plan of building capacity for farmers and pastoralists to boost productivity.

Responding, the deputy minister told the House that the government, through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has been providing

education awareness to pastoralists on the best farming and production of animal feeds through study farms.

Such education, according to him, would build the pastoralists productive farming as well as developing pasture in designated areas. "The purpose of providing such education, he said, aimed at ensuring pastoralists are abandoning migratory farming and settling in

one area with improved pastures," he said.

The deputy minister explained further that his ministry has planned to provide reference trainings to pastoralists and extension officers across the country on the best farming practices that depend on size of available land.

He said that already such trainings had been conducted in Simanjiro

District Council at Manyara and Kaliua Council in Tabora and would be conducted in phases in all the councils across the country.

In addition, the deputy minister said, the government has continued with efforts to help pastoralists in eliminating water problems for livestock by digging 1,381 wetlands and 103 wells in various councils in the country.

'France determined to foster and boost win-win bilateral relations between France and Tanzania'

By Guardian Reporter

FRENCH ambassador to Tanzania Frederic Clavier said his country is determined to foster and enhance win-win bilateral relations between France and Tanzania.

He made the remarks on Thursday evening when speaking at a reception organized in honour of Tanzanian journalists held at his residence in Dar es Salaam.

He mentioned some of the high agenda between the two countries as the visit of a special delegation of French companies in the agriculture sector (production and equipment) in June this year.

He said the visit is a follow up of the success of the visit by French Business Confederation (MEDEF) in April last year.

"We are active in enhancing the relations between our two countries. The visit in Paris of Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation in February this year is one example of this constant and constructive dialogue of our two countries", said the ambassador.

He added that they are striving to implement the will of the French president to strongly invest in Africa's key priorities such as education, climate change, gender equality, access to clean water and health, quality infrastructures, democracy and human rights.

"We recognize the need for continued collaboration between the French embassy and media stakeholders. I and my team are geared to ensure this partnership is strengthened for the mutual benefit of our countries", he said.

“We recognize the need for continued collaboration between the French embassy and media stakeholders”

Clavier said that media is key to a vivid, dynamic, democratic society, and that there are no development without access to knowledge as well as democracy without access to information.

He said the media plays an increasing role in creating and shaping public opinion and strengthening the society. He said one of France's contributions to the above mentioned goal is the presence in Tanzania Radio France international broadcasting in Kiswahili since 2010.

"Since my arrival in the country I have seen good progress in the dialogue between government and media stakeholders on issues related to human rights, protection of free speech including criticism. While I do realise such issues are work on progress, we would

like to reassure you that the French Embassy supports a continued dialogue in order to ensure the country's economic stability, peace and security continue to be strengthened", said Clavier.

He commended Tanzanian media for continuing to demonstrate interest to actions and activities of French embassy in Dar es Salaam mentioning some of the activities which were recently well covered by the media as the launch of Campus France Information Points at the Alliance Francaise of Dar es Salaam in January and at the University of Dar es Salaam in February.

Other events include the inauguration of the new Cultural Centre-Association Franco-Zanzibarite at the Old Dispensary in Stone town, AFD's support to health, energy and water sectors and the French gastronomy event, which celebrated French culinary heritage and open the way for renowned French chefs to train local Tanzanian Chefs.

He said media in Tanzania reported the vibrancy of the French economic diplomacy in Tanzania such as the French Energy Day Workshop last February.



NMB central zone government relationship manager Nsolo Mlozi (R) hands over 100 school desks worth 10m/- to acting Itigi District Council executive director Doreen Lutahanamilwa. The donation is aimed at supporting two schools at Mjipya and Pentagon in Singida region. Photo: NMB

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The general public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from KAGERA to MTIBWA by vehicle with registration number(s) T785 CAD/T166 ADN of S.S.F CO.LTD The journey is scheduled to start on 14/04/2019:

2. Special load dimensions:

Length	-	21.80m
Width	-	4.60m
Height	-	5.10m

3. Route From KAGERA to MTIBWA via MWENDAKULIMA
Travelling time will be only day time (06:30 am-06:00 pm)

We regret for any inconvenience caused.

Magufuli launches 138.7 km Mafinga-Nyigo-Igawa road

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has launched the 138.7-km Mafinga-Nyigo-Igawa road built at tarmac level something which will open up and stimulate economic activities in the southern highland regions.

The road which is linking three regions of Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya, is part of the Dar es Salaam-Tunduma road (TANZAM highway).

Speaking during the event on Thursday, the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) acting executive director Chrispiamus Ako said that road has been rehabilitated at cost of 232.6bn/-, funds from World bank and the government.

"The road needed intensive rehabilitation as it has never been improved since it was built in 1972.

The work included expansion of its width from 6.75m and 8m to 11m and 13m respectively as making it stronger to enable manage trucks with heavy cargo," he said.

He also said that the WB has also funded another part of the road from Igawa-Tunduma (218km) and the feasibility study was ongoing.

Minister for Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwelwe said the government is conducting major rehabilitations of road infrastructure in the southern highlands regions so as open more economic opportunities, improve people's lives and fight poverty.

"It will also enable businessmen to transport their cargo easily to the countries of Malawi, Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)."

Before inaugurating the road, President Magufuli addressed Mtwango residents along Njombe-Makambako road where among the complaints he heard were the existing disputes between tea growers and the investor of Lupemba Tea Company.

President Magufuli pledged to work on the dispute and appealing to the farmers to be patient promising them

for challenge to be addressed in due course.

The head of State also contributed 5m/- to support construction of dormitories at Sovi secondary school where he directed Njombe Regional Commissioner to arrest and bring them before legal bodies all men who impregnate school girls.

He commended the World Bank for its continued support to Tanzania saying that through the soft loans it has been releasing had helped fast-track the implementation of various social and economic projects thus promoting the countries development.

"TANROADS and the Works, Transport and Communications ministry should work to supervise closely the projects and conduct review on why some of the road projects were more expensive than others," he added.

While in Iringa, President Magufuli commended regional commissioner Ali Hapi and his team for the efforts in addressing people's challenges.

PM commends UNICEF for implementing projects including birth system

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has commended the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for implementing various projects in the country including the on-going decentralised birth registration system which will see children under five years getting their births certificates.

During his meeting with UNICEF Representative in Tanzania, Maniza Zaman at his office in Dar es Salaam, Majaliwa said that UNICEF has done a lot of good things to Tanzanian children especially on health, education and children rights.

"We have benefited a lot with your stay in Tanzania. We helped us in pushing a number of projects in different sectors.

We regret that you will be leaving the country soon for your other assignments in Kenya...we wish you all the best", said the Prime Minister.

UNICEF Representative in Tanzania, Maniza Zaman, appreciated the support she has been receiving from the government.

She said his office has worked closely with the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Regional

Administration and Local Government and other ministries in projects engaging children.

Zaman asserted that UNICEF has successfully implemented the decentralized birth registration system for under-five children which is jointly done by the organization and the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA).

"We have been able to reach 3.5 million children in 13 regions.

Under the system, children get their birth certificate in just one day.

Children have the right to an identity", she said adding following the initiative the number of children with birth certificates in the country has increased to 38 percent from 13 percent.

The regions reached so far are Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, Mwanza, Lindi, Geita, Shinyanga, Mara, Simiyu, Mtwara, Dodoma and Singida.

She said plans are reach to all the regions pending on availability of funds.

Zaman commended the government's efforts in reducing the rate of malnutrition and stunting among children as well as improvement of health and education services.

Women now encouraged to vie for top leadership positions

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

FORMER Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Ludovick Utouh has encouraged women in the country to work hard, be confident and not hesitate to vie for top leadership positions in various public and private institutions for the country's development.

He also urged them to prepare themselves to contest in the coming elections so as to bring out their personal best to serve the public.

Utouh said yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the opening of a two-day 2nd Women Leadership Conference organised by the Tanzania Association of Certified Women Accountants (TAWCA).

"I would like to see more women accountants and auditors contesting for political positions in this country. We need a strong and enlightened parliament to hold the government accountable for which I believe you have a role to play," he said.

He cited the conference as an avenue for members of the TAWCA to reflect and discuss on issues critical to the development of the profession and the contribution of women leaders to the country's economy. "A good leader should be honest which is about being truthful having integrity and build trust; compassionate which is about thinking of others," he added.

According to him, on the basis of realization and fact that industrialization nation will lead to the creation of employment opportunities; all efforts should be exerted to encourage more women to join the profession and hold top positions.

BoT: Gold leads in export value

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said that in February this year the value of export of goods and services increased to USD 890 from USD 697 in the preceding month.

According to the BoT's monthly economic review for March 2019, an increase is owing to good performance recorded in goods exports, particularly gold.

The review said likewise, the value of exports of goods and services increased to USD 8,554.5 million in the year ending February 2019 from USD 8,434.2 million in the corresponding period in 2018, owing to good performance recorded in non-traditional exports and services receipt.

It added that the value of traditional goods exports increased to USD 70.4 million in February 2019 from USD 38.4 million in January 2019 with cotton and tobacco recording the highest growths.

According to the review, the value of coffee and tea exports increased due to increase in volume, while that of other traditional goods exports was on account of both volume

and unit price in the global market. The price movements of traditional exports were broadly consistent with the developments in world markets prices, the review said.

Meanwhile, on annual basis, the value of traditional goods exports decreased to USD 601.8 million in February 2019 from USD 1,077.8 million in February 2018.

Export value of non-traditional exports increased to USD 438.0 million from USD 270.8 million in January 2019, with all sub-categories recording growth.

Significant performance was registered in manufactured goods and gold exports. The good performance in gold exports, which accounts for about 52 percent of total non traditional exports; was explained by increase in volume and world market prices.

Similarly, annual export value of non-traditional exports increased to USD 3,471.2 million in the year ending February 2019 from USD 3,097.7 million in February 2018, driven by manufacturing, gold, re-exports and other exports.

Executive Director of TAWCA Tumaini Lawrence said since its establishment, the association continues to champion for the initiating women forums that provide rooms for women career and leadership development.

"We (women) have extra ordinary power, the country needs us to contribute our ideas which will help in building the economy," Ndege said.

Renatha Ndege, a Chief Financial Officer from the state owned power utility (TANESCO) urged women to strive for taking senior positions of leadership at all levels of decision making for the sustainable development in the country.

"We are responsible for financial reporting and some of us are auditors responsible in providing assurance to the board of directors and shareholders on the accuracy of those financial records, effectiveness and efficiency of operations as well as compliance with legal and regulatory requirements."

For her part, chairperson of TAWCA board of directors Neema Kihure said that the association's major aim stands at promoting professional excellence to enable women certified accountants to access senior and leadership position in the country and globally, as well as implementing socioeconomic projects that will bring an impact in the Tanzanian society.



UCHUMI COMMERCIAL BANK LIMITED

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Report of condition of bank published pursuant to section 32(3) of the Banking and Financial Institution Act of Tanzania Act, 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 ST DECEMBER, 2018

(Amounts in million shillings)		
	Current Year 31-Dec-2018	Previous Year 31-Dec-2017
A ASSETS		
1 Cash	1,338	1,278
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	2,590	3,166
3 Balances with Other Banks	5,053	5,619
4 Cheques and items for clearing	170	(54)
5 Investment in Government Securities	0	318
6 Investment in Other Securities	20	20
7 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (net)	23,433	19,332
8 Bills Negotiated	0	0
9 Equity Investments	0	0
10 Customers Liabilities on Acceptances	0	0
11 Property, Plant and Equipment (net)	1,014	1,003
12 Interbranch Accounts (net)	0	0
13 Other Assets	664	414
TOTAL ASSETS	34,282	31,096
B LIABILITIES		
14 Customer Deposits	25,417	22,742
15 Deposits from Other Banks	0	0
16 Cash Letters of Credit	0	0
17 Bills Payable	0	0
18 Bankers' Cheques and Draft Issued	0	0
19 Accounts payable	59	44
20 Accrued Expenses and Taxes Payable	91	40
21 Acceptances Outstanding	0	0
22 Special deposits fund	92	92
23 Other Liabilities	44	109
TOTAL LIABILITIES	25,703	23,027
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	8,579	8,069
C SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS		
24 Paid up Share capital	7,126	6,878
25 Share redemption reserve	17	12
26 Retained Profit/(Loss)	703	703
27 Capital Grant	171	89
28 Revaluation reserve	30	30
29 Regulatory reserve	318	180
30 General Provision	214	177
TOTAL SHAREHOLDER'S FUNDS	8,579	8,069
31 Contingent liabilities	0	0
32 Allowances for Probable Losses	331	434
Non Performing Assets	1,391	1,279
SELECTED FINANCIAL INDICATORS		
i Shareholders funds to Total Assets	25.02%	25.95%
ii Non Performing Loans & Advances to Total Advances	5.85%	6.47%
iii Gross Loans and Advances to Total deposits	93.50%	86.91%
iv Loans and Advances to Total Assets	69.32%	63.56%
v Earning Assets to total Total Assets	79.04%	75.00%
vi Deposit Growth	11.76%	9.48%
vii Asset growth	10.25%	16.70%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER, 2018

(Amount in Million Shillings)		
	Current Year 31st Dec 2018	Previous Year 31st Dec 2017
Interest income	4,538	4,041
Interest expense	(889)	(1,150)
Net interest income (1 minus 2)	3,649	2,891
Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(211)	(135)
Non interest income	750	773
6.1 commission and fees	670	551
6.2 Other	80	222
Non interest expense	3,175	2,824
Staff Cost	1,618	1,305
Other General and Administration Expenses	1,370	1,360
Depreciation and Amortization	187	159
Operating income before tax and extraordinary item	1,013	705
Deferred Tax	0	0
Taxation	(304)	(231)
Net income after income tax and extraordinary items	709	474
Number of employees	43	45
Basic Earnings Per Share	9.95%	6.89%
Diluted Earnings Per Share	9.95%	6.89%
Number of Branches	2	2
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Return on average total assets	2.17%	1.61%
(ii) Return on ordinary shareholders' funds	8.26%	5.87%
(iii) Non interest expense to gross income	60.04%	58.66%
(iv) Interest margin to average earning assets	14.32%	12.38%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2018

(Amounts in million shillings)		
i Cash flow from operating activities:		
Profit before taxation	1,013	705
Adjustment for:		
Provisions / amortization / depreciation	187	159
Impairment on loans and advances	142	135
Loans and Advances to Customer	(4,100)	(2,408)
Government Security	0	83
Other asset	(221)	(48)
Deposit from Customer	2,674	1,969
Other Liabilities	(65)	21
Cash provided by operating activities	(370)	616
ii Tax paid	(295)	(257)
Net cash Generated from operating activities	(665)	359
iii Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments for intangible asset	(99)	0
Payment for property, and equipment	(70)	(65)
Purchase of non-dealing securities	0	0
Proceed from sale of non-dealing securities	0	0
Others	0	0
Net cash provided by investing activities	(169)	(65)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities:		
Dividend Paid	(481)	(429)
Proceeds from issuance of shares	247	1,345
Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the year	0	0
Net change in other borrowings	0	0
iv Net cash provided by financing activities	(234)	916
Cash and cash equivalents		
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(1,068)	1,210
Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the year	8,188	6,978
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year	7,120	8,188

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2018

(Amounts in million shillings)								
Current Year	Share Capital	Share Redemption	Retained earnings	Regulatory reserve	General Provision Reserve	Revaluation Reserve	Capital Grant	Total
Balance as at 1st January, 2018	6,879	12	703	180	177	30	89	8,070
Issued during the year	247	0	0	0	0	0	0	247
Profit for the year	0	0	709	0	0	0	0	709
Revaluation surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share redemption	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Transfer from regulatory reserve	0	0	(139)	138	0	0	0	0
General provision Reserve	0	0	(37)	0	37	0	0	0
Net change in Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	82
Net change in provision for the year	0	0	(31)	0	0	0	0	(31)
Prior year tax	0	0	(22)	0	0	0	0	(22)
Dividend paid	0	0	(481)	0	0	0	0	(481)
Balance as at 31st December, 2018	7,126	17	703	318	214	30	171	8,579
Balance as at 1st January, 2017	5,524	17	439	319	157	30	71	6,567
Issued during the year	1345	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,345
Profit for the year	0	0	474	0	0	0	0	474
Revaluation surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Share redemption	0	(6)	0	0	0	0	0	(6)
Transfer from regulatory reserve	0	0	(139)	(139)	0	0	0	(278)
General provision Reserve	0	0	(20)	0	20	0	0	0
Net change in Capital Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Net change in provision for the year	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
Dividend paid	0	0	(429)	0	0	0	0	(429)
Balance as at 31st December, 2017	6,879	12	703	180	177	30	89	8,070

Name and Title

Signed by: Mrs. Angela G. Moshi **General Manager**

: Mr. Samwel A. Wado **Finance Manager**

: Mrs. Anitha J. Mnkeni **Internal Auditor**

The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the bank for the year ended 31st December 2018, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), The Financial Statements were audited by MHASIBU CONSULTANTS, and received clean audit report.

The Financial statements were approved by Board of Directors on 30th March, 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr. Munguatocha J. Makyao **Mr. Abel Mrema**

Vice Chairman **Director**



KARIBU UBADILI FEDHA ZA KIGENI

Badilisha fedha za kigeni katika matawi yetu yafuatayo;

- Moshi Mjini Makao Makuu (mkabala na stendi kuu ya mabasi yaendayo mikoani).
- Sanya juu wilaya ya SIHA
- Karatu Mjini (karibuna stendi kuu ya mabasi)

Huhitaji kuwa na Akaunti



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AfDB encourages increased US investment in Africa

WASHINGTON DC

PRESIDENT of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, has said that the US needs to up its investment in Africa and set an example as the global private sector leader.

"It is time to turn around the declining investments of the U.S. in Africa. As the world's private sector leader, the United States has a unique role to play in increasing investments in Africa and expanding opportunities for the U.S. private sector," he said.

Speaking at a high-level dialogue in Washington D.C. on the

sidelines of the World Bank-IMF Spring meetings, the President noted: "Now is the time to scale up and take advantage of opportunities that other global players are already investing in."

In attendance was US Congresswoman Karen Bass, Chairwoman of the House Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations; Thomas R. Hardy, Acting Director of US Trade and Development Agency; the Center for Global Development; representatives of the Presidential Advisory Council on

Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA); the American Jewish International Relations Institute; pension funds, private equity firms and African ambassadors.

Discussing the role of the AfDB in financing the continent's development needs, Congresswoman Bass, said: "Africa is fast becoming the continent of the future." She reiterated U.S. commitment to and support for the work of the African Development Bank.

"This discussion comes at a critical juncture for the future of Africa. It is widely accepted that Africa is an investment hub.

I personally and many of my colleagues will continue to advocate for full funding or increased funding to the Bank."

Sharing his vision on the leading role of the African Development Bank, Adesina urged American businesses to engage more with the continent, saying: "I strongly encourage you to look at Africa from an investment lens and not a development lens. Africa is a continent of huge untapped opportunities in power, infrastructure, IT and agriculture, which many other global players are already beginning to realise."

Answering questions about the Bank's innovative Africa Investment Forum, Adesina said: "this first-ever gathering of world-class investors exceeded all expectations with projects worth over \$38.7 billion securing investment interest in just 72 hours."

The Africa Investment Forum was convened by the African Development Bank in Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2018, in partnership with several African development finance institutions, to help bridge the continent's growing infrastructure investment gap.

Adesina also asked for sup-

port for the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), as a means of changing the balance of financing because "women run Africa." Read more: Financial scheme launched in response to urbanisation in Africa

Bass acknowledged that Africa needs investment in large infrastructure projects, including roads, railroads, ports, and transnational highways, "to achieve both structural transformation and market integration."

She added that the U.S. Congress was continually considering the best ways to spur investments especially on the

continent and that her office is exploring legislation to help facilitate investment in infrastructure projects.

According to Congresswoman Bass, the African Development Bank's High 5s - Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialise Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa align with policy priorities that the United States Congress has been focusing on.

"So, I leave you with the understanding that members of the U.S. Congress are your allies on this front," Bass concluded.

Digital health technology improves quality and patient safety in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

A World Health Organization report published in 2018 stated that within Africa, about 15% of all hospital activity and expenditure was a direct result of adverse events, and that the costs of treating safety failures amount to trillions of dollars each year.

The investments needed to improve patient safety pale in comparison to the costs of harm.

Millions of patients across Africa die or are injured every year due to unsafe and poor-quality healthcare. A majority of these cases could be avoidable through the implementation of digital health technology, with out-of-hospital care and monitoring forecasted to grow globally by 30 percent

to cross the \$25 billion mark in 2019.

Ryan Sanderson, Exhibition Director of Africa Health Exhibition and Conferences, explains that the demands on healthcare systems in Africa are also increasing as non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, hypertension, diabetes and heart disease are on the rise. "We are, however, seeing that technology is transforming how healthcare is delivered on the continent, giving more people in remote areas there and around the world access to better care."

Fewer than 50% of Africans have access to modern health facilities. While this remains a challenge for many developing nations on the continent, countries like Rwanda are embracing technology as a way to improve

healthcare for its citizens, especially those living in Sanderson says that Rwanda is a pioneer in digital health in Africa. "Their successes include the use of an artificial intelligence-based algorithms in mobile phones to get a diagnosis, doctors using telemedicine to consult, blood delivery by medical drones, and a central electronic health records system ensuring data is collected accurately. The insights that can be learnt from projects like this are critical in order to achieve Universal Healthcare (UHC)."

"Africa needs to embrace digital technology on every level," adds Sanderson. "Artificial intelligence, telemedicine, drones, health apps, and mobile solutions will bring healthcare to a whole new level. Smart

health needs to be recognized as one of the pillars of a country's information and communication technology (ICT) policy. ICT is really something that governments need to prioritise for development as a whole."

Innovation in digital healthcare will be at the forefront of discussions at the 9th annual Africa Health Exhibition & Conferences, which will be held at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, from 28 - 30 May 2019. Key topics include: Digital health: past, present and the future e-Patients role in a sustainable digital health system

Rwanda health project: Digital solutions for a country wide mHealth program While offering the latest medical education through 19 CPD accredited confer-



ences, supported by various healthcare associations across South Africa, the 2019 edition will also be debuting four new conferences including Digital Health, Laboratory Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Physiotherapy.

The Leaders Forum will be returning this year to premiere thought-leaders from across the private and public spectrum, offering actionable insights into the healthcare industry. The 2019 event will also see the launch of the internationally renowned MEDLAB Series - a portfolio of medical laboratory

exhibitions and conferences across the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

"Africa Health has been successfully running for the past 8 years as the most efficient platform for business generation and technological development for the sector in the African region," says Sanderson. "With a decent number of medical lab companies already exhibiting, the depth of the industry is much more. Co-locating MEDLAB Africa with Africa Health will provide a solid kick-start to the launch."

Africa Health, organized by Informa Exhibition's Global Healthcare Group, is the largest platform on the continent for international and local companies to meet, network and do business with the ever-growing African healthcare market. The 2019 edition is expected to attract more than 10,500 healthcare professionals, with representation from over 160 countries and over 600 leading international and regional healthcare and pharmaceutical suppliers, manufacturers and service providers.



Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development Permanent Secretary (Fisheries Sector) Rashid Tamatama (C) addresses at the launching of the project Tilapia production, education and business development in Tanzania held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) Executive Director Yahaya Mgawe (L) and Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania Elisabeth Jacobsen. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Dodoma City based Green Waste Pro company manager Abdalah Mbena (R) in blue shirt shares a light moment with City executive director Godwin Kunambi (L) shortly after he received cleaning equipment yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila.

State assures mineral dealers, miners of conducive business environment

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has assured mineral dealers and miners of conducive business environment insisting them to organise themselves for their benefits and of the nation.

Minerals Minister, Doto Biteko made the statement on Wednesday when speaking to leaders of the Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA) at his office in Dodoma. The meeting was purposely organised to discuss various issues related to minerals business in the country.

Biteko insisted on miners to adhere to the country's laws when executing their duties and make sure the minerals business is conducted in a manner that ensures a win-win situation for both, miners and the government.

He promised to make close follow up on issues raised by TAMIDA chairman, Sam Molllel including the VAT charges to small scale miners which has been waived by the government.

TAMIDA chairman was concerned that authorities in Arusha city still charge VAT on minerals.

On indicative prices, the minis-

ter noted that his ministry will continue to work closely with minerals stakeholders to ensure fair prices. He said the government is willing to allow minerals exhibition to be held in Arusha city, insisting Tanzania will not be included in a list of displayed minerals.

"The government wants everything related to Tanzania done within the 24km wall surrounding the Tanzania mine at Mirerani. We want to change the face of Mirerani town so that it gives the attraction of being the minerals' town", he said.

Biteko said the government is

aware of the shortage of mineral experts to conduct valuation of Tanzania, and that it has started working to increase their number. He said having a good number of mineral experts will ensure timely evaluation of Tanzania.

Deputy Minister for Minerals, Stanslaus Nyongo insisted the need to construct an international minerals market in Arusha Region to facilitate minerals business.

Nyongo said the ministry has started consulting Arusha regional authorities to ensure the market is established in the near future.

TAMIDA chairman Sam Mol-

lel said the association backs the government decision to construct minerals market at different regions. He said having one similar market in Arusha Region will ease minerals business as well as boost the gemstone sector.

He said the country is likely to have a good number of minerals experts as efforts are being made to increase the number of geoscientists at the Tanzania Geo-science Centre (TGC).

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the minerals ministry and the Tanzania Minerals Commission.

Mara teachers and students save 2m/-

By Guardian Correspondent

TEACHERS and students of Mugango secondary school in Musoma Rural District, Mara Region have saved 2m/- which was payment for paying casual labourers for the construction of classrooms, teachers' office and toilets.

In a telephone interview, the school headmaster, Chacha Rugita said that the construction which was to be done by casual labourers was made possible by teachers in collaboration with students.

He said that teachers and students had managed to save the money by using their own labour to collect all the construction materials such as sand and stones.

Women in Rwanda redefine gender roles through the agribusiness

BY CAMMIE BEHNKE

It is 7:00 in the morning at Lake Kivu, one of the African Great Lakes that rests on the border between Rwanda and the Congo. An early morning fog lingers over the hills around the lake as the women of the COOPPAVI cooperative wait for some of their members to return from a night of fishing.

An hour later, three boats appear from behind the hills. The women make their way down to the shoreline to greet them. Sauda Mukamusoni, the cooperative's former president, is one of the first to step off the boat, carrying a green bucket full of fish.

Other cooperative members follow her with more buckets and place one on a scale. Several people, almost all of them women, circle around and watch as the arrow on the scale reads 23 kilograms. They lift the bucket together and carry it up to the market, where they spend the rest of their day. At 5:30 in the afternoon, the women gather together at the shore and send out another team of boats for the night. For the next 23 days, they will spend day and night catching, raising, and selling fish.

Female-run businesses like COOPPAVI were almost unheard of 25 years ago. In fact, a Rwandan woman had limited rights and restricted social and political roles in society. The 1994 genocide, killing 800,000 people in just 100 days, would radically change everything.

After it devastated the landlocked East African country, women stepped forward to rebuild the nation. Now, they are redefining what it means to be a woman as they emerge as leaders and business owners in agriculture—a crucial sector of Rwanda's economy once dominated by men.

Having one of the highest rates of female labor force participation in the world and one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, Rwanda has been called a model for gender equality. But the country's efforts to promote female empowerment present a complicated paradox where gender-based violence is still prevalent, and where some critics are calling its leadership a dictatorship.

Empowering women through agribusiness

Nicknamed the "Land of a Thousand Hills," Rwanda is almost entirely rural, making agriculture Rwanda's most important sector and largest employer. In pre-genocide Rwanda, women were marginalized as subsistence farmers while the men had access to land, production inputs, finances, and trainings. Women also suffered from minimal education and legal rights, pushing



In Rwanda's Southern Province, women of the Duteraninkunga till the soil in order to grow more cassavas, a root vegetable used to make flour. The cooperative is made up of 30 women

ing them into low-paying jobs in the public sector.

Mukamusoni laughs as she remembers the first time she told her husband she wanted to start fishing. She was first introduced to fishing when she started making tea for the fishermen.

"I told my husband I was putting on my pajamas to go into the water. He didn't receive that very well," Mukamusoni said. "Men once would bring in the fish and then bring [the fish] home. It made me feel overlooked."

As trailblazers for societal reconstruction, women like Mukamusoni stepped up in the agriculture industry after the genocide. Today, more than 70 percent of Rwandan women are engaged in farming, forestry, and fishing activities, according to Rwanda's 2018 Labour Force Survey Report.

These women are not only farmers. They are also community leaders who can now handle finances, operate farming equipment, and gain access to land. As a leader in a female-run cooperative, Mukamusoni says she feels there are no limits to what women can do.

"Rwandan women are fearless," she said. "We have a great hope because we're really motivated."

Fearless. The word would come up

repeatedly in more than a dozen interviews when women were asked what it means to be a Rwandan woman in 2018. The word, though empowering for women, reveals complexities in the government's push for gender equality.

The complexity of gender roles in Rwanda

In pre-genocide Rwanda, women lived under a strict patriarchal society. Chantal Umuhoza, executive director and founder of the SPECTRA young feminists organization, says women lived their lives in subordination under men. She spent years studying gender roles and relations and worked extensively with small female-run agribusinesses.

"Women's only value was giving birth and staying at home to be good wives and mothers—that's it," said Umuhoza.

That began to change after the genocide death toll caused a massive gender imbalance. A 1996 Human Rights Watch report found that most of the genocide victims were men, while thousands of women were raped and tortured by Hutu extremists. After thousands of male survivors were either imprisoned or escaped to refugee camps in neighboring countries, Rwanda's population was 70 percent female.

Umuhoza, whose parents were killed in the genocide, says it was up to women to carry the burden of rebuilding the country.

"They had no choice," she emphasized. This is what happened to our society. We can't wait for men to tell us what to do—they are not here."

Nadine Umutoni Gatsinzi, the secretary of Rwanda's Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, says women became widows and assumed the roles of both husband and wife.

"Women realized they were now the head of the household, they have to take care of their children, they have to work," Umutoni Gatsinzi said. "This was something they were not prepared for."

The future for women's rights looked bright. A revised constitution declaring that 30 percent of parliamentary seats be reserved for women was approved in 2003 by Rwandan President Paul Kagame. At over 60 percent, Rwanda now has the highest percentage of parliamentary female representation in the world and is hailed as a model for gender equality by foreign powers.

"Of course people were surprised," Umutoni Gatsinzi said. "No one could believe what we have been able to do."

Despite the government's push for female empowerment, it is simultaneously a tightly controlled society. Critics and opposition leaders claim Rwanda is a police state and dissent is not tolerated in any form. The Human Rights Watch 2018 Report reveals that free speech is still censored, with journalists and opposition leaders critical of Kagame facing imprisonment or exile. Unlawful detention and torture of prisoners also remain some of the top human rights abuses in Rwanda.

With a revised constitution in 2017 allowing Kagame to run for a third term, Rwanda could remain under Kagame's leadership until 2034.

Gender-based violence is also an ongoing problem. A 2014-2015 Rwanda Demographic and Health survey found that 1 in 3 women ages 15-49 have experienced gender-based violence.

Hilarie Mujawamungu, the president of the HuguKirwa farming cooperative in the Northern province, is a victim of gender-based violence.

"When our husbands realized that we could do something, the violence was reduced. They started seeing us as useful," she said.

Her mission, along with the members of her female-run cooperative, is

to help other women battling similar circumstances through economic empowerment.

"We have power of becoming advocates ourselves. We are fighting against corruption in women's economic services," she said.

Umuhoza says that these violations show that more progress is needed to advance women's rights.

"A lot has changed in a very short time that sometimes people think we have achieved everything regarding women's rights, but not really," she said. "We're not there yet."

In the midst of a controlled government, the women I spoke with say the government plays a positive role in female empowerment. Despite what government critics would call a dictatorship, women find security and value working together to further develop their businesses.

The power of female-run cooperatives

Every Wednesday, a team of 30 women in the Duteraninkunga cooperative grow cassavas, a root vegetable used for making flour. Several members lost their husbands in the genocide. Then Naomi Mukandekezi, the cooperative's president, came up with a plan to help fight poverty with other members.

"The most important thing is that we no longer feel lonely. We're one big family together," Mukandekezi said of her fellow members.

The cooperative, located in the Southern province, still faces many challenges. Many of the women have only completed primary school and lack knowledge in agriculture practices, a common trend for many female-run agribusinesses. They also have to improvise with the resources they have, and the land is not ideal for cultivation.

The women receive their training from Action Aid Rwanda, an NGO that teaches climate resistant practices to women in agriculture. Clare Katwesigye, the women's rights and advocacy coordinator for AAR, says teamwork makes their businesses unique.

"They work in cooperatives as a team," Katwesigye said. "This builds their strength in working together... to build their own strength and to have a say in the community."

For Mukandekezi, the group's determination to learn more skills represents a hope that women share for the future of female empowerment.

"Before, men just saw us as tool," she said. "They always think that women should just be tilling the land. Women are always at home and men are always somewhere. Now the roles have reversed."

Early marriage denies the world gains in women empowerment - UN study

By Jerry Omondi

EARLY marriage denies the world important gains in the quest for women empowerment and better reproductive rights, the United Nations has warned.

The Director of UNFPA, Monica Ferro, said on Wednesday that marrying girls off early denies them an education, which in turn limits their opportunities in life.

"A girl who marries when she is 10 will probably leave school," Ferro said. "And because she leaves school, she won't get the negotiating skills, and she won't get the specific skills which will allow her to then get a better-paid job."

Ferro also noted that, other than denying girls a right to education, early marriage also affects young women's health, creating more problems for women in areas affected.

"If she is married at 10, the probability is that she will start child-bearing before her body is even ready for that, not to talk about her mind... This will also increase the possibilities of her going through complications in pregnancy, and complications in childbirth," she said.

Ferro made the remarks in Geneva as the UNFPA published the State of World Population 2019 report.

The report highlights the threat to women's and girls' reproductive rights posed by poverty, conflict and cultures.



Pink flour bag improving millions of African lives

By Susan Reidy

MÜHLENCHÉMIE has developed a tailor-made nutritional blend that is being used in conjunction with metering devices to fortify flour in Tanzania, in the hopes of feeding children who are suffering the effects of poor nutrition.

The concept was created by Felix Brooks-Church, co-founder and chief executive officer of Sanku. He saw the negative impact of hidden hunger a decade ago while volunteering in Cambodia and decided to dedicate his life to finding a way to help children faced with low-nutrient diets.

Brooks-Church moved to Nepal and built a basic metering device to automate the process of adding key vitamins and minerals to the cereal grains during milling at the village level. By 2011, the device was ready for field testing. It ran smoothly at the isolated village of Sankhu in Nepal.

The success attracted international attention and offers of funding, which encouraged the team to move to Tanzania in 2013. In that country, a third of all child deaths are due to malnutrition.

After seeing the meter in use, former acting Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete asked Brooks-Church whether it was possible to add the devices to the more than 3,000 small mills across Tanzania. In response, Brooks-Church co-founded Sanku, a non-profit organization named after the Nepali village where he tried the first meter.

Small flour millers were allowed to use the machines free of charge. For the nutritional needs, the organization reached out to Mühlenchemie, which had local knowledge and was willing to support the development of the country on a wider scale.

"We are in the business of improving flour, and thus improving lives, by helping people who need it the most," said Marvin Jaeger, Mühlenchemie's area sales manager in South East Africa. "Naturally we were delighted to support the project. Mühlenchemie has substantial R&D resources at its Stern-Technology Center, which we used to develop a tailor-made nutritional blend that would cover the needs of those living in these rural areas in accordance with Tanzanian regulations."

The Guardian

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Taking A New Look
At The News
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What is the future of agriculture in Africa?

MOST of sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA) economies are dominated by the agriculture sector. On average, agriculture accounts for 32 per cent of gross domestic product and employs 65 per cent of the labor force. In some countries, it contributes over 80 per cent of trade in value and more than 50 per cent of raw materials to industries.

But despite being a crucial sector in many economies, agricultural productivity on the continent is very low. Yields of maize and other staple cereals have typically remained at about one ton per hectare - about 1/3 of the average achieved in Asia and Latin America. During the past 30 years, the competitiveness of many sub-Saharan Africa export crops has declined and the region's dependence on imported food crops has increased. In the years ahead, global warming is expected to intensify the current constraints on food production.

The greatest source of power for land preparation in sub-Saharan Africa remains human muscle power. In central Africa an estimated 80 per cent of cultivated land is worked manually while in eastern and southern Africa, that figure is about 50 per cent. On average, less than 20 per cent of mechanization services are provided by engine power in sub-Saharan Africa.

Furthermore, sub-Saharan Africa is the only developing region where the number of agricultural workers per hectare is no more than half of the average for all developing regions. Not only does sub-Saharan Africa have an acute lack of human resources available for agricultural production, it also has very few tractors available as an alternative source of power.

Experiences in other continents and especially in the developing economies of Asia and Latin America show that agriculture has been transformed in recent years into a progressive, more productive industry. Investments in irrigation, fertilizer and high-yielding varieties went hand in hand with increasing power inputs, mainly in the form of

tractors for land preparation and diesel engines for irrigation. This has enabled farmers to intensify production and improve their quality of life as well as contribute to national and local prosperity.

In most of sub-Saharan Africa, where farming systems were more complex across variable agro-ecological zones, quality seed and fertilizer were not backed by irrigation support or mechanization inputs. Sub-Saharan Africa was therefore largely bypassed by the Green Revolution that helped transform agriculture and reduce poverty in Asia and Latin America.

The evidence is incontrovertible: Higher levels of mechanization are linked to economic growth, improved farm productivity, higher incomes and greater food security.

But mechanization is no panacea: If not done right, it can potentially burden small farmers with machines they can't afford or maintain and tools that eliminate jobs and disempower wage earners. It can also harm the environment by increasing pressure on fragile natural resources, driving soil erosion and compaction, prompting overuse of chemical inputs and encouraging farmers to farm lands that currently serve as valuable forest and rangelands. So any sort of move towards mechanization will have to be done in a careful, considered way to ensure that it brings positive, rather than negative, outcomes.

Nonetheless, it is clear that sub-Saharan Africa can no longer rely on human muscle power to feed its growing population. It is essential for decision-makers and the development community to take a new look at the opportunities available for mechanizing agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, there is much that can be done to make sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural development and food security policies, strategies and programmes "mechanization-smart" and promote interventions to support efficient, lean and environmentally-sound mechanization.

Immunisation matters now more than ever

WORLD Immunisation Week whose theme is 'Vaccines Work' celebrated in the last week of April - aimed to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. Immunisation saves millions of lives and is widely recognised as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions. Today, there are still 19.4 million unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children in the world.

2017 marks the halfway point in the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) - endorsed by 194 member states of the World Health Assembly in May 2012 - which aims to prevent millions of deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases by 2020 through universal access to immunisation.

Despite improvements in individual countries and a strong global rate of new vaccine introduction, all of the targets for disease elimination - including measles, rubella, and maternal and neonatal tetanus - are behind schedule. In order for everyone, everywhere to survive and thrive, countries must make more concerted efforts to reach GVAP goals by 2020. Additionally, those countries that have achieved or made forward progress towards achieving the goals must work to sustain those efforts over time.

The main goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about the critical importance of full immunisation throughout life, and its role in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of the 2017 campaign, WHO and partners aim to: First, highlight the importance of immunisation as a top global health investment priority. Second; Promote understanding of the action steps required to achieve

the Global Vaccine Action Plan. Third; to showcase immunisation's role in sustainable development and global health security.

Expanding access to immunisation is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Routine immunisation is a building block of strong primary health care and universal health coverage - it provides a point of contact for health care at the beginning of life and offers every child the chance at a healthy life from the start.

Immunisation is also a fundamental strategy in achieving other health priorities, from controlling viral hepatitis, to curbing antimicrobial resistance, to providing a platform for adolescent health and improving antenatal and newborn care.

In the same vein, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, coordinated by the Global Network of People living with HIV is one of the world's oldest and largest grassroots mobilisation campaigns for HIV awareness in the world. Started in 1983, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial takes place every third Sunday in May and is led by a coalition of some 1 200 community organisations in 115 countries.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is much more than just a memorial. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as a community mobilisation campaign to raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS. With 33 million people living with HIV today, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial serves as an important intervention for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations.



'No way to defend ourselves against the onslaught of climate change'

By Desmond Brown

Two of the most prominent women in the Caribbean nation of Suriname are speaking out about developed countries that release large volumes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

First Lady Ingrid Bouterse-Waldring and Speaker of the National Assembly Jennifer Geerlings-Simons say Suriname and other countries in the region are feeling the brunt of the effects of climate change.

"If we go to the interior of our country, then we see that we have had a lot of floods in those areas. These floods are destructive for the people who are living there. The effects are clearly noticeable especially to the women and the children," Bouterse-Waldring told IPS.

"In the coastal area... we have had a lot of very strong winds. These winds, actually we never had them before, so it's also new to us. These are all things that we are facing now with climate change."

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Maria and Irma that devastated Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and others in 2017, many countries are still struggling to recover.

Geerlings-Simons told IPS: "Some of our countries have seen devastation and we have seen examples in 2017 and 2018 of what will happen to our countries if at any point in time, a hurricane or any other type of disaster happens."

"You can start rebuilding your economy... but next year another hurricane might come and wipe you out again. Did you contribute to climate change? No, you just get hit by it. How would Suriname recover from one hurricane? Seventy-five percent of our people live on the coast and 75 percent or more of our economy is right here. How will we recover? Our homes are not built for hurricanes," Geerlings-Simons said, adding that

The Speaker of Suriname's National Assembly said that more than 1,000 homes lost their roofs in extreme weather conditions over the last 10 years. Previously, this sort of destruction to homes due to the weather was unheard of.

"So, we're feeling the effects right now," she said.

Geerlings-Simons said countries like Suriname, whose forests are actually aiding many other parts of the world, should get something in return. Not only do forests provide oxygen to the world, but according to the World Wide Fund For Nature two billion people either directly or indirectly rely on them for food, shelter and food security etc.

"We have no way as poor countries or even a highly forested countries to defend ourselves against this onslaught



Suriname's First Lady Ingrid Bouterse-Waldring says the Caribbean nation has been affected by climate change as it has experienced many destructive floods.

of climate change which is already happening, and which is actually threatening our future in the relatively short term of a few decades," Geerlings-Simons told IPS.

"We as highly forested countries should... have an international fund in which we put some money if we push carbon into the air, and we get some money if we take it out of the air."

Geerlings-Simons said this has already been tried and proven in Costa Rica. Twenty-two years ago, Costa Rica was the first in the world to start a nationwide scheme for compensating landowners for preserving their forests when it embarked on its national programme of payment for environmental services (PES).

"If you pay someone to keep the forest standing, they will keep it standing because they don't have to give it to someone to cut it down to get something to eat," Geerlings-Simons said.

"I am sure that if Europe, the United States or China would develop some kind of mechanism, some kind of machine, everybody would gladly be paying for it because it would strengthen their economy.

"But now, finally after a few hundred years, some money has to come to this part of the world, at this moment where we are facing a very dire situation. The [International Panel on Climate Change] IPCC is not some kind of scaremongering organisation and they really gave us a stern warning. You do something, you get paid for it. Why is this an exception?" she added.

Last year, the IPCC released a report assessing the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees C.

But as global emissions continue to rise, hopes of containing the planet's warming well below 2 degrees C-the headline target of the Paris Agreement-are fading.

"Why do we have to beg for money while delivering a service that put carbon into the air? The only way that some people will start reducing their carbon is when they have to pay. This is the way this world works," Geerlings-Simons said.

High Forest Cover and Low Deforestation (HFLD) nations hosted a major conference in Suriname earlier this month.

The conference ended with the Krutu of Paramaribo Joint Declaration on HFLD Climate Mobilisation. Krutu-an indigenous Surinamese word-means a gathering of significance or a gathering of high dignitaries, resulting in something that is workable.

People do not 'deserve to die': Injustice of death penalty persists

UNITED NATIONS

While figures have dropped, the "inhuman" use of the death penalty still remains too common worldwide, a human rights group said.

In a new report, Amnesty International found that global executions fell by almost one-third last year, making it the lowest rate in at least a decade.

"The dramatic global fall in executions proves that even the most unlikely countries are starting to change their ways and realise the death penalty is not the answer," said Amnesty International's Secretary General Kumi Naidoo.

"This is a hopeful indication that it's only a matter of time before this cruel punishment is consigned to history, where it belongs," he added.

For instance, Burkina Faso abolished the death penalty in 2018, while both Malaysia and the Gambia declared an official moratorium on executions.

In Iran, where the death penalty is an all too common form of punishment, executions fell by a whopping 50 percent.

Despite the positive news, the use of the death penalty has continued, violating basic human rights including the right to a fair trial and the importance of ensuring dignity and respect.

According to Amnesty International, there were 2,531 death sentences globally in 2018, just a slight decrease from 2,591 reported in 2017.

Though there was some progress, Iran still continues to account for more than one third of all recorded executions.

In fact, approximately 78 percent of all known executions were carried out in just four countries: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, and Iraq.

H Duy H i is among 600 people



I would like the international community to help reunite my family

under the death sentence in Vietnam, and still remains at risk of execution.

Convicted of theft and murder, H Duy H i said he was tortured and forced to sign a "confession" which he later retracted.

In 2015, the Committee on Judicial Affairs of the National Assembly found serious violations of criminal procedural law in the handling of H Duy H i's case.

"It has been 11 years since he was arrested and our family was torn apart. I can no longer bear this pain. Just thinking about my son suffering behind bars hurts me so much," his mother Nguyn Th Loan told Amnesty International.

"I would like the international community to help reunite my family. You are my only hope," she added.

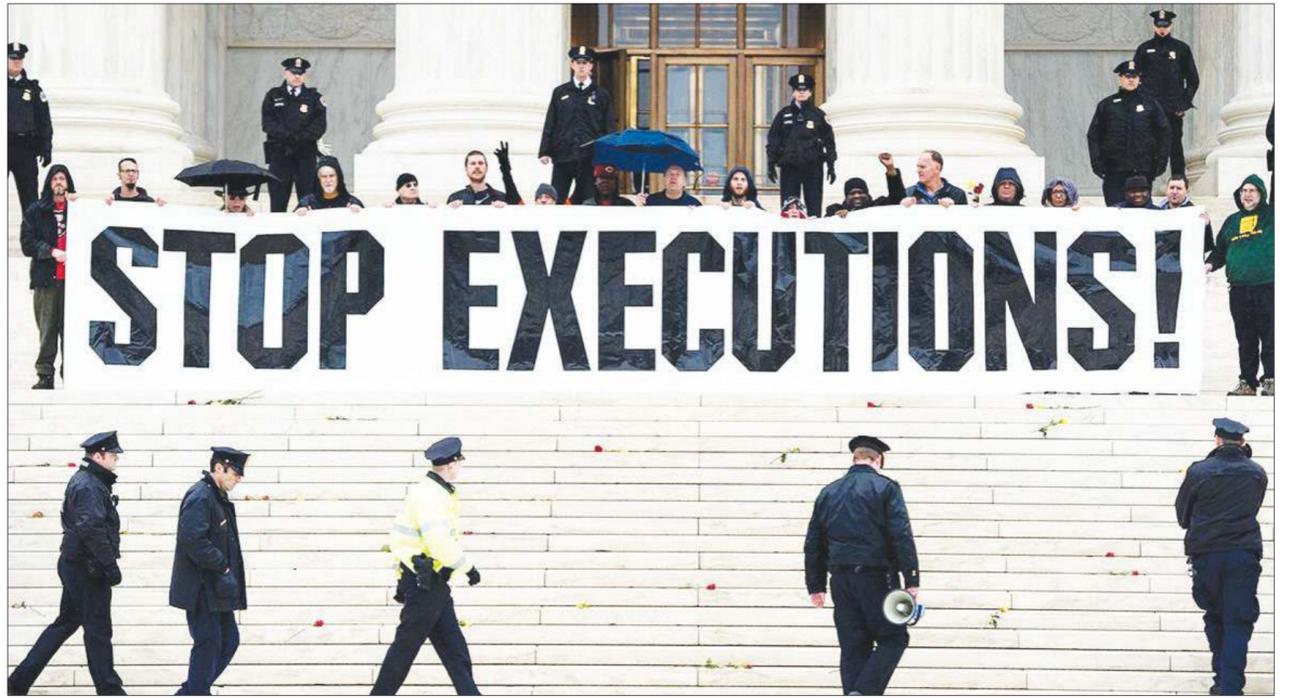
While exact figures are unknown, China is still the world's top executioner with potentially thousands of people sentenced to death each year.

The death penalty is applied in a range of offences including non-violent offences which violates international law and standards as they do not classify as the "most serious crimes."

In June 2018, authorities in Lufeng city in southeastern China conducted a "mass sentencing rally" where 10 people were charged for drug-related offences and executed.

Elsewhere, the use of the death penalty has been reintroduced which, in some cases, is happening in countries that have had a decades-long moratorium.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala



Sirisena said he would reinstate executions after more than 40 years and apply death sentences to those convicted of drug offences, like the Philippines.

The government even posted a job advertisement seeking an executioner with "excellent moral character" and a "very good mind and mental strength."

Sudan resumed the implementation of death sentences after a hiatus in 2017, including the sentencing of Noura Hussein.

Hussein, a young Sudanese woman, was married against her will to Abdulrahman Mohamed Hammad

at the age of 16 and was raped when she refused to consummate the marriage.

When Hammad tried to rape her again, Hussein defended herself and in the struggle, he sustained a fatal knife injury and died.

Despite evidence of self-defence, Hussein was convicted and sentenced to death, prompting global outrage.

"I was in absolute shock when the judge told me I had been sentenced to death. I hadn't done anything to deserve to die. I couldn't believe

the level of injustice - especially on women," Hussein told Amnesty International.

"My case was especially hard as at the time of sentencing, my family had disowned me. I was alone dealing with the shock," she added.

Though the death sentence was overturned, it has only been replaced with a five-year prison sentence and financial compensation of 8,400 dollars. Still, prosecutors are pushing to reinstate the death sentence in her case.

The global struggle is still far

from over, Naidoo noted.

"Slowly but steadily, global consensus is building towards ending the use of the death penalty...from Burkina Faso to the U.S., concrete steps are being taken to abolish the death penalty. Now it's up to other countries to follow suit," he said. "We all want to live in a safe society, but executions are never the solution. With the continued support of people worldwide, we can - and we will - put an end to the death penalty once and for all."

IPS

Once the 'World's new superpower,' is battling against heavy odds

UNITED NATIONS

Former UN Secretary-General, the late Kofi Annan, once described civil society organizations (CSOs), as "the world's new superpower" - perhaps ranking behind the US and the former Soviet Union.

But that political glory has continued to diminish over the years - and more so - against the current backdrop of repressive regimes, hard right nationalist governments and far right extremist groups.

Perhaps the most virulent attacks on the civic space of CSOs - also known as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - are largely on their attempts to provide protection and security to migrants and refugees in the "dangerous crossings," from North Africa across the Mediterranean Sea and the Mexico/US border.

"There are now serious restrictions in civic space on every continent," says the annual State of Civil Society Report 2019, released last week by the Johannesburg-based CIVICUS.

And it singles out the Italian government's decision to impose a hefty fine on one of the world's best-known humanitarian organisations, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), while also freezing their assets, impounding their rescue vessel and investigating their staff for human trafficking... in retaliation for their efforts to save refugees from drowning in the Mediterranean Sea.

There were also instances of civil society activists being charged, tried and convicted in the United States for providing water supplies for migrants crossing the deadly Sonoran desert on the US/Mexico border.

As these attacks continue, international institutions are "struggling" to help shore up these NGOs because these institutions, including the United Nations, are "hamstrung by the interests and alliances of powerful states."

The report points out these institutions did little to respond to the great challenges of the day - failing to



fight overwhelming inequality and also were largely silent on human rights abuses of states such as Saudi Arabia and Sudan while letting down the people of Syria and the Rohingyas of Myanmar, among many others.

Still, both the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and the Geneva based Human Rights Council (and its 38 human rights experts - officially called Special Rapporteurs) - have taken the lead in singling out abuses worldwide.

In early March, Bachelet expressed concern about the possible approval by the Guatemalan Congress of a bill amending the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations for Development - a move aimed at limiting the work of human rights defenders and civil society in general.

The draft bill included requirements and administrative controls for national and international NGOs that in practice could be applied in a discretionary or arbitrary manner to

limit the exercise of CSOs.

"I regret that Congress has continued with the process of approving this amendment despite its inconsistencies with international human rights standards, and despite the technical advice provided by my Office, and serious concerns expressed by UN independent experts and civil society," Bachelet said.

The draft bill narrows the definition of NGOs, limiting their scope in a way that may constrain the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

To obtain authorizations, NGOs would need to go through a complex registration process with several different state institutions, and the criteria for granting, rejecting or revoking those authorizations are not specified in the bill, according to the office of the High Commissioner.

Asked if there is a role either for the United Nations or its member states to protect CSOs under attack, Mandeep

xxx

Tiwana, Chief Programmes Officer at CIVICUS, told IPS the UN is making some efforts to put the issues of attacks on CSOs and activists in the spotlight.

In December last year, he said, the President of the UN General Assembly, in a symbolic event, awarded the UN human rights prize to three civil society activists and an organisation dedicated to the protection of human rights defenders.

Recently, on March 21, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted a first-of-its-kind resolution on the protection of environmental human rights defenders, said Tiwana.

The UN Secretary General has a designated senior official to lead efforts within the UN system to address intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN system.

And, he said, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Women regularly champion the work of CSOs and women human rights defenders respectively.

"However, in light of the growing restrictions on civic space, around the world, and even at the UN itself, these efforts are often not enough," complained Tiwana.

This is in part because the UN itself is also under pressure from (undemocratic) governments that restrict civil society at home, and wish to do so at the UN as well.

He said the CIVICUS Monitor, a participatory platform that measures civic freedoms finds that only 4% of the world's population live in countries where the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly are adequately protected.

These are necessary for a healthy and enabled civil society and enshrined in international law.

"Our 2019 State of Civil Society

Report points out, that the UN is hamstrung by the actions of powerful states that refuse to play by the rules including the US, China and Russia".

Tiwana said a number of rights repressing states are joining international bodies.

In 2018, for example, Bahrain, Bangladesh and Eritrea, joined the UN Human Rights Council.

And over 60% of the UNHRC members are states with serious civic space restrictions that don't respect civil society rights. In doing so, they are making decisive action less likely.

Second, states are withdrawing from international institutions and agreements, with the US withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on Climate and undermining UN resolutions on Palestine and the Occupied Territories.

Philippines has pulled out of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in a bid to avoid international accountability for widespread human rights violations including attacks on civil society.

In 2018, the new Global Compact for Migration also saw a string of states with headline migration policies pull out between the agreement of the deal and its signing.

Third, rogue leaders are bringing their styles of personal rule into international affairs, ignoring existing institutions, agreements and norms, acting as unilateral strongmen or striking bilateral deals with other hardmen, undermining multilateralism and making it harder to scrutinise their actions, Tiwana noted.

Potentially everything seems up for negotiation and nothing can be assured at the international level, even the 70-year-old international human rights norms that underpin civil society action, he warned.

IPS

Mo Ibrahim Foundation says African migrations an opportunity, not a crisis

By Special Correspondent in Abidjan

THE 2019 Ibrahim Governance Weekend, held here from April 5 through 7, has heard that the global view of African migrations urgently needs to be reset since distorted data lead to inadequate policies.

Debating and discussing African migrations, youth and jobs, participants said African migrations present an opportunity for both the continent and the world, and yet today this topic triggers an emotional reaction and is generally misunderstood.

They said that, driven by the need for jobs and economic opportunity, most African migrations begin and end on the continent. Their arrival in host countries is welcomed, with many Africans saying they would like more migrants in their country.

Those travelling beyond Africa are very few, totalling only 14 per cent of the global migrant population in 2017 - significantly less than Asia (41 per cent) and Europe (24 per cent).

Mo Ibrahim, Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "Migration in Africa, and around the world, is largely about aspiration, not desperation.

Africans leaving their home countries are looking for the chance to work and contribute to their host countries."

"African governments should welcome migrants while ensuring that their own citizens - our continent's greatest asset - have the education and economic opportunities they deserve. Now is the time to take action before it's too late for our young people," he added.

The Ibrahim Forum brings together a powerful coalition of African and global leaders to discuss an issue that is critical to the continent's future, the 2019 Ibrahim Forum focusing on the Foundation's latest report: 'Africa's Youth: Jobs or Migration?'

In recognition of the importance of young people to Africa's development, this year the Foundation welcomed back the Now Generation Forum, a meeting of young leaders from 35 countries whose recommendations fed into the discussion.

The Forum's first session of the Ibrahim Forum - Setting the picture right on African migrations - explored African perspectives on migration,

highlighting that human mobility is not a recent phenomenon but a dynamic that has contributed to progress over many centuries.

Former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the 2017 Ibrahim Laureate and Chairperson of the High-Level Panel on International Migration in Africa, meanwhile said: "In recent times, there has been a lot of movement of young Africans across borders in search of opportunity. This has created a fear and a very emotional response...but there is no migrant crisis."

"The majority of those who cross borders do so legally; they carry with them capital, knowledge, skills, technology; they pay taxes; and they form a sizeable part of the GDP of their host countries," she noted.

Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, highlighted how a lack of economic opportunity is driving Africans to leave their home countries.

"The conversation on migration is essentially a conversation on governance and what our leaders need to do to ensure Africans do not go outside the continent," she said, adding:

"Eighty per cent of those Africans migrating say they are doing so because they don't have jobs, because our countries don't have the right business or policy environments."

In the second session - The African youth bulge confronted by jobless growth - panelists discussed the current and future challenges of the African job market, including the unexploited potential of agriculture and the changes expected from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Côte d'Ivoire Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energy minister Abdourahmane Cissé outlined his country's efforts to create economic opportunities for its youth.

"Innovation is key, yes, but if you want people to innovate, you need to ensure that they have access to the necessary resources, particularly information technology," he said.

He elaborated: "In Côte d'Ivoire, we have focused on vocational training and technical skills and have invested in areas that help students to access jobs, including creating tax incentives to provide internships and hire recent graduates.

We need to see many more young people engaged in politics so that they can be part of the discussions about

their future."

Former Ethiopian prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe chipped in: "Our youth are deeply dissatisfied. They feel economically, socially and politically marginalised. African leaders and civil society should address these issues with a sense of urgency. Let's look at the education and skills that our young people actually need, focusing on what is necessary for the current economic situation in Africa."

For his part, African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina highlighted the importance of involving more young Africans in agriculture, saying: "We always talk about the great potential of our continent, but nobody can eat potential."

"We need to take this great demographic asset that we have - our young people - and turn it into an economic powerhouse, both for ourselves and the rest of the world. We've got to get young people into agriculture and create a new group of 'agripreneurs'."

Natasha Kimani, Head of Programmes at Well Told Story and a member of the Now Generation Forum, argued for a fresh perspective, saying: "We need to change how we talk about young people and how we talk to young people. Instead of assuming that we know what they need, why don't we ask them?"

"And as young people, if we want to thrive, we must hold our governments accountable," she said, adding: "We need to put our leaders on the spot and ask them difficult questions. Don't be afraid to challenge authority and ask for what you deserve - because the more you ask, the more you get!"

In the third session - The way forward: bolstering mobility, updating skills, sharing responsibilities - panelists explored options to strengthen the capacity of the continent to make the most of its greatest resource, its human capital, and ensure that no one was left behind.

International Trade Centre Executive Director Arancha González said: "The countries where mobility works are the countries which manage mobility, that don't leave mobility purely to market forces," adding: "We have to recognise that migrants are often different - different in religion, culture, colour, sexual preference.

This also needs to be discussed and managed. Mobility introduces diversity and diversity means strength."



Former Botswana president and 2008 Ibrahim Laureate Festus Mogae underscored the importance of responsible leadership in managing migration, noting: "African leaders and governments should go out of their way to explain to their populations that migrants often benefit the countries into which they migrate, correcting the misperception that migrants are taking local jobs."

Closing the session, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Africa Director Oumar Seydi highlighted the challenge of population growth, saying: "The elephant in the room is family planning. If you look at the data, you see that the countries with the highest population growth have also tended to be the poorest ones."

In our experience, investing in family planning is one of the most effective tools that countries have to break the poverty cycle. It enables women to plan their futures and fulfil their potential," he noted.

The 2019 Ibrahim Governance Weekend opened with a Leadership Ceremony, celebrating progress in African leadership and governance. The evening featured a special tribute to former United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan, reflecting on the legacy he left and the inspiration he continues to be.

Thoughts and memories were

shared by, among others, Mo Ibrahim, UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed, and former UN Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch-Brown.

Addressing over 1,200 guests, Côte d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara said: "Kofi Annan was more than a friend of Côte d'Ivoire and a brother who shared our pain."

"The name of Kofi Annan is tightly linked to the return of peace and security in our country.

He was determined not to let our country sink and did not hesitate to use the full authority of the United Nations and his exceptional ability for negotiation. This nation owes him a lot," he added.

The 2019 Ibrahim Forum discussed latest findings from the Ibrahim Forum Report, including that migrants represented only 3.4 per cent of the global population in 2017, a marginal increase from 2.9 per cent in 1990.

Among the other findings were that African migrants in 2017 amounted to 2.9 per cent of the continent's population, and that in 2017 the top ten bilateral corridors in Africa accounted for less than the single bilateral corridor between Mexico and the US.

It was further reported that Africa itself hosts a growing part of the global migrant population (+67 per cent since

2000), that Rwanda is the third most welcoming country to migrants at a world level, and that Egypt is the least accepting on the continent.

Yet other revelations: more than 70 per cent of sub-Saharan African migrants move within the continent, South Africa receives the largest share of African migrants (followed by Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda), and almost 80 per cent of African migrants are driven by the hope for better economic or social prospects.

Also: migrants spend some 85 per cent of their incomes in their destination countries, the estimated contribution of migrants to local GDPs is estimated at 19 per cent in Côte d'Ivoire, 13 per cent in Rwanda and 9 per cent in South Africa.

Additionally: insecurity is not the major factor for African migrations as 2017 saw refugees account for only around 20 per cent of African migrants, almost 90 per cent of African refugees stay within the continent.

Italy, Germany and France altogether host less than 4 per cent of African refugees, around 60 per cent of Africa's population is currently less than 25 years old and more than a third is aged between 15-34, and Africa's youth is expected to grow by 181.4 per cent between 2019 and 2100 - and Europe's to shrink by 21.4 per cent and Asia's by 27.7 per cent.

US announcement of Israel's sovereignty over Golan Heights, or Shebaa Farms in future, is symbolic - Lebanese analysts

BEIRUT

Lebanese experts are concerned that the United States' recent decision of recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan Heights would also include the Lebanese occupied territories of Shebaa Farms.

"The Shebaa farms was occupied by the Syrians long before the Six-Day War of 1967. When Israel occupied the Golan Heights, they seized Shebaa Farms also.

So the question of Shebaa Farms cannot be separated from the Golan Heights," Hilal Khashan, chair of the Political Studies Department at the American University of Beirut, told Xinhua. Shebaa Farms are located on the border between Lebanon and the occupied part of Golan Heights.

Israel invaded and occupied southern Lebanon in 1978 and annexed the Golan Heights, including the Shebaa Farms, in 1981, a move never recognized by the international community.

There was a dispute over whether the farms belonged to Lebanon or Syria due to lack of official delineation between the two countries.

After the liberation of southern Lebanon and the Israeli withdrawal in 2000, Syria declared without formal documentation that Shebaa Farms belongs to Lebanon.

However, U.S. President Donald Trump signed in March a proclamation placing the Golan Heights under Israel's authority which was met with strong international condemnation.

It aroused fears among Lebanese officials about the possibility of a later decision by Trump to include Shebaa Farms in his equation.

"Trump's decision affects Shebaa Farms for sure because the Syrian regime has not been forthcoming in providing Lebanon with documents

and maps to show that the farms belong to Lebanon," said Khashan.

However, Trump's decision to recognize Israel's authority over the Golan Heights is not very meaningful and a possible announcement of Shebaa Farms in the future would only be symbolic because Israel is not going to pull out anyway, he added.

Both Israel and Hezbollah do not have an interest in the liberation of Shebaa Farms, Khashan said. "Israel wants an external source of threat, which is Hezbollah in this case, because the Israeli society is fragmented.

If there are no external issues, then Israeli politics will become extremely divisive and it would be difficult to operate the Israeli political system," Khashan explained.

On the other hand, in the event that Israel pulls out from Shebaa Farms, the demands for disarming Hezbollah would accelerate.

"Hezbollah is interested in keeping Shebaa Farms with Israel, which gives the Shiite party a pretext to keep its armament in the name for the need of the resistance to continue the efforts to liberate the Farms," he said.

Khashan believes that in all cases, Hezbollah achieved its objectives in Lebanon and they do not want to go to war with Israel.

"They are reaping the fruits of their military activity against Israel. If they will go to war, they will compromise their achievements," he said.

Retired Lebanese Army Brigadier General Elias Farhat reiterated Khashan's remarks by saying that the U.S. decision of recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights would include Shebaa Farms, but such a move would only be symbolic and would not likely lead to military action.

He explained that the United Na-



US Senator Lindsey Graham (L), Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C), and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman (R) on a tour of the Golan Heights, March 11, 2019. File photo

tions Security Council released the Resolution 497 in December 1981, declaring that the Israeli Golan Heights Law, which effectively annexed the Golan Heights, is "null and void and without international legal effect" and further calls on Israel to rescind its action.

"Therefore, Trump's decision is illegal and illegitimate," he said, ruling out the possibility of military action for the liberation of Shebaa Farms any time soon.

Likewise, Lebanese former Ambassador to the United States Riad Tabbarah told Xinhua that the U.S.

announcement is not very meaningful because it comes from only one country.

The announcement is considered only as a gift for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of the elections, he said.

"The issue of Shebaa Farms should

be solved between Lebanon and Syria. Syria must give documents to Lebanon, proving that Shebaa Farms are Lebanese which will enable Lebanon to submit a claim to the United Nations to restore its land," he said.

Xinhua

Tactical urbanism makes kids' school trips safer in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE World Resources Institute (WRI), a non-profit global research organization, awarded its first-ever Ross Prize for Cities yesterday to SARSAL, a program that makes trips to school safer for children in Dar es Salaam and other African cities.

The \$250,000 Ross Prize was created "to elevate examples of urban

transformation around the world," according to WRI.

Children in sub-Saharan Africa are more than twice as likely as children in other parts of the world to be injured or die in a road crash. SARSAL, a program of the non-profit group Amend, identifies high-risk areas for children going to school and uses various inexpensive means to separate children from traffic, such as speed bumps,

bollards, and sidewalks.

The program (its name is an acronym for School Area Safety Assessments and Improvements) has served 38,000 children in Dar es Salaam. Since 2012, it has grown from two schools to 50 areas in nine African countries.

According to a study carried out with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SARSAL lowered

Economic empowerment project points Tanzania women entrepreneurs to new income and status

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WOMEN entrepreneurs working in agricultural processing in the Kigoma Region, north-west Tanzania, have seen a boost to their income and social position thanks to newly acquired business skills, technology, better access to capital, and improved market positioning as a result of a programme led by Energy 4 Impact.

Some 86 women have taken part in the Woman's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Kigoma project, run by Energy 4 Impact in partnership with UN Women.

The project aims to accelerate economic growth while ensuring that the benefits reach everyone, thereby helping to reduce poverty and create jobs, especially for young people and women.

In Tanzania, only 4% of employed women are in paid jobs, whether in the formal or informal sector, compared with 9.8% of men; men account for 71% of formal sector jobs.

In rural areas the main economic activities are agriculture production and transformation, plus activities such as light manufacturing, small mining, trade, services or food production. Kigoma Region is the second poorest region in the country and hosts a large refugee population from neighbouring countries, particularly Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Women rarely own assets or formal land titles, few have secondary education, and have limited access to market information or capital that would enable them to set up and develop their own businesses.

Women's difficulty in accessing finance is compounded by lack of collateral, not having a track record and

low financial literacy.

The Energy 4 Impact programme aims to bring more women into economic activity and has helped women entrepreneurs establish and develop small businesses in the region by tackling the financial and other barriers.

An Energy 4 Impact review of the rural economy in the region showed that women do have a key role in certain value chains and transformation areas in agriculture, in particular in the milling of cassava, maize and millet, in palm oil extraction, in honey production, baking, and in chicken rearing.

The programme was therefore designed to support women entrepreneurs and groups working in these areas to help them boost profitability and expand their businesses.

The programme covers training and support on access to capital, marketing, and business development, particularly using new technology and better equipment to improve and expand the services and products they offer. "Women entrepreneurs still face many challenges in accessing capital, in running productive businesses, and in accessing education, skills and vocational training.

In order to improve the women entrepreneurs' businesses performance we have focused on creating value-addition in the processing of agricultural produce by supporting the entrepreneurs to invest in technology and business formalisation," said Beatrice Mbiligi, Capital Access Officer and Business Development Coordinator at Energy 4 Impact.

As well as agriculture, women entrepreneurs are also involved in food vending and bakery, services and entertainment businesses.

With greater knowledge and access to capital, women's businesses in the region can invest in equipment

and appliances to enhance production - equipment such as grain mills, de-huskers, oil extraction machinery, and solar-powered fridges, dryers and ovens.

Through the Energy 4 Impact programme, women and women groups increase their financial know-how and are encouraged to build their saving and credit capacity and access finance.

To help put the women-led enterprises on a firm financial footing, and look at ways in which they can improve their businesses and profits, a mapping exercise was carried out to assess their financial needs. Energy 4 Impact Business Mentors then support them through the loan application and verification processes, and help them to identify their best options for accessing capital.

They assess the woman entrepreneur's willingness, ability and capability to take a loan, look at the viability of the investment, and help them to be investment ready. Once they are, the mentors refer them to local financial institutions.

Where women entrepreneurs are already part of a local saving and lending group, the Mentor supports their saving and lending capacity, or help create a local village community bank (VICOBA) group that can provide credit or links to the local financial institutions who lend to micro businesses.

"Owning an asset, and making decisions over resources, not only improves the productivity and income generation of women's businesses, but it also acts as collateral for future investments. It also boosts women's self-confidence and their visibility to clients, partners and local district representatives," said programme manager Beatrice Mbiligi.

Through the project, as of February



Thanks to SARSAL's interventions, costing only about \$25,000 per school, children commute safely in Dar

injury rates by 26 percent and traffic speeds by up to 60 percent around school areas in which it worked.

That makes it the first peer-reviewed intervention proven to prevent road-traffic injuries in sub-Saharan Africa, according to WRI.

At the same time, it results in urban design that is friendlier to pedestrians. "By designing from the point of

view of the child pedestrian, we are designing for the safety and security of all," said Ayikai Charlotte Poswayo, the director of SARSAL.

The four runners-up for the prize were the Eski ehir Urban Development Project, which reinvigorated a river and city in Eski ehir, Turkey; Metrocable, the aerial tram system in Medellin, Colombia; SWaCH Pune Seva Sahakari

Sanstha, a member-owned cooperative for waste pickers in Pune, India; and Warwick Junction in Durban, South Africa, a vibrant market area where the nonprofit Asiye eTafuleni helps informal workers collaboratively design improvements and engage with official decision-making.

2019 a total of 22 entrepreneurs have already acquired appliances including maize mills, de-huskers, sewing machines, refrigerators, hair dryers, improved cookstoves and juice mixers, among others.

Through the programme, women entrepreneurs and groups receive a combination of technology training, business mentoring and market facilitation to help them to become more business savvy and add value to their existing services and products to enhance their position in the local market, and to develop strategic partnerships along the supply chain.

Tanzanian businesses stand a better chance of working with the government if they are formally registered. In fact, formal registration is necessary to do business with government institutions, open a business bank account and acquire loans from financial institutions.

A key strand of the programme has been helping women entrepreneurs to structure their businesses and prepare formal registration by acquiring the requisite business licences, permits, and name and tax identification number (TIN) if they do not have them.

By the end of February 2019, a total of 18 entrepreneurs had been supported to acquire business registration, business license and entrepreneurs Identification Number.

Those involved in the programme also learn a wide range of business skills including business planning, how to access finance, using market research to identify new opportunities and product lines, sourcing and dealing with good value equipment suppliers, verifying and maintaining equipment, marketing and sales planning, and investment readiness.

Technology mentors are on hand when new equipment is installed and train women in using and maintaining their new system.

Networking sessions and workshops run by the programme bring together women involved in similar businesses, or using similar equipment, to share ideas on issues such as business management, leadership and dealing with suppliers.

They also help to develop links with district officials, local financial institutions and equipment suppliers.

"There is a direct relationship between women's economic empowerment and income security, decent work and economic autonomy. A gender approach can enable shifts in gender power relations and ensures that all people regardless of sex have income security and decent work.

Providing those most excluded with income security and decent work helps them to be economically independent, so they can provide for

themselves, their families and associates," said Beatrice Mbiligi.

"Women who are economically empowered are unlikely to be victims of gender-based violence in their communities because of their high self-awareness, confidence and contribution in the decision-making processes," she explained.

One person who has benefited from the programme is Annastazia Lameck, a 36-year-old woman who set up a stationery and secretarial services shop in Kabanga Village seven years ago.

Though the shop was doing well thanks to its good location near a large hospital and a nursing college, the training and support she has received from Energy 4 Impact and the WEE Kigoma project has enabled her to improve her current business and develop new business ideas taking advantage of the opportunities in the area.

To implement the new ideas, she needed investment capital and Energy 4 Impact supported her to obtain a TZS 400,000 (\$180) loan from a VICOBA that she was advised to join. Energy 4 Impact further guided her on the procedure for obtaining a business licence, she applied for and now has a formal business licence.

"I'm really grateful to Energy 4 Impact for broadening my thinking through its impactful trainings, mentorship and dialogues/workshops," said Annastazia.

"Thanks to the support that I received I could acquire a freezer and increase my revenue by selling cold drinks. Further, the business license has enabled me to add mobile phone cards activation service for which a licence is needed.

I have also opened an NMB Junior account for my child. These new businesses have increased her profit by more than TZS 100,000 (\$45) a month an increase of around 33% on the previous year.

With a further helping hand from Energy 4 Impact, Annastazia is planning to expand her business by opening a new stationery shop in another village.

Mariam Kilahara, director of a milling company in Kibondo Town, joined the Energy 4 Impact WEE programme in July 2018 attending a series of business, empowerment and leadership training which gave her the tools to run her business more professionally and boost her profits. She is now on the way to a very successful milling business.

Mariam had a challenging start - she set up her first diesel-powered milling business in 2000 in partnership with her husband, but when he married a second wife he took control of the business and its profits.

For a couple of years Mariam did all the hard work, walking 30 km a day with a child on her back to collect maize to be milled. Not deterred she saved for a business of her own and in 2003 was finally able to open a diesel-powered mill in a small wooden shed at Kumweruro Village in Kibondo District.

However, Mariam needed help in managing her business as she was not keeping business records and so she could not calculate exactly how much she was earning after expenses.

Further, sales from maize flour has been decreasing because of competition from new mills that have recently been opened in Kibondo Town in advent of electricity in Kibondo.

After joining the project and attending training, she had regular visits from one of Energy 4 Impact's Business Mentors to start working on proper business record keeping and managing costs in her production and operations. The Mentor also advised Mariam to consider investing in similar business outside Kibondo Town and explore new customers in distant markets, which would require improved packaging and branding of her maize flour.

Implementation of these ideas started immediately. Mariam started keeping records of her business sales and expenses and since then she has been able to identify and reduce unnecessary costs, doubling her sales profit margin - from 1,900,000 TZS (\$850) to 3,828,100 TZS (\$1,700) - and has used her extra profit to pay the fees for her son to start college in November.

She has started working on plans to expand her customer base across the Kibondo District, the whole Kigoma region and other parts of the country by packaging her products for wholesalers, retailers and end-users. Energy 4 Impact has also helped Mariam acquire a loan from NMB Kibondo branch to buy maize from farmers and also apply for UNCDF business grants for women entrepreneurs in Kigoma.

She intends to top-up her loan to buy packaging machines for her products with Energy 4 Impact support in sourcing packaging machines, accessing new markets and product marketing. Mariam now owns two maize milling machines, she employs six people - a woman manager and five men who operate the machinery. Mariam's business also contributes to the wider community not only by producing food for local people but also providing local employment.

In addition to the 6 people who are full time working at the maize mills, her company employs at least 10 people to collect maize from the surrounding farms during harvest to deliver to her mill for processing.



For credible elections, Africa needs more from the AU



Recent experience shows the shortcomings of African Union observer missions, both in their methods and timing.

BY MOHAMED M DIATTA AND SHEWIT WOLDEMICHAEAL

Africa is experiencing a busy electoral year. Two important polls took place in February, in Nigeria and Senegal, both under the watchful eye of the African Union (AU). Tasked with ensuring its member states abide by the democratic principles of free and fair elections, the AU deployed electoral observer missions to both countries.

Ideally the missions assess the transparency and fairness of electoral processes to ensure credible results. The observer missions' reports should appraise the outcomes and propose areas of improvement. However AU observer missions have often lacked preparation and capacity, which diminishes their credibility.

At the request of the Nigerian government and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the AU deployed a short-term observer mission to Nigeria from 9 to 28 February. Just hours before the election was due to start on 16 February, INEC announced that it had been postponed by a week. This cast doubt on the credibility of the electoral process.

The AU observers appeared as surprised by the postponement as other observers in Nigeria.

Had the AU been collaborating with the INEC as per its mandate, such a significant event would not have come as a surprise.

This points to the shortcomings of AU observer missions, both in their working methods and in the timing of their deployment.

The preliminary statement by the AU observers in Nigeria was criticised for apparent inaccuracies and contradictions.

It talks of election-related violence, including bomb blasts and the destruction of election material. Despite these incidents and reports that over 50 people died, the statement concluded that the electoral process was generally 'violence-free'.

Another contradiction in the report concerns voters' rights.

The observer mission claimed that 'fundamental rights of association, free speech and assembly' were observed, but then asserted that political opponents were intimidated during the campaign period.

The report attempts to satisfy all



Those observers have a thorough understanding of political dynamics and potential hot spots, as well as access to remote areas, through civil society networks on the ground

stakeholders who can interpret in any way they want - as an endorsement for some or condemnation for others.

The AU typically deploys long-term and short-term missions a month and a half, and a week before elections, respectively.

This is not enough time for observers to become well acquainted with realities on the ground.

Incumbents, opposition parties and electoral bodies often start election preparations a year or two before the election date. An earlier, perhaps year-long, monitoring and action plan could have alerted the observers to the challenges the INEC said it faced in the run-up to Nigeria's polls.

Election monitoring by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, for example, is based on a year's tracking of the political situation and is more extensive and detailed.

Those observers have a thorough understanding of political dynamics and potential hot spots, as well as access to remote areas, through civil society networks on the ground.

This contrasts with AU observers, who come from across Africa and participate as their country's permanent representative to the AU or as a representative of one of the AU's many different organs (the Pan African Parliament or AU staff, for example).

Despite receiving pre-deployment training, they may not understand the nuances of the political space and situation.

Observers don't have much time on the ground and the mission can typically amount to merely ticking the boxes.

Election observers also struggle to fully scrutinise digitalised voting systems.

This was cause for concern in Nige-

ria, as technical challenges arose where polling staff had limited understanding of the technology.

And it appears that even though ECOWAS and AU observer missions issued a joint statement on the postponement of Nigeria's elections, the two bodies worked independently of one another.

In Senegal, beyond the conduct of the polls, more than a year before the election, many complained that the political environment had been 'sanitised' to favour incumbent Macky Sall.

Two of his major opponents were sentenced on charges of corruption and prevented from contesting the election. ECOWAS and the UN deemed the trials to have violated due process. Sall won the first round with 58% of the votes.

The measures Sall took before the elections, including amending the electoral law, also heightened tensions. This could not be addressed by the AU observer mission, as it was deployed only after these events had taken place.

AU observer mission reports strive to be conflict-sensitive so they don't trigger further violence.

But they must also ensure political parties don't stir violence before and after the announcement of results.

AU observer missions have come a long way since the first assignment in Namibia in 1989, but they can be improved.

The AU should help enhance the capacity and transparency of electoral bodies and improve electoral laws in member states by engaging earlier in the electoral process. This will allow for a level playing field and enhance the credibility of polls.

Another lesson from the Nigerian and Senegal elections is that the AU should collaborate closely with regional bodies, especially those such as ECOWAS that have greater capacity to observe elections.

The AU could also involve local civil society organisations that can serve as reliable expert partners.

Finally, the AU must find ways to hold political actors accountable for tampering with the electoral process and causing violence.

Much of this could be achieved by implementing observer missions' recommendations following elections.

This could be done in collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism or other AU organs that have the capacity to follow up.

Agencies

Heroin use is shooting up in South Africa

BY SIMONE HAYSOM

Research has found widespread and problematic use of heroin in South Africa's small towns, big cities and rural areas. The illicit trade in the opioid drug may have an annual cash turnover of billions of rands. But the rapid emergence of this thriving industry and its national importance have been largely ignored or misunderstood by police and government.

The new study by the ENACT project is based on fieldwork in South African communities, including interviews with gang members, drug dealers, heroin users, health workers and police. ENACT is an EU-funded initiative that builds knowledge and skills to enhance Africa's response to transnational organised crime.

The research found that heroin has become a key commodity underpinning the criminal economy in South Africa. The trade has a severe corrupting effect on police, who have interdependent relationships with gangs, drug dealers and users. The problem is exacerbated by poor or sometimes complicit policing, limited crime intelligence, and the failure of the state to provide social care or adequate education and health services.

Data on drug use is limited, and measuring heroin use is made more complicated by different regional names for drug combinations which include heroin, among them nyaope, sugars and unga. Nevertheless, it is likely that the 2015 figure of 75 000 people injecting heroin and 110 000 smoking the drug has grown significantly. This puts South Africa at risk of following drug patterns in sub-Saharan Africa, which is expected



The industry and its devastating impact have been largely ignored or misunderstood by police and government.

to have 20 million users of hard drugs by 2040.

The growth of the heroin market in South Africa has been compounded by poor policy, with severe social, economic and political implications. Government needs to recognise that it faces a heroin crisis that is taking a heavy toll on communities. In major urban areas, people are subject to extreme violence as local gangs compete for control of drug markets.

Heroin creates high dependency, with a reliable income stream from repeat customers. South Africa's heroin economy is a spinoff from the growing international drug smuggling route down the East Coast of Africa for shipment to international markets in Europe and the US. This follows an increase in heroin production in Afghanistan, better enforcement on other routes, and persistent impunity for African drug traffickers in countries like Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya.

Tanzanian networks have played a pivotal role in developing the South African heroin market.

They make wholesale deliveries of the drug to South

African gangs in Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Bay, and distribute it to a network of dealers in Johannesburg and Tshwane.

The Tanzanian dealers appear to have eclipsed Nigerian networks as the primary suppliers of heroin, and may have developed connections to Pakistani merchants who source the product from Afghanistan. The nature of these networks and their interconnections, as well as the kingpin figures who make the bulk of the profits, are not yet clear.

Heroin is not the only drug that feeds these markets, but it is a hugely important one. In Cape Town - a city which is an important vector for nationwide drug use - heroin may now rival crystal meth as a mainstay of the drug trade.

The cash-based nature of the drug business is a lubricant for low level police corruption. In Cape Town, dealers in gang-controlled neighbourhoods told ENACT researchers that police visit their selling points for small cash bribes. Interviewees in Tshwane spoke of corrupt junior police confiscating drugs and selling them to other dealers.

Heroin is highly addictive

and injecting it raises the risk of HIV infection and transmission of Hepatitis C. Drug users in South Africa generally have poor access to services, as a result of neglect, marginalisation and deliberate policies. Because they are criminalised, people who are dependent on heroin become socially marginalised and many end up living on the street, where they face assault and extortion by police.

Responding to the illegal drug trade falls to authorities who are under-prepared and under-resourced. Interventions need to encompass both law enforcement and political strategies. Police investigations should be intelligence led and focused on organised crime networks, secretive high-level facilitators of the trade (including money launderers), and the traffickers that reap the bulk of the profits. Political leaders in Southern Africa need to tackle the corruption that facilitates the heroin transit route through neighbouring countries.

The criminal justice response must also be aligned with the harm-reduction ambitions of South Africa's drug policy.

Agencies

BUSINESS

CONTROVERSY

BP has been convicted of environmental crime in South Africa

PRETORIA

The high court in Pretoria this week found the company guilty on eight counts of building petrol stations without first obtaining the necessary environmental clearance.

By law that can come with jail time or - more likely in this case - a fine based on multiples of the value of the filling stations it built. Meanwhile the judgment against BP opens the door for a large number of similar prosecutions, perhaps on thousands of counts of historic environmental crimes never prosecuted by the state.

It could also mean the creation of a special non-governmental vehicle specifically geared to train up environmental lawyers and entrepreneurs, funded by the proceeds of the fines against BP.

The judgment is believed to be South Africa's first-ever successful private prosecution of environmental crimes in terms of long-standing legislation designed to enable private individuals and groups to hold environmental criminals to account if the state fails to do so.

BP was indicted not by the state, as is usual in criminal complaints, but by previously unknown environmental group Uzani Environmental Advocacy, headed by lawyer Gideon (Kallie) Erasmus.

During the course of the trial BP argued, sometimes vociferously, that Uzani had no right to prosecute it and that Erasmus was out to enrich himself. It also said that it was being put in double jeopardy, because it had already paid civil fines in a "rectification process" commonly used in cases where environmental rules are broken.

But this week high court judge Brian Spilg found that South Africa's National Environmental Management Act (Nema) had been written specifically to allow for both civil fines and criminal prosecution.

Nema, Spilg said, was intended to "facilitate, if not encourage" interest groups to pursue environmental criminals - and suggested that the government was failing to do that.

"We have come to the realisation that this metaphoric well which is Earth may, without intervention, become irreversibly poisoned," Spilg said in his judgment.

"Our environmental laws recognise the need to ensure sustainability. Each of us is affected by activities

currently being undertaken that may significantly impact on the environment. Securing protection is therefore no longer the exclusive preserve of those engaged in these activities, nor of an opaque administration or an under-capacitated and potentially inhibited law enforcement agency which cannot claim the number of successful convictions one would have expected despite clear evidence of historic degradation to our environment."

Uzani called an expert witness who testified that companies who failed to obtain environmental authorisations before construction of something like a petrol station were virtually guaranteed to receive "post-construction authorisation", because not granting such authorisation could lead to job losses.

BP argued that none of the filling stations it built were in environmentally sensitive areas, and that there were adequate measures in place to prevent environmental disasters.

But Spilg found that the records held by the Gauteng government on the "rectifications" of the paperwork for the filling stations were enough to prove BP's criminal guilt on eight counts. On two other counts, Spilg said, Gauteng's records were not complete enough to warrant a conviction, and on two more counts BP had raised sufficient doubt to be acquitted.

If BP is sentenced to a fine, a portion of that money could be awarded to Uzani. The group has pledged to use any such money to set up an incubator for young environmental lawyers and entrepreneurs, as well as a "virtual school for environmental governance, law, and entrepreneurship."

In terms of the law, BP could be liable for fines of R100,000 on each count - plus up to three times the commercial value of the petrol stations it built. Uzani has previously disclosed that, in the process of securing the right to privately prosecute BP, it also lined up the right to prosecute some 2,500 similar counts of environmental crimes by various companies.

In response to questions from Business Insider South Africa, BP issued a short statement. It reads, in full: "BP disagrees with the judgement. The legal process is on-going and once finalised we will consider our options."



Halotel's Head of Communications, Mhina Semwenda speaks at a past event. File photo.

PROMOTION

Mobile phone firm provides five minutes free time across network bundle

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

FIVE minutes of free time which Halotel customers will use to call any network in the market will be part of a new bundle launched yesterday dubbed, Tomato Plus.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam Halotel Tanzania Limited's Head of Communications, Mhina Semwenda said the new bundle provides room for

the telecom's customers to make free of charge for the first five minutes, when calling across all the networks.

"This is an improved service which is in line with our customers' needs in communication, which is designed to make them communicate unlimitedly," Semwenda said.

He said Halotel subscribers can join Tomato Plus bundle through the same USSD code with options for daily,

weekly or monthly periods.

Semwenda further pointed out that Tomato Plus bundle is geared towards increasing efficiency and ability of Halotel customers to communicate with their peers across all networks in the market.

"This bundle is for Tanzanians especially business people, public and private sector employees and those who in urban and rural areas, who rely

on mobile phones as their effective means of communication and doing business," the Halotel spokesman added.

Halotel Tanzania which is a subsidiary of Vietnam's Viettel Group started operation in the country in October 2015 with focus to connect rural areas where 80 percent of the country's population lives in isolation.



Pupils from Mjimpya Primary School located in Itigi Municipality of Singida region sampling part of the 100 desks worth 10m/- donated by NMB Bank Plc being part of its corporate social responsibility initiative. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

GROWTH

Turkish Cargo traffic surges in shrinking global market

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

IN a competitive global market, Turkish Cargo, a Turkish Airlines brand saw its haulage increase by 9.6 percent in February this year although overall the global air cargo sector shrank.

In a statement, the Istanbul based conglomerate said the air freight company steadily continues towards its goal of becoming one of the top five of the world's air cargo brands.

Continuing its growth during the 2019 which also had the world's biggest moving operation, Turkish Cargo managed to rise to the seventh spot in the World Air Cargo Data with 9.6 percent increase in its tonnage despite the 5.8 shrinkage in the air cargo market along with 5.7 percent fall in the demand according to International Air Transport Association reports during January and February.

Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee,

Iker Ayçi hailed the success saying the continuous rise of Turkish Cargo in the global air cargo market is undisputable.

"We can't say that the success we achieved during the first two months of 2019 was a surprise. We continuously experience these exciting achievements especially in recent years. For instance, in the last two years, we rose from 12th place to seventh place after surpassing five big global air cargo brands from Europe and Far East," Ayçi said.

"Especially considering that the shrinkage in the demand for the market causes gloom in the sector with disappointing numbers, this success brightens the future of Turkish Cargo even more," he added.

Ayçi further explained that the airline's determination and growth strategy in the air cargo market, is to be among the world's top five air cargo brands. "I express my thanks to all my colleagues who contributed to this success," the Board Chair noted.

Turkish Cargo also increased its market share in the sold tonnage by 0.6 points in the first two months of the year compared to last year and reached a growth of 4.3 percent while increasing its cumulative market share by 0.4 points to 4.1 percent.

With the recent shifting of operations to Istanbul Airport by Turkish Airlines, Turkish Cargo will continue its operations with Atatürk Airport and Istanbul Airport as dual hubs. After the completion of Istanbul Airport's all phases, Turkish Cargo will have the capacity of handling four million tonnage of cargo in a year thanks to its cargo terminal with 300 thousand square metres indoor space.

Reaching 307 destinations in 124 countries with belly capacity of Turkish Airlines and additionally operating dedicated cargo flights to 86 destinations with its fleet of cargo planes, Turkish Cargo continues to increase its service quality everyday.



A Turkish Airlines cargo plane taking off from Istanbul Airport. Photo: courtesy of Turkish Airlines.

ELITES

These three wealthy African kings are worth R89 billion

JOHANNESBURG

Mswati III

King Mswati III is the current king of Eswatini (Swaziland), a country in Southern Africa. Forbes estimates that he has an estimated net worth of at least R2.8 billion, which is said to come from investments.

In the 2014 national budget, the country's national assembly reportedly allocated R861 million for the King's annual household budget. In 2018, the 50-year-old monarch got a birthday gift for himself - a plane and an airport worth R2.6 billion. He owns several luxury cars, including a R7 million Maybach.

King Mswati III has been criticised for having an extravagant lifestyle while the rest of the country suffers.

Fredrick Obateru Akinrutan

Meet the traditional ruler of Ugbo Kingdom, a town in Ondo State, southwestern Nigeria. He has an estimated net worth of R4.2 billion, which comes mostly from his investments in the oil industry. He is the founder of Obat Oil, one of Nigeria's largest private oil companies.

He spends his money on things like a custom built 2012 Rolls Royce similar to that of Queen Elizabeth II and in 2014 he revealed that he has a R14 million watch. Obateru is believed to be the first black person to buy a 2014 Bentley.

Mohammed VI

This is the richest King in Africa. He is the reigning leader of Morocco. He has an estimated net worth of R81 billion, according to Forbes. His wealth comes mostly from investments. He controls Moroccan investment holding company Societe Nationale d'Investissement, whose assets are estimated to be worth more than R141 billion.

He also owns one of the world's largest phosphate reserves and has investments in the financial, mining, telecommunications, and distribution sectors. King Mohammed has a daily operating budget for his Palace of R13 million, Forbes reported. He has also been spotted with a rare Patek Philippe watch worth R16 billion.

INNOVATIVE

Kenyan entrepreneur who self-taught himself about design and technology

NAIROBI

Huston Malande is a 30-year-old Kenyan entrepreneur who founded Skyline Design in 2008. He is always passionate about design and technology. His curiosity about technology started when he was 12 years old. Together with his brother, they began their experiments with computers.

During the gap year between 2007 and 2009 after finishing high school, Malande learned the programming using his father's laptop. He learned about cybercafes and after becoming a college student, he promised himself to learn how to create websites for global platforms.

His passion for technology and design were a blessing for him as it helped him to get clients and referrals. These skills

led him to start a business, Skyline Design which was registered in 2008. Four years later, the business turned into a limited company with subsidiaries, including Digital Legion, Martian Effects, Mobile Matrix, Rolling Lens, and Red Planet.

At the beginning of his business, his first clients were his friend's family who owned a training college. As they needed a website to promote their courses, Malande was asked to build a website for them.

His business grew bigger after he wrote a blog in 2010 titled: Top 25 Web Designs in Kenya which drove traffic to his website and positively affected the growing businesses. As he wrote more about his business, the more he got clients.

At the early days of Skyline Design, Malande did everything himself, including for the finance, design and business

development. He met his two co-founders who had different specialties, helping business to grow as they could cover with their skills.

At first, it was only serving top clients with an average cost of US\$10,000 to US\$20,000 per website. It would take two months to make the design so that they often turned down small budget clients as they had no much spare time. However, later on, they decided to establish a subsidiary company that could serve smaller clients.

Now he has been 11 years in the business world. Alongside his business journey, Malande has received three awards including Forbes Africa Top 30 Under 30, UNICEF Youth Advocate, and Airtel Future Shaper. As his business keeps on growing, he has long term goals for the sustainable growth of his business.



Huston Malande, a Kenyan entrepreneur.

CHALLENGES

Please Call Me inventor back in court, this time to face litigation funders

PRETORIA

Makate's former backers want 50% of his potential compensation from Vodacom. Nkosana Makate's drawn-out efforts to be financially compensated for inventing the Please Call Me concept have led to another dramatic and nasty clash with lawyers.

This time, Makate is not fighting telecommunications giant Vodacom, to whom he gave the Please Call Me idea in 2001 when he was a trainee accountant at the firm, but the lawyers and investors who funded his litigation against the company.

The high court in Pretoria will hear an urgent application on Tuesday launched by Thomas Samons, business rescue practitioner of Raining Men Trade, the former funder of Makate's lawsuit against Vodacom.

Raining Men Trade wants a 50% share of any compensation Makate might be awarded by Vodacom on the basis that its director, Chris Schoeman, entered into a written agreement with Makate in November 2011 to bankroll his litigation costs.

Two reasons

Makate has rejected this, saying the funding agreement was cancelled in January 2014 after his Please Call Me case initially failed at the high court and discovery that his signature on the agreement was allegedly forged by Schoeman.

After Makate successfully appealed and won his case against Vodacom at the Constitutional Court in 2016, Rain-



Nkosana Makate.

ing Men Trade and Schoeman held that the agreement held. A legal dispute ensued on the validity of the agreement resulting in a high court judgment that referred Makate's legal team, Schoeman and Raining Men Trade to an arbitration process presided over by advocate Michael Mabena.

On Thursday, Samons filed papers for an urgent interdict to block Mabena from starting arbitration proceedings that are set for April 10 and 12.

Accusations

On a cursory view, Samons accused Mabena of not being

procedurally fair since he was appointed as the business rescue practitioner in January 2019. The dates that Mabena set, said Samons, clashed with the availability of his attorney Frank Cohen and have not afforded him sufficient time to prepare for arbitration proceedings. Samons said his lawyer has not been advised on the rules that Mabena intends to run arbitration proceedings under and that the latter "fobbed" off requests for clarity.

"Our attorney [Cohen] further noted that we have previously experienced the problem where the arbitrator [Mabena] simply

randomly chooses dates for hearings and meetings ... that the effective two days' notice of the meeting and in the circumstances, did not comply with the provisions and import of section 15 (1) of the Arbitration Act ... that it would benefit all parties if the arbitrator would communicate with the parties furnishing them with a series of dates," Samons said in court papers.

Impartiality

He also wants the appointment of Mabena as an arbitrator set aside because "he has not or will not bring an impartial mind" on arbitration proceedings.

The latest court application adds another twist to what is shaping up to be a protracted battle for Makate to be compensated billions of rands, according to his estimates, for the Please Call Me service. Makate might be approaching courts again in a separate matter because he is unhappy with the undisclosed amount that Vodacom offered him.

In a series of emails attached to Samons's urgent application, Mabena said as an arbitrator he has the discretion and power to determine the time, date and place of arbitration. Mabena also

said he communicated dates for arbitration hearings as far back as November 2018 and would thus be reneging on his duties if hearings are delayed and postponed.

Makate responds

Makate, who is opposing the urgency of the application, has hit back, saying Raining Men Trade and Chris Schoeman have been trying to prevent the arbitration from being finalised since 2016 by lodging "one spurious application after the other just before the arbitration has to commence".

He said Schoeman withdrew his claim for a share of the compensation on November 15, 2018 - days before the arbitration was due to commence in December 2018. This left Raining Men Trade as the only claimant in the arbitration.

Makate said Samons and Raining Men had known about the set dates of the arbitration (April 10 and 12) "at all times" in the period from February 25 to March 15, 2019. However, they didn't raise objections to the arbitration dates, which also included a second option for April 24 and 26.

"What is extremely impor-

tant to note [is] that neither the business rescue practitioner nor his attorney has until the service of this application on Wednesday evening the 3rd of April 2019 indicated that the dates for the arbitration are not suitable," Makate said in his court papers submitted on Monday.

Makate is opposing the removal of Mabena, saying Schoeman and Raining Men Trade consented to his appointment as an arbitrator in 2016. Thus both, including Samons as a business rescue practitioner, are bound by the consent to appoint Mabena.

Schoeman said Makate's decision to reject Vodacom's offer for compensation and not pay Raining Men Trade resulted in the company being placed under business rescue. "The company agreed with investors to put more than R15 million into Makate's case. They now want their money back," he told Moneyweb.

However, Makate said Raining Men Trade's rescue proceedings are a "sham" as it is a shelf company without "any business whatsoever" but is used as a vehicle "to be allegedly nominated for the purposes of the funding agreement [to channel Makate's compensation money]."

HERO

Tanzanite discoverer, Jumanne Ngoma who was finally recognised before death

MERERANI

A stunning pendant fitted with crystals that radiate rays of velvet blue from every facet, seen at the Tiffany & Co. store in New York, captures the enduring beauty of tanzanite - one of the world's most sought-after minerals.

As anyone who has ever caught a glimpse of the jewelry on display can testify, tanzanite is certainly a precious stone, a thousand times rarer than diamond. However, almost 7,500 miles (12,000 kilometers) away - at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro - the man behind the discovery of the glittering material lives in poverty.

Jumanne Mhero Ngoma, an 84-year-old Meru herdsman, stumbled upon the glittering crystals while herding cattle in January 1967 in Mererani, in Tanzania's northern Arusha region. "When I first spotted them, I knew they were precious stones and that my family would immensely benefit from it," Ngoma tells Anadolu Agency.

However, five decades after the mammoth discovery, Ngoma and his family are huddled in a modest mud-

walled house topped by a corrugated-iron roof, pondering what the future holds. Muddy rainwater fills an unpaved courtyard riddled by potholes. Plaster crumbles from the walls. A cat gives birth to kittens under the belly of an old model jeep, standing immobile for a long time.

Ngoma struggles to eke out a living, depending on a few livestock, farming and handouts from his children who live in Dar es Salaam. "I am very disappointed because a multi-million dollar business has refused to lift me up from poverty," he says.

The soft-spoken gypsum miner recalls how he discovered the stones lying on the ground. "They were scattered everywhere. I collected many samples which scientists later proved were a rare type of zoisite mineral," he says. In 1984 the government of Tanzania, through its Commission for Science and Technology, officially acknowledged Ngoma's rare discovery.

He was awarded a certificate - seen by Anadolu Agency - a plaque and 50,000 Tanzanian shillings (US\$22 at today's exchange rate). The honor he



President John Magufuli with the late Jumanne Ngoma at Mirelani last year. Dr Magufuli gave the late Ngoma a 100m/- pay cheque.

still holds dear. "I was very glad to be recognized because that proved to the world that I was the one who discovered the stones."

According to Ngoma, then-President Julius Nyerere named the crystals tanzanite because he wanted them to reflect the country's national identity. Despite his official recognition, Ngoma experienced many disappointments as other people were wrongly credited with his discovery. Even when it was

corrected, he did not receive any tangible benefits.

Ngoma said he has for many years been involved in a fierce legal battle against one of the country's biggest tanzanite mining companies for promoting Ali Juu Ya Watu, a Maasai tribesman, as the discoverer of the crystals.

According to Tanzanite One, the rare substance was discovered by Juu Ya Watu while walking through the

Kilimanjaro foothills on the way to visit relatives. He then reportedly shared the stones with South African Manuel de Souza, a tailor and prospector.

However, there's no evidence at the National Museum of Tanzania linking Juu Ya Watu or his family with the discovery. "I am very disappointed because some people take advantage of my discovery to gain popularity," Ngoma said.

Prized between \$600-800 per carat compared to diamond which is sold at \$1,000-1,400 per carat, tanzanite is big business. Despite being a relatively new gem, tanzanite has quickly become popular with modern stars and celebrities.

Actor Cate Blanchett famously wore an enormous tanzanite necklace to the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. Penelope Cruz's engagement ring has a central tanzanite stone and Anne Hathaway wore tanzanite earrings to go with her blue Armani gown at the 2011 Oscars.

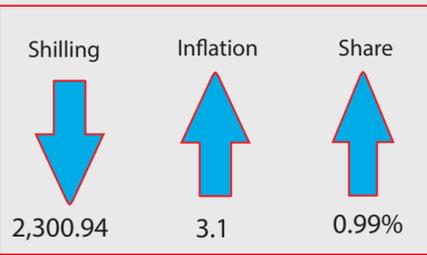
The owner of the country's largest tanzanite extraction operation, Richland, reported in 2011 a profit of \$3.5 million on revenues of \$20.5

million. Despite being a multi-million dollar business, Tanzania's government has not benefited from its revenues, officials say.

President John Magufuli, who gained popularity for his anti-corruption crusade, said last week Tanzania gets just five percent of its revenue from the global tanzanite trade, adding that the rest of the precious gemstone benefits foreigners.

In an effort to seal off the loopholes that unscrupulous traders have been using, Magufuli instructed the military to build walls around its tanzanite mines to prevent smuggling. At the Merelani mine, the allure of tanzanite is to such an extent that people risk their lives to hammer the gemstones from the solid rock.

The area is dotted with wooden shacks. Local miners clamber down rickety wooden ladders into shafts and crawl on their bellies through tunnels into narrow caves to get the crystals. Ngoma, however, remains hopeful. "I am still very optimistic. My grandchildren will, one day, get a fair deal from my discovery. Time will tell."



Total Market Capitalization

TZS 20,015.70 bln (USD 8,781.07 mln)

Indices April 11, 2019

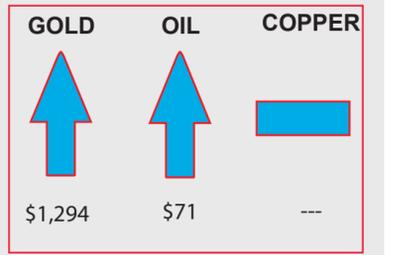
TSI	3,482.64	+0.00
DSEI	2,076.56	-11.78

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Maize	5364.00	Finger Millet	144052.63
Rice	183125.00	Wheat	129866.67
Sorghum	80476.19	Beans	175416.67
Bulrush Millet	84066.67	Round potatoes	71458.33

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,591.28	2,617.65
USD	2,268.07	2,290.76
KES	22.38	22.56
GBP	2,947.82	2,977.52



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: April 11, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	5,950.00	6,200.00	-4.03
CRDB	125	125.00	0
DCB	340	340	0
DSE	1,260	1,260	0
EABL	4,720.00	4,720.00	0
JHL	9,150.00	9,250.00	-1.08
KA	130.00	130.00	0
KCB	1,020.00	1,020.00	0
MBP	490.00	490.00	0
MCB	500.00	500.00	0
MKCB	800.00	800.00	0
MUCOB	400.00	400.00	0
NICO	170.00	170.00	0
NMB	2,340.00	2,340.00	0
NMG	1,380.00	1,400.00	-1.43
PAL	400.00	400.00	0
SWALA	490.00	490.00	0
SWIS	1,700.00	1,700.00	0
TBL	11,400.00	11,400.00	0
TCC	17,000	17,000.00	0
TCCL	600.00	600.00	0
TICL	385	385.00	0
TOL	660.00	660.00	0
TPCC	2,100.00	2,100.00	0
TTP	120.00	120.00	0
USL	10.00	10.00	0
VODA	800.00	800.00	0
YETU	600.00	600.00	0

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI	3,482.64	+0.00
DSEI	2,076.56	-11.78

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	20,015.66
Equity Turnover	123,128,950.00
Total Volume	925,105
Total Deals	37

TOP MOVERS

CRDB	125	922,850
TPCC	2,100	1,065
DSE	1,260	760

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
ACA	5,950	-4.03%
JHL	9,150	-1.08%
NMG	1,380	-1.43%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
11/Apr/2019	1.50	2,309.00	2,298.45	2,300.94
10/Apr/2019	1.65	2,310.00	2,298.50	2,300.96
9/Apr/2019	1.30	2,310.00	2,298.40	2,300.92
8/Apr/2019	1.25	2,310.80	2,298.45	2,300.93
5/Apr/2019	1.50	2,311.00	2,298.60	2,300.97
4/Apr/2019	1.50	2,311.00	2,298.55	2,300.94
3/Apr/2019	1.60	2,313.00	2,298.60	2,300.95

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
11/Apr/2019	39,000	6.00	5.00	5.15
10/Apr/2019	43,300	6.00	4.90	5.18
9/Apr/2019	40,100	5.50	4.90	5.04
8/Apr/2019	31,500	5.50	4.90	5.12
5/Apr/2019	17,500	6.00	5.00	5.06

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USD/TZS traded at 2,310.0000 on Thursday April 11. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 2360 in March of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Gold steady on falling dollar, eyes first weekly gain in three weeks

* Dollar on track for first weekly fall in four weeks
* Silver set for third weekly loss
* Platinum heading for fifth weekly gain

LONDON, April 12. (Reuters) - A weaker dollar helped gold prices to steady on Friday, after bullion fell more than 1 percent in the previous session, and the metal was heading for its first weekly gain in three weeks on dovish central banks and tumultuous stock markets. Spot gold rose 0.1 percent to \$1,293.93 per ounce as of 0930 GMT, after touching a one-week low on Thursday. Prices have gained 0.2 percent so far this week.

U.S. gold futures increased by 0.3 percent to \$1,297 an ounce.

The dollar fell 0.3 percent against key rivals, paring most of the gains made in the previous session, and was en route to its first weekly decline in four weeks.

"Even after the United States' long-drawn-out trade spat with China and threats of a new trade war with the European Union, there is still not much safe-haven buying in gold," said Jigar Trivedi, a commodities analyst at Mumbai-based Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

"Gold has near-term support at \$1,285 and huge resistance at \$1,350," Trivedi said.

Gold saw some support from Chinese central bank buying and dovish views from major central banks. But U.S. economic data boosted the dollar and triggered a sell-off in gold on Thursday, taking down the key \$1,300 level.

Weekly jobless claims in the United States fell to the lowest in nearly half a century and producer prices increased the most in five months in March.

Gold's break below \$1,300 will be seen as a negative bias in charts used by technical traders, analysts and traders said.

Gold may end its bounce around resistance at \$1,297, and then retest support at \$1,291, Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao said.

"Chinese demand, while remaining evident, did little to propel the yellow metal higher, rather providing an underlying level of support to restrict further declines," MKS PAMP Group wrote in a note.

"Over the near term, price action will focus upon the 10-day moving average at \$1,287, while a break below this level would potentially bring the 200-day moving average of \$1,250 into play. Resistance levels initially cut in at \$1,300."

Silver was up 0.1 percent on the day at \$14.97 an ounce, but down about 0.3 percent for the week, its third straight weekly drop.

Spot platinum rose about 1.3 percent to \$899 per ounce, heading for its fifth straight weekly gain.

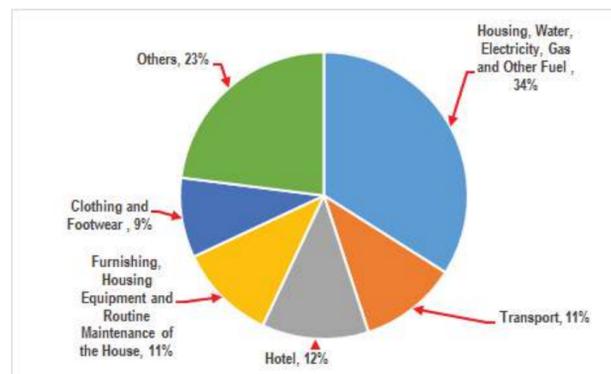
Palladium was up about 0.6 percent at \$1,374.85 per ounce.

All Share Index : 12 April 2019

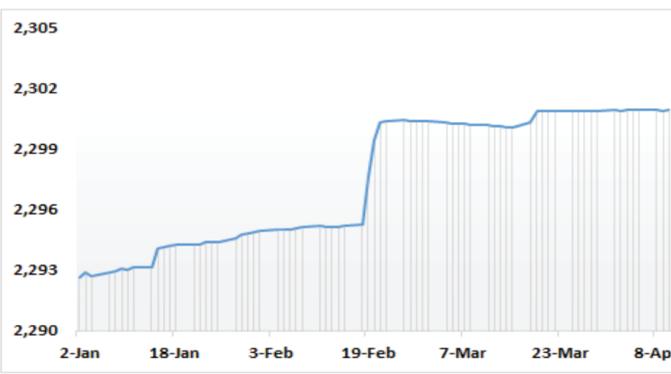
Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	29321	26	-0.09%	-0.79%	-6.36%	-28.15%
JALSH-All Share	58,294	108	0.19%	0.93%	4.45%	3.10%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	52,050	108	0.21%	0.82%	4.75%	4.13%
Egypt EGX 30	15,106	0.58	0.00%	-0.93%	-0.22%	-14.25%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,025	2.76	0.03%	0.89%	-0.80%	-15.15%
Nairobi 20	2,919	82.65	2.91%	2.48%	1.14%	-23.60%
NSE All Share	158	0.09	0.06%	-0.81%	2.02%	-17.91%
DSEI	2,077	11.78	-0.56%	0.95%	-0.24%	-14.56%
TUN	6,914	18.47	-0.27%	-0.39%	-0.93%	-2.18%
GGSECI	2,377	0.22	0.01%	-1.03%	-2.00%	-30.33%
NSX Overall	1,380	0	0.02%	0.92%	4.44%	0.49%
SEMDEX	2,170	7	-0.33%	-0.28%	-0.87%	-5.26%
Gaborone	7,865	4.75	0.06%	-0.10%	-0.19%	-7.46%
Zimbabwe Industrial Index420	2.58	0.62%	3.56%	-7.15%	39.49%	

The DSEI increased 44 points or 2.17% since the beginning of 2019, according to trading on a contract for difference (CFD) that tracks this benchmark index from Tanzania. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.

Inflation 3.1% - February 2019: Top Movers



Fluctuation of a Shilling



Oil scores best run in three years as dollar, stocks tread water

LONDON, April 11. (Reuters) - Signs of a stabilisation in China's giant economy and a soggy dollar helped oil markets cement their best run for more than three years on Friday, though stocks weren't buoyed much after spending most of the week trading water.

There was a late flurry of activity, mostly from emerging markets.

China's data showing exports rebounded nicely last month helped offset weaker imports and reports in Europe of another cut to Germany's growth forecasts, while Turkey's lira was back on the ropes amid worries about its trajectory.

The euro however gained despite the German growth concerns, and it wasn't just going rogue, with dealers gearing up for demand from Japan as Mitsubishi UFJ Financial closed in on its multi-billion euro buy of DZ Bank's aviation finance business.

Europe's bourses slowly shook off another groggy start, as had Vival Street futures which were limbering up for earnings from bulge-bracket banks JPMorgan and Wells Fargo.

"The Chinese data was a little mixed but the money supply numbers were a positive impulse overall," said TD Securities Senior Global Strategist James Rossiter.

It was oil though that provided the big milestones. Brent was at \$71.4 a barrel, having broken back through the \$70 threshold this week, and U.S. WTI was heading for the sixth straight week of gains for the first time since early 2016.

Driving the rise has been involuntary supply cuts from Venezuela, Libya and Iran, which have supported perceptions of a tightening market already underpinned by a production reduction deal from OPEC and its allies.

"We expect oil price to eventually move higher in Q2 as OPEC+ potentially runs the risk of over-tightening the market by maintaining its current course of action," Harry Tchilingirian, strategist at BNP Paribas, told the Reuters Global Oil forum.

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 6th Mar 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,098	2,131	2,096
Arusha	2,191	2,195	2,286
Pwani	2,102	2,135	2,101
Dodoma	2,157	2,189	2,155
Geita	2,263	2,296	2,262
Iringa	2,162	2,195	2,161
Kagera (Bukoba)	2,313	2,346	2,312
Katavi (Mpanda)	2,306	2,339	2,304
Kigoma	2,329	2,362	2,328
Moshi	2,181	2,185	2,276
Lindi	2,141	2,236	2,155
Manyara	2,225	2,229	2,320
Mara	2,276	2,309	2,275
Mbeya	2,205	2,238	2,204
Morogoro	2,123	2,156	2,121
Mtwara	2,127	2,222	2,169
Mwanza	2,248	2,281	2,247
Njombe	2,190	2,223	2,189
Rukwa (S'wanga)	2,271	2,304	2,269
Ruvuma (Songea)	2,213	2,308	2,220
Shinyanga	2,227	2,260	2,225
Singida	2,188	2,221	2,187
Songwe (Vwawa)	2,214	2,247	2,213
Tabora	2,252	2,285	2,251

Foreign Exchange- April 12

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.13088	0.00588	0.52%
GBPUSD	1.30815	0.00275	0.21%
AUDUSD	0.71646	0.00416	0.58%
NZDUSD	0.67474	0.00214	0.32%
USDJPY	111.95	0.3	0.27%
USDCNY	6.71551	0.01109	-0.16%
USDCHF	1.00103	0.00197	-0.20%
USDCAD	1.33343	0.00497	-0.37%
USDMXN	18.7801	0.0459	-0.24%
USDINR	69.21	0.2	0.29%
USDBRL	3.857	0.0000	0.00%
USDRUB	64.2968	0.2772	-0.43%
US Dollar	96.88	0.3	-0.31%
BTCUSD	5,059.14	19	0.38%

Exchange Rates for April 12, 2019

Currency	Spot	Buying	Spot	Selling
Kenya SHS	2,258.96		2,277.03	
Uganda SHS	57.26		61.36	
Rwandian Franc	251.72		254.71	
Burundi Franc	218.12		219.77	

Currency in 100 Units Spot Buying Spot Selling

Currency	Spot	Buying	Spot	Selling
USD	227,815.84		230,094.00	
Pound STG	297,869.21		300,939.94	
EURO	256,566.20		259,177.88	
Canadian \$	170,418.79		172,071.49	
Switz. Franc	227,066.52		229,314.33	
Japanese YEN	2,048.52		2,068.45	
Swedish Kronor	24,593.84		24,828.32	
Norweg. Kronor	26,775.09		27,030.13	
Danish Kronor	34,377.44		34,715.97	
Australian \$	162,888.33		164,540.22	
Indian RPS	3,303.88		3,335.86	
Pakistan RPS	1,531.67		1,620.38	
Zambian Kwacha	18,486.70		18,783.18	
Malawian Kwacha	289.72		308.82	
Mozambique-MET	3,537.51		3,567.35	
Zimbabwe \$	42.63		43.49	
SDR	316,495.44		319,660.39	
Gold (T/O)	296,153,714.02		299,190,745.00	
S. African Rand	16,272.91		16,427.19	
UAE Dirham	62,024.46		62,643.00	
Singapore \$	168,253.95		169,911.39	
Hong Kong \$	29,044.43		29,334.13	
Saud Arabian Rial	50,746.03		51,351.86	
Kuwait Dinar	749,073.89		756,291.09	
Botswana Pula	21,437.47		21,835.92	
Chinese Yuan	33,913.28		34,246.80	
Malaysia Ringgit	55,402.89		55,902.33	
South Korea Won	199.86		201.51	
New Zealand	153,616.22		155,244.42	
New Zealand	154,619.28		156,257.51	

World Commodities (\$) 5 April 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil	62.0835	0.06%	3.27%	10.47%	0.07%
Brent	69.2927	-0.10%	1.32%	5.01%	3.25%
Natural gas	2.6412	-0.23%	-0.78%	-7.03%	-2.21%
Gasoline	1.9297	-0.38%	1.83%	7.89%	-1.25%
Heating oil	2.0091	-0.14%	1.83%	-0.33%	2.84%
Ethanol	1.2931	-0.84%	-3.86%	-3.78%	-9.82%
Naphtha	542.85	-0.25%	1.87%	3.46%	-5.01%
Propane	0.62	-0.74			



Changyong Rhee, director of the Asia and Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), speaks at a press conference in Hong Kong, May 3, 2016. (File photo)

IMF official: BRI an 'important contribution' to global economy

WASHINGTON

THE China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a "very important contribution" to the global economy, said Changyong Rhee, the director of the Asia and Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The BRI has benefited the world in fostering infrastructure need in the low-income countries and also promoting regional cooperation and connectivity in trade investment, human mobility and finance, Rhee told Xinhua in a recent interview on the sidelines of the Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

Rhee said he looks forward to participating in the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, together with IMF managing director Christine Lagarde in Beijing later this month. Representatives from over 100 countries, including about 40 leaders of governments, have confirmed their attendance.

"The IMF is in very close collaboration with the Chinese authorities on sharing the best international practices, especially regarding fiscal sustainability and capacity building," not only for Chinese officials, but also for officials from low-income countries that have joined in the BRI, the IMF official said.

He said the IMF has opened the China-IMF Capacity Development Center in Beijing in order to provide personnel training, support institution building and boost communication for countries along the Belt and Road.

The IMF on Tuesday revised up the 2019 growth projection for China to 6.3 percent, up 0.1 percentage point from its previous estimation in January, according to the newly released April 2019 World Economic Outlook.

Rhee told Xinhua that the upward revision reflected the combined impact of recent developments in the China-US trade talks, China's stronger-than-expected expansionary fiscal policy, and a slowing global economy.

The IMF made the latest projection taking into account both positive and negative factors, he said.

The forecast falls in the range of China's gross domestic product growth target of 6-6.5 percent this year, which was set in the latest annual government work report released in early March.

"We welcome Chinese government's recent announcement in growth target in the form of a range, not a point target," Rhee said. "I think that is quite consistent with the authorities' emphasis on the quality of growth rather than just maintain high quantity growth." Rhee also said as China becomes wealthier, its growth rate will "naturally" go down.

With a slowing growth rate yet "a bigger pie," China's contribution to the global economy will be larger, Rhee said, adding that China is expected to account for more than 30 percent of global growth this year.

The IMF projects that the Asian economies will grow 5.4 percent in 2019 and 2020, accounting for more than 60 percent of the global growth. "So I can say that Asian economies are still resilient and also at the center of the global growth," he said.

Rhee also lauded China's efforts to open up its financial sector, and encouraged the country to continue developing its capital market to support its economic growth in the long run.

Currently, the banking sector plays a dominant role in the financial sector, and China needs the capital market to complement the banking sector, Rhee said, adding that the bond market development is a "good starting point."

Starting April, China's yuan-denominated bonds have been added to the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index, which is expected to attract foreign inflows into the Chinese bond market and foster a further opening-up of the country's financial sector.

According to a newly-released report from the Institute of International Finance, China attracted large portfolio inflows last year, with its bond market bringing in 100 billion dollars in 2018, up from 88 billion dollars in 2017.

Highlighting the importance of foreign participation in China's bond market, Rhee said it not only can improve the efficiency of the market, but also is expected to serve the Chinese economy in the long term, as a good instrument to mobilize capital from abroad as its population ages and its current account becomes small or negative.

A well-developed bond market will also contribute to the internationalization of the renminbi, Rhee said.

Xinhua



The BRI has benefited the world in fostering infrastructure need in the low-income countries and also promoting regional cooperation and connectivity

Kremlin expects Assange's legitimate rights to be respected

MOSCOW

THE arrest of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange runs counter to the idea of freedom of the media, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding Moscow expected that his legitimate rights would be respected.

"In fact, it [Wikileaks] is an independent source of information that is being persecuted," Peskov said. "Certainly, from our standpoint, it runs totally counter to the idea of freedom of the media and the media's immunity," he emphasized.

"This is why we expect that all of Assange's legitimate rights will be respected," the Kremlin spokesman added.



When commenting on assumptions that Assange's arrest may have negative consequences for Russia because, according to the US media, he disclosed information about US 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's correspondence, Peskov said it was nothing but a conspiracy theory.

Assange was arrested by the United Kingdom's Metropolitan Police Service at the Ecuadorian embassy in London

on Thursday, after Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno had announced the withdrawal of his asylum.

In 2012, Assange sought refuge in London's Ecuadorian Embassy to escape extradition to Sweden, which had issued a warrant for his arrest on sexual harassment and rape charges. Assange dismissed the accusations as politically motivated.

His worst fear was Sweden might extradite him to the United States, where he would face 35 years in prison or capital punishment for publishing classified State Department documents.

The rape case was dropped in 2017 but the United Kingdom continued to insist that Assange be arrested over his failure to appear in court in London.

Agencies



Xi congratulates DPRK's Kim on re-election as state panel head

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday congratulated Kim Jong-un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on his re-election as chairman of the State Affairs Commission (SAC) of the DPRK.

In his message, Xi (pictured) said Kim's re-election as SAC chairman at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly demonstrated the trust in and support for Kim from the Party and people of the DPRK, and extended warm congratulations and sincere wishes to Kim.

It is delightful to see that under the leadership of Kim, the DPRK's economic and social development has continuously made new progress in recent years, with its socialist cause entering a new stage in history, Xi said.

The Chinese president said he believes that under the guidance of Kim's new strategic line, the people of the DPRK will make bigger achievement in various undertakings on national construction and development.

Calling China and the DPRK friendly neighbours linked by mountains and rivers, Xi said he attaches great importance to the China-DPRK relations.

Xi recalled that since last year, he has met with Kim four times and reached a series of important consensuses, which jointly opened a new chapter for China-DPRK relations.

The Chinese president said he is willing to work together with the chairman, taking the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, to further push forward the development of China-DPRK relations so as to bring more benefits to the two countries and peoples.



Xi recalled that since last year, he has met with Kim four times and reached a series of important consensuses

Sudan protesters defy military curfew, demand civilian govt

KHARTOUM

THOUSANDS of Sudanese demonstrators camped outside the defense ministry in Khartoum to push for a civilian government, defying a curfew and calling for mass prayers after the military overthrew Omar al-Bashir after 30 years of autocratic rule.

Demonstrators who have been holding almost daily anti-Bashir protests rejected the decision to set up a transitional military council to run the country for two years and vowed to continue protests until a civilian government is established.

Activists called for mass Friday prayers outside the defense ministry compound, a focal point for protests.

At the compound, large tents were put up and people brought in food and handed out water as the crowd swelled, a Reuters witness said. Ahmed al-Sadek, a 39-year-old trader, said he had not slept at his home since the sit-in began on Saturday.

Activists wearing yellow vests controlled traffic around the compound yesterday morning and managed foot traffic to and from the sit-in, a Reuters witness said. They also blocked a major bridge in central Khartoum.

Bashir, 75, had faced 16 weeks of demonstrations against him. Announcing the president's overthrow, Defence Minister Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf said elections would be held at the end of the two-year interim period.

World powers, including the United States and Britain, said they supported a peaceful and democratic transition sooner than two years.

Auf is included on Washington's list of Specially Designated Nationals for his role during the Darfur conflict, meaning all his assets in the US were frozen and Americans were banned from doing business with him, the US embassy said.

Speaking on state television on Thursday, Ibn Auf said Bashir was being detained in a "safe place" and a military council - which it was later an-



Sudanese forces celebrate after officials said the military had forced longtime autocratic President Omar al-Bashir to step down after 30 years in power in Khartoum, Sudan, on Thursday. (AP)

nounced he is heading - would now run the country.

Sudanese sources told Reuters that Bashir was at the presidential residence under "heavy guard".

MILITARY COUNCIL

The military council set up a political committee that will meet political parties and foreign diplomats during the course of Friday, state media reported. The military council was also due to give a news conference on Friday.

Ibn Auf also announced a state of emergency, a nationwide ceasefire and the suspension of the constitution. He also said there would be a curfew from 10 pm to 4 am.

The main organizer of protests against Bashir, the Sudanese Professionals Association, rejected Ibn Auf's plans. It called on protesters to maintain their sit-in outside the defense ministry.

In a challenge to the military council,

several thousand protesters remained in front of the defense ministry compound, and in other parts of the capital, as the curfew went into effect.

They chanted "They removed a thief and brought a thief!" and "Revolution! Revolution!"

Some shops in Omdurman, across the River Nile from central Khartoum, remained open past 10 pm, a Reuters witness said.

Bashir has been indicted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague and is facing an arrest warrant over allegations of genocide in Sudan's Darfur region during an insurgency that began in 2003 and led to the death of an estimated 300,000 people. He denies the allegations.

Bashir's downfall was the second time this month that a leader in the region has been forced out after mass demonstrations. Algeria's Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in power since 1999, stepped down on April 2 after six weeks of protests.

China contributes most to global greenery expansion

BEIJING

CHINA is the source of a quarter of global increase in green leaf area between 2000 and 2017, ranking the first in the world regarding the contribution rate, said a recent study by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

In recent 20 years, China's forest area and stock volume kept growing, making China a country of the world's largest increase in forest resources, according to the country's National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

China forest area stands at 208 million hectares and the forest stock volume 15.137 billion cubic meters. 21.63 percent of the country's territory is covered by forests, according to the eighth national investigation on forest inventory.

China saw a rapid rise of forests and grasslands in the recent two decades.

It thoroughly implemented key projects, conducted voluntary tree-planting campaign among the citizens, promoted forestation in both governmental departments and the society, and enhanced efforts in grassland ecological protection.

As a result, the coverage of China's man-made forest has reached 786,667 square kilometers, topping other countries around the world.

In addition, China has nearly 4 million square kilometers of natural grasslands, with a grassland comprehensive vegetation coverage reaching 55.3 percent.

Key forestation projects played a significant role in making China greener. China has created 298,000 square kilometers of forest since

the Grain for Green Program was launched in 1999, raising the forest coverage rate in project areas by 3.6 percentage points.

In addition, 1.296 million square kilometers of natural forests were well preserved in the past 20 years thanks to the Natural Forest Protection Project.

China has launched a series of major projects to restore ecology, including the treatment project of desertification in the source area of the sand and dust endangering Beijing and Tianjin, and wetland restoration programs.

By doing so, forest coverage in those areas steadily increased and desertification was effectively curbed, and ecological situation substantially improved.

The coverage of China's desertification and sandy land showed a

descending trend over three consecutive monitoring periods. In late 1990s, China's total sandy land was expanding by 3,436 square kilometers on a yearly basis, but now it is shrinking by an average of 1,980 square kilometers per year. It is a historical change from "sand advancing and people retreating" to "green advancing and sand retreating."

To date, China has built more than 11,000 natural protection areas including nature reserves, forest parks, wetland parks, scenic spots, geological parks and special marine protection areas or marine parks, protecting 90 percent of terrestrial ecosystem types, 85 percent of wildlife species, 65 percent of higher plant communities and 50.3 percent of natural wetlands.

Xinhua

Women peacekeepers make mandates more effective, says UN chief

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for more women in peacekeeping missions, saying they make mandates more effective.

"A key priority is to increase the number of women in peace-

keeping - both civilian and uniformed, which is where we need the most improvement. This is not just a question of numbers, but also of our effectiveness in fulfilling our mandates," he told a Security Council debate on women in peacekeeping.

Evidence shows that greater

numbers of women peacekeepers leads to protection responses that are more credible and meet the needs of all members of local communities, he said.

Women in patrol units are better able to reach both men and women in areas of operation, accessing critical intelligence and

providing a more holistic view of the security challenges.

The presence of women at checkpoints has been credited with promoting a less confrontational atmosphere, and more women in troop contingents is credited with higher reporting of sexual and gender-based vio-

lence and lower incidences of sexual exploitation and abuse, said Guterres.

Progress has been made in women's participation in peacekeeping, he said.

The number of women military observers and staff officers has almost doubled since the

first Peacekeeping Ministerial in November 2017, with women now representing more than 13 percent of deployed personnel, he said.

Up to 27 countries, which had previously not deployed any women at all, now do so since the first ministerial meeting.

And 30 more countries have deployed more than 15 percent of women military observers and staff officers, bringing the total number of countries to 48.

Among police personnel, the representation of women has increased by more than 3 percent since the 2017 ministerial.



LeBron James

Warriors start playoff road, without LeBron there at the end

NEW YORK

THE Golden State Warriors are set to begin their quest for a third straight title, and this time it's up to someone else to try to stop them.

With LeBron James gone to the West and this year gone entirely from the postseason, the Eastern Conference headquarters for the NBA Finals won't be in his home for the first time since 2010.

He played for the title for eight straight years, which may have been great for the TV ratings but lately wasn't much good for the competition. The Warriors swept Cleveland last year after winning 4-1 in 2017.

Teams are lining up to seize his old spot atop the East, all capable of providing the intrigue that was absent the last couple years.

There's Milwaukee, with Giannis Antetokounmpo in position to exit June fully atop the NBA with a title and an MVP award.

Or Toronto, humiliated by the Cavaliers in the last two years but armed now with a former NBA Finals MVP in Kawhi Leonard.

It could be Philadelphia, with Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons anchoring perhaps the most talented starting five outside of the Bay Area.

And don't forget Boston, the presumptive East favorite in the preseason that can still live up to expectations.

The best player is gone, but maybe things will be better.

"I think the parity and the competition in the East, and not knowing and everyone having a sincere chance maybe in the East that did not, when not you look between Toronto, Boston, Philadelphia," TNT analyst Chris Webber said. "All of those story lines, new young stars that's coming in."

The long road to get to the finals begins Saturday with four games, including the top-seeded Warriors against the Los Angeles Clippers in the West. No. 2 Denver faces No. 7 San Antonio in the other West opener, while No. 3 Philadelphia meets No. 6 Brooklyn, and No. 2 Toronto takes on No. 7 Orlando in the East.

On Sunday, the overall No. 1 seed Bucks face No. 8 Detroit, and No. 4 Boston hosts No. 5 Indiana in the East. In the West, No. 3 Portland and No. 6

Oklahoma City meet in a matchup of Northwest Division rivals, and No. 4 Houston and No. 5 Utah square off in the opener of a series between two of the strongest teams in the second half of the season.

It's the start of postseason that looks different far beyond just the absence of James for the first time since 2005.

It includes Denver, in the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Brooklyn is a playoff team for the first time since 2015 and Orlando is back for the first time since 2012.

The Warriors, of course, haven't just been going to the postseason every year, but getting all the way to the finals once they do. They've done that four straight years, winning three of them, and with a strong finish after some occasional lapses surged to the best record in the West.

Still, this playoff path could provide them plenty of obstacles. The Warriors may need to get by scoring champion James Harden and the Rockets, who took them to a seventh game last year in the conference finals, just to get back to that round this time.

"It doesn't matter who you play in the playoffs, you're going to get tested. Everybody's good," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

Get out of the West, and the Warriors may have to then get on a plane. They had home-court advantage in all four finals against Cleveland, but Milwaukee and Toronto both finished with better records and would host Games 1 and 2 if they win the East.

And there could be the distractions about their future, with Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson able to become free agents this summer.

The Warriors wouldn't be alone when dealing with that. Toronto (Leonard), Philadelphia (Jimmy Butler and Tobias Harris) and Boston (Kyrie Irving) all will be trying to win a title with players who could then leave them.

But those are issues for July. First, it's all about just getting to June.

"It's a great feeling," Bucks All-Star Khris Middleton said. "Playoffs don't always come around. I've been a part of that couple years but it's been a great season so far. I know guys been itching to get to this first playoff game."

AP



A hearse carrying the casket of slain rapper Nipsey Hussle, draped in the flag of his father's native country, Eritrea in East Africa, passes through the crowd Thursday, April 11, 2019, in Los Angeles. Hussle was shot to death March 31 while standing outside The Marathon, his South Los Angeles clothing store, not far from where the rapper grew up. (AP Photo)

Nipsey Hussle, a hometown hero, immortalized at memorial

LOS ANGELES

NIPSEY Hussle's legacy as a persistent rapper, community activist, uniter, doting father, protective sibling and a loving son were underscored at his public memorial service on Thursday, with deeply personal testimonies from those closest to the rapper, including his actress-fiancee Lauren London, collaborator and dear friend Snoop Dogg and his mother, who said she was at peace with the death of her "superhero" son.

Beyonce and Jay-Z were among the big-name celebrities who attended the three-hour event in Los Angeles at the Staples Center, where the last celebrity funeral held at the concert arena was Michael Jackson's in 2009.

The arena was packed with more than 21,000 fans and drove home the important impact Hussle – just 33 when he died – had on his city and the rest of the world.

"I'm very proud of my son. My son Ermias Joseph Asghedom was a great man," said Angelique Smith, dressed in all white. Standing onstage with Hussle's father, Dawit Asghedom, she declared: "Ermias was a legacy."

London, who was in dark sunglasses, was emotional but stood strong onstage as she told the audience: "I've never felt this type of pain before."

London called Hussle "majestic" and "brilliant" and said she had learned so much from his presence. She added that though she was hurting, she was really sad for their son Kross, whom she feared wouldn't remember his dad: "My pain is for my 2-year-old."

Snoop Dogg's words to immortalize his friend were both serious and silly, as he told old stories about Hussle and their brotherhood.

"This a tough one right here," he said, visibly shaken but keeping his composure.

Snoop thanked Hussle's parents multiple times and told his father that "you picked up another son

in me."

Hussle's father said he knew his son was strong because when he was born, the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck but he prevailed.

"He was a fighter," he said. Earlier in the ceremony, Hussle's children also appeared onstage to pay tribute. London's son with rapper Lil Wayne, Cameron Carter, said days after Hussle died, he had a dream he saw the rapper.

"I realized Ermias told me what heaven was like. He told me it was paradise," Cameron said.

Cameron then told the audience that Hussle would look at him through the window at times and say "respect." Cameron then asked the crowd to say "respect" in unison, and they complied.

Hussle was slain last month in front of a store that he tried to use to empower his South Los Angeles neighborhood. The public memorial service kicked off by paying respect to Hussle the rapper, as songs from his latest Grammy-nominated album, "Victory Lap," filled the arena.

"Everybody put your hands in the air," the DJ said as one of Hussle's songs played. "It's a celebration."

Indeed, his mother danced in the aisle as R&B singer Marsha Ambrosius sang the Mariah Carey song "Fly Like a Bird" while fighting back tears. "This is for Nipsey y'all," Ambrosius said before she started as she tried to gain her composure, sighing heavily.

But soon the focus was squarely on the person behind the persona. A montage of photos featuring the rapper from infancy, childhood and adulthood, with fellow rappers, his family and London, were shown to the crowd, set to Frank Sinatra's "My Way."

Stevie Wonder was the last performer to pay tribute to Hussle, who he said he had the chance to meet, saying: "We had a good conversation." Before he sang "Rocket Song," one of Hussle's favorites, Wonder denounced gun violence and told the audience "there's enough people being killed by guns and violence."

Anthony Hamilton invoked the spirit of a church service when he performed in Hussle's honor. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan hailed Hussle's ability to bring different factions together. And blogger and media figure Karen Civil read a letter sent by former U.S. President Barack Obama, who wrote that he never met Nipsey but heard of his music through his daughters.

"While most folks look at the Crenshaw neighborhood where he grew up and only see gangs, bullets and despair, Nipsey saw potential. He saw hope. He saw a community that even through its flaws taught him to always keep going. He chose to invest in that community rather than to ignore it," the Obama letter read. "He set an example for young people to follow and is a legacy worth of celebration. I hope his memory inspires more good work in Crenshaw and communities like it. Michelle and I send our sympathies to Lauren, Emani, Kross and his whole family and to all those who love Nipsey."

Father Thomas Uwal read a scripture in Tigrinya – the native language in Eritrea, the African country where Hussle's father was from. Uwal spoke of Hussle being "proud to be an Eritrean-American," later saying to the late rapper's family: "On behalf of all Eritreans ... we say our condolences to you."

Books with an image of Hussle on the cover were handed out to service attendees. The book of nearly 100 pages contained numerous photos of Hussle with London, his children, and friends like Russell Westbrook and Snoop Dogg. It also had heartfelt messages from Rick Ross, The Game and LeBron James.

"I've never cried myself to sleep over any public figure before, but Nipsey's presence meant so much for our community," actress Issa Rae said in her message inside the book.

The hearse carrying Hussle's coffin went through a 25-mile (40-kilometer) lap through the city, including past the property where Hussle had planned to turn an ag-

ing strip mall into new businesses and affordable homes.

Thousands of people crowded the streets, some on bicycles and motorcycles, following and surrounding the vehicle as it slowly wound its way to the funeral home. The silver Cadillac passed the rapper's childhood home in Watts. It came to a halt at times, unable to move in the vast crowd of people.

Police kept an eye on the crowd, which appeared largely peaceful. At one point, people sat atop a police car spray-painted with the words: "Nips in Paradise."

At one point during the procession, there was a brief stampede, apparently because of some kind of startling noise that may have been Mylar balloons popping. The Fire Department said several power lines were down by the metalized balloons. There also were reports of people feeling unwell from the heat and the packed conditions. The Fire Department said it treated 15 people, including five who were taken to local hospitals.

There were reports of leg pain and dehydration but no reports of major injuries, fire officials said.

The hearse finally arrived Wednesday evening at a funeral home in the city's hard-scrabble Crenshaw district, where the rapper was born on Aug. 15, 1985.

Hussle was shot to death March 31 while standing outside The Marathon, his South Los Angeles clothing store, not far from where the rapper grew up.

Eric R. Holder Jr., who has been charged with killing Hussle, has pleaded not guilty. Police have said Holder and Hussle had several interactions the day of the shooting and have described it as being the result of a personal dispute.

For a decade, Hussle released much sought-after mixtapes that he sold out of the trunk of his car, helping him create a buzz and gain respect from rap purists and his peers. His said his stage name, a play on the 1960s and 70s rhyming standup comic Nipsey Russell, was given to him as a teen by an older friend because he was such a go-getter – always hustling.

AP

SportPesa Racing Point: We're heading East for Round 3 of the season

SHANGHAI

AFTER a challenging weekend in Bahrain last week, SportPesa Racing Point picked up a point with Sergio Perez racing to tenth place.

LANCE STROLL #18

"I not sure what to expect from this weekend in China. I hope we can be more competitive than we were in Bahrain because it's a different sort of track. There's a nice flow with some quick corners and it's fun to drive. It's a very wide track in places with one of the longest straights of the year. We often see some drag races down to the final hairpin and it is probably the best overtaking opportunity of the lap.

"We struggled with the balance of the car in Bahrain and it's something we worked to improve during the test last week. We are still learning how to maximise the current aero package, but it feels as though we are moving in the right direction. I think we can unlock more potential from the car this

weekend in China.

"I'm proud to be on the grid for the 1000th F1 race. I've been watching this sport all of my life and I must have seen well over 250 races. When I was very young and living in Canada I would wake up early to watch the races in Europe at breakfast time. I remember supporting Michael Schumacher and I would always go to the Canadian race with my Dad each year. I think the battles between Schumacher and Alonso in 2006 are the races I remember the most.

"Of the races I've driven in, there's no doubt that Baku 2017 is my favourite. It was a race with so much drama and I think it was exciting for the fans. It was just as thrilling from inside the cockpit and is definitely my Formula One highlight so far."

SERGIO PEREZ #11

"I enjoy every visit to Asia and Shanghai is a really cool city. We see some really enthusiastic fans and that gives me great energy for the weekend. I don't get enough time to really explore



Lance Stroll

Sergio Perez

the city, but I always try the local food. "The track itself is a challenge. When I think of China, I think of turn one. It's a tricky corner: very long and it is difficult to be precise, so even the smallest mistake through there is costly and frustrating. It's a front limited track, so you need to find a balance to get the front tyres working through the long

and quick corners. It's a very technical track generally.

"As it's the 1000th race, I've been thinking about some of the races I remember watching when I was younger. The first race I attended as a fan was Indianapolis in 2002 when I was twelve years old. It was the prize after winning a karting race in Miami

organised by Juan Pablo Montoya.

"As a driver, the most memorable F1 race for me was probably Malaysia 2012. It was my second year in F1 and I finished on the podium in second place after a fantastic battle with Fernando Alonso. I watched a video of that race a few weeks ago and it's still just as exciting today. The weather changed all the strategies and I was catching the Ferrari in the final laps. I think it was a great race for the fans."

OTMAR SZAFNAUER, CEO AND TEAM PRINCIPAL

"The Chinese Grand Prix - the 1000th Formula One race - is a milestone for the sport and one we will celebrate by carrying special stickers on our cars this weekend. This team, through its various guises, has played its part in about half of those races, and enjoyed plenty of special days over the last 29 years.

"On a personal level I still remember vividly the first Formula One race I attended in Detroit in 1984. I was living in the United States and working my

way through college when I decided to go and watch the race with a couple of friends. I already liked motorsport but the F1 cars really captured my imagination - the speed, the sound and the braking performance. I think it was then that I really caught the bug for racing.

"Back to this weekend and we head to China aiming to continue our run of points finishes. The Bahrain weekend was pretty challenging but I think we can be more competitive Shanghai. The work at the test last week was valuable and we will put that learning to good use this weekend. We feel there is more to come from this current package and I hope we can show that in China."

SportPesa, the growing global technology and entertainment company, has been announced as the new title partner for Racing Point in February this year, with the team now known as SportPesa Racing Point F1 Team.

(AGENCIES)

Chelsea fans denied entry to Prague match over alleged racist chant

PRAGUE

THREE Chelsea fans were stopped from entering Slavia Prague's stadium for Thursday's Europa League game after an alleged racist chant about Liverpool's Egypt international Mohamed Salah circulated on social media.

Chelsea, who visit Premier League leaders Liverpool on Sunday, put a statement on their website here condemning any form of discriminatory behaviour after a video showed supporters singing in an apparent derogatory reference to the Egyptian player.

Merseyside Police said they were investigating publication of offensive Tweets made in relation to a Liverpool player.

Ex-Chelsea forward Salah, Player of the Year in England last season and winner of the African Footballer of the Year award for the second time in a row in January, is of Muslim faith.

Chelsea said: "Chelsea FC finds all forms of discriminatory behaviour abhorrent and where there is clear evidence of Chelsea season ticket holders or members involved in such behaviour, we will take the strongest possible action against them.

"Such individuals are an embarrassment to the vast majority of Chelsea supporters who won't tolerate them in their club."

Chelsea's Italian manager Maurizio Sarri was asked at the post-match press conference following his side's 1-0 quarter-final, first leg win over Slavia Prague if the Premier League club was right to

stop the fans attending the match.

"I don't want to speak about something that I don't know. I did not see the details. Of course it is right that the club made a very strong decision," he told reporters.

'VILE CHANTS'

Liverpool said in a statement here on their website: "The video circulating online, showing vile discriminatory chants being aimed at one of our players, is dangerous and disturbing.

"This behaviour needs to be called out for what it is - unadulterated bigotry."

Liverpool added that the club were working with Chelsea and Merseyside Police to identify the people in the video.

The police added: "The language used in the Tweets is abhorrent and we are taking the reports extremely seriously.

"...we understand a number of individuals who are currently in Prague for the Slavia Prague v Chelsea (Europa) League game have been identified and have had their match tickets rescinded for this evening's fixture."

The anti-discrimination organisation Kick It Out condemned the latest racist abuse aimed at a footballer.

"It's not on the terraces, but it's still a disgrace. We don't want fans like that anywhere near our game," it tweeted.

"We will be liaising with @ChelseaFC to ensure those involved are identified and punished swiftly and effectively."

REUTERS

Costa gets 8-game ban for insulting ref's mum

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid striker Diego Costa has been banned for eight games after he was sent off for insulting referee Jesus Gil Manzano's mother in last Saturday's defeat to Barcelona.

Costa was shown a straight red card in the 28th minute of the match after he approached Gil Manzano in the middle of the pitch and shouted in his face. The details of his outburst were included in the referee's report following the game and the audio of the incident was reviewed by the league's refereeing committee.

Atletico Madrid have 10 days to appeal the ban and sources have told ESPN FC they will do so. The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) sanctioned Costa four matches for his comments to the referee and added another four matches of sanction after Costa was seen grabbing Gil Manzano's arm after the red card was shown.

Atletico president Enrique Cerezo said on Thursday that while he understood Costa's frustrations with La Liga officiating, he felt that insulting a referee is never a wise practice.

"Those are the rules, insulting a referee warrants a ban between four and eight matches. We will have to see whether they consider our appeal and what will happen. I think that in our appeal we will be able to make the defence we wish

(AGENCIES)

38-time champ Alves: PSG should listen to me

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain's experienced Brazil international defender Dani Alves said on Thursday that the club should follow his recommendations to improve in the Champions League.

With three Champions League crowns, three Club World Cup titles and two UEFA Cup triumphs among his 38-trophy haul as a professional, the full-back is the world's most decorated active player, but he feels his voice is not being heard at runaway Ligue 1 leaders PSG.

PSG have been knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16 for three years in a row, going out on away goals against Manchester United this season after winning the first leg 2-0 at Old Trafford.

"I know how to win," the 35-year-old, who joined PSG in 2017 from Juventus and has been negotiating a contract extension for next season,

told RMC Sport.

"When I want to say something I would like to be followed. Not because I'm better than any other but because I've been there.

"When someone has been there maybe it's good to listen to them, to rely on their experience. Maybe it will work, maybe it won't. I would like that when I say something, one would listen more."

Alves, who spent six years at Sevilla and eight at Barcelona before moving to Italy in 2016, felt PSG should have been less complacent and more aware that history was against them.

"When you are up against a historical opponent in football, boxing, tennis, history will always be against you," he said.

PSG are on the brink of an eighth Ligue 1 title, which they can clinch on Sunday by avoiding defeat at second-placed Lille.

(AGENCIES)

Arsenal take 2-0 advantage over Napoli in Europa League

LONDON

AN Aaron Ramsey strike and a Kalidou Koulibaly own goal gave Arsenal a 2-0 victory over Napoli in the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final on Thursday - and a rare and valuable clean sheet to take to Italy in a week's time.

Arsenal took the lead in the 14th minute through Ramsey, who finished off a sweeping move down the right by calmly slotting the ball past Napoli goalkeeper Alex Meret.

They doubled the advantage 10 minutes later after a moment of individual brilliance from Lucas Torreira, who dashed through the Napoli midfield before spinning and switching the ball to his left foot and letting fly.

The Uruguayan's shot took a heavy deflection off Senegal defender Koulibaly and was registered as an own-goal.

"We can be happy with this result, but (Napoli) are going to be more competitive away. Our challenge - our success - is going to be if we can be competitive away," Arsenal manager Unai Emery told reporters, repeatedly describing the tie as "50:50".

The Gunners tried to increase their advantage as the first half wore on but they failed to capitalise despite several shots on goal from strikers Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, while Napoli had Meret to thank for numerous saves.

Carlo Ancelotti's men poured forward at the start of the second half in search of an away goal, with striker Lorenzo Insigne's effort ruled offside and Koulibaly denied moments later when keeper Petr Cech tipped his header over the bar.

ARSENAL CHANCES

The game quickly opened up and Ramsey, who will join Napoli's rivals and Serie A leaders Juventus in the close season, and Nacho Monreal created chances at the other end but were unable to outwit Meret again.

Napoli went closest to scoring when Insigne raced down the right and crossed to Piotr Zielinski, but the Pole's right-foot effort shot up over the bar.

"We had our chances and wasted



Arsenal's Petr Cech in action during their Europa League Quarter Final First Leg match against Napoli at Emirates Stadium in London, Britain on Thursday. REUTERS

them. We know we didn't have a good game. Now we have to think about the return leg," Insigne told Sky Sports.

"The away goal would have been vital. We have to stay focused, learn from our mistakes and have more courage next week," he said.

The Italian side have now failed to beat English opponents away from their San Paolo stadium in nine attempts in European competition, and will need to find some scoring form at home if they are to progress in the competition.

"I think the second half gave us some idea how we can play the second game," Ancelotti told reporters, suggesting his side had more of the run of play as Arsenal's players tired, a number of them pulling up with cramp as the game neared the end.

In Villarreal, Spain, Valencia scored twice in stoppage time to secure a 3-1

victory away to local rivals Villarreal and take the upper hand after the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final on Thursday.

The result was harsh on the home side, who largely dominated possession yet were unable to create clear-cut chances against Valencia, who sit 12 places and 16 points above them in La Liga.

They were made to pay as a quick-fire double at the death from Daniel Wass and Goncalo Guedes, his second goal of the match, left them with a mountain to climb in next week's return.

"We knew it was going to be tough and we did what we had to do," Guedes told BeIn Sports. "We know they have their strengths but we defended well and played on the counter and we were able to get our goals that way."

"I don't think the result was unde-

Late Alonso header, Kepa saves hand Chelsea win in Prague

PRAGUE

A LATE header by defender Marcos Alonso and Kepa Arrizabalaga's goalkeeping heroics helped Chelsea beat a stubborn Slavia Prague 1-0 in their Europa League quarter-final, first leg on Thursday.

Spaniard Alonso broke the deadlock for the west London side in the 86th minute when he sneaked behind two defenders to connect with Willian's cross and score what proved to be the winner in the first competitive meeting between the two sides.

"I'm very happy with the result and also with the performance, because at this moment we are able to suffer, in the past we were not," Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri told reporters.

"In the past, when we were in trouble, we conceded immediately a goal, now we did not concede anything."

Sarri made seven changes from the team that beat West Ham United 2-0 in the Premier League on Monday, with talisman Eden Hazard coming off the bench for the last half an hour.

Willian's fierce shot hit the bar in the first half before the hosts had a chance to open the scoring on the counter in the 69th minute when Ibrahim Traore drive into the Chelsea box and struck a shot that was superbly punched away by Kepa.

The Spanish goalkeeper then kept out left-back Jan Boril's close-range shot in the 80th minute.

Alonso's goal gave the Blues a vital away goal as they put behind them bitter memories of the stadium where they lost the 2013 Super Cup to Bayern Munich in a penalty shootout.

Slavia defender Simon Deli said: "It's disappointing because we did very well and in the last minutes we conceded this kind of goal. Of course, it's difficult for us, but it's football.

"Now we'll prepare for our next game - the derby - and then against



Chelsea's Marcos Alonso scores their winning goal against SK Slavia Prague during their Europa League Quarter Final First Leg match at Eden Arena in Prague, Czech Republic on Thursday. (Agencies)

Chelsea in London," he added referring to the Czech league leaders' game against third-placed Sparta on Sunday.

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Willian's fierce shot hit the bar

served. We had our chances, we were clinical and it is a deserved victory."

Portugal forward Guedes opened the scoring after six minutes. He was felled in the box by Santiago Caseres and, although Valencia skipper Dani Parejo's penalty was saved by Andres Fernandes, Guedes netted the rebound from close range.

It was the second consecutive game in which Parejo had missed a spot-kick after he failed to score against Rayo Vallecano in la Liga at the weekend.

CAZORLA PENALTY After ceding the early advantage, Villarreal began to enjoy more of the ball, with Santi Cazorla causing problems for the Valencia backline.

Former Arsenal midfielder Cazorla, who himself missed a penalty at the weekend, equalised from the spot in the 36th minute after Ezequiel Garay clumsily brought down Vicente Iborra and English referee Michael Oliver pointed to the spot.

Samuel Chukwueze was twice denied by Valencia goalkeeper Neto after the break as Javi Calleja's side looked to force a winner, but Villarreal gradually ran out of ideas and appeared happy to settle for the draw.

Yet with the clock having reached 90 minutes, Valencia's Wass produced a sweeping left-foot finish against the run of play following Jose Gaya's storming run down the left-hand side to stun the home crowd.

Guedes then rounded off the scoring with the last kick of the game after Denis Cheryshev - a former Villarreal player - led an electric counter-attack as Marcelino's side put one foot in the last four.

"We weren't savvy at all," said Calleja in his post-match news conference. "There's another game to play (after going 2-1 down), but we played like there wasn't one.

"Now, everything is more difficult. It's a tough result to take but if you gift up chances and don't take yours then Valencia are always going to do what they did.

"We won't give up, of course. We'll go to Mestalla next week wanting to win and restore pride," he added.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bonucci comment on Kean a 'disgrace' - Toure

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Stage set for National Swimming Championships

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

TEN clubs have been confirmed to compete in the National Swimming Club Championships scheduled to start at the International School of Tanganyika (IST), Upanga swimming pool in Dar es Salaam today.

The chairperson of organising committee, Hadija Shebe, mentioned the clubs as Bluefins, Champion Rise, Morogoro International School's Piranhas, Mwanza Swimming, FK Blue and Zanzibar Wahoo.

Other clubs according to Hadija are ISM-Moshi, ISM-Arusha, FK Blue Marlins, Taliss-IST and the defending champions, Dar es Salaam Swim Club (DSC).

Hadija said the preparations for the event are complete and it has been sponsored by IST, Azam, Pepsi, Asas, Samsung, DTB Bank, Kaka's, Food Lovers and Snow Cream.

The event also has been sponsored by Kastipharm Ltd, Ruru Logistics, Knight Support, Opportune Travel Ltd, Pyramid Consumers, Print Galore, ITV Media, Clouds FM, Subway, NMB Bank and Umoja Grand Belt and Road Restaurant.

She said swimmers that are studying abroad have arrived in the city and will compete in the event.

The swimmers are Sonia Tumiotto, Maia Tumiotto, Collins Saliboko, Dennis Mhini, Chichi Zengeni, Natalia Sanford, Smriti Gorkarn and Delvin Barick, all from St Felix Swim Club based in the United Kingdom.

Others are Christian Shirima who comes from Ukraine, Isam Sepetu (South Africa), Hilal Hemed Hilal and Kangeta, both from Dubai's Hamilton Aquatic Swimming Club.

She noted Chichi, Smriti, Sonia, Maia, Isam and Shirima will swim for the defending champions, Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC) while Saliboko and Mhini will compete for MIS Piranhas and Barick will swim for the Mwanza Swimming Club.

According to the organizing committee chairperson, Hilal and Kangeta will swim for the Taliss-IST Club while Natalia will feature for the FK Blue Marlins squad.

The swimmers will compete in five swimming styles namely Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Backstroke and Individual Medley. The swimmers will also compete in relay in the event which will have 108 disciplines.

According to Hadija, the event is also dubbed as the 2019 World Championship qualifier. The world's swimming governing body (FINA) disclosed that it has sanctioned the championship as one of the qualifying events for the global competition.

She said FINA sanctioned the national event after being satisfied with the way Tanzania's swimming authorities organise and conduct it.



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Mirambo confident of Serengeti Boys' success in AFCON U-17 tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona & Agencies

TANZANIA'S U-17 football team, Serengeti Boys, have disclosed they are well prepared for the 2019 AFCON U-17 championship, which will kick off in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The squad's head coach, Oscar Mirambo, was adamant his charges are ready for the tournament.

He said his players have prepared intensively and he is confident they will perform well at the championship.

The country earned automatic qualification for the showpiece as they are the tournament's hosts.

"We are ready for the tournament, I am sure we will do well as my players are in high spirits... we have prepared well for it," he said.

Serengeti Boys are in Group A of the eight-team tournament that also has Angola, Nigeria and Uganda.

Group B comprises Cameroon, Guinea, Morocco and Senegal.

The home side will kick off the tournament with a game against five-time FIFA U-17 World Cup winners, Nigeria, at the National Stadium in the city.

Angola will play against Uganda later the same day while other games will continue



Tanzania's U-17 football squad, Serengeti Boys.

on Monday.

This is the second time that Tanzania is competing at the AFCON U-17 finals. The country made its maiden appearance in the championship in Gabon in 2017.

Serengeti Boys intensified preparations for the championship as they competed in an Invitational Competition in Kigali, Rwanda two weeks back. Cameroon and Rwanda also took part in the competition.

The Tanzania youngsters emerged as champions of the event, as they collected four points out of three duels.

They posted a 2-1 win over Cameroon in the first match and the former then drew 3-3 with Rwanda.

The Dar es Salaam tournament's semi-finalists will qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, which will be held in Brazil later this year.

The secretary for the AFCON U-17 championship's organization committee, Leslie Liunda, informed the media that all is set for the finals, which is held in the country for the first time.

He said they expect a

very good tournament and patronage from people in the country.

"All is set for the AFCON U-17 championship, the preparations have reached a very good stage and we are very happy with the support we got from the government and other stakeholders," he said.

In another development, the world maybe Nigeria's oyster with five record titles under their belt as far as the FIFA U-17 World Cup is concerned. However, the West Africans are yet to produce their near total dominance at the continental level.

The 13th edition of the AFCON U-17 finals will be Nigeria's ninth appearance since the birth of the cadet continental championship in 1995 but they are only searching for their third continental title.

Golden Eaglets, as the Nigerian lads are fondly called, have two titles (2001 & 2007) just as archrivals Ghana and Gambia.

Nigeria have been runners up twice with the last being at the 2013 finals held in Morocco when the current coach, Manu Garba, blooded the likes of

Kelechi Iheanacho of Leicester City and Isaac Success of Watford, amongst others.

Garba has forever been part of the Nigeria U-17 set up since the early 2000s and was an assistant to the late coach Yemi Tella when the Golden Eaglets did the double by winning their second title in Togo en route to global acclaim in South Korea in 2007.

"Every tournament is hard to win," the 55-year-old Garba who guided Nigeria yet to World Cup glory in 2013 told CAFOnline.com.

"No matter how good a team is, sometimes you need elements of luck to win the trophy."

By and by, the Eaglets have in the past failed five times to qualify for the U-17 AFCON and were eliminated three times at the group stages in their previous eight appearances.

But Garba's right-hand, Nduka Ugbade, who incidentally captained the Eaglets to win the maiden FIFA U-16 World Cup in 1985, is upbeat about the potentialities of the current lads, adding that Nigeria remains the team to beat in Tanzania.

"The truth is that the U-17 AFCON is very competitive because of the amount of effort that is concentrated upon it by most countries," Ugbade who was also an assistant to Garba when Nigeria won the U-20 AFCON four years ago in Senegal, told CAFOnline.com.



"Teams from Africa can compete favourably well at the FIFA World Cup because the intensity of the game at this level on the continent is very high and that is why the Nigerian team over the years is difficult to beat, due to strength, skills and mental speed."

Speaking further, Ugbade was of the opinion that CAF has raised the bar for the U-17 AFCON with recently introduced regional tournaments to determine eventual qualifiers for the biennial continental competition.

"I think the U-17 AFCON has taken a new dimension because you must have competed at the highest level to earn the zonal ticket and it makes the competition tougher," he explained.

"How I wish CAF can allow two teams from each zone to qualify for the main championship in future because some of the traditional teams like Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and even South Africa would not be in Tanzania."

The Eaglets were lucky to make the trip to Tanzania since Ghana nearly upstaged their apperant in the regional WAFU Zone B final match in Niger last September where they triumphed 3-1 on penalties after they both tied 1-1 in regulation time.

Simba optimistic of progression to CAF Champions League last four

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S only representatives in the 2018/19 CAF Champions League, Simba SC, left for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) yesterday with high hopes of proceeding to the semi-finals of the competition.

Simba are meeting DRC football big guns, TP Mazembe, in Lubumbashi today in the second leg of the last eight stage.

Simba are in DRC with a full squad, with the exception of influential defender Pascal Wawa, who will be out of action for a period of two weeks due to muscle injury.

The two sides settled for a barren draw in the first leg of the last eight stage at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 6.

Today's match is very important to both sides. For Simba to advance to the next stage, they need either a win of any kind or a draw.

However, recent history shows that TP Mazembe have not lost any game at

home but Simba SC head coach Patrick Aussems said his side is ready to change the history.

He said after goalless draw in Dar es Salaam, Simba stand a big chance of proceeding to the next stage.

"We are going to Mazembe with the aim of winning. I am very sure we will beat them and qualify for the semi-finals, I am sure of that and I think nothing will stop us from achieving our goal," the Belgian tactician disclosed.

During the previous encounter in Dar es Salaam, Simba dominated ball possession.

However, Simba have not scored any goal in away matches in the competition, while conceding 12 goals.

Aussems though said the team is improving and chances are very high that they will win today's game.

One of TP Mazembe coaches, David Mwakasu, said they respect Simba but his charges will emerge winners in Lubumbashi.



Simba players pose for picture prior to playing one of the 2018/19 CAF Champions League duels at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

