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Measles, rubella vaccination campaign set for September

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is set to embark on a fresh measles and rubella vaccination campaign next September after it was realized that a huge number of children did not complete earlier jabs, creating a pathway for an outbreak of the contagious diseases.

The jabs missed and new ones will be administered in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to children aged between nine and 59 months.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the commemoration of

World Immunization Week, WHO immunization advisor in Tanzania, Dr William Mwenge said the target was to achieve 95 percent coverage in all districts to prevent any outbreak and provide enhanced immunity in the various communities.

He said he said that to sustain that campaign, it was vital to avoid complacency among the people and health workers.

"Despite tremendous gains towards increasing access and utilization of immunization services in past decades, we need to sustain these gains and increase efforts to reach those who are not vaccinated and those not fully vaccinated."



Widening pockets of unvaccinated children have created a pathway to the measles outbreaks hitting several countries around the world today

Commenting on the global trend, he said measles cases have continued to climb in 2019, with preliminary global data showing that reported cases rose by 300 percent in the first three months of 2019, compared to the same period in 2018.

He said the WHO African Region has recorded a 700 percent increase, the region of the Americas 60 percent, the European region 300 percent while the Eastern Mediterranean saw a 100 percent increase in cases. A 40 percent increase was registered in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, he elaborated.

Currently, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Myanmar, Philippines, Sudan, Thailand and Ukraine had rising contagion causing many deaths mostly among young children.

Over recent months, spikes in case numbers have also occurred in countries with high overall vaccination coverage including the United States, Israel, Thailand and Tunisia, as

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Mtwara businesses close down before catastrophe



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (gesturing) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after opening a meeting of police force heads from seven Eastern and Central African countries lined up to deliberate on cross-border crimes, including human trafficking and cybercrime. Others are his counterparts Dan Munyuzo of Rwanda (to his right) and Dieudonne Amuli Bahigwa of Democratic Republic of Congo (2nd-L). Left is Director of Criminal Investigations Robert Boaz. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

EA police chiefs liaise over cybercrime and trafficking

By Henry Mwangonde

HEADS of police forces from seven Eastern and Central African countries are meeting in Dar es Salaam to discuss cross border crimes including human trafficking and cybercrime.

The meeting involved inspector generals of police from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Mozambique.

Speaking yesterday, Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro said the meeting will among other things enable them to draw up common strategies to combat and take



The collaboration will help to reveal suspects in their hideouts when the police are not hindered by administrative boundaries

serious legal action against the culprits.

"We have been working together in various matters related to our work. In this we are striving to ensure that we come up with common strategies which will help seek out and overcome cross border crime," he said.

The collaboration will help to reveal suspects in their hideouts when the police are not hindered by administrative boundaries, he said.

For his part, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) IGP Dieudonne Bahigwa said

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Issuing the government statement on the matter in the National Assembly in Dodoma, Mhagama further announced the suspension of marine and air transport in the regions until the situation clears

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

BUSINESS yesterday came to a standstill in towns and settlements dotting the Mtwara Region shoreline as offices shut, shops closed and traders shifted their merchandise to higher ground in a race against time to escape tropical cyclone Kenneth.

Public workplaces including schools had closed here in compliance with directive issued on Wednesday by Mtwara Regional Commissioner Gelastus Byakanwa as Mtwara and Lindi regions along with northern Mozambique shores are the cyclone's landfall zone predicted by forecasts.

The precautions came after the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) said on Wednesday that Kenneth was likely to hit around midday today while an earlier forecast released on Tuesday by American commercial weather forecaster AccuWeather Inc. projected the landfall to happen early yesterday.

A spot check by The Guardian in Mtwara-Mikindani municipality and Masasi town found people gathered in groups with low-lying beach settlements mostly deserted.

The sign of imminent disaster was particularly evident in Masasi district where a thick black cloud hung in the sky from early morning with



The sign of imminent disaster was particularly evident in Masasi district where a thick black cloud hung in the sky from early morning with drops of rains here and there

drops of rains here and there.

Juma Abdallah, a prominent businessman who runs a chain of shops in Masasi town had closed all his shops and shifted with his family at their home located in higher ground.

"I am scared because I don't know the scale of the anticipated devastation. The best thing I can do now is to stay with my family," he said.

Those who did not shop for basic groceries on Wednesday before the warning had it rough yesterday because most of the grocery stores and butcheries were shut.

Hamisi Samuel, operating in Masasi was at home yesterday with his family instead of selling meat to customers at the town centre.

"After hearing about the news of the looming apocalypse on Wednesday, I immediately suspended the plan to slaughter for today's business," he said.

Low-lying coastal settlements that are usually busy with farming or fishing activities were yesterday quiet as residents had since Wednesday scrambled to shift to public buildings such as schools and houses of worship located on higher grounds.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Employment,

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Hook investors with better tax collection, TRA urged

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TANZANIA Investment Centre (TIC) executive director Geoffrey Mwambe has appealed to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to attract more investments into the country through friendlier tax collection methods.

Mwambe, who is also a member of the TRA board of directors, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that officials from the central government revenue



collection agency have in recent years been closing businesses in various parts of the country said not to be paying taxes instead of engaging them to know the challenges they face.

The 'money or padlock' approach, Mwambe said, is discouraging local and foreign investors and scaring away potential entrepreneurs who wish to set up businesses in the country.

"The TRA approach of closing businesses

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President John Magufuli has a quick word with Mbeya Urban legislator Joseph Mbilinyi alias Sugu of the opposition Chadema in Mbeya city yesterday shortly after arriving in Mbeya Region for an official visit. Photo: State House

Mtwara businesses close down before catastrophe

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Youth and the Disabled) Jenista Mhagama yesterday ordered authorities in Mtwara and Lindi regions to ensure that people living and working along the shoreline move to higher grounds.

Issuing a government statement on the matter in the National Assembly in Dodoma, Mhagama further announced the suspension of marine and air transport in the regions until the situation

clears.

TMA Acting Director General Dr Pascal Waniha told reporters in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday that cyclone Kenneth storm was expected to reach 500 kilometres from its landfall.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the cyclone was travelling at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour off the northern coast of Madagascar towards the continental shores.

Ministry, private sector set up factories for forest resources

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has signed an agreement with private sector to construct factories that will use wood and forest wastes to make both, office and domestic furniture.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Prof Adolf Mkenda made the revelation yesterday when briefing journalists on the planned activities of the special task force formed to improve the forest sector.

The task force, which is one of the various task forces formed under the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC), held its meeting in Morogoro region. TNBC has members from public and private sector.

Prof Mkenda who is the co-chair of the task force from public sector said the group will work to protect as well as improve performance of the sector.

He said they have agreed to consult different stakeholders to take part in construction of the furniture making industries using wood and forest wastes.

"Tanzanians should grab the opportunity to produce office furniture since the government banned importation of furnishings for public offices. By constructing the industries investors will not only make profits, but support the government's industrialization endeavour", said Prof Mkenda

He said that under the agreement, manufactured office furniture will be sold to government institutions and agencies.

The PS asserted that they have also agreed to use the forests countrywide to establish bee keeping projects. He said the task force will encourage municipal councils across the country

to plant trees and protect available forests.

If protected, forests can be used by the villagers to generate income through a number of environmental friendly activities including beekeeping, he said.

Head of the Private Forestry Programme, Ben Mfungo Sulus said improvement of the forest sector faces challenges such as lack of skills to youth. He said most of them do not have enough knowledge to use modern carpentry machines.

Sulus urged forest researchers to work on the best tree varieties that can mature within a short period. He said most of the tree varieties take too long to mature, the thing that discourages farmers.

TNBC acting Chief Executive Officer, Oliva Vegulla said there are many investment opportunities in the forest sector. He said they are working closing with experts from various countries who advises the country on how to utilize the opportunities economically.



Tanzanians should grab the opportunity to produce office furniture since the government banned importation of furnishings for public offices. By constructing the industries investors will not only make profits, but support the government's industrialization endeavour

Tanzania calls for more foreign investments

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday called upon investors from across the world to make Tanzania a destination of choice, saying the country has created enabling investments environment for them to and invest in.

Majaliwa made the call in the country's capital, when he held talks with ambassadors from Kuwait and Kenya.

He insisted that the room is open for investors who want to invest in different sectors.

"The fifth phase government is committed towards developing an industrial-based economy, therefore we will be very happy to have investors from Kenya because your country started to involve itself in

industrialization for a long time ago when we were still with the Ujamaa policy," Majaliwa told Dan Kazungu, the Kenyan High Commissioner to Tanzania.

The premier said that he understands that among African countries, Kenya was one of the leading nations to have invested more in Tanzania saying however that they need more.

"The fact that the president shifted investment to my office calls for more emphasis and we have the blue print which allows investors to register in their own country before they come," he said.

For his part, the Kenyan envoy thanked PM Majaliwa for the support the government has been offering to Kenya saying the bilateral relations which had been existing between the two countries should continue.

"We are relatives, you cannot choose who should be your neighbour we need to work together so that our people can conduct businesses freely," he said.

In another development, the PM thanked the Kuwait envoy Mubarak Alsehaijan for the support that his country had been offering to Tanzania through its agencies.

Kuwait had helped Tanzania to construct Chaya-Nyahua road in Tabora Region.

Ever since he came into power President Magufuli's administration took a decision to embrace industrialisation as a panacea to partly tackle unemployment among the youth because industrialisation drive is expected to be one of the significant remedies by creating thousands of job opportunities across the country.

EA police chiefs liaise over cybercrime and trafficking

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his country faces challenges by terrorists who conduct crimes and hide in neighbouring countries.

The meeting will go a long way to map out how to control such activities and fish out all the thugs in their hideouts, he asserted.

He cited ADF rebels operating in his country saying there is need for collaboration to ensure that the region remains safe.

Currently, collaboration with other countries has helped to weaken the rebel group, he said, underlying that more is needed.

Kenyan Senior Assistant Inspector General Julius Kanampiu cited the recent terror incident at DusitD2 Hotel in Nairobi, saying it can help in any country hence there is need to work together.

Due to the challenge Kenya is determined to work with other countries to ensure this does not happen again.

The Rwanda Inspector General of Police Danny Munyuza said the meeting has come at the right time when cross border crime is increasingly an issue.

"This will help us to create a platform for sharing intelligence which facilitates the arrest of suspects and bring them to book," he stated.

Hook investors with better tax collection, TRA urged

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exacerbates the burden of non-performing loans for commercials banks, leading to higher interest rates by financial institutions," he declared.

The director said a number of government agencies have been doing a great job with a view to making Tanzania a destination of choice for investors but these efforts were being stifled by unfriendly tax collection methods.

"President John Magufuli recently appreciated our efforts in attracting investors but our work is being hindered by methods used by other government agencies such as TRA," he emphasized.

The best way to address the challenge of taxes is to hold consultation with traders and investors to discuss ways to settle the problems, he said, elaborating that it is disappointing to note that traders and investors are being remanded for a long time without any case and later released without compensation.

Closing of business should be a last option after all processes prove futile, he said, insisting that the mandate of closing the business remain with the Commissioner General of TRA and not any other officer.

"We need to have a vision of facilitating and promoting investment in the country rather than be an obstacle to investors," he argued.

"But also we need to encourage taking up investment opportunities in order to create employment to youth that will help to raise per capita income," he said.

The government is striving to encourage investment purposely to expand the volume of revenue collection in order to reduce the dependency ratio to funds from abroad, he stated.

Mwambe emphasized that President Magufuli was saddened by the report he received from ambassadors and high commissioners who informed him about services provided by several government institutions as being unfriendly to foreign investors.

He proposed that executives in government institutions work to enhance awareness to taxpayers instead of frustrating them by closing their businesses.

From the past month to the present, TIC has managed to register 80 investment projects with a total value of US\$383.2million, out of which 49 projects are industrial and the rest in the agricultural sector.

Institutions responsible for facilitating the provision of land to investors need to speed up the process in order to encourage timely investments, he said.

TIC has so far issued 892 residence permits together with 1,076 work permits to investors in recent months, he added.



Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (R) and China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, exchange greetings during celebrations held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tanzania and China. Photo courtesy of Maelezo

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the disease has spread fast among clusters of unvaccinated people.

For her part, the Immunization Programme Manager, Dr Dafroza Lyimo said that one big challenge was children who missed the first dose creating a pathway to new outbreaks.

The follow up campaign slated to kick in September targets to reach children of nine to 59 months irrespective of whether they were earlier vaccinated or not.

"I call on all parents to use the opportunity by sending their children to the nearest health center or dispensary to receive full complement vaccination," she emphasized.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in a statement issued yesterday said

Measles, rubella vaccination campaign set for September

that an estimated 169 million children missed out on the first dose of the measles vaccine between 2010 and 2017, or 21.1 million children a year on average.

Widening pockets of unvaccinated children have created a pathway to measles outbreaks hitting several countries around the world today.

"The ground for the global measles outbreaks we are witnessing today was laid years ago," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. "The measles virus will

always find unvaccinated children. If we are serious about averting the spread of this dangerous but preventable disease, we need to vaccinate every child, in rich and poor countries alike."

In the first three months of 2019, more than 110,000 measles cases were reported worldwide - up nearly 300 per cent from the same period last year. An estimated 110,000 people, most of them children, died from measles in 2017, a 22 per cent increase from the year before.



Zanzibar Health minister Hamad Rashid Mohamed (L) pictured yesterday consoling Zanzibar resident Shabani Makame, who is admitted to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute at the Muhimbili National Hospital premises in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of JKCI

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania and China cement decades-old ties

AS Tanzania and China celebrates 55 years of diplomatic relations, the two nations have agreed to continue cementing the rock-solid affair in all sectors of development for mutual benefits.

Speaking during the gala to commemorate the relations in Dar es Salaam, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako said that the relations have brought a number of positive achievements including strengthening of bilateral trade and investment relations.

Co-organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation and the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania,

the gala brought together members of the diplomatic corps, academicians and students from both countries.

It was on April 26, 1964, the first Union Day of Tanzania, that the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations with the United Republic of Tanzania, which made China among the first group of countries establishing diplomatic relations with Tanzania.

Prof Ndalichako said in celebrating the 55 years, Tanzania has benefited a lot which include implementation of various landmark projects Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA), the imposing University of Dar es Salaam

library, the Nyerere Bridge, the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute and the Julius Nyerere International Convention Center, among others.

"China has also been sponsoring at least 100 Tanzanians to pursue higher studies in various fields in Chinese varsities."

She also said that investment projects in Tanzania for the year 2017 created more than 87,000 job opportunities benefiting mostly young locals who were grappling for employment for years.

Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke said that Tanzania-China relation was founded by the two countries first presidents; Late Julius

Nyerere of Tanzania and Mao Ze Dong of China.

"During the past 55 years, China and Tanzania developed pragmatic cooperation with rich achievements in multiple forms, including aid, trade, investment, financing, and in a wide range of areas such as infrastructure, industry, agriculture and mining," she said.

The envoy said recent years have witnessed the continuous deepening of strategic trust between the two countries, increasingly close bilateral communications in various fields and levels, including national and local governments, political parties and legislative bodies.

Israel tourists impressed by Serengeti, Ngorongoro while promising to return

By Guardian Reporter, Serengeti

MORE than 1000 Israelites visiting Tanzania's tourist attractions have expressed excitement on how the country is maintaining its natural resources, especially wildlife.

They are here on the 'Another World Experience Nature,' expedition, facilitated by the 'Excellent Guides,' in the Safari dubbed 'Travel to Tanzania.'

Speaking shortly after completing their four-day itinerary in the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the leader of the delegation, Hagit Geffen, said the large group of tourists from Zion, comprises of 1000 visitors, majority of whom, have never been to Africa before.

"Which means Tanzania is their first-hand experience on the continent and judging from what they saw, many have been impressed and will return to retrace the adventure again," she said.

Amit Romano who has brought his family, Suzanne and Gal Romano has admitted that, nature is something which any visitor from Israel and Middle East, coming to Tanzania will find captivating.

"We still have two more days in the country, intending to meet its people and sample the culture then we may be in even better position to comment on our experience of Tanzania," said Romano who hails from Kadima Israel.

Shai Sinai Vilozny admitted that the trip to Tanzania has made it possible for many of them to get closer to wild animals, something that they have been accustomed to watch on Television or movies.

David Maige, the Conservator in the Tourism Department at Serengeti National Park, said the arrival of such large number of tourists from middle east is the result of good promotion by

the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and the government through the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB).

"Peace and harmony which has prevailed in the country since independence also helps to channel international visitors into Tanzania and things are bound to get better now that the National Carrier, Air Tanzania has been revived," said Maige.

The Safari Guides involved in taking round the visitors to Northern Zone attractions, Silva Justine and John Muhambo said the ongoing infrastructural improvement projects undertaken by the fifth phase government, is among the reasons why the tourism industry is rapidly growing and getting more attractive.

The Commissioner Conservator at Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Dr Freddy Manongi admitted that, the efforts by the government to promote the country internationally are paying dividends.

"We have good policies in the country, that is why people from other nations will continue to flock to Tanzania," said Dr Manongi.

After Serengeti and Ngorongoro the entourage will proceed to Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Parks.

Tanzania has dedicated nearly 40 per cent of the country's total area to wildlife and natural resources conservation. The country attracts 1.3 million visitors per year.



We have good policies in the country, that is why people from other nations will continue to flock to Tanzania



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AUTHORITY



55th Union Anniversary



His Excellency
Dr. John Pombe Magufuli



His Excellency
Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein

The Ministerial Advisory Board, Management and all staff of the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) congratulate

H.E. DR JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI

President of the United Republic of Tanzania and His Excellency

DR. ALI MOHAMMED SHEIN

President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for Commemorating 55th Anniversary of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

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INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY, DELIVERY INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF COFFEE SORTING AND GRADING MACHINES AND RELATED ACCESSORIES FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORT BOARD (NAEB)-RWANDA

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20180841

The National Agriculture Export Board (NAEB), Rwanda with the support of TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking reputable firms/consortiums to supply, deliver, install and commission Coffee Sorting and Grading Machines and Related Accessories for NAEB - Rwanda.

Terms of reference for this tender and the Invitation to Tender (ITT) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submissions is 23 May 2019.

Bidding is open only to firms/consortiums. Interested firms/consortiums MUST submit bids via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline



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EAC conducts advanced police training

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) in partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) over the last three years has been implementing the ESA-10 Maritime Security Strategy with a 37.5 million Euros seed funding from the European Union.

Owora Othieno, EAC head of communication unit said among the interventions envisaged is the enhancement of the capacity of the criminal investigations authorities of the participating states to effectively and efficiently investigate crimes at sea in a manner that provides a

successful legal finish. The EAC was entrusted with this result area and commenced training of investigators on general investigations, forensic investigations and criminal analysis, six intermediate trainings, targeting 50 officers per cluster were held between January and June 2018.

The advanced trainings for the same officers in each of the clusters commenced with the training of 50 officers on criminal analysis that commenced on 23rd April 2019 in Mauritius. The trainings will take place within a two week period ending May 5th 2019.

The trainings are being held at the Mauritius Prisons Training School in Port Louis, INTERPOL, within the context of the MoU between

EAC and it (INTERPOL) concluded in 2012, is providing the technical expertise.

The trainings were formally launched by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius Maneesh Gobin.

In his speech the minister underscored the need for collective action by regional states in combating transnational organized crime. He noted that with the increase in the movement of people, money and goods, the level of sophistication of crime that rides on economic and social integration has increased. He called for the intensification of both horizontal and vertical information sharing among

and within agencies and across states.

He re-emphasized the need to strengthen commonality of purpose and where possible expansion of the training program to encompass more states particularly the French Speaking island states whose legal systems are different yet whose security is inextricably tied to other regional states (both littoral and inland).

The opening session was also graced by the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Mauritius Michael Gobalek, the Deputy Commissioner of Police Muktar Din Taujoo, and the Commissioner of Prisons, Premananda Apadoo.

Participants for the trainings are drawn from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.



Tanga Port manager Percival Salama (L) briefs visiting journalists from Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions earlier this week on the facility's operations. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Acacia Mining core profit slumps due to 'some unanticipated production issues'

By Guardian Reporter

ACACIA Mining PLC yesterday released report of the first quarter results, which shows that production at the North Mara mine was lower than expected due to some unanticipated production issues at the Gokona underground and Nyabirama open pit mines.

The results are for the three months ended March 31, this year.

"We achieved gold production of 104,899 ounces for the first quarter of the year at an all-in sustaining cost ("AISC") of US\$1,023 per ounce sold," Peter Geleta, Interim Chief Executive Officer said in a statement that was made available to 'The Guardian'.

He added: "Production at our North Mara mine was lower than expected due to some unanticipated production issues at the Gokona underground and Nyabirama open pit mines.

However, we took immediate steps during the quarter to address these, including the introduction of revised mining plans for both mines targeting higher volumes, grades and productivity for the remainder of the year.

"We, therefore, anticipate a step-up in production volumes for the

second quarter with the production rate sustained at similar levels during the second half of the year. As such we still believe we will deliver within our full year guidance of 500,000 to 550,000 gold ounces at an AISC of US\$860 to US\$920 per ounce."

"Meanwhile, throughout the quarter, we have continued to engage with and provide support to Barrick in its direct negotiations with the GoT and continue to prefer a negotiated resolution that will benefit all stakeholders."

On the operation highlights, Geleta revealed that gold production of 104,899 ounces, 13% below Q1 2018, following a fall of ground in the North Mara Gokona underground mine, which prevented access to higher grade stopes, an excavator breakdown in the Nyabirama open pit, and a reduction in production at Buzwagi as expected following the transition to a lower grade stockpile processing operation.

According to him, gold sales of 104,985 ounces, broadly in line with production and AISC of US\$1,023 per ounce sold, 5% higher than Q1 2018, mainly driven by the lower production base.

"Despite the production shortfall, we remain on track to achieve our

Group production guidance for the year of 500,000 to 550,000 ounces at an AISC of US\$860 to US\$920 per ounce with cash costs of US\$665 to US\$710 per ounce," he said.

He also noted that continued strong safety record with a Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) of 0.20, 49% lower than Q1 2018.

Bulyanhulu optimisation study in final stages, continuing to support provisional outcomes of potential for an average steady state, production rate of 300,000 to 350,000 ounces per year at an AISC of US\$700-750/oz. over an indicative life of mine of 18 years. "This is an encouraging result from updated Kenyan project study."

On financial Highlights the report said that revenue of US\$138 million, 12% lower than Q1 2018, with the lower sales base further impacted by a lower average realised gold price.

It further said that EBITDAI of US\$24 million, 72% lower than Q1 2018 mainly due to the lower revenue and the impact of the US\$45 million gain on the sale of a non-core royalty in Q1 2018, with adjusted EBITDAI 46% lower than Q1 2018 adjusted EBITDAI of US\$44 million

On board changes, Alan Ashworth, Deborah Gudgeon and Adrian Reynolds appointed as independent Non-Executive Directors with immediate effect.

The statement said that the appointments have been made in furtherance of the Board's previously announced succession planning and board renewal activities

Mike Kenyon and André Falzon to step down from the Board, effective 31 July 2019

Rachel English, Interim Chair, in welcoming the three new directors to the Acacia Board, said: "I am delighted that Alan, Deborah and Adrian will be joining the Board as independent Non-Executive Directors. Between them, they have broad technical and financial expertise, as well as a wealth of African mining experience. These complement the existing skills of the Board well, and we are looking forward to working with each of them. On behalf of the Board, I would also like to thank André Falzon and Mike Kenyon for their service and commitment to the Company over the past nine years, and additionally to thank them for their support in the handover and succession process with our new Directors."

TANZANIA FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

TFDA
Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority

55th UNION ANNIVERSARY

His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli,
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein,
President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

The Management and Staff of Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), join all Tanzanians to congratulate His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and His Excellency Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar marking 55th Anniversary of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

TFDA ensures the quality, safety and effectiveness of food, medicines, cosmetics, medical devices and diagnostics to protect and promote public health.

Acting Director General,
Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA)
Mwanza Avenue Block T
Plot No. 6 P. O. Box 1253
Dodoma, Tanzania

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55 Years of Tanzanian Union day

H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
President of United Republic of Tanzania

Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein
President of Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

Board, Management and staff of **National Insurance Corporation of Tanzania Limited (NIC)** Wish to Congratulate The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, **H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein** President of Zanzibar and all Tanzanians on the commemoration of **55th Union Day Anniversary**

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Govt unveils grand plan to increase production of rice

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government through the ministry of agriculture has unveiled a grand plan to increase rice production from the current 2.2 million metric tonnes to 4.5 million tonnes by 2030.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary (PS) Mathew Mtigumwe said during the meeting to prepare the second national rice development strategy. According to him, the ministry will work in collaboration with stakeholders to make sure that rice production increased to 4,500,000 tonnes by 2030 from the current 2,219,628 tonnes.

He said Tanzania is one of the first group countries in the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) and the rice production strategy will be also realized with support from the coalition.

"We will benefit by getting funds from World Bank (WB), African Development Bank (AfDB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to support agriculture development including rice production," he noted.

He noted that rice is one of the most important staple foods in Tanzania. As the consumption of rice has been increasing rapidly year by year, domestic production fails to keep up with this demand. As a result, Tanzania is forced to import rice to maintain stable supply. Therefore, it can be said that increasing rice production is an important agenda for the national food security.

For his part, director for mechanization and irrigation development, Eng Joseph Lubiloh said that to achieve the plan, the ministry had formed a special task force to which will be supervising and working closely to ensure that the target is reached. He said among others the strategy will focus on increasing competitiveness and improving the post-harvests value chain of small holder rice farmers.

JICA representative, Fumihiko Suzuki said the agency has for years been promoting irrigation development, irrigation human resource development as well as dissemination of paddy and upland rice cultivation technology in the country.

He assured that JICA was well organised in various agricultural aspects, adding that within the agency there were a good number of agricultural experts to help Tanzania attain its goal.



Students just through their Form Six at Dar es Salaam's Ukonga Air Wing Secondary School colour their graduation ceremony, which was held at the school yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Over 200 Tanzanian and foreign youth set to attend 'UN General Assembly' in Morogoro

By Henry Mwangonde

OVER 200 Tanzania and foreign youth are expected to attend the annual simulation of the United Nations General Assembly dubbed Tanzania International Model United (TIMUN) in Morogoro this year.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the coordinator for the event Kelvin Edward said this year's conference will focus on youth participation in Sustainable Development Goal-3 (Good Health and wellbeing), SDG-8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG-13 (Climate Change) and SDG-16 (Peace Justice and strong institutions).

"I am delighted to see that participants of this year's event are committed to ensuring that youth of today and tomorrow are empowered, included and equal," he said.

It is expected that after the confer-

ence which will start from 29th of April this year and end on 3rd of May, youth will come up with resolutions which will later be sent to all stakeholders and the UN headquarters for implementation. This is the 22nd time for the TIMUN which is organized by the Youth of the United Nations (YUNA).

The conference also enhances youth's ability to debate on global issues and provides an opportunity for innovative solutions to SDGs implementation.

Speaking on behalf of UN resident Coordinator's Office, the National Information Officer Didi Afisa said UN will continue to support youth involvement on the implementation of the SDGs.

"Youth make up the biggest chunk of the population. It is important that they are informed and continue to get engaged with implementation of the SDGs, especially now that there

is a shift to focus more on its results," she said. Figures show that one third of young people around the globe between the ages of 15 and 29 are not in the work force.

Tanzania's youth unemployment rate remains a big challenge to growth and the government must address it.

Among ways recommended include connecting them to the banking sector for them to access credit and engage in agricultural production.

The Situation is characterized by features like imbalance between supply and demand in the labour market and increasing of urban employment pressures with outflow of rural surplus labour to non-agricultural sectors.

Most youth have no skills employable. Skills requirement in the labour market are not compatible with skills supplied as a result, we have a mismatch of skills.

SNV, TIB Development Bank seal deal to kick-start solar markets in rural Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

TIB Development Bank and SNV have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming to develop a market for solar products using Results-Based Financing (RBF) in Tanzania's rural lake and central zones.

The goal of the RBF is "to overcome market failures constraining private sector delivery of distributed renewable energy systems providing modern energy services to the poor".

RBF funding is intended to reduce or mitigate commercial market failures, however not in the sense of large scale capacity building or policy support, but by providing financial incentives to the private sector to overcome typical, but temporary, market development risks.

Inga Brill, SNV Energy Sector Lead for

Tanzania SNV said that SNV is grateful to EnDev and DFID for providing these funds and to TIB for their partnership in supporting the acceleration of off-grid energy access to the most remote areas of the country. "This is another example of the excellent work Tanzania is doing to be a part of the clean energy transition."

EnDev Tanzania's successful RBF Stage 1 fund for domestic solar in the Lake and Central Zones rewarded EUR 1.9M in financial incentives to 11 firms who have extended energy access on pace to reach 390,000 persons.

During RBF Fund operations in 2013-18, firms have increasingly extended consumer financing via Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) business models supporting user demands for larger solar systems capable of powering small domestic

appliances (radios, TVs, charging stations, etc). For the period of 2019-2020, the RBF Fund will re-open with €1.5 million EUR in RBF incentives available to the private sector.

This second stage of the RBF Fund (RBF Stage 2) will be based on the foundational principles and structures as successfully developed and adapted during RBF Stage 1 programme with a strategic redesign of key financing elements to ensure RBF incentives are more sensitively tuned to sustained market development in vulnerable and remote Lake and Central Zone markets.

The RBF initiative for solar in Tanzania is financed through the Energising Development (EnDev) initiative with the support of the UK's Department for International Development (DfID).

'Value women's role in adapting to climate change'

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Tanzanian Civil Society Forum on Climate Change (Forum CC) has called upon authorities to recognise the potential of women in climate change initiatives.

"The government should come up with trans-formative and innovative approaches to unlock the potential of women in the climate change initiatives since among the vital agents", read a statement issued by Forum CC in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It said that women's unique knowledge, skill sets and perspectives borne out of how they interact with food systems, technology and institutions can improve the effectiveness of climate actions.

Addressing gender and climate change coherently at multilateral, national, sub-national and grassroots levels requires a fundamental shift in ambition and ways of working.

According to the statement, despite

the work that is still needed, the country's policy landscape is ripe with prospects for a more complete coordination and incorporation of gender concerns into policy. Three national policies, which are currently under review, are a key opportunity to integrate gender equality issues.

The statement was made on the side-line of the fifth climate change symposium and expo that took place recently in Dodoma.

Themed 'Achieving Policy Coherence, Inspiring Accountable Climate Actions' it emphasize policy harmonization between sectors and promotion of accountable climate actions at local and national levels.

The event brought together more than 100 stakeholders from various institutions, together with various Ministers including Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Selemani Jaffo, Minister for Industry

and Trade George Kakunda and together with Charles Stuart Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC.

Director for Forum CC, Erick Mugurusi said the organization in collaboration with Oxfam and other partners have been organizing the symposium since 2014.

He mentioned the other partners as the Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation (TaTEDO), Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) and European Union (EU) that has been providing financial support.

He said the symposium aims to bring together a community of policy makers and practitioners who are collectively seeking to re imagine solutions that enable trans-formative outcomes, through the agency of actors and communities driving accountable climate action towards a resilience future.

FCC encouraged to take sterner measures against counterfeiters

By Francis Kajubi

THE Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment has encouraged the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) to take stern measures against all sorts of illegal businesses as counterfeiters threatens competitiveness, innovation, best practice and deny value for money of the local market.

Officiating a one-day seminar to Dar es Salaam Industry owners especially members from Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), held yesterday and organized by the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), Dr Edwin Mhede, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Industries, said existence of counterfeiters whether local manufactured or imported hamper realisation of semi industrial economy as per government mission. "The fifth phase government regime has made it clear that it aims at achieving a mid-income economy by 2025, in this case, each of us within the government and by mutual collaboration with local manufacturers have to fight counterfeiters with common ambitions of protecting genuine products on the market," said Dr Mhede.

According to him, manufacturers have to walk hand in hand with the government in protecting their brands against counterfeiters by conducting routine surveys of the products on the market and reporting to the authorities.

FCC Director General, Dr John Mduma, in his welcoming note to the Deputy Permanent Secretary warned that the presence of counterfeiters on the local market pose uneven playing ground that results in affecting real brand owners.

"Any business or trade associated to counterfeiters is being stipulated in the Anti-money laundering Act as predicate offences that helps in easing the practice of money laundering crimes. However, the Merchandized Marks Act 1963 poses an imprisonment punishment to counterfeiters of between 5 and 14 years," said Dr Mduma.

Frank Dafa, Policy Specialist Trade, Confederation Of Tanzania Industries (CTI) said that his clients were facing unpredictable losses due to introduction of counterfeiters in the local market from both local counterfeiters and imports.

"I hope that approaches against counterfeiters that are going to be agreed on from this seminar will bring in new insights towards realising the industrial economy by a fight of counterfeiters," said Dafa.

According to FCC figures, in the period covering 2013 to December 2018 the commission carried out routine surveillance at the ports and inland container depots where 160 raids were conducted countrywide and led to the seizure of 1,131 containers loaded with assorted counterfeit goods.

During the period, the commission disposed condemned counterfeit goods worth 15.6bn/-. Awareness campaigns on counterfeit issues were made to local business people to enable them appreciate the consequence of infringing one's trademark and importance of registering and protecting local brands. On the sidelines of the seminar, Dr Mduma said one of the challenges faced by his office in combating proliferation of counterfeiters in local market is a few deficiencies in Merchandized Marks Act 1963 that needs urgent amendments with strong regulations to fully protect consumer's welfare.

"The FCC plans to lobby parliament review of the Merchandized Marks Act of 1963 and its regulations by 2021. The commission also wants to see amendment of its own Fair Competitions Act of 2003 to accommodate new dynamics in proliferation of counterfeiters and penalty imposed on culprits," said Dr Mduma.



UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS
HUDUMA ZA KUITOLEA ZA WAMAREKANI

Vacancy: GENERAL SERVICES ASSISTANT (GSA) - (1 position)

The U. S. Peace Corps, a leading international community-based development agency working in Tanzania since 1961, offers an attractive professional opportunity with a competitive salary. Peace Corps (PC) provides American Volunteers (PCVs) to requesting communities and groups throughout Tanzania, in the areas of Community Health Education, Sustainable Agriculture, and Secondary Education – Science, Math and English, including the cross-sector programming initiatives HIV/AIDS, malaria, food security, and Gender in Development.

The **GENERAL SERVICES ASSISTANT (GSA)** position is based in Dar es Salaam, and reports directly to the General Services Manager (GSM) as part of the General Services Office team. The GSA supports the GSM in overseeing the procurement, inventory, maintenance, repair, and overall management of equipment, supplies, IT property, and furnishings for Peace Corps Tanzania's offices, training facilities, and residences. S/he ensures all required property and procured items are entered into the agency's inventory management systems through proper use of tagging with inventory bar codes, etc. The GSA leads annual inventory campaigns and prepares property reports in accordance with agency and U.S. Government regulations. S/he also facilitates disposal of surplus property and coordinates its proper sale/auction.

The GSA liaises with personnel at HQ level as well as local staff, U.S. Embassy GSO staff, and vendors to assist the GSM with managing all supplies, equipment, warehousing, as well as maintenance, repair, and furnishing of all facilities and residences.

The General Services Assistant will report to and work under the direct supervision of the General Services Manager (GSM), while reporting indirectly to the Director of Management and Operations. The GSA serves as Acting GSM in his absence.

Desired Qualifications:

- **Education:** Completion of secondary school and preferably at least two years of post-secondary training related to General Services or other relevant fields.
- **Experience:** Three years progressively more responsible experience/work in General Services.
- **Language:** Level IV (Fluent) spoken and written English and Kiswahili.
- **Knowledge:** Knowledge of inventory management processes and procurement best practices in Tanzania and also internationally through internet online procurement.
- **Computer literacy:** Proficient in computer use and Microsoft Office suite of applications.
- Skilled at managing and organizing detailed information.
- Ability to act with diplomacy and tact with staff, PCVs, Trainees, vendors, and government officials.
- Tanzanian Driver's License desirable.

Application Procedures:

Applications must be received no later than **May 15, 2019**.

Please email a cover letter, CV, personal address and complete contact information, and names and contact information of relevant professional references to:
tz-applicants@peacecorps.gov with "GSA" in the subject line.

Only if absolutely necessary, applications may be posted to the attention of: Director of Management & Operations, GSA Application, U.S. Peace Corps Tanzania, P.O. Box 9123, Dar es Salaam. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

No phone inquiries or visits will be accepted.

215186601

World Vision®

Job Opportunities

World Vision is a Christian Development, Relief and Advocacy Non-Government Organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision is committed to the protection of children and does not employ people whose background is not suitable for working with children. All employment is conditioned upon successful completion of all applicable background checks, including criminal record.

**"Our vision for every child, Life in all its fullness;
Our prayer for every Heart, the will to make it so".**

World Vision Tanzania (WVT) is seeking to recruit suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant positions:

1. **Security Manager- Head Office (Arusha)- 1 Post**
2. **Senior Procurement Officer- Head Office (Arusha)- 1 Post**

To learn more about the job, minimum requirements, application deadline and how to apply kindly visit our Career Page:
<http://careers.wvi.org/job-opportunities-in-tanzania>

World Vision Tanzania candidates for employment should be ready to read, understand, sign and adhere to the World Vision Tanzania Child protection policy which helps safeguard children from any forms of exploitation, sexual and physical abuse. The discovery of any previous child abuse offenses (before or after an offer of employment) will disqualify a candidate. However, World Vision Tanzania does not discriminate against any prohibited criteria in its employment.

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

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Opt to use improved varieties of mangoes to lure international markets, farmers told

By Beatrice Philemon

AUTHORITIES in Chamwino District have allotted 200 acres of land set aside for mango cultivation to create employment for residents and attracting juice making industries in the area.

Acting Chamwino District Agricultural Officer Aithan Chaula revealed this recently when speaking to journalists on projects executed by ActionAid Tanzania in the district.

He said: "So far, more than 10,000 mango seedlings have been planted at Chifukulo village for mango production."

The official said that villagers are encouraged to plant improved mango varieties such as Keitt mango, Apple, Alfonso, Kent and Boribo.

Apart from contributing to household income, planting mangoes is also meant to conserve environment in the district, taking into accounts that most of the natural forests were cleared for charcoal firewood and uncontrolled farming activities, he said.

Commenting on market of mangoes, Chaula said: "To start with, we'll begin with domestic market and later on international market."

He however revealed that the district has allocated 1,800 acres of land for sugarcane production at Dabalo village and 300 acres of land for grapes cultivation.

Agronomist from Association of Mango growers in Tanzania (AMAGRO) Hamad Mkopi added that although mango growers are working hard to raise production in their farms, Tanzania has still not managed to supply

as many mangoes as required in the global market. They normally focus on domestic market.

He said: "There is huge demand for mangoes in Middle East, South Korea, Russia and Dubai."

So far, Mkopi said Tanzania produce about 372,000 tonnes of mangoes per year that is very meagre as compared to the market demand both in Tanzania and overseas.

Currently, the global market demand of mangoes is about 100,000 tonnes per week and it depend on the country that need it.



So far, more than 10,000 mango seedlings have been planted at Chifukulo village for mango production

"As I am speaking, the demand for mangoes is very huge in Middle East, South Korea and Russia," he noted.

He called on mango growers across the country to raise mango production because the demand for mango fruits is very high both in Tanzania and overseas.

"We have huge market for mangoes but the problem is lack of facilities for preserving fresh mangoes and other tropical fruits, with the number of people engaged in mango farming rising day by day," he said.



Raw cassava and an assortment of fruit on sale yesterday at the Buguruni market commuter bus stop in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Photographer

BoT embarks on financial literacy campaign in Mwanza

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has embarked on a campaign to create awareness among members of the public in Mwanza region on the importance of credit reporting and financial literacy.

Credit reporting is one of the essential enablers of a responsible credit system and can help a borrower to access loan easily.

The remarks were made here yesterday by Assistant Manager of

Credit Reference Operations of BoT, Nkanwa Magina at the event that brought together participants from different banks as well as Savings and Credit Co-operatives Societies (SACCOS) in the region.

Borrowers should strive to have their financial records kept properly as that will enable them to access loans from any banks easily and without trouble, he noted.

He pointed out that BoT has set out a system where anyone failed to remit a loan in a certain financial

institution will not be able to borrow money from another bank until the loan is repaid.

In that regard borrowers should know their loans history and make sure that they repay them accordingly to build a habit of being trusted in case they want to process another loan, he said.

According to Magina, credit reporting awareness is one element that is very important to make business grow and therefore businesspersons should conform to

the procedure.

Sales and Business Development Manager from Creditinfo Company, one of companies involving with keeping and giving loan information to financial institutions managed by BoT, Tonny Missokia said that they also sensitize borrowers to know the importance of credit reporting.

Branch Manager of Igoma National Microfinance Bank (NMB) in Mwanza, Olipa Hebel said the campaign will help the public and even banks to improve the system of lending.



Save the Children

EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Save the Children has been working in Tanzania for more than 30 years. We are working with government, local organizations and other international agencies to reduce child malnutrition, improve maternal, newborn and child health services, support and strengthen early childhood development, primary, alternative and inclusive education and educational systems. We strengthen child protection systems for vulnerable children, promote children's participation and contribution to policy and resource allocation for services which concern them, support, and respond to emergencies. We are looking for an experienced, enthusiastic and motivated and results oriented individual with strong commitment, and track record of effective programme delivery through sound project management, capacity building skills and a commitment to the promotion of children's rights to fill the following position:

1. Child Protection/Child Rights Governance Programme Manager – Dar es Salaam

ROLE PURPOSE: The Programme Manager is accountable for providing management and oversight of the implementation of the SIDA CP/CRG programme and to represent and advocate for Save the Children's work and organizational priorities in Child Protection and Child Rights Governance with a wide range of external parties including government representatives, communities, donors, UN and other humanitarian agencies operating in the area. Provide leadership and guidance to the programme team.

How to apply for the position:

Please read the full details of the position at <http://tanzania.savethechildren.net/jobs> and apply as instructed. Only submit cover letter and recent Curriculum Vitae in a single file. Do not attach any certificate at this stage, applications with certificates attachment shall not be considered. Indicate the position title and location in your cover letter. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

Indicate the position title and based location in your cover letter. Use your two names when attaching your CV and cover letter.

Application closing Date: 09th May 2019

"Save the Children is committed to ensuring that all our personnel and programmes are absolutely safe for children. We undertake rigorous procedures during the recruitment process including background checks to ensure that only people suitable to work with children are allowed to join our organisation and all candidates will therefore be subject to this scrutiny."

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Mavunde donates chicks worth 68m/- to improve incomes of poultry farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA-Urban Member of Parliament Anthony Mavunde has donated 23,000 chicks worth 68m/- to poultry farmers in his constituency.

Speaking during the function to hand over the chicks which was held at Dodoma city council offices yesterday, Mavunde said he will also provide different equipment to entrepreneurs groups.

The function was also attended by Dodoma city Mayor, Prof. David Mwamfupe and a number of councilors.

"The chicks will help citizens especially women to generate income by selling eggs and broiler chickens. There is a demand for poultry products in Dodoma since the population is now

growing", said Mavunde who is also the Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Ministers' Office (Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment and Disabled).

He said that plans are to distribute more chicks to more than 35 wards in Dodoma-Urban constituency. He said that his office supports poultry farmers through the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF).

Apart from providing chicks Mavunde said he will continue supporting poultry farmers with various equipment required for raising broilers including chicks' food for one month.

He said there are some entrepreneur's groups that have requested the support for establishment of aquaculture projects.

"Through CDCF we will make sure that those interested to engage in fish farming are equipped with necessary equipment as well as aquaculture skills", said the Deputy Minister.

Dodoma city statistics officer Debora Mwinje said that her office received a total of 68m/- from the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund for implementation of poultry and other development projects.

According to Mwinje, most of the citizens in the 41 wards in Dodoma-Urban constituency showed interest to venture into poultry farming and aquaculture.

Dodoma City Mayor, Prof. David Mwamfupe commended the MP insisting such kind of support helps improve the socio-welfare of citizens.



A Dar es Salaam resident whose identity was not immediately established engages in roadside environmental cleanliness at Kisutu in the city's central business district yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi



Vodacom Tanzania acting business director Linda Liwa (R, with microphone) speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the firm's service dubbed 'Data Datani' that will see Vodacom customer get more MBs when they buy internet bundles. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Investors urge govt to phase out the importation of seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

INVESTORS of seed production plantations and factories in Songwe region have appealed to the government to control importation of seeds to protect local manufacturers.

The investors' urge that authorities should promote locally manufactured hybrid seeds since they have been approved by agricultural research institutes and experts from ministry of agriculture.

One of the investors, Dr Marry Mgonja claimed that agricultural seeds importation discourages local manufacturers who invest much to ensure production of quality seeds.

She was speaking during a tour to inspect seed manufacturing plantations in Mbozi district. The farms produce maize, sorghum and sunflower seeds.

"There are huge consignments of seeds imported in the country every year, local manufacturers who produce the seeds in accordance with professional advices from local researchers are discouraged", she said adding that imported seeds are sold at higher prices.

Dr Mgonja noted that locally manufactured

seeds are sold at reasonable prices that every farmer can afford. She added that locally manufactured seeds can easily be distributed across the country.

Mbozi District Commissioner, John Palingo supported the views of the investors saying most of the agricultural inputs shops are flooded with imported seeds. "It is high time the government controlled importation of seeds to boost and protect local manufacturers", he said noting that locally manufactured seeds are of high quality.

DC Palingo invited manufacturers to establish seed manufacturing factories to facilitate its availability to farmers.

Director of Policy from the Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA) Dr Bob Chuma said there is no need for the government to continue importing seeds since the demand can be met by local manufacturers. "...who are also responsible for coordination and distribution of quality seeds, saying Tanzania produces enough seeds that can be sold outside the country.

He said that although Tanzania faces a shortage of seed plantations, the available farms in southern highland regions can produce enough for Tanzanian farmers and for export.

Elephant dies in Kenya from old age, thirst and starvation

KAJIADO

AN elephant has died from thirst, hunger and old age in Kenya's Kajiado Central sub-county.

Residents of Olepolos village on Saturday morning found the elephant dead.

County KWS senior warden Muteru Njauini told the Star the elephant died because of lack of water, hunger and old age.

He said it is a common feature in parts of the county to find wild animals' dead after prolonged drought. The official said most watering points and springs have dried up.

"The drought has also dried up plantation eaten by elephants and other herbivores. This has forced them to move to residential areas in search of water and grass," Njauini said.

He said there is also an increase in human-wildlife conflict in areas that border national parks and reserves because of the drought.

A week ago, the Star reported that a leopard attacked and seriously injured four people after it killed three goats in Bissil.

The KWS official said predators leave the parks in search of antelopes that have moved to open fields in search of pasture. They end up attacking unprotected livestock.

Njauini said residents are supposed to fence off their cows, goats and sheep pens to keep out wild animals. He said there should prove they were killed in a protected area when people seek compensation.

"We have warned residents that once their livestock are eaten by predators, they should report the matter to us instead of fighting the beasts," he said.

While the KWS is worried that the drought is taking a toll on the wildlife, residents are concerned about the welfare of their livestock.

Olepolos residents have appealed to the county government to sink more boreholes in their area because the open water pans have been taken over by wild animals.

Elder Paul Siloma said the drought situation requires "heavenly intervention".

Kenyan pastoralists, who used to cross over to Tanzania during the drought, fear arrest and confiscation of their livestock.

The Tanzanian government has banned cross-border grazing of livestock and has clearly indicated that any Kenyan livestock found in the country would be confiscated and auctioned.

Reports reaching Kajiado indicates some parts of Tanzania have received sufficient rainfall, but because of restrictions, Kenyan livestock cannot cross over.

Kenyan and Tanzanian livestock herders have been collaborating for many generations until after President John Magufuli took over power and came up with strict legislation on movement of livestock across international borders.

Magufuli argues that his government is spending millions of shillings in tackling livestock diseases, yet Kenyans cross over "with infected animals".

Meanwhile, River Ewuaso Ng'iro, which flows through Kajiado West subcounty from Narok to Lake Natron in Tanzania is at the brink of drying up.

Deputy county commissioner William Kakimoni on Saturday said the water situation is dire and if it does not rain soon, there would be a major problem with the people and their livestock.



We have warned residents that once their livestock are eaten by predators, they should report the matter to us instead of fighting the beasts

HAKIKA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED

Publications of financial statements for the quarter ended 31st March 2019

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019			
(Amounts in thousands of shillings)			
	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	
	31.03.2019	31.12.2018	
A. ASSETS			
1 Cash	204,571	277,955	
2 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	973,780	1,018,363	
3 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	2,002,137	1,906,958	
4 Other assets	833,828	738,895	
5 Property, Plant and Equipment	234,826	252,381	
6 TOTAL ASSETS	4,249,142	4,194,552	
B. LIABILITIES			
7 Customer deposits	654,847	657,291	
8 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	43,296	34,153	
9 Other liabilities	76,386	74,308	
10 TOTAL LIABILITIES	774,529	765,752	
11 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (6 minus 10)	3,474,613	3,428,800	
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			
12 Paid up share capital	5,708,877	5,708,877	
13 Capital reserves	-	-	
14 Retained earnings	(2,270,645)	(1,765,986)	
15 Profit (Loss) account	(20,520)	(514,091)	
16 Regulatory reserve	38,594	-	
17 General Provision reserve	18,307	-	
18 Minority Interest	-	-	
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	3,474,613	3,428,800	
19 Contingent liabilities	-	-	
20 Non performing loans & advances	61,469	57,925	
21 Allowances for probable losses	35,452	83,804	
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS			
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets		82%	
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans		3%	
(iii) Net loans and advances to total deposits		306%	
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets		47%	
(v) Earning assets to total assets		47%	
(vi) Assets growth		1%	
(vii) Deposits Growth		-36%	

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019				
(Amounts in million shillings)				
	Current Quarter	Comparative Quarter (Previous Year)	Current Yr P&L Cumulative	Comparative Yr (Previous Year) P&L Cumulative
	31ST MARCH 2019	31ST MARCH 2018	31ST MARCH 2019	31ST MARCH 2018
1 Interest Income	126,608	63,100	126,608	63,100
2 Interest Expense	2,027	12,918	2,027	12,918
3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	124,581	50,182	124,581	50,182
4 Bad Debts Written-Off	-	-	-	-
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	5,132	18,593	5,132	18,593
6 Non Interest Income:	22,674	12,680	1,119	12,680
6.1 Foreign currency dealings and translation	-	-	-	-
6.2 Fees and Commissions	21,555	-	21,555	-
6.3 Dividend	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other Operating Income	1,119	12,680	1,119	12,680
7 Non Interest Expenses:	162,643	206,845	162,643	206,845
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	73,469	81,886	73,469	81,886
7.2 Fees and Commission	26,135	11,264	26,135	11,264
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	63,039	113,695	63,039	113,695
8 Operating Income/(Loss)	(20,520)	(162,576)	(20,520)	(162,576)
9 Income Tax Provision	-	-	-	-
10 Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax	(20,520)	(162,576)	(20,520)	(162,576)
11 Other Comprehensive Income (itemize)	-	-	-	-
12 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the	(20,520)	(162,576)	(20,520)	(162,576)
13 Number of Employees	11	13	11	13
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	-1%	-6%	-1%	-6%
15 Number of Branches	1	1	1	1
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	0%	-5%	0%	-5%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Fund	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	109%	273%	109%	273%
(iv) Net Interest Income to average earning assets	6%	6%	6%	6%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019				
(Amounts in million shillings)				
	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Current Year Cumulative	Comparative Year (Previous Year)
	31ST MARCH 2019	31-Dec-18	31ST MARCH 2019	31ST MARCH 2018
I. Cash flow from operating activities:				
Net income/(loss)	(20,520)	(63,351)	(20,520)	(162,576)
Adjustments for:				
- Impairment/Amortization	5,132	(3,885)	5,132	32,833
- Net change in Loans and Advances	(95,179)	(449,912)	(95,179)	10,109
- Gain/loss on Sale of Assets	-	-	-	-
- Net change in Deposits	(2,444)	37,084	(2,444)	(333,985)
- Net change in short term Negotiable securities	-	-	-	-
- Net change in Other Liabilities	(2,078)	(38,432)	(2,078)	(54,143)
- Net change in Other Assets	(94,933)	(35,788)	(94,933)	(140,036)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(216,022)	(544,284)	(216,022)	(647,798)
II. Cash flow from investing activities:				
Purchase of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Change in other assets/prepayments	92,055	-	92,055	-
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	92,055	-	92,055	-
III. Cash flow from financing activities:				
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	-	-	2,843,357
Net Cash Provided (used) by Financing Activities	-	-	-	2,843,357
IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:				
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(117,967)	(544,284)	(216,022)	1,995,559
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter	1,296,318	2,315,958	1,296,318	278,405
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter	1,178,351	1,743,731	1,086,296	2,273,964

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019							
(Amounts in million shillings)							
	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
Current Quarter							
Balance as at the beginning of the quarter	5,188,786	-	(1,750,554)	-	-	-	3,438,232
Profit for the quarter	(20,520)	-	-	-	-	-	(20,520)
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	38,594	-	-	38,594
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	18,307	-	18,307
Balance as at the end of the current quarter	5,168,266	-	(1,750,554)	38,594	18,307	-	3,474,613
Previous Quarter							
Balance as at the beginning of the Quarter	5,242,137	-	(1,765,986)	-	-	-	3,476,151
Profit for the quarter	(53,351)	-	-	-	-	-	(53,351)
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the quarter	5,188,786	-	(1,765,986)	-	-	-	3,428,800

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements

Name and Title	Signature	Date
Elinshaha D. Nassari Operations Manager		25/04/2019
Naisosion Lalzer Ag. Finance and Administration Manager		25/04/2019
Anitha W. Ballani Internal Auditor		25/04/2019

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
1. Ms Sia Njau Vice Board Chairman		25/04/2019
2. Michael M. Kiluluzo Director		25/04/2019

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES 2019	
(I) TRANSACTION	
Bank Statement	
Statement fees up to 6 months	5,000
Statement fees up to 12months	10,000
Statement fees above 12months	18,000
Standing order (within Hakika Bank)	3,000
Certificate of Bank Balance	20,000
Monthly Salary Processing fee	700
Loss of ID Card	2,000
Withdraw fee over the Counter	500-15000
Balance Enquiry	Free
Dormant Account activation Fee	10,000
Bulk Cash Deposit	Free
Monthly Services Fee	Free
Account Closure	10,000
Cash Deposit Charge	Free
Bank Statement up to one month	Free
(II) REQUIREMENT MINIMUM OPENING BALANCE	
Hakika Saving account	20,000
Other Saving accounts	10,000
Business account	100,000
Premium saving account	100,000
(III) LENDING RATES	
Small	24% Flat
Medium	24% Reducing
Large	22% Reducing
Loan processing fee and Charges (Insurance fee,application fee and legal fee)	3% of approved amount (once time cost)
Overdraft	19% p.a
Penalty of unpaid amount	0.5%
MOBILE BANKING	
Mobile balance enquiry	200
Transfer from bank to mobile (B2W)	1000
Transfer from mobile to bank (W2B)	1000
Mobile mini statement enquiry	200
(IV) FIXED DEPOSITS	
3 Months	3%
6 Months	5%
9 Months-12Months	6%
12Months	8%
This rate is negotiable for amount exceeding 30 Million	
V) DEPOSIT RATE	
Star Saving Account (for Children)	4%p.a
Business account	1.5% p.a
Saving Accounts	3%p.a

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Safe, healthy future for workers a basic necessity internationally

INSPIRED by the ILO centenary and discussions on the future of work, the world day this year attempts to take stock of a 100 years of work in improving occupational safety and health and looks to the future for continuing these efforts through major changes such as technology, demographics, sustainable development including climate change and changes in work organization.

The World Day celebration on 28 April 2019 will be only the beginning of worldwide events and activities to continue throughout the rest of the year.

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.

A national occupational safety and health culture is one in which the right to a safe and healthy working environment is respected at all levels, where governments, employers and workers actively participate in securing a safe and healthy working environment through a system of defined rights, responsibilities and duties, and where the highest priority is accorded to the principle of prevention.

The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended

to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries.

The ILO celebrates the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on the 28 April to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health and on the magnitude of work-related injuries, diseases and fatalities worldwide.

With the celebration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the ILO promotes the creation of a global preventative safety and health culture involving ILO constituents and all key stakeholders in this field. In many parts of the world, national authorities, trade unions, employers' organizations and safety and health practitioners organize activities to celebrate this date. We invite you to join us in celebrating this significant day and share with us the activities you organize.

The 28 April is also the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996. Its purpose is to honour the memory of victims of occupational accidents and diseases by organizing worldwide mobilizations and awareness campaigns on this date.



Apartheid's banks no closer to facing justice

BY LEE-ANNE BRUCE AND TABITHA PAINE

WITHOUT the help of European banks, the apartheid government would not have been able to buy arms and continue its campaign of violence and oppression. Between 1977 and 1994, countless people lost their lives while the banks essentially profited from their deaths. What can be done to hold the banks accountable for their role in supporting apartheid? For the past 12 months, Open Secrets and CALS have pursued justice in Europe, only to find that some of these banks have infiltrated the very mechanisms meant to investigate them.

In the late 1970s, the apartheid regime was doing everything in its power to maintain its rule by fear and by force – waging war everywhere from the streets of the townships to the borders of neighbouring states.

Images of 13-year-old Hector Pieterse's lifeless body, and reports of Steve Biko being beaten and left to die naked in a police cell, were typical examples of the state-sponsored violence of the time. News of these incidents sparked a renewed outrage around the world and prompted the international community to intensify its response to apartheid.

In 1977, the United Nations Security Council introduced mandatory arms sanctions against South Africa. The point was obvious: Isolate the apartheid regime and cut off its supply of weapons. No weapons, no violence. No violence, no way to control the people, no regime. Unfortunately, like oppressive regimes the world over, the apartheid government was never quite so friendless and alone.

One of their most openly vocal supporters was a Belgian politician and businessman named André Vlerick. Vlerick was both a high-ranking executive at Kredietbank and one-time Belgian minister of finance. He was also the founder of several organisations based in Europe which produced pro-apartheid propaganda and received funding from the apartheid government for these efforts. Even more sinister than his open admiration of apartheid was the support his banks offered the regime behind closed doors. Both Kredietbank and its sister bank in Luxembourg stand accused of knowingly assisting the apartheid government to buy arms and smuggle the equivalent of half a trillion rand out of the country illegally through one of the most complex money-laundering systems at the time.

In fact, evidence collected over years of extensive research by Apartheid Guns and Money author Hennie van



Vuuren, suggests that these banks are responsible for up to 70% of the transactions used to buy weapons and further militarise the apartheid state during the two decades that the UN arms sanctions were in place.

To be clear, the banks were not only actively involved in supporting and sustaining a violent, racist regime, they were also more than willing to profit from it. During this time, Kredietbank grew from a relatively small bank to one of Europe's largest. Today, operating under the name KBC Group, it is one of the top 250 public companies in the world measured by turnover. It is a business that was built, at least in part, on supporting apartheid – on fees collected from facilitating illegal arms transactions that allowed the apartheid government to continue its campaign of systemic and structural violence and oppression. It is a business that not only turned a blind eye to the assassinations of struggle heroes and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people during the Border War, but indirectly profited from them.

It is a business that continues to thrive off these profits while millions of South Africans still live with apartheid's legacy of poverty and inequality.

Until 2018, the banks had never been called to account for the pivotal role they played during apartheid. Using the evidence collected for Apartheid Guns and Money, Open Secrets and its lawyers at Wits University's Centre for Applied Legal Studies decided to change that. The organisations lodged a complaint against KBC Group and Kredietbank Luxembourg with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (the OECD) on 24 April 2018. This club of the world's richest nations has one of the only international mechanisms available to hold businesses accountable for human rights violations and ensure redress for corporate misconduct.

The complaint asks the OECD national contact points in Belgium and Luxembourg to investigate and hold the banks accountable for violating its guidelines and committing economic crimes. Depending on the outcome of the investigations, the contact points could then make a number of other recommendations, from insisting the banks issue an apology to suggesting European authorities charge the banks for their crimes. Shockingly, given the gravity of the issue, the complaint has not even made it past the first hurdle. What should have been a three-month process to decide on whether to proceed with the investigations, has now become a 12-month process of delay and obfuscation. The last of many undertakings received by the contact points was that a decision would be reached by 31 March 2019. This date has come and gone, with no answers, despite the fact that all they are being asked to do is evaluate whether the basic facts of the complaints merit further investigation.

It's possible that the reason we have not yet received a seemingly clear-cut decision a year later lies in the decision-making structures of the OECD contact points themselves. Open Secrets and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies have exposed a serious conflict of interest within the Belgian contact point.

KBC Group has representatives in senior positions in the largest business federations involved in deciding whether to proceed with the investigation against it. This presents a clear and direct interest for them to dismiss the complaint. Open Secrets and the Centre for Applied Legal Studies have repeatedly written to the contact points in Belgium and Luxembourg, as well as the OECD Secretary-General based in Paris, about our concerns. Though the Secretary-General has confirmed the conflict of

interest and made recommendations to the contact points, this has largely been ignored.

The Belgian contact point has not recused the conflicted federations from the decision-making process, has not provided reasons for ignoring the recommendations, has not met their own deadline for a decision, and has not given clear reasons for the delay or their refusal to take action against the conflict of interest.

Far from living up to their stated values of transparency and accountability, the contact points in Belgium and Luxembourg, and indeed the OECD more broadly, have instead made us question the power and legitimacy of the mechanism itself. If it takes more than 12 months before even reaching the first decision in a series of processes, if the contact points cannot follow their own guidelines on conflicts of interest, how can the OECD adequately fulfil its own mandate? Indeed, how can anyone hold these companies committing human rights violations to account without effective and uncompromised accountability mechanisms?

The atrocities committed during apartheid would not have been possible without banks to facilitate the flow of cash. These banks and the other companies that generate their profit on the back of pain, suffering, and oppression cannot be allowed to keep those profits and the pretence of respectability. In the long term we need a binding, impartial, international instrument to accomplish this – to get some sense of justice for the past and do everything possible to prevent the same thing from happening in the future.

Right now, we are calling on the OECD to ensure that justice is done and seen to be done. Further delays and tolerance of conflicts of interest only serve to fuel the flames of impunity.

The world needs to raise awareness on consequences of Chernobyl disaster

THE United Nations (UN) has proclaimed April 26 International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. The day was first observed in 2016, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1986 nuclear disaster.

An explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986 spread a radioactive cloud over large parts of the Soviet Union, now the territories of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Nearly 8.4 million people in the three countries were exposed to the radiation.

According to official reports, thirty-one people died immediately and 600,000 liquidators, involved in fire-fighting and clean-up operations, were exposed to high doses of radiation. Based on the official reports, nearly 8,400,000 people in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine were exposed to the radiation, which is more than the population of Austria.

During the first four years after the Chernobyl accident the Soviet authorities decided to largely deal with the consequences of the explosion at a national level. Without Soviet endorsement, the United Nations and its partners sought ways to provide emergency support, which included assessing the nuclear safety and environmental conditions of the contaminated area, and diagnosing the various medical conditions that resulted from the accident. The UN also focused on raising the awareness of the area's inhabitants, teaching them how to protect themselves from radionuclides found in the environment and in agricultural products.

Many count the year 1990 as a crucial point in the United Nations' involvement in the Chernobyl recovery.

The Soviet government acknowledged the need for

international assistance only in 1990. That same year the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. That was the start of the United Nations' involvement in the Chernobyl recovery. An Inter-Agency Task Force was established to coordinate the Chernobyl co-operation. In 1991 the UN created the Chernobyl Trust Fund – currently under the management of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Since 1986, the UN family of organisations and major NGOs have launched more than 230 different research and assistance projects in the fields of health, nuclear safety, rehabilitation, environment, production of clean foods and information.

In 2002 the United Nations announced a shift in the Chernobyl strategy, with a new focus on a long-term developmental approach. UNDP and its regional offices in the three affected countries took the lead in the implementation of the new strategy. There is still a great deal of work that needs to be done in the affected region. To provide support to international, national and public programmes targeted at the sustainable development of these territories, in 2009 UN launched the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN).

On 8 December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 26 April as International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. In its resolution, the General Assembly recognised that three decades after the disaster there remains persistent serious long-term consequences and that the affected communities and territories are experiencing continuing related needs.

The beauty of dreams

WHEN I was young I had a dream of becoming a lawyer then becoming the first female Chief Justice General in the country.

I was very determined, ok in my words, but my actions were not collaborating with me. You see I am a versatile learner. I get easily bored of doing the same thing over and over. So even though I have an absorbing memory and was able to easily regurgitate in the exams what the teachers had said during the term, I never kept still. If I was not skiving off to buy maandazi through the school fence in Primary school, I was skipping classes in high school and missing evening preps all together.

And the way the country's education system is wired, you either tow the line or fall down the abyss. Never got grades to take me to public university, leave alone take a that law degree. All did not get lost though, I still made my way through undergraduate and graduate school. Still got dreams of a PhD

But in the eyes of m grandmother, I was a lawyer. That is the name she called me to her dying bed. Even on her phone book she had saved me as Lawyer. My loving



You can accomplish your dreams even if you have buried some

uncle up until recently still called me Chief Justice... sigh

Dreams

Over the growing years, I have had many other dreams, which fortunately or unfortunately have come to naught. Some of those dreams have been very dear and hard to let go while others, well, I easily let slide.

I am sure you have also had your fair share of dreams. Some have lived while unfortunately or fortunately other have died.

When I grow up I want to be...

By xyz:

I will be married...

I will own my own house...

I will have children...

I will have travelled the world...

I will have lost weight...

I will have six-pack...

I will be earning a 6-figure salary...

I will have published my first book...

I will have...

I will have done...

I will be...

Then dream death strikes

It is not an easy thing to acknowledge the death of a dream, let alone letting the dead dream go. If you are like me, you are always resuscitating dreams, putting them on life support and continuing to pay huge emotional, financial, mental, social and physical bills (price) to keep such dreams alive. At some point you realize, you need, you must face the reality that your beloved dream is no more. And then allow the grieving process to begin: easier said than done.

As I continue to grow, I am daily reconciling with the reality that dreams can and do die. The reality that holding on to some of these dreams to the detriment of even my

health is not a wise choice continues to dawn on me every day, but the willpower to let go is something else all together. And so I have been on a dream funeral phase for almost a year now. Taking stock of my dreams, big and small, consequential and not so consequential and putting to rest those that are no longer breathing.

Grieving Process or better Grieving Maze

One of the things I have realized with the loss of a dream as with the loss of a loved one the grieving process swings into action immediately. As with the loss of human life, the grieving process of a dream does not follow the chatted path. Instead of moving from one stage to another it is a mixed up maze of emotions and stages.

I teach a personal development course 'Integrated Living' and one of the hard lessons is on 'Mortality'. Accepting the fact that one is mortal - limited in strength, ability, control, span of life. It is not easy to accept one's mortality especially when faced with loss; Loss of dreams, loss of life. And that's why the bargaining stage of grief is there. We cannot for the life of us believe that our dream, our loved one is slipping from us and there is nothing, nothing that we can do to stop this.

Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate M.D in their book "Hold On To Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter Than Peers" call this feeling 'futility'. Realizing your limitation, it is such an asset in living life. Unfortunately many of us do not acquire this life



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giving skill while young and thus struggle through the rest of our life fighting futilities, on a wrestling match with futility and a losing one at that. We never learnt early enough that dreams like human beings can say a resounding NO to your advances. That dreams can reject you and you would do well to reconcile with the rejection rather than engage in the futility of fighting for dreams that are dead.

Once you engage the grieving process of your dear dreams, you are on a path towards healing and freedom. Yes the initial shock might reel you back 100 steps but you will go through, if you choose to, even when everything in your system is telling you otherwise. Because we all know peeps that have stuck in grief stages for years, numb, completely unable to move beyond shock and all through to acceptance. Once again, it is a life skill, one that we'll all do well to cultivate in our lives and intentionally teach the younger ones for their overall life health.

The Dream Funeral

Unlike in the loss of human life where

we perform elaborate funeral rites and finally bury the dead, dream funerals are not so easy to bury.

Some people like Tania Ngima (watch to her story here) perform their dream funeral by writing them down in a piece of paper and then burning it up, surrounded by supporting village of course.

Please share with me other ways to perform a dream funeral.

Bottom line a dream funeral involves actions that evoke the emotions of grief and letting go. Better to do it practically in the way that works best for you, as long as you do it. And allow you to heal and to dream again!

Beauty from ashes

The beauty of dreams is that you can always dream again.

You can dream new dreams as long as life is flowing through your veins.

You can accomplish your dreams even if you have buried some.

So arise and shine!

Dream again!

Then go get your dreams!

Women and girls 'preyed on as the spoils of war'

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria,

"They forcefully took us away and kept us like prisoners," Lydia Musa, a former Boko Haram captive who was abducted at the age of 14 during an attack on her village in Gwoza, in Nigeria's north eastern Borno State, tells IPS. Musa and two other underage girls were captured and forced to marry Boko Haram fighters in spite of their protests that they were too young to marry.

"You must marry whether you like it or not they told us as they pointed guns at us," the now 16-year-old girl recalls.

Boko Haram's violation of the rights of women and children paints a larger picture of human trafficking, forced marriages and enslavement in Nigeria.

As the extremist group enters the 10th year of its insurgency, it remains formidable enough to abduct women and children at will, continuing "to prey on women and girls as spoils of war," Anietie Ewang, Nigeria country researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

This West African nation has the highest incidence of Africans being trafficked through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The north and north eastern parts of the country, where Boko Haram is active, have high incidences of forced marriages, while across the country there are frequent cases of young girls being 'traded' as modern day slaves.

The group, whose name means 'Western education is forbidden', is reputed to be among the five-deadliest terror groups in



the world. It has been involved in a violent campaign for strict Islamic rule in north east Nigeria and in parts of the neighbouring states of Cameroon, Chad and Niger. More than 20,000 people have been killed since the start of the insurgency in 2009.

Boko Haram is also involved in the kidnapping, trafficking and enslavement of children and women. Hundreds of women and children have been abducted since the group's insurgency started. But Boko Haram's most well-known abduction occurred in April 2014, when 276 female students were taken away from their dormitory at the Government Secondary School, Chibok, in Borno State.

The abduction started a global campaign #BringBackOurGirls.

A few months after the Chibok girls were abducted, Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, said he would sell them. "I am the one who captured all those girls and I will sell all of them," he said in an online video in which he justified human slavery. "Slavery is allowed in my religion and I shall capture people and make them slaves."

Consequently there have been other mass abductions of children in the region since the Chibok incident. In March 2015, Boko Haram fighters abducted more than 300 children from Zanna Mobarti Primary

School in Damasak; while 116 female students from the Government Girls Science and Technical College, in Dapchi, Yobe State, were abducted in February 2018 during an attack on the school.

"The way Boko Haram hold women and children against their will is by itself a form of slavery," Rotimi Olawale of the group Bring Back Our Girls (BBOG) tells IPS. The group is involved in a powerful search and rescue of the Chibok girls and other abducted women and children.

Olawale says Boko Haram is also using captives, like the Chibok girls, as "valuable bargaining chips" to collect ransoms and secure the release of their members held in Nigerian prisons. While many of the Chibok girls are still missing five years after their abduction, others escaped or were released by Boko Haram in deals made with the Nigerian government. But 112 girls are reportedly still missing.

In an apparent reference to Boko Haram, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that since 2012, non-state armed groups in north east Nigeria have recruited and used children as combatants and non-combatants, raped and forced girls to marry and committed other grave violations against children.

Accounts by others who escaped from Boko Haram's captivity confirm this.

Ali Mohammed is also a former Boko Haram captive. He tells IPS that while in captivity he saw Boko Haram members using captive girls as sex slaves. "At night they freely go

to where the girls are kept to pick them for sex," he explains.

Another former Boko Haram captive who preferred to be called Halima says male children born through sexual slavery are being bred to be the new generation of Boko Haram fighters. Halima, who gave birth to twins (a boy and a girl), tells IPS how Boko Haram members always celebrate when a baby boy is born in their camps.

"Once they realise it is a male baby they will start shooting their guns into the air in happy mood saying that a new leader has been born," she says.

"After I delivered the babies, they carried the male in jubilation and were chatting Allah Akbar, in contrast, they did not show any joy with the female, they did not even touch her."

Boko Haram's abduction of young persons are in part aimed at turning them into fighters. UNICEF says between 2013 and 2017 more than 3,500 children, most of whom were aged 13 to 17, were recruited by non-state armed groups who used them in the armed conflict in north east Nigeria. UNICEF says the true figures are likely to be higher because its figures are only of those cases that have been verified.

Musa confirms that while in captivity she saw abducted boys being trained to be Boko Haram fighters. "In the mornings, they normally teach them how to shoot guns and carry out attacks," she says, adding that some of the boys were just 10 years old.

Boko Haram is also known to train children to become suicide bombers. A UNICEF report in 2017, says between January and August of that year, 83 children, mainly girls, were used by Boko Haram as suicide bombers. The UN's children agency said this figure was four times higher than it was for 2016.

Attempts to use legislation to address such abuses as child marriage, sexual abuse, trafficking and abduction have failed in the past. In 2003, Nigeria adopted the Child Rights Act as a legal documentation to protect children from these abuses. Currently the country's constitution does not have a minimum age of marriage. Though the Child Rights Act set the marriageable age as 18, it failed in part because a number of Nigeria's 36 states refused to domesticate the law.

"It was also a failure in states where it was adopted because it only existed on paper and was not enforced," Betty Abah, a women and children's rights activist, tells IPS.

In 2016, Nigeria's male-dominated senate voted against a Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill. The bill in part prohibits trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children. The bill, which also prohibits forced marriage, set 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage.

According to UNICEF, 43 percent of girls in Nigeria are married off before they turn 18. Some of the lawmakers who voted against the bill cited such grounds as their religion which permitted underage marriage.

"It sends a very bad signal that we have a long way to go if those who are supposed to make laws to protect women and children feel these laws are not necessary," Abah says.

In the meantime, Musa, may have fled the captivity of Boko Haram but she is too terrified to return home. She now lives in Maiduguri, which is also in Borno State and about 130 kms from Gwoza.

She tells IPS she is home sick. "I am always praying for the crisis to end so that I can return home, for now I cant go back because I don't want to risk being taken away by Boko Haram again."

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Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

Does China 'Belt and Road' initiative benefit Africa?

By Gerald Mbanda

THE fact that the Belt and Road project was initiated by China, but serves development interests of other countries is a confirmation of President Xi Jinping's belief that the world can work together for the betterment of humanity, with shared prosperity, and that poverty elimination is possible and can be speeded up within developing countries.

President Xi looks at the benefits of the 'Belt and Road initiative in the lens of the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, with a view to realizing common development and prosperity and building a community of shared future for mankind.

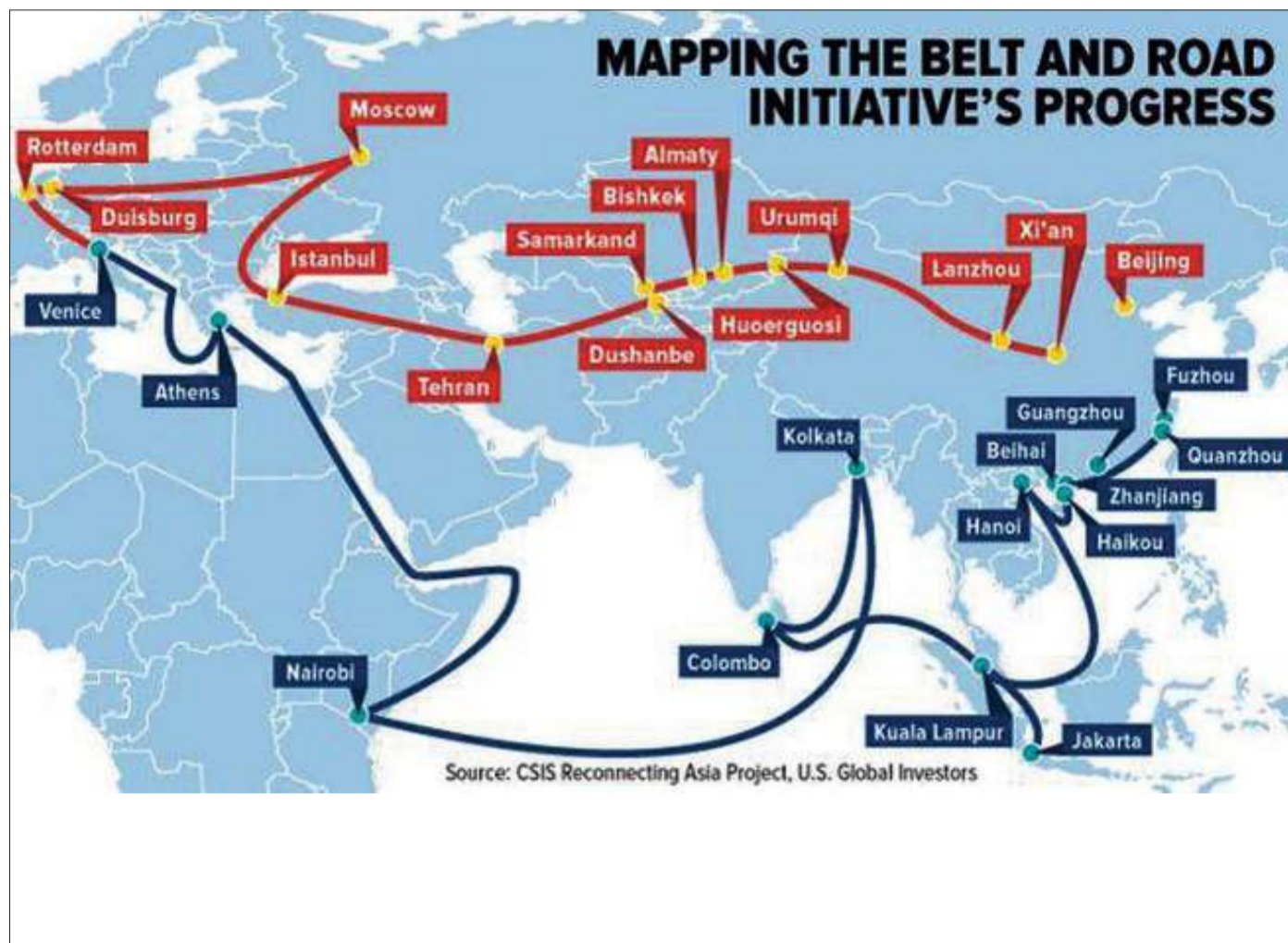
According to the African Economic Outlook Report (AEO, 2018), poor infrastructure is highlighted as a key challenge to Africa's inclusive growth.

The report mentions that the problem is created by lack of investment in infrastructure, and Africa needs an estimate of \$130-170bn annually to overcome the problem. The building of roads, railways and waterways will increase continental connectivity to ease import and export.

The One Belt One Road Initiative has significantly invested in improving infrastructure in Africa, for example, in Kenya where China has invested \$14 billion to build a Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that stretches 485kms.

The One Belt One Road initiative gives developing countries an opportunity to have space in the global economy, create jobs and guarantee prosperity.

The Belt and Road initiative creates solutions to Africa's continental development agenda 2063, and promotes The China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), started in October 2000, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between China and African countries.



Source: CSIS Reconnecting Asia Project, U.S. Global Investors

The Ethiopia-Djibouti 756km electric railway project enabled land-locked Ethiopia to be connected to the Mediterranean sea, hence making it easy to promote trade and movement of people not only with Djibouti, but also playing a significant role in continental integration and connecting to the outside world.

At the time of inaugurating the Ethiopia-Djibouti Chinese built railway, the African Union Advisor on Regional Integration, Rossette Nyirinkindi observed that, the project demonstrated China's commitment to supporting Af-

rica in realizing the continent's aspirations for development. She further said that, "They (the Chinese) have demonstrated that they can stand by us to achieve our aspirations; and especially on infrastructure, this is a very good example of that very good cooperation."

China and Africa, have opportunities of cooperation and have always been a community of shared interests.

According to the statistics by China Customs, in January 2018,

the import and export value of China-Africa trade amounted to US\$16.5 billion, with China's exports to Africa amounting to US\$8.31 billion, while China's imports from Africa stood at US\$8.19 billion.

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for nine consecutive years as major cooperation programs that deepened bilateral economic and trade exchanges, have been on the increase.

During the FOCAC meeting

that took place in December 2015, in Johannesburg, South Africa, President Xi Jinping pledged \$60 billion in form of aid and loans to the African continent.

In July 2018, President Xi, visited Senegal, Rwanda and South Africa where he signed a number of cooperation agreements. In Senegal, President Macky Sall, noted that, "Senegal takes a positive view of China's role in Africa, for its contribution to peace and stability and equally ... for the financing of budgets."

During the September 2018 Summit of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation held in Beijing, the Rwandan President Paul Kagame, noted in his speech that, "Africa's wish is to be a full and integral part of the Belt and Road Initiative."

Kagame who also served as the African Union Chairman, further said, "China's engagement in Africa has been deeply transformational, both internally, and with respect to Africa's global position."

That is why we now want to reinforce and scale up the Forum, in order to maximize the benefits". These statements from African leaders, is a great testimony that China's Belt and Road initiative is a great opportunity for Africa's development.

However, it is important to note that although African countries realize the benefits of partnering with China in promoting the "Belt and Road" projects, Western critics try to paint another picture of Africa being choked with Chinese debts that could leave African nations with no choice but to hand over controlling stakes in strategic assets to the Chinese government, and the 're-colonization of Africa'.

This is not the case. The real fact is that China has challenged the decade's long dominance of both US and EU in Africa and the above view is meant to bias African countries against China.

African countries that struggle to pay their loans may have problems related bad negotiations skills, bad utilization of the loans or even high appetite for loans that may prove difficult to pay. In such cases, the problem is not attributed to the lender.

Secondly, China loans have no strings attached unlike those given by Western financial institutions.

In a study conducted in 2016, in thirty six countries by Afrobarometer, a Pan-African research network, an average of 63 percent of Africans are highly impressed by China's economic and political relationship with Africa.

Former Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, once put it that, "China which has fought its own battles to modernize, has a much greater sense of the personal urgency of development in Africa than many Western nations".

As China prepares to host the second Belt and Road forum in April 2019, the writing is on the wall that the initiative connects world countries and promotes mutually beneficial projects for the improvement of the wellbeing of world populations and achievement of sustainable development goals.

The author is a journalist based in Kigali, Rwanda, and is a commentator on political issues in Africa and editor of an upcoming book on China and Rwanda.

Lost in the Cyberworld? The enigmatic Mr Assange

STOCKHOLM / ROME

TRUMP'S electoral success was preceded by a rise of chauvinistic politics in most of Europe, paired with electoral triumphs of far-right candidates in several other countries. A development accompanied by revelations of corrupt leaders laundering and transferring illegally obtained money, aided by financial institutions finding the means to do so.

The world seems to move away from a rule-based order to a state of affairs dominated by might and wealth. World leaders' private business dealings thrive within a global environment where laws intended to protect human rights are becoming increasingly ineffective.

Foreign policies appear to be adapted to private gains and personal vendettas. Global financial systems seem to be crafted to facilitate kleptocracy and money laundering, while repression and violence smite whistle-blowers and daring journalists.

Endeavours supported by propaganda and smear campaigns orchestrated by political/financial consultants and private investigation firms. All this is made possible through complicated schemes using the internet.

Within the boundless ambience of cyberspace, we find WikiLeaks, founded to facilitate the proliferation of classified documents revealing opaque, often illicit activities. Julian Assange was, and remains a member of the organisation's nine-member advisory board, making final decisions about which documents to be published on the site.

Wikileaks's servers are located in Sweden, nevertheless, this has not hindered Swedish authorities from rejecting Assange's applications for a working permit.

WikiLeaks publishes information that people in power does not want the multitude to know and thus constitutes a kind of investigative journalism, which is particularly relevant today.

An example - in 2016 more than 11 million documents detailing financial information about 214,488 offshore entities were leaked from a Panamanian law firm to the German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung.

These documents revealed hidden theft and corruption endemic to several



Julian Assange

Governments. No one could seriously repudiate the correctness of publishing them.

By 2015, WikiLeaks had published more than 10 million documents and was by Assange described as "a giant library of the world's most persecuted documents." In 2009, WikiLeaks posted a classified video showing US helicopter crews killing 18 people in Iraq, including two Reuters journalists. The same year, WikiLeaks published a quarter of a million diplomatic cables originating from classified US Government files, followed by the publication in 2010 of a trove of secret documents related to the US detention facility in Guantánamo.

The Empire stroke back. Shortly after the Iraqi videos had been released United States authorities began to investigate Assange, intending to prosecute him under an Espionage Act from 1917. Assange was by then a hero of free speech.

WikiLeaks had uncovered indiscriminate killing, hypocrisy, and corruption, as well as being instrumental in sparking the Arab Spring. In 2009, Assange received Amnesty International Media Award for WikiLeaks's reporting of ex-

trajudicial executions in Kenya. He was being called The Rockstar of Free Speech.

However, after 2010 rumours surfaced about Assange as being excessively self-asserting, blinded by success and ruling WikiLeaks as his personal fiefdom. Furthermore, Assange was accused of being biased, curbing anything criticising Russia.

Suspensions accentuated during the 2016 US presidential election when WikiLeaks published emails from Hillary Clinton's private email account, apparently leaked by Russian agents. 2

Since 2011, Assange had under constant surveillance been isolated in London's Ecuadorian embassy, living in a small windowless room equipped with a mattress, sunlamp, computer, kitchenette, shower, treadmill, and bookshelves. In an adjoining room he received a steady stream of visitors. Assange suffered from the horrors of confinement, though until the last few months of his immurement he was, like he had been for most of his life,

through his computer connected with the world.

He reminded of the Genie of Disney's Aladdin, who confined to his golden lamp stated: "It's all part of the whole genie gig: Phenomenal cosmic power ... itty-bitty living space."

Whenever Assange was displeased he unloaded his WikiLeaks weapon. When the Ecuadorian president Lenin Moreno during the last year of Assanges's stay at the London embassy ordered the closing down of his internet connection, Assange threatened to release documents proving that Moreno was guilty of corruption, perjury and money laundering. Assange's account was reopened, though on 11 April this year he was dragged out of the Ecuadorian embassy. How had he ended up there?

In August 2010, Assange visited Sweden to inspect WikiLeaks's servers. During his stay he was by two women accused of rape and sexual misconduct. Assange was arrested in his absence, after initial questioning he had escaped to London, where he was apprehended. A British court decided to extradite Assange, though by then Ecuador had already granted him political asylum and a safe haven within its embassy.

There may be good reasons for Assange's fear of being extradited to the US, though that does not exempt him from suspicions of sexual misconduct.

The women's detailed stories about their encounters with Assange and his statements about Sweden as the "Saudi Arabia of Feminism" suggest that tales about his sordid behaviour might be true, indicating that the Swedish incident was not the "honey trap" his defenders claimed it to be.

Julian Assange had a difficult childhood, growing up in over thirty Australian small towns before he in his mid-teens settled with his mother in Melbourne. His father left even before Julian was born and since then his mother was involved with several

men, among them Leif Meynell, a controversial cult leader.

Assange's schooling was capricious, though since childhood he was a computer wizard and later studied programming, mathematics and physics at the University of Melbourne, though not completing any degree, busying himself with computer related business. In his teens, Assange married and had a son, but divorced after a few years. Assange's family life is enigmatic.

A former spokesperson of WikiLeaks claimed that Assange admitted having "multiple children" with various women. According to police documents he has "at least" four children, though the locations of the children and their mothers are unknown. It appears as if Assange, like many other computer nerds, spends more time in cyberspace than in the real world.

Apparently was Assange's mistrust of the West fuelled during his years of confinement, making him increasingly numb to abuses committed by the Kremlin, which he viewed as a "bulwark against Western Imperialism". The US, Great Britain and Sweden caused him trouble, something Russia never did, it even supported him.

Assange has declared that the US Democratic Party is "whipping up a neo-McCarthyist hysteria about Russia" and defends WikiLeaks's lenient treatment of Russian offences by stating: "Every man and his dog is criticizing Russia. It's a bit boring, isn't it?"

In April 2012, when WikiLeaks's funding was drying up under American pressure, with Visa and MasterCard refusing to accept donations, the state-controlled network Russia Today began broadcasting a show hosted by Assange through a link from the Ecuadorian embassy.

In 2016, Assange criticized the regime-critical Novaya Gazeta's coverage of the Panama Papers, suggesting it "cherry-picked" documents to achieve "optimal Putin bashing, North Korea bashing, sanctions bashing, etc." 3

Should Assange be deported to and convicted in the US? It could be a dangerous stimulus for others to persecute whistle-blowers and truth-tellers. Nevertheless, did he not serve Russian interests? Probably, but that does not affect the truth of and benefits from other WikiLeaks disclosures.

Is not Assange a flawed individual? Maybe, and if he committed crimes he ought to be judged for them, but not for being a journalist and whistle-blower.

What in the eyes of some jurists makes Assange a dubious hero is that his methods might have violated press ethics by supporting criminal activities.

When Chelsea Manning in 2009 revealed military secrets to WikiLeaks he was a US soldier, serving as intelligence analyst at an army unit in Iraq. He was working under oath to maintain secrecy and was accordingly in 2013 convicted for "aiding the enemy".

Legal scholars argued that the relationship between Assange and Manning was that of a journalist and his source, while others maintained that Assange went beyond press ethics by actively helping Manning to crack passwords to gain access to secret military databases.

If guilty or not of crimes committed in Sweden and the US, Assange's case nevertheless reveals the precariousness of journalism. He was by Trump hailed as a hero when WikiLeaks revealed information supporting his candidacy. However, he might just as well be condemned as a villain by anyone who considers Wikileaks's information to be damaging.

Under all circumstances, as long as corrupt criminals and politicians use cyberspace for transgressions and enrichment, we are in dire need of other visitors to that space; journalists and computer nerds willing to enter it to reveal misdeeds and crimes.

55 years of China-Tanzania diplomatic relations and its benefits

By George Cleoplace Muntu

CHINA established its diplomatic relations with Tanganyika and Zanzibar on December 9, 1961 and December 11, 1963, respectively.

When Tanganyika and Zanzibar were united on April 26, 1964, it was natural for China to extend its diplomatic ties with the newly established United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania on October 29, 1964.

Therefore, when Tanzania celebrates its 55th Union Day on April 26, 2019, it also celebrates the 55th anniversary of its diplomatic relations with China.

The past 55 years have witnessed continuous and steady development of Tanzania-China relations.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Tanzania, China has stood shoulder to shoulder with Tanzania and has helped it in numerous aspects, including politics, economy, military, education and training, health care, etc.

In 1965, China and Tanzania signed the Treaty of Friendship. Since then, a series of cooperation agreements were signed in such fields as economy, trade, culture and health care. Tanzania actively supported China's effort to regain its legitimate seat in the United Nations.

At the 26th General Assembly of the UN in 1971, Tanzania led other supporting countries to campaign for the People's Republic of China to gain its rightful place in the UN Security Council.

Tanzania has continued to pursue a friendly policy toward China. It has also spoken highly of China's assistance and has been appreciating China's independent foreign policy of peace.

The two countries maintained close party-to-party and military-to-military interactions. Each year the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) officers and non-commissioned officers attend training courses in China at various military training centers.

Tanzania has also enjoyed close defense ties with China, and this has included naval exercises, construction projects and the supply of military equipment.



Since 1964, China has been providing various development assistance and has continued to help Tanzania in various sectors, all of which aim at supporting Tanzania's political independence promoting its economic development, and helping Southern African countries in their liberation struggles.

These assistance have been in the categories of construction of infrastructure, education, health care, tourism, agriculture, culture, security, etc.

The two countries have enjoyed a very special relationship that dates back to the old days when they are ruled by the founding fathers. The deep and long-standing Tanzania-China friendship continues to be characterized by significant trade, diplomatic exchange and Chinese assistance and investment in Tanzania.

One of the main aid projects sponsored by the Chinese Government, which we Tanzanians are still proud of today, is the construction of Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA).

Built from 1970 to 1975, TAZARA was also the largest single foreign-aid project undertaken by China at that time, at a cost of 988,000,000 RMB yuan, which is approximately US\$406 million.

The construction of TAZARA has costed

China not only a huge amount of money, but also over 60 people's lives. It is important to note that, during the construction of TAZARA, China was still a poor country like us and its people were still living in tough conditions. However, they were willing to give a considerable part of their savings to us. This was indeed a selfless action worth our heartfelt thanks and high respect.

The building of TAZARA has laid a solid foundation for China-Tanzania and China-Zambia friendships, which until today are still playing important roles in China's relations with the two countries and with Africa in general.

In order to ensure that relations between China and Tanzania are increasingly improved, China has continued to assist Tanzania in various sectors so as to bring about economic reforms and lift us out of poverty.

One of the most recent aid projects sponsored by China in Tanzania is the construction of a modern, large-sized library in the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), which costed China around US\$ 40 million. The new library can accommodate 2,100 people at the same time and has an inside storage capacity of 800,000 books. It is the largest, most comprehensive and modernized library aided by

China in Africa.

China has also planned to upgrade the National Institute of Transport (NIT) in Tanzania to a full-fledged university of transport, and build a vocational training and service centre in Kagera region.

The upgrading of NIT will help reduce the cost of sending Tanzanian students to study abroad, and nurture engineers, technicians and other professionals in the transport sector. The construction of a vocational training and service centre in Kagera region will cost China around US\$10 million.

After completion, the centre can accommodate 800 students, which will help youngsters in Kagera and neighbouring regions to acquire technical skills and professional knowledge so that they can get a better chance for employment.

Currently, the Chinese Government and universities provides nearly 200 scholarships to Tanzanian young talents every year, and offer numerous on-job training opportunities like short courses and seminars to Tanzanian government officials and various professionals.

These educational and training assist. Currently, the Chinese Government and universities provides nearly 200 scholarships to Tanzanian young talents every year, and offer numerous on-job training opportunities like short courses and seminars to Tanzanian government officials and various professionals.

These educational assistance have help a lot in keeping our country's human capital in a better shape.

Apart from educational assistance, Tanzania has been receiving financial support from China for building a number of infrastructures, such as the modern Naitonal Stadium the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, and the state-of-the-art library of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

China provided a grant of US\$ 20 million and a preferential loan of US\$ 36 million to Tanzania for the construction of the National Stadium, and offered approximately US\$ 26 million for Tanzania to build the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre. The UDSM Library is the latest nice gift from China, which

was built at a cost of around US\$ 40 million.

China also constructed the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Surgery Institute in Muhimbili area, which has helped many Tanzanians, especially low-income earners, to access heart surgery and treatment due to its low costs compared to having a surgery in foreign countries.

In addition, China has been sending experts and specialists to assist with surgical operations and treatment of various diseases in different hospitals in Tanzania.

Apart from its assistance to Tanzania, China also contributes greatly to promoting our economy through major investments and project contracting.

According to the statistics of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), from 1990 to 2017, China has invested in 723 projects in Tanzania, totalling US\$ 5962.74 million.

These projects have created 87,126 jobs for Tanzanians, and made China the largest investor in Tanzania, followed by the United Kingdom with a total investment value of US\$ 5540.07 million.

Among the 723 projects that China has invested in, 456 are in the manufacturing sector, which has created 62,458 jobs for Tanzanians. These figures have shown that China's investments in Tanzania are in line with the fifth government's industrialization strategy, and have made significant contributions to job creation and GDP growth of our country.

All in all, Tanzania has benefited heavily from its relations with China during the past 55 years. But we should realize that this relationship is mutually beneficial. The main benefit that China can get from this relationship is not wealth, but true friendship.

Just as the founding President of Zambia Hon. Kenneth David Kaunda said in 2013 during an interview, "The young people of China must pick up where Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai left. Africa will repay you very well, not by money, but by great friendship".

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Conservation group rescues 1000 animals from traps in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A CONSERVATION organization in Tanzania's Serengeti ecosystem has rescued more than 1,000 wild animals from snares mounted by poachers, a report by the organization said on Tuesday.

Grumeti Fund, a conservation organization in the Serengeti ecosystem, successfully removed 1,392 snares used by poachers in trapping and ultimately killing wild animals in the area, said the report.

The report said Grumeti Fund was carrying out the de-snaring program in collaboration with Tanzanian government agencies carrying out wildlife conservation and community development work along the western corridor.

The Grumeti Fund's Impact Report 2018 said the animals were mostly trapped and poached either for bush-meat and ivory, particularly from elephants.

"Snaring is a serious problem affecting wild animals in the Serengeti ecosystem," said the report.

Apart from removing the snares from the wild animals, the Grumeti Fund also managed to seize 187 traditional weapons used by suspected poachers traversing the area as well as achieving a 50 percent success rate in arrests using covert cameras.

The Grumeti Fund says its mission is

to contribute to the conservation of the Serengeti ecosystem, its natural landscape, and its wildlife. Its operations combine cutting-edge technology with well-trained boots on the ground to combat the poaching menace. The Fund partners with local communities and other stakeholders to build capacity and thereby help them to realize their conservation and development aspirations.

In November 2018, it was announced that more than 17,000 snares used by poachers to kill wildlife in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park were seized during a de-snaring program that started in April 2017.

The program was supported by a handful of tour operators and stakeholders with a vested interest in protecting the Serengeti's spectacular wildlife, working together with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS).

Erik Winberg, FZS Project Manager, Serengeti Conservation Program, said the de-snaring teams consisted of eight former poachers who were recruited from the villages in the Serengeti ecosystem for their expertise in snaring and TANAPA game rangers who works closely with the Serengeti National Park authorities to collect snares before they do harm.

Winberg had told Xinhua in an interview that the impact of the de-snaring program was impressive. "We have so far seized



17,536 snares, 32 poachers have been arrested, 125 poacher camps were found, 530 animals were found dead and 175 animals were released alive," added Winberg.

Winberg said the arrested poachers were

handed over to TANAPA's law enforcement unit for prosecution according to the Tanzania law.

He said most of the trapped and killed animals were the wildebeest, adding that the poachers were mainly locals who put the snares for bush

meat. In 2017, several local tour operators and other tourism stakeholders joined forces with a single goal of protecting Serengeti's spectacular wildlife by donating money from their businesses.

Elimination of malaria possible, with human mobility considered

By Special Correspondent in

Geneva

HUMAN mobility is a major social determinant of health that can increase malaria-related illness and deaths for migrants and host communities, especially along migration corridors.

With close to one in every seven individuals on the move globally, populations travelling from an area with

high malaria burden can potentially re-introduce the killer disease into low-transmission or malaria-free areas.

The combination of social and economic inequalities and discriminatory policies in all sectors, such as health, immigration, labour and social protection, often limit migrants' access to appropriate malaria prevention, diagnostics, treatment and care services. This perpetuates the disease cycle

among migrants and host communities.

In 2017, malaria was one of the leading causes of death associated with communicable diseases worldwide; there were an estimated 219 million new cases and 435,000 deaths.

It is key to understand migrant mobility patterns and associated malaria risk factors to improve migration outcomes and reduce vulnerability in migrants' living, working and transit

conditions, which increase their likelihood of contracting malaria.

Malaria can only be eliminated when evidence-based operational approaches have been identified to reach migrant populations, improve vector control and ensure migrants' access to anti-malaria services, while promoting surveillance, referrals and treatment between national health systems.

Migrants urgently need to

be included in global, national and local prevention and control strategies to support the elimination of malaria. This would be following the spirit of Sustainable Development targets that aim for Universal Health Coverage, and in line with the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the year 2017's Resolution 70.15 of the World Health Assembly on Promoting the health of refugees and migrants.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) currently supports malaria programming across many countries, often through the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu-

berculosis and Malaria.

In Yemen, Thailand and Somalia, the UN agency has implemented multi-pronged evidence-based public health strategies, including interventions around vector control, distribution of long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets and behaviour change communication campaigns to raise awareness around prevention and encourage treatment seeking behaviours, including drug compliance.

In Paraguay, a country certified by the World Health Organisation last year as free of malaria, IOM supported the Health and Social Welfare ministry in strengthening the National Strategy

for the Prevention of the Reintroduction of Malaria.

This placed an emphasis on disease prevention, identification of potential cases, accurate diagnosis, treatment as well as the empowerment of resources and skills in the 18 health regions of the country.

The elimination of malaria will require a universal approach of strengthening community responses that understand the determinants of migrants' health and build on sustainable and mobility competent health systems that address the many challenges of malaria control in an increasingly interconnected world.

BY JUDITH FEBRUARY

CORRUPTION has probably not cast a shadow over any election in South Africa since 1994 quite as it is doing now. The scale and brazenness of 'state capture' under former president Jacob Zuma has shown just how destructive it could be - not just diverting and appropriating resources, but undermining the whole fabric of South Africa's governance system.

How the country's major parties intend to act provides some insight into how they see the problem, and what sort of action they believe is feasible given the depth of the challenge.

The approach of the African National Congress (ANC), as the party that has largely presided over most of South Africa's corruption scandals - and which will probably remain the keystone of the country's politics - naturally piques the most interest.

All over the campaign trail President Cyril Ramaphosa has emphasised the so-called clean-up, and that any future government he leads will promote honesty and integrity in public life. This includes a 'clean-up' within the ANC itself, promising that those placed in positions of power will be 'uncorrupted, honest and self-disciplined with clear values [and] who can resist moral pressures'.

As with most of its manifesto, the ANC's stance on corruption is set out in broad, non-specific brushstrokes. Not much comes across as particularly new or innovative. It will 'strengthen' the criminal justice system, 'step up' measures against private sector malfeasance, 'ensure' lifestyle audits, 'strengthen' restraints on public servants doing business with the state, 'develop' systems to prevent tender fraud, and 'build and strengthen' a social compact against corruption.

In a nutshell, there is rather more continuity than change here, although it is perhaps noteworthy that the ANC's manifesto attempts to appropriate the fight against state capture. It was after all the ANC as an organisation that enabled leaders such as Zuma and secretary-general Ace Magashule to engage in state capture unhindered while attacking and undermining those at

What do party manifestos actually say about corruption?

tempting to resist grand-scale corruption.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has anchored much of its brand and appeal on its opposition to corruption and a promise of honest, effective government. This was much easier as an opposition party, yet in government it has had to weather its own share of scandals.

Nevertheless, corruption features prominently in its manifesto. Little doubt is left that the DA regards it as one of the key issues confronting South Africa.

The DA's manifesto probably predictably emphasises the ANC's record on this matter, and locates its anti-corruption strategy as part of expanding opportunities for individual South Africans and the prosperity of the country as a whole.

It also refers to its own successes in dealing with corruption, in contrast to the conduct of the ANC. At one point it describes the latter as having used the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro as a 'piggy bank'. It also warns that 'the ANC will not bite the hand that feeds it, even if

How South Africa's major parties intend to act provides insight into how they see the problem.



the consequences are devastating for South Africans'.

Thus it commits to rooting out graft, not only as a general principle, but specifically regarding numerous distinct sectors. For example it promises to act against corruption in employment (cash for jobs, for instance). It points to corruption as a partial explanation for the failures of state-owned enterprises, land reform, empowerment, education and housing.

The DA offers some detail on its proposed strategy, although not much. It says it will overhaul empowerment policy, so as to enhance opportunities for ordinary South Africans and grow the economy. It suggests altering governance and administrative structures in education, and providing necessary support, to ensure their functionality. Precisely how this is to be implemented is unclear.

The Economic Freedom Fight-

ers (EFF) is hoping to see a surge in support. Not unlike the DA, it has tried to position itself as a fearless opponent of corruption. This was always a controversial stance, given long-standing corruption allegations around the conduct of party leader Julius Malema in relation to his company On-Point Engineering in Limpopo, and more recently his deputy Floyd Shivambu regarding the VBS Mutual Bank saga.

Its manifesto makes numerous commitments on corruption that wouldn't be out of place in any other manifesto. It promises to 'increase' efficiency, 'protect' the independence of such bodies as the Auditor-General and Public Protector, 'strengthen' whistleblower protections and to increase the severity of punishment for corruption.

It proposes instituting minimum sentences of 20 years for civil serv-

ants and representatives found guilty of corruption, and denying them their pensions.

The EFF's manifesto envisages building 'internal capacity to fulfil its own functions and responsibilities, thereby avoiding being influenced and having its employees bribed by private companies and consultants in the fulfilment of government tasks'.

Besides this, it proposes some far-reaching changes such as amending the constitution to make the National Prosecuting Authority a Chapter 9 institution (in other words, at arm's length from most of the state machinery), and instituting state administration courts that would deal expeditiously with instances of corruption, blacklisting offenders and recovering lost money.

While each of these manifestos makes appropriate promises, and contains some ideas worthy of

consideration, implementation is crucial for the country to root out corruption. This will require leadership and an adherence to the rule of law in all spheres of society. The new National Director of Public Prosecutions will play an important role in this. It will also be important to repurpose the state institutions which have been hollowed out for the purposes of state capture.

Whether the politicians involved have enough steely determination to deal with the challenge will be seen after 8 May. Election time is a time of promises, most of which we have heard before. What South Africa really needs in relation to corruption is action.

Top politicians and government officials along with powerful business elites who've engaged in corruption need to find themselves being criminally prosecuted.

IPS

Bleak outlook for press freedom in West Africa

LONDON

WHEN former footballer George Weah became president of Liberia in 2018, media practitioners felt they had in him a democrat who would champion media freedoms. "But we were mistaken," journalist Henry Costa told IPS.

Any objective assessment of the relationship between West Africa governments and media organisations will conclude that, but for a few exceptions, the outlook for press freedom in the sub-region is a bleak one.

From Cameroon and Ghana, to Nigeria, Liberia and Senegal, journalists and media organisations are being attacked for simply doing their jobs. The fact that these attacks emanate from mostly state actors, who as a rule remain unpunished, points to a culture of impunity.

Liberia is a case in point.

"The president does not like criticism," said Costa, owner of Roots FM and host of the station's popular Costa Show. "And because we are critical of some policies, our offices have been attacked on two occasions by armed men and our equipment damaged and some stolen."

Some would say Costa was lucky, for the corpse of another journalist, Tyrone Brown, was dumped outside his home last year by a mysterious black jeep. A man has confessed to killing the journalist in self-defence but his colleagues are not convinced. They believe the murder was a message - mind your words or you could be next.

This climate of fear was heightened when Weah accused a BBC correspondent being against his government. Then Front Page Africa, a newspaper that has been critical of successive governments, was fined 1.8 million dollars in a civil defamation lawsuit brought by a friend of the president.

Mae Azango, a senior Front Page Africa reporter, said the government's new tactic was to "strangulate the free

press" by refusing to pay tens of thousands owed for media advertisements. "One minister said since the media does not write anything good about the government, it won't pay debt owed, which will compel some media outlets to shut down," she said. "Some media houses have not paid staff for up to eight months."

In Ghana, once Africa's top-ranked media-friendly country, things have deteriorated to the level where a sitting politician openly called on supporters to attack a journalist whose documentary on corruption in Ghanaian football exposed him. Ahmed Divela was subsequently shot dead last January. In 2015 another journalist, George Abanga, was also shot dead on assignment.

In March 2018 Latif Iddrisu, a young reporter, was covering a story when he was dragged into the Accra headquarters of the police and given a merciless beating which left him with a fractured skull.

Iddrisu told IPS by phone: "Journalists are being threatened with assault and death by politicians and people in power because they feel threatened by our exposés." He doubts whether the passage of freedom of information (FOI) legislation will improve matters.

This position is borne out in Nigeria where the passing of FOI laws has not deterred officials from denying journalists access to information they need to carry out their jobs. According to Dapo Olorunyomi, the Central Bank and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (the NNPC) are the "most opaque institutions" in the country. Olorunyomi, editor-in-chief of Premium Times Newspaper, added: "So you are allowed to write what you want, but if you get it wrong you suffer the consequences." He and journalists working for him have been arrested on several occasions to get them to reveal their sources.

The case of Jones Abiri is instructive. The journalist was incarcerated for two years without trial. And physical attacks on reporters have increased four-fold in recent times. Figures show



that attacks on journalists and the press quadrupled in 2015-2019, compared to the preceding five year period.

Media academic Dr Chinenye Nwabueze maintains that the violence heightens during elections. "In the 'season' of elections, a journalist operates like a car parked - at owner's risk," he told IPS. "You could end up in the crossfire between opposing parties or thugs."

The same story of violence and intimidation against journalists is replicated in francophone countries like Cameroon, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali. The most serious of them is Cameroon, where the government continues to prosecute media critics in military or special courts. As Angela Quintal, Africa Program Coordinator of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) told IPS, "Cameroon is the second-worst jailer of journalists in sub-Saharan Africa, and the second in the world for jailing journalists on false news

charges."

Sierra Leone and the Gambia are the two countries that emerge relatively blemish-free in our survey of the landscape of press freedom in West Africa. Both have relatively new governments that have promised repeal criminal libel laws that their predecessors had used to clamp down on the media. From Sierra Leone, reporter Amadu Lamrana Bah of AYW Media told IPS: "The president says he is committed to repealing [criminal libel laws] and the process is on."

His statement echoes that of Sheriff Bojang Jr, president of the Gambia Press Union, who said: "We no longer work in a fearful or repressive environment, but our major problem is the lack of information coming out of government, the total lack of transparency. But the government have promised to make changes."

This is a reference to the absence of FOI legislation in the

country, which the government has promised to "deal with in due course". But the Gambians only have to look to similarly "blemish-free" Sierra Leone, to realise that FOI will count for nought if the authorities are not prepared to honour its provisions - as this reporter discovered while researching a story on sexual violence against Sierra Leonean women and another on diamond mining.

The Ministries of Justice, Mines, and Information in Freetown refused to provide the information we requested, even though they had initially promised they would.

That recent experience came to mind when, during his interview for this piece, Liberian reporter Henry Costa said the Weah government "were pretending to be tolerant" but "would go to their old tricks" when economic hardships trigger anti-government protests and the media begin to report on them.

Since Sierra Leone and the

Gambia are currently implementing International Monetary Fund policies, it is only a matter of time before those policies begin to bite the people. If the "Costa equation" is correct, then it is likewise only a matter of time before we find out whether the "blemish-free" authorities in Freetown and Banjul are as toxic to press freedom as their counterparts in Cameroon and Ghana, or indeed, their immediate predecessors.

"Journalists do essential work to keep the public informed, often in difficult circumstances in West and Central Africa," Sadibou Marong, the Regional Media Manager for Amnesty's West and Central Africa Office, told IPS.

"They must be protected to do their work freely, and without fear of attacks or threats. Governments in the region should promote media freedom and protect media workers and organisations."

IPS

BANDARI SACCOS DENIES FUELLING LAND CONFLICTS IN NEW KIGAMBONI DISTRICT



Kigamboni's Nyerere Bridge has made the new municipality a popular place for developers hence fuelling land conflicts. File photo.

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

LAND-related conflicts threatening Pemba Mnazi ward of the new Kigamboni Municipality area in Dar es Salaam is result of greedy village leaders who double allocate plot to buyers.

Bandari Saccos Limited which is at the centre of a land row with villagers at Puna and Potea villages of Pemba Mnazi said local leaders resold its area to other developers hence causing conflicts which now threaten peace and security in the area.

"It's false to say that a big institution like Bandari Saccos can grab land from villagers or an individual legitimate owner," argued Bandari Saccos Chairperson, Stella Mutayabarwa in Dar es Salaam this week while responding to allegations that her institution invaded Puna and Potea villages earlier this month to grab land.

"Those village leaders in Puna are dishonest, they deliberately double allocated our land to other buyers hence causing unnecessary conflicts," Mutayabarwa said stressing that her institution wants to change the virgin remote area into a modern place.

"When an institution like Bandari Saccos comes to your village, you have to be happy because it will bring big changes through its investments, it can't do so by grabbing people's land in the era," she charged noting that Puna and Potea village leaders are crooks who should be held accountable. Last week, a group of residents of Puna and Potea villages, which lie over 60 kilometres from Kigamboni central business district, accused Bandari Saccos of

invading their area with armed policemen earlier this month to surveying new plots.

The residents who refused to be identified for fear of reprisals, said Bandari Saccos leaders threatened to lock behind bars anyone who dare encroach their newly surveyed area which was in fact, their plots.

"This conflict dates back to 2016 and we have already taken it the both village and ward leaders for arbitration but our leaders have remained powerless as district officials remain inactive," said one of the victims who warned that unless Kigamboni Municipal officials take immediate action to address the conflict, the future may witness bloody land conflicts in the area.

Documentary evidence availed to Property Watch by the villagers indicate that local authorities have tried to resolve the conflict but failed so far. The documents show that on February 25 last year, Potea Village Chairman, Ngobi Meza summoned a meet-

ing to address the land conflict involving Alhamdi Mussa, Idd Mohamed, Jones Killimbe, Valerie Killimbe, Charles Kubeja, Masanja Kasubi, Shija Shinganaji and Muddy Kaunda against Bandari Saccos. Two of the affected plot owners, Jones Killimbe and Initiaz Lalji had beacons of their surveyed plot uprooted by agents of Bandari Saccos who were accompanied by armed policemen and surveyors allegedly from Kigamboni Municipality.

"Jones A. Killimbe and Valerie J. Killimbe said they bought their plot in 2007 from one, Lady Nyamki and requested for official surveying on September 28, 2007 so the plot was demarked into five slots with title deed issued," said part of Meza's letter to Kigamboni Municipal Director.

The letter also quoted representatives of Lalji who attended the meeting which was boycotted by Bandari Saccos leaders despite being invited, Iddi Mohamed and Alhamdi Mussa as saying, "The area was bought legally in August

2008 from Menard Makoye and in January 2011, we requested to have it surveyed and given title deed which happened in November 2017 as Block G."

In his letter, the Potea Village Chairman concluded by saying that, "Through our investigations, it is true that Bandari Saccos bought an area from one, Rwegasira but that the institution encroached the complainants' plots when surveying its area hence destroying property and removing beacons marking their neighbours boundaries. Our advice is that Bandari Saccos should move out of the invaded area and pay for damages caused by the encroachment."

Meza went on to write Kigamboni District Commissioner a letter dated April 3, 2019 after the latest wave of Bandari Saccos invasion backed by armed policemen, demanding that authorities stop the Kurasini based multi-billion rich savings and credit society from continuing to survey the area under conflict.

South African contractor Group Five announces 'fire sale' of assets

JOHANNESBURG

GROUP Five, a South African contractor that has been listed on the Johannesburg stock exchange for 45 years, announced to shareholders on Friday that its financial difficulties now leave it no option but to offer a fire sale of some of its assets.

The company filed for bankruptcy protection last month, the fifth South African contractor to do so in less than a year.

By that time its market valuation had fallen from \$575m to \$25m. The company's receivers - or business rescue practitioners - have now formally declared that "all alternative methods of financing have been exhausted", and that selling assets is the only option left.

The assets will now be disposed of as quickly as possible without shareholder approval of the deals. Instead, investors will be updated every month on "key disposals", and are to get more details when a business rescue plan is published at the end of June.

In January, the company announced the sale of some of its manufacturing assets, including Everite, a Johannesburg factory that makes fibre-cement products. It also holds equity stakes in roads in Poland and Hungary, and in property developments such as the Beit Bridge Retail Mall in Zimbabwe.

In its last full-year statement, Group Five's management blamed its problems on failing to win contracts as a result of tough market conditions, the cost of retrenchment and "extreme losses on the group's large contract in Ghana, Kpone". This last was a reference to the \$410m gas and oil-fuelled power station near the port of Tema, on which Group Five made a loss of more than \$90m in 2018.

Themba Mosai, Group Five chief executive, commented: "Delivering another set of extremely poor results is very disappointing for management. Although we have taken firm action in the group and on contracts, especially on our Kpone contract, the losses worsened significantly.

"We continued to actively restructure and right-size the group, cut costs and closed unsustainable businesses. We have also relocated certain businesses and our corporate office ... secured short-term bridge funding to address liquidity, and approved the partial disposal of our investment in concessions in Eastern Europe, held through our joint venture investment with Aberdeen in Intertoll Capital Partners. We are also disposing of the manufacturing cluster."

Kpone is presently the subject of a legal dispute before the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, which is expected to be resolved by the end of the year.



One of Group Five's equity holdings is in the A1 motorway in Poland.

Marriott leads Africa hotel chain development

By Property Watch Reporter & Agencies

The big chains, Marriott and Accor, are leading the way in African hotel development which overall has more than 75,000 rooms in 401 hotels in the pipeline, according to the 11th annual survey by W Hospitality Group.

The figures represent a 1.5 per cent decrease on the 2018 pipeline, but still more than 12 per cent ahead of 2017. And data for deals which have been realized show almost 100 hotels opened in Africa in 2017/18 with a total of 16,000 rooms.

The annual African Hotel Chain Development Pipeline survey had a record 43 international and regional hotel contributors covering 54 countries in north and sub-Saharan Africa, and the Indian Ocean islands.

W Hospitality's Managing Director, Trevor Ward, said: "The growth of the chains' presence in Africa is a positive story. This year's slight decrease is largely due to them "cleaning" their pipeline, deleting deals that they believe are not going to happen.

"So while the 2019 total is slightly down, overall there has been growth of 51 per cent in total pipeline rooms since 2015, and in that time, North Africa has grown by 58 per cent and sub-Saharan Africa by 47 per cent."

Full details will be revealed and discussed at the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF) in Addis Ababa, September 23 - 25, organised by Bench Events, AHIF, the leading conference of its kind, connects business leaders, driving investment in tourism projects, infrastructure and hotel development across the continent.

Marriott, the world's largest hotel chain, has the biggest pipeline in Africa, 42 per cent more hotels and 25 per cent more rooms than second-placed Accor. But in absolute terms, Accor beat the pack in 2018, with a net increase of 3,400 rooms in 15 hotels. Hilton and Marriott signed around 2,000 and 3,600 rooms respectively, but saw a net reduction in their pipelines, due to openings and "cleaning".

Just over half of the rooms in the African pipeline are currently onsite and under construction,



Marriott Dar es Salaam Courtyard Hotel.

making them much more likely to open than those still "on paper". Ranking the companies

on this basis, Accor heads the list, followed by Radisson, then Hilton and, in 4th place, Marriott.

Trevor Ward said: "There are almost 200 hotels due to open this year and next. We estimate,

conservatively, that they will create around 30,000 direct jobs when they open, with some

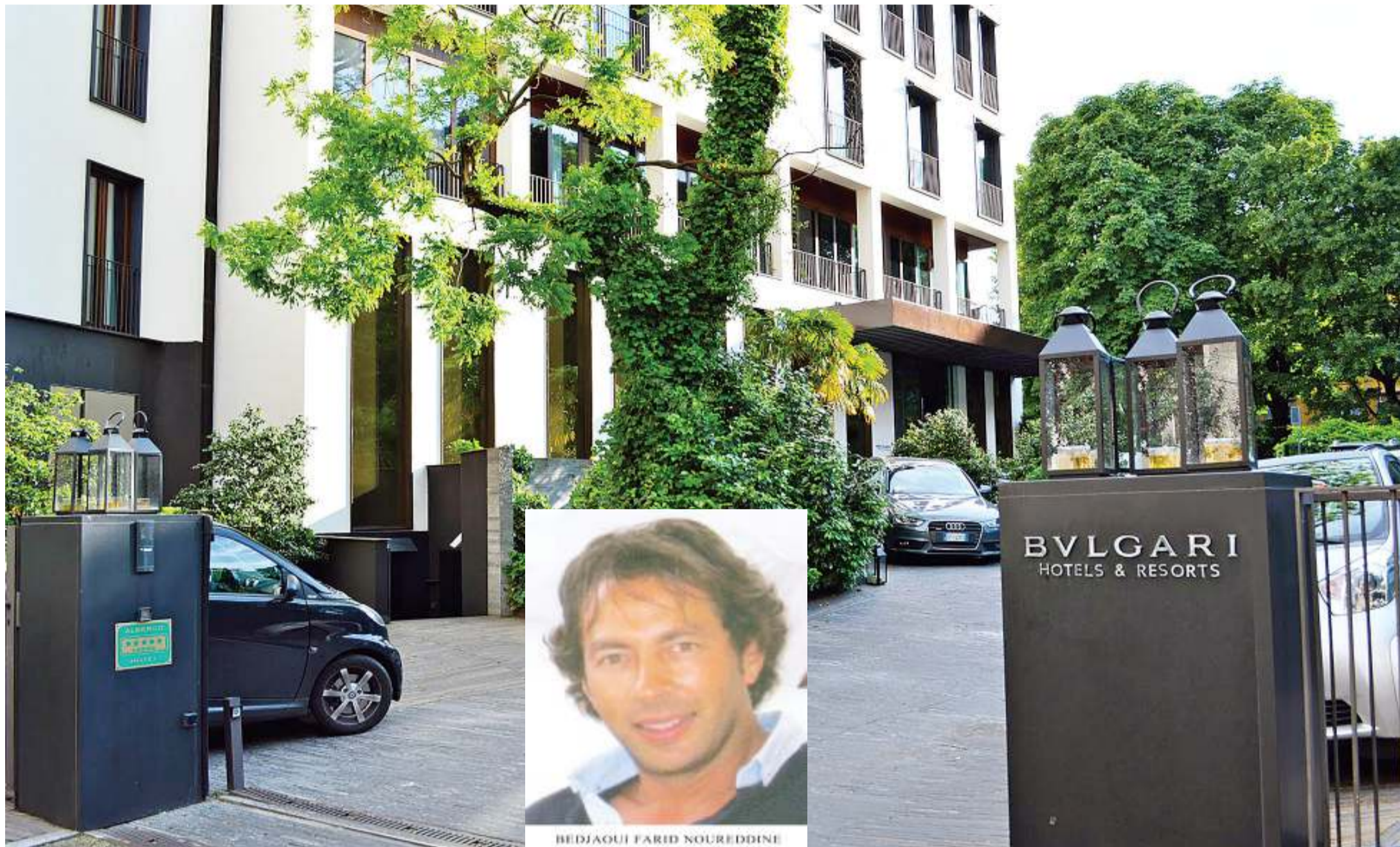
commentators estimating that each wage earner supports five other family members. And indirect and induced employment could total another 150,000 people."

Chairman of Bench Events, Jonathan Worsley said of the 2019 survey: "It's only through such knowledge and transparency that participants in the industry can execute its strategic plans for growth. With the huge growth in the number of deals signed by the chains, Africa is today on the agenda of virtually every major hotel company."

The W Hospitality Group, a member of Hotel Partners Africa, specialises in the provision of advisory services to the hotel, tourism and leisure industries, providing a full range of services to clients who have investments in the sector, or who are looking to enter them through development, acquisition or other means.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the W Hospitality Group is regarded as the market leader due to the market and financial expertise of its staff, its worldwide knowledge, and its commitment to its clients.

SECRET OFFSHORE DEALS DEPRIVE AFRICA OF BILLIONS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DOLLARS - ICIJ



Bulgari Hotel in Milan where Farid Bedjaoui (Insert) preferred to settle big deals from Algeria.

ALGIERS

WHEN he wasn't aboard his yacht, Farid Bedjaoui held court in the Bulgari Hotel in Milan, a renovated 18th-century palace nestled between the botanical gardens and the La Scala theater. Over five years, Bedjaoui's hotel tab there exceeded \$100,000.

In the plush rooms and the granite-lined lobby, Bedjaoui met with Algerian government officials and executives from Saipem, the Italian energy giant. Their agenda, according to witnesses later interviewed by Italian prosecutors: arranging some \$275 million in bribes to help the energy company win more than \$10 billion in contracts to build oil and gas pipelines from the North African desert to the shores of the Mediterranean.

To shift the bribe money between countries, Bedjaoui used a cluster of offshore companies that helped him shield the transactions from scrutiny, Italian prosecutors claim. Twelve of the 17 shell companies linked to Bedjaoui were created by Mossack Fonseca, the Panama-based law firm that is at the center of the Panama Papers scandal, a review of the law firm's internal records by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and other media partners has found.

Italian investigators described one of those companies, Minkle Consultants S.A., as a "crossroads of illicit financial flows" that channeled millions of dollars from subcontractors to an array of recipients whose identities are still being untangled. Prosecutors allege Bedjaoui used one company set up through the law firm to funnel as much as \$15 million to associates and family members of Algeria's then-energy minister.

The cross-border bribery scandal is one of dozens of cases in Africa in which companies created or administered by Mossack Fonseca have played a role in oil, gas and mining deals that have spawned public allegations of tax dodging, corruption, environmental destruction or other misconduct. In all, ICIJ's review identified 37 companies within the Panama Papers that have been named in court actions or government investigations involving natural resources in Africa.

Ventures that drill or dig for oil, gas, diamonds, gold and other resources have long been dogged by evidence that contracts are often secured through bribery and other corrupt tactics that benefit a few and harm average citizens. Suspect mining and energy deals are usually organized through secretive companies and hard-to-trace bank accounts, corruption experts say.

"Companies may be given access to lucrative extractive projects because their owners are

politically connected, or because their owners are willing to engage in questionable deals aimed at generating quick profits for a few rather than benefits for wider society," Fredrik Reinfeldt, former prime minister of Sweden and now head of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, told ICIJ.

He said the use of anonymous companies makes it harder to prevent money laundering and corruption because it allows wrongdoers to "hide behind a chain of companies often registered in multiple jurisdictions."

ICIJ's review of Mossack Fonseca's internal records shows that the Panama-based law firm is a major provider of secrecy to companies involved in extractive industries. The firm's internal files include more than 1,400 companies whose names refer to mining, minerals, oil, petrol or gas. Other less explicitly named companies - including the 12 companies allegedly used by Bedjaoui in the Algerian energy deal - also played roles in the extractive sector, the files show.

Mossack Fonseca's files reveal offshore companies that were established to own, hold or do business with petroleum, natural gas and mining operations in 44 of Africa's 54 countries. Many of them are controlled by politicians, their family members and business associates. Often, the oil, gas, gold and diamonds formed beneath the earth's surface over millions - even billions - of years are traded by shadow companies that have existed for months.

Companies created and assisted by Mossack Fonseca include at least 27 subsidiaries of one of the world's biggest gold producers, the mining behemoth AngloGold Ashanti and its predecessor. AngloGold told ICIJ it complies with relevant tax laws and that its offshore companies held investments and allowed it to "mitigate double taxation."

Mossack Fonseca declined to answer detailed questions for this story. It told ICIJ that "our firm, like many firms, provides worldwide registered agent services for our professional clients (e.g., lawyers, banks, and trusts) who are intermediaries. As a registered agent we merely help incorporate companies, and before we agree to work with a client in any way, we conduct a thorough due-diligence process, one that in every case meets and quite often exceeds all relevant local rules, regulations and standards to which we and others are bound."

The law firm added: "Filing legal paperwork to help incorporate a company is a very different thing from establishing a business link with or directing in any way the companies so formed. We only incorporate companies, which just about everyone acknowledges is important, and something that's critical in ensuring the global economy functions efficiently."

Saipem, the Italian energy company, told ICIJ it is "fully cooperating" with prosecutors and it has "implemented significant managerial and administrative restructuring measures." External consultants reviewed the company's books, Saipem said, and "found no evidence of payments to Algerian public officials through the brokerage contracts or subcontracts examined." In February 2016, an Algerian court found a Saipem subsidiary guilty of fraud, money laundering and corruption in obtaining contracts from Algeria's national oil company, Sonatrach.

Criminal charges have been filed against Bedjaoui by Italian authorities. Prosecutors allege that he inflated contracts for the benefit of Algerian officials, adding a standard cut for himself, which earned him the nickname "Mr. 3 Percent" after police found the ratio scrawled on Bulgari Hotel stationery during a raid.

Bedjaoui, the nephew of a former Algerian foreign minister, is currently living in a Beverly Hills-inspired gated community in Dubai. He did not reply to repeated requests from ICIJ for comment.

In previous responses to the media, his lawyers have denied he was involved in any wrongdoing. They insist that, as a thirty-something management graduate, he could never have wielded enough influence among Algeria's political, military and business elites to coordinate a \$275-million-dollar bribery scheme. The Saipem-Sonatrach bribery case fits a pattern in Africa and other developing regions, where countries with the richest natural endowments often lose the most money offshore.

Between 2004 and 2013, Algeria, home to the second-largest oil reserves in Africa, lost an average of \$1.5 billion annually through tax avoidance, bribery, corruption and criminality, the research group Global Financial Integrity estimates. Across the continent, the United Nations estimates at least \$50 billion each year goes unaccounted for due to illicit money flows.

Oil-rich Nigeria, for example, routinely tops the list of African nations from which billions of dollars are siphoned each year. Mossack Fonseca's files show the law firm's former customers included three oil ministers, senior national oil company employees and two former state governors later convicted of laundering oil-tainted wealth.

British and U.S. investigators said Diepreye Alamiyeseigha, governor of Nigeria's oil-rich Bayelsa State from 1999 to 2005, used money skimmed from public funds, including government oil contracts, to buy a home in Rockville, Maryland, and four homes in London held by an offshore company set up through Mossack Fonseca.

Alamiyeseigha was arrested on U.K. money laundering charges during a visit to London in

2005, but later reportedly slipped out of the country dressed as a woman. He returned to Nigeria, where he was impeached and removed as governor. He served a short prison term but in 2013 was pardoned by President Goodluck Jonathan. Alamiyeseigha died in 2015.

Nigeria's current president, Muhammadu Buhari, has called on world leaders to do more to help African nations fight money laundering and shine light on offshore hideaways.

"Every dollar siphoned through dirty deals and corruption to offshore tax havens makes the livelihood and survival of the average African more precarious," Buhari said in a speech delivered at an anti-corruption summit in London one month after the release of Panama Papers.

Ensuring anonymity

In 2005, Algeria announced that its enormous gas reserves were open for business. At stake was the opportunity to help build the first direct route from largely untapped gas reserves in the heart of the Algerian desert to Europe's energy-hungry market. It was an important move for Algeria, a country with an unsteady economy that relies heavily on oil and gas revenue. Executives from China, France, Britain, Spain and Japan flew into Algiers to submit bids.

Saipem emerged as one of the big winners. Between 2006 and 2009, the Italian company - which bills itself as "one of the world leaders" in drilling and pipelines - won seven contracts to lay hundreds of kilometers of pipelines and canals and to build treatment plants capable of processing 100,000 barrels of oil a day.

The flurry of activity in Algeria was matched by the expansion of Bedjaoui's offshore network. Bedjaoui, who is French, Canadian and Algerian, earned his business management degree in Montreal, then worked in his family's coffee-importing venture before landing at a Dubai-based oil and gas investment firm with a valuable North African client list.

By 2002, Bedjaoui had used Mossack Fonseca to open a Swiss bank account for his company Rayan Asset Management. A Swiss tax lawyer then went on a buying spree on the Algerian's behalf, ordering pre-existing "shelf" companies in Panama and the British Virgin Islands.

Mossack Fonseca's background checks on Bedjaoui in 2008 and 2009 revealed nothing suspicious, the law firm's internal files show. Bedjaoui didn't make it easy; he used his Canadian passport to open some bank accounts and his Algerian ID to open others.

For 11 years, Mossack Fonseca worked for Bedjaoui and half a dozen of his family members, friends and associates. Into this world Bedjaoui brought his wife and brother-in-law, relatives of Algeria's energy and water ministers, the CEO of Algeria's government-controlled

oil and gas company and Saipem's in-country Algeria manager. Italian prosecutors later said the close-knit web of kinship led them to suspect that many of the companies created though Mossack Fonseca were used "for corrupt payments or for improper personal enrichment."

It was, according to investigators, a network of graft and slush funds organized in hotel lobbies and coffee bars in Paris and Milan and on yachts in the Mediterranean. Outside the Bulgari Hotel, attendees exchanged secret cell phone numbers to keep in touch; it wasn't to "exchange Christmas wishes," an Italian judge wryly suggested years later.

In setting up his offshore companies, prosecutors allege, Bedjaoui chose countries with secrecy rules "that ensure the anonymity of the shareholders" and further obscured the paper trail by scattering money into 16 bank accounts in Dubai, Algeria, Singapore, London, Hong Kong, Switzerland and Lebanon.

Former Algerian energy minister and former OPEC president Chekib Khelil

In 2013, Khelil, a graduate of Ohio State who lived for many years in Maryland, was briefly placed on Interpol's wanted list. Khelil returned to Algeria after authorities withdrew corruption charges they had leveled against him. Reached by telephone by ICIJ, Khelil said he did not have the time to speak and hung up.

Official suspicions about Bedjaoui's role in Algerian energy deals first became public in February 2013. Months later, Canadian police seized Bedjaoui's assets in Montreal and French authorities raided Bedjaoui's apartment on a tree-lined avenue in Paris. French police later reportedly seized a 43-meter yacht and paintings by Warhol, Miró and Dalí.

The investigations into Bedjaoui's activities and assets made headlines in Algeria, Canada and Italy. But Mossack Fonseca remained unaware of its customer's legal issues for much of 2013.

Heather Lowe, an attorney with Global Financial Integrity, an anti-corruption group based in Washington, D.C., said that offshore middlemen have economic incentives "not to know what the companies they are forming are going to be used for. If they know too much, they might have to turn away business. ... As a result, there's often no gatekeeper to prevent illicit money from entering the financial system."

'Mandatory high-risk cluster'

International standards and laws in many countries generally require that financial middlemen like Mossack Fonseca screen their clients to make sure they're not involved in wrongdoing. They are also required to take extra steps to check up on clients who are "politically exposed persons" - government officials or their family members or associates.

In its written procedures, Mossack Fonseca acknowledges that transactions involving industries linked to oil, gas and mining carry high risks for money laundering and other crimes.

The law firm classifies the mining industry as a "mandatory high-risk cluster" and requires workers to do extra background searches on anyone involved in digging, drilling, trading and exporting natural resources.

But documents within the Panama Papers show Mossack Fonseca employees often fail to conduct adequate checks on clients involved in extractive industries and in some cases offer services that make it difficult for government authorities to identify the players behind offshore companies and natural resources deals.

In 2014, Mossack Fonseca offered to provide a stand-in shareholder to shield the real owner of a phosphate mine who said he wanted to "stop the chain" of "additional enquiry" into the company's ownership by Tanzanian authorities.

PROPERTY MARKETS

MNH DIRECTOR SALUTES MOBILE PHONE FIRM FOR HEALTH COVER TO BACK INDUSTRIALISATION

By Property Watch Reporter

As the nation moves towards middle income and semi industrialised class by 2025, having a health workforce is paramount, Muhimbili National Hospital's Director of Care and Nursing Services, Zuhura Mawona has said.

Mawona said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week after receiving medical health coverage of 100 vulnerable children sponsored by Airtel Tanzania Limited that the mobile network operator's sponsorship tallies well with state plans.

"This valuable support will not only ensure that these vulnerable children get reliable health services when sick but also aligns with government plans to ensure quality health for all for growth," the MNH Director said.

She further noted that Airtel's timely sponsorship also tallies with government's objectives in ensuring people get reliable medical services at MNH. "Children being one of the most vulnerable groups but also the nation's future manpower source as we move towards industrialization, must be protected in every way possible," Mawona underlined.

The MNH Director called upon parents to emulate Airtel Tanzania's opportunity to provide health insurance cover to their children so that they can be assured of getting quality health services from the nation's flagship hospital when sick.

One of the parents whose child was among the 100 beneficiaries, Rukia Jacob thanked Airtel's management and staff for providing the



Airtel Tanzania's Director of Department of Business Enterprises, Boniface Bwambo hands one of the 100 health insurance cover cards to Director of Care and Nursing Services at Muhimbili National Hospital, Zuhura Mawona in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The cards are for 100 children from struggling families whom the company has sponsored for a year. Photo courtesy of Airtel Tanzania.

vulnerable group with the yearlong medical insurance coverage which relieves her from struggling to medical bills when children fall sick.

"I really congratulate Airtel management and the entire staff for what they have done to us. It is an important boost for our children's health as we will no longer have to worry about settling expensive medical bills in cash for them," Jacob said.

Speaking after handing over the 100 health insurance coverage cards, Airtel Tanzania Director of

Department of Business Enterprises, Boniface Bwambo said the company recognizes the importance of being a responsible corporate citizen to the surrounding communities.

"We believe in giving back to the society in which we do business and health is one of key areas hence this initiative came through to support government realise its long term goals of offering universal health coverage to Tanzanians," Bwambo said.

"Through Airtel Tunakujali programme, we have for some years now

been supporting the needy in the society by donating various humanitarian assistance aimed at showing love and care to people living under difficult conditions in the country," he added.

He said the medical health cards were made possible with funding from individual Airtel employees in the Department of Business Enterprises.



Brexit woes continue to rock UK property as small Atlantic Leaf hunt for investors

LONDON

THE uncertainty of Britain leaving the European Union adds to the currency woes of UK property companies already sidelined from raising more capital by a stock market that trades their shares at a discount to their underlying assets.

The combination handcuffs the ability of small real estate investment trust such as London-based Atlantic Leaf Properties, which has assets of £371.7 million and almost all of its shareholders in South Africa, to be a more widespread rand hedging opportunity for investors.

"Brexit has been more challenging on the equity side to raise capital," Atlantic Leaf CEO Paul Leaf-Wright said by phone from Cape Town. "People say if this outcome happens then the pound might go up, and if that outcome happens the pound might go down, so depending on which way they think they tend to sit on the side and think maybe the euro or the dollar is a better investment." The uncertainty is compounded by the delay in Brexit from March to October, he said.

The challenges facing Atlantic Leaf as an option for local shareholders to hedge the rand – to invest in companies earning foreign currencies – also apply to other stocks in the UK Reit field that are listed on the JSE such as shopping mall owners Hammerson, Intu and RDI Reit. They have much greater size and share liquidity than Atlantic Leaf, although retail space valua-

tions and rentals have been hit by internet sales.

The catch for the small Reit is that market conditions prevent raising more capital to increase liquidity in the first place. In the past year, Atlantic Leaf sold its £22 million interest in a retail portfolio to concentrate on the warehousing and light industrial sectors in areas around Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.

Pressure on shopping centres by online sales – the so-called Amazon effect – has lowered the valuations of some of the company's retail warehousing while its industrial holdings are benefiting from a sector that's seeing growth in rentals and property values and isn't as impacted by the rise of online sales, Leaf-Wright says.

"Atlantic Leaf has a good management team and a focused strategy," Craig Smith, head of research and property at Johannesburg-based Anchor Stockbrokers, said in an interview. "Investors on the JSE however have access to other property rand hedges and the decision will therefore ultimately depend on the relative attractiveness of Atlantic Leaf versus other property rand hedges."

Leaf-Wright is hoping that the industrial focus, a stable yield and average 10-year leases will attract investors. "On our current net asset value our projection is for more than a 10% yield, so that's a very attractive rand-hedge yield that we offer that's significantly higher than some of those other bigger companies," he said.

Kenya's government to use AI in allocation of affordable housing

NAIROBI

THE government of Kenya plans to use artificial intelligence (AI) to assess eligibility of applications within its affordable housing scheme.

According to a policy document, officials will use data sourced from the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB), including mobile wallet transaction history, to rate the credit worthiness of each applicant.

The policy reads in part: "In principle the scoring will provide credit assessments that are driven by data analytics. This means that the credit and risk decision-making is fully automated; the system will be able to run 'thin file assessments' for those with little to no conventional transaction histories; and the level of Artificial Intelligence integrations being deployed reduce the time taken on each assessment - providing a credit profile of each applicant in much less time than is conventionally accepted."

In February 2018 Kenya's ICT Ministry confirmed that an AI and blockchain taskforce had been established to explore potential local use cases. The taskforce is yet to present a progress report to officials. According to Microsoft, the application of

AI in government and private sector could greatly improve Africa's economy.

Microsoft's White Paper AI for Africa states that "Governments can embrace these challenges and benefit from AI by creating clear roadmaps to guide the adoption of this technology. They should recalibrate their laws and legal frameworks to support data-driven technologies and innovation-driven growth; strengthen the supporting infrastructure for development; and set the tone of a collaborative approach that allows all stakeholders to share their expertise, insights, and build trust."

Winnie Karanu, Business Development and Program Manager at Microsoft, said fostering these skills within the private and public sectors could be a transformational move for the economies in Africa.

"Success of implementation will depend on the ability of governments to foster collaboration among all stakeholders - state and civil society, academia, industry, and national and international stakeholders. If all parties embrace the challenges of AI, Kenya will reap the benefits of a vibrant AI ecosystem," said Karanu.

Accor plans 60 new hotels in Africa, half of them in Egypt

DUBAI

ACCOR SA will open 60 new hotels in 14 countries in Africa in the next four years, its chief executive officer for Middle East and Africa Mark Willis said.

Over the next two years, the European hotel operator will open over half of them in Egypt, which Willis said was rebounding after "external factors" hurt the industry. The nation suffered a terrorist attack in 2015 when an Islamic State affiliate blew up a Russian aircraft as it left the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in an attack that killed 224 people.

"Egypt is resurrecting after 10 years of a tough situation due to external factors, but is now improving," Willis said in an interview in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Egypt has overtaken Kenya's coastal region as the preferred destination for European tourists and investors. Revenue per available Accor room has risen 20 percent year-on-year, he said.

"Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa "is not at the forefront of people's minds today," he

said. Only one of the target hotels will be in the East African nation known for safaris and beach tourism.

The continent has sustained unprecedented rates of economic growth, driven chiefly by sturdy domestic demand, better macroeconomic management and improving political stability. African countries are still under capacity as far as branded hotel supply is concerned, presenting global chains an opportunity to enhance their footprint. \$1 billion fund

Key markets in its growth plan include Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa, where it will open 10, seven and three hotels respectively by 2020. Accor has 143 hotels in Africa, 63 of them south of the Sahara, and will promote its Movenpick luxury brand, Willis said.

The hotel group will fund the growth with over \$1 billion from the Katara Hospitality Fund set up last year for sub-Saharan Africa. Accor is so far the main investor with \$500 million, while the Qatar Investment Authority will raise debt and partner in investments, according to Willis.

Africa to experience continued oil and gas sector investments

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA is likely to experience continued oil and gas investment over the next three to five years as the stabilisation of crude prices above US\$ 60 a barrel, coupled with the continent's rapidly expanding population, lure both major and independent oil producers to one of the world's last remaining energy investment frontiers.

A string of exploration projects over the last decade has seen the number of African countries with proven oil and gas reserves rise to 28 thanks to new discoveries in Ghana, Niger, Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Mauritania and South Africa.

The investment required to bring these countries on stream will add further impetus to Africa's oil consumption, which at 4 million barrels a day already significantly exceeds the continent's 2.1 million barrels of daily refinery output, according to Standard Bank.

"An expanding population, rapid urbanisation and accelerating economic growth are causing the gap between Africa's demand for gas and petroleum products, and its ability to supply them, to incrementally widen over time," says Dele Kuti, Standard Bank Group Head of Oil and Gas.

"This will serve to attract further investment from both major and independent oil producers, which in itself will exert further pressure on the demand side of the equation



An oil rig offshore in Mtwara Region. File photo.

as the resulting infrastructure investment in refineries, roads, pipelines and housing drives energy consumption."

Africa's oil and gas sector is once again attracting investment from exploration companies and refiners following a prolonged break sparked by a slump in oil prices which saw crude drop to below US\$ 30 a barrel in early 2016.

An improvement in oil prices, which Kuti says are expected to average between US\$ 60 and US\$70 a barrel over the next three to five years, are attracting greater interest in the continent, which is seeing a population boom that will likely see the number of people double to 2.5 billion by 2050 according to UN projections. The BP

2019 Energy Outlook says Africa is 6% of global energy demand by 2040.

In 2018, the International Energy Agency (IEA) projected global energy demand would grow by more than 24% to 2040, requiring more than US\$ 2 trillion a year in investment to bring new energy supply on stream. Given Africa's burgeoning population and economic growth, it is likely that a portion of this investment will be directed towards the continent's relatively untapped energy market.

"All of this investment activity will in turn spur demand for lending, deal structuring and transacting capabilities across the continent," says Kuti. "Institutions with deep knowledge of the continent stand to benefit from

those initiatives."

"We have a wealth of knowledge across our team and have acted as mandated lead arranger, bookrunner, facility and security agent, and onshore bank for a number of international players in the industry," says Kuti.

"Our understanding of the continent is unrivalled, which coupled with our deep institutional knowledge base and industry expertise, means we are able to provide the necessary bespoke services required to successfully navigate the complexities of doing business in Africa's frontier markets."

Standard Bank is one of the largest oil and gas lenders in Sub-Saharan Africa given its on-the-ground presence in 20 countries across the continent.



Total Market Capitalization

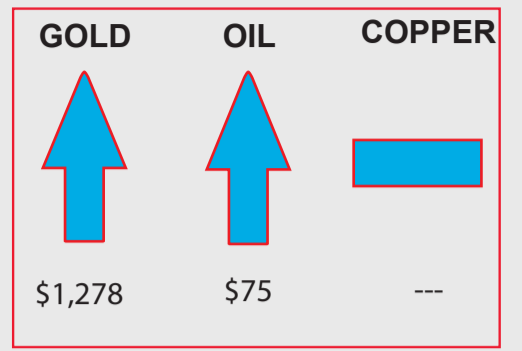
TZS 19,471.20 bln (USD 8,504.51 mln)
Indices April 23, 2019
TSI 3,482.82 -0.18
DSEI 2,020.08 -12.15

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	2,578.38	2,605.09
USD	2,278.12	2,300.91
KES	22.57	22.75
GBP	2,986.62	3,017.64



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: April 23, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	4,640.00	4,950.00	-6.26
CRDB	125	125.00	0
DCB	340	340	0
DSE	1,280	1,300	-1.54
EABL	4,840.00	4,800.00	0.83
JHL	9,250.00	9,150.00	1.09
KA	110.00	115.00	-4.35
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	1,400.00	1,400.00	0
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	3,482.82	-0.18
DSEI	2,020.08	-12.15

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	19,471.20
Equity Turnover	16,751,775.00
Total Volume	47,125
Total Deals	18

TOP MOVERS

CRDB	125	38,935
DSE	1,280	5,170
TPCC	2,100	2,120

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
ACA	4,640	-6.26%
KA	110	-4.35%
EABL	4,840	+0.83%
JHL	9,250	+1.09%
DSE	1,280	+98.46%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
24/Apr/2019	2.30	2,307.00	2,298.50	2,300.97
23/Apr/2019	6.25	2,309.00	2,300.00	2,300.95
18/Apr/2019	11.55	2,308.00	2,292.00	2,300.90
17/Apr/2019	2.20	2,308.00	2,298.45	2,300.94
16/Apr/2019	2.10	2,308.00	2,298.40	2,300.84
15/Apr/2019	1.70	2,316.00	2,298.40	2,300.93
11/Apr/2019	1.50	2,309.00	2,298.45	2,300.94

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
24/Apr/2019	70,700	5.75	5.00	5.17
23/Apr/2019	37,000	5.75	5.00	5.41
18/Apr/2019	43,000	6.00	5.00	5.45
17/Apr/2019	41,200	5.50	5.00	5.29
16/Apr/2019	53,550	5.50	4.90	5.24

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDTZS traded at 2,310.0000 on Monday April 15. 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 gains on weak economic data, firm dollar caps gains

* Dollar near 23-month high
* SPDR gold holdings fall to over 6-month low

LONDON, April 25. (Reuters) - Gold prices edged up on Thursday as a dip in equities and weak economic data from far and wide raised flags about the pace of global economic growth, while a firm dollar curbed further gains for the metal.

Spot gold rose 0.2 percent to \$1,277.72 per ounce at 0815 GMT. U.S. gold futures were steady at \$1,279.60 an ounce.

Asian shares took a hit after data showed German business morale deteriorated in April as trade tensions hurt the industrial engine of Europe's largest economy.

South Korean economy also unexpectedly contracted in the first quarter, fuelling concerns that the global economy is still not out of the woods.

"Global growth data outside the U.S. have been actually quite poor, we haven't had anything to sink our teeth in," said Stephen Innes, head of trading and market strategy, SPI Asset Management.

"We have also anticipated some correction on the equity markets and that just turns the focus back to the major economic drivers," Innes added.

Gold is often used as a hedge against economic and financial uncertainties.

However, the U.S. dollar, which traded close to a near two-year peak, kept the metal's gains in check by making it more expensive for holders of other currencies.

once earlier this week, the outlook for gold remains bearish in the near-term, with the metal still below its 50-day and 100-day moving averages.

"Heavy technical selling activities have imposed negative pressures on the precious metal for the near term," Benjamin Lu, analyst, Phillip Futures, said in a note.

"Market bears must break beneath \$1,265 for a continuation of the negative trend scenario. A bearish breakthrough will see gold prices target the next main station of \$1,245 in the coming term."

Attesting the bearish momentum, holdings of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, dipped 0.2 percent to 747.87 tonnes on Wednesday, its lowest since Oct. 19. Holdings have fallen nearly 5 percent so far this year.

Market participants will now shift focus towards the release of the U.S. GDP data, which is due on Friday.

Investors also eyed further trade negotiations between the United States and China. The two countries are slated to begin the next round of talks on trade on April 30, in an attempt to conclude a nearly year-long tariff spat.

Elsewhere, silver rose 0.1 percent to \$14.93 an ounce, while platinum climbed 0.7 percent to \$884.79.

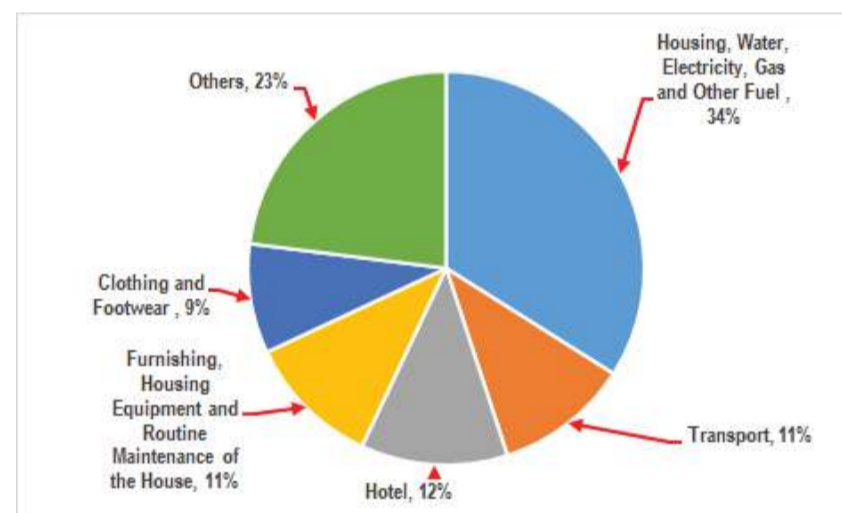
Palladium was steady at \$1,416.67 an ounce.

All Share Index : 23 April 2019

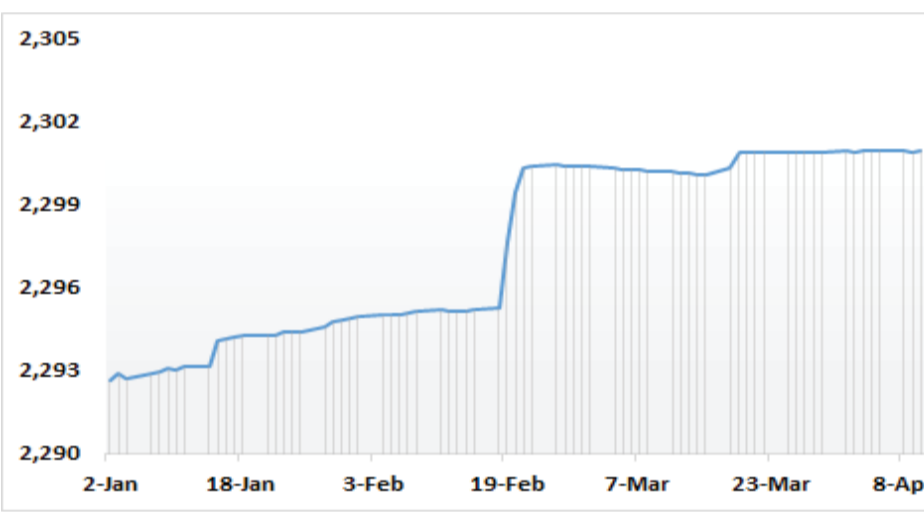
Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	30,086	115.45	0.39%	2.52%	-3.20%	-26.26%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	52,956	82.75	0.16%	0.69%	7.72%	4.10%
JALSH-All Share	59,316	93.81	0.16%	1.94%	4.34%	2.85%
Egypt EGX 30	14,773	27.80	-0.19%	-1.87%	-0.45%	-18.48%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,149	0.00	0.00%	0.76%	1.09%	-14.00%
NSE All Share	158	0.49	-0.31%	0.00%	-0.40%	-13.82%
Nairobi 20	2,870	24.73	-0.85%	-1.67%	-0.77%	-23.01%
DSEI	2,002	20.89	1.05%	-3.61%	-2.87%	-17.87%
TUN	6,960	15.24	0.22%	0.18%	0.16%	-2.58%
GGSECI	2,358	8.28	-0.35%	-0.80%	-2.58%	-31.38%
Gaborone	7,864	0.00	0.00%	-0.01%	-0.18%	-6.94%
SEMDEX	2,153	3.27	-0.15%	-0.64%	-0.82%	-5.16%
NSX Overall	1,409	0.27	-0.02%	2.12%	6.13%	0.44%
Zimbabwe Index	421	1.06	0.25%	1.42%	-1.74%	33.02%

The DSEI decreased 52 points or 2.55% 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% - March 2019: Top Movers



Fluctuation of a Shilling



Brent oil hits \$75 for first time in 2019 amid tighter Iran sanctions

LONDON, April 25. (Reuters) - Brent crude oil on Thursday rose above \$75 per barrel for the first time in 2019 in the wake of tightening sanctions on Iran, while gains in U.S. prices were crimped by a surge in U.S. supply.

Brent crude futures rose to a 2019 high of \$75.01 per barrel on Thursday and were at \$74.90 per barrel at 0705 GMT, up 33 cents, or 0.4 percent, from their last close.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$65.94 per barrel, up 5 cents from their previous settlement.

Traders said Brent was receiving support on Thursday from a halt of Russian oil exports to Poland and Germany via a pipeline due to quality concerns.

The United States this week said it would end all exemptions for sanctions against Iran, demanding countries halt oil imports from Tehran from May or face punitive action from Washington.

"Following the U.S. decision to toughen its sanctions on Iran ... we have revised up our end-year forecast for Brent crude from \$50 to \$60 per barrel," analysts at Capital Economics said in a note.

The U.S. decision to try and bring down Iran oil exports to zero comes amid supply cuts led by producer Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) since the start of the year aimed at propping up prices.

As a result, Brent prices have risen by almost 40 percent since January.

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 3rd Apr 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,147	2,192	2,096
Arusha	2,192	2,196	2,286
Coast (Kibaha)	2,151	2,196	2,101
Dodoma	2,206	2,250	2,155
Geita	2,312	2,357	2,262
Iringa	2,211	2,256	2,161
Kagera (Bukoba)	2,363	2,407	2,312
Katawi (Mpanda)	2,355	2,400	2,304
Kigoma	2,378	2,423	2,328
Moshi	2,181	2,186	2,276
Lindi	2,141	2,236	2,155
Manyara (Babati)	2,226	2,230	2,230
Mara (Musoma)	2,326	2,370	2,275
Mbeya	2,254	2,299	2,204
Morogoro	2,172	2,217	2,121
Mtwara	2,127	2,222	2,169
Mwanza	2,297	2,342	2,247
Njombe	2,239	2,284	2,189
Rukwa (S'wanga)	2,320	2,365	2,269
Ruvuma (Songea)	2,213	2,308	2,220
Shinyanga	2,276	2,321	2,225
Simiyu (Bariadi)	2,317	2,362	2,267
Singida	2,238	2,282	2,187
Songwe (Vwawa)	2,263	2,308	2,213
Tabora	2,301	2,346	2,251
Tanga	2,135	2,139	2,229

Foreign Exchange- April 23

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.12538	0.00062	-0.06%
GBPUSD	1.29946	0.00136	0.10%
AUDUSD	0.71153	0.00207	-0.29%
NZDUSD	0.66636	0.00184	-0.28%
USDJPY	111.83	0.1010	-0.09%
USDCNY	6.72221	0.00941	0.14%
USDCHF	1.01863	0.00323	0.32%
USDCAD	1.33632	0.00182	0.14%
USDMXN	18.8678	0.0414	0.22%
USDINR	69.71	0.02	0.03%
USDBRL	3.9157	0.0103	-0.26%
USDRUB	63.722	0.0982	-0.15%
US Dollar	97.32	0.0404	0.04%
BTCUSD	5,543.57	167	3.11%

Exchange Rates for April 25, 2019

Currency	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
Kenya SHS	2,244.52	2,262.51
Uganda SHS	57.47	61.52
Rwandan Franc	251.53	254.42
Burundi Franc	218.12	219.77

Currency	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
USD	227,818.81	230,097.00
Pound STG	294,911.45	297,952.61
EURO	254,906.47	257,547.57
Canadian \$	169,470.22	171,114.00
Switz. Franc	223,724.65	225,873.17
Japanese YEN	2,037.37	2,057.56
Swedish Kronor	24,245.07	24,479.71
Norweg. Kronor	26,497.34	26,760.76
Danish Kronor	34,148.58	34,484.89
Australian \$	160,133.84	161,758.19
Indian RPS	3,258.88	3,290.44
Pakistan RPS	1,532.78	1,620.40
Zambian Kwacha	18,043.25	18,334.42
Malawian Kwacha	289.17	309.43
Mozambique-MET	3,537.56	3,567.40
Zimbabwe \$	42.63	43.49
SDR	316,030.26	319,190.56
Gold (T/O)	289,729,234.68	292,691,184.29
S. African Rand	15,829.33	15,980.62
UAE Dirham	62,028.65	62,636.99
Singapore \$	167,513.83	169,126.79
Hong Kong \$	29,049.63	29,338.63
Saud Arabian Rial	60,751.68	61,354.29
Kuwait Dinar	748,788.21	756,002.76
Botswana Pula	21,141.59	21,537.08
Chinese Yuan	33,906.65	34,229.93
Malaysia Ringgit	55,228.80	55,713.56
South Korea Won	197.63	199.26
New Zealand	150,519.89	152,117.13

World Commodities (\$) 5 April 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil Brent	62.0835	0.06%	3.27%	10.47%	0.07%
Natural gas	69.2927	-0.10%	1.32%	5.01%	3.25%
Gasoline	2.6412	-0.23%	-0.78%	-7.03%	-2.21%
Heating oil	1.9297	-0.38%	1.83%	7.89%	-1.25%
Ethanol	2.0091	-0.14%	1.83%	2.84%	2.84%
Naphtha	1.2931	-0.84%	-3.86%	-3.78%	-9.82%
Propane	542.85	-0.25%	1.87%	3.46%	-5.01%
Uranium	0.62	-0.74%	-7.11%	-9.46%	-16.69%
	25.75	-0.39%	2.79%	-8.53%	22.62%

Metals	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Gold	1286.51	-0.28%	-0.43%	0.00%	-3.49%
Silver	15.166	0.03%	0.20%		

WORLD

Biden launches US 2020 presidential campaign

WASHINGTON

US former vice-president Joe Biden formally joined the crowded Democratic presidential contest yesterday, betting that his working-class appeal and ties to Barack Obama's presidency will help him overcome questions about his place in today's increasingly liberal Democratic Party.

He made his announcement in a video posted on Twitter.

Yesterday's announcement marked the unofficial end of the chaotic early phase of the 2020 presidential season. The field now features at least 20 Democrats jockeying for the chance to take on President Donald Trump next year. Several lesser-known candidates may still join the race.

Biden, a 76-year-old lifelong politician, becomes an instant front-runner alongside Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is leading many polls and has proved to be a successful fundraiser. Among Democrats, Biden has unmatched international and legislative experience, and he is among the best-known faces in US politics.

But the anti-establishment wave that swept Trump into office has not been kind to either party's statesmen. Biden's team worries about his fundraising ability and his tendency to commit gaffes. His centrist approach in a party moving left on major policy debates raises questions about his appeal.

Four years Trump's senior, Biden would be the oldest person ever

elected president should he win. Yet his allies believe the skeptics will ultimately warm to his strong connections to the Obama years.

Biden has said he would campaign as an "Obama-Biden Democrat," who is as pragmatic as he is progressive. He's aiming to be a conduit between working-class white voters and the younger, more diverse voters who backed Obama in historic numbers.

The Republican Party wasted no time seeking to undercut Biden's record, releasing a video on Wednesday questioning economic growth under Obama and Biden while resurrecting conservative arguments against Obama's health care law and a failed investment in green energy company Solyndra. The video ends with the words, "Joe Biden: Backwards, not forwards."

Yet privately, Trump allies have warned that Biden might be the biggest re-election threat given the former vice-president's potential appeal among the white working class in the Midwest, the region that gave Trump a path to the presidency. The Republican video notably does not argue a Biden candidacy would lead to socialism, as Trump and his backers have said would

happen with many in the large 2020 Democratic presidential field. Biden is paying special attention to Pennsylvania, a state that swung to Trump in 2016 after voting for Democratic presidential candidates for decades.

The former vice-president will be in the state three times within the opening weeks of his campaign. He'll be in Philadelphia on Thursday evening headlining a fundraiser at the home of David L. Cohen, executive senior vice-president of Comcast. Biden is aiming to raise US\$500,000 at the event. He will hold an event in Pittsburgh on Monday and will return to Philadelphia in the next two weeks for a major rally.

His plans were described by people who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss his schedule and fundraising goals.

With a record that stretches half a century, Biden's challenges are easy to find.

Most recently, he struggled to respond to claims that he touched 2014 Nevada lieutenant governor nominee Lucy Flores' shoulders and kissed the back of her head before a fall campaign event. A handful of other women have

made similar claims, though none has alleged sexual misconduct. Biden initially said he didn't recall the Flores incident but credited her with coming forward. He took a different approach in a subsequent statement, saying, "Never did I believe I acted inappropriately."

Biden later pledged in an online video to be "much more mindful" of respecting personal space but joked two days later that he "had permission" to hug a male union leader before addressing the group's national conference.

The episode offered a stark reminder of Biden's proclivity to gaffes and his long record in public office that has never felt the full glare of the spotlight that comes along with being a presidential front-runner.

His first White House bid in 1988 ended after a plagiarism scandal. He dropped out of the 2008 race after earning less than 1 percent of the vote in the Iowa caucuses. Later that year, Obama named Biden as his running mate.

More recently, Biden's willingness to work with Republicans has caused him political headaches.

He was forced to walk back a comment last month that Vice-President Mike Pence is "a decent guy" after intense blowback from liberal activists upset with Pence's opposition to gay rights.

In recent weeks, Biden also has been repeatedly forced to explain his 1991 decision, as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, to allow Anita Hill to face difficult questions from an all-male panel about allegations of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, who later was confirmed to the high court.

Biden has since apologized for his role in the hearing. But in the #MeToo era, particularly after the contentious confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the episode remains a significant political liability.

Likewise, Biden once played a key role in anti-crime legislation that had a disproportionately negative impact on African Americans. And while several 2020 Democratic contenders have embraced the possibility of reparations to African Americans for slavery in recent weeks, Biden last month struggled to explain comments he made as a freshman senator in 1975 about the school busing debate.

Biden's 2020 bid comes four years after he opted against challenging Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic contest.

In a book he wrote about conversations with his dying son, he opened up about the difficult choice to sit out the last presidential race: abandon a career-long quest for the presidency or lose precious time with a family he'd held together through tragedy, from his first wife's and his daughter's deaths in a 1972 car accident to son Beau Biden's 2015 death from cancer.

Agencies

Colombo area remains on edge 4 days after Easter blasts

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA'S capital remained jittery yesterday as authorities set off more controlled detonations of suspicious items, soldiers stopped and searched vehicles and some businesses advised staff to stay indoors, four days after suicide bombing attacks killed more than 350 people in and around Colombo.

John Keells Holdings, the parent company of the Cinnamon Grand hotel, one of the sites stricken in the Easter Sunday bombings, told employees at its various hotel properties to stay inside until at least 2.30 p.m. "further to the communications we have received" in an email shared with The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear where the warning originated, and a police spokesman did not respond to several calls and messages.

The streets around Dematagoda, a wealthy Colombo neighborhood where officials say many of the bombing suspects lived, were quiet Thursday.

Investigators continued to comb through a mansion with nine front balconies where investigators said suspects detonated a ninth bomb on Sunday that killed three police officers who were pursuing them. A white BMW was parked outside a garage partially blown out in the blast.

In a house on the other side of a quiet, leafy lane full of mansions, a 14-year-old boy said he used to ride bicycles



Sri Lankan navy soldiers perform security checks on motorists at a road in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. (AP)

and play soccer with one of the suspect's children, a 10-year-old boy who frequently visited his relatives there, and that the other children at the house were too young to play outside. He said his entire house shook when the bomb went off.

Sri Lankan police continued their search for additional explosives, detonating a suspicious item in a garbage dump in Pugoda, about 35 kilometers east of Colombo.

Sri Lanka's civil aviation authority also banned drones and unmanned aircraft "in view of the existing security situation in the country," according to a statement.

Hobby drones have been used by militants in the past to carry explosives. Iraqi forces found them difficult

to shoot down while driving out the Islamic State group, whose members loaded drones with grenades or simple explosives to target government forces. And Yemen's Houthi rebels have used drones, most recently to target a military parade in January, killing troops.

The attacks Easter Sunday mainly at churches and hotels killed at least 359 people and wounded 500 more, the government said Wednesday.

Most were Sri Lankan but the Foreign Ministry has confirmed 36 foreigners died. The remains of 13 have been repatriated. Fourteen foreigners are unaccounted for, and 12 were still being treated for injuries in Colombo hospitals.

Agencies

Putin, Kim have 'substantial' talks on ties, nuclear issue

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong-un said yesterday they had substantial talks on bilateral ties and the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

"We have just had very substantial tete-a-tete talks. We managed to discuss the history of our interstate relations, their current state and the prospects for the development of bilateral ties," Putin said at the beginning of an expanded bilateral meeting.

He added that they also exchanged views on "what should be done so that this situation has good prospects for improvement."

Kim said he and Putin had a fruitful discussion on "ways of peaceful settlement" of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, noting that it has become one of the most pressing issues on the international agenda.

He expressed hope that their negotiations will continue "in a useful and constructive way."

He also congratulated the Russian leader on his re-election to another six-year term last year.

Kim arrived in Russia in his train on Wednesday for his first meeting with Putin.

Putin and Kim's meeting came at a time when tensions were growing between the DPRK and the United States.

Last week, the DPRK test-fired a new tactical guided weapon and requested



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and DPRK's leader Kim Jong-un shake hands during their meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, yesterday.

Washington to exclude US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from future negotiations.

In response, Pompeo swept aside Pyongyang's demand about replacing him by someone "more careful and mature" to deal with the talks.

Kim arrived in Vladivostok Wednesday aboard an armored train, telling Russian state television that he was hoping that his first visit to Russia would "successful and useful." He evoked his father's "great love for Russia" and said that he intends to

strengthen ties between the two countries. The late Kim Jong-il made three trips to Russia, last time in 2011.

Ahead of the talks, Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said that Russia will seek to "consolidate the positive trends" stemming from Trump-Kim meetings. He noted that the Kremlin would try to help "create preconditions and a favorable atmosphere for reaching solid agreements on the problem of the Korean Peninsula."

Agencies

West needs to let go of outdated Neocolonialism mindset

BEIJING

AS China hosts the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing this week, unfortunately, some Western people have as always conjured up fantastic theories like "neocolonialism" to maliciously throw mud at China's cooperation with B&R countries.

They even claimed that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a "geopolitical tool" and would push some countries into a "debt crisis."

This demonstrates a lack of objectivity and fair understanding of the initiative and fails to see the globalization nature of the BRI. Some 5,000 participants

from more than 150 countries and 90 international organizations, including heads of state and government from nearly 40 countries, attend the BRF this year.

The number of attendees is much more than the first BRF two years ago. Such extensive participation not only shows the initiative accords with the common aspiration of the countries but also disproves the neocolonialism accusation against China.

When it comes to neocolonialism, the Western critics mean a powerful country uses its economic and political influence to control another country.

This definition runs counter to the real meaning of the BRI.

China had suffered colonial and semi-colonial rule in modern times and now truly knows the bitterness of being colonized.

China has never intended to control other countries as it lives by motto of confucianism "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

"The BRI, proposed by China nearly six years ago, is a blessing amidst a world faced with common challenges such as growing uncertainties and destabilizing factors. The final goal is to promote high-quality common development through better connectivity.

The initiative has since been warmly welcomed, and historic stories of cooperation and development are emerging from

around the world.

Thanks to the BRI, east Africa has its own expressway, the Maldives owns its first inter-island bridge, Belarus can produce sedans, and the number of freight trains between China and Europe is on the rise.

The list of the outcomes of the B&R construction is ever growing. China has never forced any country to sign up to the initiative, rather, it always emphasizes policy coordination and the alignment of development plans between B&R countries.

Over the past few years, China has signed over 170 cooperation documents on the BRI with more than 150 countries and international organizations. The B&R has expanded from Asia

and Europe to more new participants in Africa, Latin America and the South Pacific.

Changes brought by cooperation under the initiative have fully proved that the BRI is China's idea, but the opportunities it has created belong to the world, and it should not be seen as expansionism, but rather an open, inclusive and transparent cooperation platform.

One telling example is China's aid to Africa. From supporting African countries in their struggle for national independence to assisting them in developing their economies, China has sincerely helped Africa explore its path toward revitalization without attaching any political conditions. Long gone is the history

of enslavement in Africa by the West.

But the ills of one-sided economic structure and backward infrastructure, left behind by Western colonizers, are not easily remedied. Today, Africa's weak status in the global economy is directly related to its past of being colonized.

Different from the West's old colonial mentality, China's investment in Africa is fully based on respect for local laws, policies and environmental protection concerns, primarily focusing on helping Africa obtain its own capacity to achieve sustainable development.

The so-called debt crisis is also highly questionable. Africa's debts owed to China only make

up a small share of its total and are quite manageable.

The Chinese loans are concessional, with long maturities and low interest rate. For China, it does not intend to increase debt burdens for Africa as that would not be beneficial for either party.

Currently, economic globalization is the historical trend, but global deficits such as governance, trust, peace and development remain severe challenges faced by mankind.

To better address such deficits and offer solutions for global governance, the second BRF set "Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future" as its theme to promote the high-quality development of B&R cooperation. *Xinhua*

The
Guardian

SPORT



Los Angeles Clippers' Montrezl Harrell (5) scores as Golden State Warriors' Andrew Bogut (12), Klay Thompson, second from right, and Andre Iguodala watch during the second half in Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Oakland, Calif. (AP Photo)

Lou Williams, Clippers force Game 6 against champ Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif.

LOU Williams again came off the bench and knocked down big shot after big shot. Patrick Beverley crashed the boards at every chance. Danilo Gallinari drove the lane with authority.

The Los Angeles Clippers took the Warriors right out of their comfort zone by beating the two-time defending champions at their own game with energy on both ends, extending their season long after many had counted them out.

Williams hit a fadeaway jumper with 1:29 left and finished with 33 points and 10 assists, Golden State uncharacteristically clanked shots much of the second half and couldn't make key stops, and the upstart Clippers sent their first-round series back home with a 129-121 Game 5 win on Wednesday night.

No clinch celebration just yet for the two-time defending champions, who lead 3-2 but needed far more than Kevin Durant's playoff career-high 45 points.

"I don't want to get ahead of myself. They're up 3-2 still, but I just loved how we played, I really did," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "All we talked about is being us. I told our guys, they've been them in the series. We have yet to put a game where we are us through the game."

The Clippers stymied Golden State's comeback effort on the very court at Oracle Arena where Los Angeles rallied from 31 points down in Game 2 for the largest comeback in NBA postseason history.

Game 6 is Friday back in Los Angeles.

Beverley took a big charge against Klay Thompson with 1:40 left and wound up with 17 points and 14 rebounds for his best outing of the series.

"I thought Patrick Beverley came in, just kicked our butts right away," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He came out with more energy than we had and that set a tone."

Houston and James Harden are on to the second round and waiting for another chance at the champs. The Clippers said not just yet, they're not done.

The Rockets, who squandered a 3-2 series lead to the Warriors in last year's Western Conference finals, eliminated the Jazz with a 100-93 Game 5 victory at home a few hours earlier Wednesday. Sure, the Warriors have thought about a potential second-round matchup.

"Our focus was to come in and extend the series and get another game on our home floor," Williams said. "It's their mistake for looking ahead. That's on them."

Gallinari added 26 points and seven rebounds, and Montrezl Harrell had 24 points as the eighth-seeded Clippers are keeping things interesting

until the end.

"We've got to bring it if we're going to beat them," Kerr said.

Durant raised his arm late and called on the Oracle Arena crowd for a major assist – the Warriors needed every little bit of help. Thompson's 3 with 4:02 left made it 116-114 and Durant tied it on a driving dunk the next time down.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Thompson 22 but Golden State didn't have it on defense.

"If we come out and just think we're going to roll over this team because they're an 8 seed, it doesn't work that way in the NBA playoffs," Warriors center Andrew Bogut said.

Durant shot 14 for 26 in his third performance of at least 30 points in the series and ninth 40-point postseason effort.

Curry, already the NBA's career playoff leader for made 3-pointers, reached 400 postseason 3s.

But the Warriors – all of them, their best shooters – missed badly on good looks and couldn't defend the way they typically do to generate that sensational transition game.

"That's the worst-case scenario for any team. You're missing shots and can't get stops, you feel like you're in a bottomless pit," Durant said. "Hopefully we knock down shots and get stops next game."

Golden State trailed 71-63 at halftime despite making 10 of 16 3s but allowed Los Angeles to shoot 56%, and the Clippers finished at 54.1%.

Gallinari hit a 3 out of the break then a free throw following Draymond Green's technical and Los Angeles made it 81-66 on JaMychal Green's 3 at the 9:09 mark.

"It's been a year where things haven't gone exactly smoothly all the time," Kerr said. "I'm not surprised by anything, but I expected to come out and play better and win the game. But it's the NBA playoffs. This is a seven-game series and you've got to play. You've got to defend with some urgency."

NO SUBSTITUTION NECESSARY

Alfonzo McKinnie knocked down a 3 to end the first moments after he had left the court with Kerr trying to sub in Thompson to play the final possession, but since Beverley – who'd been bleeding from a knock by Curry – stayed in the game the referees ruled McKinnie must return to the floor.

GREEN'S WRIST

Nothing was going to keep Draymond Green from playing Game 5 – even his troublesome right wrist. An MRI showed no serious issues and he practiced fully Tuesday.

The wrist has been bothering him since the beginning of Game 3 when "I got a pretty good whack on it." **AP**



National U-17 soccer team, Serengeti Boys.

Serengeti Boys' AFCON U-17 tourney woes and agents' regulation

BY Correspondent Michael Mwebi

MINISTER for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, has called for agents to be strictly regulated following concerns about their perceived bad influence in Tanzania's woeful performance in the U-17 African Cup of Nations Championship hosted in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania U-17 national team, Serengeti Boys lost all of their three Group Stage matches to finish bottom of the Group A of the championship. Speaking in the Parliament, Mwakymbe linked Serengeti Boys' poor performance to football agents who had promised the young boys lucrative deals abroad.

He alleges the promises made the youngsters put up lacklustre performance in order to avoid picking injuries that would jeopardise their deals.

Every sane football stakeholder would recommend efforts made at making sure agents are regulated properly, and that the market is transparent and clean and conforms to best practice. I am confident even agents would want that, too. It is a rational decision.

However, this rational decision should not be made on the ridiculous accusations that agents contributed to Serengeti Boys poor performance. Serengeti Boys poor performance can be linked to many factors but saying agents perceived influence is one of them is missing the point by a big mile.

Insisting agents contributed to our youngsters' AFCON U-17 Championship woes is a continuation of the naivety that surrounded the pre-tournament hype. Before the debacle, we were made to believe our team would have an easy walk to the semi-finals and grab a historic World Cup ticket. The relative good outings in three regional tournaments made us forget our background.

The UEFA Assist Tournament in Turkey should have been a

good reality check but anyone who dared to suggest that was quickly dismissed with the usual dose of patriotic rhetoric. We lost to all better opponents that we faced. We closed our eyes, blocked all senses and went into fantasy land.

Yes, agents are seen as self-serving leeches in the eyes of the media, supporters and even some players, they are accused of wielding far too much power, intent only on sucking money out of the game and into their own pockets. However, Tanzania is far from a stage where we can blame agents and even call for strict regulation of an industry that barely exists.

When TFF called for agent registration late last year, only two responded positively and are authorised to conduct deals in Tanzania. The reality is many did not respond due to the fact that the environment is not yet professional enough. We are not yet at a stage where one can sustain a business based on internal deals. hat we loosely term as agent or intermediaries are actually in three categories. The most common are those who represent and advise footballers in negotiations and look after many parts of their daily lives and careers. This applies in the case of top players who earn in terms of millions.

Unfortunately in Tanzania, maybe we can only put Mbwana Samatta in that group. This category is non-existent in Tanzania, we are

not yet there though the regulations we are putting in place apply to this group.

Then there are middlemen or agents who base their activities on brokering transfer deals between clubs. Our league is not yet lucrative enough, most of the transfers involve free agents. It is only in very rare occasions clubs sit down and negotiate a deal for a player transfer. Here we have a few Tanzanians who see themselves as scouts intent on advising clubs on who to buy.

They earn a token of appreciation from either club officials or the player for pushing a deal. There are no paperwork involved to show any money exchanged hands.

Finally there are those who do a bit of everything: representation, brokering and scouting. In Tanzania, they are most referred to as managers.

In summary, given the infant stage our football industry is wading in, agent regulation is an area where we need to tread carefully. We should not make decision based on the silly excuses we are trying to pin onto agents. To do so would be akin to strangling an inborn baby and also failing to pin down where we exactly went wrong in youth football.

The few personnel trying to operate as agents in Tanzania should not be scared away by red tape and bureaucracy as a result of strict rules made out of an irrational and emotional decision.

Mercedes' Bottas out for Baku revenge

BAKU

VALTTERI Bottas has a score to settle as he heads into Sunday's Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix determined to make up for a lost win and regain the championship lead from Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton.

The Finn was leading around the streets of Baku last year when a puncture three laps from the end handed victory to Hamilton instead.

The Briton went on to win 10 more races on his way to a fifth title while Bottas ended the season demoralised and with zero wins.

The 29-year-old has come back from the winter stronger and looking more of a match for his team mate, even if Hamilton has returned to the top of the standings after chalking up his second win of the season in China

on April 14.

"For sure I would prefer to still be leading but that's the situation now and if I keep performing well I can turn it around," said Bottas, who trails Hamilton by six points with 18 races remaining.

"So that's going to be the goal for Baku," added the Finn, who was on pole in China but dropped behind Hamilton at the start.

Mercedes head into Sunday's race, the fourth since Azerbaijan joined the calendar in 2016, as favourites after three one-two finishes – the strongest start to a campaign since Williams in 1992.

They have also won two of the three races in Azerbaijan, even if it has not been a particularly happy hunting ground for Hamilton. Last year's victory was his first podium appearance there.

MEAGRE HAUL

Nothing can be taken for granted at a circuit that has served up some thrillers in the past, mixing ultra-long straights and tight corners with no margin for error.

Like Bottas, Ferrari will also be hoping to make a statement.

Already 57 points behind Mercedes in the overall standings, the pre-season favourites have a meagre haul of two third-place finishes from the first three races and cannot afford to lose any more ground.

New recruit Charles Leclerc, smarting from being ordered to move over for four times champion Sebastian Vettel in China and denied a maiden Formula One win by engine trouble in Bahrain, will be especially fired up.

The circuit holds a special emotional significance for the

Monegasque, who won a 2017 Formula Two race from pole position in Baku only days after the death of his father.

"Baku is a demanding track, but I can't wait," said the 21-year-old, who also scored his first Formula One points there last year with sixth place for Sauber. "I simply love it and I've always performed very well there."

The unpredictability of the race means there's always a chance for an unexpected podium finisher.

Since the 2016 race, Baku is the only grand prix on the calendar that has seen a driver outside of the top-three teams finish on the podium.

Mexican Sergio Perez, with two third places for Force India – now Racing Point – is the only driver to have stood on the podium more than once in Baku.

REUTERS

Farah in dispute with Gebrselassie over theft at Ethiopian's hotel

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Mo Farah, who will be running in the London Marathon on Sunday, is in dispute with fellow distance-running great Haile Gebrselassie for failing to help him after he was robbed at a hotel in Addis Ababa owned by the Ethiopian.

Farah, third last year and facing a monumental challenge to overcome Kenya's world record holder and defending champion Eliud Kipchoge in Sunday's race, said around 2500 pounds (\$3,230) – in four currencies – two mobile phones and a valuable watch presented to him by his wife were stolen from a locked suitcase in

his room while he was out on a training run on his 36 birthday on March 23.

Farah said he got little help from hotel staff in dealing with the issue and even less from Gebrselassie, a national icon in Ethiopia after a stunning track career that earned him two Olympic golds and four world titles over 10,000m and several world records.

"He didn't respond even though that's his hotel," four-times Olympic champion Farah told reporters at the London Marathon launch on Wednesday.

Farah was so furious that Gebrselassie ignored his repeated texts and calls that he shared the last he sent, that threatened to publicly

shame the Ethiopian.

"I want to inform you that I'm disappointed you have not made any effort to find my stolen money, and especially my watch," he wrote.

"I have tried to contact you by telephone several times. Know that I am not responsible for what I say during the press conference in London and what influence it will have on your personality and your business." He signed off: "Sir Mo."

Later on Wednesday Gebrselassie fired back at Farah in a press release, calling his claim of robbery "unproven".

Gebrselassie said Farah declined to use a safe box offered to him or

give the money to a hotel official for safekeeping.

Gebrselassie, a former world record holder and current president of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation, said the matter was immediately reported to police, who interviewed five hotel employees but decided not to bring charges against any of them.

He added that despite a 50 percent discount on the room rate, Farah failed to pay a service bill of 2,313 pounds (\$3,000).

"I found today's accusations made by Mo with unproven premises, as an act of defamation on my hard earned reputation and business," he said in a release posted on LetsRun.com. here

"Following this my lawyers will deal with the matter accordingly," Gebrselassie said.

A spokesperson for Farah told the BBC late on Wednesday that he was disappointed with Gebrselassie's statement.

"Mo disputes all of these claims, which are an effort to distract from the situation, where members of his hotel staff used a room key and stole money and items from Mo Farah's room (there was no safe as it was faulty, and Mo requested a new one).

"Police reports confirm the incident and the hotel admitted responsibility and were in contact with Mo's legal advisor.

"The hotel even offered to pay Mo the amount stolen, only to withdraw the offer when he prematurely left the hotel and moved to other accommodation due to security concerns.

"Despite many attempts to discuss this issue privately with Mr Gebrselassie, he did not respond but now that he has, we would welcome him or his legal team getting in touch so that this matter can be resolved."

TASK AT HAND

Farah will need all his focus to be back on the task in hand on Sunday as although the race is widely seen as something of a head-to-head between him and the peerless Kipchoge, the

Guardiola amazed by Manchester City's response to European exit

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola hailed his team for the way they have responded to the bitter blow of exiting from the Champions League with two crucial victories in their title bid.

City went out of the European competition on away goals to Tottenham Hotspur in dramatic fashion last week but dusted themselves off to beat Spurs in the Premier League on Saturday before Wednesday's 2-0 Manchester derby win over rivals United sent them top of the league, one point ahead of Liverpool with three matches left.

"That is the most incredible detail for these players. You cannot imagine how tough it was to go out of this beautiful (Champions League) competition when we felt it was there, it was really, really tough," Guardiola said.

"We had Tottenham at home, it wasn't the best performance, but we had the sunshine, to stay alive in the Premier League... the pressure we had and the way we reacted. That is sometimes more important.

"Then we come here, our neighbours, the most prestigious team in England... winning with the pressure we had and being there, it was fantastic," the Spaniard added.

The win over United was the 11th straight in the league for City as they follow-up last season's record-breaking title win with another campaign of ex-

traordinary quality and consistency.

"They (the players) have my incredible respect. It's massive what they've done this season. It's incredible the mentality and the strength, doing what we have to do. Man City has to be so, so proud of these players," said the former Barcelona boss.

"We can go with our heads up everywhere, that's why our fans were great in the Champions League against Tottenham in defeat, then three days later they support us more than they did in the Champions League, that's because they know we don't lie, we're honest in the way we play."

As a remarkable Premier League title race heads into the final three games, with City enjoying a one-point lead over Liverpool, who have lost just once this season, Guardiola said both teams would be worthy champions.

"Both teams deserve the title. But it can be just one. The team that is going to lose can't have regrets because they have given everything," he said.

City's next task is an away game at Burnley on Sunday and Guardiola said that meant there was no time for celebration of the derby win.

"Normally with this kind of victory you can enjoy it the most but we have to be calm," he said.

"I've told the players to rest tomorrow, relax, don't talk too much, don't watch TV, just eat well and get plenty of sleep because on Sunday we have another difficult game."

REUTERS

Solskjaer concedes Man City have set a new standard

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer made no attempt to disguise the gulf in quality between his team and Manchester City, describing Pep Guardiola's side as "the best team in the country" after they won 2-0 at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"They have set the standard in the last two seasons and I don't know how many points they've taken. What Pep Guardiola has done with his players is remarkable and we are so close to it, in the vicinity so we feel it every day," said the Norwegian.

Solskjaer had demanded his players react to their 4-0 loss to Everton on Sunday and United did begin the match with aggression, battling hard until City went ahead through Bernardo Silva in the 54th minute.

"We got a reaction and in the end we were beaten by a better team. But we got a reaction from fans and players and had a go. You can see the workrate was there, it wasn't good enough though," said the United boss.

"The players wanted to show they really care. The first half was positive, we were pleased at the break.

"Unfortunately, we conceded two sloppy goals in the second half that could have been avoided. Everyone can see what City have done over the last few years," he said.

City strolled to victory in the second half with United flagging as they chased after a stream of precise

passes from Guardiola's side.

"There is a difference in quality. That is why they are top and we are where we are. They have set the standard. Living in Manchester we cannot be happy with that. It is up to us to close that gap and overtake them," said Solskjaer.

"Today you can't say that any of them didn't run. You could see clearly an intent and focus. We just need to keep working on it," he said.

United have lost seven of their last nine games in all competitions, a run of form which contrasts markedly with the positive start to Solskjaer's reign in December.

A Champions League spot remains within their grasp, however, with United sat in sixth place, three points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, who they play on Sunday.

"In the short term, we are still in the race for the top four and we know we must deliver a good performance against Chelsea," said Solskjaer.

Meanwhile, Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford questioned their workrate and mentality as he offered a brutally honest appraisal of his side's slump in form after Wednesday's 2-0 derby defeat by Manchester City at Old Trafford.

United's surge after manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer took over from the sacked Jose Mourinho in December seems like a distant memory, with the club having lost seven of their last nine matches in all competitions, including the last three without scoring.

REUTERS

Juventus to ditch stripes after 116 years?

MILAN

FIRST it was the club emblem, where the distinctive bull was removed to make way for a minimalist white letter J on a black background.

Two years later, Juventus may be preparing to make an even bigger break with tradition and ditch their famous black-and-white striped shirts after 116 years.

Gazzetta dello Sport as well as a number of social media feeds on Wednesday published what they said were leaked photographs of the 2019/20 "home" strip. In a dramatic departure, the shirt featured one black half and one white half, divided by a thin pink line.

Juventus would not confirm the kit change. "We never comment leaks or rumours," a spokesman told Reuters. But the pictures, which included the shirt being worn by first-team players Paulo Dybala and Federico Bernardeschi, quickly stirred up controversy.

The English language blog "Black and White and Read All Over" said

that the change "pretty much means Juventus will be ditching their history for a year in the hopes of making more of a fashion statement more than anything else."

Founded by students in 1897, Juventus initially played in pink but that colour quickly fell out of favour, especially as they did not want to be confused with Palermo - who wear pink until this day.

One of the Juventus players, Englishman John Savage, had connections to Notts County and in 1903 asked if they could send a replacement. The English club agreed and ever since, Juventus have been playing in their familiar zebra stripes.

Although the release of new kits is seen as a key part of modern football marketing, it is rare for teams to do more than tinker around the edges of the so-called "home kit".

One notable exception was Brazil. Their combination of gold shirts and blue shorts is one of the most iconic kits in football but they only adopted it in 1953.

REUTERS

Man City too good to let title slip from their grasp

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER City have played 27 games in 2019, and walked off the pitch as winners after 25 of them. They have not fallen behind in a Premier League fixture since the end of January and they are on course to end the season with 98 points.

Yet most of the talk in this title race has centred on the unbreakable spirit of Liverpool.

City, perhaps because they set the bar so high last season by amassing 100 points, have found themselves slipping under the radar due to the drama and romance of Liverpool's bid to win their first championship since 1990.

Liverpool have grabbed the sporting world's attention with their last-gasp winners and majestic goals from the likes of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane, while City have, more prosaically, been relentlessly taking care of business.

Yet after reclaiming the top spot and taking a firm grip of their destiny with a 2-0 win at Manchester United on Wednesday - a victory that ensures they will retain the title by winning their three remaining games against Burnley, Leicester and Brighton - it is perhaps time to celebrate the incredible quality of Pep Guardiola's team.

Perhaps it would be premature to herald them as champions, because misfortune could still strike during their remaining games, but few would expect City to stumble now and it is unlikely that many Liverpool supporters believe their rivals' march to the title will falter sufficiently for the Premier League trophy to head instead to Anfield.

City might not tug at the heart strings of the neutrals as Liverpool have done, but Guardiola's team deserve due credit for their ability to keep pace with Jurgen Klopp's side, having been seven points behind on New Year's Day, and move ahead of them with the win at Old Trafford. They have become a machine. During the 11-game winning run in the league that has kept City on Liverpool's heels, City have conceded just three goals and scored 26.

From back to front, they are formidable.

In goal, Ederson gives his defenders immense confidence by coming for every aerial ball in the penalty area, and usually catching it. Aymeric Laporte, most City watchers will tell you, has been majestic at centre-half



Manchester City's Leroy Sane scores their second goal against Manchester United during their Premier League match at Old Trafford in Manchester, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS

and every bit as impressive as Virgil van Dijk, who signed for Liverpool 18 months ago after Guardiola decided that €75 million was too much for the Dutch defender.

Fernandinho remains crucial in midfield, with the 33-year-old providing the grit that enables the likes of David Silva, Bernardo Silva, Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne to make their contributions in the attacking third. And Sergio Agüero has once again delivered goals up front, especially in the bigger games when it matters most.

Collectively, City are every bit the sum of their parts, and more.

In contrast, Wednesday's opponents United are an expensively assembled team of individuals and it would be impossible to suggest that any of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's players would make it into Guardiola's side. Paul Pogba has the talent, but his work rate would not be good enough for Guardiola. Marcus Rashford is perhaps the one United player who could rise to City's level, but he wouldn't shift Agüero.

"There is a difference in quality," Solskjaer said when asked about the gulf between the two sides. "That is why they are top and we are where we are. They have set the standard.

"Living in Manchester, we cannot be happy with that. It is up to us to close that gap and overtake them."

The same applies to the rest, though. Liverpool have so far matched City step for step, and they can reclaim the top spot by beating relegated Huddersfield at Anfield on Friday before City visit Burnley on Saturday, but Klopp's team have been pushed to the limit and strained every sinew to stay alive in the title race.

City have coasted through most of their 11-game streak, which included a 6-0 rout of Chelsea, and given the impression that they have been holding something back. It was the same against United, where they could have emerged with a much bigger winning margin than that given by goals from Bernardo Silva and Leroy Sane.

But because they were so good last season,

winning the title with a 19-point lead over their closest challengers, their involvement in a tight title race this time around lends itself to the suggestion that City have regressed. The reality is that they have stepped up another level in order to hold off a formidable rival.

"We increased the level for the Premier League last season with 100 points," Guardiola said. "That's the level.

"Liverpool are chasing and what they have done is incredible. They are not going to drop too many points, but it's in our hands.

"It's incredible what our players have done. They have my massive respect for what they achieved this season. Manchester City has to be so proud of these players."

The title isn't in the bag just yet, but they can start to put the blue ribbons on the trophy. This City team is simply too good, too clinical, too ruthless to make a mess of everything now.

(AGENCIES)

Same old Arsenal? Gunners shrink again as going gets tough

By Nick Ames, ESPN.com writer

FOR Arsenal, it feels as if normal service has been resumed. That is not to say they have rediscovered the carefree, devastating football of old. Instead it means that, on a chastening night in Wolverhampton, they presented the very worst version of themselves: leaderless, lifeless, utterly unresponsive to adversity.

Narrow wins at Watford and Napoli suggested that maybe, just maybe, they had arrested two seasons of woeful away form. But such a resounding 3-1 defeat to an excellent Wolves team suggests they are back to square one and heightens the sense that Champions League football, via whichever route, may ultimately be beyond Unai Emery's side.

By the time Sokratis Papastathopoulos headed in a late consolation goal, giving the scoreline a veneer of respectability towards the end of a barely-relevant second half, swathes of Arsenal's travelling fans had headed for the exits. Nobody could blame them. Arsenal have now won just two of their last 10 away games in the league, and those came against Huddersfield and a 10-man Watford side that deserved far more.

They are a team that looks convincing when the going is good, and that is reflected in home form that - until Sunday's defeat to Crystal Palace - looked like it would propel them into the top four. They are also a team that consistently melts at the merest change in temperature, and that was exactly what happened during a disastrous first half here.

"They were better than us, they played more strongly in their game plan and they beat us," admitted Emery afterwards. He must wonder how, just six days ago, Arsenal could have executed his Europa League instructions so expertly against Napoli at the Stadio San Paolo, only to look like strangers here en route to their heaviest defeat against a promoted side - albeit a singularly strong one - since May 1994.

Wolves had not beaten Arsenal in 40 years. In an even first 25 minutes there was little to hint that they would do so with anything like this ease. Emery had rested a number of first-choice players for the Palace game and that had turned out to be a miscalculation, although a packed schedule cuts him some slack. He made seven changes here and one of them, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang missing through sinus surgery, was forced. Otherwise this looked an experienced, balanced side and they



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Matt Doherty scores their second goal against Arsenal during their Premier League match at Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS

buckled in a manner that was far too familiar to be a coincidence.

"The second and third goals killed us," Emery said. Ruben Neves' free kick to open the scoring was unstoppable but what happened after that was hard to excuse. Against Palace, Shkodran Mustafi was the fall guy for letting Wilfried Zaha in to score. Here, Mustafi was on the bench and it laid bare the fact that Arsenal's problems are far more widespread.

In fairness to Bernd Leno, the goalkeeper has had a generally fine season. He was beaten to the ball by Matt Doherty for Wolves' second, though, and should have got a firmer hand on the outstanding Diogo Jota's low strike for the third. It did not help that, in front of him, more serial offenders failed to step up.

Granit Xhaka conceded possession cheaply for Jota to finish and barely played an effective forwards pass all night. Henrikh Mkhitaryan was invisible yet again while Mesut Ozil, on nights like this, resembles nothing more than a £350,000-per-week human void.

Ozil problematically has been involved

in a lot of comparable evenings and so has Arsenal. As Wolves upped the tempo following Neves' goal, swinging the ball from side to side with the swagger that has hauled them up into seventh place, the visitors had no answer. Emery had wanted his side to control the game, dominate the ball and probe for weaknesses.

By half-time they had recorded 70 percent of possession, but it had not yielded a shot on target and, besides, the game had been put well beyond reach. Control is one thing, Arsenal could simply not muster the aggression and tempo to create anything but sterile possession.

"Usually I am angry with myself when we don't do the game plan I want, not with the players," Emery said when asked whether he had told a few home truths at the break. "My style is to look ahead and find a solution, not 'who is the player playing worst?' or 'why aren't they doing all we spoke about before?'"

In that moment it could almost have been his predecessor, Arsene Wenger, speaking. In Wenger's later years at the helm a common accusation was that the

same underperformance was forgiven time and again. It is tempting to ask if anything has changed?

A minor consolation is that, in a top-four race where nobody seems keen on grasping the initiative, a one-point gap behind Chelsea may not be insurmountable even on this evidence. "It is not in our hands [anymore] but we still have possibilities," said Emery, but he will do well to remain of that mind after another fiendish away match with Leicester this Sunday.

Removing the longer-term context, there should usually be no shame in losing to a Wolves side that routinely steps up against top-six opposition. Manchester United have lost here twice this season, Chelsea too; Liverpool have been beaten in the FA Cup and Manchester City were held to a draw.

"I'm very proud of the way our players engage themselves and commit to ideas," said the Wolves head coach, Nuno Espirito Santo. If only Emery could, in his heart of hearts, say the same.

AP

SPORT

Man City too good to let
title slip from their grasp

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Lebohang Maboe of South Africa (R) is challenged by Ventunuavi Hambira and Ronald Ketjijere of Namibia during the 2018 COSAFA plate semi-final match at Old Peter Mokaba Stadium, Polokwane on June 5, 2018. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAMUEL SHIVAMBU

COSAFA Cup to be staged in world-class facilities

CAPE TOWN

THE COSAFA Cup will be staged in the South African coastal city of Durban from May 25-June 8, with matches to be played at venues that have served as a legacy from the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Five stadia across Durban will be used during the tournament, three for matches and two as training venues for the teams, with all in regular use for league and cup action in South Africa's Premier Soccer League.

Moses Mabhida Stadium

The Moses Mabhida Stadium has become one of the most iconic venues in football, not just in South Africa but also the world with its unique design.

It will be used for the semi-finals and final of the 2019 COSAFA Cup, providing a fitting stage for the business end of the competition.

It has been the scene of numerous domestic deciders in the past, and will host the season-ending Nedbank Cup final in South Africa on May 18, just a week before the start of the COSAFA Cup.

The stadium opened in 2010 ahead of the World Cup that year, when it hosted seven matches, including a semifinal between Germany and Spain.

The venue also staged six fixtures during the 2013 African Nations Cup finals and remains a popular base for Bafana Bafana.

Moses Mabhida was a politician who was leader of the South African Communist Party from 1978 until his death in 1986.

King Zwelithini Stadium

The King Zwelithini Stadium in Umhlanga has long been a popular venue with Durban's PSL sides and is the current home of top-flight AmaZulu.

With a capacity of 10,000, the venue was renovated ahead of the 2010 World Cup and has an excellent surface that allows for flowing football.

It will be used for group games and knockout matches up to and including the quarterfinals, and is located in a Durban suburb to the south east of the city.

The stadium is named after Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, the reigning King of the Zulu nation.

Princess Magogo Stadium

The Princess Magogo Stadium in KwaMashu will also be used for the group games and knockout matches up to and including the quarterfinals.

It is the current home of South African top-flight side Lamontville Golden Arrows and has a capacity of 12,000.

It also underwent renovations ahead of the 2010 World Cup and has been used by a number of teams in the city.

The venue is located in the suburb of KwaMashu, north of Durban, which has been the home of a number of prominent South Africans, including Bafana Bafana players Siyabonga Nomvethe, Siyanda Xulu and Siboniso Gaxa.

The venue is named after Princess Constance Magogo, a Zulu princess who had a love for singing and composing music.

Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium

The Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium will be a training venue for teams at the COSAFA Cup, but is a place of legend in the city of Durban. It has previously been home to a number of top-flight teams in the city and most recently staged the Nedbank Cup semi-final between Lamontville Golden Arrows and TS Galaxy.

It has a smaller 6,500 capacity but an excellent playing surface and will provide teams with top conditions in which to train for their matches.

The stadium is located in the suburb of Clermont in Durban and was named after former footballer Cedric 'Sugar Ray' Xulu, who was a legend with AmaZulu and Mbabane Swallows of Swaziland in the 1960s.

Chatsworth Stadium

The Chatsworth Stadium will be a training venue for the COSAFA Cup but actually has a large 22,000 capacity, having previously been home to Lamontville Golden Arrows and Manning Rangers.

Chatsworth is a large suburb to the south of Durban that has a population of 200,000 and covers a vast area.

The stadium is the current home of South African National First Division side Royal Eagles, who are gunning for promotion to the elite league this season.

South Africa sweat on injured Steyn for World Cup

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa face an anxious wait over the fitness of experienced seamer Dale Steyn after a flare-up of an old shoulder injury ruled him out for the rest of the Indian Premier League season, putting his World Cup prospects in doubt.

The 35-year-old Steyn (pictured) felt discomfort having played for the Royal Challengers Bangalore on Sunday, just his second game of the competition after he was signed as an injury replacement for Australian seamer Nathan Coulter-Nile.

"Upon assessment and subsequent investigations, a flare-up of his right shoulder was confirmed," South Africa team manager Mohammed Moosajee said in a statement on Thursday.

"With the World Cup around the corner, it is our priority to get him back to full fitness before the squad departs on May 19.

"He will consult with a shoulder specialist upon his return and a recovery plan will be put in place."

Steyn, arguably his country's greatest fast bowler, was sidelined from South Africa's one-day international side for two years with shoulder, hamstring and foot problems before returning in Oct. 2018.

He was last week named in a 15-man squad for the World Cup being held in England and Wales, having previously appeared at the tournament in 2011 and 2015.

Steyn is viewed as a key part of a three-man pace attack that also includes Lungi Ngidi and Kagiso Rabada, this season's leading wicket-taker in the IPL.

South Africa open the World Cup campaign against England at The Oval on May 30.

REUTERS



Namungo Football Club's players in group photo as they prepare to face Mawenzi FC in the First Division (FDL) duel in Morogoro last weekend. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Namungo FC eager for successful stint in 2019/2020 Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

LINDI's Namungo FC has expressed determination to put impressive showing in the next season's Premier League after excelling in this year's First Division League (FDL).

The squad won promotion to the Premier League, thanks to a 2-1 win over Morogoro's Mawenzi FC in Group A's game of the FDL which was played at the Jamhuri Stadium last weekend.

Namungo FC now leads Group A of the FDL with 43 points from 20 games, having won 12, concede one loss and post draw in seven.

They have two matches to play, as they will lock horns with Ashanti United of Dar es Salaam and Kiluvya FC of Coast Region.

Namungo FC assistant coach, Bakari Malima, aka Jembe Ulaya, said his squad will first give its all to maintain its place in the

2019/2020 season and then battle for the top three spots in the next season.

"It will take time for our club to get used to competitiveness in the Premier League, I hope we will face the challenges and perform well in the league," he said.

Namungo FC went 1-0 up on the 31st minute of the match against Mawenzi FC following a strike by Abeid Athuman.

The Lindi club's dependable goal getter got the better of Mawenzi FC defenders within the latter's area and easily beat keeper.

Athuman's striking partner, Reliants Lusa-jo, netted the second for the squad on the 43rd minute to help the squad stay 2-0 up at the end of the stanza.

Forward Often Chikola helped Mawenzi FC reduce the margin, as he found Namungo FC's back of the net 10 minutes into the second stanza.

Ruangwa District Commissioner, Hashim

Mgandilwa, one of Namungo FC enthusiastic fans, noted the district's residents will, for the first time, be enjoying the domestic top flight competition at the Majaliwa Stadium. "Ruangwa District is committed to empowering youths via creating job opportunities in soccer and such other sectors like agriculture," he said.

In another development, junior soccer leagues for U-17 and U-15 players are taking place at the district level all over the country, TFF has disclosed.

The federation noted in a statement it has opted for introduction of the tournaments in an effort to invest in junior soccer development.

The district junior tournaments, the federation noted, have been scheduled to end at the end of this month and will be followed by regional leagues next month.

The junior tournaments have, at the national level, been slated for June.

West Indies spinner Narine rues missed World Cup opportunity

ANTIGUA

SUNIL Narine has still not given up hope of a return to international cricket after missing out on a spot in West Indies' World Cup squad due to injury, the spinner has said.

The 30-year-old (pictured), who last played an one-day international in 2016, had come into consideration under the new selection policy of Cricket West Indies (CWI) but missed out due to a finger injury on his right hand.

"I would have loved to play in the World Cup," Narine, who is currently playing for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League, told ESPNcricinfo.

"I've missed international cricket and missed representing the West Indies. It's where my heart lies. But I don't feel my finger is quite ready for ODI cricket.

"I can get through a T20 where I bowl just four overs. But even that isn't easy and I need help from the physio. It's holding me back from playing international cricket. I wouldn't be able to do myself or the team justice."

New CWI president Ricky Skerritt had earlier this month announced a series of



administrative changes including an overhaul of the selection panel, with Robert Haynes replacing Courtney Browne as interim head of selectors.

As part of the old selection

policy, availability for domestic tournaments was a requirement to be picked for West Indies squads, but Skerritt said selectors would be allowed to pick all players who make

themselves available.

"I'm really happy the selectors considered me. It shows they have faith in me," Narine added.

REUTERS

EATV **TONIGHT @ 21:00**

FRIDAY

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kofi Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL) is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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