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Nyerere Festival: Expert appeals for varsities overhaul

By Henry Mwangonde

DESPITE the massive increase of universities in Africa from just 100 in the 1960s to over 1,000 currently, the institutions have failed to produce intellectuals capable of developing the continent, it was argued yesterday with proposition for a complete system overhaul.

Renowned Malawian academic, Prof Tiyanbe Zeleza (pictured) made the remarks in a key note address to the 11th Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Intellectual Festival which entered its second day yesterday at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Prof Zeleza, who is now the Vice Chancellor for the United States International University-Africa (USIU) in Nairobi, highlighted challenges facing African higher learning institutions as the lack of intellectual integration among themselves, mushrooming of universities and curriculums that are not strategically moulded to address challenges facing the continent.

"There has been a shift in the production of knowledge among institutions. Education has been internationalized, exported and the rationale for teaching changed, hence changing the whole concept of the role of higher learning institutions as centres



Africa's population is growing at a high rate, therefore we have to ask ourselves how we make this a demographic dividend or we let it be a demographic disaster,

for preparing individuals to make the continent participate in the fourth industrial revolution," he said.

Prof Zeleza emphasized that higher learning institutions in Africa were established as centres to nurture individuals who will spread Pan-Africanism as an intellectual movement rather than an ideological one, as it was understood by some in the post-colonial period.

He said new curriculum in African universities must be moulded in ways that they can transfer African realities in the context of humanity, the continent's history and its journey to younger people.

The expert said the role of universities in the production of knowledge is indispensable, "as there is need to have institutions that prepare the youth for jobs that have not been created."

"Africa's population is growing at a high rate, therefore we have to ask ourselves how we make this a demographic dividend or we let it be a demographic disaster," underlined

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Skills regulations set to overhaul tourism sector



Shinyanga Urban legislator Stephen Masele, one of the vice presidents of the Pan-African Parliament, contributes to debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

MPs pardons apologetic but convicted PAP VP

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday forgave Shinyanga Urban MP Stephen Masele (CCM) shortly after the Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee found him guilty on four charges of misconduct and recommended his suspension.

The decision to pardon him came after the lawmaker, who is also a Vice President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), apologized to the House and pleaded for forgiveness.

It was at this moment that Speaker Job Ndugai told the House that Masele always misbehaves, causing conflicts among leaders and does not respect authority, thus the House should just ignore him and forgive him for the misconduct.

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The government will not relent in the war against poachers and is keenly searching for all those behind the criminal acts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is drafting new regulations intended to enhance tourism services in the country to international standards with personality as well as education of workers guided by set principles, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla told the House that proposed regulations for workers in the tourism sector will require them to obtain skills relevant for the local and international market.

The need to reform the sector was highlighted in a report by the parliamentary committee on Land, Natural Resources and Tourism, which said the country currently earns far less compared to actual potential.

Tabling the report, the committee deputy chairperson Kemirembe Lwota noted that tourism sector has a lot of opportunities that if well utilized will vastly increase revenue to the government.

"As of now only 17 percent of national revenue and 25 percent of foreign earnings comes from the sector," she said, elaborating that the government needs to take various measures to increase revenues from the sector.

She said the government should identify tourist attraction sites, develop them and advertise them to attract more tourists.

It should also improve infrastructure like roads, airstrips, hotels, water, toilets and others in national tourist sites.

The committee also urged the government to ensure district councils identify tourist attraction sites in their areas and connect them with traditional tourism promotion in an effort to earn more revenues.

On wildlife, the committee called on the government to ensure that all training institutes on wildlife management provide training in paramilitary skills to have game wardens ability to fight poachers.

The committee said that the

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Premier: Diaspora could vote in 2020

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is putting in place mechanisms to enable Tanzanians in diaspora to vote in the next general election, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said yesterday.

He said that the government is in the process of establishing the number of Tanzanians abroad, what they do and who still hold national citizenship.

The premier made the observation while responding to a question asked by Special Seats MP Asha Abdullah Juma (CCM) who wanted to know preparations by the government to allow Tanzanians abroad to vote.

She said the government has done so many things but failure to

have in place mechanisms to allow those living and working outside the country to vote in general elections stains its image.

"Despite the good things done by the government, failure to allow Tanzanians abroad participate in elections is denying them their rights," she said.

In response the premier said that for a long time there has been calls to have a system that enables those outside the country to vote. "The government has heard the call for this need and is working on the best way to do it since it requires a lot of processes."

As of 2015 it was estimated that more than 1.5 million Tanzanians

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Uhuru Media Group CEO Ernest Sungura (L), who heads Tafakuri Forum, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the second edition of the forum - to be held at the University of Dar es Salaam tomorrow. He is with Uhuru Publications acting director Josephat Mwanzi. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

MPs pardons apologetic but convicted PAP VP

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MP noted that among issues that he was accused of, some of them were not right.

About a fortnight ago, Ndugai announced the decision to recall Masele from his role as the Parliament's representative to the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), citing gross indiscipline.

He said he had written to the continental legislature's president,

informing him of the decision of temporary suspension, ordering the MP who is the current PAP First Vice President to appear before the Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee.

Ndugai told the lawmakers that Masele grossly misbehaved, intoning that the MP seemingly has a lot of problems. "Masele is one among leaders doing a lot of meaningless things, including unnecessarily causing

conflicts among top leaders," said the Speaker.

He said the decision to write to the PAP president followed failure by the Shinyanga MP to honour calls to come back home and let the matters involving him be discussed internally.

The visibly annoyed Ndugai told the House that it was in bad taste that Masele refused to heed his calls and instead went further, accusing his PAP boss of colluding with the Tanzanian

parliament speaker to recall him for questioning.

"As if that was not enough Masele went further claiming that he received a call from the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa telling him to continue working and that the issues will be solved later, something that is not true," the Speaker had asserted.

The MP will also appear before his party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) ethics committee for hearing.

Skills regulations set to overhaul tourism sector

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government also ought to focus on programmes aimed at increasing the number of rare wild animals like rhino who are at risk of extinction.

At the same time, minister Dr Kigwangalla said plans are underway to set regulations to allocate hunting sites for locals that will see establishment of centres to sell wild meat at special butcheries across the country.

Tabling the 2019/20 ministerial budget estimates, the minister said the new development will create an enabling environment for security and safety in the profession, increase accountability and trust in service delivery.

He asked the legislature to approve 120.2bn/- whereby 71.3bn/- is for recurrent expenditure and Sh 48.8bn/- is for development needs.

Speaking on the steps taken by the government to end poaching, the minister said a total of 415,060 surveillance meetings were conducted at various reserved areas.

About 424 elephant tusks, 220 pieces of ivory, 519 guns and 719 bullets were recovered, while 100,278 sacks of charcoal, among other things were confiscated in the process.

"The government will not relent in the war against poachers and is keenly searching for all those behind the criminal acts," he said.

Dr Kigwangalla also told the lawmakers that the number of tourists visiting the country has increased from 1,327,143 in 2017 to 1,505,702 in 2018, increasing revenue through the sector from \$ 2.2 billion in 2017 to \$ 2.4 billion in 2018.

"The realized increase is due to various advertisement strategies in different countries that hold tourism exhibitions like the United Kingdom, Germany, Rwanda, France, Kenya and Canada among others," he stated.

Other efforts involved telecasts of Tanzania tourist attractions through TBCI, ITV, Clouds TV, BBC Swahili and Deutche Welle as well as in social media, the minister added.

Nyerere Festival: Expert urges varsities overhaul

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Prof Zeleza.

He said the mushrooming of universities in Africa was also worrying as during independence there were only 127 higher learning institutions and they rose to 400 in the 1990s and now they are 1682.

He called upon young African scholars to ensure they lead more on what their predecessors have

written as well as translate research findings into policy languages for easy understanding.

He said Africa produces 3.8 million graduates every year, which is equivalent to the number of those produced by Indonesia alone.

The festival which is held every year is taken as a moment of reflection and candid deliberation on the future of Tanzania and the continent as a whole, participants said.

Premier: Diaspora could vote in 2020

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living and working overseas did not participate in the October general elections due to lack of infrastructure.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the government did not have "sufficient infrastructure" to enable Tanzanians abroad to vote.

The government then reported there were over 1.5 million Tanzanians who have registered to vote but the government was having problems providing them with national identity

cards for easy identification and proof of citizenship.

Tanzanian Diaspora members have urged the government to resolve the issue before the next polls in order not to disenfranchise them.

Records show Tanzanians abroad have been actively contributing to the development of the country. Their contribution according to government sources soared, with the most recent data update showing that a total of US\$14.157million (about TSh30billion) has been remitted home since 2015.

Kenya says reforms in place to improve coffee production

NAIROBI

KENYA's coffee production is set to improve once proposed reforms are fully implemented, an official said on Tuesday.

Joseph Kieyah, chairman of state-funded Coffee Sub-sector Implementation Committee (CSIC), said coffee cherry output per tree is expected to increase from the current two kilograms to eight kilograms.

"The increase is expected to push national production to 100,000 metric tons in the medium term from the current 40,000 metric tons," Kieyah told journalists.

Kieyah attributed the low production to inefficiency of the value chain that has led to current prices demoralizing small-scale farmers.

Coffee production is currently oscillating between 40,000 metric tons and 50,000 metric tons, compared to about 130,000 metric tons produced in 1987/88 coffee year, he said.

"Area under coffee has for the two decades dropped to 114,500 hectares from 170,000 hectares, a factor that has also contributed to decrease in production," Kieyah added.

A 3-billion-shilling (30 million U.S. dollars) coffee cherry revolving fund was recently announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta to help coffee farmers secure loans at an interest rate of 3

percent, he said.

The scheme will start from July. Kieyah said his committee is determined to provide such inputs as fertilizers and other agronomy support to help the farmers raise production and shield against price fluctuations on the global market.

The government is aware of the declining prices both locally and internationally and is working on strategies to cushion growers against the effects, he said.

"We are pursuing the publication of new general and coffee exchange regulations, intensive marketing of Kenya coffee and audit of coffee farmers' cooperative societies," Kieyah said.



Area under coffee has for the two decades dropped to 114,500 hectares from 170,000 hectares, a factor that has also contributed to decrease in production



Dr Ave Maria Semakafu (R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, hosts a Chinese delegation who visited her in Dodoma yesterday for talks on the possibility of teaching Chinese Language in Tanzanian colleges. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Envoy: China, Kenya ties have deep roots

NAIROBI

CHINA and Kenya have deepened mutual political trust and expanded cooperation over the years, pushing their relations to the level of a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Wu Peng said on Tuesday.

Wu said increased cooperation has seen China's non-financial direct investment in Kenya record double-fold increase to about 520 million U.S. dollars in 2018. "Now we have over 400 Chinese companies in Kenya, creating thousands of jobs for local community," Wu said.

"Both sides enjoy frequent exchanges in education, science and culture. The China-Africa Joint Research Center and China-Kenya Joint Laboratory for Crop Molecular Biology have been operating smoothly in Kenya," Wu said during the sixth press club meeting in Nairobi.

Since 2015, he said, China has provided over 67,000 training opportunities for Kenyans.

"Currently, over 2,400 Kenyan

students are studying in China. In 2018, over 81,000 Chinese tourists traveled to Kenya for leisure and adventure," he said.

Wu observed that China's funding to Kenya and other developing countries is aimed at development.

"China always attaches high importance to debt sustainability. Before making decisions, Chinese companies and banks, even the third party, go through rigorous feasibility studies, evaluation, and review of a country's credit rating," said Wu, who used the occasion to discuss some hot topics about the China-Kenya partnership.

Huge infrastructural projects like the standard gauge railway (SGR) may take long to yield returns, but they are solid and valid assets, whose value will grow in time, he stressed.

The SGR, according to Wu, is a flagship project that showcases the fast speed and high quality of China-Kenya cooperation.

The building of Mombasa-Nairobi SGR has driven Kenya's economic

growth by 1.5 percent and created 46,000 jobs for local residents.

He said the train shortened the Nairobi-Mombasa trip from over 10 hours to five hours. Since its launch in May 2017, with an average booking rate of 99 percent, over 2.77 million passengers have traveled by the SGR, and around 4.2 million tonnes of goods have been transported, said Wu.

In the first full year of operation, SGR earned nearly 10.33 billion Kenyan shillings (about 103 million dollars, which is very close to the operation cost of 120 million dollars a year, he said, adding that for an infrastructural project of SGR's magnitude, it is not easy to achieve near break-even in one year.

China and Kenya are currently discussing the construction of the Mombasa Special Economic Zone and the Naivasha Industrial Park, said the ambassador.

"With the development of the industrial chain from railway transportation, port economy to industrial parks, we have every reason

to believe that SGR will benefit Kenya's efforts towards industrialization, and strongly boost Kenya's GDP growth significantly."

He noted that China does not pursue a policy of trade surplus with Kenya, adding it is paying great attention to Kenya's desire to expand exports.

"We understand how important agricultural exports are to Kenya. Consequently, we have been working hard to expand China's imports for Kenya's agricultural produce," said Wu.

Last year, China and Kenya signed an agreement on export of stevia to China. An agreement on the export of frozen avocados was also signed, which makes Kenya the first African country to export avocados to China, he added.

He said the two countries are working to seal the deal on export of fresh avocados, as well as working on other horticultural products.

Christopher Chika, head of Asia and Australasia affairs at Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Kenya will continue to engage with China as long as the relationship is beneficial.



Facilitators from Forum CC in a photo with participants at the end of training on waste management and accountability organised by the forum in partnership with the European Union in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Water charges: PMO awaits EWURA report

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

In an effort to ensure the public does not pay too much for water supply, the government will soon review prices for water set by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said yesterday.

He told MPs in the weekly impromptu question and answer session that after hearing a lot of complaints from the public, the government after receiving the report on new prices for water will go through it and make public its final decision.

He was responding to a question posed by Babati Urban MP Pauline Gekul (CCM) who had argued that the new prices countrywide has increased water charges by up to 80 percent.

"What is the government doing to ensure that people get water at affordable prices since the new prices to be announced by EWURA for all the water authorities in the country are too high?" she demanded.

She also noted that the utilities body while working on the new prices saw public objections on the new prices but went further with the plan to effect the changes.

In response the premier said that it is the government's task to provide services to people at affordable rates but in most cases it works through various agencies.

"I have to admit that there is a public outcry on new water prices but the government is yet to receive the final document from EWURA and will make the final decision," he said.

Meanwhile the government has reiterated plans to revamp irrigation systems, saying that the recent disbandment of the irrigation commission is meant to pave way for new arrangements.

The premier said it was shameful that to date a country rich in land and water cannot attain food safety through agriculture.

The plan is to have irrigation schemes at regional, district and village levels with relevant officers to oversee the development agenda, he told MPs.

"What is the government doing to ensure that people get water at affordable prices since the new prices to be announced by EWURA for all the water authorities in the country are too high?"

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TALIRI out to save native goat breeds

INDIGENOUS goat breeds are at risk of extinction as most livestock keepers have opted for modern goat breeds.

The chief coordinator of a project for improvement and protection of indigenous goat breeds, Dr Zablon Nziku said this yesterday when addressing a group of livestock keepers who visited the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in West Kilimanjaro.

Dr Nziku who doubles as TALIRI director in Tanga region said recent researches have indicated that indigenous goat breeds will disappear in future as livestock keepers are opting for modern breeds.

He said they have decided to come up with a project to protect indigenous goats because since

they are tolerant to various weather conditions and can survive during droughts.

"We are implementing the project in one year. We want to change farmers' mindsets and propel them to keep indigenous goats which are less expensive because they are not easily attacked by diseases," said Dr Nziku.

More than 100 livestock keepers have benefited with the project, he said.

The project which has been implemented since January this year is supported by the African Union, the European Union and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

The Director of the Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Dr

Athumani Nguluma said they are taking initiatives to restore traditional goat breeds. They have been selecting the best male goats and doe goats for reproduction.

"We have been encouraging livestock keepers to continue keeping indigenous goats especially the 'white' sub-species which is popular

to farmers in Pare area. We are now implementing the project in Same district before covering other pastoral regions across the country," said Dr Nguluma.

A project beneficiary, Athumani Hamahama said they have been able to change from modern to indigenous goat breeds. Keeping the modern breeds of goat is expensive as they are vulnerable to diseases and cannot survive during drought, the livestock keeper noted.

Outgoing envoys meet Majaliwa

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday held talks with outgoing Finland Ambassador to Tanzania, Pekka Hukka commending the country for continued support towards poverty reduction.

A statement by the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday that the premier noted that Tanzania welcomes Finnish investors to various sectors including information and communication technology (ICT), energy, transport, forestry and agro processing. He said the government is striving to ensure a friendly business and investment environment.

"We commend the Finnish government for supporting Tanzania's efforts towards poverty reduction as well as boosting revenue collections," he said in conversation with Ambassador Hukka.

Ambassador Hukka will leave the country by end of this month, heading to Tunisia—his new working station. The envoy said that Finland will continue to forge relationships with Tanzania in different sectors, including forestry.

He said Finland and Tanzania signed an agreement for the Forestry and Value Chain Programme (FORVAC) which aims at boosting revenues and control deforestation.

"Under the program, we work to enhance supervision of forest resources and policies. We also facilitate value addition to forest products," he said, emphasizing that Finland supports forest management programs through the private forestry programme (PFP).

The PFP program is meant to boost revenues of rural residents in ten districts, namely Njombe Urban, Njombe Rural, Makete, Ludewa, Kilombero, Mufindi, Kilolo, Madaba, Mbinga and Nyasa. Residents in these areas are trained on how to add value to forest products, he elaborated.

The residents have been able to raise their family incomes by more than 9,000/- per month by this project, he said.

Meanwhile, the premier held talks with the Swiss Ambassador to Tanzania, Florence Mattli who is also completing her tour of duty in the country.

He assured the outgoing ambassador that the government will continue working with the new Switzerland ambassador for mutual benefit.

"It is crucial to enhance cooperation with Switzerland taking into consideration business and investment opportunities in the health, agriculture, education and technology sectors," he told the envoy.

Majaliwa commended the government of Switzerland for supporting the country's development endeavours.

Ambassador Mattli said Switzerland has been supporting Tanzania's efforts towards enhancing accountability, transparency and combating corruption.

"We assist in capacity building for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and sensitizing the community on corruption," she said.

In 2018, the Swiss government provided US\$ 24 million for skills development and youth employment projects under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Switzerland also supports youth development projects through Opportunity for Youth Employment (OYE) NGO in environment conservation and skills development, the outgoing envoy added.

TUCTA urges OSHA drive on work-based hazards

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) has appealed to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to intensify efforts to protect workers from diseases and accidents caused by unsafe occupational environments that are below international standards and hazardous to health.

TUCTA Secretary General Dr Yahaya Msigwa made this appeal in a statement to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at

Work 2019 recently.

The trade unionist expressed satisfaction with the performance of the occupational safety agency in protecting workers through the Occupational Safety Act, 2003.

He said Osha's has been at the forefront in ensuring that workers are protected at work, noting that the campaign has trickled down to various agencies.

Studies by the International Labour Organization (ILO) stress the link between long hours of work and disease, contributing to the deaths of nearly 2.8

million workers yearly, while an additional 374 million people get injured or fall ill because of job exactions.

Reports that almost three million workers die each year from occupational accidents and work related diseases is reflected in this year's theme for the 2019 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, "Safety and Health and the Future of Work."

It is estimated that in 2015, there were 2.4 million deaths due to fatal work-related diseases, an increase of 0.4 million compared to 2011. In total, it is estimated

that more than 7,500 people die every day, with about 1,000 deaths arising from occupational accidents and 6,500 from work-related diseases.

Most Tanzanians are not covered by occupational health and safety law and do not access occupational health services.

An Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) audit conducted in Tanzania in 2012 revealed that fatality rates differ sector-wise, ranging from 0.12 percent to 2.4 percent, the construction sector being the lead, followed by the transport and mining sectors.

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All submissions must be received at the above office not later than 5th JUNE 2019 at 10:00am

Empowered women are not a threat but allies, men told

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

THE CANADIAN High Commissioner to Tanzania, Pamela O'Donnell has said that an empowered woman is not a threat to a man, but an ally to work with so as to improve communities and the country at large.

The envoy was speaking at an International Women Deliver Conference 2019 which held its preparatory conference in Dar es Salaam to discuss options to ensure women fully to contribute to and benefit from Tanzania's industrialization vision.

The event was organized by collaboration between the Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP), Women Fund Tanzania (EFT) and Ndoto Hub.

"For gentlemen, an empowered woman is not a threat to you. She is someone who can work with you to improve your community and your country," O'Donnell asserted, declaring that "men ought to eat them with respect, amplify their voices and give them a chance."

She hailed achievements in gender equality struggles, noting that much has been achieved in the decades since the women's movement in Tanzania was launched.

"We have a female Vice President, numerous examples of strong female business leaders - and of course throughout the country women are increasingly finding the confidence, opportunity and support to assume leadership roles in communities, business and beyond. In primary education Tanzania has achieved gender parity," the envoy affirmed.

A few years ago, no one could have imagined national leaders talking about menstrual hygiene on the public stage, but now it is happening and with

it the recognition of obstacles that adolescent girls face in continuing and completing their education, she said in illustration.

"Progress is happening. Nevertheless, we all know that much remains to be done," she stated.

Speaking on behalf of young people at the event, Halima Lila, executive director for Hope Centre for Children, Girls and Women in Tanzania and an independent consultant on adolescents and youth, said that about 65 per cent of the population in Tanzania are young people and 51 per cent are women. In order to have an industrialized Tanzania, it is imperative that opportunities are created for young people both boys and girls, through gender mainstreaming.

"Political action can achieve a lot in these areas. We must work hard in promoting gender equality so that every individual is able to live and achieve their full potential, irrespective of their gender," Halima said.

The NGO she leads has been advocating for universal health coverage and reproductive health as an essential component towards achieving an industrialized Tanzania.

On that occasion three projects supporting women empowerment in Tanzania were launched.

Ndoto Hub, run by an organization known as Shule Direct, is among recipients of support from Global Affairs Canada. Ndoto Hub is an incubation project that supports women in enterprise development and leadership development.

Tulinagwe Mwampanga, Shule Direct Program Manager, said that Ndoto Hub brings together women and girls aged between 19-30 years who seek to improve their economic and social welfare. It instils a competitive

process to access workspace, business information, knowledge, markets, networks and mentorship support which is pertinent to their professional and personal growth.

"Ndoto Hub is so excited and honored to receive this huge support from Global Affairs Canada. We really want to propel a generation of successful women entrepreneurs via digital platform that can give them access to digitized and contextual business knowledge, markets, information, financing options and enable them to drive and contribute to an industrialized economy of Tanzania," said Mwampanga.

Another beneficiary is PAMOJA Women's Voice and Leadership (PAMOJA WV) project run by Women Fund Tanzania (WFT).

Carol Mango, Women Fund Tanzania head of programs said that PAMOJA Women's Voice and Leadership is a five-year project that aims to support women's rights organizations (WROs) in Tanzania by supporting them to improve their collaboration and collective social action.

It seeks to enhance their performance through enhanced programming and strengthening their viability to advance gender equality and promote women's and girls' rights, she said.

"Strong WROs are a prerequisite for a strong and vibrant women's rights movement capable of mobilizing the voice, visibility and collectively organizing the power of women so as to change the norms, institutions, policies and practices that perpetuate inequality, in the public and private arenas."

Besides Ndoto Hub and PAMOJA WV, Global Affairs Canada's support for advancing women's equality in Tanzania has also benefited TGNP.



Zantel senior PR specialist and CSR & media communication manager Rukia Mtingwa (2nd-L) briefs National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (R) when he visited the firm's pavilion at the National Assembly grounds in Dodoma during the re-registration of legislators' mobile phones earlier this week. Looking on is Anitha Ng'ingo, also a member of the Zantel staff. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Emergency response high in Ebola-hit areas

GENEVA

THE United Nations announced stepped-up actions on Thursday against the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including strengthened political engagement and operational support to negotiate access to communities.

The Ebola epidemic in the DRC is now in its tenth month and the number of new cases has been on the increase in recent weeks. The epidemic has claimed more than 1,200 lives, and the risk of the disease spreading to other provinces in the eastern Congo as well as neighboring countries remains very high.

Though the World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN agencies and partners, DRC has managed to contain the spread of the Ebola virus in parts of Ituri and North Kivu provinces.

Still, observers say affected communities' sense of insecurity and mistrust in the authorities' response continue to hamper access to infected

areas and the detection, treatment and vaccination of sick people. Ultimately, the transmission of Ebola remains most intense, observers noted.

To strengthen its efforts to fight the disease, the United Nations said it was strengthening its political engagement and operational support to negotiate access to affected communities. It also sought to increase support for humanitarian coordination and bolstering preparedness and readiness planning for Goma (capital of North Kivu province) and neighboring countries.

Meanwhile, WHO is adapting its public health strategies to identify and treat people as quickly as possible, expanding its vaccination campaign to reach and protect more people and redoubling its efforts to prevent transmission in health facilities.

David Gressly, the deputy UN special representative of the secretary general in the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), has been appointed UN emergency Ebola response coordinator in the country's affected

areas.

He is tasked with overseeing the coordination of international support for Ebola response and ensuring that an enabling environment, particularly security and political, is in place to allow the Ebola response to be even more effective. "Insecurity and political protests have led to periodic disruptions in our efforts to fight the disease," Gressly said, citing this as the reason for "moving senior leadership and operational decision making to the epicenter of the epidemic in Butembo (a city in North Kivu province)."

Additionally, the UN is set to bolster the critical work of non-governmental organizations and agencies already on the ground, including UNICEF, in community engagement, providing psychosocial interventions and helping prevent infection through water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Financial planning and reporting will also be strengthened and accelerated to ensure sustainable and predictable funding required for combating Ebola, the coordinator added.

Mbeya collects 300m/- from gold sales in 20 days

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

BARELY twenty days after the establishment of the gold exchange centre, Chunya district in Mbeya region has managed to collect 300m/- from gold sells.

The centre was established following an order by President John Magufuli in April this year. The President directed the Ministry of Minerals and local government authorities in Mbeya region to establish a gold exchange centre in Chunya district to curb smuggling.

Speaking during a meeting with District Commissioners and forest officers, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila said the government is likely to benefit more with

gold mining as they have been able to auction 82 kilograms of gold in 20 days.

"More than 80 kilograms of gold have been auctioned at the new gold exchange center in three weeks, we can now track gold sells contrary to previous years", he said.

Chalamila challenged forest officers to properly supervise the sector to ensure good revenues since the region is endowed with enormous forest resources. He insisted that the more revenues collected from across sectors will enable the government to independently implement development projects.

He challenged gold miners to continue using the two exchange centers in the region for their benefit and of the nation.

Chunya District Commissioner, Eng Maryprisca Mahundi said the district has benefited with the gold marketing whereas it has received a 15m/- royalty. She said that authorities are determined to curb smuggling by ensuring all the extracted minerals are auctioned through the centre.

Eng Mahundi said the residents are still new to such kind of minerals auctioning, but efforts are ongoing to educate them on its importance. She said the district had previously established a gold exchange center in 1990, but could last longer due to poor supervision.

Addressing a rally at Sabasaba grounds during his official tour of Chunya District in Mbeya region on April 27 this year, President Magufuli said the government was getting little revenue

from mining activities despite the fact that the district is ranked as the second largest gold-producer in the country.

He said that availability of reliable local markets will boost gold business in the country.



Andrew Lyimo (standing-R), Exim Bank's head of retail banking, has a word with guests at iftar the bank hosted in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday for its customers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Save the Children

Are you looking for an exciting career opportunity

Save the Children has been working in Tanzania for more than 30 years. We are working with the 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 experienced, enthusiastic and motivated, and results oriented individuals 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 positions:

- 1. Advocacy and Campaign Manager based in Dar es Salaam**
- 2. Proposal Coordinator & Writer based in Dar es Salaam**

How to apply for the positions:

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, save your application using your two names. Do not attach any certificate at this stage, applications with attachment shall not be considered. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for Interview.

Application closing Date:

31st May 2019 for Proposal Coordinator & Writer

6th June 2019 for Advocacy and Campaign Manager

"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."

KILOMBERO SUGAR COMPANY

AN ILLOVO SUGAR AFRICA COMPANY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Kilombero Sugar Company Limited (KSC), the largest producer of sugar in the country operating cohesively with Extra Neutral Alcohol Distillery (IDTL) is seeking to recruit a dynamic and result oriented person to fill a vacancy of **Logistics Operating Center Manager** reporting to the **Logistics Manager**. The successful candidate will be responsible with **Out-bound transport and distribution of finished products produced by KSC & IDTL brands**.

Duties and Accountabilities:

- Analyse costs on a monthly bases to ensure they are managed within budget. For all LOC operations. Transport routes, regional sales deliveries and inter depot transfers ensure most competitive contractor used.
- Analyze warehouse and transport reports and monitor key performance indicator dashboards with the aim of improving tracking performance
- Contractor management, continuously assessing and refining and improving Supply Chain reporting with the aim of driving efficiency and customer satisfaction
- Negotiates rates for road, rail and warehousing and make sure contracts are in place that meet customer service requirements, reduce losses and make use of the most optimal mode mix for the routes. Regular review of rates versus industry standards and contractor reviews.
- Monitors industry trends and practices by reviewing best in class supply chain practices with the aim of benchmarking and driving improvement agenda. Develops, implements and executes a distribution and logistics plan to meet the sales forecast.
- Analysis, compilation and interpretation of ad hoc reports as and when required mostly to support cost and efficiency improvement projects
- Develop and implement a logistics code of practise in line with the Standard Operating Practice (SOP) that ensures the delivery of the best possible quality of product and packaging to customers. Ensuring sugar produced at both mills are timeously uplifted, vehicles turnaround time is minimised and back loading is used to improve route card rates.
- Ensure on Time in Full deliveries to customers and manage customers' complaints.
- Continually develops and improves container packing operations at source for regional and deep water exports
- Good ambassador for KSC and its brand
- Ability to Understand and implement commercial argument
- Self-driven and able to deliver without compromising compliance
- Understanding of Route to Consumer would be advantageous

Job Requirements:

- An Under Graduate/Degree in Supply Chain Management, Transport Management or with minimum of two (2) years working experience managing operation team in Logistics Industry.
- Effective communication to all employees, stakeholders and contractors with their individual responsibilities and roles to maintain the commitment of Illovo sugar limited SHERQ Policy
- Computer literate.
- Mentally and physically fit.

Terms of Service:

- The successful candidate will be engaged on a Permanent terms.
- All those who meet the above requirements and would like to apply for the position, should send their applications (together with a detailed curriculum vitae which includes three referees and their contact details) to the under mentioned addressee or email to ksc@illovo.co.za not later than two weeks after the first appearance of this advert.

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Mbeya hosts agri-business trade fair for the first time

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AGRICULTURE Minister Japhet Hasunga is expected to grace the official agri-business exhibition to be held for the first time in Mbeya region.

Organized jointly by stakeholders and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Uyolet Center, the two-day exhibition is meant to educate farmers on modern farming methods. It will be held between May 31st and June 1st, 2019.

TARI Uyolet Center Director, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki told journalists that participants of the agri-business exhibition include farmers, agro input distributors, seed manufacturing companies, agro processors and manufacturers of agricultural tools.

Dr Bucheyeki called upon farmers to massively participate at the show since it is geared at equipping them with the best knowledge and skills to improve their cultivation. He said farmers can also use the agro-show to display their various products.

"All is set for the agro-business show in Mbeya region. It will be held for the first time in our region and be opened by Agriculture Minister, Japhet Hasunga", he said, adding that more than ten seed manufacturing companies have established small illustration farms at the exhibition grounds.

He said the illustration farms will be used to educate farmers on how they can best prepare their farms and plant accordingly using approved quality seeds.

Program Officer, East African Grain Council (EAGC), Prudence Mushi said that participants will exchange knowledge as well as contacts to enable them to easily purchase agro inputs from dealers.

He said that seed manufacturers and distributors of agro inputs will easily reach farmers.

Mushi noted that similar exhibitions were previously held in Arusha city being coordinated by EAGC and TARI-Arusha. He said that following good outcomes, the institute resolved to shift the exhibition to Mbeya so as to give opportunities to farmers in southern highland regions to learn modern cultivation methods.

"We invite farmers from all southern highland regions, we want them to come in good numbers since the knowledge they will acquire will improve their yields", said Mushi.

Speaking on behalf of seed manufacturing companies, Julius Ringo said they will display variety types of seeds that are suitable for the regions. He said farmers will also be educated on how to differentiate between genuine and fake seeds.



Small traders evicted from the Mwenge side of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassam Mwinyi Road some three days ago pictured yesterday putting up stalls at a new spot, which they said they had been allocated, from which to resume business. The relocation was linked to plans to expand the road. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Thousands of Form Six leavers enrolled for National Service in 2019

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Service yesterday announced to have enrolled thousands of Form Six leavers, who are expected to join the service on compulsory terms during 2019 for Tanzanian mainland.

According to a statement issued in Dar es Salaam, the National Service has enrolled school leavers, particularly those who have completed their Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE).

"The enrolled students have been posted in different camps across the country where they are to get the three-day training and they are expected to report on June 1, this year," a statement

reads in part.

Camps where students have been posted include JKT Rwamkoma-Mara, JKT Msange-Tabora, JKT Ruvu-Pwani, JKT Mpwapwa and JKT Makutupora-Dodoma, JKT Mafinga-Iringa, JKT Mlale-Ruvuma, JKT Mgambo and JKT Maramba-Tanga.

Others are JKT Makuyuni-Arusha, JKT Bulobora, JKT Kanembwa, JKT Mtabila-Kigoma, JKT Itaka-Songwe, JKT Lua and JKT Milundikwa-Rukwa, and JKT Nachingwea-Lindi.

The statement further said that school leavers with physical disabilities are expected to report at JKT Ruvu located in Mlandizi area in Coast Region.

"This camp has all the facilities to serve people with disabilities," the statement said.

"JKT welcomes the enrolled students to join their youth to learn issues related to patriotism, national unity, social life skills, and readiness to build and serve the nation."

The National Service was established in 1964 by the National Service Act to bring together the youths of Tanzania for working together in order to build the sense of nationalism, developing cultural and sociological awareness, providing skills, building economic independence, and reducing unemployment.

It also meant to train and develop

the youth for national service and assist the government during natural disasters and calamities, building and developing the national economy, and providing military training for national defense.

At first national service was meant for individuals leaving primary schools. They were taught skills that would be useful to them on returning home. Such individuals could volunteer for two years, at the end of which some remained in the establishment, joined the army, and were employed in the public and private sectors, while the majority went back to their places of domicile with the skills taught while in the NS.



Police officers escort Fatuma Saidi Ally (35) yesterday after the Tunduru district court in Ruvuma Region sentenced her to three years imprisonment for human trafficking. Photo: Correspondent Steven Chindiyie

Report: Women in leadership bring much better business performance

By Guardian Reporter

BUSINESSES with genuine gender diversity, particularly at senior level, perform better, including seeing significant profit increases, according to a new report from the Bureau for Employers' Activities of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The report, Women in Business and Management: The business case for change, surveyed almost 13,000 enterprises in 70 countries. More than 57 per cent of respondents agreed that gender diversity initiatives improved business outcomes. Almost three-quarters of those companies that tracked gender diversity in their management reported profit increases of between 5 and 20 per cent, with the majority seeing increases of between 10 and 15 per cent.

Almost 57 per cent said it was easier to attract and retain talent. More than 54 per cent said they saw improvements in creativity, innovation and openness and a similar proportion said effective gender inclusivity enhanced their company's reputation, while almost 37 per cent felt it enabled them to more effectively gauge customer sentiment.

"Companies should look at gender balance as a bottom line issue, not just a human resource issue."

Deborah France-Massin, Director of the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities

The report also found that, at national level, an increase in female employment is positively associated with GDP growth. The finding is based on an analysis of data from 186 countries for the period 1991-2017.

"We expected to see a positive correlation between gender diversity and business success, but these results are eye-opening," said Deborah France-Massin, Director of the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities. "When you consider the efforts companies make in other areas to get just an extra two or three per cent in profits, the significance is clear. Companies should look at gender balance as a bottom line issue, not just a human resource issue."

Gender balance in senior management is defined as 40-60 per cent of either gender, the same as in the general workforce. The report says that the beneficial effects of gender diversity begin to accrue when women hold 30 per cent of senior management and leadership positions. However, almost 60 per cent of enterprises do not meet this target, meaning they struggle to reap the rewards. In addition, in almost half of companies surveyed, women account for less than one in three of their entry-level management recruits - meaning that the pipeline to senior management may not deliver the talent needed.

Almost three-quarters of the enterprises surveyed had equal opportunity or diversity and inclusion policies, however, the report says more specific actions are needed to ensure that women are visible and promoted to strategic areas of business.

Some key factors preventing women reaching decision-making positions were identified. Enterprise cultures that require "anytime, anywhere" availability disproportionately affect women, relative to their household and family responsibilities, while policies that support inclusivity and work-life balance (for both men and women), such as flexible working hours and paternity leave, need to be improved.

Another factor is the "leaky pipeline", the tendency for the proportion of women to decline as the management grade rises. The "glass wall" describes the incidence of women managers in roles such as HR, finance and administration that are considered less strategic and less likely to lead to chief executive and boardroom positions. Fewer than a third of enterprises surveyed had achieved the critical mass of one third of women board members. Around one in eight reported they still had all-male boardrooms. More than 78 per cent of enterprises who responded had male CEOs, and those with female CEOs were more likely to be small enterprises.

"The business case for getting more women into management is compelling," said France-Massin. "In an era of skill shortages, women represent a formidable talent pool that companies aren't making enough of. Smart companies who want to be successful in the global economy should make genuine gender diversity a key ingredient of their business strategy. Representative business organizations and employer and business membership organizations must take a lead, promoting both effective policies and genuine implementation."

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- Bei Hizi Elekezi ni Kwa Nchi Nzima
- Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro ni Maji ya Kuaminika Kila Siku

Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayojua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO
DRINKING WATER



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PAP moves to establish parliamentary caucus on immunisation drives

THE Pan-African Parliament has adopted a resolution on the establishment of an African Parliamentary Caucus on Immunisation, to drive forward the body's commitment to ensuring that all children across the continent have access to the vaccines they need.

"Expanding access to immunization will help lay the foundation for universal health coverage across Africa, a cause which the Pan-African Parliament strongly supports," said Roger Nkodo Dang, President of the Pan-African Parliament.

He said Universal health coverage (UHC) has gained significant political momentum across Africa in recent years, with many countries committing to provide access to quality, affordable health care for all by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Political commitment for investing in immunization is at an all-time high.

In 2017, Heads of State from across Africa endorsed the Addis Declaration on Immunization (ADI) at the African Union Summit - a historic pledge that envisions an Africa where every child, no matter their economic circumstances, has access to life-saving vaccines.

"Vaccines are one of the most effective

and cost-effective public health interventions available. Yet, one in five children in Africa still does not have access to all the necessary and basic vaccines a child should receive," he said.

Every year, more than 30 million children younger than 5 years in Africa fall sick due to vaccine-preventable diseases. Of them, more than half a million die - representing 56 percent of the global deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases.

"The World Health Organization welcomes the Pan-African Parliament's resolution to establish a caucus dedicated to strengthening immunization across Africa. The high cost of disease outbreaks we have witnessed across the continent - in human suffering and economic damage - points to the urgent need for political leadership and collective action to ensure that everyone across Africa has access to basic health services," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa.

The second ordinary session of the fifth Pan-African Parliament, which took place in Midrand, South Africa from 6-17 May, was also an opportunity for parliamentarians to express their commitment to achieving UHC by 2030 and contribute their perspectives on each country's unique pathway to attaining health for all.

In September 2019, the UN General Assembly will hold the first-ever UN High-Level Meeting on UHC and vote on a historic political declaration in support of health for all.

Subsequently, in October 2019, the Inter-Parliamentary Union is expected to adopt a global parliamentary resolution on achieving UHC by 2030 and the role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health.

The sustained political will and domestic financing for immunization will be key to drive progress and advance UHC across the African Region, in order to achieve the ADI commitments and SDG targets.



Motorists negotiate their way through a flooded and muddy section of Dar es Salaam's Nkrumah Road yesterday afternoon, thanks to hours of incessant light rain in most parts of the city. Photo: John Badi

IUCEA disburses US\$1m to support four centres of excellence in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), a Regional Facilitation Unit for the World Bank-supported Africa Centres of Excellence for East and Southern Africa Project (ACE II) has completed the process of selection of Incubation Centres to be hosted at four of the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACEs).

In a statement issued yesterday, IUCEA said that each centre will receive a financial award of US\$250,000, from a World Bank grant, as seed funds for the establishment of these regional Incubation Centres for East and Southern Africa.

It said that the ACEs selected to host the Incubation Centers are African Center of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development, University of Rwanda (ACEESD), and Center for Research Advancement, Teaching Excellence and Sustainability in Food and Nutrition Security, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania (CREATES).

Others are Center for Pharm-Bio Technology and Traditional Technology, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda (PHARMBIOTRAC) and Center of Excellence in Phytochemicals, Textile and Renewable Energy based at Moi University, Kenya (PTRE).

"IUCEA received 15 proposals in response to a call that was issued in June 2018. The call invited any African Center of Excellence participating in the ACE II Project to submit proposals to host Incubation Centers through a co-financing arrangement in the four priority areas of the ACE II Project which

include health, industry, agriculture, and education/applied statistics."

The proposals were evaluated through a rigorous 3-step process by an international team of experts with extensive experience in business incubation, start-ups creation and successful commercialization of innovations and covered a diverse array of important topics -- such as energy for sustainable development, innovative drugs development, food and nutrition security, among others -- that are critical to the development of the region.

In the evaluation process priority was given to ACEs that already had good enough products that may require improvement, promotion for wider markets and potential for business incubation, i.e. the process of nurturing of early stage ventures to success. Another key criterion considered was the capacity to source additional sources of co-financing for the Center, to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the incubation center.

According to Dr. Kojo Appiah, a member of the Regional Steering Committee of the ACE II project who chaired the Independence Selection Panel, "the quality of the proposals that were submitted was quite high, and it was a difficult decision to have to select only 4 out of the 15 proposals submitted," he said. He added, "We hope that more funding can be made available by host governments and other institutions to fund other incubation centers. Our international team of experts were very impressed and eager to work with the selected ACEs to ensure that the selected incubation centers are successful in commercializing research innovations

towards job creation and economic growth."

The selection panel recommended that although the fifth selected institution, Center for Innovative Drugs Development and Therapeutic Trials for Africa (CDT-Africa) could not be funded, the proposal "was one of the best and needed to be considered as a non-funded Incubation Center."

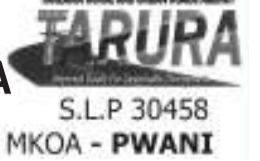
The IUCEA and the World Bank believe that such incubation centers will help build important linkages between academia and industry to help galvanize business growth in these priority areas that are critical to long-term growth and development of the region.

"The World Bank believes strongly in the innovation potential of African research, as a key lever in the continued economic development of the continent, and these incubation centers will serve as important hubs where the impact of research can be transformed to commercial opportunities. We hope these centers will be the first among many to follow," said Dr. Roberta Malee Bassett, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank and Task Team Leader for ACE II Project.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (ACE II) Project supports the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia in strengthening selected African Centers of Excellence (ACEs) to deliver quality post-graduate education and build collaborative research capacity in the priority areas of (i) Industry, (ii) Agriculture, (iii) Health, (iv) Education, and (v) Applied Statistics.



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
OFISI YA RAIS
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA
WAKALA WA BARABARA ZA VIJIJINI NA
MIJINI (TARURA)



S.L.P 30458
MKOA - PWANI

TANGAZO LA ZABUNI

ZABUNI NA. AE/2019-2020/CR/NC/11

YA

WAKALA WA UTOZAJI WA ADA ZA MAEGESHO YA VYOMBO VYA USAFIRI KWENYE HIFADHI ZA BARABARA ZA HALMASHAURI YA KIBAHA MJI, HALMASHAURI YA BAGAMOYO, HALMASHAURI YA CHALINZE, HALMASHAURI YA MKURANGA NA HALMASHAURI YA KIBAHA MKOA WA PWANI

Tarehe: 24/05/2019

- Wakala wa Barabara za Vijijini na Mijini Tanzania (TARURA) Mkoa wa Pwani unakusudia kutumia huduma za Wakala kutoza ada za maegesho ya vyombo vya usafiri katika maeneo ya hifadhi za barabara zote zilizo chini ya usimamizi wake katika Halmashauri ya Kibaha Mji, Halmashauri ya Bagamoyo, Halmashauri ya Chalinze, Halmashauri ya Mkuranga, na Halmashauri ya Kibaha.
- Wakala wa Barabara za Vijijini na Mijini Tanzania (TARURA) unapenda kuwakaribisha waombaji wenye sifa kutuma maombi yao kwa ajili ya zabuni ya **Wakala wa Kutoza Ada za Maegesho ya Vyombo vya Usafiri Kwenye Hifadhi za Barabara Katika Halmashauri ya Kibaha Mji, Halmashauri ya Bagamoyo, Halmashauri ya Chalinze, Halmashauri ya Mkuranga na Halmashauri ya Kibaha, Zabuni Namba AE/2019-2020/CR/NC/11**
- SIFA ZA MUOMBAJI: Muombaji atatakiwa kuwa na sifa zifuatazo**
 - Awe Mtanzania
 - Muombaji awe ni Kampuni iliyosajiliwa kwa mujibu wa Sheria za Tanzania na ambayo haijawahi kuzuiwa na Mamlaka ya Udhidi wa Ununuzi wa Umma (PPRA) kujihusisha na shughuli za Ununuzi wa Umma.
 - Muombaji awe na mtaji usiopungua **Shilingi Milioni Mia Moja (100,000,000.00)** ambao umeainishwa kwenye Memoranda ya Kampuni (*Memorandum and Articles of Association*) au ushahidi kuwa kampuni iliongeza mtaji wake.
 - Muombaji awe na ofisi ya kudumu anapofanyia kazi zake.
 - Muombaji awe na leseni hai ya biashara ya uwakala wa utozaji wa ada ya maegesho.
 - Muombaji awe na uzoefu usiopungua miaka miwili kuanzia mwaka 2014 kwenye kazi ya uwakala wa utozaji wa ada ya maegesho ya Vyombo vya Usafiri kwa niaba ya Mamlaka za Serikali za Mitaa hususani Majiji, Manispaa au Taasisi za Serikali.
 - Muombaji awe na cheti cha Utambulisho wa Mlipa kodi (TIN)
 - Muombaji awe amesajiliwa kulipa Kodi ya Ongezeko la Thamani (VAT)
 - Muombaji awe na hati halali ya kuthibitisha ulipaji wa kodi (Tax Clearance)
 - Muombaji awe na taarifa za kifedha zilizokaguliwa (Audited Financial Statement) kwa kipindi cha miaka mitatu kuanzia 2016 hadi 2018.
 - Muombaji awe na taarifa za kifedha ya benki (Bank Statement) ya kipindi cha kuanzia tarehe 1 Januari, 2018 mpaka tarehe 30 Aprili, 2019 yenye mauzo (turnover) yasiyopungua **Shilingi 100,000,000.00** Taarifa hiyo iwe na **"Certificate of Balance"** kutoka katika Benki husika.
 - Muombaji awe na cheti cha OSHA kinachonyesha kukidhi matakwa ya Sheria Na. 5 ya Mwaka 2003
 - Muombaji awe amesajiliwa kwenye Mfuko wa Fidia kwa wafanyakazi (WCF) kwa mujibu wa Sheria ya Mfuko wa Fidia kwa Wafanyakazi Sura ya 263 pitio la Mwaka 2015.
 - Muombaji awe na sifa njema ya kufanya kazi ya Uwakala wa kukusanya ada za maegesho ya vyombo vya usafiri kwa niaba ya Mamlaka za Serikali za Mitaa hususani Manispaa na Majiji, Manispaa au Taasisi za Serikali
 - Asiyewahi kuwa na mashauri katika chombo chochote cha Kisheria kuhusiana na mkataba wa aina yoyote na Taasisi yoyote ya Serikali.
- Zabuni zitashughulikiwa kwa utaratibu wa ushindani wa kitaifa [National Competitive Bidding] ulioainishwa kwenye Kanuni za Ununuzi wa Umma za Mwaka 2013, zikisomwa pamoja na marekebisho yake ya Mwaka 2016 na ziko wazi kwa waombaji wote wa hapa rchini.
- Waombaji wote wenye nia na uwezo wanaweza kupata taarifa kamili kupitia makabrasha ya zabuni katika ofisi ya Katibu wa Bodi Kasimu ya Zabuni TARURA Mkoa wa Pwani, kupitia anuani iliyotajwa hapo juu kila siku kuanzia saa mbili kamili (02.00) asubuhi hadi saa tisa (09:00) kamili alasisiri, siku za **Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa** [sipokuwa siku za sikukuu zinazotambulika kitaifa].
- Muombaji atatakiwa kujaza kwa usahihi na kuwasilisha Fomu ya dhamana ya zabuni (**Bid Securing Declaration**) kwa muundo unaopatikana kwenye kabrasha la zabuni.
- Nyaraka za Zabuni zitapatikana baada ya kulipa ada stahiki ya zabuni ya **Shilingi Laki Moja tu (TZS 100,000.00)** Kupitia akaunti namba 53010001080 iliyopo katika Benki ya **NMB, TARURA Collection Account** Muombaji atatakiwa kuwasilisha nakala halisi ya hati ya malipo ya Benki ikiambatana na barua ya maombi ya Zabuni husika. Malipo yaliyotolewa kama ada ya maombi ya zabuni hayatarejeshwa.
- Zabuni zote ziwe na nakala halisi (original) moja (1) na nakala (copies) tatu (3) zinazofanana zifungwe ndani ya bahasha iliyofungwa kwa lakiri na juu ya bahasha zandikwe maelezo ya Zabuni na kisha iandikwe na kuwasilishwa kwa anuani ifuatayo: **Katibu wa Bodi Kasimu ya Zabuni TARURA Mkoa wa PWANI, S. L. P. 30458, Pwani katika jengo la "Chama Cha Walimu Tanzania" - Ghorofa ya Kwanza Chumba No. 03**
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MRATIBU WA MKOA - PWANI,
WAKALA WA BARABARA ZA VIJIJINI NA MIJINI
TANZANIA (TARURA)

MRATIBU WA MKOA
TARURA
S. L. P 30458, PWANI

The Guardian

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FRIDAY 24 MAY 2019

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

TASAF has a noble role to play - and merits maximum support

TANZANIA Social Action Fund - TASAF, for short - is officially there to enable poor households to have higher incomes and more opportunities while improving consumption, and thus empower the households to graduate out of poverty and have sustainable social and economic development.

It is expected to build capacities of key stakeholders involved in poverty reduction initiatives with emphasis on community-driven development, accountability, transparency and participation in social and economic development aspects.

The areas it is supposed to address have always been national priorities, among them agriculture and rural development, education, food and nutritional security, health, housing and infrastructure, and water, sanitation and hygiene. There is definitely no denying that TASAF has played a laudable role over the years including, as many beneficiaries, observers and analysts alike would attest, helping vulnerable children become healthy, secure, motivated and productive members of society.

Sadly, according to an authoritative survey, some beneficiaries of TASAF funding support saw little improvement in their lives following intervention by the poverty alleviation basket.

Some beneficiaries of TASAF's cash transfers under the Productive Social Safety Net had few kind words. Rather, they felt that, if anything, they had grown even more dependent than previously and had not been able to make any steps away from poverty.

The concerns were evidently contrary to the fund's objective, which is the enhancement of livelihoods through contributions to the building of the foundation for graduation out of poverty. This is supposed to come true by improving households' ability to support themselves through strengthened and diversified means of income.

Now that the beneficiaries feel that the objective has not been realised since the launch of the initiative, the government and stakeholders need to review TASAF in its entirety and devise the best way that can ultimately truly improve the lives of beneficiaries.

Fortunately, the government has been vigilant enough in ensuring that TASAF operates in accordance with

the guidelines under which it was set up - all with a view to making sure that support by the organisation reaches and benefits deserving recipients and not otherwise.

One report had it that, in Dar es Salaam Region alone, some 5,000 undeserving people had been pocketing hefty amounts of money at the expense of the truly poor who could not access the funds owing to budgetary and other constraints.

The government soon ordered TASAF and all other bodies associated with the agency's activities to conduct house-to-house verification countrywide to establish who exactly should be receiving assistance.

It declared that appropriate legal and other measures would be taken against all those who had endorsed payments of TASAF monies to the wrong people.

It emerged that fake beneficiaries included those who received funds in the name of people long dead and those who approved by unscrupulous disbursing officials for a share of the spoils.

It was further reported that some cheating was in the form of endorsing the genuinely needy but never giving them even a shilling, with the monies ending up in the pockets of officials entrusted with disbursing the funds.

TASAF was subsequently advised to introduce an electronic payments system for beneficiaries as a way of eradicating fraud by enhancing transparency between, among others, senders and receivers of the funds.

Meanwhile, some district executive directors and municipal directors said the root of the mismanagement of the TASAF funds was that some local government leaders laced the matter with politics, particularly as related to deciding who to benefit from the disbursements and who not to.

Whoever mooted and executed the idea of coming up with TASAF was championing the noble mission of bringing real change in the lives of truly poor Tanzanians.

Small wonder then that, by logical extension, the government remains fully supportive of plans to make the agency more efficient in walking the walk it is supposed to walk. And may that continue to be both the spirit and the practice, as millions upon millions of our people still languish in abject poverty.

With mainland premier soccer league season all but over, why not one look at volleyball?

THE volleyball fraternity in Tanzania, if fraternity it indeed is, has over the years made inspiring strides in striving to promote the sport.

Led by the Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA), the fraternity has engaged in various activities and events relating to the development of the sport. This has included hosting friendly encounters as well as competitions although, if truth be said, too few and far between for comfort.

For instance, regional associations in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Mwanza and Tabora are understood to have hosted club competitions, with TAVA organised the national volleyball club championship.

Just as applies to other games, both friendly encounters and competitions are a crucial pad from and through which players and teams can improve their performance and gain more experience.

With volleyball still regarded as one of minor sports in our country, getting financial support for either competitions or training courses is seldom smooth sailing.

But the fraternity must prove that financial constraints cannot stand in the way of their efforts to fulfil their plans - by continuing to conduct their activities with whatever little contribution they can get from well-wishers.

Arguably the most significant achievement in recent years as far as

the promotion of Tanzanian volleyball is concerned is the formation of volleyball training centres in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma regions.

TAVA started the centres in some of schools in the two regions as part of a strategy meant to groom 'dormant' talent across the country.

The formation of the centres followed a plan by the International Volleyball Federation to help African countries achieve the kind of success volleyball powerhouses in the world have witnessed.

The biggest challenge for TAVA, though, is that most players groomed by the centres will likely miss the chance to properly hone their skills - this given that there are few volleyball clubs in the country.

The few volleyball outfits existing are the ones owned by the army and it is obvious the clubs cannot accommodate all players that will be produced by the volleyball training centres.

Therefore, we call on volleyball lovers and enthusiasts in the country to their utmost to revive street volleyball clubs, as well as form new outfits that will give players from these centres enough opportunity to participate in competitive matches.

Continuity is a must for players trained at the volleyball training centres and elsewhere if we are to get the best out of the efforts. In the circumstances, efforts to promote volleyball and other games other than soccer should be a national obligation.

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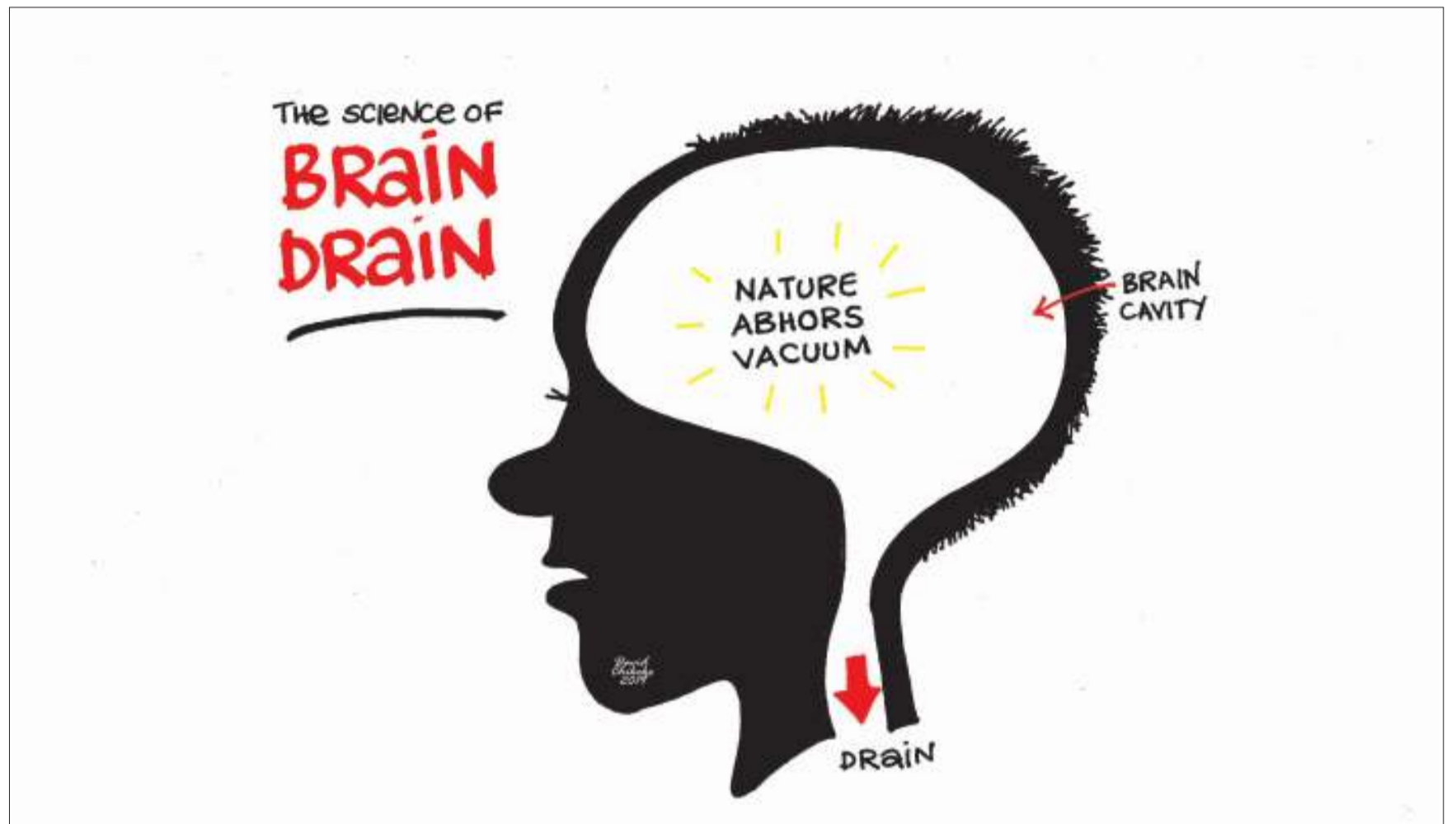
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Global survey finds customers primary inspiration for business innovation

By Special Correspondent in New York

YPO, the premier global leadership organisation for more than 27,000 chief executives, has completed a survey of its members in over 130 countries to get their latest thoughts on innovation and its implications for the future of their businesses.

YPO's 2019 Global Pulse Innovation Survey, conducted between this April 29 and May 6 with more than 1,600 chief executive respondents, confirmed that the majority of global business leaders (57 per cent) feel an urgent need to innovate now. Where do they look to find inspiration to innovate? It's their customers.

Nearly half of global business leaders cited customers as their top source of innovation inspiration (48 per cent), with employees (36 per cent) ranking second.

Consultants (10 per cent) and think-tanks (7 per cent) lag far behind in the minds of respondents. The importance of keeping this key constituency happy is a focal point with nearly one in five respondents citing customer experience as their primary business area most needing innovation now. This ranks ahead of products, data/business intelligence and technology.

According to additional YPO Global Pulse findings, location, geographic location, industry, company size and length of job tenure greatly inform business leaders' opinions and go-forward innovation action plans. While the need to innovate is a top priority for global business leaders, only four in ten strongly believe that they have the appetite for experimentation.

While 57 per cent of chief executives strongly believe that there is an urgent need for their businesses to be innovative, more than one-third of this group (37 per cent) however indicated that they are not likely to invest in innovation over the next 12 months.

Industry plays a significant role in business leaders' attitudes towards risk in business with those executives in the IT & software, healthcare and advertising & marketing industries embracing risk (more than 55 per cent have an appetite for experimentation and risk).

Meanwhile, leaders in the distribution, automotive and apparel industries were found to be more risk-averse (only 35 per cent have an appetite for experimentation and risk).

Over the next 12 months, global business leaders who are extremely likely to invest will be doing so in products (45 per cent), internal processes (44 per cent) and technology



(42 per cent) to help them win customers.

Respondents in Africa (45 per cent) said they saw their spend being focused on product innovation.

Business leaders in Latin America (26 per cent) and Asia (19 per cent) are more likely to invest in business model innovation compared to their peers in the United States (16 per cent) and Canada (13 per cent).

US-based business leaders (34 per cent) are slightly more likely to invest in talent compared to all others (29 per cent), while leaders who have been at the helm for three years or less are less likely to invest in talent (26 per cent) compared to those who have been at the helm longer (32 per cent).

Leaders of larger organisations (USD250 million+) indicate that innovation investment in the next 12 months will be targeted towards data/business intelligence (47 per cent), while leaders of USD25-250 million businesses plan to invest in technology (42 per cent).

Leaders of smaller organisations (USD25 million or less) meanwhile reported that they would be focusing their spend in the next 12 months on product innovation (45 per cent).

More leaders strongly agreed that changing market conditions were redefining their businesses (36 per

cent) than technology (24 per cent) and new competitors (20 per cent).

UK-based respondents (43 per cent) were much more likely than their European peers (31 per cent) to strongly agree that changing market conditions are redefining their business.

Business leaders in Latin America (19 per cent) and Asia (15 per cent) are more concerned that technological changes are making their business models obsolete, especially when compared to their peers in Europe (9 per cent) and the United States (7 per cent).

Leaders of large organisations (USD250 million+) cited new competitors as threatening their traditional business models as a strong concern, well more than chief executives of smaller businesses (27 per cent for large companies compared to 19 per cent for all others).

Chief executives who have been at the helm of their businesses for one year or less believe that their competitors are innovating faster than they are (18 per cent), especially when compared to all executives (6 per cent).

Regionally, chief executives in Middle East/North Africa (10 per cent) and Asia (9 per cent) are more likely to strongly believe that their competitors are innovating faster compared to leaders across all regions (6 per cent).

The YPO 2019 Global Pulse Innovation Survey follows on the heels of YPO Innovation Week which occurred last week, connecting influential entrepreneurs, innovators and thought leaders to exchange ideas about inspiration, breakthroughs and transformation through signature and digital events around the world.

The YPO 2019 Global Pulse Innovation Survey of its members was conducted by YPO via an online questionnaire with a representative probability sample of 1,661 YPO members. The sample included members in 105 countries and representing 34 industry sectors.

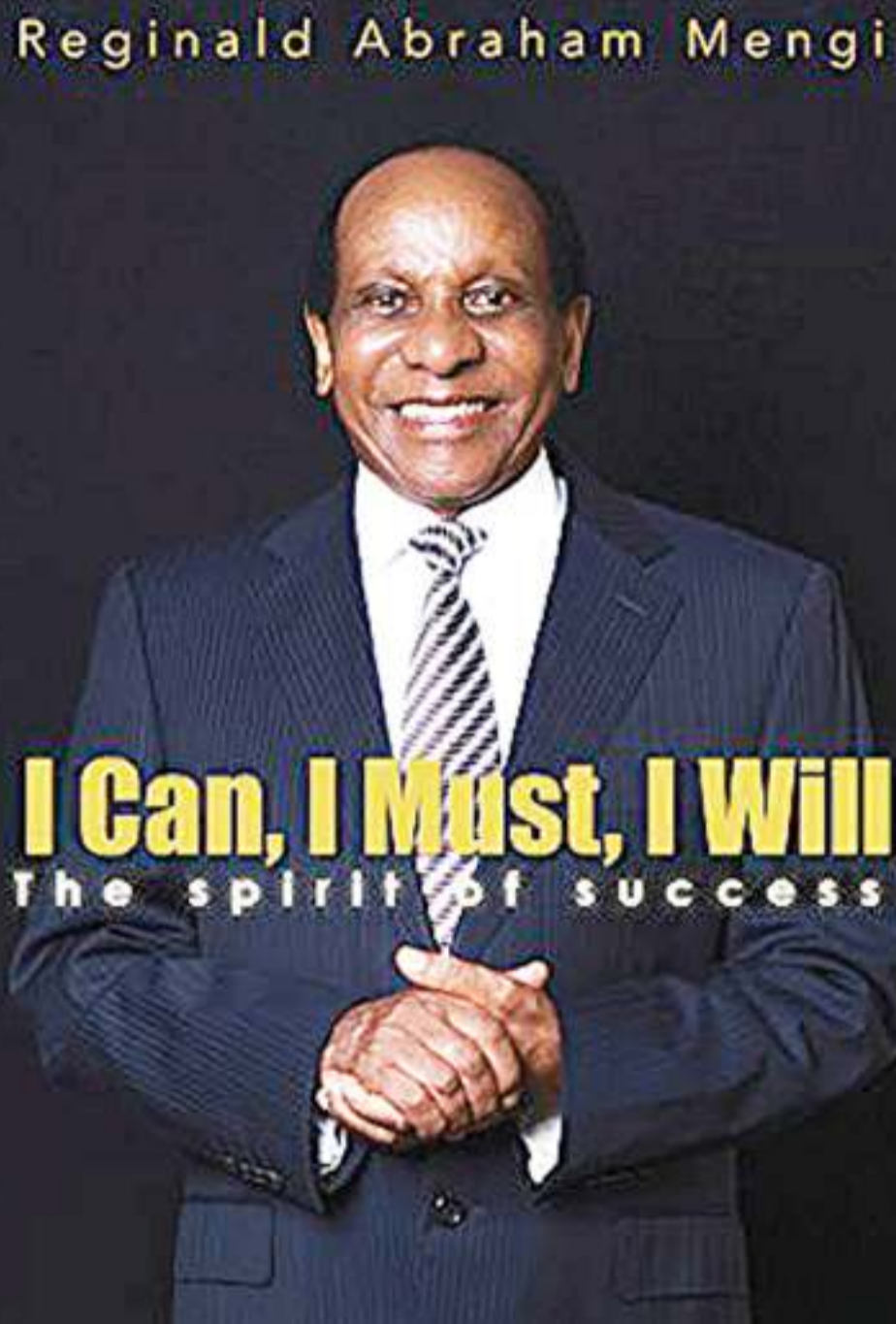
The questionnaire was in English. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.3 percentage points at the 95 per cent confidence level.

YPO is a global platform meant to help its members across the globe to engage, learn and grow. The members harness the knowledge, influence and trust of the world's most influential and innovative business leaders to inspire business, personal, family and community impact.

YPO member-run companies are diversified among industries and types of businesses, employing more than 22 million people globally and generating USD9 trillion in annual revenues.

• AGENCIES

TRIBUTE TO DR REGINALD ABRAHAM MENGI



The great Dr. Reginald Mengi

By Anthony Muchoki

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
Man of many rivers
Man of many valleys
Man of many mountains
Man of countless trees

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
A colossal business genius
A colossus of faith in humanity
A colossus of true humility
A colossus of true generosity

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
A colossus of good heart
A colossal fighter for the poor
A fighter for those with disabilities
He used billions for the helpless

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
A colossal entrepreneur
His eyes and ears too good
He could hear and see opportunities
Better than a million eyes and ears

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
A colossal dreamer
A colossal strategist

A colossal good heart
Father of many ideas and solutions

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
Father of many dreamers
The greatest lion of Kilimanjaro
Inspiring millions
From poverty to a better life

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
His colossus will never go
His words and deeds
Myriad colossus legends
For countless generations

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
Thank you a billion
For what you gave Tanzania
For what you gave Africa
For what you gave the World

The great Dr. Reginald Mengi
Rest easy in grandeur and greatness
Rest easy in the splendor of eternity
Your great spirit in the hearts of millions
And me

*The author can be reached at anthony.muchoki@gmail.com

Cyril Ramaphosa elected president while the ANC factional bombs detonate in full view

By Marianne Merten

With a pledge to be the president for all, not just the governing ANC, President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday put his stamp on a stuttering day of political explosions. Watching from the president's bay in the public gallery was the politician at the centre of one such bang – outgoing Deputy President David ‘DD’ Mabuza, who had bowed out from being sworn in as MP.

Wednesday was a day that saw the backroom machinations of the governing ANC dovetail with parliamentary procedure and ceremony. When President Cyril Ramaphosa stepped to the podium of the National Assembly after being elected unopposed, it was the moment he would set the tone for his presidency. And his call was for co-operation, collaboration and working together to meet the aspirations and expectations of all South Africans.

“I will be the president of all South Africans,” he said on Wednesday, later adding: “I will, like Madiba did, walk with kings... and queens and captains of industry and all and sundry without losing the touch of the common people.” 51

It was a tone that stood markedly different from the past decade when ANC election wins were touted triumphantly. And it was a tone that offered room for opposition parties in recognition of the 8 May election outcome to work for “a common mandate” to build South Africa.

Earlier, EFF leader Julius Malema, in a clear reference, although without naming ex-president Jacob Zuma, cautioned Ramaphosa not to surround himself with yes-men.

“You need someone who’s honest with you. Those who failed were told ‘You are right’ even when they were wrong... and they were told they were wrong by the Constitutional Court and the Public Protector,” said Malema in a clear reference to the debacle of the R249-million taxpayer-funded security upgrades at Zuma’s Nkandla rural homestead.

“Be the leader our country needs at this crucial time,” urged IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, while DA leader Mmusi Maimane pledged his party’s support for decisions taken in the interest of South Africa.

But it was a long day before getting to this point. And many of the finer intrigues on the ANC side of the House must still play out – in Parliament, but also the governing party’s Luthuli House head office.

Just two hours before the swearing in of the 400 MPs, Ramaphosa, wearing his hat as ANC president,



announced that Deputy President David “DD” Mabuza would “postpone” his swearing in as MP so he could address allegations before the ANC Integrity Commission of having prejudiced and brought into disrepute the governing party.

That 20-odd names had been flagged when the ANC election lists were referred to the commission after a public outcry over some inclusions has been in the public domain since April. But the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) has yet to deal with the Integrity Commission report.

Saying Mabuza’s swearing in as MP was postponed pending the Integrity Commission processes is kicking for touch and a face-saving description for what effectively is Mabuza’s departure from the Union Buildings. Having applauded the move because of Mabuza’s “dictates of conscience” and “respect for ANC processes and institutions”, Ramaphosa would not appoint him to one of the two Cabinet posts he can fill from outside the parliamentary benches.

Later on Wednesday an internal ANC message making the rounds clearly indicated the governing party was arranging that Mabuza’s parliamentary seat was allocated to someone else. That means Mabuza, while he remains ANC deputy president, is off the public representatives lists – and will remain off for at least a year when the next window period comes for political parties to change their lists, in line with the Electoral Act.

That detail in the leaked message about Mabuza’s replacement on the ANC benches emerged alongside the replacements for Malusi Gigaba and ex-Speaker Baleka Mbete, who the ANC indicated in a statement on Tuesday had withdrawn from being ANC MPs, without providing reasons. Both would imperil their pensions and perks respectively as minister and Speaker, whose remuneration is pegged at the level of deputy president.

Daily Maverick is reliably informed Mabuza as ANC deputy president could head to Luthuli House, and that an announcement

may be expected over the week-end. However, when approached for comment as he was leaving the president’s bay in the National Assembly’s public gallery, Mabuza simply said: “No interviews.”

Outgoing Cabinet minister Nomvula Mokonyane’s withdrawal as MP came as more of a surprise, it is understood, particularly as Monday’s special ANC NEC announced her as “chair of chairs”.

The official ANC announcement came as Wednesday’s swearing in of the 400 MPs was already under way, and it was brief: “... due to family responsibilities and her being in mourning currently, she (Mokonyane) believes she would be unable to diligently and with commitment, fulfil her duties at this stage”. Mokonyane, who now keeps her ministerial pension and perks, is headed to Luthuli House in an unspecified capacity.

But in the ANC’s factional politicking, Mokonyane declining the move to Parliament is a setback for the grouping around party secretary-general Ace Magashule.

Bluntly put, Mokonyane would have been the block to the other, Ramaphosa groupings, initiatives, and the counter to ensure measures unpopular in the Ramaphosa grouping, such as a draft law to nationalise the South African Reserve Bank, would be pushed through.

The “chair of chairs” is a strategic, powerful position as it oversees and directs the committees where Parliament does the majority of its work, from legislation to oversight. It also includes managing the funding for committees, including travel and conducting public hearings.

The political machinations of the governing ANC have yet to fully unfold.

More clarity can be expected with the announcement of Cabinet, expected from Sunday when after final consultations the would-be ministers can be expected to be called in for that traditional chat. Until the official announcement it’s just speculation driven by various factional interests that put three women up for the deputy president’s post – Minister in the Presi-

dency Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, International Relations Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Higher Education Minister Naledi Pandor.

Coincidentally, all seems to tie back to the ANC 2017 Nasrec national conference: Dlamini Zuma narrowly lost to Ramaphosa after Mabuza played kingmaker, while Sisulu was on Ramaphosa’s ticket as his deputy after Pandor, a surprise announcement in November 2017, only to be dropped later.

Whether the political bombs of Mabuza and Mokonyane dropping out is a first sign of Ramaphosa cleaning up in the party – ahead of a clean-up in Cabinet – remains to be seen. Wednesday’s power play may well have created a factional split between Ramaphosa and government against Magashule and Luthuli House. Like at the ANC Nasrec conference, Mabuza may just be the key.

But on Wednesday it was all about paddling furiously below some choppy political water while maintaining calm, dignity and decorum. Optics are key.

And that’s why Mabuza sat in the president’s bay in the National Assembly public gallery for the whole day. He was flanked by ANC treasurer-general Paul Mashatile. ANC deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte was also there, joined at one stage by Magashule.

Below, on the floor of the House, Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng administered the oath of office – to be faithful to South Africa and the Constitution – to groups of MPs.

The EFF voshod to the mikes. The DA benches erupted into bleats when Good party leader Patricia de Lille, once the DA’s Cape Town mayor, walked up to take her oath, returning to represent her third political party after the Independent Democrats and the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC).

It was a very different sitting on Wednesday from the previously bruising scenes that have played out in the House. Heckles, yes, some sharp political commentary, yes, but none of the acerbic and terse volleys. And the ANC factional battles were well obscured.

Those optics from the House were crucial. While the big bang ceremony is Saturday’s inauguration at Loftus Versfeld, the tone and measure of the Ramaphosa presidency was set in the National Assembly where he was elected to head South Africa’s government.

“Please be assured of my personal commitment, and the commitment of the incoming executive, to fulfilling these obligations of seeking consensus, collaborating, working together to find solutions to all the challenges that our country faces,” said Ramaphosa.

DM

By Peter Fabricius

Will free trade be Africa’s economic game changer?

The ambitious African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which technically enters into force on 30 May could be the game changer for Africa’s hitherto lacklustre economy.

Driven by Rwandan President Paul Kagame, the process of reaching this point may well have broken all African records. African Union member states launched negotiations to create this huge market of 1.2-billion people with a GDP of over \$3.4-trillion in only March last year.

Jakkie Cilliers, head of African Futures and Innovation at the Institute for Security Studies, calculates that the AfCFTA, if properly implemented, would boost Africa’s economic growth and reduce extreme poverty more than any other single factor in the long term.

In a forthcoming book on Africa’s future, Cilliers reports on the results of forecasts done using the International Futures software on the likely impacts of 11 major transitions: social grants, rejuvenated education, peace, a fourth wave of democracy, improved health, external support, a demographic dividend (a timely bulge in the size of the working-age population), an upsurge in local manufacturing, an African agricultural revolution, leapfrogging outdated technologies – and the AfCFTA.

Cilliers found that other drivers such as social grants, agriculture, leapfrogging and manufacturing would make the biggest difference in the short term. But by 2050, the AfCFTA would clearly be exerting the greatest impact on GDP



per capita and extreme poverty.

For example in lower-middle-income countries it would be boosting annual GDP per capita by over \$1 500, compared to the next biggest factor, technology leapfrogging, which would be adding just over US\$900. By 2050 also, the AfCFTA would have reduced extreme poverty

by over 6%, versus the next most effective driver, revolutionised agriculture, which would do so by about 5.5%.

“This is not so surprising,” Cilliers says. “The AfCFTA is about creating a larger market, and also because most intra-African trade is in manufactured goods, and manufacturing is the key to Africa’s long-term

growth.” This all assumes, of course, that the continent-wide trade deal gets properly off the ground. All 55 African Union member states – except Nigeria, Benin and Eritrea – have signed up. (Nigeria’s trade minister said this week that Nigeria would join soon.) And with the required minimum of 22 states

having formally ratified it, the deal enters into force on 30 May.

But that doesn’t mean the first export or import will cross any national border tariff-free, under the AfCFTA, on that day. Trudi Hartzenberg, executive director of Stellenbosch’s Trade Law Centre, says that’s not likely to happen until next year. The

AfCFTA’s entry into force next week will initially be a symbolic expression of the continent’s commitment to free trade.

Meanwhile, the negotiators will remain busy. Critical matters such as tariff schedules, rules of origin and dispute settlement procedures are still being negotiated. Rules of origin stipulate how much of a product must be sourced from within the free trade area for it to qualify for preferential tariff rates.

The aim is to avoid rules so lax that, for example, they would allow some African countries to become conduits into the continent for, say, cheap Asian clothing, just by sewing a button onto a complete shirt and calling the product African. Conversely,

rules of origin can be so strict that they become measures to protect local manufacturers.

Tariff schedules are at the heart of free trade agreements. They list all the import tariff concessions that countries are prepared to give to other members of the free trade area. Hartzenberg says the AfCFTA negotiators haven’t decided whether these concessions will be offered bilaterally – between two countries or custom unions – or to all other AfCFTA members on a so-called most favoured nation basis.

An important feature of the AfCFTA that has been agreed on is that it will build on rather than replace Africa’s alphabet soup of regional free trade areas. The general principle will be that where regional free trade areas offer more liberal trade terms than the AfCFTA, the former terms will apply.

DM

The contribution of humanitarian action to peace

STOCKHOLM

The connection of humanitarian action to broader objectives like peace, development and human rights is understandably complex, but it is also an area in which some fresh thinking is important.

The dilemma we are facing today is how to expand and uphold neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action while designing and understanding such action as a bridge to broader and more ambitious transformative agendas.

how we characterise this dilemma, above all we must anchor our discussions in the realities of people living under the shadow of conflict, insecurity and fragility. This is particularly important given that more than 80% of people displaced by violence and conflict today originate from fewer than 20 particularly vulnerable contexts, most of them privileged areas of humanitarian action - and that those contexts endanger achievement of the SDGs.

Working on the frontlines, the ICRC bears witness to suffering in conflicts around the world; and we also observe how the new dynamics of violence are taking a heavy toll on the lives of every day men, women and children.

In recent years we have seen how the gap is widening between the scale of humanitarian needs and the available humanitarian response. Despite all the efforts to grow the humanitarian sector and to respond through emergency operations to such contexts, we also recognize that gaps do not and will not be closed by traditional humanitarian action.

The dominant features of fragility that we see today include:

- High levels of violence, whether through military or counter terrorism operations, intercommunity violence or criminality;
- Under development, and a lack of reliable essential services;
- Failures of governance and endemic corruption;
- The impacts of climate change, exacerbating existing pressures and embedding new fragilities; and
- Enormous humanitarian needs, whether through displacement, pandemics, or the loss of education or livelihoods.

These factors are exacerbated by protracted, urbanized conflicts, which not only kill and maim, but destroy systems, infrastructure and economies and thus compel humanitarian actors to take a fresh look at what people need in such environments.

I am reminded of the shells of destroyed cities we've seen in recent years - Mosul,



Allep, Taiz and many more. The deep structural degradation of infrastructure and social systems in cities will be incredibly difficult to repair and will require high levels of investment over the long term.

But it is exactly in these places where we see a patent absence of development actors - because of security risks or political blockages to envisage broader development engagement.

In protracted, decade-old conflicts, people's needs go beyond emergency assistance. Even though battles are being fought, chronic diseases still need to be treated, children still need education, adults still need jobs.

People's needs are many-sided: they are short, medium and long term. They are individual and community oriented. They are material, but also psychosocial and psychological.

The realities on the ground are moving further away by the day from the classical bureaucracies, structures, processes and policy categories which the international community has created to deal with such issues of concern: human rights, peace-building, development, humanitarian action. Realities don't fit the boxes.

At the same time, with these deep needs, it is clear that no actor working alone will be able to meet the demands. Today's needs landscape has long surpassed any individual approach.

And there are no blanket solutions: instead, we must adapt to the particular needs of communities, to their skills and resilience capacities. Approaches will differ enormously, for example in low or middle-

income countries.

Approaches must be strongly localized as well as supported by neutral international actors. Complementarity of efforts centered on creating maximum impact for people will therefore be essential.

Humanitarian actors are not peace builders: neutral, impartial, independent humanitarian action is distinct from political agendas and it must remain so.

Yet, I would argue that while others make peace, humanitarian action helps to make peace possible.

International humanitarian law has positive and multiplying impacts when it is respected. For example, when the principles of proportionality and distinction are applied, lives are saved, hospitals and schools remain open, markets can function and reconciliation after the conflict becomes easier.

Frontline humanitarian action too is a vital stabilizing factor in fragmented environments and a building block towards greater stabilisation. Principled humanitarian action serves to protect against development reversals caused by the effects of war and division in societies.

For example, in recent years in Syria, as the war has shifted into new phases, ICRC has adopted a two-track approach - providing emergency food, shelter to displaced populations; but also working in areas with greater stability to repair water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure.

We have also shifted to replace in-kind by cash assistance and thus prepare the ground for a return of regular economic life or to support market creations and income

generating activities.

And it is not only in Syria, but in many contexts millions of people survive and can go back to previously stable lives because of sustained humanitarian upkeep of infrastructure, health systems or investments in community-building and livelihood support.

Also, today the ICRC is fulfilling varying requests to act as a neutral intermediary in conflict. Each and every month, when my colleagues brief me on the engagement, we entertain to establish links between belligerents, I wonder whether out of isolated humanitarian activities, we are able to build a more sustained engagement pointing beyond humanitarian action.

We are called on to prevent relations from deteriorating or to find mutual trust-building measures that would help increase stability.

Here in Stockholm, the Yemeni parties agreed to make detention exchanges an important next step in peace negotiations and it is ICRC's humanitarian experience, which has supported the negotiation of a draft agreement, which hopefully one day will also lead to something broader than a humanitarian result.

Our mode of working is distinct, drawing on our humanitarian experience and relying on the principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality but the effect of our action hopefully allows for more.

Through humanitarian disarmament initiatives, we are engaging bilaterally, mini-laterally and multilaterally to build consensus to limit the use of indiscriminate,

harmful weapons.

Over the years, we have seen strong support from the international community on weapons treaties, including to ban chemical and biological weapons and landmines.

Now with conventional arms reaching record levels, we are also urging States of influence to lead by example and ensure no weapon is supplied where there is a clear risk it would be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law.

We are also working with others to create greater impact. New financing models, such as the Humanitarian Impact Bond, the Famine Action Mechanism with the World Bank and the United Nations, are testing grounds to align complementary experience, data and finance and to bring States, the private sector and humanitarian actors together in finding new and more meaningful tools to address some of the big disruptions of our times.

With humanitarian demands vast and complex, we must find a basis on which to work differently. It will take all of us - working together and through our distinct roles - to prevent and alleviate suffering, to build stability, and take the first steps on long path back to peace and development.

I am aware that some are afraid that principled humanitarianism risks losing its soul by trying to build pathways to peace and development. But may I remind them what the founding fathers of the ICRC in their foundational assembly of 1863 agreed: that humanitarian action could only escape the danger of prolonging war, if it were shaped in a way that it would contribute to the creation of peace in the long run.

As a four-time recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the ICRC hopes Norway and Sweden may have a clearer understanding than anybody else about the intrinsic link of principled humanitarianism with broader societal aspirations.

IPS

ABUJA, Nigeria

Two months after the general elections in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, things are back to normal. The incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, a 76-year-old general and former military Head of State, clearly defeated his challengers.

With his All Progressives Congress (APC), he has been propagating the fight against rampant corruption, economic recovery and the restoration of security. Especially the North-Eastern part of the country has been terrorised by the Islamist insurgency group Boko Haram for over 10 years.

While his progress in economic recovery and restoration of security can at best be described as moderate, Buhari's anti-corruption war is the subject of much contention. Some have trust in his efforts while others criticise his onslaught as one-sided and directed mostly at the opposition.

The main opposition party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), had put forward 72-year-old Atiku Abubakar, former Vice-President from 1999 to 2007, as their candidate. He's a millionaire entrepreneur and now four-time presidential candidate who faced several allegations of

Women and youth vividly remain politically underrepresented in Africa's most populous nation



Women queue during Nigeria's presidential election at Capital School polling unit, in Yola. Reuters

corruption.

Even though the euphoria and hope that accompanied Buhari's election in 2015 had long vanished, Atiku seemed for most to be no viable alternative to Buhari.

The opposition parties failed to come up with a joint candidate who could challenge the political establishment and bring fresh air into the country's political scene. The tense security situation along with the postponed elections, which was announced only a few hours before, resulted in the lowest voter turnout since 1999 with only 35 per cent.

This suggests that a large portion of the population see little potential for positive

change by casting their votes. Many others just sold their votes to at least reap some benefit.

Moreover, the two elderly men's campaign was rather dispassionate and accompanied by frequent political manoeuvring and allegations against each other, rather than programmatic discussions.

In the aftermath of the election, disillusionment and frustration are widespread. The 2019 elections have shown that a real alternative to the established system of the 'rule of old men' has yet to emerge. Women and youths in particular, who make up the majority of the Nigerian population, are not adequately represented in

the political system.

Nigeria at lowest rate of women representation

Women are gravely underrepresented in Nigerian politics. Currently, Nigeria has the lowest rate of female representation in parliaments across the continent. Globally, it ranks 181 out of 193 countries, according to the International Parliamentary Union.

Provisions to increase the percentage of women in elected and appointed positions to 35 per cent had no success. According to the Global Gender Gap Report, the gap between men and women in areas like economic participation, education and health, is not nearly as wide as in the realm

of politics.

Women are deterred from entering politics by the patriarchal system, in which men are believed to be natural leaders of women, and a lack of transparency in the candidate selection process.

According to Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), 47 per cent of registered voters and only 7 of the 71 presidential candidates for the 2019 elections were women. Nonetheless, there has never been a female president or state governor elected in Nigeria.

Women currently make up less than 6 per cent of the national parliament members. And it doesn't look much better when looking at candidates: of the candidates for the national and gubernatorial elections, women made up roughly one-in-eight. Why's that?

Women are deterred from entering politics by the patriarchal system, in which men are believed to be natural leaders of women, and a lack of transparency in the candidate selection process. Cultural believes that women are supposed to be in charge of the family rather than being in politics and money politics

support the existing system.

Moreover, the lack of a well organised grassroots women's movement backing and supporting promising candidates results in poor political participation. Obiageli Ezekwesili, known through the successful #BringBackOurGirls campaign, bowed out to the final run-up to the presidential elections disillusioned.

'We are waiting for the day the political class will now change and decide to be nice. They are never going to be nice, quote me. There is no incentive on the part of our political class to do things differently'.

Too young to run?

While registered youth voters (up to the age of 35) make up more than half of the voter population of 84 million, the young generation has no say in Nigerian politics. There might have been a sense of hope in 2018 within the circles of youth activists: as a result of the #NotTooYoungToRun campaign initiated by the Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement (YIAGA), a law was passed that opened

up the political space for increased youth participation. It reduced the age for presidential candidates from 40 to 35 and for House of Representatives candidates from 30 to 25 years.

Overall, there's a positive trend in youth participation, as youth candidacy has increased from 21 per cent in 2015 to 34.2 per cent in the 2019 elections. However, the actual numbers of young women and men under the age of 35 voted into elected positions are more sobering. According to YIAGA, only twelve youth candidates under 35 managed to get elected into the House of Representatives, an increase by nine compared to 2015.

At least however, the discourse has shifted and the lack of representation is discussed publicly. For most Nigerian political parties, young people are at best seen as supporters, mobilisers or political foot soldiers.

They are hired to instigate violence, manipulate the elections and intimidate the opposing parties. Some of the smaller parties actively tried to promote women and youth participation through lowering the horrendous costs for the candidacy forms.

IPS

United Nations: Climate Change affecting developing nations most

DDIS ABABA

UNITED Nations officials on Wednesday said developing nations were facing the brunt of climate change, despite contributing little to the problem.

A joint statement was made by Mary Robinson, Ireland's former President and UN Special Envoy on El Nino and Climate, and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Vera Songwe during a climate-focused meeting in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Robinson said: "Those who suffer the worst effects of climate change are often the least responsible for it."

She called for the need for climate justice as the least responsible countries suffer the most from the global threat that emanated from climate change.

Robinson was appointed UN Special Envoy along with Macharia Kamau of Kenya in 2016 to provide the leadership required to tackle climate-related challenges.

ECA's Songwe said the African continent could leverage to its advantage in the global fight against the impacts of climate change.

"We didn't create it, but we can

profit the most from it. A climate smart economy is an extremely profitable economy. It's an economy that will create more jobs and leave us cleaner and better," Songwe said.

Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director of the Pan African Justice Alliance, said during the discussion climate justice was not getting the priority it deserved from governments.

"Africa is most affected and impacted by climate change, but we don't do much about it. We need strong governance systems to move the climate discourse and actions forward," he said.

He urged the ECA to fortify collaboration with the African Union and the African Development Bank in line with the ClimDev-Africa programme that's mandated by African leaders to create a solid foundation for Africa's response to climate change.

The Weather Company's primary journalistic mission is to report on breaking weather news, the environment and the importance of science to our lives. This story does not necessarily represent the position of our parent company, IBM.



Garbage literally chokes a Dar es Salaam trading centre, mainly for fruit and vegetables, as found yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Standard Chartered Bank hosts Iftar for Muslim clients

By Guardian Reporter

IN keeping with the spirit of sharing during the Holy Month of Ramadan, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited held an Iftar dinner for its clients in Dar es Salaam.

Held on Wednesday, the event was attended by the senior member of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania, Sheikh Hamid Masoud Jongo. Also, in attendance was Mustafa Mkulo, former Minister of Finance and planning.

Speaking at the event, the Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Sanjay Rughani, said that his Bank embraces Diversity and Inclusion and has been marking various Religious calendar events with its clients. As part of embracing diversity and inclusion, the Bank joined the rest of the world in marking the World Day of Cultural Diversity on 21st May, 2019.

He highlighted that the client's events are not only a platform to show appreciation to the Bank's clients but are also used as platforms for the clients to have more interaction with the Bank's top management team and air their views and suggestions.

"An Iftar meal marks a special event for us where we get to join hands with our key clients and various stakeholders of the Islamic religion as the holy month of Ramadhan unfolds," Rughani said.

Rughani also highlighted that his Bank has come up with some practices that are friendly to the staff who are fasting during the holy month.

"We have been implementing some changes in the way we work to ensure that we accommodate our colleagues who are observing the holy month. We have been

avoiding meetings which include the serving of meals in the office, we have also been ensuring that our meetings do not exceed 4.30pm as well as avoiding Departmental parties or Bank related social events during this period. These are just but a few activities that we have been

doing during the holy month," Rughani said.

For his part, Mustafa Mkulo commended the bank for coming up with the idea of hosting Iftar dinner for its clients.

The senior member of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania, Sheikh Hamid Masoud

Jongo, reminded Muslims to continue to observe the virtues of the holy month and also reach out to the less fortunate in the society during this period.

Also, he advised the bank to open an Islamic window for its Muslim clients, which will help them to use the bank and avoid

paying interest (usury) which is not allowed for them. Islamic religion has forbidden paying interests.

In implementing the aspect of Diversity and Inclusion, Standard Chartered Bank has events such as Iftar and Diwali.



A Dar es Salaam vendor carries bread in style. Our camera caught up with him at Mwenge yesterday. Not an especially rare scene in the city, though. Photo: John Badi

Observer group: Malawi election handled with "professionalism and dedication"

LILONGWE

AS Malawians await the results of their general elections, the Commonwealth group observing the polls has commended the country for ensuring a peaceful electoral process to date.

The chairperson of the Commonwealth Observer Group, Thabo Mbeki, remarked that although the initial pace of tallying was slow, the observer group will continue to follow progress in the days ahead.

He stressed the importance of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) being given the time and space to conclude its work.

Issuing the Group's interim statement in Blantyre two days after the election, Mbeki said that the opening, voting, closing and counting processes at polling stations have been handled with professionalism and dedication so far.

He said: "It was noted that, for the 2019 elections, and for the first time in its electoral history, Malawi adopted a biometric voter registration process. In addition to collecting voters' biographical data, their photographs were captured. The voter registration process was also tied to the government's national civil registration process, through which citizens were provided with national ID cards.

These innovations enhanced the integrity of the process."

The Observer Group praised MEC for making considerable efforts to implement recommendations made by observer missions following the previous elections in 2014.

However, it noted some inconsistencies in the application of procedures, particularly after the close of polls, for example the completion of the reconciliation forms.

The Observer Group said there were also inconsistent interpretations of what constituted a null or void vote, though these were clearly set out in the polling procedures.

The Commonwealth Observer Group has been in Malawi since 15 May. Members were deployed to all three regions of the country, where they observed the election environment and preparation of the polls.

Commonwealth support for Malawi's electoral process also included the development of a toolkit to implement its Media Code of Conduct and a workshop to prepare women candidates for the election by providing training in leadership, conflict sensitivity and campaign skills.

The final report will be completed before the Group departs on 28 May, and made public at a later date.

Guterres to lay wreath in honour of fallen United Nations peacekeepers

By Guardian Reporter

UN Secretary-General António Guterres is today expected to lay a wreath to honour all fallen peacekeepers and preside over a ceremony for the posthumous award of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal to 119 military, police and civilian personnel who have paid the ultimate price while serving in peacekeeping operations in 2018 and early 2019.

According to a statement issued yesterday, during a special ceremony, the Secretary-General will award the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage posthumously to

Private Chancy Chitete of Malawi.

The Medal is named for Captain Mbaye, a peacekeeper from Senegal who was killed in Rwanda in 1994 after saving countless civilian lives. This marks the first time it has been awarded since the inaugural Medal was presented to Captain Diagne's family in his honour in 2016.

Private Chitete served with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and was killed in 2018 while saving the life of a fellow peacekeeper from the United Republic of Tanzania who had been badly wounded during an operation against

the Allied Democratic Forces, which was aimed to stop attacks on local towns and to prevent the disruption of the Ebola response.

His comrade survived, and Private Chitete's heroism and sacrifice helped the peacekeepers achieve their objective of protecting civilians and forcing the Allied Democratic Forces to withdraw from the area.

Private Chitete's family is to receive the medal on his behalf during the Peacekeepers' Day commemorations in New York.

In a video message to mark Peacekeepers' Day, the Secretary-General said: "Today, we honour the more than

1 million men and women who have served as UN peacekeepers since our first mission in 1948. We remember the more than 3,800 personnel who paid the ultimate price. And we express our deepest gratitude to the 100,000 civilian, police and military peacekeepers deployed around the world today and to the countries that contribute these brave and dedicated women and men."

The global theme for the 2019 commemoration is "Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace".

In his message, the Secretary-General said: "This year, the United Nations marks 20 years since the Security Council first mandated a peacekeeping

mission to protect civilians. Peacekeepers protect men, women and children from violence every day, often at great personal risk."

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, said: "UN Peacekeeping deploys to some of the most complex and difficult places, protecting some of the world's most vulnerable. We are working in partnership with Member States to implement the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative to strengthen peacekeeping, including to improve how we protect civilians, which is at the heart of our work. For hundreds of millions, peacekeeping is the last best

hope and it needs all our support."

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was established by the General Assembly in 2002, to pay tribute to all men and women serving in peacekeeping, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. The General Assembly designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in commemoration of the day in 1948 when the Organization's first peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine.

African agriculture has a branding problem: Here's how to fix it

By Dan Mou

The second broad approach, is the Organizational Determinant Categorization of National Security Systems or Architectures. This second approach also categorizes National Security System or Architectures into three types. These are: (a) the Segmentary National Security System (SNSS) or Architecture; (b) the Coordinated National Security System (CNSS) or Architecture; and (c) the Integrated National Security System (INSS) or Architecture. The three key distinguishing words are: Segmentary, Coordinated and Integrated. Each of these National Security Systems or Architectures has its advantages and disadvantages, and different effects on electoral integrity as well, which are considered briefly below.

(a) Segmentary National Security System (SNSS) or Architecture

The Segmentary National Security System (SNSS) or Architecture tries to apply the principle of federalism or even Confederation to the security of a country. Under this arrangement, the country's security arrangement is left to the individual military or security services or their special units. In the event of security threats, each Service adopts its own strategy in repelling the threat. Individual Service Chiefs or Heads of Security Agencies therefore, mobilise their men and weaponry in the defence or securing of whatever target is threatened. There is little or no harmonization of efforts by the various Services or Agencies and no coordination of their attack/reaction to the enemy or enemies.

There is usually little or no communication and reporting across Services or Agencies during the operations. With the

exception of South Africa and Libya (during President Gadhafi), all other African countries (including Nigeria) have adopted the Segmentary Security System or Architecture at one time or the other, even though the degree of application varied from one country to the other.

Because this approach is not effective, it allows room for internal security threats and creates fertile ground for the emergence of insurgencies. These internal crises and insurgencies become serious obstacles to the conduct of elections and diminishes electoral integrity and good governance, as a whole. This is the current situation in Nigeria right now. Hence, several insurgencies have emerged, as we shall see below, which affected the conduct of the 2015 national elections in Nigeria negatively. It will in fact create even more serious problems for the forthcoming 2019 national elections in Nigeria as well, if they are not stopped or curtailed before February, 2019, when the general elections are scheduled to commence.

In Nigeria, for instance, under the administrations of former Presidents Shehu Shagari and Goodluck Jonathan, the Military and other security Agencies all operated separately, with little coordination and integration between them and other Security Agencies. This became more visible in their different strategies and operations regarding the control of Boko Haram Religious Insurgency and the Herdsmen and Farmers conflicts and clashes all over the Nation, but especially in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. In the event of any security threat, as is the case with the Herdsmen and Farmers clashes, therefore, these Services reacted differently, with little coordination and integration of their efforts.

For instance, instead of



the Armed Forces Coordinating efforts, with the Nigeria Police Force and other security Agencies, they always order the Nigerian Police Force, even the Police Special Terrorist Units, to withdraw before they start their own operations, as it was the case with the "Cat Race" operation "Ayem a Kpatuma" in the North Central, particularly Benue State.

Coordinated National Security System (CNSS) or Architecture

The CNSS ensures that all Services, Agencies and Units assigned with the responsibility of national Security are closely monitored and supervised. This is close to the INSS approach, except that in this case, the Agencies and Units are not brought under one top command umbrella. The closest example of coordinated national security system in operation in Nigeria, was during the Governments of General I.B. Babangida at the time of Muhammadu Gambo Jimeta as the National Security Adviser (NSA). This system is certainly more effective than the segmentary one. However, it is not as effective as an integrated national security architecture.

Because this too does not and cannot effectively deal with security challenges to the nation, especially insurgencies, this ends up affecting electoral integrity and good governance as well.

Just like the segmentary system discussed above, it gives room for electoral malpractices and fraud. First, it disenfranchises a lot of people who have been displaced in their villages and towns because of the continued internal security crises. Second, the expected violence or potential violence that will result from attacks on polling places, keeps voters away. Most polling booths become empty on electoral days giving room for frauds of ballot box stuffing and other forms of electoral frauds.

The Integrated National Security System (INSS) or Architecture

The INSS or Architecture is the most comprehensive approach to National Security yet devised. It has also proved, in practice, more effective than the rest discussed here so far. It is variously referred to by security and strategic studies experts as the "multi-services"

or "multi-faceted national" security system. In Nigeria, this approach had been adopted only by General Yakubu Gowon, during the Civil (Biafra War) of 1967-1970; General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau when he was the National Security Adviser under the regimes of General I.B. Babangida, Chief Ernest Shonekan and Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. It was also adopted by Alhaji Ismaila Gwarzo, during General Sani Abacha's regime.

This INSS or Architecture stated above, is a comprehensive and demanding approach to National Security. It is also the most effective and efficient one ever devised so far. Because General Yakubu Gowon adopted this integrated national security architecture, he was able to complete the Nigerian Civil War and re-integrate the Ibos (Biafrans), who were fighting to be independent from Nigeria in only thirty months.

Similarly, using this integrated security system, General Ibrahim Babangida was able to crush the then "Boko Haram", insurgency, Maitatsine Uprising, which was spreading like fire, within three months during

his Administration. Compare it with the Segmentary security architecture President Goodluck Jonathan used for five years, and could not conquer Boko Haram. Instead, the insurgency, Boko Haram, captured seventeen (17) Local Government Areas within Nigeria, mounted their flag and declared it an independent caliphate within the territory of Nigeria.

Mou, Executive Chairman, Centre for Poverty Eradication, Development and Equal Opportunity (CEPEDEO), Maitama, presented this paper at a conference on the theme "Sustaining the Integrity of 2019 General Elections in Nigeria with the sub-theme "National Security and Electoral Integrity" organised by the African Electoral Integrity Initiative (AE2i), in collaboration with other international and local organisations, Abuja.

The ineffectiveness of the segmentary approach to national security can also be seen in the failure of Nigerian soldiers and other security agencies, to tackle and end the Boko Haram insurgency and the Herdsmen versus Farmers' conflicts that were President

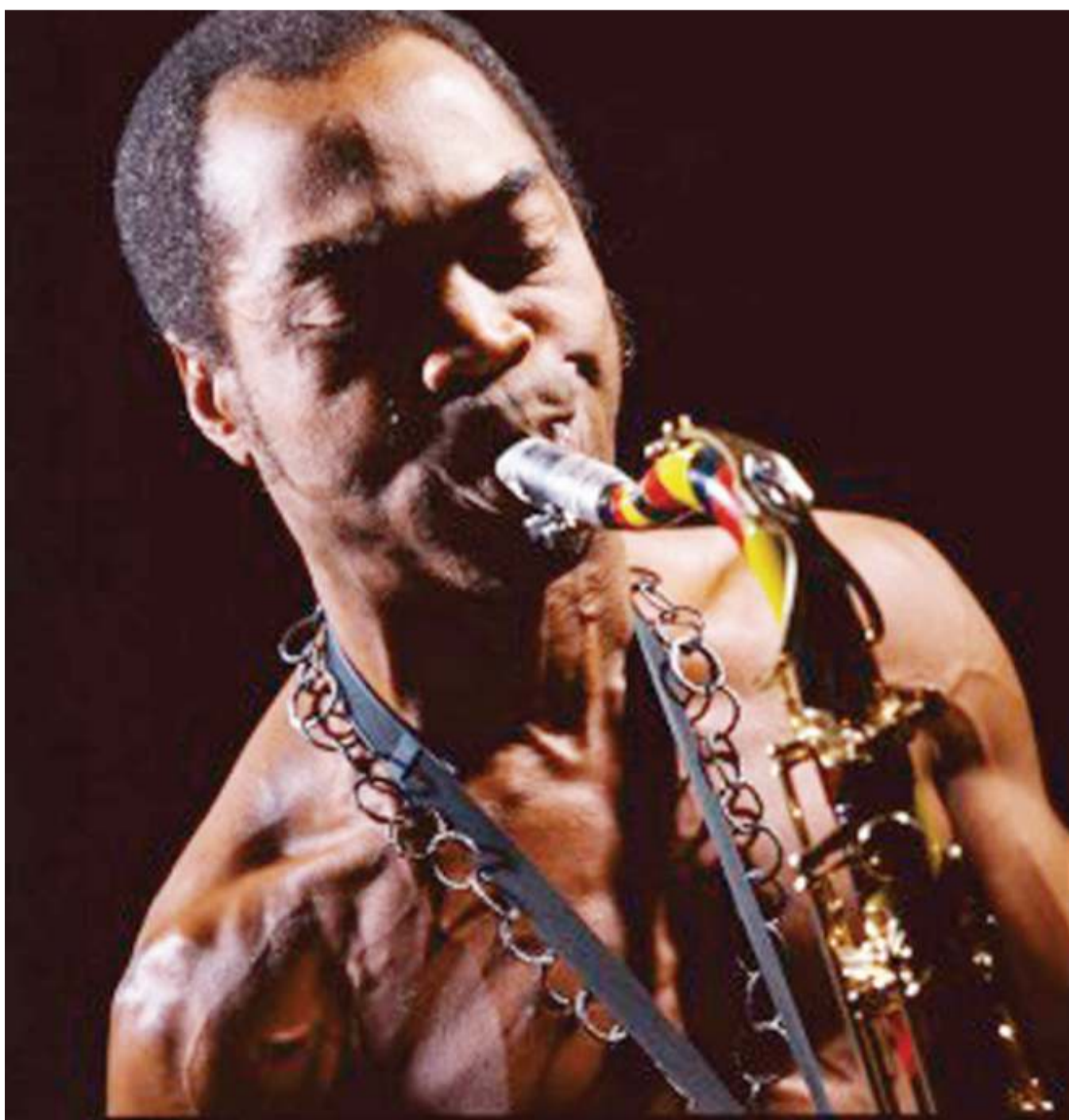
Buhari's major campaign promises, when he was canvassing for votes to be Nigerian President. Three and a half years into his Administration, even Boko Haram is still to be crushed completely.

Instead, they are still causing untold death, destruction of property and displacing not just the civilian population in the North East. They are also killing soldiers, capturing their barracks and capturing weapons, including armored vehicles. This shows quite clearly the drawbacks of the segmentary national security system. Yet, it is not changed or modified, despite over eight years of its operation by the Nigeria Government. It is clear that this will drastically affect the conduct of the 2019 general elections.

III Scope of Electoral Integrity

No national political event ever involves so many people participating to exercise their political power, than general elections. Elections truly show that "power belongs to the people". However, this view assumes that such elections actually reflect the wishes of the voters. It is concern for this that gave birth to national and global interests in electoral integrity. It is also this concern for electoral integrity that led experts to devise a measure to test the validity and transparency of elections, known as the Perception of Election Index (PEI).

Elections are the mechanisms by which the voters periodically, in accordance with the electoral cycle, choose the leaders to rule over them for a defined period of time. Democracies, especially liberal democracy, relies on elections both for selecting leaders and holding them accountable. The whole business of the various legislations in Electoral Acts for recall, represents the concern that voters should be able to hire and fire.



Why celebrities should follow Fela's footsteps

By Sani Emmanuel

Entertainment is now the new crude in town as the trend among Nigerian youths wanting to be the next Wizkid, Davido, 2baba or Tiwa Savage and the rest of them. They can't get enough of the fantasies of being young, famous and successful, like living luxurious as flaunted by these artistes.

The youths listen to them and follow them religiously on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms. It is amazing that in this era, an individual can have a community of followers numbering millions, who adore them and long to live their type of lifestyle. So, it now depends on what type of impact these celebrities are willing to make, especially in the area of curbing crimes and ensuring sanity in the society.

It is a fast pace world, and in this jet age, for even secondary school students, "patience" is boring. At 17 years old, boys are desperate of making money! Thus, the now common phrase: "If I no make money wetin I gain?" The other goes thus: "If you no get money hide your face".

Nigerians, indeed, miss the days when legendary Afrobeat

musician, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, explored the power of music, to champion the cause of societal justice, campaigning against corruption, crime and violation of human rights. He used the medium to achieve remarkable impacts that have remained relevant till date.

The trend of late, in which Nigerian musicians, through their music promote the urge for the quest to make quick money, is very worrisome. Such artistes should realize the power in music as a tool to achieve societal change.

Entertainment is a medium where people exhibit talent, and express the beauty of arts in various forms, for the progress of the society. Nigerians are always either listening to music, watching TV programmes, discussing superstars and artistes, or directly involved in entertainment.

Celebrities like Falz, MI, Simi, Ruggedman, Soundsultan, and Banky W have in recent times risen to the challenge and they need to be commended and emulated. They are among a few celebrities who have used music to campaign against the increasing tide of online fraud among youths.

The most recent is the video by Simi that went viral on the internet, in which she spoke about the ills cybercrime has caused us as a

nation. She charged perpetrators to desist. The video generated mixed feelings among listeners, with some taking sides with the perpetrators of internet fraud, some bitterly discrediting it. There were, however, those who valued the import of what she did. The whole sphere of social media took a new buzz to another level with the arrest of street sensation Naira Marley by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC. This has passed a significant message to Nigerian youths that cybercrime should not be glorified.

We need more celebrities to rise up and use music to fight against the menace of internet fraud among youths. They need to inculcate the message in their music, as this will undoubtedly ensure that the message sinks in to their subconscious minds.

Nigerian celebrities need to acknowledge that their music is powerful and it can achieve the change that we need in Nigeria. They need to continuously put out conscious materials and messages to encourage the youths to embrace hard work as the necessary path to wealth. This will go a long way in shaping their minds towards the right paths.

Special shout-out, though, to those Nigerian youths grinding

By Francis Kajubi

KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY NEEDS 24 EXTRA MONTHS TO COMPLETE WORLD BANK-FUNDED DMDP

KINONDONI Municipality which was allocated US\$ 84m to upgrade its infrastructure to ease communications in its jurisdiction under a World Bank funded Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) needs two more years to complete works.

With only one and a half year remaining to the deadline, DMDP's Assistant Project Coordinator, Engineer Tungaraza Mkelewe said 50 percent of works remain unfinished because of a number of reasons which delayed implementation.

"We need some extra time to get the job done due to several delays that happened during the period such as negotiations with citizens who had to give up their homes to pave way for road widening," Eng Mkelewe said.

"We have almost covered 50 percent of phase one so precisely we need two extra years to accomplish construction works," he added.

The DMDP implementation valued at US\$ 300m commenced in 2016 and was due to end at the end of 2020 for phase one with an objective of improving infrastructure and logistics in the commercial capital to ease congestion and improve business efficiency.

Under phase one, the DMDP was also expected to build capacity of various institutions in the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan area to facilitate businesses but also handle emergencies. Eng Mkelewe further noted that while construction of many feeder roads has been completed or is at advanced stage, the DMDP head office is completed.



Construction work of a feeder road at Sinza in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

The project which has ten different specific areas to be addressed, has so far seen Makani, Makumbusho, Viwandani, Nzasa, Mapambano, Msasani market, Makanya, Kilimani, Simu 2000, Kilon-gawima and North Tandale feeder roads also completed.

"Packages that have remained include Kamanyola road (7.5Km) passing through Mto Ng'ombe and widening of Sheiklango road into a four lanes highway," he noted.

Other roads currently under construction includes Magomeni Mapipa road via Urafiki (6.7 Kilometers) and widening of roads covering Mwanamboka to Mwinjuma via Mwananyama hospital and Muhimbili road (5.42Km).

Other incomplete roads are Kawe to Mwai Kibaki road covering 7.75kms that will be widened into four lanes and Tandale, Mburahati and Mwananyama feeder roads.

He asserted that there have been poor participation of local construction companies in bidding for tenders compared to foreign ones due to several reasons including lack of bank guarantees.

"Bidding contractors need to submit a 10 percent performance-guarantee bond of the value of the project that they bid for. They also need to have an advance payment guarantee of which we issue the contractor 15 percent of the whole project value, but he only need to give us guarantee of such money from any active local bank. We also demand a 2 percent tender security guarantee for a contractor's loyalty," the Kinondoni Assistant Coordinator added.

Such conditions have kept most local contractors out of the project which has many components and covers the whole commercial capital.

State-backed mortgage firm to lend at below 10pc

NAIROBI

Kenyan earning Sh150,000 and below per month are set to get house loans from local financial institutions at rates below 10 percent after the country launched its first secondary mortgage financier Thursday.

The Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company (KMRC), a Treasury-backed lender, is expected to cut the cost of home loans to single digit from the current market rate of about 13.5 percent. President Uhuru Kenyatta Wednesday presided over the launch of KMRC, which is expected to help drive the State's agenda of providing up to 500,000 cheap housing units by 2022.

Under the Jubilee administration's mass housing drive, Kenyans who opt to buy their houses in Nairobi will qualify for loans of up to Sh4 million with those residing outside the capital securing up to Sh3 million.

KMRC's funds will not be directly available to individual borrowers. It will lend money to financial institutions at low cost, enabling them to write home loans at single-digit rates.

Concessional loans
 "Since we are getting concessional loans, our proposal is that primary lenders should pass the benefits to the borrower by keeping interest rates at single digit," said KMRC interim CEO Johnstone Oltetia.

"But our key focus is on tenure because it is what will eventually drive down the overall cost of mortgage, the fact that more financial institutions will be offering long-tenure loans at fixed rates." Borrowers of the loans will be allowed to acquire either apartments or free-standing property.

"Once operational, KMRC will support a large number of credit-worthy potential borrowers who are not able to obtain loans at the moment," said Mr Kenyatta. "It will be expected to provide fixed-rate, long term low-interest funding; and help reverse low mortgage penetration in Kenya."

Kenyan commercial banks currently have only 26,187 mortgage accounts in their books worth Sh223.2 billion, according to Central Bank of Kenya data. The mortgage penetration rate, at only 2.7 percent of GDP, compares poorly to South Africa's mortgage industry that makes up 31 percent of GDP.

KMRC's funding is expected to drive the number of mortgage accounts to an

estimated 60,000 by 2022. Kenyans earning more than Sh150,000 per month will however continue to borrow house loans at market rates, with the role of KMRC being limited to mobilising more cash for mortgage and cushioning the primary lenders from losses linked to loan defaults.

The financier, which has so far mobilised Sh37.2 billion - Sh2.2 billion in equity capital, Sh25 billion committed by the World Bank and Sh10 billion from African Development Bank, has plans to raise an extra Sh5 billion from the capital markets.

"The KMRC has come at the right time when mortgage loans are very expensive, to provide incentive to primary mortgage lenders to offer longer-tenor loans," said Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich, adding that the country "has the right conditions for it to succeed."

The non-deposit taking KMRC, which is set to be operational from next month,

plans to issue bonds at the capital markets and mobilise more funds from international development institutions. Commercial banks

It is 20 percent owned by the Treasury with eight commercial banks, 11 deposit-taking Saccos and one micro financial institution holding a combined 80 percent stake. Shelter Afrique, a pan-African finance institution as well as the Word Bank's private lending arm, International Finance Corporation, are said to be currently undertaking due diligence, keen to join the list of KMRC shareholders later in the year.

Mr Oltetia is a senior financial sector advisor at the Treasury. Treasury principal secretary Kamau Thugge is one of the board members. Others in the interim board include Stima Sacco chairman Osman Khatolwa who represents all the deposit-taking Saccos, Housing Finance Company Group CEO Robert Kibaara who is there on behalf of other banks and KCB Group's

nominated member Samuel Makome.

The Jubilee administration's housing pillar is a key plank of the "Big Four" economic development strategy aimed at generating higher growth. It is supposed to be backed by National Housing Development Fund (NHDF), an institution that is expected to finance offtake tenant purchase schemes and offtake guarantees to developers.

On May 20, the High Court blocked for the third time the planned collection of 1.5 percent housing levy from workers and employers, thwarting the State's effort to build the NHDF. It is estimated the levy will yield at least Sh4.75 billion every month from the country's workers whose numbers hit 2.65 million last year according to the Economic Survey 2019. The drive to collect the levy has been opposed by Federation of Kenya Employers, the Central Organisation of Trade Unions and the Consumer Federation of Kenya.

Britain suffers massive defeat at the UN over disputed Chagos Islands

WASHINGTON

Britain suffered an overwhelming defeat at the UN on Wednesday over its control of the Chagos Islands, home to the Diego Garcia military base that is leased to the US.

The vote among members of the UN General Assembly came in a non-binding resolution but called on Britain to withdraw its colonial administration and cede the territory to Mauritius within six months.

Only six countries including Britain and the US opposed the vote in the 193-member assembly, while 116 voted in favour and 56 abstained. African countries proposed the resolution over the Chagos Islands, known as the British Indian Ocean Territory, which is considered to be one of the last remaining vestiges of empire.

The Diego Garcia military base has been a departure point for long-distance bomber raids and rendition flights carrying terrorism suspects. Mauritius claims sovereignty over the islands. An advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in February said that Britain should hand over control.

Mauritius passed its goal of 100 votes in favour but Britain's permanent representative to the UN, Karen Pierce, later said that the large number of abstentions indicated that many countries agreed the dispute should be resolved bilaterally, rather than at the UN.

Britain took possession of the Chagos Islands in 1814 and kept them after Mauritian independence in 1968. Three years earlier Britain had secretly leased Diego Garcia, one of the islands, to the US for 50 years to use it as a military base. In 2016 the deal was extended to 2036.

The people of the islands were forcibly evicted and have long been fighting Britain in legal cases to return. The International Court of Justice, the UN's highest, heard testimony from former islanders that they were "uprooted like animals" and loaded on to a ship.

The evictions were described in a British diplomatic message at the time as the removal of a "few Tarzans and Man Fridays." The court's judges said the agreement between Britain and Mauritius had not been "based on the free and genuine expression of the will of the people concerned", and that the break-up of the colony was against international law.



Bagamoyo District Commissioner Zaynab Kawawa (2nd R) shaking hands with NMB Bank Plc's Eastern Zone Government Relations Manager, Anneth Kwayu after receiving building materials including corrugated iron sheets worth 5m/- the bank to support construction of two classrooms and teachers' office at Hassanal Damji Secondary School in the district earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NMB.



Fuel tanks on Diego Garcia, the largest island in the Chagos archipelago and the site of a US military base.

DEPUTY MINISTER PLEDGES SUPPORT TO LINK HORTICULTURE, TADB AND INDUSTRIALISATION

By Property Watch Reporter

MINISTRY of Agriculture has pledged to link Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank and the horticulture industry to unleash the massive potential that the remains untapped to contribute towards industrialization.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Innocent Bashungwa told Tanzania Horticulture Association members and other stakeholders during a consultation meeting in Dar es Salaam mid this week that the government is aware of the potential of the horticulture industry in contributing to rapid industrialization, jobs creation wealth generating and increased revenue to Treasury.

"We're very committed to support this industry because of its huge potential to transform our economy," Bashungwa said while pointing out that the over US\$700 million annually that the industry contributes to the economy annually, is an important milestone to nurture. The industry was contributing a mere US\$60 million in 2004.

The youthful Deputy Minister explained that plans and strategies under the Agriculture Sector Development Programme II are targeting to commercialise the agriculture sector by addressing longstanding jigsaw puzzles of sectors such as the horticulture which includes financing.

"The government will stretch the mandate of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank for it to serve as the coordinator of all agricultural financing in the country," Bashungwa assured the TAHA stakeholders.



Agriculture deputy minister, Innocent Bashungwa (L) is accompanied by TAHA Group's CEO, Jacqueline Mkindi, on arrival at the venue where horticulture stakeholders were meeting to debate implementation of ASDP II in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo courtesy of TAHA.

The ASDP II is designed to reinforce smallholder commercialisation focus with the view of supporting them graduate from subsistence farming to semi-commercial status by practicing farming as businesses.

Simpler and friendlier regulations for horticultural businesses are also high on the steps the government is taking, Bashungwa explained while noting that an equally important step the government is working on is reduce bureaucratic red-tape in the process of exporting horticultural produce which requires permits and certificates.

Briefing Bashungwa of TAHA's activities and the meeting's main

objectives, the association's board member, Peter Ngongoseke said members are upbeat that the ASDP II will scale-up the association's efforts in seeking more markets for its commodities which includes fruits and flowers.

TAHA Group's CEO, Jacqueline Mkindi backed the Deputy Minister's observation to allow TADB provide funding to the sector saying inaccessibility to financing and unfriendly policies sandwiched by bureaucracy, remain major challenges holding back growth of horticulture.

Mkindi said TAHA which has managed to bringing together over

2.5 million both large-scale and smallholders horticultural farmers into a single bloc, has been lobbying against major policy, legal and regulatory hurdles frustrating rapid growth of the industry.

"With an annual growth rate of 12 percent, the industry has turned into the growth driver of the entire Tanzanian agricultural sector which has an average growth rate of 4 percent only," Mkindi noted.

The ASDP II blueprint underlines the need for forging robust and dynamic linkages between smallholder farmers and commercial input and output supply chains for the agro-industrial sector to produce

for the market.

"Whilst the focus will clearly be on the smallholder sub-sector, the blueprint encourages greater inclusive private sector participation, both in commercial agricultural production and in marketing, agro processing and farm input supply chains," national coordinator for the ASDP II Zacharia Muyengi said.

The blueprint gives special attention to investments in rural infrastructure and agro-processing, especially in grain milling and packaging, as well as to sustainable utilisation of natural resources in order to expand the market, especially for priority crops.

National Cement secures IFC debt for ARM deal

NAIROBI

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and KCB Group are financing part of National Cement's Sh5 billion bid for ARM Cement's Kenyan operations. National Cement, which is buying ARM out of bankruptcy, has lined up a mix of debt and its own funds to fund the transaction.

"We can fund half the deal (Sh2.5 billion) from our own cash flows. The balance we will get from IFC and KCB," Narendra Raval, the chairman and major shareholder of National Cement, told the Business Daily. IFC and KCB have been funding National Cement for years, with their commitment enabling the company to win the ARM auction.

George Weru, an executive with PwC and one of the administrators of ARM Cement, told the Business Daily that deal certainty including proof of funds was one of the reasons National Cement's bid was successful. Unlike others, National Cement also did not attach onerous terms and conditions in its bid.

"Having looked at these criteria, we concluded that the offer from National Cement presented the best outcome for creditors," Mr Weru said. Most rival bidders had sought to buy ARM's Kenyan operations at a range of between Sh3 billion and Sh4 billion.

Among the multinationals whose bids were unsuccessful were Nigeria's Dangote Cement and Oman's Raysut. National Cement's managing director Kaushik Pandit said in an interview that the company will invest Sh2 billion to improve ARM's operations over the medium term.

A substantial part of the new investment will go into upgrading ARM's plant and equipment, ultimately enhancing productivity and efficiencies. Mr Kaushik said the acquisition will raise National Cement's annual production to 1.4 million tonnes and boost its market share to 13 percent from the current eight percent.

Sale of ARM's Kenyan business leaves the administrators to focus on Tanzania — the largest subsidiary which is expected to fetch a higher price than the local unit. Mr Raval said National Cement is not interested in Tanzania, saying Kenya is a more attractive market.

"We are making this deal to expand our market and especially to get a presence in Mombasa," Mr Raval said. Sale of Tanzania business could be completed in one to two months, Mr Weru said. Bids have already been made for the business in that market.

Vodacom goes solar in Randburg

GAUTENG

Vodacom has installed solar panels capable of generating up to 34kW of power, which will supplement the energy supply of its Randburg base station controller in Gauteng.

Vodacom says the new solar panels will help generate more than 50 000kWh of energy on an annual basis to power the Randburg base station controller. This will help reduce the telco's carbon footprint, lower its electricity usage and reduce the base station controller's reliance on batteries, in the event of load-shedding.

"The continuation of our investment in cleaner sources of energy shows Vodacom's commitment to the sustainable growth of our operation and sustainability strategy where the protection of our planet remains key. In the past, we've installed solar panels at Vodacom offices as well as in our network infrastructure; however, using solar energy to power our base station controllers is an area of opportunity for us," says Takalani Netshitenzhe, chief officer for corporate affairs at Vodacom. The JSE-listed operator adds that South Africa has in recent times been impacted by inconsistent supply of electricity, with capacity constraints resulting in load-shedding, which has an impact on network reliability and operational costs. It believes the most notable feature of the solar panels is its ability to reduce the load on the station controller's batteries.

"As Vodacom continues to expand connectivity and close the digital divide, the company's demand for electricity will continue to rise. Therefore, it is critical that Vodacom extends connectivity and closes the digital divide in a manner that is sustainable with minimal environmental impact," the group says in a statement.

Netshitenzhe adds Vodacom plans to roll out similar energy-saving solar power installations to base station controllers across the country, in the near future; all of which forms part of the mobile network operator's sustainability drive to minimise its environmental impact and contribute towards the network's goal of reducing its carbon footprint.

Vodacom currently has over 950 solar base station sites across its operations in Africa. The telco also installed the largest single rooftop solar installation at its Century City offices in Cape Town in 2012 and Vodacom Lesotho's head office has been powered by solar energy since last year.



Tanga Cement Plc's Operations Manager, Godwin Kamando (L), hands over 300 bags of cement worth 3,388,488/- to Holili Ward Executive Officer, Fadhili Buzebuze (3rd R) and Holili Village Executive Officer Paschal Ntomola to assist renovate classroom, staff rooms and teachers' houses at Holili Primary School in Rombo district, Kilimanjaro region, at a ceremony held at Pongwe in Tanga. Photo: courtesy of Tanga Cement.

Tanga Cement donates over 300 bags to Holili ward

By Property Watch Reporter

OVER 300 cement bags worth over 3.3m/- have been donated by Tanga Cement Plc to Holili ward of Tanga municipality to support various community projects in education, health and environmental conservation.

Holili ward of Rombo district in Kilimanjaro region is an area rich in pozzolana minerals which the cement manu-

facturer uses to as raw material to make the finished product.

The company's Operations Manager, Godwin Kamando said they decided to donate the bags as part of their corporate social responsibility which focuses on the three key areas among many others. "Tanga Cement is a company which has been supporting Tanzanian communities transparently, because we believe in giving back to the society which backs our

business," Kamando said.

"And today we are supporting community from our very own area Holili. This is the area where we mine pozzolana. Pozzolana is one of the important raw materials which we use in production of a certain type of cement at our factory," he added.

He said the donation is for rehabilitation of Holili Primary School which is support allocated for education sector

and that it will be used to renovate ten classrooms, two teachers' offices and two teachers' houses.

"We believe the cement we're donating today will be used for the same purpose as we are handing it over to the right people - the Holili authority. The company has so far donated a total of 1150 bags of cement for various community projects this year so far," the Operations Manager stated.

CONSTRUCTION

SINGAPORE

Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, GIC and South Asia's largest hospitality group by market capitalization, IHCL, have agreed to an investment partnership which is expected to be worth \$600 million over the next three years, the National Stock Exchange of India-listed company announced on Friday.

The subsidiary of Tata Group said that it is working with GIC to set up an investment platform with which to acquire fully operational luxury and upscale hotels in key lodging areas of India, including distressed or underperforming hotels, that can be turned around under the company's management.

"This collaboration is in line with Aspiration 2022 and our vision to scale up, create greater enterprise value and make IHCL South Asia's most iconic and profitable hospitality company," Puneet Chhatwal, IHCL's managing director and chief executive officer said in a statement which fit the joint venture into IHCL's master plan for expanding its business over the next three years.

GIC's \$380bn war chest The partnership comes less than two weeks after Singapore's central bank announced that it would be transferring \$45 billion (\$33 billion) in foreign exchange reserves to GIC for longer-term investments, and follows a number of big-ticket real estate investments in India over the past two years by the fund, which even before this latest injection was estimated to manage some \$359 billion in assets.

Under the investment framework agreed to by GIC and the Indian Hotels Company Limited, each new acquisition will be made via a separate, independently-funded special purpose vehicle, with 30 percent of the equity for the deals to be contributed by IHCL and the remaining 70 percent to come from GIC.

The hotel assets will then be managed under one of IHCL's existing brands, which include Taj, SeleQtions, Vivanta and Ginger. "Through this platform, we expect to acquire strategic and marquee

GIC TEAMS UP WITH INDIA'S IHCL FOR \$600 MILLION HOSPITALITY INVESTMENT



The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, which opened in 1903

assets that need new ownership, branding and positioning," said Chhatwal.

Race to open one hotel every month

The Mumbai-based hospitality

group, best known for the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, which was the scene of one of the country's worst terror attacks in 2008, has pledged to increase the company's operating profit margins by 8 percent in five

years, as part of its expansion plan.

Three months ago, Chhatwal promised that IHCL "will be opening one hotel every month in the next financial year," and the company has already added 20 new hotels to

its portfolio since January 2018.

IHCL sees the investment agreement with GIC as allowing it to pursue acquisitions while moderating its capital expenditures as the company repositions existing

brands and adds new brands to its inventory.

GIC betting on the Indian hospitality sector

"GIC is pleased to partner with IHCL, a leading hotel owner and operator, to build a quality hospitality portfolio in key destinations across India," said GIC Real Estate chief investment officer Kok Sun Lee.

The tie-up with the Indian Hotels Company continues a series of real estate investments in India by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund that have totalled almost \$2 billion in the space of two years, with over \$740 million in hotel assets. "As a long-term investor, we are confident in the outlook of India's hospitality sector," Lee said.

Singapore's sovereign fund will be facing off against some familiar competitors in India's hotel landscape, including Canada's Brookfield Asset Management, which agreed in March this year to purchase a set of four hotels, a hospitality development project and branding rights to one of India's elite hotel chains from Hotel Leela Venture for \$576 million.

Singapore in India real estate for the long term

The agreed investment framework with the Indian Hotels Company represents a continuation of the sovereign wealth fund's pursuit of opportunities in Indian real estate.

In August 2017, the national investment vehicle made its what is still its biggest property investment in the country to date, when it purchased a third of DLF Cyber City Developers, the property rental subsidiary of Gurgaon-based builder DLF, for \$1.4 billion. And more commitments have followed.

Only last August, GIC spent \$143 million to purchase a 49 percent stake in Provenance Land, the developer of India's first Four Seasons hotel, and in June last year it took a five percent stake in Mumbai developer Godrej Properties, India's largest listed builder, for \$150 million. Just over a year ago, the Singaporean fund bagged a 40 percent stake in the office division of Prestige Estates Projects for \$200 million.

Jubail Island appoints contractor for Dh5bn Abu Dhabi project

ABU DHABI

Jubail Island Investment Company, the firm set up this year to build a Dh5 billion mixed-use mega-project on an undeveloped island in Abu Dhabi, has appointed Gulf Contractors Company to prepare the island for construction.

Gulf Contractors Company will carry out earthworks and grading - required before major infrastructure such as roads, utilities and other facilities are installed at the site. The works are scheduled for completion in January 2020, JIIC said in a statement to media on Sunday.

Under the contract, more than 2.5 million cubic metres of earth will be excavated and placed to create the foundation for 40 kilometres of roads and more than 800 residential properties at the planned Jubail Island development.

"Offering housing, commercial, leisure and freehold investment opportunities, particularly for Emiratis and expatriates, is a central planning element for Jubail Island," said Mounir Haidar, managing director of JIIC. "Today's announcement confirms the timely delivery of the newly launched project in conformity with leading construction and environmental standards." Jubail Island is located



A bird's eye view of Jubail Island.

between Yas Island and Saadiyat Island and is a 15 minutes' drive from downtown Abu Dhabi. The project masterplan spans 400 hectares and comprises a mix of high-end and mid-range residential, as well as retail units, offices and restaurants. Its developer wants it to become Abu Dhabi's "sanctuary" for wellness and

nature enthusiasts.

The scheme will feature six investment zone villages - Marafaa Al Jubail, Nad Al Dhabi, Seef Al Jubail, Ain Al Maha, Souk Al Jubail and Bed'a Al Jubail - with freehold property available for sale to both UAE nationals and foreign investors, under the emirate's new freehold ownership rules enacted in

April.

Previously, foreigners were only allowed to buy property leaseholds, for a maximum of 99 years. However, the government last month amended the rule through a royal decree, in a move aimed at supporting the capital's real estate market, boosting foreign direct investment and strengthening its economy.

Residential units in special designated investments zones will now be registered under Abu Dhabi's freehold law, with property ownership deeds issued to buyers of property in the emirate.

Jubail Island is planned to be home to 5,000 to 6,000 residents, who will live across the six newly built "villages". The island will see the heights

of buildings strictly controlled, with no villas higher than 15 metres. A series of other features, such as landscaped walkways and cycle paths, have been designed to lure in nature and fitness enthusiasts.

"It's everything that [the UAE skyscraper image] isn't," Richard Russell, chief operations officer at JIIC, told The National in April.

Arabtec bags Dh219m residential contract in India

DUBAI

Arabtec Construction, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dubai-listed Arabtec Holding, won a Dh219 million contract to build a 42-storey residential tower in India.

The Navin Minar development, located around 22 kilometres from Delhi Airport, comprises a residential tower and related facilities with a total built-up area of 214,000 square metres.

Under the contract, delivered on behalf of India's Raheja Developers, Arabtec Construction will build the tower and four planned basements, as well as associated works including landscaping, utilities, swimming pools, a club house, sports and community centres and 15 social housing towers of 15 storeys each.

Construction work will start immediately for a duration of 36 months, Arabtec Holding said in a filing to the Dubai Financial Market, where its shares are traded.

Last week, the board of Arabtec Holding accepted the resignation of its group chief executive Hamish Tyrwhitt and appointed Peter Pollard as acting group chief executive, after the contractor reported a 50 percent decline in first-quarter net profit attributed to a slowdown in new contract awards.

Net profit for the first three months of the year dropped to Dh31.8m, while revenue for the period dipped 16 percent to Dh2 billion for the reporting period from Dh2.4bn a year earlier. Arabtec had previously reported profit increases in the past eight quarters following a restructure of its business and several exits from non-core assets.

WORLD

The Times: British PM May to announce departure today

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May is expected today to announce her departure from office, according to a Reuters report quoting The Times, which did not cite a source.

May will remain as prime minister while her successor is elected in a two-stage process under which two final candidates face a ballot of 125,000 Conservative Party members, the newspaper reported. One of the premier's aides rejected the idea that May will announce her departure Friday, according to the BBC.

Meanwhile, BBC Radio reported that more British ministers could resign from May's government, following the Leader of the House of Commons Andrea Leadsom who quitted late on Wednesday.

"This program has been told other ministers could soon follow," the BBC Today programme reported yesterday.

HANGING BY THREAD

May's premiership is hanging by a thread as Leadsom quit and a growing revolt over Brexit looked set to force the British leader from power, according to Bloomberg.

Leadsom resigned late on Wednesday, saying she no longer believed the government's approach will honor the result of the 2016 referendum. May said she was "sorry" Leadsom had quit, while rejecting her reasons for doing so. The premier's office said she would stay focused on delivering Brexit.

Leadsom and other ministers spent much of Wednesday in private talks plotting to kill May's last-gasp plan to use a possible second referendum to get her divorce agreement through Parliament.

As the pro-Brexit faction within May's Cabinet discussed how to coordinate their revolt, the most senior rank-and-file members of her Conservative Party held a crisis meeting to weigh up whether to throw her out.

MARKET JITTERS

The pound fell as investors braced for the prospect that a pro-Brexit hardliner will succeed May, and could rip Britain out of the European Union with no deal to cushion the blow.

Wednesday was a day when May's authority appeared visibly to drain away. As she spoke in the Commons, May's colleagues paid little attention



British Prime Minister Theresa May

to what she said. Many did not even show up to watch the prime minister set out her "bold" new plan for Brexit.

Yesterday, the UK holds a set of elections for the European Parliament that the premier hoped she'd never have to hold, and her party is bracing for a drubbing.

With May's time in office drawing to a close, the fate of Brexit looks set to be decided by her successor.

NOT WHAT WE AGREED

The trigger for the unrest was the prime minister's announcement on Tuesday of a package of measures aimed at getting her Brexit deal through Parliament.

The proposals, which included a temporary customs union and the possibility of a second referendum to ratify the divorce deal, shocked pro-Brexit ministers who complained it wasn't what they had agreed to in Cabinet.

"I do not believe that we will be a truly sovereign United Kingdom through the deal that is now proposed," Leadsom wrote in her letter to May. "I have always maintained that a second ref-

erendum would be dangerously divisive and I do not support the government willingly facilitating such a concession."

According to people familiar with the matter, there is no chance the Cabinet will now back the Withdrawal Agreement Bill in its current form. Ministers including Environment Secretary Michael Gove, and Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay were especially unhappy and believe May must now cancel her plan to put the draft law to a vote in the first week of June.

REFERENDUM RAGE

Home Secretary Sajid Javid, who's also concerned about the referendum proposal, asked to meet May, but was rebuffed. Other ministers including Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt also sought meetings.

The irony for May is that those who have been arguing for a second referendum don't think her offer goes far enough, and so the concession that has cost her support on the Conservative side has also failed to win new backers from the opposition.

Agencies

BBC never requested permission to use Putin's image in its programme, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC) never asked the Kremlin for permission to use the image of Russian President Vladimir Putin in its new program, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said.

"No, (the authors of the program) have not asked us for this," he specified.

As he answered media questions later, Peskov (pictured) said the Kremlin had seen the advertisement of the upcoming show.

"I can say only this: Putin never reads books about himself or takes the trouble of taking a look at cartoons depicting him. In this particular case, he has his own opinion: It's not he who is supposed to resemble these cartoon characters, rather the cartoon characters should bear a resemblance to him."

The Russian leader remains "firmly committed to this conviction," Peskov said.

Earlier, the BBC announced a show to be hosted by a computerized animated character who introduces himself as Vladimir Putin. The cartoon image will be interviewing invited guests. In the commercial clip, the computerized character vows to make the show Britain's number one hit.

Asked by a TASS correspondent in London about the reasons behind the choice of the character for the show, the BBC chose to keep quiet on the subject.

This is not the first time that the head of state's image has been used in TV shows. The Russian version of ITV's Spitting Image, called Kukly, which aired in 1994-2002, used caricature images of many high-profile politicians and businessmen.

Agencies

Zimbabwe expresses interest in joining African Union's agency on good governance

HARARE

ZIMBABWE is seeking to become a member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a specialized agency established by the African Union in 2003 as a self-monitoring initiative to promote good governance in Africa, an official said on Wednesday.

Speaking to journalists after paying a courtesy call on President Emmerson Mnangagwa at State House, visiting APRM chief executive Edward Maloka said Mnangagwa (pictured) expressed huge interest for Zimbabwe to join the agency.

"He (Mnangagwa) met us in Addis Ababa and he felt that APRM is very important in Africa in terms of the work that we are doing."

He said that it was high time Zimbabwe becomes a member of this family and then he invited us to come and visit so we are honoring his invitation," Maloka said.

He said during their meeting at State House, Mnangagwa expressed the country's readiness to become the APRM's newest member.

Maloka said the agency works with member countries to share experiences on what to improve on issues of governance, in addition to sharing best practice and learning from



each other. "So it is a responsibility and I am happy that His Excellency has challenged us to work with Zimbabwe to assume this responsibility," he said. Maloka added that membership of APRM brings additional responsibilities to what member states already have under the AU.

"APRM philosophy is that once you are a member, there are certain obligations, and as part of those responsibilities, you open yourself to others to look at you."

Maloka said the agency will soon have a report on Zimbabwe which will be debated by Zimbabweans. Thirty-eight countries are currently members of the APRM where they undertake self-monitoring in all aspects of governance and socio-economic development.

APRM was established under the framework of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Xinhua

Counting of votes underway in India

NEW DELHI

COUNTING of votes for India's 17th general elections began yesterday morning across the country, officials said.

The exercise began at 8:00 a.m. (local time) in all states and union territories, and would continue until all the votes polled are counted.

According to officials, the trends would be known by the afternoon.

"Results will be released in phases and constituency wise and accordingly a picture of who is actually winning would emerge," an official said.

The 2019 elections for lower house of the Indian parliament, locally known as Lok Sabha, spanned over six weeks.

The staggered seven phase polling that began on April 11 concluded on May 11.

According to Election Commission of India, an independent body responsible for administering election processes in the

country, the 2019 elections registered the highest ever voter turnout in the history of Indian parliamentary elections.

Officials said the final voter turnout stands at 67.11 percent.

In 2014, the general elections recorded 66.40 percent turnout.

Voting was held for 542 of 543 parliamentary constituencies across the country.

Polling in Vellore constituency of southern state of Tamil Nadu had been cancelled after the seizure of large amount of cash. A fresh date for the constituency would be announced later.

In the elections more than 2,000 parties and 8,000 candidates are contesting.

In India's 543-strong parliament, a party or coalition needs at least 272 seats to form a government.

The election is seen as a referendum on incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is seeking a second consecutive term. In the last elections, Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

(BJP) bagged 282 seats, a historic landslide.

He is facing tough competition from 48-year-old Rahul Gandhi, the fourth generation scion of India's powerful Nehru-Gandhi clan and regional parties that have forged coalition in several states.

In the previous elections, Congress party (India's oldest party) won just 44 seats and was reduced to opposition.

Exit polls have indicated that the BJP will get a comfortable majority. Twelve of 14 exit polls predicted that the BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will

get full majority with seats ranging from 282 to 365. An aggregate of exit polls predicted NDA will win 302 seats and the Congress and its allies under United Progressive Alliance (UPA) will gain 122. Political analysts warned that exit polls in India can not be taken as a final word and have often proved to be wrong many times in the past.

India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state with a population of 200 million, elects the maximum number of parliamentarians.

In 2014, BJP swept Uttar

Pradesh, winning 71 seats, and two other constituencies went to its ally.

Two regional key parties Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party have entered into a pre-poll alliance in the state for the elections to keep BJP at bay.

On Wednesday evening, India's federal home ministry issued an advisory to state governments regarding possibility of eruption of violence in different parts of the country in connection with the counting of votes.

"Ministry of home affairs has asked the States and Union Territories to maintain law and order, peace and public tranquility," reads a home ministry statement. "States and Union Territories have been further asked to take adequate measures for the security of strong rooms and venues of counting of votes. This is in the wake of calls given and statements made in various quarters for inciting violence and causing disruption on the day of counting of votes."

Agencies

Trump cuts off infrastructure talks with Democrats, demands end to investigations

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday cut off infrastructure talks with congressional Democratic leaders, demanding House Democrats to end their "phony investigations" before talks resume.

"I've said from the beginning that you probably can't go down two tracks ... You can go down the inves-

tigation track or you can go down the investment track ... We're going to go down one track at a time," Trump told reporters in the White House Rose Garden after the meeting abruptly ended.

Earlier on Wednesday, after a closed-door meeting with all House Democrats, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said House Democrats "believe the President of

the United States is engaged in a cover-up." "I don't do cover-ups," Trump responded during his remarks.

Trump said he was dismayed to learn that Pelosi had convened a meeting before their meeting on infrastructure "to talk about the i-word," referring to impeachment.

Regarding the bipartisan initial

plan to spend 2 trillion U.S. dollars on infrastructure, Trump said he told Pelosi and Schumer: "You can't do it under these circumstances. So, get these phony investigations over with." Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said that Trump was prepared to quickly end the meeting.

"To watch what happened in the White House would make

your jaw drop," Schumer said afterwards. "It's clear this was not a spontaneous move on the president's part. It was planned." House Democratic leaders are facing increased pressure to begin impeachment proceedings against Trump, which has further raised partisan tensions in Washington.

Xinhua

Humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating - UN official

UNITED NATIONS

A senior UN official warned on Wednesday that the humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating with widespread droughts.

"The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains among the most protracted crises in the world," UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Ursula Mueller told the Security Council in a briefing.

"Ongoing armed conflict and violence, as well as recurrent climatic

shocks continue to drive humanitarian needs. Governance challenges and underdevelopment compound fragility and make it difficult for communities to develop robust coping mechanisms," she said.

The humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating due to severe drought conditions that have spread from northern and central areas throughout the country.

Two consecutive rainy seasons have failed, resulting in critical water shortages, widespread crop failure and di-

minished livestock conditions.

At this point in the season, any rainfall that is received will be too little and too late to reverse the impact of the drought, she said. Since February, acute food insecurity has already increased by 10 percent.

The situation is expected to worsen. By July, 5.4 million people, including 1 million children, will be uncertain of their next meal, said Mueller, who is also deputy relief coordinator of the United Nations.

"We must act now to avert a major

humanitarian crisis. ... But significant funding shortfalls are constraining response and leading to a reduction in assistance in critical areas, including health, nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene," she said.

There are more than 2.6 million internally displaced people in Somalia, ranking fourth in internal displacement globally, according to Mueller.

Displacement continues to be driven by ongoing armed conflict, climate shocks, and the search for livelihood opportunities.

As the severity of humanitarian needs is projected to worsen over the coming months, there will be a higher risk of drought-induced displacement and worsening protection challenges, particularly among women and children, she said. Mueller pointed out that the humanitarian situation in Somalia is a protection crisis.

For years, Somali civilians have borne the brunt of ongoing armed conflict and violence, which has continued to drive humanitarian needs and perpetuate internal displacement.

"Civilians are exposed to targeted attacks, assassinations and indiscriminate attacks. Children continue to be killed and maimed in grave violations. In 2018, Somalia recorded the highest number of forced child recruitment globally."

Somalia continues to be a challenging operational environment for humanitarian organizations. Conflict, insecurity, bureaucratic constraints and limited logistic infrastructure hamper aid delivery.

Xinhua

Politicised ban on Huawei shows US losing spirit of openness

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON last week declared a national emergency over what it claimed are technological threats, and announced restrictions on sale and transfer of American technologies to China's Huawei.

The telecom company has long been accused by the United States of being able to use its network equipment to spy on foreign nations for the Chinese government.

However, "no intelligence service has published clear evidence that Huawei inserted 'backdoors' for Chinese authorities to access the data that passes through its networks," according to a December 2018 article by U.S. media Politico.

Given the lack of proof that Huawei threatens U.S. security, last week's twin moves by Washington -- the use of state apparatus to oppress a company -- are a reflection of nothing but bullying.

The smearing campaign against Huawei aside, the United States has also been trying to rally Europe to abandon Huawei products, citing security threats.

It was not welcome. "Europe must not be dragged into the trade dispute between China and the United States," Germany's powerful BDI industrial lobby group was quoted by media reports as saying in a statement yesterday.

France too refused to take orders from the United States. "Our perspective is not to block Huawei or any company," President Emmanuel Macron told the VivaTech conference in Paris yesterday.

Launching a tech war or a trade war against any country is not appropriate, nor is it the best way to defend national security, Macron said.

The ban on the supply of U.S.-made chips to Huawei is a lose-lose in any sense, as it poses a threat to Huawei's viability and U.S. companies also pay the price.

Out of the total of 70 billion U.S. dollars Huawei spent on buying components in 2018, some 11 billion dollars went to U.S. companies, the Reuters reported Friday.

"The ban will financially harm the thousands of Americans employed by the U.S. companies that do business with Huawei," said Catherine Chen, a Director of the Board at Huawei, in a The New York Times article on Friday. "A total ban on Huawei equipment could eliminate tens of thousands of American jobs."

Although Huawei does not do much business in the United States, the company is the sole provider of networking equipment to many rural American internet providers, according to a CNN article on Tuesday.

"Those companies have said it will take time -- or may be impossible -- to replace their Huawei technology with a rival's," it added.

As a move to ease the repercussion of the ban, the U.S. Department of Commerce on Monday issued a 90-day temporary license loosening restrictions on business deals with Huawei.

Huawei doesn't intend to isolate itself from others, but wants to make as many friends as possible, its founder Ren Zhengfei told Chinese media on Tuesday when asked why Huawei



didn't use substitutes before the United States took the latest aggressive measures. "We don't want to do harm to friends," he said.

"We want to help them achieve good balance sheets. Even if we make

adjustments, we still ought to render help." The spirit of openness is what helped the United States develop.

However, Washington's restrictions on Huawei, based on unfounded allegations and political speculations,

fall foul of the golden rules it once embraced.

For Washington to win in an era of cooperation and inter-dependence, it would be better to revive the spirit of openness.

Xinhua

Russia says US launched campaign to blame it for Idlib hospital strikes

MOSCOW

THE United States' authorities initiated a campaign to blame Russia for strikes against civilian facilities in Syria's Idlib province, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The statement comes after the May 6 publication in the Washington Post newspaper that accused the Russian and Syrian military of allegedly carrying out deliberate airstrikes against hospitals and other civilian infrastructure facilities in Idlib.

"We think that the misinformation campaign that we see now was launched by the official US authorities. That's because it's beneficial for Washington to keep intact the so-called Idlib territorial enclave," the statement said.

According to the ministry, the authors of this publication say "no word about the real reason behind all troubles in the Syrian Idlib province, where power has been seized by international terrorists recognized as so by the UN Security Council and also the US national legislation."

The goal of this information campaign is to artificially stonewall the process of clamping down on international terrorists in Syria and also delay armed confrontation, the statement says.

Agencies

Commemorating 400 years of Trans-Atlantic slave trade

MOSCOW

AFRICA and the rest of the world will this coming August commemorate 400 years of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, a period where Africans suffered oppression and economic exploitation.

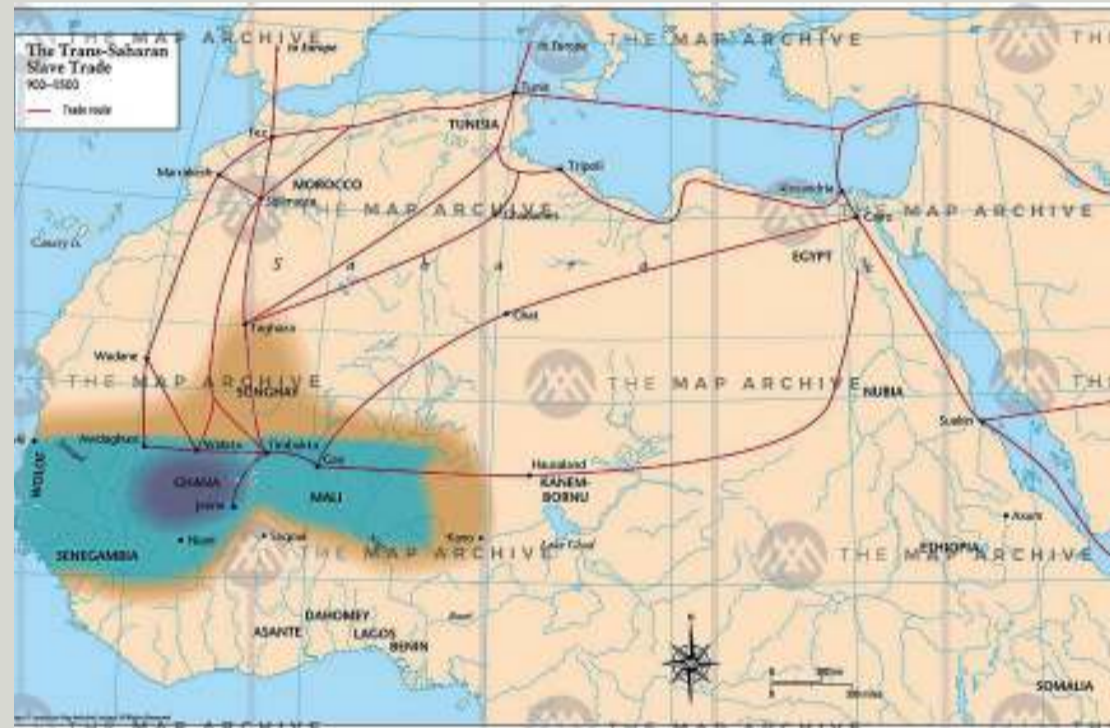
History tells that this human trade begun in 1561 and ended 1875 during this period more than 12.5 million Africans were imported as slave labors to work in farms and other places in the United States of America (USA), Caribbean nations and other countries.

The year 1619 saw the first ship of human cargo which also included women and children from Angola, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) arriving at the British colony of Virginia Island, that marked the beginning of servitude in England, merchants in this inhuman trade were not only interested in human beings but also rooted African valuables such as gold and silver.

Men, women and children were being hunted down and removed from their communities to be sold. By 1860 it's estimated that four million Africans were living in slavery, this volume impacted African societies by stunting both development and technology.

The Atlantic Slave trade also set the beginning of the systematic destabilization of African societies, during this period long established kingdoms and cultures were decimated which dislocated millions setting the stage for further exploitation and oppression.

The United Nations (UN) estimates that the continent population could double to 2.5 billion by the year 2050, that making it market of human potential and



natural resources.

With that estimate human capital with support from friendly nations like Russia and China Africa has potential to becoming big socially and economically.

However, today after the exploitation and oppression of Africans and its resources, USA and its allies are now using neocolonialism to throw mud at China and Russia who are true friends of the continent.

The two countries (Russia and China) do not impose conditions on their support to Africa and also they believe in respect of local laws and policies.

Writing in The Conversation Magazine, Theo Neethling who is a professor and head of political studies and governance at the University of Free State in South Africa, the Interaction between Russia has grown exponentially this century with trade and investment growing by 185 percent.

The modern diplomacy in its recent publication said the

Russia Africa trade has increased more than quarter compared to 2016 where the amount was \$17.4 billion. Russians treat Africans as partners and work mainly in areas which include Agriculture, Industry, Health Care, Communication, Geology and Mining.

China which believes in friendship, has its investment in Africa reaching \$6.5 billion in 2016-2017 plus the billions on railways, Oil refineries, ports, public works and others.

The efforts by Russia and China have been welcomed by many African countries. But this does not please the USA some of its allies.

Early this year, the USA come up with a new strategy on Africa, John Bolton who is the America, national security adviser told the Heritage Foundation which is Conservative Think Tank in Washington that its country competition with China and Russia will become new America focus in Africa, rather than terrorism. The Pulitzer Center, quoted

Bolton as saying a New Africa policy will focus on combating the "predatory" practices of China and Russia and ending indiscriminate assistance.

"America priorities include enhancing economic ties with African nations and combating extremist groups, however, this new approach has far less to do with developing mutually beneficial economic and security links that curtailing the ambitions of China and Russia in a rapidly developing and resource rich territory," said part of the report from the Pulitzer Center.

The USA oppression on Africans has not ended as they have been many reports of state sanctioned radical terrorism directed against African American and some are disproportionately incarcerated in penal institution, they are affected way out of proportion to their presence in the general population by police brutality and other forms of bigoted violence by hostile forces. Agencies

Trade worries weigh on foreign businesses

SHANGHAI

THE US-initiated trade row with China has cast a shadow on foreign businesses in China and elsewhere in the world, setting back their long-term efforts in establishing trade connections, according to Xinhua's interviews with foreign firms and unions.

Caitlin Kennedy Eannello, director of communications of the U.S. National Association of Wheat Growers, told Xinhua on Wednesday that American wheat growers have spent a lot of time building trade relationships with China.

Due to the tariffs, they don't expect to export to China in the near future. According to the association, between June 2016 and February 2018, China imported about 2.6 million tonnes of the U.S. wheat products.

Eannello said the association is an advocacy organization, committed to getting growers' messages heard.

At a meeting in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, yesterday, Charles Freeman, former assistant U.S. Trade Representative and senior vice president for Asia at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the trade tensions are hurting U.S. farmers.

"They are not selling the products they otherwise would. That's a big concern," he said.

Freeman said the cost of decoupling between the U.S. and China on companies and the global economy is extremely high. Carlo Diego D'Andrea, vice president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, said the chamber launched a business confidence survey this week asking its members about

the impact of the trade pressure.

A total of 585 members responded to the questionnaire. Among them, 25 percent, or over 100 companies, said U.S. tariffs on China would have a negative impact on them, as their businesses involve exports from the Chinese market into the U.S. market.

D'Andrea said the European firms are caught in the middle. The chamber advocates for a multilateral approach to resolving the trade friction between the U.S. and China. "Our European member firms are committed to the Chinese market. Even if we lose a bit of optimism, we still believe that China is a top destination for further investment," said D'Andrea.

While the US-initiated tariff war is biting, foreign companies believe in China's ability to roll with the punches. Alain Le Couedic, a partner at Roland Berger, a global consulting firm, said China is not just a manufacturing hub, but a very significant part of the world's supply chain element.

He said with impacts from the trade rows, goods sourced from China will not be as cheap as before. That will obviously impact the U.S., which is a big importer, but also any other companies in the world that need imports from China.

"The fundamentals of the Chinese economy are still very strong due to its internal demand," he said adding the Chinese government has tried to push and rebalance the economic growth engine towards consumption. In many sectors, there are opportunities for new businesses and existing businesses to develop.

Xinhua

Iran supreme leader criticises politicians amid US tensions

TEHRAN, Iran

IRAN'S supreme leader publicly chastised the country's moderate president and foreign minister Wednesday, saying he disagreed with the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal they had negotiated with world powers.

The extraordinary comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the first time he's criticized both

politicians by name, came amid tensions with the United States a year after Washington's withdrawal from the accord.

Khamenei has final say on all matters of state, and his blaming the deal's unraveling limits the influence of President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif -- relative moderates within Iran's Shi'ite theocracy who had struck the deal.

It also shows the growing power of hard-liners.

The White House earlier this month sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceived from Iran.

Since that development, Iran has announced it will back away from the atomic accord. The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, alleged that four oil tankers were sabotaged off its coast, and

Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen have launched drone attacks into Saudi Arabia.

Both Washington and Tehran have said they want to ease heightened tensions in the region in recent days. But many fear a miscalculation between the two countries, who have a 40-year history of mistrust, could escalate the situation.

Khamenei made the comments before hard-line students gath-

ered for a Ramadan lecture. For years, hard-liners have criticized the accord for giving too much away to the West.

Khamenei had given his implicit stamp of approval on the deal, which when signed sparked spontaneous celebrations across Iran. The accord saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions. But the deal has unraveled

after Trump's withdrawal, with the US re-imposing old sanctions and coming up with even stricter new ones. "To some extent, I did not believe in the way that the nuclear deal was implemented," Khamenei said, according to his official website. "Many times I reminded both the president and the foreign minister."

Khamenei has previously warned the West, especially the US, wasn't trustworthy. But he

hasn't named the country's top elected politician and his top diplomat before Wednesday night. He's previously said the two had done the best they could.

Even before Trump became president and later withdrew from the deal, there were concerns in Washington that the supreme leader might turn on the agreement if the envisioned sanctions relief fell short of what Tehran expected. Agencies



Rihanna poses as she unveils her first fashion designs for Fenty at a pop-up store in Paris, France, Wednesday, May 22, 2019. Singer Rihanna is the first black woman in history to head up a major Parisian luxury house, and the collection, named after the singer turned designer's last name, comprises of ready-to-wear, footwear, accessories, and eyewear and is available for sale Paris' Le Marais area from Friday and will debut online May 29. (AP Photo)

Making history: Rihanna launches brand Fenty in Paris store

PARIS

RIHANNA, the first black woman in history to head up a major Parisian luxury house, is unveiling her first fashion designs for Fenty at a pop-up store in Paris.

The collection, named after the singer-turned-designer's last name, comprises ready-to-wear, footwear, accessories, and eyewear and is available for sale Paris' Le Marais area from Friday and will debut online May 29.

"This is a moment in history," Rihanna, 31, said at a preview of the store in a white structure tuxedo dress. "It's a big deal for me and my entire generation."

News of the singer's groundbreaking new deal with LVMH, the world's largest luxury group, shook up the fashion industry earlier this month.

The Barbados-born star's lines are the second time LVMH has created an original brand.

But the move also acknowledges the fashion industry of today considers a major popstar can have as much to say in fashion design as established and trained designers such as Nicolas Ghesquiere of Louis Vuitton, or even the lauded Alber Elbaz, formerly of Lanvin,

who is out of work.

Fenty has been heralded by some critics as the first major house of the Instagram age.

Fenty says the brand will be based in Paris, like its parent company, conglomerate LVMH, but will operate from a digital flagship on a "See-Now-Wear-Now" model forgoing to usual luxury fashion seasonal previewed designs.

"They were flexible enough to allow me to have a different perspective on the way I wanted to release things," she said. "Coming from such a traditional background in fashion (as LVMH), you don't think there's another way that will work and they allowed me to do that."

It's expected to capitalize on the acclaim received by her most popular luxury venture Fenty Beauty line in 2017 – which some said revolutionized the makeup industry by celebrating diversity by showcasing foundations in 40 shades.

If she looks calm, "it's a facade," acknowledged the star when faced with the expectations before the historic launch.

"There's pressure every single second," she said. "It's not like crumbling pressure, but it's like 'you better get it good girl.'"

AP

Aussems's first 50 games in charge at Simba SC

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

PATRICK Aussems managed his 50th competitive match as Simba Sports Club head coach on Tuesday afternoon, serving up an impressive milestone for the Belgian.

The unanimous verdict is that he has been a huge success and has managed to deliver Simba back to the top table of African football by advancing to the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League.

The promise of attacking football that was made at his unveiling has been delivered. The former Al Hilal coach has made Simba an attacking force to reckon with, with over 100 goals scored across all competitions so far.

Aussems arrived at the Msimbazi Street side's den in July 2018, in his 50 games in charge, he has won 36 games, posted draw in five and lost nine.

His winning record stands at an impressive 72 per cent. His run of matches includes a decent run in the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League and a memorable 2-1 victory over his Congolese opponents, AS Vita, to send Simba to the quarterfinals.

He inherited a team that had won the league and was clearly on an upward trajectory, so he can at least be credited for continuing the evolution.

His predecessor might have done a good job but it was clear to many where the faults were, the defensive brand of football was not what Simba have come



Simba SC head coach Patrick Aussems

to associate themselves with in the 80 years of existence as a proud club.

At the beginning, many questioned how Aussems would integrate three strikers, John Bocco, Meddie Kagere and Emmanuel Okwi, into his starting team. For various reasons all had to play, Bocco being the team captain while Okwi and Kagere are expensive acquisitions who were not going to be

left to rot on the bench.

In the end, all fitted perfectly and have had very good goal scoring records this season.

Kagere has scored an impressive 34 goals across all competitions, Okwi has 18 goals to his name while Bocco has hit 19 with two games to play.

If Aussems held the responsibility of restoring Simba tradition of attractive and free-flowing attacking football this term,

he has certainly done so - Simba have just set a new record with the most goals scored by a team in one season in the Tanzanian Premier League.

Perhaps striking a balance between defense and attack is what Aussems needs to worry about.

His side does play some exuberant attacking football at the National Stadium and Uhuru Stadium - flourishing under the flexible 4-3-3 formation.

But when they play on the road in the CAF competition, especially in games where the stakes are high, they fail to strike the much needed balance between defense and attack - resulting in humiliation and frustrations rarely seen before among the Simba supporters.

Struggles on the road in CAF Competitions are very much understandable but the manner of capitulations is worrying. Five-goal thrashings are not acceptable and one may rightly conclude that is what the chairman of the board of directors, Mohamed Dewji, hinted on Wednesday when he said they are satisfied with Aussems' results and will offer him a new contract but they have to tell him his weaknesses.

After less than a year, the Belgian reign can be said to be very successful in many respects, no matter what happens in the future.

Simba have shown considerable improvements with Aussems at the helm. We can all hope there is surely only more to come from Uchebe, as he is fondly called by Msimbazi Street side's faithful.

Interview: World Cup will be won and lost in middle overs - Bichel

NEW DELHI

WITH quality bowling attacks, Australia and India may have the edge at the World Cup in England where fortunes are likely to be made or marred in the middle overs, former Australia paceman Andy Bichel has said.

England's home series against Pakistan provided a glimpse of what to expect, with the batsmen dominant in 300-plus scores throughout.

Flat pitches, small grounds and fast outfields are likely to defang the bowlers who will also struggle to generate swing with two new balls.

"I think that's where the games could be won and lost," Bichel, who played 19 tests and 67 ODIs between 1997-2004, told Reuters.

"If a wicket does fall in the middle overs, and this is where I think India has got a pretty good attack, and then (they) can blunt the run-flow before the back end

(becomes) unstoppable."

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa and quicks Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins can do the job for holders Australia in the 15 to 40-over phase, said the 48-year-old Bichel, a panelist for Indian digital broadcaster Power Sportz in its World Cup programming.

"There's going to be an opportunity in the middle overs to attack with one of those two (bowlers), to blunt the run-flow to a new batsman," he added.

"That middle part of the game, Adam Zampa is a big one for me, someone who attacks the stumps, rolls it either way.

"He's pretty special bowling to new batters as well, keeps them very quiet ... The middle part is something I'm going to watch very closely."

Starc was Australia's wreck-in-chief four years ago and walked away with the player-of-the-tournament honour with his

22 scalps. He was backed up by quicks Mitchell Johnson (15 wickets) and Josh Hazlewood (seven).

Johnson has since retired, while Hazlewood was omitted by selectors but Bichel believes Cummins and all-rounder Marcus Stoinis can fill the void.

"The thing that'll probably help Mitchell (Starc) is the fact that Pat Cummins has really expressed himself and ended up being the Allan Border Player of the Year," he said, referring to Australia's top cricket award.

"I think that would make Mitchell breathe a bit easier even though he did have that good support last time.

"Another good thing is Australia have grown a lot of confidence in Stoinis in recent times, especially in the India series where he was given the ball to bowl some big overs and he was pretty successful."

The onus, however, will re-

main on Starc, who played the last of his 75 ODIs against South Africa in November and is on the comeback trail after an injury layoff.

Bichel, whose 7-20 against England in 2003 remains the second best bowling figures in World Cup records, had no doubt the left-armed could torment batsmen again.

"He hasn't played recently but I watched him bowl the other day and he looks like he's building up nicely for the tournament," said Bichel.

"His ability in the first five or six overs to swing that ball the way he does can really expose some top order batters, because of his pace and the angle he is coming from.

"And then in his later overs, we've seen him blunt an in-form batsman with a pretty quick yorker from around the wicket."

REUTERS

Motor racing: Hamilton exempted from media duties as F1 mourns Lauda



Niki Lauda - Lewis Hamilton

MONACO

FORMULA One world champion Lewis Hamilton was exempted from media duties at the Monaco Grand Prix on Wednesday as teams and drivers came to terms with the death of triple world champion Niki Lauda.

A team spokesman said they had asked for Hamilton to be excused on the grounds that he had "lost a very close friend in Niki".

Lauda, who died on Monday aged 70, won in Monaco with Ferrari in 1975 and 1976 but was latterly the Mercedes team's non-executive chairman and shareholder with principal Toto Wolff.

Formula One said a tribute was in the works, with details to be confirmed. A minute's silence is likely before the race.

Hamilton, a five-times world champion, had paid an emotional tribute to the Austrian on Instagram on Tuesday night.

"My buddy, I am struggling to believe you are gone," he said.

While he made an appearance in

the harbourside paddock, arriving on a motorcycle and waving to fans, the Briton now has no official media commitments until after Saturday's qualifying.

Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas spoke to reporters instead.

"He (Lauda) was a key member of ours in the race team and factory, a big part of the Mercedes family and was a massive motivation for everyone and myself as well," Bottas said.

Mercedes said team members would wear black armbands from Thursday and the cars would have "Danke Niki (Thanks Niki)" and the Austrian's signature on the nose of the cars. One of the stars on the engine cover will be painted red.

Lauda wore a trademark red cap to cover the burns he suffered in a fiery near-fatal crash at the Nuerburgring in 1976, the year of his title duel with McLaren's James Hunt.

Ferrari and McLaren, the teams Lauda won his titles with, will also carry stickers on their cars celebrating his achievements.

Lauda won the 1975 and 1977 world

titles with Ferrari. He then made a comeback from retirement to take his third title with McLaren in 1984.

"I think there's a lot of people that are not the way you see them on television, I think they are growing in numbers quickly, but Niki wasn't one of them," said Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

"He was who he was and never pretended to be anything or anybody else...very outspoken, a true character, a true racer, passionate for the sport, said a lot of things people respected. He's leaving a big gap we won't be able to fill."

Photographs and television footage of Lauda's famous 1976 duel with rival and eventual champion James Hunt were being played constantly on screens in the Ferrari and Mercedes hospitality units.

British rookie George Russell, a Mercedes-backed driver who was the team's official reserve until securing a race seat with Williams, recalled how he and Lauda used to watch MotoGP races together.

"He just loved everything racing re-

ally," he said.

"I remember at Silverstone when I won my first or second GP3 race and he was down at the podium with Toto and I couldn't believe it really.

"I'd only been part of Mercedes for half a year and there's Niki Lauda congratulating me at the podium. He was just an amazing person."

Formula One managing director for motorsport Ross Brawn, who worked with Lauda at Mercedes in 2012, said the Austrian had been key to Hamilton's move from McLaren, particularly in persuading the Mercedes board to part with the money.

"Niki's loss is of huge significance to Formula One," said the Briton. "Ours is a sport that revolves around larger than life personalities and Niki was one of racing's most formidable characters.

"His presence in the paddock was a reminder that Formula One is a sport of heroes, an arena for competitors who push past common limits of fortitude and endurance and find an elevated plane beyond the ordinary. Simply, he was a legend."

FIFA to stick with 32 teams for Qatar World Cup

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

THE 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be held with 32 participating teams and not an expanded 48 teams, organisers FIFA said on Wednesday.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino had proposed expanding the tournament and explored the idea of adding additional host nations.

But the sport's world ruling body said in statement: "Following a thorough and comprehensive consultation process with the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders, it was concluded that under the current circumstances such a proposal could not be made now."

FIFA and Qatar also looked at whether the Gulf state could host an expanded tournament alone by changing the normal requirements for facilities.

"A joint analysis, in this respect, concluded that due to the advanced stage of preparations and the need for a detailed assessment of the potential logistical impact on the host country, more time would be required and a decision could not be taken before the deadline of June," FIFA said.

"It was therefore decided not to further pursue this option."

Infantino began to back away from the idea in March when after a FIFA Council meeting in Miami he said: "If it happens – fantastic. If it doesn't happen – fantastic also".

Qatar World Cup organisers said they had always been open to an expanded tournament if a "viable

operating model" had been found.

"A joint analysis concluded that due to the advanced stage of preparations and the need for a detailed assessment of the potential logistical impact on Qatar, more time would be required and a decision could not be taken before the deadline of June. It was therefore decided not to further pursue this option," they said in a statement.

"With just three and a half years to go until kick off, Qatar remains as committed as ever to ensuring the 32-team FIFA World Cup in 2022 is one of the best tournaments ever and one that makes the entire Arab world proud."

The 2026 World Cup, to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico, is scheduled to feature 48 teams and given the large number of stadiums available is unlikely to face any logistical problems.

The obstacles to a 48-team tournament in Qatar were numerous and some of the natural partners for joint-hosting in the Gulf were ruled out due to a deep political and economic rift in the region.

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and non-Gulf state Egypt cut political, trade and transport ties with Qatar in June, 2017. Those countries accuse Qatar of supporting terrorism, which it denies.

FIFA's study said the blockade would need to be lifted before there was any chance of those countries hosting matches.

REUTERS

Esperance seek rare back-to-back African Champions League titles

CAPETOWN

ESPERANCE, Tunisia's African Champions League title holders, will start as favourites today as, on the back of a 10-game unbeaten run, they bid to become only the fourth club to retain the trophy in more than half a century.

Their opponents in the two-legged final are Wydad Casablanca, champions in 2017.

Friday's first leg in the Moroccan capital Rabat starts at 10 p.m. because of Ramadan, allowing players and supporters to break the day's fast before kick off. The return is in Tunis on May 31.

Wydad have struggled in recent weeks, with only one win from their last seven fixtures. But they have a reputation as wily Champions League customers and, in veteran Tunisian coach Faouzi Benzarti, boast someone who has managed

Esperance no fewer than five times and led them to the 1994 African Champions Cup title.

The Tunisian side, meanwhile, are battling to get key striker Taha Yassine Khenissi fit for Friday as they chase a league-and-cup double.

Esperance have not lost in their last 11 Champions League outings and, following a 0-0 with arch domestic rivals Etoile Sahel at the weekend, are just one win away from a third successive Tunisian championship.

Only TP Mazembe Englebort of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who first achieved the feat in 1968; Enyimba of Nigeria and Egyptian giants Al Ahly have won consecutive African Champions League or African Champions Cup titles.

REUTERS

Ghana's Gyan available for Nations Cup after president intervenes

ACCRA

GHANA striker Aasamoah Gyan has bowed to a presidential request to make himself available for next month's Africa Cup of Nations just 48 hours after announcing his international retirement.

Gyan (pictured) quit the national team on Monday, seemingly unhappy at having the captaincy taken away from him despite having not played for Ghana



since September 2017 due to injury.

But he released a fresh statement on Wednesday, saying he had had a change of heart after being asked to play at the June 21-July 19 finals in Egypt by Ghana president Nana Akufo-Addo.

Fit-again Gyan, 33, added that he had accepted the presidential request "in good faith and will make myself available for selection by coach Kwesi Appiah. I remain committed to serving this great nation and the people of Ghana".

Government spokesperson Eugene Arhin in a statement confirmed the president's intervention.

"The President urged him, in the national interest, to rescind his decision to retire from the Black Stars, and make himself available for selection by coach Kwesi Appiah."

Gyan has netted 51 goals in 106 internationals, both Ghana national team records, including scoring at six consecutive Nations Cup finals, as well as three World Cups from 2006-2014. His six World Cup goals are the most by an African player.

REUTERS

Europa win would cap wonderful season, says Chelsea's Sarri

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Maurizio Sarri has said victory over Arsenal in next week's Europa League final would complete a wonderful season for the club, despite speculation about his future.

The Italian came in for fierce criticism from the Stamford Bridge fans during his first campaign but ended up steering Chelsea to a third-place finish in the Premier League.

Asked whether he would still be in charge next season, Sarri said his future was the Europa League final but after that he would speak to the club's hierarchy.

"I have two years of my contract here," the former Napoli boss told reporters on Wednesday as he looked ahead to next week's clash with Arsenal in the Azerbaijan capital Baku.

"I have to speak with my club after the final. I want to know if they are happy with me."

Chelsea also reached the League Cup final this term, losing to eventual domestic treble winners Manchester City, and Sarri said his team deserved some silverware.

"I think we had a good season with a lot of problems of course. We lost two or three matches very badly but we had a good season in the end," he said.

"Now we have the Europa League final so the season is a good season and if we can win it would be a wonderful season."

Sarri rejected any notion that he would be judged on whether Chelsea beat Arsenal.



Maurizio Sarri

"If the situation is like that I want to go immediately because you cannot after 10 months of work have to play everything in 90 minutes," he said. "You are either happy with my work or not happy."

N'Golo Kante is expected to be fit for the final, the midfielder having returned to training following a hamstring injury, but defender Antonio Rudiger is out injured.

Chelsea's England midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek is also sidelined after suffering an Achilles tendon injury during a Holocaust Memorial friendly match in Boston last week.

"We are trying to recover Kante, he had part of the training yesterday with the group so we are optimistic that he will be able to play in the final," Sarri said.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

While Chelsea have already sealed their Champions League spot for next season by finishing third in the Premier League, Arsenal must win in Baku to rejoin Europe's elite.

Sarri said that factor could work both ways.

"It's a risk (that our players will have less motivation) but they (Arsenal) have more pressure at the moment so there is a positive and negative," Sarri said.

"Two months ago we wanted the Champion League place through the Premier League and then we wanted to win a trophy, so the final is very important for us.

"Our feeling is we deserve a trophy."

Sarri was asked if playmaker Eden Hazard would be playing his last Chelsea game before a likely move to Real Madrid.

"I want to respect his decision but I don't know," he said. "I hope he will stay with us but we have to be ready if he decides different."

The Italian also expressed his sympathy for the fans of both finalists, who have to make a near 6,000 mile round-trip to Baku to watch the all-English final.

Only 6,000 tickets have been made available to each club.

"The location is a big problem for our fans and so I think it was better another location," he said.

"For everybody it's better to play with 30,000 fans of Chelsea and 30,000 of Arsenal. You do this job for these matches, so it's better to have the fans with the team."

The final takes place next Wednesday.

REUTERS

Turkish delight: The revival of Henry Onyekuru

BY COLIN UDOH, SPECIAL TO ESPN

HOW fitting that it was Henry Onyekuru who headed home the winning goal for Galatasaray against rivals Basaksehir, to win the Turkish Cup and claim a domestic double on the weekend.

It was a satisfying conclusion not only to a remarkable game -- which saw the Super Eagles forward denied what seemed an excellent goal on a marginal offside call -- but also to a season that was, for all intents and purposes, a comeback campaign for the young striker.

He is not the biggest of forwards, but Onyekuru's talent for generating destruction within opposition defences -- as evidenced when he rose above bigger men to guide that winner home -- helped propel Galatasaray to this double.

The accomplishment marked a satisfying recovery from a bump in the road that was last season, for both club (actual and parent) and country, and has led to talk of a move to the Bundesliga.

For Onyekuru, 2018 was a season to forget. After rattling off 10 goals for Anderlecht and making his way into international reckoning, he was almost certain to be in contention for Nigeria's World Cup squad... until a torn ACL put paid to those ambitions.

And so, the rest of the season and off-season was dedicated to recuperating at parent club Everton's Finch Farm, working himself back to full fitness before being sent out on loan again. This time to Galatasaray.

His impact was, as usual, instant. Two goals in his opening three games set the tone for how the season would eventually pan out.

Onyekuru finished with 14 goals and 3 assists in 30 league games, to make him the club's highest scorer. That is four goals and two assists ahead of second-placed Mbaye Diagne. In total, the forward fired home 16 goals and claimed 6 assists in all competitions.

Those goals helped Gala claim their 21st league and 17th cup titles, but as much as the silverware are a collective triumph for Galatasaray, they are also very telling personal accomplishments for the 21-year-old.

"This is a dream come true for me, to win a double and make history with Galatasaray, especially in a difficult game," Onyekuru told ESPN.

It is not so much the numbers as



Henry Onyekuru

his destructive style play that draws attention. Small and wily, Onyekuru is as deceptively strong as he is beguiling of foot, allowing him the ability to either shove bigger players off the ball when necessary, or simply weave a magic skein to leave them floundering in despair.

Signed by Everton in 2017 after a sterling season with Eupen, he was immediately loaned back to Belgian giants Anderlecht, where that unfortunate injury truncated what was shaping up to be a fine season.

Worse, because it cost him a place

in both Nigeria's build up to, and at, the World Cup, it meant that he could not get enough international appearances to overcome the UK Work Permit hurdle that would have given him a chance to turn out for Everton.

"It was disappointing for me," Onyekuru told ESPN. "Every player wants to go to the World Cup but God knows best."

"For me, what I had to do was put all that behind me and work harder."

Work hard he did, and this season's numbers are proof positive of that

combination of talent and grind.

It is a reflection of the quality of the Nigeria squad that his efforts have not quite translated to as many international minutes as his abilities demand.

Still, he has scored one goal in the two games he played in 2019, and has been listed in Gernot Rohr's provisional squad for the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

Barring an injury, Onyekuru is expected to be in that final 23, and should provide an under-the-radar option for Rohr to unleash on unsuspecting opposition. And if he can force his way into getting enough minutes, that would do a world of good for his work permit chances.

That sticking point may, however, end up being moot.

Sources close to the player have told ESPN that a top German club, believed to be Bayern Munich, have all but agreed with Everton to acquire the player.

"He has a big chance to sign with a big Bundesliga club," the source told ESPN.

"There are also offers from at least one Premier League club and a La Liga club, but he priority is the Bundesliga and a deal has almost been agreed with Everton."

This would mean that Onyekuru could not only be playing for one of Europe's giant clubs next season but would also be playing at elite level in the Champions League in addition to his international appearances.

All of that would make him an even juicier prospect to move to the Premier League if he so chooses... and not be sent out on loan.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Simba set for overseas training camp



Simba SC

to help them increase their daily income.

On players to be recruited and the ones to be offloaded, the business magnet said he is waiting for the technical committee to come up with names for recommendations.

"The technical panel is finalizing its report today evening (yesterday) and it will be presented to us for action, it will cover all on the foreign players and local players to be added and the ones to be dropped," he said.

The 2018/19 season can be described as one of the best for Simba as on top of clinching the 20th premier league title, the side reached the quarterfinals of the 2018/19 CAF Champions League.

It was not easy as the team had to play games almost after every two days and at some time they were 21 points behind their rivals Yanga, in the league but, due to strong leadership and tactical knowhow of the technical panel and dedicated players and support, the team managed to achieve their goals.

SPORT

Europa win would cap wonderful season, says Chelsea's Sarri

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Caparros to step down as Sevilla coach

DAR ES SALAAM

SEVILLA FC's Joaquin Caparros is stepping down as manager but will stay on as part of the technical staff, the Liga club said in a statement on Wednesday.

The 64-year-old, appointed for a third spell in March following Pablo Machin's sacking, met club President Jose Castro and Sporting Director Monchi during Sevilla's post-season tour of Tanzania where the decision was reached by all parties.

"From the 1919/20 season, the current coach will take up a prominent role in the sporting direction of Sevilla, which is headed up by Monchi," read a club statement.

Caparros has been in charge of the five-time Europa League winners for 167 games and led the club to a sixth-place finish in La Liga this season and Europa League qualification.

They missed out on a Champions League spot by two points after losing two of their last three games of the campaign.

Caparros said last month that he had been diagnosed with leukemia but vowed to continue in his job.

Coach Benjamin makes COSAFA Cup selection for Namibia

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA coach Collin Benjamin has named his squad for the 2019 COSAFA Cup, with three overseas-based players included in the selection for the Durban tournament that will be played from May 25-June 8.

Benjamin will work with the team while regular head coach Ricardo Mannetti prepares another group for the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt, where Namibia have been pooled with neighbours South Africa, Morocco and Ivory Coast.

The COSAFA Cup selection includes Lloyd Kazapua, Sadney Urikhob and Joslyn Kamatuka, who all play outside of Namibia, but for the rest it is a home-based group.

Players such as defenders Vitapi Ngaruka and Charles Hambira, and midfielders Dynamo Fredericks, Emilio Martin and Absalom Iimbondi all return to the COSAFA Cup for another year after competing in 2018.

They will hope to push for a place in Mannetti's Afcon squad and can do so if they have a strong tournament in Durban.

Namibia will open their campaign against Mozambique on May 26, before a meeting with Malawi two days later. They finish their group stage matches against Seychelles on May 30 at the Princess Magogo Stadium.

The winner of Group B will advance to the quarterfinals, where they will face Zambia on June 2.

Namibia are former champions of the COSAFA Cup after a superb run to the trophy in 2015 under Mannetti, which ended with a 2-0 victory over Mozambique in the final.

They followed that up with a win in the Plate final on home soil in 2016, and a year later were losing finalists in the Plate, beaten by hosts South Africa, as they continued to fight for silverware.

In 2018 they suffered a quarterfinal exit, narrowly beaten on penalties by Zambia following a 0-0 draw.

Namibia squad:

Ratanda Mbazuvara, Lloyd Kazapua, Larry Horaeb, Charles Hambira, Vitapi Ngaruka, Ivan Kamberipa, Emilio Martin, Aprocious Petrus, Edmund Kambanda, Absalom Iimbondi, Aubrey Amseb, Dynamo Fredericks, Marcel Papama, Wesley Katjiteo, Llewelyn Stanley, McCartney Naweseb, Isaskar Gurirab, Junias Theophilus, Joslyn Kamatuka, Sadney Urikhob.

East Africa guest nation Uganda have named their final squad for the 2019 COSAFA Cup, selecting a home-based group as they prepare for the next round of African Nations Championship qualifiers.

The Cranes will clash with South Sudan in late July and early August, and coach Abdallah Mubiru will use the opportunity for top level competition to hone his players for that challenge.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NEWLY crowned Mainland Premier League champions, Simba SC, are set to camp outside the continent during the coming pre season.

Chairman of the club's board of directors, Mohammed Dewji, disclosed in Dar es Salaam yesterday discussions are underway to see the team camp in either the USA or Portugal during the coming pre season.

He said while in the USA, Simba can camp in Washington DC and the club will participate

in international friendly matches with Major League Soccer (MLS) outfits.

Dewji said the camp would help the Tanzania football big guns prepare ahead of the 2019/20 Mainland Premier League and the CAF Champions League games.

"I am having discussions with teams in USA and Portugal so

that Simba can have pre season camp in one of those countries," he disclosed.

"We want the team to prepare well a head of CAF club championship and Mainland Premier League as our aim is to do well in both tournaments."

Dewji also said he would give each of the team's members a boxer brand motorcycle so as



Morogoro International School (MIS) football team's striker Liam Hamisi (standing 4th L) and the squad's youngest player, Faraja Abdallah (squatting 2nd R) in group picture with the squad's other members after receiving a sportsmanship trophy at swimming and soccer competitions held at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) premises in Dar es Salaam early this week. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

MIS excels in Dar soccer, swimming tournaments

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

MOROGORO International School (MIS) wrote one of amazing histories in international schools competitions in Tanzania after winning the U-9 category of soccer and finishing second in swimming in a competition that was held in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The tournament, which took place at the International School of Tanganyika (IST), brought together international schools teams from across the country.

They include Morogoro International School (MIS), Dar es Salaam International Academy (DIA), International School of Tanganyika (IST), St. Constantines, International School of Moshi (ISM), Zanzibar International School, Aga Khan International School and Braeburn International School.

The MIS team's coach, Mbaraka Hamisi, associated his squad's victory with teamwork spirit showcased by the school's staff.

He disclosed the youngsters have

been getting theory and practical lessons, noting they have also been getting instructions on embracing fairness, discipline and unity.

"MIS teachers are tirelessly shaping the squad to uphold the values," he noted.

The school's soccer squad's fitness was evident in the U-9 category of the competition, as the youngsters recorded edged Braeburn 1-0 and then drew 1-1 with St. Constantines.

In the other two duels, MIS outfit shared the spoils with a 0-0 draw with ISM and then drew 1-1 with DIA.

Eight-year old Liam Hamisi scored MIS' goal on the 10th minute after getting the better of dribbling Braeburn defenders within the latter's box and netted with ease.

"Hamisi received an assist from fellow forward Faraja Abdallah, aged six and the youngest member in the squad," Hamisi noted.

"The side played short, penetration passes and dominated possession for the better part of the game."

"The MIS moreover won 26 medals in swimming. The school's swimmers,

namely Mbaraka Abdallah, Awesome Gizaza, William Hamisi, Armaan Jabbal, Hape Coleman, Zack Beds, Lucas Londo, Calvin Kikuyi, Adrian Laleo, Faraja Abdallah and Finley Dixon."

He added the side put impressive performance in Relays in which Sarita Maade won bronze medal in Backstroke and silver medal in Freestyle.

William Hamisi won gold medal in Backstroke and silver medal in Freestyle, while Lance Jansen got gold in Freestyle, silver in Backstroke and bronze in Freestyle.

Latifa Sykes, one of the MIS pupils' parents, congratulated the MIS for excelling in the competition.

She noted the school's ability to win the U-9 of soccer competition and take the second spot in swimming makes her proud. "Our kids are truly excited by the success and are focused on winning the sportsmanship award," she noted.

"To us, this is the greatest honour, surpassing any medal the pupils won recently... this speaks volumes on the quality and caliber of education at MIS."

Ndugai commends Simba SC for winning Premier League top honour

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SPEAKER of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai yesterday commended the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League defending champions, Simba Sports Club, for clinching the league's trophy.

He said the Msimbazi Street club won the hotly contested title from rivals, Yanga, who he said fought tirelessly and remained top in the league for a very long time.

"Now it is evident that Simba have clinched the 2018/19 season trophy after thrashing Singida United in their home ground," Ndugai said just after the question and answers session of the parliament yesterday.

The speaker, an avid fan and supporter of Simba, sent the house into joyful mood with fellow Members of Parliament, who are fans of the club, clapping as their counterparts who support Yanga booed them.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, and the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Jenista Mhagama, sitting in front, were all smiles as Ndugai threw words of praise on the squad coached by Patrick Aussems.

To clear the air from Members of Parliament that support Yanga, who were shouting 'mbeleko mbeleko' which loosely translate that Simba have always been getting favour in their matches, Ndugai also thanked Majaliwa for helping Lindi's Namungo FC win promotion to the next season's league.

"We thank you for the efforts made since sports can create employment to youths and is also a way of keeping people physically fit," he said, calling on other MPs to do the same in their areas.

Meanwhile, Ndugai yesterday said plans are underway for Members of Parliament to go to Cairo, Egypt to support senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, in the AFCON finals.

He said Majaliwa is expected to lead a team of lawmakers that include himself (speaker) to Cairo to cheer the national team.

He said that through such support, Taifa Stars are likely to do well and even clinch the trophy.

He noted that his office is working closely with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) on the travel and accommodation preparations.

He called on other members of the public willing to travel to Cairo to make early arrangements for accommodation since the city will be flooded with guests and the situation can make last minute bookings impossible.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

