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TCRA urges envoys to market investments



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Warning on prohibited plastic bags



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Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey



Southern African Development Community Chairman President John Magufuli, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (C) and Namibian President Dr Hage Geingob in a hearty laughter yesterday shortly after the closure of the two-day 39th SADC Heads of State and Government Summit held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: State House

Bush meat galore: Govt mulls selling all hippopotami, some crocodiles

It is not known how many hippos are left across Africa, but during the past few decades the animal, with a reputation as the continent's most dangerous—more dangerous than lions, elephants, even Cape buffalo—has become increasingly threatened by hunting

By Henry Mwangonde

BUSH meat jamboree is on the horizon as the government is set to auction 10 per cent of Tanzania's crocodiles and all hippos in water bodies located near dense settlements in a bid to reduce destruction and loss of life caused by the animals.

Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, said yesterday that the move resulted from a study conducted by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in 2018 which showed that there has been an increase in the number of the animals due to a decrease in poaching activities.

"Conservation and protection of the country's natural resources has been intensified and great successes have been recorded. Poaching has been controlled to a great deal but, a new challenge has emerged: dangerous animals have increased in numbers and are invading people's homes," Dr Kigwangalla posted on his social page.

He said procedures for auctions will be announced next week, naming the towns with rivers and lakes whose crocodiles and hippos are to be auctioned as Mpanda, Mafia and Babati.

The minister said the government will construct walls and fences in areas where

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Elephant protection dominates global conservation meeting

GENEVA

DIFFERENT approaches to protecting African elephants dominated the debate at a key conservation conference taking place in Geneva.

Delegates from more than 180 countries are gathering for the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) which kicked off here on Saturday.

Some African nations are again pushing to reopen the trade in ivory while others are seeking the highest possible protections for all of Africa's elephants.

The CITES meeting, held every three years, was working on a record 56 proposals submitted by governments to the Conference of the Parties, known as COPIS.

The COP was due to be held in Sri Lanka earlier this year but was moved to Switzerland in the wake of bomb attacks at Easter.

Key among the items on the agenda will be competing ideas on how to protect African elephants, which have seen a huge decline in numbers due to poaching over the past 20 years.

A study published in 2016 estimated

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SADC summit closes with 100bn/- European deal

By Guardian Reporter

THE Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU) yesterday signed three development cooperation programmes worth over 100bn/- (euros 47 million) for a period of five years under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

A SADC Secretariat statement said yesterday that the signing ceremony took place during the closing ceremony of the 39th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNIC).

The three programmes, which will be implemented by the SADC secretariat, were listed as 'Support to Improving the Investment and Business Environment (SIBE), Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP) and Support to Industrialisation and Productive Sectors (SIPS).'

The SIBE Programme aims at achieving sustainable, inclusive growth and support job

creation through transforming the region into a SADC investment zone, promoting intra-region investment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with a focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The Trade Facilitation Programme will contribute to enhancing inclusive economic development in the SADC region through deepening regional economic integration. Finally, the SIPS programme is geared to contribute to the SADC industrialisation agenda, improving the performance and growth of selected regional value chains and related services in the agro-processing and pharmaceutical sectors.

"The signing of the three agreements reflects enduring partnership between SADC and EU towards enhancing SADC regional integration and socio-economic development, particularly at this time when SADC is committed to place industrialisation at the centre of regional integration," noted the SADC Executive Secretary.

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SADC adopts Kiswahili as fourth official language

By Guardian Reporter

THE 39th Summit of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) which ended in Dar es Salaam yesterday approved Kiswahili as the bloc's fourth official language.

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said the new chairman, President John Magufuli, announced the adoption of the language in his closing remarks at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre.

The lingua franca in East Africa and parts of the central Africa now joins English, French and Portuguese as official languages to be used during engagements within the bloc.

This means Kiswahili becomes the first indigenous language to be used by the bloc as an official language at inter-state level. It is already an official language of the African Union.

The president said the decision is an honour to father of the nation Mwalimu Nyerere who used Kiswahili in the struggle to liberate African countries, as freedom fighters based in Tanzania learned and used the language to fight colonialism, the State House statement noted.

In his speech to welcome the delegates from the 16 member countries on Saturday, President Magufuli appealed to SADC member states to endorse Kiswahili as one of the bloc's official languages.

"I am appealing to your excellencies to fast track the adoption of Kiswahili to be among official languages in SADC. It is my sincere hope that in doing so you will be convinced...since I see no objection to my request," the incoming chairman had asserted.

The Bantu language is spoken in Tanzania, Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Mayotte, Mozambique,

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Bush meat galore: Govt mulls selling all hippopotami, some crocodiles

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crocodile attacks on people have been reported, including Maleza and Ruvu in Coast region.

He said permanent security points will be established in all the areas where there is a repeat of incidents where lions and elephants invade people's homes and wreak havoc on crops.

"We will also train people on how to surrender when they meet such animals. May I also take this opportunity to call upon Tanzanians in these areas not to take retaliating actions as the government was working on addressing the challenges," he said.

The minister thanked a section of members of Parliament who have been vocal on the matter for their support, specifically naming some whose areas have experienced incidents of the animals attacking people.

Last August TAWIRI announced that it was about to conduct a nationwide crocodile and hippos census.

The exercise was however disrupted due to weather patterns after the

earmarked reptiles' habitat rivers overflowed off-season.

The last countrywide census specifically for hippos was conducted in 2001 and the result showed there were 20,079 of them at that time.

It is not known how many hippos are left across Africa, but during the past few decades the animal, with a reputation as the continent's most dangerous wild beast—more dangerous than lions, elephants, even Cape buffalo—has become increasingly threatened by hunting.

Tanzania has a licensing system which allows sport hunting and sale of hippopotamus teeth collected from animals that die from natural causes, the ministry indicates in official profile.

However, issuance of permits for export of hippo teeth was suspended in 2004, implying that no hippo teeth were officially exported but those obtained through sport hunting.

Conservationists believe with the current regulatory mechanism and intensified anti-poaching efforts the hippopotamus population is not threatened.



The Kenyan High Commissioner to Tanzania, Dan Kazungu, exchanges greetings with Mama Maria Nyerere during the recent historic visit to her Dar es Salaam residence by a delegation of members of Kenya's Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation and various other women from Kenya. Mama Maria Nyerere is flanked by former Kenyan freedom fighter Muthoni Likimani (R) and Tanzanian politician Getrude Mongella, the first President of the Pan-African Parliament (2004-2009). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SADC summit closes with 100bn/- European deal

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Dr Stergomena Tax.

Dr Tax noted that the three programmes are interconnected and interdependent, and collectively contribute to the 39th SADC Theme, 'A Conducive Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Intra-Regional Trade and Job Creation,' by placing emphasis on the development of regional value chains, facilitation of intra-regional trade and the creation of a conducive environment for sustainable investment and business in the SADC region.

Jan Sadek, Ambassador of the EU to SADC, remarked that "the EU believes that trade facilitation, the promotion of a competitive and diversified industrial development, investment promotion and an improved business environment are the foundation for inclusive and sustainable development."

The EU envoy underlined that the three new EU-SADC programmes are a reflection of the EU strategy towards Africa, as expressed in the EU-Africa Alliance for sustainable development and jobs. "We need to promote trade, to support conducive business environment, and to facilitate investment and industrialisation in order to contribute to economic growth and decent jobs creation," he stated.

SADC-EU regional cooperation dates back to the 1980s and since the 2000s, the overall EU contribution to SADC regional integration reaches euros 415 million in total, covering peace and security, infrastructure, trade, business environment and agriculture, the SADC secretariat elaborated.

President John Magufuli began one year of chairing the development community as the summit went into gear on Saturday.

Sudanese army and civilians seal interim power-sharing deal

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S main opposition coalition and the ruling military council on Saturday signed a final power-sharing deal that paves the way for a transitional government, and eventually elections, following the overthrow of long-time leader Omar al-Bashir.

Tens of thousands of people of all ages took to the streets of the capital Khartoum in celebration, with many heading towards the newly renamed Freedom Square, once the site of many of Bashir's rallies.

Stability in Sudan, which has been grappling with an economic crisis, is seen as crucial for a volatile region struggling with conflict and insurgencies from the Horn of Africa to Egypt and Libya.

One of Sudan's top generals,

Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who is deputy head of the military council, and opposition alliance representative Ahmad al-Rabie had initiated the agreement on Aug. 4 and were the main signatories on Saturday.

Those in the room clapped and cheered and an orchestra played a patriotic song.

"I invite everyone to make this day a new stage of getting over the bitterness of the past and looking towards the future," Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the military council, said at the end of the ceremony.

Also present were African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who helped broker the accord, and representatives from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, all of which see

themselves as influential in Khartoum.

"The coming period will be a test for us, no one will be excluded," said leading opposition figure Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's last democratically elected premier. "We will open the door to everyone to participate in Sudan's celebration."

The Transitional Military Council (TMC) has ruled Sudan since April, when the military deposed Bashir following months of protests against his rule during which dozens of demonstrators were killed.

The TMC and the main opposition alliance, the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), have been negotiating the power-sharing deal since then, but continued unrest, during which more protesters were killed, delayed an agreement.

Dagalo, also known as Hemedti,

commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), some of whose members have been accused of involvement in killing demonstrators who have repeatedly turned out in huge numbers to press for political progress.

Many people stood outside the RSF headquarters in central Khartoum, playing revolutionary songs and chanting at soldiers. Abdallah Ahmed, 24, said: "We have achieved our civilian government, and we have defeated the Islamists."

In a speech during the ceremony, Mohammed Nagy Alassam, a leader within the FFC, emphasized the need for an investigation and justice for those who were killed, particularly during the violent dispersal of a protest site in the capital Khartoum on June 3.



Residents of Kahama Town's Shunu look on helplessly yesterday at what remained of a Mount Meru fuel tanker gutted by fire following a road crash in which the conductor died and the driver was injured. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

SADC adopts Kiswahili as fourth official language

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Oman, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, UAE and in some settlements in South Africa and the United States. It is estimated that over 100 million people speak it as a native or second language.

Dr Magufuli said that the summit was

fruitful, as among the resolutions made include a call on member countries to implement the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

Also, the summit resolved to closely follow up the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, urged

the Kingdom of Lesotho to fast-track legislation of law towards reforms and the formation of the SADC disaster management organ.

"With regards to Burundi's membership application, the summit has directed the SADC secretariat to

inform the country of areas it must improve before its being added to the community and for the sanctions against Zimbabwe, the summit resolved to engage with the international community to lift the sanctions," the SADC chairman added.

Elephant protection dominates meeting on global conservation

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that 30,000 to 40,000 of the giant creatures were killed by poachers every year with roughly 400,000 left in total.

In many parts of Africa, elephants are protected under CITES Appendix I, which means that trade is only permitted under exceptional circumstances.

At this meeting, Zambia is seeking to have its elephants downlisted to Appendix II. This would allow some commercial activity in registered raw ivory with approved trading partners.

Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe are also proposing that ivory from elephants in their region be traded.

On the other end of the scale, a number of countries including Kenya, Nigeria and Gabon are proposing that all elephants in Africa be listed as Appendix I, the highest form of protection available to Cites.

"The elephant is in the centre of the debate once again," said Vera Weber from the Franz Weber Foundation, which campaigns to protect endangered species.

"Only five countries want to re-open the trade in ivory but there is a 32-country bloc with the African elephant coalition that want full protection and a complete ban on ivory trade."

While all the elephant proposals are considered unlikely to reach the two thirds majority needed to change the rules, some environmentalists are concerned that the European Union will support the Zambian proposal if the Zambians establish a zero quota and agree to not sell any ivory into approved markets.

Vera Weber believes this would be a disastrous signal to send.

"Thirty years ago in 1989, the parties

decided to vote for the uplifting of African elephants and this basically saved the elephant from extinction," she told BBC News.

"And now we look at the recently released IPBES report that says that a million species are going towards extinction in the next decade, so now is not the moment to speak about any trade in endangered species and the African elephant is an endangered species."

As well as elephants there are likely to be significant debates at this meeting over giraffes, sharks, rhinos and a number of threatened plant and tree species.

Some environmentalists are very concerned about giraffes, who they say are suffering a "silent extinction" with numbers dropping by 40 per cent over the last 30 years because of habitat loss, civil unrest, illegal hunting and the international trade in body parts.

For the first time at CITES, there is a proposal to give these giraffes a measure of protection from trade.

"It is important that giraffes are listed by CITES because currently we can't say for certain how much of their huge population decline is due to trade," said Matt Collis from the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

"We do know it is a significant factor though as the only country that currently collects data on trade in giraffes, the US, has reported almost 40,000 giraffe items traded in a decade, from 2006 to 2015."

Sharks are also the subject of efforts to increase protection. Six years ago at the CITES meeting in Thailand, a number of shark species were listed for the first time. Now at this meeting there are proposals to list a further 18 of the most threatened species including both the longfin and shortfin mako shark.

TADB appeals to SADC member states to provide for more smallholder farmers

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has called for new and innovative approaches in serving smallholder farmers in order to revolutionise SADC's agriculture with new vigour.

In an intervention at the 4th annual SADC industrialisation week in Dar es Salaam recently, the TADB managing director, Japhet Justine, said history shows that smallholder farmers have been bypassed by lenders for too long and now deserved a new deal. He emphasised the need to redress the perception that agricultural finance was a high risk undertaking.

"The role of the small guys (smallholders) is known and fundamental.

There must be cash guarantee for de-risking lending to smallholder farmers by banks. It should be up to 50 per cent of defaults and a fee of one per cent per annum --- the most affordable in the market," he suggested.

He also called for 'grants or soft loans of hybrid', suggesting that there must be goodwill in supporting plans, concepts, ideas and initiatives to test new or innovative approaches, methods and services in rural areas.

Justine gave examples of cotton and coffee growers in Tanzania, saying coffee growers in Kagera region received financing through

cooperative unions and eligible cashew nut growers benefitted in the same way. The support took the form of transactional finance. Cotton growers were also supported to buy pesticides in 2018 and 2019 farming seasons and agro-processors were supported to buy raw materials. The support took the form of working capital, he explained.

The MD also talked of the need to institute blended finance, "SPALF (equity-loan-grant) specially designed to de-risk financing for investment in bulk steel silos and modern processing machines," he told experts.

He also said co-financing should be encouraged, saying going by TADB's experience such form of financing would allow partnership with commercial banks to promote large-scale agri-industrial projects.

The MD said was an important sector of SADC economies as is for the whole of Africa.

But said as for Tanzania, the sector's importance is appreciated by considering its contribution to the national economy.

He said it contributes 29 per cent to the GDP, 65 per cent of Tanzania's employment, 65 per cent of industrial raw materials and 30 per cent of export earnings.

Justine said he believed in the last three years TADB's impact had been felt by producers of cereals, cash crops, livestock and fish farming.



Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (2nd-L) cuts a ribbon yesterday to launch a two-day House Day exhibition organised by NMB Bank Plc for its customers in the region. Left is a senior manager with the bank's small and medium clients department, Ally Ngingite. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has urged envoys representing Tanzania in various countries to market well investment opportunities available in the communication sector so as to support the government's drive of industrialization agenda.

Eng James Kilaba, TCRA director general made the appeal during the weekend when a group of 43 ambassadors visited the authority to learn more of the opportunities available in the communication sector.

According to him, communication

TCRA counsels envoys in various countries to market investments

sector has got a number of opportunities in which investors can chip in and invest; among them is construction of a mobile phone assembling factory.

He wanted the ambassadors to help market the sector and woo investors to come and invest in the country.

Kilaba said that smartphone

assembling factory is a great opportunity for an investor to grab because majority of users prefers smart phones than normal phones.

"Currently there are more than 40 million mobile phones operating in the country; however there is also a good number of phones which have

already been discarded and disabled, something which needs a special factory to recycle them.

He noted that for the expired phones there are several minerals like gold and cooper, which can be removed and used for other purposes.

"Phones which are not functioning

have other potential in our industry, including minerals. As the communication sector continues to grow rapidly, more demands and challenges emerge too.

Tanzanian ambassador to Ethiopia, Naimi Aziz, said they were pleased to visit TCRA and see its performance

and how the authority is handling the communication system inside and outside the country.

According to her, they were contented to see how well Tanzania was performing in the security of communication systems and control of cyber-crime.

Abdallah Possi, ambassador to Germany said: "We have witnessed how the government has invested heavily in this sector, we have learned a lot of things including the opportunities available in the sector, so our role now is to market well those opportunities to investors in those countries which we are."

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World Education Inc. (WEI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
RFP# WEI - TZ - 007 - 2019

World Education Inc. (WEI) in Tanzania is a field office of "WEI", an international non-governmental and non-profit organization with its headquarters in Boston, MA. For over 60 years, WEI has catalyzed social change and improved lives through community development and capacity building initiatives in over 20 countries. Launched in 2006, World Education's Bantwana Initiative has become a leader in fostering high quality, comprehensive service delivery for vulnerable communities. Visit our websites to learn more about our work and programs at www.bantwana.org and www.worlded.org.

WEI is currently implementing Waache Wasome project, a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), supporting the Tanzania government efforts at increasing adolescent girls' enrollment and retention in secondary schools. Waache Wasome is rooted in the principle of empowering girls to create and achieve goals for their future, while addressing the intersectional social norms and economic barriers that constrain their ability to remain and excel in school.

WEI has set aside funds for the procurement of eight (8) brand new motorcycles to facilitate project implementation activities in the field support areas. The motorcycles are expected to facilitate project implementation activities at project sites in Karatu District Council, Musoma Municipal Council, Musoma District Council, and Tarime District Council.

WEI is now inviting interested parties to bid for the supply of motorcycles indicated above.

All interested bidders can request bidding documents through info@tz.worlded.org. All bids must either be delivered by hand or sent by registered post so as to reach WEI Country office in Arusha before the set deadline.

The **deadline** for the submission of the bids is on **Friday the 30th August 2019 at 05:00pm**. Late bids and electronic bids will be rejected. Bid documents are expected to be opened in complete confidence and only shortlisted bidders will be contacted.

**The Country Director,
World Education, Inc (WEI)
Vijana Road, Plot 101, Uzunguni Area,
P.O. Box 6234, Arusha.**

Industrialists laud govt over Stiegler's Gorge hydro-power project execution

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS in the industrial sector have hailed the implementation of the 2100-MW Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric project, saying that it is among the pioneer programmes, which will contribute much in the government's driven industrialization agenda.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, director general Global Packaging (T) Limited Benno Mwitumba said that the development of industries depends much from stable power supply.

"The completion of the project will a number of address challenges especially power cuts thus assuring industrialists with enough power supply to run their factories... this will also attract more investors to come in the country," he said.

He commended various procedures that have been taken by the government to make sure that Tanzania attains its goal of becoming middle income and an industrialized

country by 2025.

According to him, the availability of stable power supply will not only stimulate economic activities but also produce employment opportunities.

Prof Damian Gabagambi, director general of the National Development Corporation (NDC) commended Global Packaging (T) Limited for being serious and investing heavily in producing quality packaging materials to serve various people especially entrepreneurs in the country.

"This factory is essential in adding value especially in the agriculture produce...it has enable a number of produce to grab market opportunities abroad due to quality packaging materials," he said.

The Global Packaging (T) is among industries which members states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have visited and they have been impressed by the quality of products from the factory.



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on ways to handle manufacturers, importers and distributors of banned plastic shopping or carrier bags. Right is his Tanzania Bureau of Standards counterpart, Dr Yusuf Ngenya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Environment Management Council (NEMC) and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) have called on traders who have been importing the banned plastic carrier bags to stop doing so warning them of stern measures against them.

The two institutions issued the joint statement during the weekend that they would not hesitate to take stern measures against those who are disobeying to follow the set legal requirements on plastic bags ban.

NEMC director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka said that there are some dishonest traders who have continued to import plastic carrier bags using illegal ways. "We are sending a warning

NEMC and TBS warn manufacturers, importers of prohibited plastic bags

to all manufactures, importers and distributors in neighboring countries to adhere to the new standards for their benefits, those who will violate the law requirements should be ready to face the consequences," he said.

According to him, the council has dragged to court some officials who were found collaborating with the traders to import illegal plastics bags

into the country.

He said that at least 56 distributors have been punished by paying fines and issued with warnings. "The ongoing operations in various borders had also started to pay fruit as in Mbeya a total of 15 tonnes of the banned plastic bags had found," he added.

For his part, TBS director general Dr Yusuf Ngenya mentioned some of the

criteria for the alternative carrier bags that they must show trade mark, gram per square meter (GSM70), should be recyclable, carrying capacity and certified by the standards watchdog.

"It is my plea to all manufacturers to speed up production of the alternative bags and those traders importing the bags to increase the number but make sure that the products have all the

required qualities," he said.

The government announced the ban on the plastic carrier bags effective from June 1, this year, citing biodegradability of plastic bags, which can last 10 to 20 years in marine environment or more on the ground, leading to deadly pollution of the atmosphere.

It said importers and exporters of plastic carrier bags that have been

banned by the government will be entitled to a fine of up to 20m/- should they defy the directives.

In his 2019 budget speech in the National Assembly, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, announced May 31st 2019 as the last day to use plastic bags in the country, saying no one will be allowed to manufacture, import, sell or use the plastic bags.



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



The Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) project is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy funded through USAID. The project goal is to accelerate Tanzania's adoption of more effective policies and programs in order to drive broad-based agricultural sector growth, improve household food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty. The project is implemented by Michigan State University (MSU) through ASPIRES Tanzania. ASPIRES is registered as an NGO in Tanzania.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASPIRES Tanzania would like to recruit candidates for the positions described below, subject to availability of funds.

1. DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY (DCOP)

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Coordinate with the Chief of Party in management of the technical components, providing programmatic leadership and overseeing the strategic planning of activities in support of the project goals and objectives, including the determination of project priorities and appropriate technical initiatives
- Oversee policy research and analytical studies
- Ensure results-oriented technical components and high-quality and timely deliverables and reports, focusing on synergistic coordination of all technical areas
- Advise national counterparts on technical issues and participate in relevant advisory and/or working groups with counterparts, partner institutions, the Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) and all other local stakeholders
- Represent the project in public and professional circles through meetings, conferences, and presentations
- Develop and modify as necessary the technical work plans and budget
- Coordinate activities with other agencies and closely collaborate with key staff on implementing activities
- Ensure technical compliance with USAID rules and regulations
- Work closely with MSU home office to ensure effective, timely and coordinated project implementation
- Focus on achieving results in all areas on schedule and maintain positive relationships with GoT officials, partners, and implementing partners
- Perform other duties as assigned by the CoP

Education and Experience

- A graduate degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Business Administration or related field
- At least 10 years of relevant work experience in agriculture, agribusiness development, research and policy
- Experience in development projects and administrative functions in institutions
- Excellent research and analytical skills and demonstrated experience in policy issues
- Effective verbal and written communications skills and he/she must be fluent in English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams
- Strong results orientation, demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, statistics software and spreadsheet software.
- Experience with donor-funded projects is desirable

2. FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Provide support to CoP and Head of Operations in-country financial leadership of ASPIRES
- Monitor budgets and expenditures for project activities
- Ensure that adequate financial controls are in place to maintain proper accountability of expenditures
- Ensure that financial transactions are properly authorized, recorded, have adequate supporting documentation, are maintained and can be easily extracted for the purpose of preparing financial statements and audits
- Ensure that all procurement processes and expenditures of the project are in accordance with MSU and project guidelines
- Prepare and submit timely and accurate financial reports according to ASPIRES and donors' policies
- Arrange for travel, hotel reservations and logistical support for project staff
- Provide administrative and logistical support for organization of events, conferences, visits, etc.
- Participate in meetings and prepare routine correspondence, memoranda and reports
- Other administrative/financial assignments as requested by the Chief of Party

Education and Experience

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business or equivalent is required
- A Certified Public Accountant (local or international) is desirable
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience in finance and administrative functions
- Excellent analytical skills and demonstrated experience in preparation of financial reports and working with budgets
- Effective verbal and written communications skills and he/she must be fluent in English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams
- Strong results orientation, demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, accounting packages and spreadsheet software
- Experience with donor-funded projects is desirable


APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Applications should be submitted to: aspirezanzania@yahoo.com and copy to serabora@gmail.com. The application should include: a) Your CV with 3 names and addresses of referees; An application letter with 1-page Annex of the Statement of Purpose; and Copies of your academic certificates. The application deadline is COB August 30th, 2019.

ASPIRES will only respond to short-listed candidates. Thus, if you do not hear from us you should be aware that your application was not successful.







JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

Invitation To Tender for Supply of Branded Materials For the CHSS Project

Tender No. JSI-CHSSP/03/2019

1. The Community Health and Social Welfare Systems Strengthening Program (CHSSP) is a six-year USAID-funded cooperative agreement led by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. with its partner, World Education, Inc. The program is currently being implemented in 106 councils throughout Tanzania. The purpose of the project is to improve the health, well-being, and protection outcomes for HIV affected and other most vulnerable populations through strengthened linkages between the health and social welfare sectors.
2. JSI-CHSSP invites sealed tenders from eligible tenderers to Supply of Branded Materials as described in the table below.

Item No.	Description	Quantity
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2.	Caps	5,000
3. Tendering is conducted through Local Competitive Tender. Interested tenderers must confirm their intention to tender, by indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to chss.recruitment@gmail.com; attn: Operations Manager. Tenderers should also request further detail informations (RFQ) regarding this tender through the same email or collecting hard copy from the office in the address provided below. All tenderers submitted their BID documents are responsible for making follow up to ensure that JSI-CHSSP has been received by JSI CHSSP.
4. Submission instructions:
 - a. Hard copy or Email submission. Tenderers must submit the tender documents in a sealed envelope by hand or E-mail to the address below:

Chief of Party,
Community Health and Social Welfare Systems Strengthening Program (CHSSP),
Plot No. 28 Regent Street, Mikocheni Area,
P O Box 9263, Dar es Salaam.
Email; chss.recruitment@gmail.com

Deadline for tender submission shall be 10 AM East Africa Time (EAT), Friday 23rd Friday, 2019, marked "Tender No. JSI-CHSSP/03/2019 for Supply of Branded Materials. Not to be opened before 10AM EAT , Friday 23rd August 2019."

Late bids will not be accepted or considered.
Please see the attached RFQ and Terms and Conditions for more details.

NOTE: JSI-CHSSP is advertising this tender in anticipation of receiving donor funding.

Please note that actual purchase of the motor bikes will be affected if and only JSI-CHSSP receives approval of anticipated donor funding.



Puma Energy Tanzania managing director Dominic Dhanah makes remarks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, including congratulating President John Magufuli on his assumption of the Southern African Development Community chairmanship. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Puma Energy Tanzania congratulates President Magufuli on his taking over as head of SADC

By Guardian Reporter

PUMA Energy Tanzania has hailed President John Magufuli for becoming the new chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) commending him for laying out concrete plans to take forward the bloc's development initiatives.

During the closure of the 39th summit of the bloc yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Puma Energy executive director Dominic Dhanah also commended the move taken by SADC to declare Kiswahili as its fourth official language after English, French and Portuguese.

According to him, President Magufuli has showed how eager he is to take the bloc to great lengths as it was yet to tap the full potentials of its vast resources.

Dhanah assured that the company is going to support the efforts to make sure that they are attained especially in the energy sector.

"Puma Energy has offices in 13 SDC member states, so we hope that by having human resources in those countries we are going to support initiatives and help steer the region to an accelerated growth," he said

According to him, Puma Energy has contributed 300m/- to support the 39th summit vowing to continue working closely with the government towards making Tanzania an industrial economy. "The company is also prepared to provide to the government profit dividends reaching 11bn/- in the year 2018/19 from the previous 8bn/- issued in 2017/18." He added

Zimbabwe to ratify African court protocol

By Guardian Reporter

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa, has given assurance that Harare will ratify the Protocol establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

He gave the assurance when receiving a delegation of the African Court led by its President, Justice Sylvain Oré, and which included Judge Justice Tujilane Rose Chizumila and senior registry officials, at State House in Harare.

"We will act...we do not want to be left behind," he stated, adding that Zimbabwe strongly cherishes and values Pan Africanism and the organs that exemplify this ideal.

"We will ratify the protocol," he stressed, while wondering why Zimbabwe had not already done so earlier. Zimbabwe had signed the Protocol in 1998 but is yet to ratify it and make the Declaration under Article 34(6) to allow its citizens to access the Court directly.

The African Court delegation is in Zimbabwe 14-15 August on a sensitisation visit at the invitation of the government.

The delegation has already met key stakeholders, including the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Speaker, the Chief Justice, and the Acting Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and the Bar Association, among others.

Over 50 key stakeholders today attended a national sensitisation seminar followed by discussions.

The African Court delegation conducted a similar sensitisation visit last week to the Union of Comoros.

The President of Comoros, Azali Assoumani, hailed the work of the Court and also underscored the importance of human rights.

"We have just set up a human rights commission and we want to ensure that all internal mechanisms are in place on exhaustion of local remedies," he said, apparently in reference to a request made by the Court to make the Declaration under Article 34(6). Comoros ratified the Protocol on establishment of the Court in December 2013 but is yet to make the Declaration.

"The sensitisation visits to these two countries (Comoros and Zimbabwe) have been very positive and fruitful," said Justice Oré. "These visits have helped to raise awareness of the Court's existence."

For the Court to discharge its mandate effectively and further strengthen the African continent's human rights system, Justice Oré said, a greater number of countries must ratify the Protocol and make the Declaration under Article 34(6).

Since the adoption of the Protocol in June 1998, 30 out of 55 AU Member States have ratified it, but only nine State Parties to the Protocol have made the Declaration under Article 34(6). These are Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, The Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was established by virtue of Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to complement the protective mandate of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, with a view to enhancing the protection of human rights on the continent.

As in July 2019, the Court received 220 applications of which 62 have been finalised.




The Court is composed of 11 Judges, nationals of Member States of the African Union elected in their individual capacity.

The Court meets four times a year in Ordinary Sessions and may also hold Extra-Ordinary Sessions.






"The sensitisation visits to these two countries (Comoros and Zimbabwe) have been very positive and fruitful," said Justice Oré. "These visits have helped to raise awareness of the Court's existence."

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED






Congratulation

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) joins with all Tanzanians to congratulate His Excellency President of United Republic of Tanzania Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli for being appointed as Chairman of Southern African Development Community (SADC).
from August, 2019

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)
Mawasiliano Towers
20 Sam Nujoma Road
P.O. Box 474 14414 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: dg@tcra.go.tz | www.tcra.go.tz



Adhere to requirements or be ready to close shop, iron manufacturers warned

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

IRON bar manufacturers in the country have been directed to stick to production requirements that would enable their goods to access markets, or be ready to be removed from the market for failure to do so.

Speaking at ongoing inspection at Kawe in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, quality assurance officer from Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Eng Nyabuchweza Methusel, appealed to manufacturers to make sure that their products show the name of manufacturer, thickness and length of every iron bar they manufactured.

He said the move would help officials from TBS to take measures in case some iron bars had any defects.

"We have to take immediate measures in order to prevent collapse of buildings which might happen due to the use of substandard iron bars," he added.

For his part, a senior inspector at the Bureau, Donald Manyama, said they are planning to conduct a countrywide crackdown to all iron bar manufacturers to see whether they meet the required standards.

He said already such crackdown operations had been conducted in various areas in Dar es Salaam.

According to him, they have visited traders at

Kigamboni, Kariakoo, Mbagala and Buguruni areas.

Manyama explained that in Dar es Salaam they found most of iron bars did not meet the required specifications particularly in the required length.

Explaining, he said the length of iron bar should be between 38, or 40 feet. But they have found that there are many of them of 37.6 or 39.7 feet long which is wrong and loss to the consumer.

The official said they would contact the manufacturers to rectify the errors, or take stern measures for those who would defy the directives.

He urged manufacturers to abide by the regulations and requirements of manufacturing iron bars.

All iron bars have been graded, they ranges from 300, 350, 400, 450 and 500 grades. He urged consumers to look for the grade and length of the iron bars before they purchase them and start construction works.

According to him, failure to do so would lead cracks and damaging their houses or structures.

He counseled people who engaged in construction works to get advice on quality materials from recognised institutions.

He asked Tanzanians who purchase construction materials to understand their grades in order to have permanent structures.

Manyama insisted local manufacturers to continue improving their goods in order to fetch markets beyond Tanzania.

"Manufacturers have a great role to play in improvement of our economy thus they need to enable our country export more," he explained.

He noted that TBS will continue to provide public education awareness to the entire manufacturers on the best practices governing the production of sensitive products like iron bars.

He said quality certification institutions play a crucial role for the development of local industries and government collect revenues for the development of Tanzania.



Bukoba Rural legislator Dr Jasson Rweikiza (2nd-R), who is also Director of Dar es Salaam's St Anne Marie Academy, presents a certificate to a Standard Seven student during the school's 16th graduation ceremony held at the weekend in the city's Mbezi kwa Msuguri suburb - the school's premises. Looking on are headmaster Gladius Ndyetabura (R) and acting coordinator Venance Rwegoshora. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Parents and guardians exhorted to prepare children to lead happy and successful lives

By Guardian Reporter

PARENTS and guardians have been challenged to monitor everything you do for and say to your children will impact them. Not just immediately but for years to come in order to prepare them to lead happy and successful lives.

Make follow-ups of your children's behaviour in order to get future good citizens who will be useful in building the nation.

Bukoba Rural MP, Dr Jasson Rweikiza made the

call over the weekend when speaking at the St Anne Marie Academy 16th Standard Seven graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam, whereby 100 students were awarded certificates and different awards.

Dr Rweikiza said despite the fact that they have been keen in academic performance and good performance in primary and secondary school, there are more to do in ethics in order to get future good citizens who can support the nation development.

"You will do the best and join secondary schools and eventually universities but with bad behaviors you will achieve nothing, that's why here at St Anne Marie Academy prayers is number one priority for Muslims and Christians, parents should take ethics follow up as part and parcel of your daily task for our children's," said Dr Rweikiza.

Speaking about the Standard Seven graduates, Dr Rweikiza assured parents and guardians that they will do wonders in their coming

Standard Seven national examinations because of the intensive preparations they have done upon them.

He said he is optimistic of good results because those students have been doing better in their internal school examinations, mock examinations in region and at district level.

"I sincere thank the head teacher of this school and his team for this milestone, they have prepared those students to do wonders, we have all good infrastructure needed like reliable water supply and electricity, laboratory, library we have water reserve that can sustain for more than a month without depending on Dawasco," said Dr Rweikiza.

"We thank you parents for your trust in us and we ask you to continue with that trust in us. Bring us you students because they will always be in good hand academically and ethically, despite the good learning environment here but we continue improving them day to day as you can see" he said.

Head teacher of St Anne Marie Academy Gladius Ndyetabura said the school has put in place strategies to protect the school from disasters like fire because they have installed modern fire extinguishers all around the school.

"We have ring-fenced the school compound and we are protected also by security guards with full arms so be happy that your children's are safe here and we expect you to bring us more children's because even school fees is affordable," he said.

Ndyetabura said in standard seven national results 2016, St Anne Marie students got average of A and B and the school emerged number four in Ubungo district, number 11 in Dar es Salaam and number 32 at national level.



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

1. INLAND FREIGHT TENDER FOR TRANSPORTATION OF USAID|FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II FOOD AID COMMODITIES.
2. COMMODITY DISCHARGE SURVEY TENDER AT THE PORT OF DAR ES SALAAM|TANZANIA AND THE PORT OF KIGOMA FOR COMMODITIES DESTINED FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

Food for the Hungry in the Democratic Republic of Congo with funding from the United States Government through USAID | Food for Peace has a requirement for a professional and competent inland freight company to transport its break-bulk shipments from the port of Dar Es Salaam Tanzania to Bukavu (South Kivu province), Kalemie and Moba (Tanganyika province) - Tender No: **FH DRC - 5647A-FY20**.

Food for Hungry has an additional requirement for a discharge survey company to oversee the discharge operations of its shipments at the port of Dar Es Salaam and delivery survey operations at Kigoma port in Tanzania - Tender No: **FH DRC-5647B-FY20**.


Interested and fully registered companies/firms should access the detailed bid document/s on the following Food for the Hungry procurement website: <https://www.fh.org/tenders/>

All bids clearly indicating the respective tender numbers must be submitted on or before **26 August, 2019 at 5pm** at the address (es) mentioned in the bid documents. Late bids will be automatically rejected.

Note: Food for the Hungry is an organization that promotes equality of opportunities through its Code of Conduct. Any violation to the latter by fraud, corruption, extortion of funds, etc. are forbidden and must be reported immediately via the email address: fhdcintegrity@fh.org

Food for the Hungry has the right to accept or reject any offer(s) and is not bound to provide any explanation(s) thereof.

Food for the Hungry | 069 Avenue Tanganyika, Quartier Nyalukemba, Commune D'ibanda, Bukavu République
Democratique du Congo | congo@fh.org | www.fh.org



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

ADVERT FOR NEW PROJECT - USAID PROTECT

TFCG is a national Non-Governmental Organisation, established in 1985 with registration number 1760. TFCG's priority geographical areas are the Eastern Arc Mountain and Coastal Forests. These forests are globally important biodiversity hotspots, and provide vital ecosystem services including water catchment, soil conservation, and carbon storage.

TFCG is governed by a voluntary committee comprised of dedicated conservationists from development partners, government, academia, civil society and private sector.

Our mission
To reduce poverty in rural communities and to conserve the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. We achieve this through capacity building, advocacy, research, community development, and protected area management, in ways that are sustainable and foster participation, gender equity and partnership.

Our vision
We envisage a world in which Tanzanians and the rest of humanity are enjoying diverse benefits from well-conserved high biodiversity forests in Tanzania.

This year TFCG will receive a grant from USAID - Protect Tanzania not exceeding **TZS 291,816,306.26** which aim at protecting biodiversity through gazettement of 20 village land forest reserve in Dodoma, Tanga, Pwani and Lindi.

For contact
Tanzania Forest Conservation Group,
Box 23410,
Dar es Salaam
Email: tfcg@tfcg.or.tz
Website: www.tfcg.org



AZANIA BANK
The New Financial Centre

Congratulations





The board of Directors, Management and Staff of Azania Bank wish to congratulate **Dr. John Pombe Magufuli**, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for unanimous appointment as the 2019 Chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and for hosting the 39th SADC Summit themed

"Competitive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development"

VIVA SADC. VIVA TANZANIA.



TWO HECTOR PLOT FOR SALE AT MTONI-KIJICHI TEMEKE-DISTRICT

Two hector plots for sale at Mtoni Kijichi Temeke District. Suitable for any Investment, Yards, Apartment, Offices, Mosques and Church.

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TPA donates two neonatal incubators worth 25m/- to Tanga regional hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has donated two neonatal incubators worth 25m/- to Tanga regional referral hospital in efforts to save premature babies at the facility located in the north-eastern corner of the country.

The incubators are part of 50m/- donation made by TPA in the region through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Acting Tanga Regional Medical Officer (RMO), Dr. Abdiel Makange commended the authority for the support which will play a key role in scaling up health service delivery at the facility, which serves thousands of from all districts that form the region.

He said that the two new machines has increased the number of incubators in the regional referral hospital to four.

According to him, two premature babies are born at the hospital every

day, which makes 60 per month. He said that the donation of the incubators would help the hospital to, effectively, to save the lives of premature babies.

For his part, TPA deputy director general, Witonde Phillip who handed over the incubators to the Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela said that the donation is part of the 50m/- donation package budgeted for Tanga region in the 2018/19 financial year.

Witonde said that the port authority has donated 378 iron roofing sheets worth 15m/- to the Tanga Technical secondary school, a donation that has enabled the school to rehabilitate five houses.

The authority, he said, has also donated 45 desks worth 10m/- to two primary schools in Pangani district (Kilimangwido and Tungamaa primary schools) as part of the package.

Tanga Regional Commissioner,

Martine Shigela also commended the TPA for setting aside funds for helping to serve the society. He pledged to continue to support the TPA in its endeavors to improve its work.

At Kilimangwido primary school where the handing over of the desks was conducted, the Pangani District Executive Officer (DED), Isaya Mbenje said that the donation would help the district to reduce the problem of shortage of desks.

According to the school head teacher, Sufiani Nnangwa the 23 desks that have been handed over to them has wiped the problem of shortage of desks in the school

He said the school, which has a total of 186 pupils from pre-primary to Standard Seven, had a shortage of 18 desks. "The 23 desks that have been donated to us have effectively wiped out the desk shortage. We have a surplus of five desks," he said.



Justice Sylvain Oré (L), President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, pictured with Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa at State House in Harare yesterday shortly after talks that resulted in an assurance that Zimbabwe will ratify the protocol establishing the continental judicial organ. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

South African scientists busy doing work on 'revolutionary' new solar panel

JOHANNESBURG

RESEARCHERS from the University of the Free State (UFS) and Ghent University in Belgium are working on a revolutionary new type of window glass which will act as a transparent solar panel.

The research is being driven by UFS and was prompted by ever-rising electricity prices and growing demand for electricity production.

"An innovation like this which can help to replace traditional means of carbon-based fuel for power generation in our daily lives would be hugely welcome," said Prof Hendrik Swart, senior professor in the Department of Physics at the University of the Free State.

"The idea is to develop glass that is transparent to visible light, just like the glass you find in the windows of buildings, motor vehicles and mobile electronic devices. However, by incorporating the right phosphor materials inside the glass, the light from the sun that is invisible to the human eye (ultraviolet and infrared light) can be collected, converted and concentrated to the sides of the glass panel where solar panels can be mounted."

"This invisible light can then be used to generate electricity to power buildings, vehicles and electronic devices. The goal is therefore to create a type of transparent solar panel."

Swart said this technology can be implemented in construction to meet the energy demands of the people inside the buildings.

"The technology is also good news for the 4.7 billion cell phone users in the world, as it can be implemented in the screens of cell phones, where the sun or the ambient light of a room can be used to power the device without affecting its appearance," he said.

Another possible application is in electric cars, where the windows can be used to help power the vehicle.

Fellow researcher Lucas Erasmus said that the team was also looking to implement the technology directly into building materials.

"We are looking at implementing this idea into hard, durable plastics that can act as a replacement for zinc roofs," he said.

"This will allow visible diffused light to enter housing and the invisible light can then be used to generate electricity. The device also concentrates the light from a large area to the small area on the sides where the solar panels are placed; therefore, reducing the number of solar panels needed and in return, reducing the cost."

It is envisaged that the technology will take about a decade to refine and implement.

This study is currently on-going, and UFS are experimenting and testing different materials to optimise the device in the laboratory. It then needs to be upscaled to test it in the field.

"It is truly the technology of the future," said Erasmus.

Research agency roots for rise in investment in agricultural sector

IBADAN

A double-digit investment in agriculture is needed to transform the sector, according to International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) director general Dr Nteranya Sanginga.

He said that the investment, backed by a vibrant rural infrastructural network, would help states across Nigeria accelerate the transformation of agriculture.

"No matter our good intentions, we will not see a transformation in agriculture if we continue to invest less than 10 per cent of our budget on agriculture," Dr Sanginga said in Ibadan last week.

In 2003, African heads of state in Maputo made a commitment to invest at least 10 per cent of their annual budgets in agriculture. However, 16 years after the declaration, only a few countries have implemented that declaration.

"One of the countries that have fulfilled the commitment is Ethiopia... Ethiopia is today investing more than 10 percent and that country is witnessing a rapid transformation in agriculture," Dr Sanginga noted.

Making reference to the Oyo State Agricultural Policy framework, the IITA boss said that the state's investment in agriculture had nosedived from about 7 per cent to 2 per cent from 1995 to 2017, adding that the new administration needs to reverse the trend.

Commenting on rural infrastructure, Dr Sanginga appealed to the government to pay close attention

to the rehabilitation of rural roads to help the transportation of agricultural products from the farm to the markets.

He decried the deterioration of infrastructure in several farm settlements in the state and urged the government to address the trend.

Dr Sanginga also called on the government to seek ways to involve the youth in agriculture, stressing that inclusiveness was imperative for sustainability in the agricultural development agenda.

The governor pledged the state's commitment to working with IITA towards achieving agricultural transformation, explaining that his administration had identified four pillars: education, rural infrastructure, economic development (agriculture), and security to help bring the dividends of democracy to the people of Oyo state.

He argued that only after the transformation of agriculture would the state attain economic development, adding: "This is because most of our people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Besides, through agricultural transformation, we will be able to provide the needed jobs for our youth...the jobs we promised during the election campaigns."

With respect to infrastructure, the governor said work on one of the major agricultural roads would start soon. On completion, the road would ease the movement of farm produce to the market.

• AGENCIES



Prequalification of tender for supply of goods, works and services for 2019/2020

Management and Development for Health (MDH) was incorporated in January 2009 as a local Tanzanian NGO focusing primarily on public health service and research. MDH seeks to promote collaboration among government and academic institutions, as well as the private and non-profit sectors to advance the public health and health care interests of the people of Tanzania. MDH works together with its partners to address the problems of tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases and chronic non-communicable diseases within the country. The organization also seeks to improve nutrition and maternal, neonatal and child health in Tanzania, while undertaking initiatives to advance public health research, education, and services to improve the lives of Tanzanian people.

MDH now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders (including current suppliers/ service providers/ contractors/ consultants), for prequalification for the supply of goods and services to for the financial year 2019/2020 for the under listed categories:

Category A: Supply of Goods

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF THE TENDER
MDH/PP/2019-20/G/01	Lot 1 – Supply of Laboratory Equipment and Instruments
	Lot 2 – Supply of Laboratory Reagents and Controls
	Lot 3 – Supply of Servicing of Laboratory Equipment
	Lot 4 – Supply of Clinical Items and consumables
MDH/PP/2019-20/G/02	Lot 1 - Supply of Tyres and Tubes
MDH/PP/2019-2020/G/03	Lot 1 - Supply and Installation of Office and Facility Furniture to all regions MDH supports
MDH/PP/2019-2020/G/04	Lot 1 - Supply of working tools to Health Care Providers, (Rain coats, Rain Boots, Umbrellas, Back packs).
MDH/PP/2019-2020/G/05	Lot 1 - Supply and Installation of Tents
MDH/PP/2019-2020/G/06	Lot 1 - Supply of General Stationeries, Toners and Cartridges.
MDH/PP/2019 - 2020/G/07	Lot 1 - Supply of Air Conditioners and Fire Extinguishers
MDH/PP/2019 - 2020/G/08	Lot 1 - Supply of furniture, general items and equipment
MDH/PP/2019 - 2020/G/09	Lot 1 - Supply of Computers, Printers and Photo copiers. Lot 2 – Supply and Installation of wireless communication equipment, normal and networking devices.

Category B: Non-Consulting Services

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF THE TENDER
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/01	Lot 1 - Provision of Air Travel Services
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/02	Lot 1 - Provision of Hotel Accommodation in all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/03	Lot 1 - Provision of Conference Services in all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/04	Lot1 - Provision of Printing Communication Materials at Headquarter Dar es Salaam
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/05	Lot 1 - Provision of Car Rentals in all regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/06	Lot 1 - Provision for the servicing of Laboratory Equipment.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/07	Lot 1 - Provision of Car Rental Southern Highlands Zone to cater for Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya and Songea Regions.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/08	Lot 1 - Provision of Car Rental Eastern & Central Zone to cater for Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Tanga & Pwani
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/09	Lot 1 - Provision of Maintenance and Servicing of Generator at Headquarter Dar es Salaam, Geita ,Kagera and Tabora Regions.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/10	Lot 1 - Provision of Maintenance and Servicing Motor Vehicles – Kagera Lot 2 - Provision of Maintenance and Servicing Motor Vehicles – Tabora Lot 3 - Provision of Maintenance and Servicing Motor Vehicles – Geita Lot 4 - Provision of Maintenance and Servicing Motor Vehicles – Headquarter Dar es Salaam.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/11	Lot 1 - Provision of maintenance and Services of computers and photocopiers - Headquarter Dar es Salaam Lot 2 - Provision of maintenance and Services of computers and photocopiers. – Kagera Lot 3- Provision of maintenance and Services of computers and photocopiers. - Geita Lot 4 - Provision of maintenance and Services of computers and photocopiers – Tabora
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/12	Lot 1 - Provision of Postage and Courier Services to all regions in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/13	Lot 1 - Provision of Air Conditioners Maintenance and Servicing at Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Geita and Tabora Regions.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/14	Lot 1 - Provision of Media, Publicity & Communication Services at Headquarter Dar es Salaam
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/15	Lot 1 - Provision of Photography and Videography services for MDH related activities within the Office and in the field.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/16	Lot 1 - Provision of Medical Insurance Services (medical cover all MDH staff and their dependants in accordance to the MDH HR policies)
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/17	Lot 1 - Provision of General Insurance Services (Vehicle Insurance, ICT Equipment, Burglary, Business All Risks, Fire & Allied Perils)
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/18	Lot 1 - Provision of Legal Services (Execution of all legal related cases, provide legal advices to MDH whenever required to reach its intended mission and goal, develop and/or review contracts/agreements entered between MDH Board and relevant stakeholders such as staffs, donors, service providers etc.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/19	Lot 1 - Provision of Event Management Services (coordinating and Overseeing the various functions of MDH that includes provision and supervision of MC/Facilitator, Decorations, Music/Public Address Systems etc).
MDH/PP/2019 - 20/NCS/20	Lot 1 - Provision of Catering services in Regions of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/21	Lot 1 - Provision of Fumigation Services in Dar es Salaam, Geita, Kagera and Tabora Regions.
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/22	Provision of Clearing and Forwarding Services
MDH/PP/2019-20/NCS/23	Lot 1 - Provision of Security Services in Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Geita and Tabora Regions.

Category C: Works

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF THE TENDER
MDH/PP/2019-20/W/01	Lot 1 - Site Improvement of Health Facilities Supported in Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Kigoma, Pwani, Geita and Tabora Regions.

Category D: Consulting Services

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION OF THE TENDER
MDH/PP/2019-20/C/01	Lot 1 - Provision of System and Software Development
MDH/PP/2019-20/C/02	Lot 1 - Provision of Training for MDH Staff Development Programs.

1. Interested eligible bidders may download pre-qualification document from MDH website through this link: www.mdh-tz.org and pay a non-refundable fee of **TZS 200,000** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency per tender/lot. The payment shall be paid through the bank COMPANY NAME: MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTH, ACCOUNT NUMBER: ZS ACCOUNT # 0108021459504 BANK NAME: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK TANZANIA LIMITED BRANCH NAME: INTERNATIONAL BRANCH HOUSE

2. The receipt MUST be attached to each application form submitted. Any application submitted without the receipt will be rejected. All bids in one original plus one copy properly filled in and enclosed in plain envelopes clearly marked the relevant Tender number and details of the tender must be delivered in at MDH as per the address below, on or before 3pm local hours on September 13th, 2019.

The Chief Executive Officer,
Management & Development for Health (MDH),
P. O. Box 79810, Mikocheni,
Plot No. 802; Along Mwai Kibaki Road,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

- Bidders wishing to submit more than one bid must ensure that each bid is submitted in a separate envelope that is clearly marked with Tender number and description of the Tender.
- The bid document must consist of, application letters, company profile/physical address and contract, legal trading documents (TIN Certificate, VRN Certificate, complaint to the Government's Tax Regulations, current business license, companies past experience in related field, personnel capabilities in the relevant field.
- Any application not received, not opened and not read out in public at the opening ceremony shall not be considered for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance, telegraphic, Telefax and late application will be rejected.
- MDH reserves the right to accept or reject any application and is not bound to give reasons for its decision.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information through Email: mdh@mdh-tz.org

The Chief Executive Officer

Making Mazimbu an investment, tourist spot will be good example

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa has floated the idea that Mazimbu Campus of the Sokoine University of Agriculture be upgraded to an investment and tourism spot reflecting its legacy as a major external operations centre of the ruling party in that country, the African National Congress. It provided facilities for training freedom fighters and ANC cadres generally for the better part of 15 years, until decamping later in 1978 for operational zones closer to home. Zambia was the next base of operations, as Zimbabwe also neared its independence.

Profiles of the campus have it that it has a total area of more than 10,000 hectares, which means it provides enough space for more establishments than the nursery, primary and secondary schools it has at present, as well as campus facilities. This much was well known earlier, but the difference is that a proactive investment attraction policy was largely not in place until rather recently, in which case the idea blends with what the government is doing at present. Investment units and tourism is a continuation of the policy of industrialization, and thrust of regional ties.

At the same time this provides a test for current policy implementation, as to whether making Mazimbu Campus an investment and tourist spot alters anything in prerogatives existing at present. It will be another item in the checklist of whether efforts to alleviate difficulties of investment start up and anchoring it into the business environment are making progress, and by how much. Mazimbu provides a special set of attractions and challenges, which will be useful; to sort out 'what works, what doesn't' and

why' especially in setting up regional investment zones.

While Morogoro Region traditionally have a fairly large number of industries compared to other regions, they mostly tended to be the older type of industries which failed in the 1980s. Those who are working assiduously to restore industries target that same sphere, but the market has changed, which means textile and other factories ought to look for areas not quite threatened by cheap imports, so that they are sustainable. It is this sort of investment strategy that those who will respond to the call by President Ramaphosa shall have sorted out before setting foot there.

Let us hope that the ideas they will be applying shall help to 'pollinate' our own efforts in that direction, so that regional investment planners don't try to recreate the past out of patriotic zeal but are enlightened to map out the future, with genuinely workable examples. This is not to say that we depend on Mazimbu investment and tourist spot drive being a success so that our own endeavors may stand a chance to succeed, far from it. The point is that we have a tendency to think of past glories or dreams cut short, instead of realistically looking at current challenges.

The visit by President Ramaphosa to Mazimbu and the ideas he floated thus add up to the huge training session for ministerial officials and the private sector, as to what to expect in what we are doing right now. No solutions have been provided out of hand but plenty of workable ideas and safeguards have been raised, easing the work of those tasked with guiding the course of action. It is a training session that has come in the nick of time, before we make too many errors as to be dispensed.

Innovation a must if we are to add value to our premier soccer league

QUESTIONS still hover over the total separation of the Mainland and Zanzibar when it comes to the premier league and largely as well for continental representatives, though the Isles play on their own in regional championships. The problem is that the term 'Tanzania' is used insufficiently though the meaning and content thereof is well accepted, namely that at times the term stands for the whole of the country, while it oftentimes stands for the Mainland as well. So the problem is not with the terminology but the design, that Zanzibar is out of the premier league and thus no truly national league is organized.

There is a sense in which the Isles premier league sort of coincides with the first division league on the Mainland, and mostly those events make the inside pages of sports newspapers and will scarcely feature over radio and television. Zanzibar clubs make headlines when they host Mainland and external clubs for the Mapinduzi Cup tourney, the showpiece of Isles football for years now, a parallel competition with the East and Central African Club Championship otherwise known as the Kagame Cup. It is well organized among regional tournaments, and Zanzibar clubs have usually given visiting clubs a run for their money.

The format used in the league resembles that of Great Britain, where each component of the country is independent when it comes to sports. True enough sports and culture are not Union issues here, in which case a cordial relationship exists in the sporting fraternity as we are one country, but otherwise there are two distinct sporting entities without much in common at least in soccer. The premier league design is based

on constitutional ramifications, to which is attached an air of 'splendid isolation' for Zanzibar as some critics would contend, where they make their Confederation of African Football appearances, just.

If the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) could find a sponsor, a zonal tournament could be organized that breaks the format of the Confederation Cup whose structure parallels that of the premier league, of playing individual clubs at national level. The other format would be holding zonal tournaments and picking the best teams, which would then constitute a second stage of the wider national tournament, as it is organized in the World Cup or the UEFA Champions League. Countries like Brazil have zonal leagues for instance Rio de Janeiro, like Dar es Salaam city, being able to hold a league tournament of its own.

Countries differ in terms of football culture and how much of a league tournament they can hold, for instance if the England FA so decided, the city of London can hold a formidable league tournament as it has many good teams. The case isn't so obvious in Paris, as after the French government constructed the Stade de France on the outskirts of the city of Paris in 1998 for the World Cup finals, after the tournament the stadium failed to find a resident club, as the city has only one major premier league side, Paris Saint-Germain, unlike London with a handful of premier league sides. A zonal league format as an additional tournament would bring Zanzibar as a zone, while uplifting regional soccer with greater interaction. The habit of waiting for visits by Dar es Salaam archrivals Young Africans SC and Simba SC would diminish somewhat.

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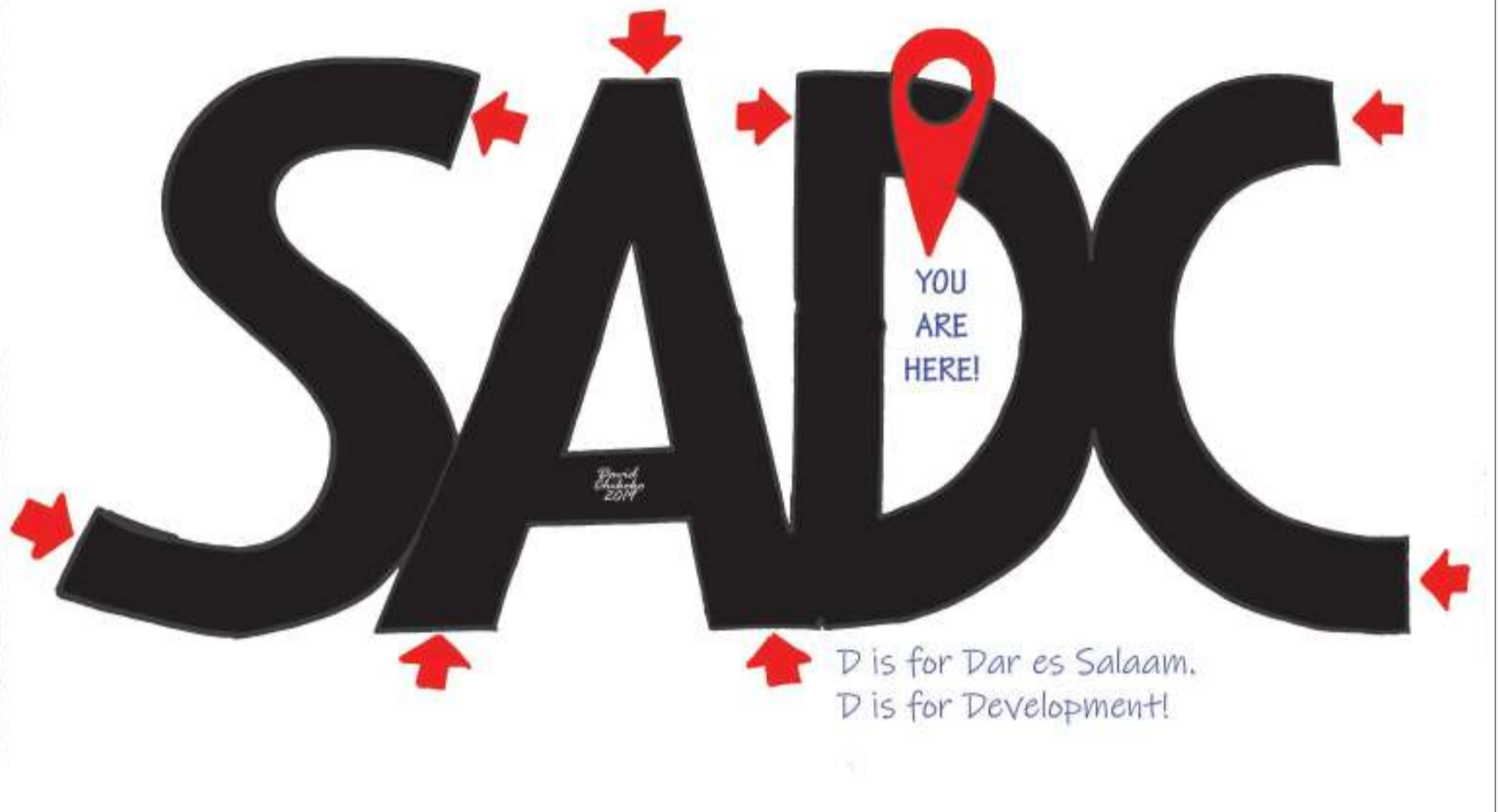
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Ending AIDS by 2030 – Not without communities

More than three decades of experience has shown that communities should be at the core of efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat. But communities and their significant contribution are too often set aside or made more difficult by decisionmakers.

DR LEO ZEKENG, UNAIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR TANZANIA

On 16 July UNAIDS released the annual Global AIDS Update for 2019. The report compiles key data from around the globe for an elaborate snapshot of the progress of the AIDS response to date. (The report can be accessed on UNAIDS Website: https://www.unaids.org/en/20190716_GR2019_communities)

The report shows remarkable progress in many countries for treatment scale-up, reductions in AIDS-related deaths and successes in reducing new HIV infections. Globally, AIDS-related deaths have declined by 33% since 2010. For the first time ever, more than half of all people living with HIV are virally suppressed. And four out of five people living with HIV now know their HIV status.

These impressive gains can in large part be attributed to developments in eastern and southern Africa (home to 54% of all people living with HIV globally), where political leadership and global support has shown what is possible when every axe of the wheel works together to achieve ambitious targets.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, AIDS-related mortality in the region has declined by 44% from 2010 to 2018 and new HIV infections have declined by 28% during the same period. However, annual gains are getting smaller and the pace of progress is slowing down.

Stigma and discrimination still a big issue

Keeping up the speed of slowing down new HIV-infections and AIDS-related deaths is not the only challenge that the Global AIDS Update underlines. While gains have been made against HIV-related stigma and discrimination, discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV and criminal laws against key populations continue push people to the margins of society. This makes it harder for them to access the services they need to protect themselves and their partners; to stay healthy and to not pass on HIV-infection.

For the first time, more than half of all new HIV infections recorded are occurring among key populations (sex workers, people who use drugs, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people and prisoners) and their partners. Less



than 50% of key populations were reached with combination HIV prevention services in more than half of the countries that reported. More effort is needed to address discriminatory legal barriers and to ensure that key and vulnerable populations are reached with the prevention, testing, treatment and care services that they need.

Communities at the centre

One highly effective way of reaching more people with the services they need is through community engagement; the theme of this year's Global AIDS Update. Across all sectors of the AIDS response, community empowerment and ownership have resulted in a greater uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services, a reduction in stigma and discrimination and the protection of human rights. Communities are central to ending AIDS, which is also why a major donor like PEPFAR has set ambitious targets for implementation of programmes led

by local CSOs; 70% in 2020. The Global Fund, another major donor of the AIDS response, and UNAIDS both emphasize the importance of including civil society at decision-making levels and not 'just' as implementing partners. UNAIDS works with other development partners to strengthen the capacity of civil society and community-based organizations and to engage communities in all activities and at all levels of the AIDS response.

Communities and civil society organizations play many roles: they are advocates, service providers and human rights defenders who hold governments accountable for their commitments. From the grass roots to national and international levels civil society and community-based organizations are confronting discrimination, demanding lives that are free from harassment and violence, sharing knowledge, and providing services to people at high risk of HIV infection and people who often do not have access to health services.

Projects from southern Africa for example shows how intensive door-to-door effort by community health workers to promote and provide a range of HIV services has ensured the attainment of the 90-90-90 testing and treatment targets and dramatically reduced new HIV infections. Other examples from around the globe and in Tanzania attest to the important role communities play in peer support and mobilization for uptake of services, adherence to treatment and prevention.

However, in many countries, civil society and community-based organizations struggle to play their role in the AIDS response. Civil society in about one third (37%) of the 95 countries with available data reported the existence of at least one restriction against the registration or operation of community-based organizations that deliver HIV services, including restriction on registration and service provision.

These issues must be addressed to ensure that community-led successes can be replicated and scaled to benefit more people. A common lesson learned in all parts of the world is that community approaches to the AIDS response delivers results. Reaching most people in greatest need requires a strong collective effort by both governments and civil society. When communities are part and parcel of programmes that are designed to respond to their needs, when they have access to knowledge and influence and when they have ownership of interventions, people in those communities will gain. In short – when communities are empowered, results will follow.

UNAIDS – The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations – UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank – and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Learn more at unaids.org and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

We will act decisively to arrest the decline of Gauteng and stamp out corruption

By Lebogang Maile

THE Gauteng provincial government is working hard to reverse the decline of its metros and towns and will be taking bold steps to deal decisively with corruption in our municipalities, working together with law enforcement agencies to bring to account all those who are guilty.

By 2050, it is estimated that nearly 70 out of 100 people will live in cities, according to a 2017 Habitat report. The report also states that cities have become the world's major growth engine, currently estimated to be generating roughly 80% of global GDP.

With about 60% of places that will be urbanised by 2030 still to be built globally, we have a unique opportunity to help the urban poor unlock their economic potential and to safeguard our hard-won developments 25 years into our relatively young democracy. Local government is the centre of all human development activities and cities are the primary drivers of socio-economic development and social cohesion. One of the ways we can achieve this within Gauteng City Region is to ensure that we place Gauteng at the forefront of the New Urban Agenda within the country and the continent, through ensuring that we achieve some of the things that the Habitat report highlights: there is proper urbanisation with the rule of law being upheld, that there is adequate provision of common goods (ie that there is quality service delivery of basic services) and that there are local fiscal systems that are clean and efficient and able to redistribute parts of the urban value chain generated through all economic activity. We must take the lead on the African cities and metros agenda as the frontline for development.

We need to move forward with the



conviction that denser, more compact cities are indeed desirable and workable and to extol the virtues of proximity, convenience and diversity in all our planning and development. In the words of former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, "Building sustainable cities and a sustainable future will need an open dialogue among all branches of national, regional [provincial in our case] and local government and it will need the engagement of all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and especially the poor and marginalised."

According to the latest auditor general's (AG) report, despite achieving clean audits, there are serious challenges that we have to confront within our municipalities in terms of non-compliance with key legislation and lack of accountability. There are certain risk factors that we have to tackle in order to ensure that our municipalities move towards a healthier

state as highlighted by the report. There are still unacceptably high levels of unauthorised, irregular and wasteful expenditure, with the City of Tshwane leading the pack, and this is something that we are going to decisively deal with. We will be introducing integrity systems in our municipalities and working very closely with the AG to improve performance in this regard.

The Amended Public Audit Act constitutes a critical first step towards legally enforcing accountability from our municipalities, with 2019/2020 being the first financial year where municipalities will be audited under the new law, which allows the AG to "refer material irregularities to relevant public bodies for further investigations", a step which we

will support in pursuit of clean, accountable governance.

As the sixth administration in Gauteng, we are not going to tolerate the flouting of governance laws and the disregarding of the AG's recommendations. We want to institutionalise integrity and promote ethical leadership within all our municipalities in Gauteng, taking practical steps to improve audit outcomes, accountability and public financial management. We will be working in conjunction with the Ethics Council that Premier David Makhura has put in place, in order to cultivate a culture of integrity in all our municipalities within Gauteng. In his book Promoting Good Governance-Principles, Practices and Perspectives, Samuel Agere describes good governance as "participatory, transparent and accountable in order to ensure that political, social and economic priorities are based on a broad economic consensus in society" and this is a benchmark that we will endeavour to achieve for all our municipalities in Gauteng during our term in office.

We have already and will be taking bold steps to deal decisively with corruption in our municipalities, working together with law enforcement agencies to bring to account all those who are guilty. Renowned Nigerian author and Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka has a famous quote which states that "a tiger doesn't proclaim his tigritude, he pounces." Unlike a certain mayor in one of our municipali-

ties who continually harps on about corruption with no end result, we will and have already taken decisive steps to deal with corruption in our municipalities. We are going to pounce on those who are corrupt, not just shout from the rooftop like the kid who cried wolf until no one believed him. Since coming into office, we have hit the ground running and have already compiled a State of Gauteng Municipalities report in order to guide our interventions in each municipality, with the diagnosis therein informing the prognosis.

We have categorised our municipalities in the report according to the principles and pillars of the Back to Basics programme, which was adopted in 2014 as a government-wide programme aimed at addressing the challenges faced within local government. Some of our interventions to improve governance and service delivery within our municipalities are as follows:

Emfuleni municipality has seen a provincial government intervention in terms of Section 139 of the Constitution to bring about a minimum standard of service delivery and ensure viability through a sound financial recovery plan. The recovery plan for Emfuleni entails comprehensive plans to address the financial viability of the municipality as well as the infrastructure and spending budgets regarding key service delivery hot spots;

There is a continued intervention in the Vaal with a task team comprising the Department of

Defence, ourselves as Provincial Cogta, the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, the Ekurhuleni Water Care Company as well as Rand Water. It is a multi-faceted, intergovernmental response with an implementation plan having been drafted and currently being executed. R241-million has been made available for this multi-faceted intervention from various tiers of government;

In the West Rand, we have also instituted a Section 139 intervention with a Draft Municipal Financial Recovery Plan having been published for comments in June 2019. The City of Tshwane is lagging behind on ward committee establishment, a huge impediment to citizen participation in democratic processes as well as in service delivery processes as ward committees give expression to the popular phrase, "the people shall govern". We have already written to the Speaker of the City of Tshwane for an update in this regard;

The financial state of the City of Johannesburg remains of major concern to us, with a recent negative outlook on its financial liquidity expressed by the Global Credit Rating agency.

Coupled with a continuously decreasing spend on infrastructure and drawing on reserves and overdraft facilities to pay operational expenses and service long-term debt, this is a precarious position with negative effects on service delivery that we will not hesitate to pro-actively respond to as a provincial government;

Socio-economic cooperation aims of SADC are wide-ranging and intended to address challenges

By Muharram Macatta

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana. Its goal is to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 16 southern African countries whose Heads of States are arriving today in Dar es Salaam ready for convening the 39th Summit meeting tomorrow.

With effect from 17th to 18th August, 2019 under the new chairmanship of Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli SADC countries face many social, development, economic, trade, education, health, diplomatic, defence, security and political challenges; some of these challenges cannot be tackled effectively by individual members.

Cattle, or human diseases and organized-crime gangs know no boundaries. War in one country can suck in its neighbours and damage their economies.

The sustainable development that trade could bring is threatened by the existence of different product standards and tariff regimes, weak customs infrastructure and bad road and rail network.

The socio-economic and political and security cooperation aims of SADC are equally wide-ranging, and intended to address the various common challenges.

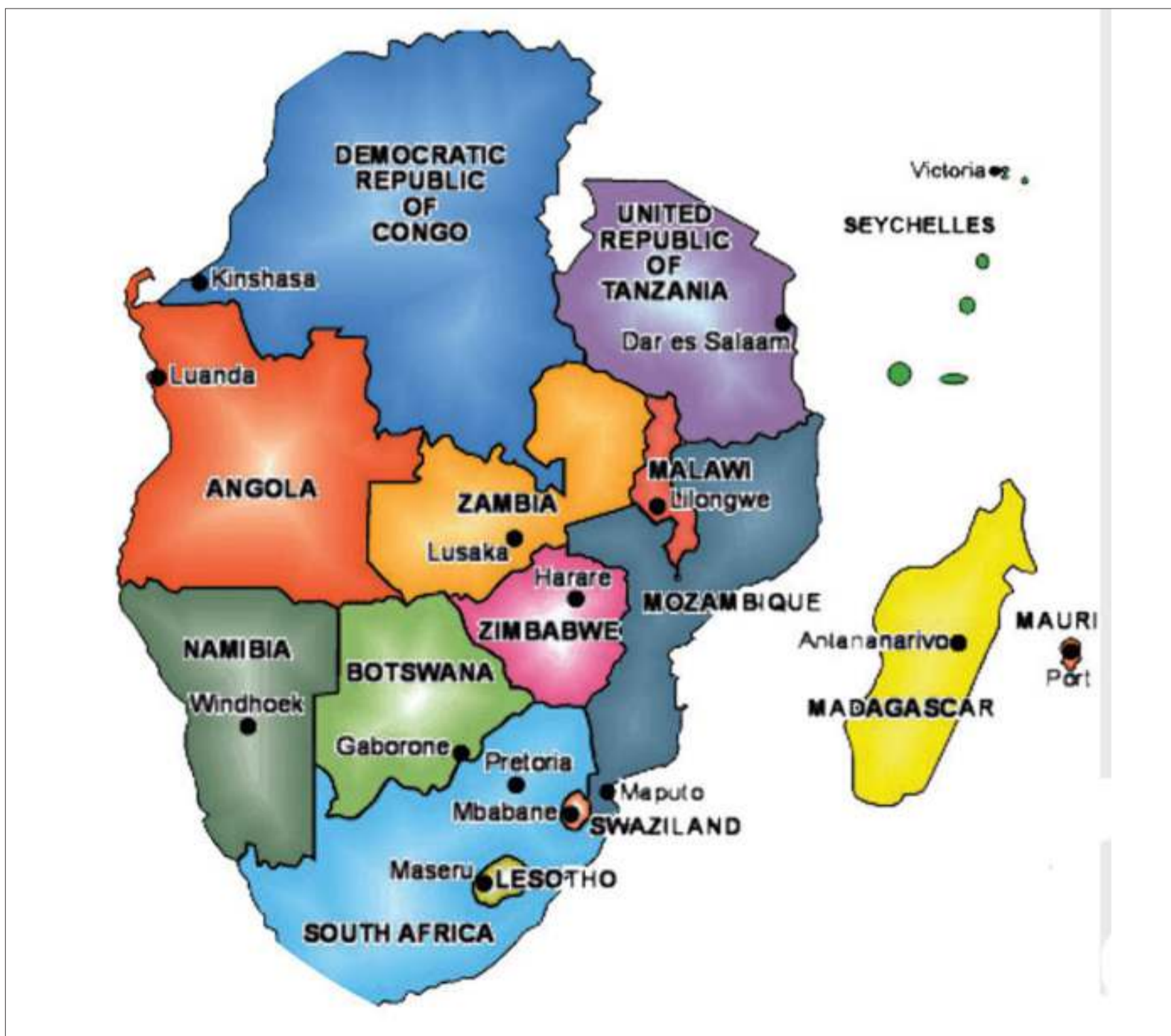
One significant challenge is that member states also participate in other regional economic cooperation schemes and regional political and security cooperation schemes that may compete with or undermine SADC's aims.

For example, South Africa and Botswana both belong to the Southern Africa Customs Union, Zambia is a part of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Tanzania is a member of the East African Community.

According to Human Rights Watch, "SADC has been criticized for its laxity on making human rights compliance within its member states a priority".

There are many few developed countries in the world, but the majority of the countries are still developing at a slow pace, but some countries are developing much rapidly.

The developed countries have high-income levels, high level of living standard and high level of luxuries. Some develop-



ing countries are developing at such a fast pace that they are amazingly getting such facilities.

And they are acquiring the technology very immediately; these states are growing very faster in various fields of life like

technology, military, education, etc.

The majority of population is literate and civilized. These nations have strict rules and regulations on which people have to obey that's why they are succeeding and grow-

ing fast enough.

Just like the individuals the countries of today's world do not have a uniform economy. The main basis for determining the country's wealth is the GDP per capita.

GDP is the rate value of all final goods and services produced within the geographical boundaries of the country within a year. A country with GDP capita of \$765 or less is defined as a poor country.

All of these countries do not have surplus resources to feed their majority of the population. People also face difficulty in meeting their necessities of life.

The United Nations program for development has taken three aspects that are: "Knowledge, longevity and access to resources"; as the indicators to determine the poorest of all.

On the basis of the figures, the following list has been prepared; 'unemployment, inflation, overpopulation, political instability, illiteracy' are some factors that don't let the countries prosper, and they tend to remain poor.

Every country is striving to acquire the position of the world-class technological country. Because the technological stand of the country shows the country's power and status at the global level.

There is nothing almost unachievable for the technologically advanced country. Some countries are trying to become technologically advanced for good reasons such as increasing their IT development sectors and other technologically advanced equipment.

There are other countries which aim to become technologically advanced for the purpose of ruling the world and for producing the nuclear weapons for producing or destroying almost anything.

Education is the main task and important part of any society and every parent strives to provide his child with a best possible education. It is one of the basic obligations of every person to get the education to become civilized. Education makes people well-mannered and cultured.

People may go to different countries for getting a quality education. It is also becoming the trend to go abroad for educational purposes on study visas. Many welfare states also aim to provide free and quality education to its citizens.

The world is developing at a very fast pace. The nations like US, Australia and now many of the Asian countries are eager to come in the race and join developed lot.

CSOs in a new push to scale down new HIV infection among youth

By Guardian Reporter

CIVIL Society Organizations (CSOs) have suggested the need for the government and stakeholders to amend the law governing access to HIV/Aids services by lowering the age of patients from 18 and above to 12 so as to curb alarming rate of new infections.

The CSOs are those working through Data Driven Advocacy (DDA) project, which seeks to bring together civil society organizations working on women, youth, children and people with disabilities right issues and build their capacity to generate and use data to drive advocacy agenda.

The project is being coordinated by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) in collaboration with Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN), Community Focus on Teenage and Single Mother Welfare (CFTSW), TGNP Mtandao, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), Tanzania Child Forum Network (TCRF) and, Tanzania Domestic Workers Coalition (TDWC).

Others are Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN), Zanzibar Women Lawyers Association (ZAFELA), Tanzania Association for Children Advancement (ZACA), Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC), Women with Disability Network, Mulika Tanzania, Youth Partnership Country Wide (TYPC), Haki za Wanawake (HAWA), People Development Forum, Vjiana Assembly, Health Integrated Multi sectoral Development (HIMD), Tanzania Education

Network (TEN-MET), Bright Jamii Initiative (BJI) and Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC).

In a joint statement, CSOs are suggesting the need for the government and other stakeholders to amend the law governing access to HIV/Aids services by lowering the age of patients from 18 and above to 12 so as to curb alarming rate of new infections.

"To decrease the age of ratification is important, since teenagers are actually starting to have sex at an early age," a statement said, adding:

"Figures show from the age of 15 years to 19 years, 27 percent are pregnant or have children. Reviewing the law can allow the young people to access the service."

According to a statement, the move will also make Tanzania achieve the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90-90-90 targets, which is aims to diagnose 90 percent of all HIV-positive persons, provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) for 90 percent of those diagnosed, and achieve viral suppression for 90 percent of those treated by 2020.

The lobbyists also suggested the need for the government and stakeholders to come up with a guideline on how to scale up HIV/Aids education in schools so that students are fully aware of the disease and they should have informed decisions on it.

Education on gender-based violence should be provided to school children and the society in general as GBV is one of the factors fueling HIV/Aids among the youth in the country, a statement said.



Executive Director of TACAIDS, Dr. Leonard Maboko once quoted as saying so far Tanzania has 1.5 million people who are equal to 4.7 percent.

"But new infections have decreased from 80,000 years ago to 72,000. In this group, 6,000 Tanzanians are getting infectious infections per month and for 200 days," he said.

In addition, he said the reasons for young people to get more infections are from childhood to adolescence.

Every day in Tanzania, it is estimated that more than 200 people catch HIV, the virus that causes Aids. This, according to the Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) 2016-2017, translates into 81,000 new HIV cases annually. This means that an average of 222 people catches HIV infections every day.

Statistics from Tanzania Commission for

Aids (Tacaids), show that an estimated 1.4 million people, aged 15 to 64 years in Tanzania, are living with HIV.

The country seeks to attain the goal ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 through improvement in targeted HIV testing, in men and women. Men, according to data are lagging behind in the efforts to tackle HIV spread.

However, women are heavily burdened by HIV in Tanzania where 780,000 women aged 15 and over are living with the virus. In 2016, UNAids reported that the HIV prevalence for women was 5.8 per cent, compared to 3.6 per cent for men.

Key population groups such as gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and prisoners and other incarcerated people as are particularly vulnerable to

HIV and frequently lack adequate access to services, according to THIS-2016-2017.

Of the estimated 6000 new infections that occur globally each day, two out of three are in sub-Saharan Africa with young women continuing to bear a disproportionate burden. Adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years have up to eight fold higher rates of HIV infection compared to their male peers. There remains a gap in women initiated HIV prevention technologies especially for women who are unable to negotiate the current HIV prevention options of abstinence, behavior change, condoms and medical male circumcision or early treatment initiation in their relationships.

The possibility of an AIDS free generation cannot be realized unless we are able to prevent HIV infection in youth.

African bird spotted in Northamptonshire could 'threaten' native species

By Lizzie Roberts

AN exotic bird, which is native to Africa and the Middle East, has been sighted in a Northamptonshire garden, but the government has warned the incomer could threaten native species.

Northamptonshire, archaically known as the County of Northampton, is a county in the East Midlands of England. In 2015 it had a population of 723,000. The county is administered by Northamptonshire County Council and by seven non-metropolitan district councils. It is known as "The Rose of the Shires".

The African Sacred Ibis is known to have escaped, or been deliber-

ately released from captivity in Europe, with breeding populations becoming established in the wild in France.

But the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has said the bird is an "invasive species" and could threaten UK biodiversity.

The Ibis is an "opportunistic feeder" and is known to eat the eggs or young of other birds, and tends to flock to estuaries and wetlands.

Defra has an ongoing invasive species action plan to prevent the Ibis from colonising in the UK, and so far no breeding pairs or wild populations have been detected.

The action plan aims to reduce the risk of invasion from abroad, detect and confirm sightings, and humanely cull or remove any where needed.

If a risk to a protected native species is identified, or breeding appears possible, control work such as "egg oiling" would be carried out, according to the plan.

The Sacred Ibis is similar in appearance to our native Grey Heron or Spoonbill, due to its long bill and legs. It is known for its symbolism in Ancient Egypt, where it was linked to the god Thoth - the masculine god of wisdom and writing.

The Ibis sighted in Northamptonshire is believed to have made

a nest in the village of Barby, near Rugby, and has been frequenting the garden of Dot Crowe where it's been seen eating cream crackers with her chickens.

Defra said the singular bird is unlikely to pose a threat to native wildlife and has probably escaped from a zoo or wildlife collection.

The Ibis was first spotted in the UK in 1995 and 49 were recorded in 2012, according to the website NBN Atlas.

In 2013 the owner of South Lakes Wild Animal Park, in Cumbria was prosecuted and fined after a number of the park's Sacred Ibises escaped to the nearby Furness Peninsula.



The African Sacred Ibis was spotted in a garden in Northamptonshire.



Suleiman Amri (L), Vodacom Tanzania's manager for Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam, helps Founding President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's widow, Mama Maria Nyerere, with Simcard biometric registration at her residence in the city last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lack of funds to enable connectivity a major challenge

By Given Majola, Durban

AS the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) gains momentum the digital divide is growing, leaving KwaZulu-Natal women behind.

Moses Kotane Institute (MKI) chief executive Thandeka Ellenson says only 1.1 percent of households in the province have access to the internet, while ownership of digital devices in rural areas is low.

"As the digital revolution spreads rapidly, the notion of a digital divide in the rural areas should be taken into consideration," says Ellenson.

Ellenson says KZN needs to create opportunities for women in the informal sector of KZN to benefit from the 4IR as they are at the nexus of rural economies and technology.

But the lack of funds to enable this connectivity and infrastructure is a major challenge. "Equipment, such as 3D printers, is not available for everyone to have access to."

"To have this available to businesses and women in the province requires funding," says Ellenson. To ignite more innovators and to increase more ownership on innovative products/service KZN is rolling out innovation labs in its rural municipalities, while the provincial government also has a plan for a big KZN Innovation Hub in the near future.

MKI is working with the Dube Trade Port, which has already implemented a platform, which will enable rapid go-to-market of new technologies, through an existing base of small, micro and medium enterprises ICT

companies. The organisation is also rolling out innovation labs that will allow citizens in rural municipalities to access technology facilities such as 3D printing.

The first lab is at Okhahlamba. A provincial innovation hub conceptualisation is also under way.

MKI says universal access to internet facilities coupled with digital literacy is key to empowering women and to enabling a more inclusive digital and technology-centred economy. Ellenson says the MKI's Innovation Ignition Project is aimed at supporting entrepreneurs aspiring to initiate projects that are aimed at building their community's ability to supply their growing demand for goods and services.

Milk production in Africa stagnating

By Cynthia Chebet

AFRICA'S milk production is on the decline even as production in Europe, Asia and America rises, according to Agriculture cabinet secretary Mwangi Kiunjuri.

He said this is not because Africa lacks the potential but due to lack of appropriate technology.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization, Africa produced 35.4 metric tonnes in 2017.

This represents 5.2 percent of the total global production of cow milk of 675.6 metric tonnes in 2017.

Kiunjuri said one of the key challenge in the Kenyan dairy industry is on how to increase productivity and production of milk to meet the increasing market demand for milk and milk products.

"Increasing urbanization, growth of the middle increase, and increased awareness by consumers on milk quality and safety have cumulatively expanded the market for quality and safe milk and milk products," he said.

Kiunjuri said to address this, the government is exploring on several strategies to promote medium to large scale milk production through private investments and cooperative based dairy production units.

"The future of the national, regional, and global dairy industry is dependent on efficiency throughout the value chain, compliance to regula-

tory and market requirements, value addition, technology adoption, and environmental conservation, among other factors," the CS said.

Kiunjuri made the remarks in a speech read on his behalf by the ministry's chief administrative secretary Andrew Tumur at the opening ceremony of the 15th Africa Dairy Conference and Exhibition at KICC.

This production is insufficient to meet the demand for milk and milk products in Africa, necessitating imports from other regions.

According to the UN food agency, Africa has the potential to increase milk production and meet the requirements of the 1.2 billion inhabitants and leave a surplus for exports, with adoption and implementation of appropriate strategies. Data from FAO shows that global exports of dairy products, in milk equivalents, increased from 72.9 million tonnes in 2017 to 75 million tonnes in 2018, a growth of three percent.

In 2018, 2.6 million tonnes of skim milk powder, 2.57 million tonnes of cheese, 2.46 million tonnes of whole milk powder, and 917.9 tonnes of butter were exported.

This demand is projected to grow by 2.5 percent per annum up to the year 2020 due to increasing urbanization and rising incomes.

Livestock principal secretary Harry Kimutai said to increase milk production, the government has procured 2,600 Arti-

ficial Insemination-AI services kits to enhance provision of the semen's to the smallholder dairy farmers.

"So far he confirmed 1,300 kits have been distributed dairy cooperative societies. Further, Sh300 million has been allocated for the enhancement semens production facilities, and already procured mobile liquid tankers from Italy and France at Sh40 million which are expected in the country in the next one month," said Kimtai.

The conference organized by the Eastern and Southern Africa Dairy Association, brought together 132 local and international exhibitors and over 2,000 participants in the entire dairy food chain.

Peter Ngaruiya the ESADA Executive Director said the annual event has become a melting pot of solutions for policy makers, dairy producers, consumers and suppliers of dairy solution.

The main focus is technology transfer, knowledge sharing and nurturing of business partnerships for regional and international trade.

"The government wants to ensure that there is consistency in both production and supply throughout the year. As a country, we have not achieved optimum utilization capacity hence the plan to move from 640 million processed milk to one billion throughout the year," said Margaret Kobogy, Kenya Dairy Board Managing Director.

IMF about to learn a new economic theory from Liberia: What of the leaking bucket?

By Harris Kerkula

President George Weah and his merry band of hustlers currently running the show in Liberia are a band in a hurry: hurry to bring overnight development to Liberia; at least that's the official line. They've been crisscrossing the globe, from Brussels to Beirut, from Singapore to Beijing, in search of easy and fast cash. Liberians already know a thing or two about what happens when George Weah gets hold of easy cash. That's why they are now singing a new song. No more "country giant coming again" song; they are now singing: Forky Klon, this kind of stealing, we've never seen it here before. Of course, "Country Giant" and Forky Klon are both local references to George Weah as candidate and as President. The former is a reference to his political prowess as candidate; while the latter (and current nickname) is a reference to his capacity and penchant for looting the public treasury as President.

But public derision, discontent and protest mean nothing to George Weah and Company. Having endured the deprecation associated with opposition politics in Africa, their zest for quick cash has led to some pretty disastrous crash landings already, like the "Shaw-inspired" ETON and EBOMAF loans, or even the minerals-for-cash swap with China that was derided in Monrovia as being pretty close treason. After the few initial setbacks and crashes, a dose of reality set in for Weah and Company. As they reckon, "perhaps, there are no easy or fast money". Maybe we have to go "old school". Yeah, "Old school",... as in going to the IMF and World Bank. So, quite to the dismay of shadowy wingmen like Shaw and Archibald, President Weah and his merry band of hustlers decided to go mainstream, to go to the IMF and World Bank. After all didn't Samuel K. Doe do the similar thing in the eighties and milked hundreds of millions of dollars from Washington, in exchange for empty promises? It's simply a matter of pretending to be financially disciplined for a while until the "mad" (money) drops.

Right now the chatter in Liberia is that the IMF is coming, coming to assist the Liberian government get out the economic dungeon it finds itself in. But the whole idea of a CDC-led government going, cap-in-hand, to the IMF and the World Bank is an enigma in itself. After all, this was the same people that campaigned on the slogan "you know book"/"you na know book" we will vote for you - a Liberian parlance, meaning education is not a relevant factor in running a country. After selling that scam to Liberians for twelve (12) years running, President Weah and his minions are now, on the contrary, subscribing to the doctor degree holders from the IMF and the World Bank, in a desperate attempt to ward off Liberia's ominous slide into the economic abyss. Perhaps, George Weah, the man with the country at heart, should now search his "heart" for solutions to Liberia's economic problem. For 12 years, we were told this man "has the country at heart", and that... that was all that is needed to run Liberia well. It's time for George Weah's "heart" to deliver for the Liberian people. Or doesn't he have a heart anymore? And if President Weah is having some difficulty in this venture, he should call upon George Werner, the "Da-book-we-will-eat?" former minister of education, to help in the process. Surely, with the kind of heart George Weah has, there's got to be some solutions in there, especially in regards to Liberia's prescient downward economic spiral.

Is Liberia's economic problem that bad?

We are told inflation is now upwards of 30% and economic growth, once put at 4.7%, is now revised to 0.4%. Liberia's currency has devalued at least 40% over the 18-month period President Weah has been in office, and along with that devaluation in the currency is the steep rise in the price of basic commodities and services as quoted in Liberian dollars. Key among the prices of commodities that Liberians are finding increasingly difficult to



President George Weah of Liberia

fathom are the prices of rice (the nation's staple), general food supplies, petrol, transportation fares and school fees. Even civil servants' salaries, once paid on the dot at month end, is now routinely in arrears, while cuts are a sure bet for the next fiscal year. Liberia government does not keep statistics on unemployment. If it did, the figures would be sorrowful and scary, as unemployment is now an ever-present and stark reality in Liberia. In essence, Liberia's economic situation is that bad, really bad. What's more annoying is that Mr. President is busy beating "sangbah" (drums), dancing and playing soccer, even as Liberians are crying from the economic pinch.

Can the IMF work wonders in aura of bad governance?

After mounting public protests, ranging from "bring back our money", to protest for "war crimes court", to more lately "save the state" protest, Mr. President has called for dialogue on the economy; though not on the corruption that is causing the economy to regress. But, what dialogue? Some actions that can alleviate the disgruntlement, even if not the underlying problems, can be done by a simple stroke of the President's pen. Some of these issues are simple common sense issues that don't require eggheads from the IMF to tell us. These matters border on governance, transparency, accountability and an end to impunity. It is simple wishful thinking to assume that one can solve the economic problems of Liberia without addressing the underlying issue of governance, accountability, corruption and impunity. Mr. President, if I may break this down in words you can easily understand: it's like trying to fill a badly leaking bucket with water. It just won't work. You can call this the "theory of the leaking bucket". I guess the eggheads from the IMF can relate. The common sense thing to do in this case is to seal the leaks. But George "Ali Baba" Weah and his merry band of hustlers are the main people causing the leaks! Perhaps Liberia's economy is just doomed to bad governance and heartless leaders?

President Weah bad governance decisions aggregated

President Weah has been so busy violating our laws right from the day he set foot in the Presidency. George Weah and his CDC minions think that, by their elevation as government officials, they are now above the law. Mr. Weah and his minions have violated our laws in so many ways that if one wants to list them all, one would need to write a book. Since I'm only writing an op-ed, I guess I will just have to aggregate the violations, to underscore the point.

Circumventing laws meant to promote transparency and accountability First off is the issue of declaration of assets as mandated by Liberia's Code of Conduct for Public Officials law. The President resisted this simple legal requirement for months. It took six

months of noise-making, dozens of editorials and even a hunger strike by "multi-purpose" activist, Archie Ponpon, at the gates of the US embassy, just for Mr. President to declare his assets. Now to make those declarations public. It will probably take the "gates of heaven and hell" to open before our President makes his assets declaration public. His argument now is that the law does not call for public disclosure and that he needs to protect his family from the many armed robbers roaming Liberia. But the last time I checked, President Weah remains the most protected individual in Liberia. Yet, it seems, on the issue of public disclosure of his assets, Mr. President is certainly not budging. In the meantime, however, the brother is constructing mansions all across Liberia. One can only imagine what he's doing abroad.

But what exactly does the Code of Conduct law say? For starters, the law says: declare your assets prior to taking office, upon progression from one level to another, and when exiting office. Essentially, Mr. Weah was obliged to declare his assets upon the basis of his election as President, plain and simple. Yet, it took from January 22, 2018 to July 25, 2018, six months, just to declare his assets. While he keeps the declaration under lock and key, Mr. President is busy constructing scores of luxurious properties in multiple locations around Liberia and possibly abroad, projects which costs runs into millions and millions of US dollars. To date, as a further example of his lack of interest in transparency, President Weah has not seen the need to sanction officials of his government who continue to defy the law by not declaring their assets at all, or to sanction those who provide deliberately misleading information.

The issue of assets declaration and disclosures are not the only aspects of the Code of Conduct laws being violated. The Code of Conduct law, meant to institutionalize the practice of good governance, is being absolutely torn to shreds by this CDC government. Some of the violated sections include (i) promotion of the merit system, (ii) prohibition on mixing politics and work, (iii) prohibition on nepotism in the public service, (iv) prohibition of gifts and offers intended to influence, as well as the (v) setting up of the Office of Ombudsman to investigate complaints and make recommendations. Some of the mind-boggling violations of the laws are done by President Weah himself, including, for example, President Weah's

flagrant acceptance of the use of an airplane from his Burkinabe "friend", who, as it later turned out, wanted to build roads (commercial interest) in Liberia. Other violations include campaigning by CDC government officials using government vehicles and time, often in the presence of Mr. President. And still more violations include the flooding of government posts with incompetent party stalwarts and family members. The most infamous, of course, is one in which a family-member appointee to the Ministry of Finance shouted "Jesus", ostensibly seeking heavenly intervention when asked, at her confirmation hearing, about her knowledge of fiscal policy. And sadly too she was confirmed by the Liberian senate. And then there is the college dropout who now works as an assistant minister at the Ministry of Agriculture, with the full blessing of Mr. President. I'd very much like to see the kind of economic miracle that can occur in a governance environment like this. Maybe I'm the stupid one. Or maybe the eggheads at the IMF are also in the miracle business (or even witch doctors, since this is Africa).

Apart from the Code of Conduct law, other laws that are the CDC regime favorite for violations include the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) law. You will note that the PPCC law intent is to foster fair business competition in the sourcing and award of contracts and in the supply of good, services, and works. But, alas, the CDC regime is having a field day violating every aspect of this law. The list of CDC government's PPCC law violations is endless. The former PPCC boss, Dorbor Jallah cried in vain as George "Ali Baba" Weah and his merry band of hustlers, including the entire National Legislature of Liberia, butchered the PPCC law in law in order to get their hands on what they assumed at the time to be easy and fast money (ETON and EBOMAF US\$900m loans). One local CDC official even gloated that their regime is willing to get money even from the devil. Of course, it's now public information that any procurement matter involving President Weah's favorite Lebanese friends, Bittar Construction and Building Material Center (BMC), is now national emergency, to be awarded solely by single sourcing. To cap up this butchering of the PPCC law, Mr. Weah decided to replace the highly-respected and independent former PPCC boss, Dorbor Jallah, with the wife of a high ranking CDC official (who, coincidentally doubles also as high-rank Ministry of Finance). It's

like the independence of PPCC means absolutely nothing to "Ali Baba" Weah and his merry band of hustlers.

You know you are in a terribly misgoverned country when billions of freshly minted local currency (equivalent to US\$104M) can go missing, right off the plane, while the President hounds the journalist that broke the story. Even up to now, Mr. President does not see the necessity in investigating this heinous and unprecedented economic crime. He thinks that rounding up a few Sirleaf-era officials is sufficient to keep the noisemakers quiet. Mr. President is actively dodging any comprehensive forensic investigation into the LD15 billion missing money saga. Why is George Weah so afraid of a full-scale forensic investigation into this LD15 billion scandal? You know you are in a terribly misgoverned country, when US\$25 million can get squandered in a failed economic policy implementation and the President and his Justice Minister attempt to suppress the truth in broad daylight. We are not stupid, Mr. President! Criminal investigation is not your only basis for taking action against badly-performing government officials. Whatever happened to administrative action for gross incompetence and negligence? How about suspension or dismissal, as administrative actions against your officials who botched your economic policy (i.e., USD25 Mop-Up exercise)? Liberians concede you lack legal knowledge and knowledge of economics, but do you also lack common sense? Or are you equally complicit in this brazen theft from the Liberian people? Your failure to properly resolve this grave State matter, if you don't know, is now tantamount to misfeasance, malfeasance and nonfeasance. National Legislature, please take note.

The IMF has embarked on mission impossible

When you combine these flagrant violations of laws (meant to promote accountability, transparency, fiscal prudence and economic growth), with the fact that President Weah and his CDC minions, continue to appoint and recycle outright incompetents, dimwits, halfwits, and social degenerates to occupy key public sector posts, all in the name of party loyalty, you can appreciate why not even "economists from heaven" can save the Liberian economy from its downward spiral. Liberia's current governance environment is inimical to economic growth and stability. My very kind regards to the eggheads from the IMF and the World Bank: you have just embarked on mission impossible. After your Liberian assignment, you will return to Washington with a new economic theory to analyze: the theory of the leaking bucket!

Liberia officially the Republic of Liberia, is a country on the West African coast. It is bordered by Sierra Leone to its northwest, Guinea to its north, Ivory Coast to its east, and the Atlantic Ocean to its south-southwest. It covers an area of 111,369 square kilometers (43,000 sq mi) and has a population of around 4,900,000. English is the official language and over 20 indigenous languages are spoken, representing the numerous ethnic groups who make up more than 95 per cent of the population. The country's capital and largest city is Monrovia.

Liberia began as a settlement of the American Colonization Society (ACS), who believed black people would face better chances for freedom and prosperity in Africa than in the United States. The country declared its independence on July 26, 1847. The U.S. did not recognise Liberia's independence until February 5,

1862, during the American Civil War. Between January 7, 1822, and the American Civil War, more than 15,000 freed and free-born black people who faced legislated limits in the U.S., and 3,198 Afro-Caribbeans, relocated to the settlement. The settlers carried their culture and tradition with them. The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after those of the U.S. On January 3, 1848, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a wealthy, free-born African American from Virginia who settled in Liberia, was elected Liberia's first president after the people proclaimed independence.

Liberia was the first African republic to proclaim its independence, and is Africa's first and oldest modern republic. It retained its independence during the Scramble for Africa. During World War II, Liberia supported the United States war efforts against Germany and in turn, the U.S. invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia to help its war effort, which also aided the country in modernizing and improving its major air transportation facilities. In addition, President William Tubman encouraged economic changes. Internationally, Liberia was a founding member of the League of Nations, United Nations, and the Organisation of African Unity.

The Americo-Liberian settlers did not relate well to the indigenous peoples they encountered, especially those in communities of the more isolated "bush". The colonial settlements were raided by the Kru and Grebo from their inland chiefdoms. Americo-Liberians developed as a small elite that held on to political power, and indigenous tribesmen were excluded from birthright citizenship in their own land until 1904, in an echo of the United States' treatment of Native Americans. Americo-Liberians promoted religious organizations to set up missions and schools to educate the indigenous peoples.

In 1980 political tensions from the rule of William R. Tolbert resulted in a military coup during which Tolbert was killed, marking the beginning of years-long political instability. Five years of military rule by the People's Redemption Council and five years of civilian rule by the National Democratic Party of Liberia were followed by the First and Second Liberian Civil Wars. These resulted in the deaths of 250,000 people (about 8 pc of the population) and the displacement of many more, and shrank Liberia's economy by 90 per cent. A peace agreement in 2003 led to democratic elections in 2005, in which Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected President. National infrastructure and basic social services were severely affected by the conflicts, with 83 per cent of the population now living below the international poverty line.

The Pepper Coast, also known as the Grain Coast, has been inhabited by indigenous peoples of Africa at least as far back as the 12th century. Mende-speaking people expanded westward from the Sudan, forcing many smaller ethnic groups southward toward the Atlantic Ocean. The Dei, Bassa, Kru, Gola, and Kissi were some of the earliest documented peoples in the area.

This influx of these groups was compounded by the decline of the Western Sudanic Mali Empire in 1375 and the Songhai Empire in 1591. The area now called Liberia was a part of the Kingdom of Koya from 1450 to 1898. As inland regions underwent desertification, inhabitants moved to the wetter coast.

These new inhabitants brought skills such as cotton spinning, cloth weaving, iron smelting, rice and sorghum cultivation, and social and political institutions from the Mali and Songhai empires.

Envoys tasked to attract investors along SGR line

By Francis Kajubi

AMBASSADORS representing Tanzania overseas have been called upon to up their game in economic diplomacy by attracting investors as the country races against time to achieve middle income status by 2025.

At a special tour organized by Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) held at the weekend to visit the site of the ongoing construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project, a delegation of 42 ambassadors representing Tanzania across the world were tasked with attracting investments along the SGR corridor among other projects.

Addressing the ambassadors, TRC Director General, Masanja Kadogosa said that the project is designed in a model that attracts economic activities along the line hence foreign investments are important to be considered.

"Phase one of the project that covers Dar es Salaam to Makotopola has been completed by 60.4 per cent to this August. We hope by the end of November this year it will be fully accomplished. There will be two main stations and four substations between the two destinations in which every station will contain economic facilities such as shops" said Kadogosa.

According to him, the project has

accommodated about 7,457 employees from which 96 per cent are Tanzanians. The stations will be designed with high technological facilities for signaling and telecommunication for monitoring the electric passenger and freight train operations.

Dr Wilbroud Slaa, Ambassador to Sweden, said he is confident of the government's project into contribution of turning the country into a semi industrial economy.

"Implementation of major projects such as the SGR, Expansion of the Dar es Salaam port,

Nyerere Hydro-electric power project in Rufiji and the opening of terminal three and the JNIA proves how the government is committed to achieving the semi industrial economy by 2025 and I am sure it is going to achieve that goal" said Dr Slaa.

On his part, Wilson Masilingi, Ambassador to the United States pledged that he and his fellow ambassadors are going to tell the world in details about the major projects the government is undertaking.

"We have come to learn more about these

major projects to as we tell the world what progress has Tanzania made so far since president Magufuli came into power. Tanzanians living abroad and the world in general need to be informed well on what is happening in Tanzania regarding to economic developments" said Masilingi.

Dr Abdallah Possi, Ambassador to Germany, said that there is a need for the ambassador to use trade fair occasions held in countries they represent as an opportunity to showcase these major projects so as they can be well known and therefore attract, tourists, large and small investments.

Vodacom set to turn off its 2G service in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

A lack of spectrum available to South African mobile networks forces them to optimise and 're-farm' their existing resources to improve their offerings, and the legacy 2G network is a major obstacle to this process.

Speaking at a media event in Johannesburg, Vodacom CTO Andries Delpoit said that Vodacom - along with other major mobile operators - wants to turn off its 2G network for consumer

handsets, as this would greatly improve its ability to roll out 4G and other modern services.

"We are going to focus on switching 2G off," Delpoit said. "However, there are still millions of 2G devices connected to the network."

Delpoit clarified that Vodacom would not be able to completely switch off the network, however, as there are many critical systems and telemetry devices connected to the network. Instead, Vodacom is aiming to

switch off its 2G consumer voice network, which would allow it to re-farm this spectrum and improve its 4G coverage and capacity. "The big benefit for us to re-farm 2G is to improve 4G coverage," he said. "If we can thin out 2G, it will allow us to use 900MHz for 4G."

The problem with turning off 2G

Delpoit noted that while Vodacom would love to switch off its 2G voice network as soon as pos-

sible, the problem is not directly under the operator's control.

"It's not something that's entirely within our control, and it's not just mobile operators," Delpoit said. "Independent retailers sell the bulk of these 2G handsets."

2G devices are significantly cheaper than 4G smartphones, and they are sold in high volumes to customers who are unable to upgrade to more expensive devices that use 3G or 4G technology.

He said that around a third of

all Vodacom devices were still on the 2G network, with about another third on 3G, and the rest on 4G. There are a great number of other 2G-compatible devices in urban areas, including PoS systems, telemetry hardware, and various low-level communication devices, which would present a great logistical challenge to replace with 3G models.

Turning off 3G

Vodacom said that a number of countries around the world

had already turned off their 2G networks, with some even turning off 3G instead.

"A lot of countries around the world have done this already, as it is important to migrate off these legacy technologies," said Vodacom managing executive for technology strategy, architecture, and innovation Nicholas Naidu. "It is fair to say there are different opinions; in Europe, they are targeting 3G."

Turning off 3G in South Africa would be difficult due to

the large amount of data traffic present on the network and the lower coverage of 4G - especially in rural areas.

Vodacom said that turning off 2G would allow it to re-farm the 900MHz band and greatly improve its 4G coverage in less-populated areas.

For now, however, it is currently aiming to slowly reduce the amount of spectrum required for its 2G network and re-purpose it in smaller batches to aid its modern network rollout.

African entrepreneurs encouraged to unlock the continent's potential

By Elvis Boh

YOUNG African entrepreneurs are being urged to see private investment as the key to unlocking their continent's potential.

That was the message at the recent Tony Elumelu entrepreneurship forum in Abuja, Nigeria - which brought together thousands of would-be entrepreneurs and potential investors.

"People now know that what happens in Africa doesn't stay in Africa," Elumelu told the forum. "What happens in Africa can happen in other places. That is why I say that poverty anywhere is a threat to all of us everywhere. So the more we come together to provide solutions, to increase prosperity and make sure our young ones are engaged, the better for the world."

During exchanges with budding young CEOs, invited national leaders praised the initiative - and pledged to create the conditions for entrepreneurial success.

"We must have the capacity to feed our continent and that means developing agricultural entrepreneurship - especially with young people in mind," said the President of Senegal Macky Sall in his address. "Because if agriculture is modernized, we'll have hundreds of millions of young people who could be entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, prospering and developing businesses."

Candidates can apply for non-refundable seed capital of €4500 from The Tony Elumelu Foundation, as well as access to mentors and training.

"My intention or initiative is to actually bring out the talent or the potential in every child that will make them become entrepreneurs and

the world changers," explains Korla Henry Kwame, the CEO of Financial Education at Basic Level. "So currently I am working on a centre, an education centre or a hub where I will recruit the children, or enroll them and then give them the training."

"I have on board mentors, trainers, entrepreneurs who are already successful in their various areas of life who will come and then motivate the children and inspire the potential out of them."

"I found a trick to connect farmers to ready buyers who makes their grains more profitable, adding value to the chain and we reduce post harvest loss," says the CEO of Farmatrix Nyifamu Ogechi Manzo.

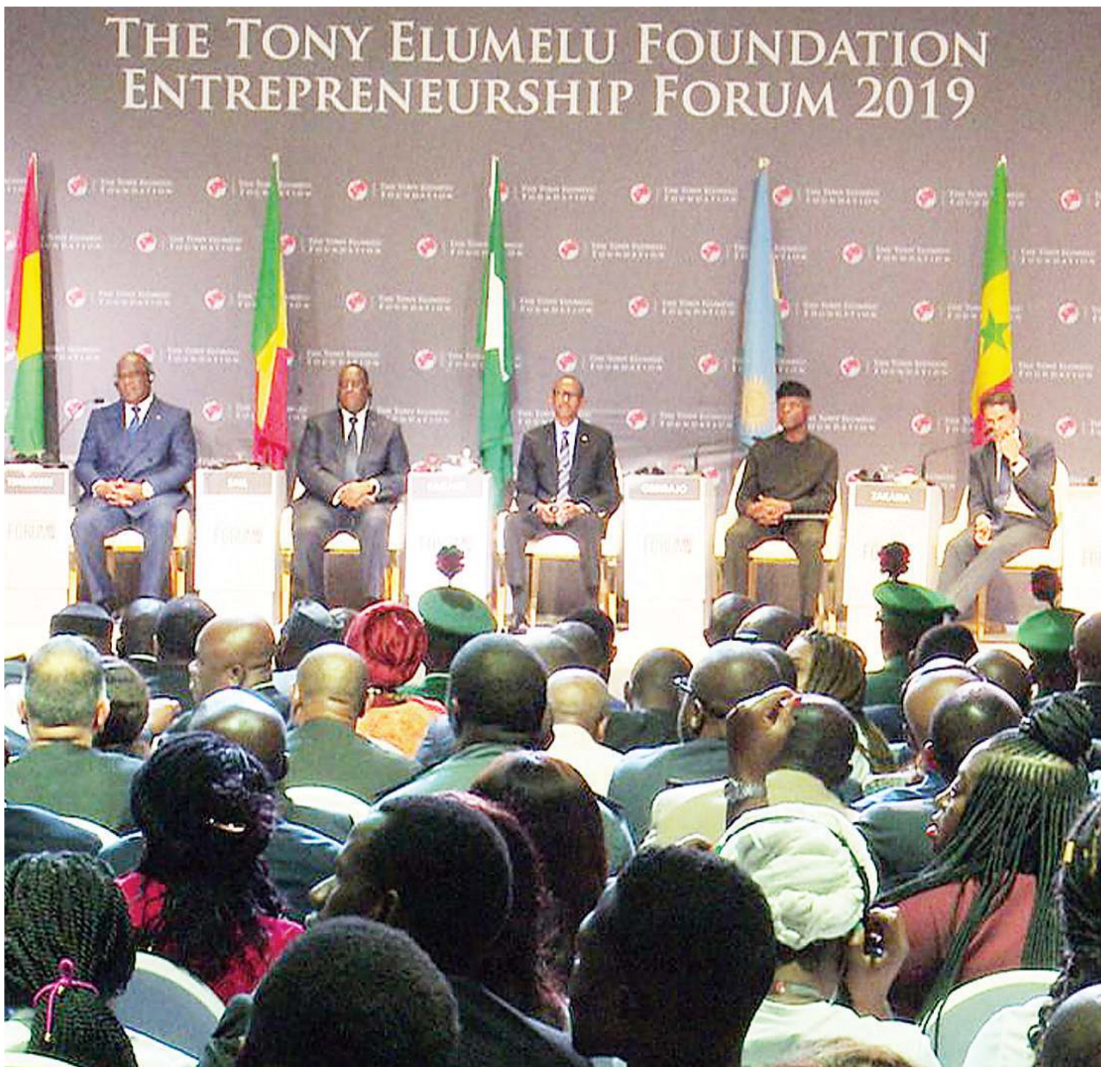
The Foundation has pledged €90 million to empower 10,000 young entrepreneurs over ten years. There've been more than 216,000 applications this year alone. 7500 people have been accepted on the programme since it began four years ago.

"My message to all African entrepreneurs and in particular to TEF entrepreneurs is to say that there is no better time to be an entrepreneur than now," says Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu, CEO of the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

"Governments, private sector, policy makers, development organizations, they are committed. We are committed to giving you all the support by way of training, capacity building, seed capital funding and second stage funding by creating an enabling environment. And so there is absolutely no barrier to your success except yourself."

In partnership with the foundation the government of Senegal is also putting up €900,000 of sponsorship capital over a three year period.

"Following the exchange of ideas



and lessons learnt on how to push forward the development agenda in Africa using young en-

trepreneurs," says Euronews Correspondent Elvis Boh. "It is now time to sit back and observe

if the implementation process will achieve the desired results."

Zambian govt refutes reports of using Huawei technology to spy on opponents

LUSAKA

THE Zambian government on Friday dismissed a U.S. news report alleging that it used Chinese telecommunication giant Huawei Technologies to spy on political opponents.

A report by the Wall Street Journal alleged the Chinese telecommunication firm helped governments in Zambia and Uganda with the technology to spy on political opponents.

Uganda's Chief Government Spokesperson Dora Sil-

ya said the report was false and deserved condemnation, adding that the Zambian government was a government of laws and could not, under any circumstance, engage in illegal interception of communications of its citizens.

She noted that the coun-

try's telecommunication regulator, the Zambia Information and Communication Technology (ZICTA), was a lawful regulator whose functions do not extend to illegalities as alleged by the reports.

"ZICTA operates under authority of the Zambian con-

stitution, which explicitly guarantees our citizens the right to privacy of the personal conversations, data and information," she said in a release.

The government will continue to safeguard the right to privacy, she said, urging

the public to dismiss such reports.

Earlier, in a statement issued on Thursday, Huawei also refuted the U.S. news report alleging that the company aided the Ugandan government to spy on opposition politicians.

Huawei referred to the report titled Huawei Technicians Helped African Governments Spy on Political Opponents by the Wall Street Journal as unfounded, with inaccurate allegations against its business operations in the east African country.

No more spending excuses for Merkel after easing of investment bottlenecks

BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel has fended off growing calls for more fiscal stimulus by citing the slow outflow of existing federal funds - but data suggests the money is indeed being used up as local authority bottlenecks gradually clear.

With Europe's largest economy on the brink of recession and borrowing costs at record lows, Merkel has faced pressure at home and from abroad to ditch her pledge to target balanced budgets and instead boost public investment by taking on new debt.

Merkel and her conservatives say Berlin has already earmarked billions of euros in investment for schools, nurseries and hospitals but that local authorities have spent only a fraction of this windfall.

But this excuse seems no longer valid: Figures from the finance ministry show that towns and municipalities are now tapping the federal government's funds more actively, suggesting that planning and labor bottlenecks are easing.

Of 3.5 billion euros (\$3.9 billion) earmarked in a municipal infrastructure fund for investment in schools, nurseries and hospitals (KInvFG I), local authorities have applied for nearly 3.4 billion euros, the data showed - roughly 96% of the overall amount on offer.

The fund was created in 2015 and initially meant to last until 2018. Due to the slow initial take-up, it was then extended to 2020.

Of another 3.5 billion euros put aside by the government in 2017 for school renovations (KInvFG II), authorities so far have tapped 2.4 billion euros, or 69%.

"As you can see, the program is running very well," a finance ministry spokeswoman said, adding that the take-up had jumped by nearly 2 billion euros over the past 12 months.

"The figures show that there is planning progress in most federal states and that financially weak municipalities welcome the financial aid from the federal government," she added.

The improved flow of funds is important for Germany, where heavily indebted towns and municipalities historically manage a large chunk of public spending and many citizens are annoyed by run-down local infrastructure and closed public facilities.

PENT-UP INVESTMENT NEEDS
Years of austerity linked to the national debt brake - a constitutional amendment introduced in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008/09 to rein in public debt - have led to pent-up public investment needs in towns and municipalities worth a combined 138 billion euros, data from KfW Research shows.

"Towns and municipalities have been structurally underfunded for more than 20 years. They were forced to cut staff," Gerd Landsberg, Managing Director of the German Association of Towns and Municipalities, told Reuters.

"That partly explains the initial problems with the slow take-up of federal funds - it takes time to hire new staff and get the ball rolling," Landsberg explained.

The latest figures show, however, that authorities are overcoming those staff-related planning bottlenecks, meaning most of the

money should be used up soon, he said.

Landsberg called on the government to provide more funding lines and improve the design of its programs.

"Short-term investment funds alone do not provide sufficient planning and personnel security. We must secure the financial strength of towns and municipalities in the long term."

Like Merkel and her conservatives, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz of the jointly governing, center-left Social Democrats (SPD) has shown little appetite so far to ditch the balanced budget goal and boost investments through new debt.

Eckhardt Rehberg, the chief budget lawmaker in Merkel's conservatives, is also sticking to the line that billions of euros still sit unused in various special purpose funds.

"The debate about debt-financed investment programs misses the point. The problem is not a lack of money, but the sluggish outflow of funds," Rehberg said.

Authorities must hire more staff, cut red tape and speed up planning and approval procedures, he said. "In addition, the construction sector has already reached its capacity limit, which means it can hardly cope with more demand," Rehberg added.

Nevertheless, members of both the SPD's own left wing and of the Greens, an increasingly strong opposition party, are pushing for a fiscal U-turn. Even the influential BDI industry lobby group, traditionally close to Merkel's conservatives, last week called for a debt-financed fiscal stimulus package.

Cansel Kiziltepe, a lower house SPD lawmaker specializing in finance, said Merkel



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

and the conservatives should stop blaming local authorities and rethink their insistence on incurring no new debt in their budgets, a policy goal commonly known as the "black zero".

"Especially in times of economic weakness and in light of improved outflow of funds, it's high time to say goodbye to the fetish of the black zero," Kiziltepe told Reuters.

UK risks food, fuel and drug shortages, says contested leaked official document

LONDON

BRITAIN will face shortages of fuel, food and medicine if it leaves the European Union without a transition deal, according to leaked official documents reported by the Sunday Times, but whose interpretation was contested by ministers.

Setting out a vision of jammed ports, public protests and widespread disruption, the Times said the forecasts compiled by the Cabinet Office set out the most likely aftershocks of a no-deal Brexit rather than the worst case scenarios.

But Michael Gove, the minister in charge of coordinating no-deal preparations, challenged that, saying that the documents did set out a worst case scenario and that planning had been accelerated in the last three weeks.

The Times said up to 85% of lorries using the main channel crossings "may not be ready" for French customs, meaning disruption at ports would potentially last up to three months before the flow of traffic improves.

The government also believes a hard border between the British province of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member, will be likely as current plans to avoid widespread checks will prove unsustainable, the Times said.

"Compiled this month by the Cabinet Office under the code-name Operation Yellowhammer, the dossier offers a rare glimpse into the covert planning being carried out by the government to avert a catastrophic collapse in the nation's infrastructure," the Times reported.

Responding to one of the authors of the Sunday Times article on Twitter, Gove said:

"Yellowhammer is a worst-case scenario - v significant steps have been taken in the last 3 weeks to accelerate Brexit planning."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said it did not comment on leaked documents.

A government source blamed the leak on an unnamed former minister who wanted to influence negotiations with the EU.

"This document is from when ministers were blocking what needed to be done to get ready to leave and the funds were not available. It has been deliberately leaked by a former minister in an attempt to influence discussions with EU leaders," said the source, who declined to be named.

Earlier, asked about the Yellowhammer documents, energy minister Kwasi Kwarteng told Sky News there was "a lot of scaremongering around" and that Britain would be fully prepared for an Oct. 31 no-deal exit.

NO TURNING BACK
The United Kingdom is heading toward a constitutional crisis at home and a showdown with the EU as Johnson has repeatedly vowed to leave the bloc on Oct. 31 without a deal unless it agrees to renegotiate the Brexit divorce.

After more than three years of Brexit dominating EU affairs, the bloc has repeatedly refused to reopen the Withdrawal Agreement which includes an Irish border insurance policy that Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, agreed in November.

Brexit minister Stephen Barclay said on Twitter he had signed a piece of legislation which set in stone the repeal of the 1972 European Communities act - the laws which made Britain a member of



A fruit market in London. Britain will likely face shortages of fuel, food and medicine if it leaves the European Union without a transition deal, jamming ports and requiring a hard border in Ireland, official government documents leaked to the Sunday Times show. File photo: AP

the organization now known as the EU.

Though his move was largely procedural, in line with previously approved laws, Barclay said in a statement: "This is a clear signal to the people of this country that there is no turning back (from Brexit)."

A group of more than 100 lawmakers wrote to Johnson calling for an emergency recall of parlia-

ment to discuss the situation.

"We face a national emergency, and parliament must now be recalled in August and sit permanently until October 31 so that the voices of the people can be heard, and that there can be proper scrutiny of your government," the letter said.

Johnson will this week tell French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor An-

gela Merkel that the Westminster parliament cannot stop Brexit and a new deal must be agreed if Britain is to avoid leaving the EU without one.

The prime minister is coming under pressure from politicians across the political spectrum to prevent a disorderly departure, with opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn vowing this week to bring down Johnson's government in

early September to delay Brexit. It is, however, unclear if lawmakers have the unity or power to use the British parliament to prevent a no-deal departure - likely to be the United Kingdom's most significant move since World War Two.

Opponents of no deal say it would be a disaster for what was once one of the West's most stable democracies. A disorderly divorce, they say, would hurt global

growth, send shockwaves through financial markets and weaken London's claim to be the world's preeminent financial center.

Brexit supporters say there may be short-term disruption from a no-deal exit but that the economy will thrive if cut free from what they cast as a doomed experiment in integration that has led to Europe falling behind China and the United States.

WORLD

India reimposes movement curbs on parts of Kashmir's main city

SRINAGAR

INDIAN authorities reimposed restrictions on movement in major parts of Kashmir's biggest city, Srinagar, yesterday after violent overnight clashes between residents and police in which dozens were injured, two senior officials and eyewitnesses said.

In the past 24 hours, there has been a series of protests against New Delhi's Aug 5 revocation of the region's autonomy. This followed an easing in curbs on movement on Saturday morning.

The state government has said that it has not imposed a curfew over the past two weeks, but on Sunday people were being turned back at multiple roadblocks set up in the city in the past few hours. Security forces at some roadblocks have told residents there is a curfew.

Two senior government officials told Reuters that at least two dozen people were admitted to hospitals with pellet injuries after violent clashes broke out in the old city on Saturday night.

Representatives in the Jammu and Kashmir government in Srinagar and the federal government in New Delhi did not immediately return calls asking about the latest clampdown or seeking

an assessment of the number of injuries and clashes.

One of the official sources said that people pelted security forces with stones in around two dozen places across Srinagar. He said that the intensity of the stone pelting protests has increased over past few days.

Chilly grenades

The heavy overnight clashes took place mostly in Rainawari, Nowhetta and Gojwara areas of the old city where Indian troops fired tear smoke, chilly grenades and pellets to disperse protesters, eyewitnesses and officials said.

Chilly grenades contain very spicy chili pepper, and produce a major eye and skin irritant, as well as a pungent smell, when they are unleashed.

The officials, who declined to be identified because they aren't supposed to talk to the media, said clashes also took place in other parts of the city including Soura, a hotbed of protests in the past two weeks.

A senior government official and hospital authorities at Srinagar's main hospital said that at least 17 people came there with pellet injuries. They said 12 were discharged while five with grievous injuries were admitted.



Kashmiri Muslims hold placards and shout pro-freedom slogans during a demonstration after Friday prayers amid curfew like restrictions in Srinagar, India, on Saturday. (AP)

The hospital officials and a police officer told Reuters that a 65-year-old man, Mohammad Ayub of Braripora, was admitted to the hospital after he had major breathing difficulties when tear gas and chilly grenades were fired in old city area on Saturday afternoon. He died in the hospital on Saturday night and has already been buried, they said.

Blocking the way

Javed Ahmad, age 35 and from the wealthy Rajbagh area of Srinagar, was prevented from going to the old city early Sunday morning by paramilitary police at a barricade near the city centre. "I had to visit my parents there. Troops had blocked the road with concertina wire. They asked me to go back as there was curfew in the area," he said.

Telephone landlines were restored in parts of the city on Saturday after a 12-day blackout and the state government said most telephone

exchanges in the region would start working by Sunday evening. Internet and cell phones remain blocked in Kashmir.

More than 500 political or community leaders and activists remained in detention, and some have been flown to prisons outside the state.

For 30 years in the part of Kashmir that it controls, India has been fighting a revolt in which at least 50,000 people have been killed.

Critics say the decision to revoke autonomy will cause further alienation and fuel the armed resistance.

The change will allow non-residents to buy property in Jammu and Kashmir, and end the practice of reserving state government jobs for local residents.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has said the measure is necessary to integrate Kashmir fully into India and speed up its development.

Agencies

Islamic State claims bombing at Kabul wedding that killed 63

KABUL

THE death toll from a late-night suicide bombing at a crowded wedding party in the Afghan capital rose to at least 63 on Sunday, including women and children, officials said. The local Islamic State group's affiliate claimed responsibility for what was the deadliest attack in Kabul this year.

Another 182 people were wounded in the Saturday night explosion, government spokesman Feroz Bashari said. Interior Ministry spokesman Nusrat Rahimi confirmed the casualty toll as families began to bury the dead. Some helped to dig graves with their bare hands.

Kabul residents were outraged as there appears to be no end to violence even as the United States and the Taliban say they are nearing a deal to end their 18-year conflict, America's longest war.

The Taliban condemned the attack as "forbidden and unjustifiable" and denied any involvement. Both the Taliban and IS have carried large-scale attacks in the Afghan capital in the past.

The blast occurred in a western Kabul neighborhood that is home to many of the country's minority Shiite Hazara community. IS has claimed responsibility for many attacks targeting Shiites in the past. A statement by the militant group posted on an IS-linked website on Sunday said a Pakistani IS fighter seeking martyrdom targeted a large Shiite gathering in Kabul.

The statement also claimed that after the suicide bombing, a car bomb was detonated in the attack but Afghan officials have not con-

firmed this.

The bomber detonated his explosives near the stage where musicians were playing and "all the youths, children and all the people who were there were killed," said eyewitness Gul Mohammad.

Ahmad Omid, a survivor, said about 1,200 guests had been invited to the wedding of his father's cousin.

"I was with the groom in the other room when we heard the blast and then I couldn't find anyone," he said. "Everyone was lying all around the hall."

Amid the carnage were blood-covered chairs, crushed music speakers and a pile of abandoned shoes.

The blast at the hall, known as Dubai City wedding hall, shattered a period of relative calm in Kabul. On Aug 7, a Taliban car bomb aimed at Afghan security forces detonated his explosives on the same road, killing 14 people and wounding 145 – most of them women, children and other civilians.

Kabul's huge, brightly lit wedding halls are centers of community life in a city weary of decades of war, with thousands of dollars spent on a single evening.

"Devastated by the news of a suicide attack inside a wedding hall in Kabul. A heinous crime against our people; how is it possible to train a human and ask him to go and blow himself (up) inside a wedding?!" presidential spokesman Sediq Seddiqi said in a Twitter post.

Messages of shock poured in on Sunday. "Such acts are beyond condemnation," the European Union mission to Afghanistan said.



A wounded man is carried to a hospital after an explosion at wedding hall in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday. (AP)

"An act of extreme depravity," US Ambassador John Bass said.

The wedding halls also serve as meeting places, and in November, at least 55 people were killed when a suicide bomber sneaked into a Kabul wedding hall where hundreds of Muslim religious scholars and clerics had gathered to mark the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. The Taliban denied involvement in that attack, and IS did not claim responsibility.

Saturday night's explosion came a few days after the end of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, with Kabul residents visiting family and friends, and just ahead of Afghanistan's 100th Independence Day on Monday. The city, long familiar

with checkpoints and razor wire, has been under heavier security ahead of the event.

The blast also comes at a greatly uncertain time in Afghanistan as the US and the Taliban appear close to a deal on ending the war. The Afghan government has been sidelined from those discussions, and presidential spokesman Seddiqi on Saturday said his government was waiting to hear results of President Donald Trump's meeting Friday with his national security team about the negotiations.

Top issues include a US troop withdrawal and Taliban guarantees they would not allow Afghanistan to become a launching pad

for global terror attacks.

But many Afghans fear that terror attacks inside the country will continue, and their pleas for peace – and for details on the talks – have increased in recent days.

"Taliban cannot absolve themselves of blame, for they provide platform for terrorists," President Ashraf Ghani said Sunday on Twitter, declaring a day of mourning and calling the attack "inhumane."

Frustration at the authorities has also grown.

"We want the government to stop arguing about power and act like a human being to bring peace to this country," a worker at the wedding hall, Hajji Reza, said Sunday.

Russia ready to discuss missile issues with US - defence minister

MOSCOW



DESPITE the United States' withdrawal from the INF Treaty, Moscow is still ready for dialogue on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told the Rossiya-24 TV channel yesterday.

"We are keeping the door open. As long as the US doesn't deploy such systems to Europe, we won't do the same, and as long as there are no US missiles in Asia, there won't be our missiles in the region," Shoigu (pictured) said.

He pointed out that Russia had repeatedly called for dialogue on the issue. "Between February and August 2, we kept on opening doors," he noted.

Shoigu also said that the Russian Defense Ministry had presented data on the 9M729 missile at a briefing in Moscow but US representatives had chosen not to attend the event.

INF Treaty issue

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed by the Soviet Union and the United States on December 8, 1987, took effect on June 1, 1988. It applied to deployed and non-deployed ground-based missiles of intermediate range (1,000-5,000 kilometers) and shorter range (500-1,000 kilometers). Washington repeatedly accused Russia of violating the accord, but Moscow vehemently dismissed all accusations and, in its turn, expressed grievances over Washington's non-compliance.

On February 1, 2019, US President Donald Trump and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo announced the suspension of Washington's obligations under the INF starting on February 2.

On February 2, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow was also suspending the agreement. He handed down instructions to refrain from initiating talks with Washington on the issue and stressed that the US needed to show willingness for an equal and substantive dialogue.

Putin signed a decree suspending Moscow's compliance with the Treaty on March 4. On July 3, the head of state signed the decree into law after it had been approved by both houses of parliament.

On August 2, Washington formally withdrew from the INF Treaty and the Russian Foreign Ministry, in turn, officially confirmed that the Treaty had been terminated at the United States' initiative.

Agencies

Official signing of political, constitutional declarations marks beginning of transitional period in Sudan

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the opposition Freedom and Change Alliance on Saturday officially signed the political and constitutional declarations to mark beginning of the transitional rule in Sudan.

The TMC's Deputy Chairman Mohamed Hamdan Daqdu signed on the two documents on behalf of the military council, while Ahmed Rabie, a leading member of the Freedom and Change Alliance, signed for the alliance.

Some senior officials of states and organizations, including prime ministers of Egypt and Ethiopia, signed on the documents as witnesses.

Before the beginning of the signing ceremony, Sudanese folkloric bands performed traditional songs and dances in front of the Friendship Hall, the ceremony site, to welcome the guests participating in the event.

The moment the documents were signed, the hall burst into applause by dozens of citizens who repeated slogans such as "civilian ... civilian," "Freedom, Peace and Justice."

Outside the Friendship Hall, hundreds of citizens gathered on a bridge overlooking the hall, raising Sudan's flags and signs bearing "Sudan's Joy" which is the motto of the celebration.

At the Freedom Square, some 15 km southeast of the Friendship Hall, thousands of Sudanese citizens gathered to follow the signing ceremony of the two documents through giant screens inside the square. Representative of the Freedom and Change Alliance Mohamed Naji El Asam said "Thanks to blood and sacrifices, this day has become a reality after it was a distant dream."

He added that signing the documents marks a new phase, vowing that comprehensive peace is a priority.

Justice and judicial accountability are also among top priorities of the coming transitional government and the judicial institutions, he noted.

Leader of Sudan's opposition National Umma Party Sadiq Al-Mahdi said the signing of the documents constitutes "a day for entering the civilian rule which will place peace as a priority and then institutes for democracy."

Xinhua

China's reform and opening-up accords with trend of global development

By Datuk Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan

I served as the Counselor of Malaysian Embassy in China from 1980 to 1985, and the Malaysian Ambassador to China from 1998 to 2005, witnessing first-hand the changes in China.

In the 1970s and 1980s, ration coupons were needed for many necessities and household items in China as the country had a shortage of food and materials. There were still very few international flights in Beijing and few hotels there. When my relatives and friends came to visit me in Beijing, they often felt it was inconvenient to live there.

Cities went rapid changes after China's reform and opening up. Girls wore fashionable dresses and stylish hats. It be-

came more convenient go shopping as there were a plentiful variety of goods for sale. The Chinese people became more confident than before.

I witnessed China's rapid development as the Malaysian Ambassador to China. The degree of development in big cities was on a par with that of international metropolises, with high-rise buildings, expressways, airports and stores springing up like mushrooms. Many Chinese brands became renowned internationally. People lived in more spacious homes.

Today, China has made remarkable achievements in scientific and technological innovation. The ubiquitous e-payment has made life more convenient. Every day, I keep in touch with my Chinese friends via WeChat, a popular



instant messaging app in China.

China's development achievements through four decades of reform and opening up are unparalleled in the world. The country has substantially raised people's incomes, continuously improved consumption level, accelerated industrial upgrading, and promoted

a higher level of opening-up.

These achievements have brought opportunities for the economic development of other countries, and the sound interaction enables China and the world to seek shared prosperity and development.

The success of China's reform and opening up is attributed to the correct leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the strong desire of the Chinese people to change, and their sincere support for the policy of reform and opening up.

The founding of People's Republic of China has changed the fate of the Chinese people mired in poverty and backwardness since modern times.

The CPC responded to the wishes of

the Chinese people to implement reform and opening up, bringing about profound changes to China. China's reform and opening up, undoubtedly another revolution, accords with the trend of global development.

Malaysia regards China's reform and opening up as a great opportunity. In 1985, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad led a delegation to visit China, showing the world by action that Malaysia would seize the opportunity to carry out economic and trade cooperation with China, which had opened itself to the world. Today, China has become Malaysia's second largest trading partner. The development of China's technology and Internet economy is further boosting vigorous development of small and medium-sized

enterprises in Malaysia.

Benefiting a lot from globalization, China has become an important force on the international stage as its economy grows, especially since its accession to the World Trade Organization. China has actively participated in the establishment of international economic order and mechanisms, which further enhances its profile.

As the world's second largest economy, China has also injected strong impetus into economic globalization and global economic development while promoting its economic growth.

The author is former Malaysian Ambassador to China.

People's Daily

An open Hong Kong under the rule of law shall not become a lawless place

By Lin Songtian

KNOWN for its rule of law, openness and prosperity, Hong Kong is crowned as a shining Pearl in the East and one of the world's three major financial hubs.

However, in the past two months, Hong Kong's social order has fallen into chaos. Some anti-China right-wing forces in Hong Kong, under the pretext of opposing the amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance, have organized demonstrations which have escalated into extremely illegal violent activities, overstepping the bottom line of the rule of law and arousing high concern of the international community.

The chaos in Hong Kong has seriously affected its economy and people's livelihood. According to reports, Hong Kong's economic indicators slumped across the board in the first six months of this year. Hong Kong's GDP grew by only 0.6% year on year in real terms in the second quarter of this year. Twenty-two countries and regions have issued travel safety alerts to Hong Kong. What's more, the current situation in Hong Kong has severely dampened international investors' confidence. South African Airways was once forced to suspend flights to Hong Kong, seriously affecting the normal business and personnel exchanges.

In February last year, Chen Tongjia, a Hong Kong resident, fled back to Hong Kong after killing his pregnant girlfriend in Taiwan. Because there was no mutual legal assistance arrangement between Hong Kong and Taiwan, the HK court sentenced Chen Tongjia, a malicious murderer, to only 29 months in prison, causing strong

dissatisfaction from the victim's family and Hong Kong society.

To avoid impunity and respond to the call of the people, the Hong Kong SAR government proposed to amend the two ordinances to allow Hong Kong, through special arrangements, to cooperate with Taiwan, the mainland and Macao, which have not yet signed agreements on the handover of fugitives and criminal judicial assistance, to carry out case cooperation on the handover of suspects and fugitives so as to close the loopholes in Hong Kong's existing legal system. This is the universal international practice. However, some right-wing radical forces in Hong Kong, instigated and supported by anti-China forces in the Western country led by the US, have been organizing demonstrations under the pretext of opposing the amendments. To maintain social stability, the Hong Kong SAR government has decided to suspend the amendments.

The facts have proven that those anti-China forces in Hong Kong are only deliberately creating violence under the cloak of "opposing amendments to the ordinances". They illegally stormed Hong Kong's Legislative Council and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, blatantly insulted the Chinese national flag, national emblem, HKSAR emblem, and organized massive demonstrations to maliciously block roads, subways, occupy airports to paralyze public traffic, assault the police officers, and beat visitors and journalists. Some demonstrators even use petrol bombs against the police officers.

Such lawless and inhuman atrocities in flagrant violation of human rights have caused 461 people injured, including 139 police officers, seriously disrupted the rule of law and social order in Hong Kong, completely overstepped the bottom line of law, morality,



ty, humanity, and the principle of "one country, two systems".

Any country that upholds justice and people with conscience will not regard such chaos in Hong Kong as "beautiful scenery" and "the expression of democracy and freedom". Unfortunately, only those in the US can say that loudly and publicly!

The rule of law is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's stability and prosperity. In the past 22 years since Hong Kong's return to China, in accordance with the "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law, Hong Kong has implemented "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy. It has enjoyed freedom and democracy that had never been possible under the British colonial rule, fully shared the development dividend of mainland China and achieved stability, development and prosperity.

However, in order to achieve their evil purpose of disrupting Hong Kong and containing China's development, some western countries led by the US, used the excuse of amendments to the ordinances to plot, incite and support Hong Kong's right-wing anti-China forces to openly confront the

lent suppression", and smearing the justice expression by the Chinese businesses and citizens as being forced by the Chinese government to "take side".

This is a flagrant betrayal of the core spirit of democracy and rule of law and the human conscience recognized by the international community. In any democratic or civilized society or country, any demonstration must be submitted in accordance with legal procedures and carried out in a peaceful and orderly manner in a designated place.

It must not impair the freedom and personal safety of the public, and must not undermine social public order, let alone use violence or attack police with force. No civilization or society under rule of law will tolerate such violence. This is true in any democratic country or region under rule of law, including South Africa, and western countries such as the USA and Britain are no exception.

It is a basic requirement of any society under rule of law to enforce laws and regulations and prosecute any illegal acts. No claim can be expressed in an illegal way, let alone resorting to violence. Violence is violence. It is illegal to break the law. Its nature will never change because it is in different countries or regions.

Recently, all sectors of Hong Kong society step forward to call for urgent restoration of social order and rule of law, maintaining prosperity and opposing violence. They denounced violence against police, tourists and journalists, and urged protesters stop illegal and violent actions as soon as possible. This has become the mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong.

Self-proclaimed as defenders of democracy and rule of law, the United States has been pursuing double standards in practice. They never hesitated to use heavy police and forces to suppress the "Occupy Wall Street" movement at home while beautifying violent crimes in China's Hong Kong as "seeking human rights and freedoms", distorting the law enforcement, fighting of crime and maintenance of social order by the Hong Kong police as "vio-

lent suppression", and smearing the justice expression by the Chinese businesses and citizens as being forced by the Chinese government to "take side".

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(The author is Chinese Ambassador to South Africa)

People's Daily

Serbian Guard to participate in Victory Day parade on Moscow's Red Square

BELGRADE

THE Serbian Guard, an honor guards unit of the Serbian armed forces, will take part in a Victory Day parade on Moscow's Red Square on May 9, Serbian Defense Minister Aleksandar Vulin said during a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu.

"Defense Minister Shoigu expressed his respect to [Serbian] President [Aleksandar] Vucic and our policy of military neutrality and a free nation, and invited President Vucic and our honorary guards unit to participate in a parade marking the 75th anniversary of victory [over Nazi Germany]. We won together, and we should celebrate together."

The Serbian army will be on the Red Square on May 9 together with its Commander-in-Chief, with the remaining victorious nations, with all those who fought against Nazism as free people, which we used to be and which we are now," the Serbian defense ministry's press service quoted Vulin as saying.

The ministers also discussed bilateral agenda, noting intense contacts between the armed forces of the two nations and the ongoing defense cooperation.

Aleksandar Vulin and Sergei Shoigu together attended the closing ceremony of the 2019 International Army Games at the Patriot Park near Moscow on Saturday night.

This year, a total of 223 teams representing 39 states from Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and Latin America took part. The competitions were hosted by Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, India, Iran, China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan.

Agencies

French police suicide rate climbs, French govt is flummoxed

PARIS

THREE riot police officers, a police commander, a police academy teacher – all are among eight French police officers who have killed themselves recently. That makes 64 so far this year – and the number just keeps on climbing.

Deaths by suicide for French police now outnumber deaths in the line of duty. The protectors need protecting, say police unions, which are demanding more help to stop the problem.

Those who choose to end their lives are from everywhere in France and of all ages, many with young children. The latest death came Wednesday in the Ardeche region in southeast France. Why they step across what one police union calls the "thin blue line" remains a question that French authorities have so far been unable to answer.

A parliamentary inquiry made public in July lists a multitude of reasons for the stress and despair among French police, including overwork since a series of terrorist attacks that started in January 2015 and the weekly, often extremely violent, anti-government protests since November by the yellow vest movement seeking more economic and social justice. It does not single out any one reason.

"Given the situation today, 2019 could be the worst in the

last 30 years," said Denis Jacob, head of the Alternative Police CFDT union.

A Senate report last year said the French police suicide rate was 36% higher than the rate for France's general population, but also uncovered no single reason behind the suicides.

"We don't have an understanding" of why, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner conceded in April as he announced yet another prevention plan, the third minister in a row to do so, underlining authorities' failure to solve the public health problem.

Significantly, Castaner acknowledged that police suicides must not be considered "external to work," and seen as only the result of personal problems. And National Police Director Eric Morvan broke a taboo, sending a letter to all officers encouraging them to talk "without fear of being judged" and saying discussing distress "is never a weakness."

While psychological trauma, including encounters with violence, is a risk factor for suicide, there are 10-15 factors that can feed the "acute crisis" which leads to taking one's own life, Catherine Pinson, a psychologist in charge of the police support service, told the Senate inquiry.

The "hypervigilance" of police in the face of potential terror attacks is a clear stress factor that keeps police in their "bubble"



In this Jan 12, 2019 photo riot police take position around the Arc de Triomphe during clashes with yellow vest protesters, in Paris, France. (AP)

even at home, Amelie Puaux, a psychologist with the support service, told the French senators.

And the 2016 deadly attack on a police couple in front of their small child at their home in Magnanville, west of Paris, dramatically impacted police officers fearful for their families, she said. Some moved, changed services or resigned to protect their loved ones.

Sebastian Roche, a research director at the National Center for Scientific research who specializes in comparing police systems, says there are simply no studies to understand the causes of the French suicides or impact studies to evaluate prevention measures, which he calls a "huge weakness" within the Interior

Ministry.

He doesn't believe that PTSD – with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – is at the root of the problem, noting the dip in police suicides in 2015 when deadly Islamic State attacks in France began in January and culminated in November with the Paris massacres that left 130 people dead.

"All of a sudden, their mission made sense," he said by telephone. "The population judged them as useful."

French citizens applauded police as heroes during that stretch in 2015. That image lost its shine over time, then collapsed, as French police matched exceptionally violent yellow vest anti-government protests with harsh containment tactics that maimed some protesters.

Western Libya witnesses unprecedented intensive attacks on airports

TRIPOLI

AIRPORTS in western Libya have witnessed unprecedented intensive airstrikes and missile attacks in the past few days, as the armed conflict between the east-based army and the UN-backed government continues.

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Thursday denounced increasing attacks on airports in western Libya.

"The UNSMIL deplores the ever-increasing and systemic attacks on airports in western Libya, including Zuwara and Mitiga.

These attacks have endangered the lives of thousands of civilian travelers, including UN staff and humanitarian workers," the mission said in a statement.

The east-based army announced on Friday that it targeted Zuwara airport in western Libya and destroyed two hangars for drones.

With the continued suspension of flights in the targeted airports, thousands of travelers face difficulties on a daily basis, especially with the increasing damage caused by the attacks on the airports.

Mitiga airport is the only functioning airport in the capital used by hundreds of thousands of civilians, as well as for transporting humanitar-

ian aid.

"UNSMIL stresses that these attacks must cease immediately, and reiterates that airports used by civilians are not military targets," the mission warned.

The UN mission also called for "all feasible precautions" to "protect the civilians in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian laws."

Omran al-Najah, a retired civilian pilot, believes the continued targeting of airports in Libya, especially the capital's only airport, has significant implications for security and safety of the airports.

"The airports are affected by the security and safety situation," he told Xinhua. "Whenever they are affected by armed attacks, foreign companies are reluctant to return to their flights to Libya, in addition to the huge losses that large national carriers suffer because of delays in scheduled flights," he said.

The former pilot underlined the importance of "refraining from attacking airports or using them for military purposes." "Destroying airports means isolation of more than 3 million people, about half of the population of Libya," he said.

Libya's UN-backed government on Friday condemned attacks on the airports.

"The Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord condemns the cowardly airstrikes on civilian airports in the western region by Haftar's (army commander) militias, which damaged the infrastructure of the airports, frightened civilians, and disrupted flights," the UN-backed government said in a statement.

In July, the east-based army announced the destruction of the main control chamber of drones in Tripoli's Mitiga airport. In response, the UN-backed government said it destroyed drones belonging to the rival east-based army in Jufra district in central Libya.

The UN-backed government has been engaged in a deadly armed conflict since early April in and around the capital Tripoli against the east-based army, which is trying to take over the city and overthrow the government.

The east-based army, led by Khalifa Haftar, is allied with the east-based government, as the North African nation is politically divided between eastern and western governments.

Libya has been struggling to make a democratic transition amid insecurity and chaos ever since the fall of former leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011.

Xinhua

In first EU-funded project, Chinese contractor rises to environmental challenges

ZAGREB

AS Croatia was hit by another round of heat wave in early August, Slovakian holiday-maker Martin Tulipan was cooling off on the beach of Komarna, a small village facing the Mali Ston Bay in southern Croatia.

Less than one kilometer away from him, various construction vessels were busy around huge steel piles that had been knocked into the seabed of the Adriatic. "We heard that a Chinese company is building a bridge here. I am worried if they will follow EU rules regarding environmental safety," Tulipan told Xinhua.

A Chinese consortium led by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) won the bid to build

the first phase of the Peljesac Bridge and its access roads early last year.

The 2.4km-long cable-stayed bridge will connect the southern tip of the Croatian mainland to the Peljesac Peninsula, thus bypassing a short strip of Bosnian and Herzegovina's territory, giving Croatia its long-awaited territorial continuity and traffic convenience.

Tulipan's worry is shared by some who allege that Chinese contractors and investors do not care much about environmental issues as they explore overseas markets under the Belt and Road Initiative.

A few hundred meters south of the jolly beach, Xu Zengquan, head of the project's Safety and Environmental Protection Depart-

ment, explained why his company was confident in meeting strict environmental laws of the European Union (EU).

"First of all, the establishment of my department shows how much we care about environment," said Xu.

The construction site of the Peljesac Bridge happens to be in a natural reserve, where the water quality is among the best in the EU. The area is also dotted with oyster farms which have been producing European flat oysters since ancient Roman days. During the piling phase that lasted from January to May this year, 150 steel piles were knocked into the seabed, with the longest pile measuring at 130 meters.

Noise was inevitable. To deal

with it, CRBC introduced "air bubble", a noise-cancelling technology that was originally developed to reduce noises of submarines.

The efforts seemed to be effective, as sound-sensitive dolphins could still be spotted during the piling phase. Xu showed a video clip on his cell phone featuring dolphins jumping out of the water near a construction vessel in March.

After piling, drilling would start inside the hollow piles to reach deeper into the seabed. Following local environmental requirement to maintain water quality, the contractor pumps out the silt and takes it to a dumping site 20 nautical miles away.

As an experienced engineer who has participated in many

major infrastructure projects like the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway, "Go Green" has always been an important principle to Xu. He understands that this is also a guideline of the Chinese government as it encourages enterprises to be actively involved in Belt and Road projects overseas.

Working on an EU project is even more challenging to Xu's company because of the profound system of well-established laws and regulations.

Fortunately, a local consortium led by Zagreb-based IGH is tasked with supervising the project, and CRBC has taken its advices on various aspects including environmental protection.

"This is our first EU-funded infrastructure project. We are

studying EU rules and regulations and trying to implement them. We have also learned a lot from our local supervisor," Xu told Xinhua. Garbage disposal is another major environmental issue that has to be dealt with, as more than 400 workers, engineers and managers are currently working on the project.

CRBC has hired four local companies to take care of different kinds of garbage. Containers and dustbins for kitchen waste, paper, batteries, oil and chemicals can be found everywhere. There are tanks on the vessels to ensure not a single drop of dirty water is dumped into the sea.

CRBC has also paid over one million kuna (150,000 U.S. dollars) to local company Tehnix for four

sets of Biorotor garbage disposal systems.

Thanks to all these environmental protection measures, the huge project that costs 280 million euros (310 million U.S. dollars) and takes 36 months has so far received only one complaint, indirectly, from residents of Brijesta, a village in the nearby municipality of Ston.

"We heard from Ston that some people from Brijesta had complained about a dusty unpaved road on the peninsula. We took immediate action by hiring local fire engines to spray water on that road," said Xu, emphasizing that CRBC respects local community and values social responsibility.

Xinhua

The
Guardian

SPORT



United States' Donovan Mitchell, right, shoots over Spain's Rudy Fernandez during the second half of an exhibition basketball game Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif. (AP Photo)

Gregg Popovich faces tough numbers game for World Cup

ANAHEIM, Calif.

WHEN Gregg Popovich was cut from the 1972 U.S. Olympic basketball roster, those making the decision took the easiest way out. They posted a note.

"Clueless people," Popovich said, 47 years later, grinning to at least try to suggest it doesn't still bother him too much.

It'll soon be time for Popovich to walk in those same decision-making shoes, when he has to pare USA Basketball's roster from 13 players to 12 in time for the FIBA World Cup this month.

All 13 remaining hopefuls were on the team plane Saturday to Australia. So when the last cut gets made – expect it about Aug. 27, unless injuries happen – a guy will see his gold-medal hopes come to a quick end.

And no, Popovich is not looking forward to this.

"When you cut people from your regular NBA team, it's difficult," said Popovich, USA Basketball's men's national coach. "We're going to have to do that. And it's going to be even more so. I'm dreading having to do that. But it's got to get done."

There have been more than 50 NBA players linked to this World Cup team at some point in the last year or so, most of them dropping out of consideration on their own, citing schedule demands or concerns.

A few others were eliminated after injuries. Only two to this point – Miami's Bam Adebayo and Chicago's Thaddeus Young – were actually cut, those moves coming after the first week of training camp in Las Vegas. It would have been 14 players going to Australia, but Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox decided Saturday to leave the team.

So there's one cut left.

It will be downright brutal.

"It just means that guys are doing their jobs," Milwaukee's Khris Middleton said. "We're making it as tough as it can be on them. I think guys have been great all camp, just being positive, bringing energy and playing as hard as they can, giving their body up for everybody else. So that's a huge thing for everybody."

It would seem like there are a handful of locks to make the team: Kamba Walker, Donovan Mitchell, Harrison Barnes, Mason Plumlee, Myles Turner and Middleton. They were starters Friday night against Spain – Plumlee started the first half, Turner the second, with the U.S. still mixing and matching.

Jayson Tatum played more minutes than nearly everyone Friday. Joe Harris – the NBA's best 3-point shooter last season – should be on this team based on the importance of shooting from deep in the international game. Brook Lopez should make the team for the same reason since his 7-foot frame and 3-point game seem made for the FIBA stage.

That's nine, or four guys left for three spots.

Marcus Smart is a bit of a wild card – unable to play in either the Spain game or the intrasquad scrimmage Aug. 9 because of a calf issue, though the fact that he's still on the roster strongly suggests the U.S. has him in its plans. Assuming he's healthy now, pencil him into a spot. (If he's not healthy, that makes the decision obvious and simple.) Jaylen Brown brings toughness, and he's played well enough to merit a uniform as well.

That, if the U.S. is keeping Smart, makes it 11 players.

That would mean two guys remain for one spot.

Arguments for both can be made. Kyle Kuzma played very well against Spain on Friday night and teammates have raved about his effort in camp. Derrick White was a select-teamer before getting called up, and plays for Popovich in San Antonio. It certainly would make sense to have someone in the team room fluent in Popovich's hows and whys.

There is no obvious solution, no easy way out of this conundrum for Popovich, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo and the rest of the U.S. coaches.

"From top to bottom, everybody is hungry and wants to prove something – that we can get this job done," Middleton said.

If nothing else, Popovich won't be sending the unlucky-to-be-cut guy a note.

The easiest thing he could have done after the Spain game is tap those who didn't make it on the shoulder, deliver a fond adieu and offer well-wishes for NBA training camp next month.

Instead, he'll bring 13 guys to the other side of the world, spend another 10 days or so squeezing every bit of effort out of them, teach them some more about basketball and wine, and then decide which one to send home.

Sounds like how he wishes he was treated in 1972. Asked why he didn't pick the final roster before Australia, Popovich was succinct.

"It seemed like the right thing to do," he said.



Pupils from special primary schools from across Dar es Salaam take part in a race that took place at the Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park in the city on Sunday. Al Muntazir Primary School organized the event. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Barty upset in Cincy semifinal; Djokovic also knocked out



Ashleigh Barty, of Australia, serves to Svetlana Kuznetsova, of Russia, during the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, in Mason, Ohio. (AP Photo)

MASON, Ohio

ASHLEIGH Barty's chance to move back to No. 1 was only one victory away. At the end of an up-and-down week, she didn't have another comeback left.

Neither did Novak Djokovic, who came away with yet another disappointment in Cincinnati.

Barty lost to Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open on Saturday. Djokovic ended the day with another stunner, getting overwhelmed by Daniil Medvedev's serve as the Russian pulled out a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

It's been that kind of week in Cincinnati, with top players in both brackets either struggling or hurt heading into the U.S. Open.

The women's bracket has a lot of questions with New York just around the corner. No. 1 isn't one of them.

Barty's seven-week run atop the field ended when Naomi Osaka edged ahead of her in the latest ranking. A victory Saturday would have moved Barty back ahead for the U.S. Open. Instead, she dropped the opening set for the third straight match and this time, there was no digging out.

"A week that we battled through,"

Barty said. "I think at times I played some good stuff. At times, I played some pretty awful stuff."

Which will it be for Barty at the Open? And will Osaka be in good enough shape to defend her title?

Osaka dropped out of her semifinal match Friday with discomfort in her left knee that caused her worry. She still plans to play in New York, but it's unclear whether the knee will be a problem.

And then there's Serena Williams, who retired in the finals at Toronto last Sunday because of back spasms. She also withdrew from Cincinnati before her first match, but stuck around to cheer sister Venus until her loss in the quarterfinals.

A resurgent Kuznetsova gave Barty no openings, knocking off a top-five player for the second time this week to reach her first final of the season. The 153rd-ranked player is recovering from seven-month layoff because of a knee injury.

In her ninth tournament of the season, she got her game together, winning her first Premier-level semifinal since 2017 at Madrid.

"Well, sometimes in life it's like this," Kuznetsova said. "It's like really small things change everything. Definitely it's

different momentum I have now."

She'll face Madison Keys, who beat Sofia Kenin 7-5, 6-4 with the help of 14 aces. Keys ended her streak of failing to make it past the second round of her last three tournaments, playing through heat and humidity all week without problem.

"I feel really good" she said. "Every day I'm kind of waking up, hoping that everything still feels like it's in one piece and it feels really good."

In the men's bracket, Djokovic overcame concerns about his right elbow but couldn't prevail over Medvedev's 14 aces, some of them on 128 mph second serves. Djokovic had to problem with his right elbow, which tightened on Friday night.

Djokovic won the tournament for the first time last year, getting the only Masters 1000 title that had eluded him. He felt good about his chances heading into the U.S. Open.

"I see mostly positives in my game," Djokovic said. "Today I did lose a match, but I didn't do too much wrong. I lost to a player who was playing amazing."

Medvedev reached the final at Montreal last week and lost to Rafael Nadal. He's back to a title match again after fighting off a break point midway

through the second set and closing with a flurry, winning 12 of the last 14 points to even the match and take the momentum.

He'll face David Goffin, who reached his first Masters 1000 final by beating Richard Gasquet 6-3, 6-4. Goffin also is on an upswing after falling to No. 33 in the ATP rankings on June 10, his lowest since September 2014.

"Of course, it was a tough period there," Goffin said. "I was coming back from injuries. I had some trouble with my confidence. I couldn't find my rhythm, my game. So it's great now. I'm feeling great. I'm back at my best tennis."

The men's bracket also took several notable hits throughout the week.

Originally billed as a reunion of the Big Four – Djokovic, Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray together for the first time since January – it quickly lost its luster. Nadal dropped out after winning the Rogers Cup, citing fatigue. Murray played singles for the first time since hip surgery in January and lost his opening match.

And Federer, the seven-time champion, failed to reach the weekend, losing in the quarterfinals.

AP

Guardiola hails City despite VAR 'deja vu'

MANCHESTER, England

THERE was plenty to occupy Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola's thoughts after Saturday's 2-2 draw with Tottenham Hotspur – the VAR decision to over-rule an injury time 'winner' from Gabriel Jesus and a touchline row with striker Sergio Agüero, prominent among them.

But while the emotions of an incident-packed and controversial game were clearly still raw, the Spaniard had not forgotten just how well his City side had played.

With Kevin De Bruyne back to his best after injury limited his influence last season and with club record signing Rodri adding new steel at the back of the midfield, City were dominant for large stretches, playing Guardiola's brand of football with real verve and remarkable precision.

There have been no shortage of outstanding displays in the past two title winning campaigns, but for the former Barcelona boss, this display was right up there with them.

"We played incredible. One of the best games we've played in our time together. The way we controlled right and left and created chances ... and Tottenham they want to press they could not do that," he said.

"We play against Tottenham, one of the best in Europe, and it was an incredible performance. Unfortunately we cannot win. We lose two times against Tottenham because of VAR and last season it was offside and today it was hands. And that's all."

Ah, VAR, there is no avoiding the topic and when video officials ruled out Jesus's late strike, after spotting the ball striking the arm of City's Aymeric Laporte, Guardiola said he was feeling a sense of "deja vu" – last season his team were knocked out of the Champions League by Spurs after a late Raheem Sterling 'goal' was ruled out by VAR for offside.

"I thought we left that situation in Tottenham in the Champions League last season. But it is the same. The referee and VAR disallow it. It's the second time - it's tough. It's honestly tough but it's the way it is," he said.

Guardiola largely side-stepped journalists' questions about the incidents but could not resist some sarcasm suggesting one questioner "go to London and ask the big bosses".

The Spaniard highlighted several decisions so far this season which he views as inconsistent and gave particular focus to a first half incident where he felt Rodri had been fouled inside the box.

"It's a corner and (Erik) Lamela goes over Rodri, who goes down. But VAR in that moment was taking a coffee," he said.

His counterpart, Mauricio Pochettino, said he was sure that he would also end up on the wrong end of such decisions.

"We need to accept that (VAR). I was a little bit critical of VAR but now we have to accept the rules. Now it benefits us. No doubt it won't benefit us at other times. It's a rule we need to accept," he said.

REUTERS

Advantage Liverpool as City fume over Spurs stalemate

MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER City were held to a controversial 2-2 draw at home to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, allowing Premier League title rivals Liverpool, who won 2-1 at Southampton, to gain an early two-point advantage.

Only a point separated the two sides at the end of last season, with City winning their final nine home games, but their first outing of this campaign at the Etihad ended in a draw after a VAR review rubbed out Gabriel Jesus's injury-time effort.

The Brazilian drove in what looked like the winner but, as City celebrated, VAR officials spotted a handball by City defender Aymeric Laporte before Jesus struck home.

The incident had echoes of City's Champions League exit to Spurs in April, when they also had what would have been a decisive late goal ruled out by VAR.

"It was deja vu, deja vu," said City manager Pep Guardiola, unhappy at what he saw as inconsistency in the use of the video system.

City took the lead in the 20th minute through a Raheem Sterling header but three minutes later Erik Lamela brought Spurs back level.

Sergio Agüero restored City's lead 10 minutes before the break, with the excellent Kevin De Bruyne once again the provider with a low ball.

Mauricio Pochettino made an inspired Spurs substitution when he sent on Lucas Moura in the second half and the Brazilian scored with his first touch, beating Kyle Walker to head in a Lamela corner.

But despite an outstanding contest, the game will inevitably be remembered for the late overturning of Jesus's goal.

A nervy Liverpool, meanwhile, made it two wins from two as Sadio Mané scored against his former club.

Jürgen Klopp's side, who had been in action in Istanbul on Wednesday when they beat Chelsea in UEFA's Super Cup, struggled to get going at St Mary's but produced a moment of quality at just the right time, Mané brilliantly giving them the lead on the stroke of half time.

Mané's 20th goal in all competitions in 2019 settled Liverpool who were vastly improved after the break, with Roberto Firmino making it two after capitalising



Manchester City's Sergio Agüero scores their second goal against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday. - Reuters photo

on a defensive mistake from Saints.

Danny Ings's late goal against his former club was mere consolation for Southampton as Liverpool made it 11 consecutive Premier League wins, equalling their best winning streak in the competition.

"Once we scored the first goal it was easier for us. I'm sorry it is against my old team and sorry I have to score but I'm wearing a Liverpool shirt now," said Mané.

HARD WORK FOR ARSENAL

Earlier, Arsenal also kept up a 100 per cent record but made hard work of getting the better of a determined Burnley side at the Emirates, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's seventh goal in four appearances against Burnley earning Arsenal a 2-1 win.

Arsenal manager Unai Emery gave first starts to new signings David Luiz and Dani Ceballos, with the latter involved immediately, setting up Alexandre Lacazette for Arsenal's opener.

Burnley, though, were level before half time through Ashley Barnes, who scored his third goal of the season from close range.

After the break, Ceballos continued to stand out, setting up Aubameyang for his superb winner in a match which saw Burnley have more shots at goal.

"In a lot of moments we couldn't impose our gameplan because they pushed and their gameplan was a struggle for us," Emery said.

Last season's Championship top goal-

scorer Teemu Pukki took his Premier League tally to four with a hat-trick to earn Premier League new boys Norwich a 3-1 win over Newcastle United.

Everton were far from their best against manager Marco Silva's former side Watford, but Brazilian Bernard's first home Premier League goal was enough for the hosts to secure the 1-0 victory.

A penalty conceded inside 40 seconds set Aston Villa on the back foot against Bournemouth, Josh King converting, before Harry Wilson put the visitors 2-0 in front.

Villa, who also lost their opening match, piled on the pressure in the second half but Douglas Luiz's 30-yard stunner was all they could muster in reply.

REUTERS

Bale to stay after helping Madrid to win at Celta - Zidane

VIGO

COACH Zinedine Zidane said Gareth Bale will remain at Real Madrid this season after the Wales forward produced an inspiring performance in a 3-1 win at Celta Vigo on Saturday after a summer of uncertainty.

Bale created Madrid's opening goal, which was scored by Karim Benzema, with a superb change of pace down the left wing and was a constant threat to Celta while he also contributed to Madrid's defensive work.

Toni Kroos later stretched the visitors' lead with a superb strike after Luka Modric had been sent off for Madrid, while Lucas Vazquez added a third later on.

Bale was not expected to stay in the Spanish capital this season after a tense stand-off with Zidane during pre-season, with the coach openly stating Bale was set to leave and even remarking: "If he leaves tomorrow, all the better."

He was reported to be on the verge of signing for Chinese club Jiangsu Suning in July but the move was called off and his chances of holding down a place in the team increased after fellow forward Marco Asensio sustained a serious knee injury.

When new arrival Eden Hazard was ruled out for three weeks after

picking up a muscle problem on Friday, it again boosted Bale's chances of playing.

However, Zidane said he had always intended to pick Bale against Celta and added the forward would not leave the club any time soon.

"He's going to stay and we all have to think of that as a positive thing," Zidane told a news conference.

"We have to focus on this season and nothing else. The injury to Hazard was bad luck for us but it didn't change the plans we had for Bale in this game. Gareth and everyone else here is going to show this shirt the respect it deserves."

Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois also praised Bale's performance and credited his side for making such a strong start to the campaign after a worrying run of results in pre-season. "We weren't surprised at all when Bale was named in the team because the boss counts on every single player and then decides the starting 11. Gareth played an outstanding game," he said.

"We worked hard in pre-season but results didn't go our way for different reasons, but the season starts with the first game, not before."

"We played very well in the first half then in the second we fought hard together with a man down."

REUTERS

'Neymar has spat on the PSG shirt and its fans' - Rothen

PARIS

NEYMAR has 'spat on the shirt' of Paris Saint-Germain in trying to force a move away from the club, according to former winger Jerome Rothen.

The Brazilian has spent the summer angling for a move and seems to be getting closer to a return to La Liga – either with former club Barcelona or Real Madrid.

Barca fans chanted his name as they watched their side labour to defeat Athletic Club in the opening game of the Spanish season, while the PSG crowd made their displeasure with him clear during their recent win over Nimes.

"I have lots of people around me who liked him," Rothen told Le Parisien. "I say it in the past tense because he has spat on the shirt and on those people who spend a good part of their salary on the season tickets that pay his wages."

"When he says that the best memory of his career is the comeback with Barcelona, which was the biggest disappointment in the history

of PSG, it's disgusting.

"He will leave. The discussions are only dealing with the financial arrangements, the concessions. The best thing is for him to leave as soon as possible and move on. It will be a loss, because any team is stronger with Neymar than without."

While Neymar might be leaving, his strike partner Kylian Mbappe has committed his future to the club – for this season, at least – and is set to shoulder more responsibility this year. Still only 20, Mbappe will be the undisputed star in Paris once Neymar leaves his spot in the limelight. Rothen thinks Neymar's exit could even prove to be a positive for the squad as a whole.

"PSG don't suffer from a lack of talent, rather a lack of team cohesion," he added. "So hopefully his departure will close their ranks."

"Mbappe must step up again this year and take control of the team. The departure of Neymar must allow PSG to build a very strong team. Especially if [Phillipe] Coutinho arrives."

(Agencies)

Manchester United-Wolverhampton Preview

LONDON

LOOKING to build on the foundation of a solid season-opening victory, Manchester United face an interesting challenge at Molineux on Monday, when a confident and in-form Wolverhampton side look to further their stellar start to the campaign.

United had some nervy moments to start their season last Sunday at Old Trafford facing Chelsea, with a poor clearance in the third minute leading to a Tammy Abraham shot that cannoned off the left post after it had beaten David De Gea. But a penalty earned by Anthony Martial led to a penalty converted by Marcus Rashford in the 18th minute, and those anxieties settled.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team would blow open the match in quick-fire succession in the second half, first through Martial in the 65th minute and Rashford completing his brace two minutes later. Summer signing and substitute Daniel James added a fourth nine minutes from time at the Stretford End, and while the 4-0 scoreline over Chelsea may have been flattering, the three points that came with it were deserved.

Aside from the near blemish early, United looked composed at the back as marquee summer signing Harry Maguire slotted in straightaway in central defence and worked well with Victor Lindelof. Solskjaer singled out the England international for his composed play with such high expectations given his record £80 million move from Leicester City and thinks there is more to come.

"He's very level-headed," Solskjaer said at his Friday news conference. "He's just as composed off the pitch as he is on the pitch. He's experienced, he's a big presence around the place, he's smiling and he's a personality that you like to have around."

"To have a cool head at the back is important. The defenders who are level headed and not too emotionally affected are great to have, for a manager and for a team. Harry's only been here for a little bit more than a week and he's been very good to have around the club."

The other trouble spot on the back line for much of last term – right back – was also a place of success as Aaron Wan-Bissaku looked confident both in attack and defence as little was generated by Chelsea's left flank.

For all the talk of Paul Pogba moving on in the August transfer window – something that could still happen across Europe – the France international was composed in partnership with Scott McTominay. He assisted on Rashford's second goal and was instrumental in the buildup for James' first United marker.

"I think Paul can do many jobs. He can do the attacking midfield job. Today, he was more of the link player and when you've got Victor Lindelof, Maguire and David De Gea at the back, you can play like that," Solskjaer said of Pogba. "He was asked to play that sitting role and he had to do lots of running in the first half, but we're fit and he's fit. That third goal is a fantastic pass and the run for the fourth – I just wanted him to go all then way and open his legs and finish it himself."



Nuno Espirito Santo - Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Solskjaer also discovered his best formation may be a 4-4-2 to give Rashford and Martial more space to use their pace as United found more success when Andreas Pereira and Jesse Lingard were in more reserved roles.

As United continue to learn about themselves, Wolverhampton (0-1-0) will enter this contest as the grizzled, veteran squad in which one point will not do after their Europa League adventure took another step forward. Wolves are through to the final playoff round opposite Serie A side Torino after a 4-0 dismantling of Armenia side Pyunik at home Thursday to advance 8-0 on aggregate – a record goal margin in European play for the club.

If they defeat Torino over two legs they

will enter the group stages of Europa League proper along with Arsenal and Manchester United.

"It's a great challenge for the club. They finished in the same position – seventh – in Serie A as we did in the Premier League, so it's a good battle," Wolves No. 2 John Ruddy told the club's official website about drawing Torino after notching a clean sheet. "The further you go in this competition, the tougher the opposition is going to be. We've got desires to do very well in this competition, and performances like we've put in already, in these early rounds, will stand us in good stead."

The lopsided first-leg victory allowed Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo to make nine changes to the XI that opened Premier League play with a scoreless draw

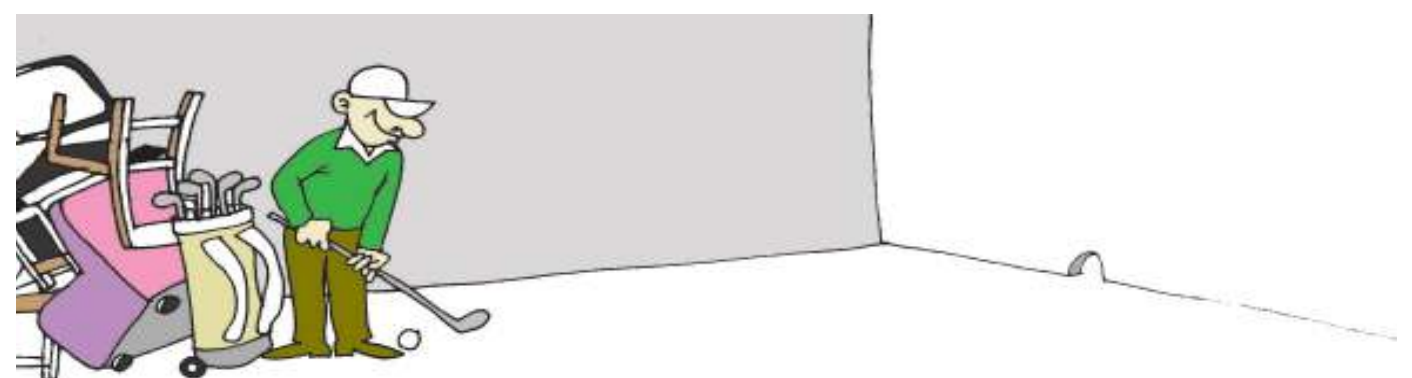
at Leicester City last Sunday, with only talisman Connor Coady and veteran Joao Moutinho as holdovers.

Summer signings Pedro Neto and Patrick Cutrone made impacts in their maiden starts – Neto scoring Wolverhampton's first goal and Cutrone grabbing two assists in a 10-minute stretch when Wolves struck three times – and England Under-21 international Morgan Gibbs-White added his first competitive goal.

"My teammates have been dying for me to score. Every day they're saying: 'come on Morgan, when's this goal coming?'" Gibbs-White said to the club's official website. "And luckily enough tonight I got the goal in front of the Molineux stadium crowd."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Advantage Liverpool as City fume over Spurs stalemate

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Managing Director Wasim Khan

Sri Lanka mull playing Test cricket in Pakistan

COLOMBO

TEST cricket might just return to Pakistan later this year. Sri Lanka could be open to playing at least one Test in the country, after a security delegation visited Lahore and Karachi, and gave SLC "very positive feedback". If everything goes to plan, Pakistan could host its first Test match since the Lahore attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in March 2009.

The series against Sri Lanka, Pakistan's first of the World Test Championship, was originally supposed to be played at a neutral venue, but the PCB made SLC an offer to play in Pakistan. With the offer in mind, SLC sent a security delegation headed by Mohan de Silva to assess security arrangements.

The security report, ESPNcricinfo understands, was tabled on Friday in Colombo. "The feedback we got from the security team was very positive," SLC CEO Ashley de Silva said. "We'll be talking to the PCB about some alternatives before we arrive at a decision. The government will be consulted as well."

The biggest concern is understood to be obtaining the players' consent to tour Pakistan. A Sri Lanka team played one T20I in Lahore in October 2017, but did so without a number of its prominent names.

Sri Lanka's then T20I captain, Upul Tharanga, pulled out, along with Lasith Malinga, Niroshan Dickwella, Suranga Lakmal and Akila Dananjaya. The team was captained by Thisara Perera, and the then SLC president Thilanga Sumathipala and sports minister Dayasiri Jayasekara accompanied the side to Lahore. The brief tour was successful, and was a major stepping stone that paved the way for PCB to convince teams to play more international cricket in Pakistan.

If Sri Lanka do play Test cricket in Pakistan, it will be a reciprocal gesture of sorts.

The PCB was the first board to send a team to Sri Lanka following the April 21 bombings in Sri Lanka this year, a Pakistan Under-19 team touring the island a month after the attacks.

There was no top-rung international cricket in Pakistan for six years, following the 2009 Lahore attack, but since 2015, the country has hosted limited-overs games featuring Zimbabwe (2015), World XI (2017), Sri Lanka (2017) and West Indies (2018) apart from a number of Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches.

A number of high-profile players have been part of these tours; the World XI side, for instance, was coached by Andy Flower and included five players from South Africa - including Faf du Plessis and Hashim Amla - three from Australia, two from West Indies and one player each from England, Bangladesh, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

These matches have made some headway towards changing the perception of Pakistan among potential visiting teams, and recently the PCB managing director Wasim Khan presented the country's case before the MCC World Cricket Committee. He emphasised the importance of bringing international cricket back to Pakistan, and invited the MCC to visit.

"It was a very positive meeting with the MCC," Wasim said. "Shane Warne, Kumar Sangakkara and Mike Gatting, the chair of the committee, were present there. They wanted me to present on the current security in the country, along with what impact playing no international cricket here has had, and what can be done to restore it."

"I am very, very confident that we will have an MCC team touring us in the near future. But, there are some matters related to security that need to be covered before they send their team. We will work very closely with the MCC to make sure that the tour happens."

The MCC World Cricket Committee, headed by Gatting, expressed its support to see the resumption of tours to the nation after 10 years, and said the MCC would be interested in sending a touring team of its own by way of re-opening the door - final security checks pending as ever.

AGENCIES

'Smooth transition' and lasting legacy on Shastri's mind

ANTIGUA

OVERSEEING a "smooth transition" and integrating youngsters into the national team is among Ravi Shastri's primary objectives as he looks ahead to the next 26 months of his coaching tenure.

On Thursday, Shastri was appointed for a second successive term, with the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by Kapil Dev deeming his international experience, track record and vision for the team superior to those of his nearest challengers Mike Hesson and Tom Moody.

"The [goal] for the next two years is to see a smooth transition happening. You will get a lot of youngsters coming in, especially in the white-ball set up," Shastri told BCCLTV in Antigua, where India are preparing for the two-Test series against West Indies starting August 22.

"There will be youngsters coming into the Test match set-up as well. We need to identify another three-four bowlers to add to the pool, those are the challenges so that the team at the end of my tenure in 26 months is in a happier place.

"The game has taught us to never back away from a challenge, you want to embrace it, that's our mental framework. Look at it straight in the eye, go out and compete. We believe wherever we play, it is home, just go and think in that fashion."

This is Shastri's fourth stint with the Indian team, since he first took on duties as a cricket manager in 2007, immediately in the aftermath of Greg Chappell's resignation following a first-round exit from the World Cup.

He joined India's backroom staff as team director during the 2014 tour of England, and remained director in the absence of a head coach, when Duncan Fletcher's tenure ended after the 2015 World Cup. Shastri was out of the set-up when Anil Kumble became head coach in June 2016, but returned as head coach after Kumble's resignation a year later.

Since then, Shastri has overseen Test match wins in South Africa and England, and a maiden Test series win in Australia, in 2017-18. Under Shastri, India most recently reached the semi-finals of the 2019 World Cup in the UK, topping the round-robin table before exiting with a loss to New Zealand. Now, he wants to carry forward from there to establish a legacy for teams to emulate.

"The reason why I came in here because I had the belief in this team, that they could leave a legacy that very few teams have left behind in years to come," he said. "Not just for the moment, but also at the end of it all, the kind of legacy other teams going down decades will want to try to emulate. That is the desire, we're on track, there's always room for improvement, and with youth coming in through the ranks, it's a very exciting time."

"Over the last four-five years, the biggest improvement has been the fielding, and the endeavor is to make this the best fielding side in the world. It is a clear dictat to whoever wants to play for this team, the standard of that particular player will have to be of the highest standard, especially in white-ball cricket." **AGENCIES**



Annadil Burhani Club's players celebrate a wicket the squad took during this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's match against Punjabi Kings in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Annadil Burhani clobber DCC in GP Gymkhana Shield tourney

By Guardian Reporter

ANNADIL Burhani cricketers have stepped up their quest for progression to the last eight of this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition after cruising to 45-run win over Dar es Salaam Cricket Club (DCC) in the city last weekend.

After having been presented with an opportunity to start batting, Burhani made full use of the opportunity, scoring 126 runs for seven wickets in 20 overs.

Top order batsman, Adnan, played a crucial role in his squad's acquisition of the triple digit total, as he notched 40 runs.

He had no mercy for DCC bowlers given he made the most of the latter's deliveries with his score consisting of two sixes and a four.

An early exit of opener Abbas that was caught by DCC skipper, Hozefa Hussein, from a delivery by Sufian with three runs to his name did little to prevent Burhani from recording the total.

Mulla Murtaza, who opened the innings with Abbas, chipped in with 22 runs.

Akil and Mustafa managed to withstand DCC bowlers' pressure for some time to register 16 runs and 13 runs respectively.

Divesh and Kaiz stood out of the rest of DCC bowlers during the team's turn with the ball, finishing their bowling spells with

two wickets apiece.

Chasing 127 runs to win turned out to be a daunting task for DCC given the outfit, in the end, notched 81 runs for six wickets in 20 overs to concede defeat.

Adil Kassam was the outfit's top run getter in the innings, posting 27 runs.

Faizan and Assan Aziz notched 20 runs and 15 runs not out respectively in the fruitless chase.

Juzer was instrumental in Burhani's ability to foil DCC chase, given he finished his bowling spell with four wickets and leaked 11 runs.

It turned out to be a second win for Burhani who had a less impressive start to their campaign in this year's competition.

They suffered losses to Punjabi Kings and Kutchi Leva in their first two matches.

Burhani, then, regrouped to cruise to a seven-wicket victory over Karnataka Kings in the following match.

They, as a result, condemned DCC to a fourth loss in a row. DCC had earlier succumbed to defeats to Karnataka Kings, Kutchi Leva and Punjabi Kings.

Hussein, whose side has, for that matter, missed out on a place in the competition's last eight, disclosed the outfit is mostly made up of players with little experience and the situation has made it difficult for them to make their presence felt.

"It was a difficult game for us, we lost the past three matches, we tried our best to finish it on a good note. I think the boys did well but then we need more practice and we need to work on our physique... I think the team is coming up and improving," he disclosed.

"Overall we are a new team. We have got some new players in the team and we are trying to build chemistry, coming into this tournament we were even not sure of our first eleven, so, we experimented in the first three matches and I think it is a tournament in which we are learning."

"Basically we have not yet settled but we hope to see more changes as we learn from our mistakes."

He noted he nevertheless has high hopes of the squad's ability to perform well in the next year's competition and book a place in the knockout stage.

"There is always a chance for our team to qualify for the quarterfinals and the semi-finals, we have done better than last year we had players from outside but this time, we mostly have home grown players."

"Some of our domestic players did not even know how to hold a bat but now we are slowly improving. I think we are underdogs but I see we will next year live up to our expectations."

Flexibles by David Chikoko



UJENZI
EATV

TONIGHT @ 21:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 UTAKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/ exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM