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Kenya minister reassures EALA on commitment to integration

By Guardian Reporter

KENYAN government authorities yesterday clarified the matter over the recent offensive utterances made by a Member of Parliament for Starehe Constituency in Nairobi.

Cabinet Secretary (minister) for East African Community and Regional Development, Adan Mohammed, informed the sitting of the East African Legislative Assembly on Thursday morning that the Republic of Kenya was "duly and fully" committed to the EAC integration process.

In addition, Mohammed, while dissociating the Government of the Republic of Kenya from the utterances



I thank Hon Mohammed and the High Commissioner of Kenya in the United Republic of Tanzania, Dan Kazungu for the swift action taken

of the MP, sounded a stern warning to other like-minded leaders in the country and region who may be harboring similar agenda.

And in a show of unity, Cabinet Secretary Adan Mohammed re-echoed the statement by Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to the National Assembly in Dodoma on Tuesday, reiterating commitment to the integration process and never to allow situations that "sow of seeds of discord" between the Tanzanian and Kenyan people, and with brothers and sisters in the East African Community.

"I would like to reiterate the Kenya Government's unwavering commitment to EAC integration, the EAC Treaty and all the protocols that we have signed and ratified," Mohammed told an attentive House. The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that Kenya's commitment to integration stemmed from the top - led by none other than President Uhuru Kenyatta.

"Mr. Speaker, Members of this

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National Service: Army flushes out fake certificates, medical reports



Minerals minister Doto Biteko (in sweater) pictured yesterday inspecting gemstones said to have been kept in safe custody at the Bank of Tanzania's Arusha branch but inexplicably intercepted on Wednesday at the Namanga border post, reportedly being smuggled into Kenya. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi.

“Those found to have conducted themselves unlawfully will be placed in custody and legal action will be instituted against them,” TPDF spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Gaudence Ilonda said

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) has said it will carry out a second verification of documents of youths selected to join the National Service voluntarily and on compulsory basis after reports that the process was marred with irregularities.

TPDF spokesman Lt Col Gaudence Ilonda said the army was in collaboration with various other institutions such as the National Identification Authority (NIDA), the Ministry of Education and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) after it emerged that some applicants presented fake certificates or paid bribes.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Lt Col. Ilonda said even medical results for applicants were fake and that already a team of doctors has been set for re-testing and will be followed by a series of verification exercises such as academic status, age and residential abode.

"We usually select people using various criteria such as population of the area where one comes from, educational background and other factors," he said, wondering how the



There are some youths who were even telling their parents to pay bribes so that they could be included, he declared

army can put to military training someone who was selected on the basis of a fake certificate.

He said it was risky for the country when such individuals take up National Service and are expected to be recruited into various security agencies. Without proper vetting you manufacture a bad generation of leaders, the military official noted.

"Those found to have conducted themselves unlawfully will be placed in custody and legal action will be instituted against them," he specified.

He said there are senior officials who were carting a list of names to be selected during the exercise, "reaching a point of using their influence to ensure the names are included."

"There are some youths who were even telling their parents to pay bribes so that they could be included," he declared.

The National Service Department, also known by its Kiswahili acronym JKT, announced a list of selected Form Six leavers from various schools across the Mainland directed to report to 17 camps (central training schools) from June 1 and June 7 for three months compulsory training in accordance with the law.

Govt amends contentious sections of Statistics Act

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

“THE government yesterday tabled changes to the Statistics Act 2015, whose previous amendments passed by the National Assembly in September last year criminalised dissemination of non-official information by introducing an appeals body, among others changes.

The changes are contained in the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act number 3 of 2019 tabled yesterday by Attorney General



In the performance of its functions, the Technical Committee referred to under subsection six shall be guided by accepted national and international standards on statistics

Dr Adelardus Kilangi via a certificate of urgency.

The body, given as a technical committee, will be formed by the Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister and is to be composed of members who are conversant with and possess expertise on matters relating to statistics and the subject to be determined.

"In the performance of its functions, the Technical Committee referred to under

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Late diagnosis, untreated cases derail drive on TB

By Guardian Reporter

“LATE diagnosis of tuberculosis and a significant number of cases that are not reached by treatment have been identified as major challenges derailing efforts to combat TB as Tanzania remains on the list of high burden countries globally with 150 new cases annually.

This was revealed yesterday during a meeting to mark the closure of a programme to combat TB by KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation dubbed 'Challenge TB'.

Health Deputy Minister Dr Faustine Ndungulile said TB was still a challenge to



Despite the challenges we have seen some achievements in various initiatives that we have taken including the establishment of detection centres where we managed to reduce diagnosing time from three days to hours

Tanzania, urging stakeholders to support the government as without detection being guaranteed, the war against TB would be much tougher.

"Despite the challenges we have seen some achievements in various initiatives that we have taken including the establishment of detection centres where we managed to reduce diagnosing time from three days to hours," he said.

The government has constructed more detecting centres to ensure more people are reached, he said, emphasizing that at the end of the programme the aim should be

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Govt stresses need for financial institutions to support key public development projects

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE government has called on Standard Chartered Bank and other financial institutions to support key public development projects in an effort to complement the government's industrialisation agenda.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office overseeing Investment, Angellah Kairuki, made the call on Wednesday when speaking at a Standard Chartered Bank dinner, which was part of welcoming bank's Chief Executive Officer, for Africa and Middle East, Sunil Kaushal, who is in the country for two days.

While in Tanzania, the bank's CEO met with Standard Chartered Bank clients, local and foreign investors to identify their main challenges hence came up with solutions to spur their businesses.

In her speech, Kairuki encouraged banks to provide loans to road, and power projects which are key in spearheading the country's socio-economic development.

She however lauded Standard Chartered Bank for organising such events to identify the main challenges facing local and foreign investors as well as meeting with government officials to see which projects the bank could support.

Kairuki also supported the bank's move to launch digital banking services, which is key in scaling up development.

For his part, Kaushal said the main aim of his visit was to help Tanzania become a middle income country by 2025, as well as helping local and foreign investors prosper in their investments and facilitating movement of capital and trade in supporting their clients.

"Tanzania has been our market for over hundred years, we want to tell the minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office-Investment that as the bank we want to facilitate

movement of capital, trade and get feedback from our clients so that we can protect transaction risk that can occur," he said.

In a bid to ease customer's access to banking services, so far the bank has launched its digital banking solution to allow clients enjoy the convenience of banking services anytime and anywhere along with a consistent online experience.

"We have used our own experts to develop digital bank and this is a big achievement that we have made for this year," he noted.

So far more than 8000 accounts have been opened in just 3 months in Dar es Salaam and Arusha and people benefited from such services.

He said digital financial inclusion is very important because it help people save their money, access to financial services, help entire communities drive economic growth and other issues.

The bank will continue to support Tanzanian government, provide capital/loans for local and foreign investors as well as identify what kind of projects that standard chartered bank can support Tanzanian government."

"As bank we see our clients as partners not as clients, he said.

For his part Bank of Tanzania, Deputy Governor, Financial Stability and Deepening, Dr Bernard Kibesse urged standard chartered bank and other banking institutions to put in place sound and rigorous systems and underwriting standards to mitigate credit risks and also having in place trustworthy employees who will not cooperate with scrupulous borrowers.

He also urge business community at large to exercise vigilance on repayment of loan facilities offered by banks and financial institutions to ensure among others, recycling loans in the economy as well as ensuring the banking industry become safe and sound.

The BOT will continue to strengthen the credit data registry whereas credit bureaus will access the same for weeding out hard-core non-performing borrowers out of the banking system by assigning poor credit



Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe greets journalists in Dodoma yesterday after a press briefing at which he launched e-tickets for long-distance trips on an experimental basis. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kenya reassures EALA on integration commitment

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Assembly are aware that the Kenyan President, Uhuru Kenyatta is on record on several occasions in his public addresses, making it abundantly clear that East Africans are welcome to visit Kenya, to invest, to visit for pleasure and even marry and settle in Kenya so long as they do so in accordance with local laws. That position has not changed. Kenya is at the forefront in the implementation of the various provisions of the Common Market Protocol, including the one on free movement of people and labour," the minister emphasized.

"Kenya and indeed all East Africans must get used to the idea of the EAC Common Market that provides for non-discrimination of citizens of other EAC Partner States on the basis of their nationality and guarantee protection of EAC citizens and their property as provided for under Article 7(2) of the EAC Common Market Protocol," Mohammed declared.

On Tuesday, a video clip of Charles Njagua Kanyi (Jaguar) emanated in his Starehe constituency, calling for expulsion of foreign nationals including East Africans from Uganda and Tanzania, from Kenya within 24 hours or be

forcefully removed.

The utterances did not sit easy in Kenya and across the borders. Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Macharia Kamau said Kenya regrets the careless and inciteful remarks while the government spokesperson, Col (Rtd) Cyrus Oguna assured foreign investors of their security, terming the remarks 'unfortunate'. The MP has since been arraigned in court and is facing charges of inciting voters against foreigners. The court is to rule on his bail application today.

In his address to the EALA yesterday, secretary Mohammed was categorical acts that

contravene the EAC Treaty would not be tolerated. "This incident is indeed a wake-up call to all of us to keep our eyes and ears open across the region, to safeguard against leaders advocating policies that are inconsistent with our East African integration agenda. We must not allow certain leaders to incite EAC citizens against one another on the one hand, and yet still urge our people to embrace our motto and spirit of One People One Destiny, on the other," the Cabinet Secretary intoned.

Following the Cabinet Secretary's statement and in the spirit of co-operation, Abdullah

Makeame, chairman of the EALA Chapter for Tanzania, swiftly moved to withdraw his notice to table a motion urging the EAC Partner States to ensure that freedoms, rights and treatments of East Africans as guaranteed under the EAC Treaty are adhered to.

Makeame thanked the Kenyan government for the assurances that it would defend the integration process to the hilt.

"I thank Hon Mohammed and the High Commissioner of Kenya in the United Republic of Tanzania, Dan Kazungu for the swift action taken," the EALA member moved before the House.



KNCV capacity building technical officer Eunice Moturi (L) briefs Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Faustine Ndugulle (R) on a sample of results of TB self-tests people conduct via mobile phone. This was shortly after he closed a Challenge TB project seminar in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Late testing, untreated cases derail drive on TB

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controlling TB and then eliminating it. Stakeholders need to align their plans with government policies and priorities so that the focus should be the same, he stated.

The programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) helps countries to develop a policy framework, train staff, expand diagnostic capacity and ensure that drugs and budgets have been put in place for nationwide access.

In addition, Challenge TB has supported the development and implementation of active pharmaco-vigilance systems and procedures to manage adverse events, both of which are necessary for the safe use of new and repurposed medicines.

KNCV Deputy Director Dr William Mbawala said only 46 percent of diagnosed patients receive treatment.

He said chronic TB is a burden to government because it takes long to treat.

Through the programme, Gen-xper machines were installed and increased detection, with detection increasing from 30 to 400 patients a year.

Tanzania has 154,000 TB patients and around 44 percent of the number are on treatment. The rest are not documented as to their whereabouts, says the ministerial director of Prevention Services, Dr Leonard Subi.

The burden of tuberculosis infection and active tuberculosis has rapidly increased in Tanzania.

TB prevalence increased five-fold from 11,700 cases in 1983 to 61,000 cases in 2001. It is the leading opportunistic infection among HIV-positive persons, and a leading cause of death among HIV infected people, he added.

Govt amends contentious sections of Statistics Act

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subsection six shall be guided by accepted national and international standards on statistics," Dr Kilang'ani stated.

Other changes were made in section 24 which now says a person shall not publish non-official statistics without consultation with the Statistician General, where the consultation shall involve discussion on data

sources, methodology used, analysis, data interpretation and results to be published.

Where a person is not satisfied with the decision of the Statistician General under the new changes he or she may refer the matter to the Technical Committee for determination.

"Where data sources and methodology referred to under subsection two are found to meet acceptable

national and international standards, such non-official statistics shall be published," the amendment reads.

But as per the Act's section 37 subsection four, disseminating non-official information remains a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment and fine. The proposed amendment of the section says that any person who publishes non-official statistics contrary to the provisions of this Act,

commits an offence and shall, upon conviction by a competent court, be liable "in the case of an individual, to a fine of not less than one million shillings but not exceeding five million shillings or to imprisonment for a term of not less than six months but not exceeding twelve months or to both; and in the case of an institution, to a fine of not less than ten million shillings but not exceeding fifty mil-

lion shillings."

The endorsement of the amendments by the legislature last year was received with mixed reactions, with opposition MPs and civil society organisations saying the changes were meant to limit the freedom of institutions and individuals involved in collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical information for survey and non-survey activities.



Azania Bank Ltd managing director Charles Itembe (C) speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of a campaign dubbed 'Amsha Ndotu', whose aim is to sensitise customers and other Tanzanians on the importance of saving for a more financially stable future. He is with business development director Rhimo Nyasango (L) and senior manager (banking operations) Jane Chinamo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Reinstating VAT on pads wrong - NGO

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

STAKEHOLDERS engaged in youth affairs in Arusha region have appealed to the government to scrap Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads, insisting the decision may lead to hiked prices of the products.

They are concerned that reinstatement of taxes on sanitary towels will add a burden to end users, among them young women including school girls.

The Director of Jitegemei Vijana Foundation (JIVITA) which works to support youth in schools, Raymond Mashambo said that the government decision to reinstate VAT on the tow-

els will result into many girls failing to afford them.

He was speaking at a function where JIVITA handed over sanitary pads to girls at Elizabeth secondary school in the city.

Stakeholders in the region have been providing sanitary pads to girls from poor families enrolled at various secondary schools, he stated, noting that they arrived at the decision after realizing that many girls from poor households were sometimes forced to miss classes when periods come up.

"We offer free pads under our programme, 'Mwanao'. We have so far reached many girls in five districts, namely Longido, Monduli, Karatu,

Arusha Urban and Arusha Rural," he said, specifying that the aim is to reach girls in the entire region.

"By giving sanitary towels to the girls we help them realize their life dreams as they won't miss classes when beset with their periods," he said.

When VAT was scrapped, the wholesale price dropped to between 750/- and 1,000/- per pack but with VAT, the wholesale price is likely to reach 1,500/- or 2,000/- per package.

Elizabeth secondary school headmistress Sister Bernadetha Kessy appealed to the government to remove VAT on pads as most of the girls come from poor families and cannot afford

to buy sanitary towels when the price rises.

A student, Victoria Simba said she was depending on pads from volunteers. "At times, the school management buys them for us," she said.

Last week when contributing to the 2019/2020 budget estimates Kigoma Urban MP Zitto Kabwe (ACT-Wazalendo) challenged the government to re-think its decision to reinstate Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads, pointing out the need for to conduct a survey to measure access during the exemption year.

Zitto said tax reinstatement on sanitary towels paints a negative image of the country to the wider world.

3bn/- worth corporate investment strategy for 2019/21 inaugurated

By Francis Kajubi

VODACOM Tanzania Foundation is expected to spend 3bn/- in its new three-year Corporate Social Investment Strategy 2019/21, which was launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Vodacom Tanzania Managing Director, Hisham Hendi, said the new strategy seeks to actively engage with social interventions that promote human potential and drive technological innovation as a key engine for community development in order to nurture socio-economic transformation.

According to the MD the corporate socio strategy will focus on inclusive education by fostering equal quality education and increase access to technology in education. It will also focus on fostering equal productivity opportunities for Tanzanian women youth in agriculture.

"It will also focus on fostering promotion of climate action and ensure Tanzanian society thrive in sustainable environments and financial inclusion," said Hendi.

"Women and youth are the most affected in issues of social inequality and are particularly vulnerable to climate change effects, poverty and access to basic resources that are required to enable their full participation economically," added the MD.

He asserted that Vodacom Tanzania believes that through philanthropic programmes, socio-economic progress can be pioneered toward inclusive human development, equality and eradication of multi-dimensional poverty among marginalised communities.

"It is our hope that the interventions will pave the way for and contribute to the attainment of the sus-

tainable development goals (SDGS) and achievement of Tanzania's Development Vision 2025" added the MD.

Speaking of the social impact on the previous three year corporate social investment 2014/17, Rosalynn Mworira, Director of Corporate Affairs with Vodacom Tanzania, said the strategy was successful as it 2.88million beneficiaries directly and indirectly.

According to her the strategy enabled 2,513 Cooperative members access to financial inclusion and mobile safe cash, 60,023 students nation-wide had direct access to instant schools and 291 beneficiaries on agricultural access to start-up capital and skills development.

"We worked through 19 regions whereby 5,577 girls were empowered in Lindi Region, 40,055 beneficiaries were reached on donations-based. Total investment during the period amounted to 11.84billion/- that translates to 81.2 per cent positive delivery of social impact," said Mworira.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Josephat Kandege, said that the government is committed and had started taking measures in improving the education sector, health, infrastructure and energy.

"The government cannot meet the demands from this sectors alone without assistance and collaboration with the private sector. From this perspective the private sector is a core partner to making sure that socio and economic development are realised in our country," said Kandege.

At the event, Vodacom awarded its partners who run most impactful

EAC states urged to enforce regulations on alcohol abuse

By Special Correspondent,

Kampala

THE East African Alcohol Policy Alliance (EAAPA) has advised EAC governments to step up efforts to fight alcohol abuse in the region. EAAPA is a regional alliance of national alliances within the member states interested in the enhancement of alcohol control.

In a statement released by the Uganda Health Communication Alliance (UHCA) and Uganda Alcohol Policy Alliance (UAPA) to mark the 'International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, the alliance pointed out that alcohol remains one of the main obstacles to development and a key contributor to the disease burden; as well as a key detractor of the human capital.

This comes against the backdrop of the executive director of Butabika Hospital, Dr David Basangwa, who recently called on Parliament to pass the Alcohol Control Bill 2016 to control alcohol and substance abuse. He blamed alcoholism and drug abuse for the rising cases of mental illness.

"Mental illness is on the increase and currently, we have admitted about 950 patients in a facility that can take only 550 patients comfortably. Unfortunately, 40% of these are due to the use of alcohol and substance abuse. These numbers can be kept low if a law is passed," he said.

The WHO in 2014 estimated that the per capita consumption of alcohol in Uganda is 9.8 litres, but with a population of 58.7%

of abstainers from alcohol use, the total per capita consumption of the alcohol users shows worryingly high consumption levels.

In March 2013, a CNN study ranked Uganda 8th in the world and first on the African continent in liquor intake.

The statement revealed that the latest Global Alcohol Status Report of the World Health Organisation (WHO) shows that countries in Africa are now bearing the heaviest burden of alcohol-related disease and injury - even though other continents are still consuming more alcohol in total. WHO projects that alcohol consumption will increase around the world by 2025.

"We are very concerned about the rising of alcohol use within East Africa. This

is driven by increasing alcohol availability, marketing as well as reduced prices due to lapses in tax measures and other alcohol industry tactics," the alliance expressed.

"We do hereby call on the East African member states governments to move with the speed to enforce the Policy and Legislative regulations for the cut back on alcohol and we need to protect alcohol abstainers, in order to reduce the burden of death, disease, and disability within the region," they added.

The alliance also made an urgent call to the EAC governments to make use of high-impact, cost-effective alcohol policy solutions that are available and that are proven to reinforce the regional policy.

Police raid bus, seize 36 kilos of gemstones

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

POLICE in Arusha Region have seized 36 kilograms of gemstones, including tanzanite, at a town close to the Kenyan border.

Longido District Commissioner Frank Mwaisumbe said the gemstones were being smuggled for sale in the neighboring state. He said officials were yet to establish the value of the gemstones, noting that the gemstones were seized by law enforcers who received a tip off on an attempt to smuggle the gemstones.

The culprits were travelling in a bus plying the busy Arusha-Namanga road leading to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Another type of the seized gemstones was ruby, with the gems being found mixed with a consignment of rice, the DC noted.

"After receiving information on the attempt to smuggle the gemstones out of the country, we dispatched policemen and security officers who used sniffer dogs to locate the gemstones hidden in the bus," he elaborated.

Both the bus driver and conductor were being held by police for questioning after claiming that they have had no idea who owns the consignment.

Arusha regional minerals office staff said they expected to establish the actual commercial value of the seized consignment later in the day.



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The Tender will be closed on July 12, 2019 at 3.00 pm. No bids will be accepted after this time.

TICTS reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time and is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

Sealed tender bids should be submitted to the **TENDER BOX** located at TICTS Finance office in PSPF Commercial Buildings along Sokoine Drive, clearly marked with name of **Tender for Trucking Services** on the envelope and addressed as hereunder:

Chief Executive Officer
Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited
P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam
Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019

Email: ticts@ticts.com

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Public schools to gain as loggers lose timber

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AUTHORITIES in Mbeya region have decided to use a haul of timber seized recently from illegal loggers within protected forests to make desks for public schools.

Officials from the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) led by acting manager for the Southern Highlands zone Jane Kihwele on Wednesday handed over some 544 logs worth 10m/- to Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila, to make desks out of the haul.

Kihwele said the haul was piled up from unauthorized loggers in Chunya district forests in Mbeya region, in various operations since last year.

The decision to hand over the logs to authorities was made upon a request from RC Chalamila, to help tackle lack of desks in public

schools in the region, the manager noted.

"We decided to accept the request that the logs be used to make desks because we support the government's efforts to improve the education sector," she said.

RC Chalamila said he requested for the logs as a solution to anticipated high enrolment of Standard One pupils in the populous region as the new school year started in January 2019.

After his first request was accepted by TFS, the RC said he was to approach the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in the region for assistance in making desks using the logs.

"We have embarked on a programme to deal with the lack of desks. Our target is to ensure that by January next year the problem is solved completely," he said.

TFS has been fighting illegal log-

ging in protected areas in various parts of the country with a number of arrests and prosecution. But the war against the crime is obviously not an easy one since its own employees are sometimes implicated in the crime.

In September last year for instance, TFS suspended 11 officials over various wrongdoings related to illegal logging, with three of them arraigned on economic sabotage charges.

The suspension of officials followed revelation of illegal harvest of logs which had been dumped in villages and forests in various parts of the country.

The forestry agency explained that investigations conducted by the anti-poaching task-force under the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and TFS, implicated the suspended officials in the illegal harvests.



HOSPITALITY OPERATIONS MANAGER- (1 POST)

Mwiba Holdings Limited is registered Tanzanian Company under Companies Ordinance (Cap. 212) and a leading Hospitality company with its Operations in Arusha, Meatu-Simiyu and Mara Regions. We are currently looking for Hospitality Operations Manager to be part of our team and provide support to all our tourist facilities and enhance Photographic Safari Experience.

KEY RESULT AREAS/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Provide necessary input for annual budget formulation. Monitor and maintain operations and overhead costs in order to maintain maximum revenue of the Company.
- Convert the Company's Mission statement and Operation's Objectives to strategic plans and reviews; prepare and complete action plans; implement production, quality and customer-service standards; resolve problems; complete audits; identify trends.
- Assess and communicate work requirements for each department; planning, monitoring, appraising and reviewing work contributions of the Company.
- Ensure operations meet the Company's mission statement by implementing of a SOPS and standards.
- Develops Company's operations systems by determining product handling and storage requirements; develop, implement, enforce and evaluate policies and procedures for distribution and usage; develop processes for receiving & handling products, equipment utilization, inventory management and distribution to the field.
- Forecast requirements; prepare an annual budget; schedule expenditures; analyze variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Work closely with Management team to insure all required hospitality licenses and permits are available, compliant and renewed.
- Review and approve all operational invoices and ensure they are submitted for payment.
- Communicate guest issues with concerned departmental/modge/camp managers and devise ways of improving the customer experience including resolving problems and complaints.
- Work closely with the inventory and purchasing managers and their teams, to perform an analysis of internal inventory systems. Ensure effective utilization of inventories, purchasing systems and thereafter develop purchasing models and detailed SOP.

PROFESSIONAL AND INTERPERSONAL DETAILS

Education:

- A 3-years diploma/bachelor's degree in tourism or hospitality management from an internationally accredited tertiary institution.
- An advanced level of computer literacy with special focus on hospitality data use systems, as well as, Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

Experience and Skills:

- A minimum of 5 years of hospitality operations management.
- Ability to effectively listen, communicate and perform diplomatically with internal and external stakeholders, agents, guests and staff in all situations.
- High level of leadership skills as well as a team player who demonstrates the ability to build and develop successful department.
- Have the ability to work through periods of high demand and ready to work on weekends.
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Morogoro regional commissioner Dr Kebwe Steven Kebwe (R) has a quick word with Petrobena East Africa managing director Peter Kumaliwa, who was on recent visit to a paddy farm at Msowela village in Kilosa District that belongs to youths and is supported by the firm. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Investors in country's capital called upon to turn more focus on industry, agriculture sectors

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA regional administrative secretary Kessy Maduka said yesterday that investors have grabbed various investment opportunities in the country's capital noting that there is still ample room in the industry, agriculture, hotel, minerals and tourism sectors.

Maduka made the statement when speaking at a two-day investment workshop held in Dodoma. He said such investments will boost the country's economic growth. He said the city has a number of investment opportunities that can make investors generate a good income.

He informed participants that there are several potential investors who have shown interest to invest in different areas including gas business, construction of hotels and industries and the energy sector.

"We have so far received a request from Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) asking for 300 acres of land to construct a factory that will be making beers and other drinks using millet, which is also cultivated in our region", he noted.

Maduka called upon farmers to start engaging in large scale farming of the crop since the market will be available and reliable.

He said the Tanzania Petroleum Development Cooperation (TPDC) have submitted a request inquiring for permit to construct fuel storage and filling facility.

Another China firm—Sub Sahara Commercial limited has requested to con-

struct a five star hotel to be located near the new airport which is now under construction.

Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Investment Promotion Manager, John Mnali insisted on the need for investors to inject more money on construction of industries as the government is determined to achieve a middle income nation status through industrialisation.

Mnali noted that the government has put in place a conducive environment for investment procedures whereas it has established a one stop centre with officials from all the government departments and agencies responsible for registering projects.

Some of the authorities under the one stop centre are Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) immigration, National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Ministry of Land and Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).

TIC Executive Director, Geoffrey Mwambe was recently quoted saying investors prefer coming to Tanzania due to a number of factors including peace and political tranquility, economic stability, investment guarantees and rich natural resources which includes arable land, natural gas, extractive, tourist destinations and labour force.

Mwambe insisted that the government will continue to improve business and investment environment to lure more local and foreign investors.

Govt commends Muhas on progress made to improve quality of people's health

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has challenged the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS) to continue its ambitious efforts of improving the quality of scientific studies to address challenges affecting people's health.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Education, Science and Technology and Vocational Training Dr Leonard Akwilapo said yesterday when opening the 7th MUHAS Conference that kicks off from June 27th to 28th this year in Dar es Salaam.

He was speaking on behalf of the Minister for Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Education Prof Joyce Ndalichako who had other duties.

He said this year's theme "Health Research and Innovation for Sustainable Economic development" is in line with the fifth-phase government's vision of an industrialised nation.

PS said further that this year conference had drawn scholars, young scientists, academicians, development partners, policy makers, and other stakeholders from within and outside the country.

Dr Akwilapo said MUHAS had made many significant contributions towards improving the health and lives of the Tanzanian population.

Furthermore, through training of appropriately qualified human resource for health, providing quality public services in health issues, and conducting research is responsive to the needs of the country and the society at large.

"It is only through researches that we get innovative solutions that can transform the economy of our country for the wellbeing of our people," he said.

He said the group of scholars have come together to discuss, share and exchange scientific knowledge that will eventually improve human health practices and hence foster the nation's socio-economic development.

"I have been informed that activities in establishing the Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences at Mloganzila Campus are progressing well. It is the government's belief that this centre will support MUHAS in conducting cutting-edge research in health and provide state-of-the-art health care services here in the country," he said.

"With the added benefit of reducing the number of patients referred abroad for treatment, this will save a significant amount of money that the government spends on this matter, money that can then be directed to improve the health system and other necessary obligations," he added.

PS underscored the growing awareness of the MUHAS annual scientific conferences to stakeholders noting it was evidenced by the ever-increasing number of delegates from 280 during the first conference in 2013 to 428 last year and hopefully even a greater number this year.

According to him, it showed that a series of annual scientific conferences had become an acceptable forum for disseminating new scientific findings and innovations created by the University.

For his part, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden Ulf Kallstig said Sweden has been supporting MUHAS in conducting research such as malaria and HIV.

The envoy applauded MUHAS saying it was dominant research centre since it had published papers used within the country and abroad.

The MUHAS Vice Chancellor, Prof Andrew Pembe underscored the need to have enough researchers as one of the big challenges.

"MUHAS is proud to have done a number of researches that has contributed to quality health services and wellbeing of the country people," he said.

Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

- Nusu Lita (500ml) – TSHS. 500/=
- Lita Moja na Nusu (1.5L) – TSHS. 1,000/=
- Bei Hizi Elekezi ni Kwa Nchi Nzima
- Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro ni Maji ya Kuaminika Kila Siku

Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayojua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO
CONDENSED WATER



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

African countries advised to join ARINSA to curb financial crimes

By Francis Kajubi

AFRICAN countries have been advised to join the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA) in a bid to strengthen their capacities in fighting illicit financial flows crimes that costs the continent billions of dollars annually.

At this year's ARINSA General Meeting held recently in Dar es Salaam, a globe chief of a unit working against financial crime told The Guardian that money laundering, currency smuggling and drug dealing affects the continent heavily thus joint efforts are needed to settle the situation.

Financed by United Nations agencies, ARINSA helps member states with assistance training and technologies in financial fraud investigations, Asset tracking and recovery, Asset management, Cybercrime control, Wildlife crime control and in fighting terrorism.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Head of the Global Programme against Money Laundering, Michael van

Dyk, told this paper that although ARINSA marks its tenth year of existence, only sixteen countries in the continent have joined ARINSA.

"African countries need to come together in a fight against illicit financial flows crimes. A whopping US\$50 billion leaves the continent annually this way whereby 40 per cent of it is proceeds of crimes," said Dyk.

He asserted that the current research on such issue by UNODC released in 2011, titled 'Estimating Illicit Financial Flows Resulting from Drug Trafficking and other Transnational Organized Crimes', shows up to US\$3 trillion is being laundered globally annually.

Tanzania Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Biswalo Mngana, who is also the sitting President of ARINSA, told this paper that a sum of US\$21.4 million was forfeited last year that was circulated in illicit financial flows crimes.

"Out of which US\$1.3 million and another 5.3 million Euros was found to be deposited in money laundering accounts. The rest of US\$21 million covers

values of properties, cars, drug dealing and currency smuggling," said the DPP.

He added that his office is looking forward to hand over gold bullions weighing 25.5 Kilogramme in next few days to come to President Magufuli and the Treasury Permanent Secretary that his office forfeited recently. However, he couldn't reveal the value of the bullion and the criminals.

Kenyan Deputy DPP, Jacob Ondari, told this paper that his office in collaboration with the Kenyan Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission have been working on Windward case (Jersey case) where Jersey authorities convicted a company established by former high ranking officials for money laundering worth 500Ksh/-million (US\$5 million).

According to him, African countries are also victims of tax evasion and grand corrupt moguls are within the government system. He pointed out that US\$40 million was last year recovered from tax evasion by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA).

"In May this year, a former Director of a key state institution was convicted

of fraudulent acquisition of public property in relation to corruption and was ordered to pay a fine of 7.3Ksh/-million (US\$73,000)," said Ondari.

The problem of ill-gotten money and properties also affects the most developed country in the continent, South Africa. South Africa's Director of Public Prosecution, Shamila Batohi, told this paper that among other cases her office is currently working on a currency smuggling case of a suspect who tried to smuggle R608,000 and preservation order for the amount was issued.

"For instance late last year, an amount of R9 million in cash was found concealed on one person's baggage whilst travelling to Dubai from ORT International Airport. The cash was preserved by Asset Forfeiture Unit of the National Prosecuting Authority," said Batohi.

The 16 ARINSA member states are Angola, Botswana, eSwatini, Tanzania, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia.



Tigo northern zone manager Lillian Mwalongo (C) symbolically presents 200 umbrellas to the chairperson of a group of Arusha Region small traders, Amina Njoka (R), yesterday. Looking on is the group's vice chairman, Iddi Hussein. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar's Dr Kanabar dies in the US

By Joseph Mwendapole

A Dar es Salaam-based prominent medical doctor, who is also a founder and chairperson of Regency Medical Centre, Dr Rajni Kanabar has died in United States of America.

Dr Kanabar died on June 25, this year at the age of 78. He died in Dallas, Texas where he went to seek further treatment.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Regency Medical Centre, funeral services are expected to be held in Dallas on Thursday.

Dr Kanabar was born on 9th November 1940, in Mwanza and he is a third generation of Indian origin in Tanzania.

As a Medical Practitioner MBBS (Ahmedabad, India), Dr Kanabar possesses an exemplary record of community service spending more than three decades working for community. In 1979, Dr Kanabar pioneered the 'Tanzania Heart Babies Project', which continues its invaluable, life-saving work to date under the phase wise banner of Mwanza Round Table, International Heart Relief Foundation of USA, Ministry of Health of Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Others who contributed to heart babies project are Tanzania Heart Foundation, Lions Club of Dar es Salaam (Host), Regency Medical Centre Ltd Dar es Salaam, Global Understanding Foundation of Dr Kiran Patel USA, Rodney Mutie Mengi Foundation Dar es Salaam and Dr Ryaz Hassanli Medical Relief Foundation USA.

His long-standing connection and partnership with Lions Clubs Interna-

tional has also brought unassailable gains to the community at large.

Partnering with state-of-the-art Indian hospitals, world-class Indian surgeons and the Indian High Commission has led to countless Gratis Visas for disadvantaged Tanzanian children.

Also, sending thousands of non-cardiac tertiary care patients to India at affordable rates, Dr Kanabar has collaborated with Indian Hospitals to Conduct Medical camps at Regency Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam.

These range from free eye screening, diabetes, spine, hip and knee joint, neurosurgical and specialised cancer screening health camps to cardiac checkups and free cataract surgeries for non-affording patients.

Over the past 12 years, Regency Medical Centre has provided almost 59,000 subsidised, often free, haemodialysis sessions.

For his outstanding contribution in the field of medicine, Dr Kanabar has received many accolades, including from the former President of Tanzania, Dr Benjamin Mkapa and former First Lady of Zanzibar, Shadya Karume.

He also has a long list of awards including the 'Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award' from the former President of India (2010), Pratibha Patil, the 'SamarjRatna Award' 2010 by the Tanzanian Hindu Community, and Lohana International Mahaparishad Award 2011.

In 2003, he was nominated as one of the 'Top Five Lions of the Year' by Lions Clubs International consisting of 1.2 million Lions in 204 countries and previously received several Lion-

istic awards for the Tanzania Heart Babies Project including Best Chairman (1995/96) and Outstanding District Region Chairman (2009/10), Lion of District 411B 2009 - 2010.

He was the second Best Heart Babies Project by Lions Clubs International at India, at South Asia, Africa, Middle East International Convention (ISAME Forum) in November 2015 in Ahmedabad, India.

He is an awardee of Melvin Jones Fellow and is recipient of many Appreciation Certificates from various International Presidents of the Lions Clubs International.

In April 2014, Dr Kanabar was presented with the Order of the United Republic Medal by the Former President of Tanzania, Dr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete at the State House in Dar es Salaam, in the category: 'Persons who have, by their acts and conduct, earned praise and distinction for the United Republic of Tanzania'.

Known for his oratory prowess, fundraising skills, sense of humour and humanitarian work, Dr Kanabar's empathy for his patients and adherence to transparency at all levels makes him a true champion for the underprivileged. He loves music and swimming in his spare time. He is blessed with a devoted family including his ever supportive wife, Sarla, encouraging sons Dr Amish (UK) and CEO of Regency and Beejesh (USA), daughters in law and grandchildren.

For a very long time Dr Kanabar's mission has been to create miracles through his passion of selfless service, power of giving, commitment, belief in himself and belief in Almighty God.

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS SERVICES

ZANZIBAR NATIONAL SYSTEM (ZSS)

Assignment Title: Provision of Consultancy Services for Design Of The Zanzibar Strategy For The Development Of Statistics Reference No. OCGS/AfDB/C/01/2019

- The Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) of Zanzibar through Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has received fund in various currencies from the African Development Bank (AfDB) towards the cost of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for Zanzibar Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Fund to payments under the contract for consulting services ("Services").
- The Services include need for a national consultant during this process will augment the already available skills of personnel who are constrained by other competing routine programmes in OCGS and in other sectors to support the design and implementation of the ZSDS and corresponding Sector Statistics Plans.
- The Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) now invites eligible local Consultant (Individual Consultant) to indicate their interest in providing these Services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the required Services. Such information include but not limited to Detailed Consultant Profile, at least a master's degree and/or a PhDs degree in statistics and/or economics, Experience in similar conditions, Description of similar assignments performed, general experience, referees, and skills

4. SPECIFIC TASKS:

The national consultant will work under the supervision of the Chief Government Statistician and generally support the ZSDS design process. His/her roles and responsibilities include but are not limited to the following main specific tasks:

- Helping to undertake statistical advocacy at highest level in each sector as well as among the Development Partners,
- Assist in assessing the state of statistics in the sectors,
- Assist sectors to effectively and comprehensively design Sector Statistics Plans within the given timeframe of the ZSDS design process road map,
- Facilitate the SSP workshops and other meetings;
- Participate in workshops or seminars organized in context of the ZSDS process, including assisting the ZSDS design team to prepare reports.

Translate the ZSDS document into Swahili language

- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with Consultant's Individual Consultants Selection (IC) Method set out in the AfDB Guidelines. Local Consultants are encouraged to apply.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section 3 of the African Development Bank's **Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by African Development Bank Borrowers (published in May 2008 and revised in July 2012)** ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting the African Development Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible consultants should obtain further information from the Secretary of the Tender Board, the office of the Chief Government Statistician, P. O. Box 2321, Mazizini, Fumba Road (Takwimu House), Zanzibar from 9:00am to 2:00pm local time on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
- Expressions of Interest (EoI) must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand, or courier to the Secretary of the Tender Board, the Office of the Chief Government Statistician, P. O. Box 2321, Mwanakwerekwe, Zanzibar at or before 11:00 Hours local time, Thursday 11th July, 2019, The Outer envelope must clearly be marked "**Provision of Consultancy Services for Design of the Zanzibar Strategy for the Development Of Statistics**".
- This is Expression of Interest and NOT Request for Proposal.
- Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

The Office of the Chief Government Statistician,

Attn:
Secretary, OCGS Tender Board,
P.O. Box 2321
Zanzibar

Telephone: +255242231869
Fax: +255242231742
E-mail: zanstat@ocgs.go.tz

Chief Government Statistician,
The Office of the Chief Government Statistician,
Zanzibar

RC Kebwe praises agro-firm for supporting young rice farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner, Steven Kebwe has lauded Petrobena East Africa for its distinguished support to a group of young paddy farmers in Kilosa District and turning the group into a promising farming entity.

Petrobena East Africa is a local firm which retails imported fertilizers and farm inputs in the country.

Speaking to journalists after touring the group's farm, Dr Kebwe said the extension services and donations the company has given to AgriAjira has turned the group into an alliance with a potential of creating jobs to young people in the district and beyond. "I extend my congratulations to this company for the material support to this group of young paddy growers. You have given this group free farm inputs including seeds, fertilisers and training. Because of this support we are witnessing good ripe paddy farm that promises bumper harvest. This group proved that it is wise to invest in agriculture because it can now create new jobs," he said

during a small function at the farm.

He said he will communicate and persuade officials from the agriculture, trade and industry ministries to visit the farm and ensure the group has a ready market for the paddy that is ready for harvesting.

Petrobena Managing Director Peter Kumalilwa said their company distributes fertilisers from YARA Company and trains farmers on proper crop husbandry.

"Our support to this group seeks to prove that productive farming will create jobs within their areas. In this particular case we want to show that paddy growing areas have a great potential to create jobs of different kinds," he said.

A member of AgriAjira thanked the RC for visiting their farm, describing the visit as an incentive. "We thank the RC for coming. His visit is a motivation to us and his promises are good and very welcome." He thanked the regional government for giving them land, and also thanked the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) and Petrobena for the support.



Tanzania People's Defence Forces spokesman Lt Col Gaudentius Ilonda (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the verification of the qualifications of youth earmarked for recruitment in the Army. He is flanked by Maj Bryceson Paul (L) and Capt Petro Ng'umbi. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Energy minister directs gas firm to move on to rural areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

MINISTER for Energy Dr Medard Kalemami has directed the management of Taifa Gas Tanzania Ltd, owners of 150bn/- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage and filling facility to extend their services to rural areas to save the environment as many people depend on charcoal and firewood as the main source of energy.

He made the remarks yesterday during his tour at the company's gas storage facilities at Kisaki village in Singida region. The facility has been established in an effort to control environmental degradation fuelled by tree cutting for firewood and charcoal making.

The minister asserted that most urban dwellers including those in major cities like Dar es Salaam use more charcoal for

cooking while those in rural areas use firewood.

Dar es Salaam residents use about 40,000 bags of charcoal daily, which is equivalent to 60 per cent of all charcoal used in the country.

Gas is much cheaper than charcoal, which costs an average family about 120,000/- a month while families could use one 15-kilogramme cylinder of gas costing only 47,000/- per

month.

"We want the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) to make sure LPG gas services reaches majority Tanzanians in rural areas", said Dr Kalemami insisting the government aims to take the services to all the citizens so as to ease their cost of living and save the environment.

He however called upon the company to review its gas

prices to enable more people to purchase it.

"The easiest way to make rural Tanzanians use fuel for cooking is through setting affordable prices. If you take the services to them and maintain high prices, they will not buy it," he said.

Dr Kalemami challenged EWURA to supervise bulk importation of LPG gas in six months to ensure availabil-

ity of the product as well as to boost government's revenues.

He directed the authority to make it a mandate for gas importers and distributors to take their services to rural areas instead of operating in urban areas only.

Taifa Gas Tanzania Ltd Manager in Singida region, Juliana Richard promised to consult the company's top officials to see how the prices of gas can

be reviewed.

President John Magufuli launched Taifa Gas Limited on Tuesday this week insisting the company to supply both urban and rural areas where high charcoal use contributes to deforestation and environmental degradation.

Taifa Gas Limited has also built 35 storage facilities in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.



Iringa Urban legislator Rev Peter Msigwa of the opposition Chadema addresses a rally at the Iringa municipality bus stand on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Tanzania to host African LPG summit next month

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is set to host the 6th African liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) summit next month, with intention to ease the wider use of gas by encouraging people to switch from traditional fuels to LPG for cooking, apart from industrial heating and power generation.

Experts say the use of LPG has a number of potentials to improve the quality of life of many people, pointing out that in Tanzania, 60 per cent of the country's population lives in rural areas and depends on charcoal and firewood as the main sources of energy, which uses up time and has negative environmental impacts.

A statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) said that this year's theme is 'Developing key success

factors for a sustainable LPG business in Tanzania and East Africa.'

Acting PBPA Executive Director Erasto Mulokozi said the summit will be held on July 3rd to 4th 2019 under the sponsorship of Oryx Energies. It was first held in Tanzania in 2016.

"We are pleased to endorse the 6th Africa LPG summit in Tanzania and are looking forward to meeting with the local and global LPG industry, to deliberate on key challenges and opportunities in the sector," said Mulokozi, noting that top officials of the Ministry of Energy and the Vice President's Office (Environment) will participate.

LPG is proving not only a healthier and more environmentally friendly fuel, but cheaper and more economical than charcoal.

Michael Kelly, Deputy Director of World LPG Association (WLPGA) will led

a special Cooking for Life workshop aiming to convert one billion people from cooking with biomass to cooking with LPG by 2030.

Kelly said: "It is timely for LPG summit to go back to Dar es Salaam to help promote the benefits of clean burning LPG for environmental and health reasons. Communities, governments, the global and local LPG industry working together to ensure viable economic growth is the key to growing the industry and promoting the benefits of using this exceptional fuel."

On Tuesday this week when commissioning the 150bn/- LPG storage and filling facility in Dar es Salaam, President John Magufuli stated that the country's LPG production by private investors has increased from 17,000 tonnes annually in 2015 to 92,500 tonnes annually in 2019.

"Promoting gas use should play a key role in addressing environmental degradation," the president declared.

He said eight companies dealing in LPG had helped to increase gas consumption in the country and the new facility boosts the country's storage capacity from 8,050 tonnes in 2016 to 15,600 tonnes currently.

Dr Medard Kalemami, the Minister for Energy, said that at least 2.5 million Tanzanians were currently using LPG as cooking energy.

Dr Kalemami said more companies have invested in LPG, enabling intense competition among suppliers, and as a result, Tanzanian LPG was cheaper by regional comparisons.

A kilogram of LPG was currently sold at 3,080/- compared to 3,500/- and 4,100/- in Kenya and Uganda respectively, he pointed out.

Regulator explains why Mwanza bank did not list on DSE

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has explained why Mwanza Community Bank (MCB) failed to list on the stock exchange.

In an interview, CMSA Principal Public Relations Officer, Charles Shirima said that institution's promoters were not able to put in place proper strategies and a viable corporate governance structure for raising the amount or for complying with the capital adequacy requirements for the community bank.

The CMSA directed the lead advisor and promoters of the bank in formation to refund the amount subscribed from the public.

He said subscribed amounts were supposed to be refunded to the investors as per CMSA's directive.

The information on how investors can obtain their refund was published in newspapers of general circulation and also announcements were made in radio and television channels.

However it was revealed that the promoters had so far failed to refund the money to the responding investors.

Already Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella has vowed to take to task all those involved in the botched listing bid and unclear refund mechanism.

CMSA had in past years given promoters a second chance to rearrange its initial public offering (IPO) through the stock exchange, following failure to do so earlier.

Four years ago the bank management issued an IPO and collected certain amounts of money from investors, but the promoters (all the region's districts authorities) failed

to contribute.

The official said the IPO did not succeed because district authorities did not contribute adequately on time.

"We directed them to refund the money to investors who bought shares through IPO and gave another opportunity to rearrange for the same exercise," he said.

It was earlier reported that MCB was selling five million shares at Tsh550 (\$0.34) each through an initial public offering.

The shares, whose proceeds were intended to be used to capitalise it as a community bank so as to meet the requirements of the Bank of Tanzania, were expected to start trading on the Enterprise Growth Market at DSE.

Mwanza Community Bank, whose licence was issued on March 1, 2012, is a start up institution and does not have a track record of profitability.

To be allowed to list on the DSE's new market segment, a company should be incorporated as a public company and have issued and paid up capital of at least 200m/-.

Also, at least 20 per cent of its shares must be publicly held and the firm must provide a detailed profile including a feasibility study and a five-year business plan.

Growth markets, which are now gaining popularity in the region, have less stringent listing rules and have been created to offer small and medium-sized companies an alternative platform for raising cheaper capital instead of relying on expensive debt, while offering owners an exit option.

Mwanza region, according to the 2012 census, has a population of 2.8 million in seven districts Nyamagana, Ilemela, Kwimba, Misungwi, Sengerema, Magu and Ukerewe.

Access to basic sanitation is still lagging for millions in East and Southern Africa

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

DESPITE progress towards ensuring basic sanitation services for all, access still eludes many. According to recent estimates, over half of the global population - or 4.2 billion people across the world - lack safe sanitation, 701 million use unimproved facilities, and 673 million people practice open defecation.

As part of its pledge to support 60 million people to gain access to at least basic sanitation services by 2021, UNICEF is gathering development partners, private sector, financial

institutions, and government representatives on 25-26 June in Nairobi (Kenya) to accelerate market-based solutions for making toilets and sanitation services more affordable and accessible for households in the East and Southern Africa region.

Building on the success of a similar industry sanitation consultation held in November 2018 in West and Central Africa, the consultation serves as a platform for stakeholders to share information and perspectives and identify strategic steps to strengthen national and regional markets for sanitation products and services.

Another sanitation industry consultation is planned for later this year in South Asia, covering Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

"The collective efforts of industry, governments, financiers and development partners are essential to help shape local markets that will make safely-managed sanitation services available at scale to those who need them the most," says UNICEF's Supply Division Director, Eteva Kadilli.

These industry consultations are instrumental for exploring innovative ways of transforming local sanitation market structures towards

this shared vision."

Without safe toilets and waste management systems, diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, polio and diarrhea can spread easily. UNICEF is committed to achieving equitable access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all and to end open defecation by 2030.

"With 11 years to go before the target date of the Sustainable Development Agenda, market-based approaches to sanitation must be accelerated," says Kelly Ann Naylor, UNICEF's WASH Associate Director.

"However, market-based sanitation alone will

not suffice. UNICEF encourages a combination of context-specific approaches in its sanitation programming, including demand creation, supply development and financing options."

Over 200 million people live in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, 81 per cent lacked access to basic sanitation and 93 per cent lacked access to safe sanitation services in 2017.

The industry consultation is an opportunity for stakeholders to work together to design country-specific market shaping interventions and to address the challenges of unsafely managed sanitation.



Same district commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (3rd-L, foreground) uses a Uhuru Torch Race event on Wednesday to present a progress report on the implementation of a water project sponsored by Rotary Club of Same in collaboration with other stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Zanzibar vows to facilitate bilateral ties with Djibouti

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has vowed to reinforce the current bilateral relations with Djibouti - the horn of African nation

Dr Shein made the pledge in his message sent to the President of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh for marking 42 years of his country's independence.

Djibouti got independence on June 27, 1977 from France. Djibouti's economy is based on service activities connected with the country's strategic location as a deepwater port on the Red Sea.

In his message, Dr Shein said that the relations between the two nations have been there for decades, "hence needs to be reinforced for the betterment of our people."

In 2017, the two leaders (Zanzibar and Djibouti) agreed to improve relations in potentials areas such as in trade, investment and tourism between the two countries.

Dr Shein assured President Guelleh that Zanzibar will continue to work with the horn of Africa nation, which most of its important economic asset is its strategic location on the shipping routes between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean - the Republic lies on the west side of the Bab-el-Mandeb, which connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The country is bordered by Somalia to the southeast, Eritrea and the Red Sea to the north and northeast, Ethiopia to the west and south, and the Gulf of Aden to the east.

In antiquity, the territory was part of the Land of Punt. The Djibouti area, along with other localities in the Horn region, was later the seat of the medieval Adal and Ifat Sultanates.

In the late 19th century, the colony of French Somaliland was established following treaties signed by the ruling Somali and Afar Sultans with the French. It was subsequently renamed to the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas in 1967. A decade later, the Djiboutian people voted for independence, officially marking the establishment of the Republic of Djibouti.

Drinking coffee can help you lose weight, study reveals

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ACCORDING to a new study, drinking a cup of coffee might actually have more benefits than just helping you function like a regular human being - as well as getting you through the morning, a cup of coffee could also help you to lose weight.

A study by the School of Medicine at the University of Nottingham found that it does this by stimulating brown adipose tissue, also known as "brown fat" in your body, which burns calories to generate body heat.

A new study has found that coffee helps activate brown fat in the

body.

Professor Michael Symonds, who co-directed the research, explained: "Brown fat works in a different way to other fat in your body and produces heat by burning sugar and fat, often in response to cold. "Increasing its activity improves blood sugar control as well

as improving blood lipid levels and the extra calories burnt help with weight loss."

The research is thought to be the first of its kind to show how coffee has a direct impact on brown fat in humans, which Professor Symonds feels will have "big implications" for society.

He added: "The potential implications of our results are pretty big, as obesity is a major health concern for society and we also have a growing diabetes epidemic and brown fat could potentially be part of the solution in tackling them." Writing in the journal, Scientific Reports, researchers said they first

used stem cells to test whether or not caffeine would have an impact on brown fat.

Following this, they moved on to studying humans, using thermal imaging to trace the body's brown fat reserves as they emitted heat.

They found that straight after drinking coffee, the brown fat

was activated and got hotter, suggesting it was getting to work and burning calories.

The team will now conduct further research into coffee to ascertain which ingredient it is that is activating the fat, though they believe it could all be down to the caffeine.

Immigration Dept officials arrest 12 illegal migrants hiding in Mvomero district on their way to South Africa

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Immigration Department in Morogoro has arrested 12 illegal migrants who were hiding at Lugono village in Mvomero district on their way from Tanga enroute Tunduma border to South Africa.

The department's assistant commissioner for Morogoro Region Angela Shija said the arrest followed intelligence information they received on 14th of this month.

He said out of the 12 immigrants nine had passports which however did not have permission that allowed them to enter the country.

"We received a tip from well-wishers and we had to set a trap in the said village finally we managed to arrest them," she said.

She added that during the operation they have managed to arrest a man who was once arrested in 2014 for transporting illegal

immigrants and was released after paying fine.

She called upon citizens to report such incidents to authorities for further actions.

Tanzania Immigration Department arrested 13,393 illegal immigrants between July 2017 and March 2018. Of this, 2,815 were sued, 117 penalised, 429 jailed, 6,316 expelled and 1,353 freed after presenting legitimate documents.

Official details from the Ministry of Home Affairs indicate also there are 2,363 pending cases at the court of law regarding alleged illegal immigrants.

Illegal immigrants are among one of the challenging issues mostly in border regions of Tanzania.

There are number of unlawful immigrants who are entering and residing in those regions and are alleged to cause some negative effects in economies of those region.



Second-hand bags, which sources say are often cheaper but more durable than most new ones, on sale at a spot along the Manzese stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Ministry can ably handle bulk fuel procurement challenges

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has lately instructed the Energy ministry to sit with major private sector stakeholders and see how to implement the government-endorsed bulk procurement policy.

He issued the directive after a complaint was raised as he was launching a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) processing plant and warehouse at the Dar es Salaam Port early in the week.

We believe that, if the ministry had a way out of the matter without involving the Head of State, it would have readily headed into implementation.

If that had been done, the complaints would not have surfaced in the first place, particularly from the major fuel companies that alerted the matter to the president.

What the directive thus implies is that the ministry isn't in a position to simply impose the new procurement regime before the relevant terms and conditions are agreed across the board. This involves a redefinition of regulatory functions, effectively making their task more participatory and less declaratory.

While the current dispute touches on bulk procurement, there are other unfinished issues at the policy, investment and regulatory level, some of which have been a pain in the neck for the government for several years now.

The most noticeable is the whole plan of putting up a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant whose cost has been put at around 30 billion US dollars. This is a massive investment, and no wonder efforts to obtain the necessary foreign investment commitment to the project have proved arduous and are moving at a slow pace.

The key consideration is that foreign investors tapped for the project want guarantees that will likely be in contention with existing legislation as to

the terms and conditions of partnerships in natural resources and major infrastructure undertakings.

While the issues of Bagamoyo Port and the stalled Lindi LNG plant aren't related, their contrasting regimes reflect broadly on a policy environment where answers are not easily forthcoming. National interests at times "collide" with private sector guarantees, which is only to be expected.

What the president told the Energy ministry concerning bulk procurement is also relevant to efforts that have at specific moments involved him in relation to the Lindi LNG plant, in that the issue is to find common ground.

The question here is whether this effort shall not lead to being compelled to abandon or drop some regulatory prerogatives already set out in the relevant law, where the old wisdom will thus have to apply.

It would mean that ministerial decision makers ought to ensure that genuine interests and concerns of private sector stakeholders are taken into account.

With less than that, the ministry via the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation would have to run the show, which isn't the policy setting. In that case, the president's current opening up to diminish policy and regulatory concerns with the private sector ought to be taken up in the bulk procurement as well as LNG project issues.

That doesn't mean that policy is just reversed to go back to earlier times but it improves on the same, with a view to blocking negative deals, etc.

The bottom line is that, even without considering factors like corruption and sabotage, the negotiated arrangements would have to be in line with the national interest. And that would be only natural.

EAC partner states should not tolerate xenophobic emotions

MEMBER-STATES of the East African Community have been jolted on their chairs over the past few days with remarks by a Kenyan parliamentarian purporting to issue an ultimatum for small traders from the bloc's other member states to pack up and leave his country.

It is a familiar sort of xenophobic reactions to problems of unemployment and at times rather difficult climate for doing business in inner city suburbs.

One country that has set a record in xenophobic attacks is South Africa, a sort of haven for migrants in the wider sub-Saharan region, while Kenya isn't anywhere near being such a magnet.

With the Kenyan MP's rant having been disowned by all authorities worth quoting, it is clear that there is no climate for putting the threat into action. But it remains a threat - as in the Kiswahili saying to the effect that 'he who points torch light at you during the day will burn you at night'.

The psychology of all ranting is that it covers up hidden pressures where a portion of stakeholders in this or that public issue are ill at ease with what is happening, so they find a "spokesperson" to do the dirty job. It is also in line with the global emergence of far right movements wishing to stop the influx of foreigners.

In that sense, while East Africans will be altogether happy to forget the rant after it was rejected on an all-round basis, it is a pointer of things to come.

It may in part suggest that the regional integration 'project' should be accelerated so that the feeling of commonness and having a shared destiny is enhanced among political and business communities, or alternatively greater realism should be exercised on limitations in that regard.

A danger signal has doubtless been

raised, and policy planners ought to devise or look for solutions to avoid eventual explosion, as a stitch in time saves nine.

Finally, the rant is a warning to individual migrants or those who have already set foot in the ranting MP's country, that doing formal business across the border is usually more advisable than exporting poverty by seeking to resettle to do small things.

East African countries have known a generally peaceful environment since after the chaotic days of the Rwanda genocide, and migration pressures have abated over the two decades.

The problem in Kenya is primarily from its eastern border rather than with its southern and western borders. Even South Sudan is producing few migrants.

But xenophobia is always tied with a non-performing economic environment where opportunistic voices seek out scapegoats, and the MP is said to be a rap musician, perhaps more used to spewing out injurious epithets than his colleagues.

Most cross-border migration with Kenya tends to be integrated and among kindred communities, which helps to explain the lack of a visible constituency for the ranting of so-called MP Jaguar.

It is now evident that, while migratory patterns in the region are still basically stable, there are pressures here and there of xenophobic character, depending on the market situation.

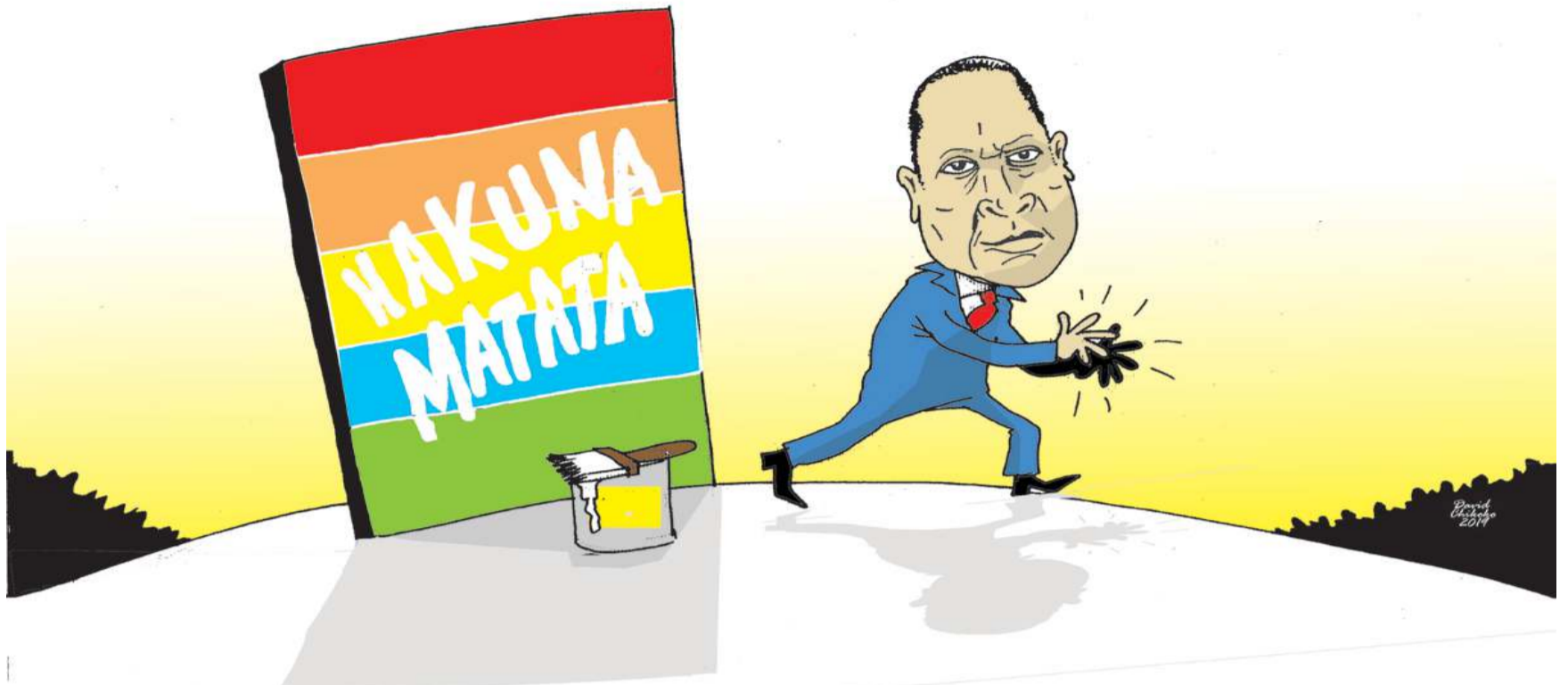
Dar es Salaam once witnessed 'mild' evidence of the threat of xenophobia, apparently targeting Chinese traders. Fortunately, it soon fizzled out without incident.

That is, and should be, the spirit - that no such bigoted expressions should be allowed to take root. Anyone entering a foreign country legally, whatever the nature of her or his mission, should not be molested or otherwise mistreated.

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We must stamp out all forms of racism, xenophobia, intolerance

By Antonio Guterres

AROUND the world, hate is on the march. A menacing wave of intolerance and hate-based violence is targeting worshippers of many faiths across the globe. Sadly - and disturbingly - such vicious incidents are becoming all too familiar.

In recent months, we have seen Jews murdered in synagogues, their gravestones defaced with swastikas; Muslims gunned down in mosques, their religious sites vandalised; Christians killed at prayer, their churches torched.

Beyond these horrific attacks, increasingly loathsome rhetoric is being aimed not only at religious groups but also at minorities, migrants, refugees, women and any so-called "other".

As the wildfire of hate spreads, social media is being exploited for bigotry. Neo-Nazi and white supremacist movements are growing. And incendiary rhetoric is being weaponised for political gain.

Hate is moving into the mainstream in liberal democracies and authoritarian regimes alike - and casting a shadow over our common humanity.

The United Nations has a long history of mobilising the world against hatred of all kinds through wide-ranging action to



defend human rights and advance the rule of law.

Indeed, the very identity and establishment of the Organisation are rooted in the nightmare that ensues when virulent hatred is left unopposed for too long.

We recognize hate speech as an attack on tolerance, inclusion, diversity and the very essence of our human rights norms and principles.

More broadly, it undermines social cohesion, erodes shared values, and can lay the foundation for violence, setting back the cause of peace, stability, sustainable development and human dignity.

In recent decades, hate speech has been a precursor to atrocity crimes, including genocide, from Rwanda to Bosnia to Cambodia.

I fear that the world is reach-

ing another acute moment in battling the demon of hate. That is why I have launched two United Nations initiatives in response.

First, I have just unveiled a Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech to coordinate efforts across the whole United Nations system, addressing the root causes and making our response more effective.

Second, we are developing an Action Plan for the UN to be fully engaged in efforts to support and safeguard religious sites and ensure the safety of houses of worship.

To those who insist on using fear to divide communities, we must say: diversity is a richness - never a threat.

A deep and sustained spirit of mutual respect and receptivity can transcend posts and tweets fired off in a split second. We must never forget, after all, that each of us is an "other" to someone, somewhere.

There can be no illusion of safety when hate is widespread. As part of one humanity, it is our duty to look after each other.

Of course, all action aimed at addressing and confronting hate speech must be consistent with fundamental human rights. Addressing hate speech does not mean limiting or prohibiting freedom of speech. It means keeping hate speech from escalating into something more dangerous, particularly incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence, which is prohibited under international law.

We need to treat hate speech as we treat every malicious act: by condemning it, refusing to amplify it, countering it with the truth, and encouraging the perpetrators to change their behaviour.

Now is the time to step up to stamp out anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred, persecution of Christians and Now is the time to step up to stamp out all other forms of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Governments, civil society, the private sector and the media all have important roles to play. Political and religious leaders have a special responsibility to promote peaceful coexistence.

Hatred is a danger to everyone - and so fighting it must be a job for everyone. Together, we can put out the wildfire of hate and uphold the values that bind us together as a single human family.

Antonio Guterres (pictured) is UN Secretary General.

Let's tell honest stories that inspire and provide lessons

By Victor Oladokun in Lagos

I have always been fascinated with stories. It's one of the reasons that, while in high school, I jettisoned physics, chemistry, and mathematics in favour of literature and history.

The decision has served me well in my media and communication career.

I realized early on - to quote the poet Muriel Rukeyser - that "the universe is made up of stories, not atoms".

The truth is that stories are not loaded with hard data but rather with something more powerful: emotional data. That's why we remember good stories long after we first hear them.

Jesus was a master storyteller. At the age of 12, he theologially confounded the teachers in the Temple. But it was his capacity to tell stories that deeply stirred the souls of those who followed him. He wove familiar elements that his audience could relate to into his stories - pastures, hills, farmers, sheep, oil and lamps, coins, bandits and highway robbers, etc.

In workshops, seminars or conferences on public speaking or communication, my advice is always simple: "Don't complicate your presentation. Tell stories. Your audience will thank and remember you for it."

Whether in journalism, public speaking or business presentations, the most effective speakers tell stories. What sets them apart is an innate understanding of the needs of their audiences. They know how to connect on an emotional and sensory level, rather than a cerebral one. How do they do it? Stories.

Sports legend and entrepreneur Magic Johnson, the world's richest man, Jeff Bezos, Virgin Atlantic Founder Richard Branson and Kenyan Pan-Africanist lawyer Patrick Lumumba, distinguish themselves by their amazing storytelling abilities. They connect on a powerful and emotional level when they speak.

Why are stories important and so powerful? It's simply because oral tradition has been a part of our DNA for millennia. We are addicted to stories,

especially in a digital world of social media dominated by Instagram, twitter, WhatsApp and Facebook. And because stories help bring issues into sharp focus.

Stories are also important because every single one of us is looking for answers. We connect with appropriate and authentic stories that help us build bonds and bridges.

Stories help us recognize that our own experiences are not necessarily unique. Stories help us understand that we are not alone as we navigate this journey called life.

Good stories should always have three key elements. One: Honesty, authenticity, and vulnerability. Audiences can tell a fake from a mile away. Your unique life experiences have prepared you well. Tell your stories.

Two: Inspiration. Life is tough. Your speech or presentation should be a lift and not a burden. Give your audience something to believe in. Inspire them to want to change their world one life at a time.

Three: Clear lesson. Before you deliver your speech or presentation, ask yourself: What is the key takeaway? What's the lesson I want my audience to leave with? Is it clear and easily understood? Is my logic sequential? Does the story fit the circumstance and needs of the audience? Does it resonate?

As Plato once said, "those who tell stories rule society". Stories make us laugh. They make us cry. They help change the way we think, perceive and act.

Stories enlighten and provide new insights. They teach values and pass on ancient wisdom. Revolutions have changed nations on account of the narrative-changing power of stories.

Most importantly, stories transcend the mind and speak deeply to the heart. Your authentic story is your power.

Victor Oladokun is Director of Communication and External Relations at the African Development Bank.

Is Zambia defaulting to nationalisation?

BY PETER FABRICIUS

IS Zambian President Edgar Lungu going to drag his country back to Kenneth Kaunda's disastrous post-independence experiment with nationalisation of the copper mines, simply by default? This is the suspicion sparked by his aggressive moves to evict the giant London-based mining company Vedanta Resources from its 80% ownership of Zambia's largest mining enterprise, Konkola Copper Mines (KCM).

The state owns the remaining 20% of KCM through its majority share in the holding company Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM). Lungu has used that as his vehicle for trying to liquidate KCM and remove Vedanta, and so far he is succeeding.

A High Court judge last month appointed a provisional administrator tasked with selling off KCM's assets. The judge refused Vedanta's demand - despite its being the majority shareholder - to participate in the liquidation process. But she granted Vedanta leave to appeal so the case is still live.

Lungu accuses Vedanta of not paying due taxes. Vedanta in turn accuses the state of not issuing VAT refunds it is owed. The company also says it has not paid the levels of income tax the state demands because its business is unprofitable due to rising tax and electricity bills.

Beyond the economics, there is suspicion that Lungu is playing the populist card in an effort to reverse the recent political losses of his governing Patriotic Front. Bashing mining companies seems to be good politics in Zambia. Though the facts about all of Vedanta's alleged sins are unclear, there is a general public perception that it has committed some - including not paying mining supply companies and contracted workers, and polluting the environment.

While analysts differ about the merits of the case, there seems to be a broad consensus that Lungu is going about this in the wrong way. Peter Leon, a mining lawyer at Herbert Smith Freehills in Johannesburg, sees Lungu's attack on Vedanta as part of a growing trend in African mining companies towards 'resource nationalism'.

As in countries like Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Con-



go, Leon believes some African governments offer mining companies incentives to invest - with liberal legal frameworks and fiscal incentives. 'Once investments are made (and capital sunk), the government may flex its legislative muscle to claim a greater share of the returns than the original laws or licence terms allowed,' he wrote in the Financial Times.

He noted that in 2017, the Zambia Revenue Authority initiated a mining industry tax audit, claiming it was losing US\$3 billion annually through 'illicit financial flows', mostly in the mining sector. The tax authority slapped Canada's First Quantum with a US\$7.9 billion bill, and later announced a series of fiscal reforms: a new 5% import duty on concentrates; increasing royalties by 1.5% and making them no longer tax-deductible; and replacing value added tax with a non-refundable sales tax.

The latter is significant, as mining companies - including Vedanta - were owed US\$600 million in VAT refunds at the end of 2018. In January this year the Zambia Revenue Authority declared it wouldn't pay, claiming that its (unpublished) audit showed mining companies owed more than this in unpaid taxes, penalties and interest.

This about-turn by some mining countries could be because they were

Bashing mining companies seems to be good politics in Zambia - but what is the endgame?

cash-strapped - or because they were suffering a deficit in political support, Leon told ISS Today. In Zambia's case it was both, he suggested, pointing to Lungu's loss in a by-election in the Copper Belt in April and the country's increasingly dire finances.

Leon noted that the country's finances are extremely sensitive to the price of copper, accounting for 80% of export earnings in 2016, when copper's price plummeted a 10-year low of US\$4 800 a tonne, down from its 2010 peak of US\$8 800. By the end of 2018 - after four consecutive years of sub-4% economic growth - the deficit had ballooned to 7.5% of GDP, and Zambia had accumulated over US\$10 billion in external debt.

Although his narrative in the Financial Times was about 'resource nationalism', Leon told ISS Today that 'this is a pretty blatant case of expropriation. There's nothing subtle about it'. Expropriation, of course, traverses beyond resource nationalism into the realm of resource nationalisation, a subtle semantic shift but not-so-subtle politico-economic one.

Lungu was using a state company - ZCCM - to liquidate the subsidiary of a listed company, Vedanta, the country's biggest copper producer, Leon said. As a lawyer, he was astonished about the High Court judge granting ZCCM,

the minority shareholder in KCM, an 'unprecedented' order to liquidate the company without allowing the majority shareholder a role in the process.

Lungu has told Bloomberg that Chinese, Russian, Turkish, Canadian and Indian companies are lining up to buy Vedanta's stake. This prompted some analysts to speculate that Lungu is planning to give it to a Chinese company to offset Zambia's debts to Beijing incurred in taking on large infrastructure loans.

Leon is sceptical, asking whether any foreign company would invest in Zambia after the way it has treated a major international mining company. For one thing he believes any company planning to replace Vedanta will probably have to contend with legal challenges since Vedanta has threatened to resort to international arbitration.

Claude Kabemba, executive director of Southern Africa Resource Watch in Johannesburg, has a more sympathetic view. He is critical of the way Lungu has gone about tackling Vedanta, mainly because he says the president hasn't shown any sign of having a coherent strategy. Except he says the Zambian government has indicated that it wants to 'protect' KCM rather than break it up.

He believes Vedanta has not been a good investor, not only because of the accusations mentioned above but because it has not kept its promise to expand the extraction of KCM's considerable copper reserves. He says Vedanta has limited itself to extracting accessible copper but hasn't sunk new shafts.

He doubts that Zambia has the required expertise or finances, but suggests that it might not be a bad idea for the government to take control of KCM itself rather than selling off Vedanta's share to another foreign investor. This would help it fulfil many of the natural resource goals propounded by African policy initiatives, but not implemented by foreign mining investors, such as beneficiation of natural resources and advancing local industry, Kabemba says.

That sounds rather like nationalisation, even if more by accident than design. Either way, is the Zambian government any more likely to make it work in 2019 than it did in the 1970s? **Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant**

G20 Osaka summit could be game changer if China, Japan explore BRI possibilities

By Li Qiaoyi

IT seems the days when Japanese brands were hotly favored in the Chinese market are gone. However, tangible signs still exist of strong trade and investment ties between the two East Asian economies.

Beliefs are also firmly held that wide-ranging China-Japan cooperation, especially the bonds between the two nations concerning the exploration of business opportunities in third markets, will continue on its forward trajectory despite trade tensions between the US and other economies, notably China.

The newly released annual white book on China's economy and Japanese businesses offers a fresh reminder of deepening bilateral economic ties.

Actualized investment by Japanese businesses in China grew 16.5 percent year-on-year to \$3.81 billion in 2018, according to the white book released in Beijing last week by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China.

This compares with an increase of 3 percent in actualized global investment in China last year, which hit \$134.97 billion.

Results from a Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) survey on Japanese-invested companies operating in China between October-November 2018 showed that 48.7 percent of the surveyed companies considered expanding their businesses within the next two years, while 44.8 percent said their business plans would remain unchanged.

The ratio of those opting for expansion has continued to climb since registering 38.1 percent in 2015 - for the first time falling under 40 percent since the first survey was conducted in 1998.

The numbers speak volumes for China-Japan ties in the economic arena, although Japanese brands, from electronic devices to home appliances, are no longer the focus of attention in China's consumer market, as China's indigenous technology brands have risen to prominence.

In late March, Sony announced it would halt production at its smartphone plant in Beijing, explaining the move was part of efforts to restructure its mobile business. The move heightened concerns over the Japanese electronics giant's sagging smartphone fortunes.

That being the case, some Japanese brands are still appealing to Chinese consumers. One recent example was the sensation caused by Japanese fast-fashion brand Uniqlo whose partnership with US artist and designer Kaws sent Chinese shoppers into a buying frenzy. The online resale value purportedly is eight times higher than the original retail price.

In addition, Japan remains a popular overseas travel destination for Chinese tourists, indicating a deeper bond between the two peoples while creating significant business potential.

Japan received a record 8.38 million Chinese travelers last year, an increase of 13.9 percent from the prior year, according to statistics from Japan National Tourism Organization. China continues to be Japan's largest source of international tourists, a position it has held since replacing South Korea from the top spot in 2015.

More noteworthy, the two nations have been forging closer ties in the financial sector. In April, they signed an agreement to cross-list exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in each other's markets.

The ETF scheme linked both stock markets under China's Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor and Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor programs and has arguably become a viable contributor to China's financial opening-up.

As such, China's consumer market, its sizable middle-income population, and a continuation of bold reformist drives are the cornerstones of bilateral economic cooperation and explains the business optimism among Japanese enterprises operating in China.

As long as this optimism remains intact, it is believed that Japanese businesses would remain committed to the Chinese market to maintain strong bilateral ties. Apart from that, growing attention given to the two nations' presence in third countries should cast light on China-Japan economic relations which extend beyond investment in each other's markets.

In this regard, both sides have made progress. The two governments concluded a Memorandum on Business Cooperation in Third Countries between Japan and China in May 2018.

Additionally, the China-Japan Forum on Third Country Business Cooperation was held in Beijing last October. A total of 52 memorandums of cooperation were inked and included areas such as infrastructure, logistics, IT, healthcare and finance, according to JETRO.

Highlighting bilateral cooperation in third countries at its annual white book release, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China suggested the Chinese government can offer opportunities and disseminate information about bilateral cooperation to create even more business opportunities for Japanese businesses.

There's little doubt that such advice will be heard attentively as the Chinese economy continues to open wider to the outside world. Meanwhile, efforts should be made on the Japanese side as well. Since the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) fits well into the vision for third country business cooperation between both nations, perhaps the Japanese government, while pushing for the Indo-Pacific strategy, could open its mind a bit.

Japanese companies have begun to understand the potentially huge market involving projects under the China-proposed BRI, Eiichi Shindo, head of the Belt and Road Initiative Japan Research Center, told the Global Times.

By joining the BRI, which highlights connectivity and inclusiveness, Japanese companies could enjoy the economic dynamism not only of Asia but also the Eurasian continent at large, including Europe, Shindo noted.

The upcoming G20 summit in Osaka could be a game changer if the two Asian economies explore BRI possibilities and figure out a way that they could join hands within the initiative's framework.

Beyond Saudi Arabia: The world is failing journalists

UNITED NATIONS

SAUDI journalist Jamal Khashoggi was deliberately killed at the hands of state actors and journalists around the world are increasingly seeing the same fate, said a United Nations expert.

After a six-month investigation, U.N. Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Agnes Callamard determined that Saudi Arabia is "responsible" for the "extrajudicial" murder of Washington Post writer Khashoggi.

"This killing was a result of an elaborate mission involving extensive coordination and significant human and financial resources. It was overseen, planned, and endorsed by high level officials and it was premeditated," she said to the Human Rights Council.

"The right to life is a right at the core of international human rights protection. If the international community ignores targeted killing designed to silence peaceful expression, it puts at risk the protection on which all human rights depend," Callamard added.

Since it occurred at a consulate in Turkey, the killing cannot be considered a "domestic matter" and violates the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as well as the prohibition against extraterritorial use of force in times of peace, making it an international crime.

Callamard pointed to the need to establish a U.N. criminal investigation to ensure the delivery of justice, noting that the inquiry undertaken by the Saudi authorities was woefully inadequate.

"The investigation carried out by the Saudi authorities has failed to address the chain of command. It is not only a question of who ordered the killing - criminal responsibility can be derived from direct or indirect incitement or from the failure to prevent and protect," she said.

The government of Saudi Arabia continues to deny its involvement and rejected the new report, stating that it is based on "prejudice and pre-fabricated ideas."

While the killing of Khashoggi was brutal, his story is just one of many cases of targeting journalists around the world.

"This execution is emblematic of a global pattern of targeted killings of journalists, human rights defenders, and political activists," Callamard said.

According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 80 journalists were killed, 348 imprisoned, and 60 held hostage in 2018, reflecting an unprecedented level of violence against journalists.

Javier Valdez Cárdenas, a Mexican journalist who investigated cartels, was killed in May 2017.

Just days after, Valdez's colleagues and widow began receiving messages infected with a spyware known as Pegasus, which was bought by the Mexican government from Israeli cyber warfare company NSO Group.

According to the NSO Group, Pegasus is only sold to governments for the purposes of fighting terror and investigating crime. However, digital watchdog Citizen Lab found 24 questionable targets, including some of Mexico's most prominent journalists.

The programme has also been used elsewhere by repressive governments such as the United Arab Emirates which targeted and imprisoned human rights defender Ahmed Manor for his social media posts. In Canada, critic of the Saudi regime and friend of Khashoggi, Omar Abdulaziz, was also infected with the spyware by a Saudi Arabia-linked operator.

While a suspect was arrested in 2018 for the murder of Valdez, it is unclear if they are the main culprit.

"The arrest of a suspect in the murder of Javier Valdez Cárdenas is a welcome step, but we urge the Mexi-



United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions Agnes Callamard determined that Saudi Arabia is "responsible" for the "extrajudicial" murder of Washington Post writer Jamal Khashoggi. Photo Courtesy: United Nations

can authorities to identify all those responsible for the killing, including the mastermind," said Committee to Protect Journalists' (CPJ) Mexico representative Jan-Albert Hootsen.

"Too often, investigations into the murders of Mexican journalists stall after low-level suspects have been arrested, which allows impunity to thrive," he added.

The Mexican government also launched an investigation into the misuse of such surveillance technology, but as yet no one has been punished.

Callamard urged Saudi Arabia to release those imprisoned for their opinion or belief and to undertake an in-depth assessment of the institutions "that made the crime against Mr. Khashoggi possible."

She also stressed the need to strengthen laws to protect individuals

against targeted killings, including the sharing of information if an individual is at risk.

"There are clear signs of increasingly aggressive tactics by States and non-State actors to permanently silence those who criticise them. The international community must take stock of these hostile environments, it must take stock of the findings of my investigation into the killing of Mr. Khashoggi," Callamard told the Human Rights Council.

"Denunciations are important, but they are no longer sufficient. The international community must demand accountability and non repetition. It must strengthen protections and prevention urgently. Silence and inaction will only cause further injustice and global instability," she added.

A bad free trade agreement is worse than nothing

KUALA LUMPUR

WITH growing economic conflicts triggered by US President Donald Trump's novel neo-mercantilist approach to overcoming his nation's economic malaises, many voices now argue that bad free trade agreements are better than nothing.

After US withdrawal following Trump's inauguration in early 2017, there is considerable pressure on signatory governments to quickly ratify the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the successor to the TPP.

To ratify or not to ratify

Undoubtedly, freer trade is attractive, especially to consumers desiring lower import prices. Yet, it is now generally acknowledged that no country has ever developed without policy interventions, typically involving trade, to develop new economic capacities and capabilities.

Thus far, the CPTPP has been ratified by 7 of the original 11 signatory countries, with Brunei, Chile, Malaysia and Peru holding out so far. Ratification advocates claim that the CPTPP would boost economic growth by greatly increasing exports.

They cite disputed Peterson Institute of International Economics (PIIE) and World Bank studies, both by the same authors, using a dubious methodology even rejected by the US government's International Trade Council in mid-2016, i.e., under Obama. The reports highlight increased export prospects, but are conveniently silent about the far greater increase in imports.

Dubious gains from trade

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) economist Rashmi Banga's study of its likely economic impact on Malaysia suggests much need for caution. The original TPP promised Malaysia more exports, mainly to the USA, with such claims grossly exaggerated by the PIIE. Without the USA, export prospects have di-

minished greatly.

While exports to CPTPP countries will rise by 0.2%, imports will grow by 6.0%, setting Malaysia's annual merchandise trade balance back by US\$2.4 billion, worsening its balance of payments as its services trade balance has always been in deficit.

As Malaysia already has free trade agreements (FTAs) with other major trading partners in the CPTPP, participation has little to offer. Malaysian FTAs with Singapore, Japan and Australia affect 82% of its CPTPP exports and 84% of imports.

Hence, Malaysia will not lose much to trade diversion by not ratifying, i.e., about 0.09% of current exports to other CPTPP countries. On the other hand, it will retain revenue from its relatively higher import tariffs.

The two largest imported items are automobiles and plastic materials. Banga estimates that imports of vehicles, mainly from Japan, will rise by 36% if customs duties come down to zero. This is likely to wreak havoc on Malaysia's already fragile automotive industry.

Over a quarter century ago, then World Bank vice-president Larry Summers infamously suggested that toxic waste might be dumped in poor countries in Africa owing to the lower opportunity costs involved.

On the cusp of becoming a high-income nation, the last Malaysian administration belatedly took his advice by licensing ostensible plastic waste recycling plants. The CPTPP will enable much more imports of plastic materials, including waste and scrap, by around 35%.

21st century gold standard?

Advocates also claim that the CPTPP represents a 'cutting edge', 'state of the art', 'gold standard', '21st century FTA'. In fact, it will mainly benefit transnational firms at the expense of consumers, workers and the public in participating economies.

With the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions, for example, foreign investors will be able to sue the



government for loss of revenue and profits if government policies are changed, or if contracts are renegotiated, even if in the public interest, e.g., by banning toxic or carcinogenic chemicals.

ISDS involves binding 'private' arbitration bypassing national judicial systems, significantly strengthening foreign investors at the expense of governments with typically more modest means to litigate cases, thus exercising a 'chilling effect' on governments to comply with foreign corporate demands. Government ability to improve public policy will thus be restricted.

Ironically, the Trump administration is now opposed to ISDS. TransCanada sued the US government, under North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) ISDS provisions, for US\$15 billion after the Obama administration cancelled its Keystone XL pipeline

project. The case was dropped after Trump revived the project.

CPTPP proponents insist that strengthening intellectual property (IP) laws will benefit everyone as it will incentivize research and innovation, a claim for which there is no evidence. The TPP agreement would have lengthened monopolies on patented medicines, kept cheaper generics off the market and allowed natural biological materials and processes to be patented.

The Third World Network has long highlighted many such CPTPP dangers, for instance, citing the Malaysian government's procurement of an Egyptian generic treatment of Hepatitis C for RM1300, instead of the patented US treatment costing almost RM300,000.

Encircling China

The TPP was originally a minor plurilateral regional trade agreement involving four countries.

The Obama administration decided to use it to check China's growing economic influence.

With the recent escalation of tensions between China and the USA, many in East Asia are understandably concerned about how the growing economic conflict will affect economic prospects. Ratifying the CPTPP is likely to be seen as taking sides, even without the USA in it.

To secure broad public support in the face of growing scepticism about the benefits of trade liberalization associated with globalization, the Obama administration involved over 700 advisers, mainly representing corporate interests, to be involved in drafting the 6350-page TPP.

Ironically, the USA is no longer party to an agreement largely drafted by US corporate interests. A few of the most onerous clauses of the TPP have been suspended

in the CPTPP, but if Japan, Australia and Singapore succeed in bringing the USA back in, the White House will insist on their re-inclusion.

Withdrawing from the CPTPP would send a clear message that a government is determined to put the needs of its people over the interests of powerful transnational corporations or geopolitical considerations. In any case, there is no requirement, obligation or deadline for any signatory government to ratify.

Other governments will need to carefully consider their navigation options in the difficult times ahead as countries seek to recover and sustain economic progress. Bad FTAs are not better than no FTAs, and as the map of the world economy has changed, options are different.

IPS

Fighting food insecurity in Africa: Lessons from the United States

ILLINOIS, United States

THE U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Mark Green recently concluded a one-week visit to USAID-funded programs at several African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya and Mozambique. His goal was to promote sustainable paths to self-reliance, including in the context of food security programs.

Finding sustainable pathways to self-reliance, especially for many African countries whose citizens continue to be affected by hunger and food insecurity, is indeed important. Presently, over 257 million African citizens are hungry. In addition, according to a recent report titled For Lack of Will - Child Hunger in Africa, over 50 percent of all child deaths in Africa are caused by hunger.

Importantly, achieving food security will set the stage and pave way for African citizens to meet their food needs, create surpluses for export and tap on the opportunities that come with urbanization and transition from developing to emerging economies.

There are many strategies and pathways that African countries must implement to attain food security, and this includes learning from countries that have made remarkable progress in this area, including the U.S.

Of course, no country is perfect and hunger and food insecurity is still an issue that affects close to 40 million people in the U.S., (around 12 percent of the population). Still, the U.S. has made remarkable progress and great strides in achieving food security for all its citizens.

As a result, there are lessons African governments can learn from them as they work to attain food security and improve childhood nutrition.

The frameworks that have propelled the U.S. to become food secure encompass a multitude of several interlinked targeted strategies and initiatives, including prioritizing the agricultural sector, investing in innovative agricultural initiatives that are resilient and responsive to new challenges such as



climate change, and building safety nets that can be tapped upon by citizens who need the help.

Further, many of the initiatives have clear goals, targets, benchmarks and indicators of success. In addition, these initiatives have built-in monitoring and evaluations systems to ensure they achieve the intended outcomes.

Take California, for example, also referred to as the agricultural powerhouse of the U.S. Despite facing drought, one of the extremities that comes with a changing climate, recent Agricultural Statistics Review shows that investing in innovative agricultural initiatives has allowed the State to maintain sustainable agricultural crop production, and, consequently become food secure.

The State of Illinois ranks nationally and internationally in maize and soybean output, and has maintained these rankings despite the many challenges farmers face including a changing climate. By using all the available and

recent agricultural technologies and tools such as improved seed varieties, farmers have been to maintain crop yields, translating into food security. Furthermore, the United States Department of Agriculture continuously supports all states and provides detailed reports and resources that farmers can consult.

Importantly, the frameworks that have allowed the U.S. to be food secure have a common backbone - the land-grant university system. Through it, many Land-Grant Universities in the U.S. such as University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Cornell University, Purdue University, consistently carry agricultural research coupled with a functioning extension service arm that delivers discoveries and recent science-based information to farmers and rural communities.

For example, Purdue and University of Kentucky recently collaborated with USDA in an effort to provide research, extension and other assistance to rural communities. Cornell University has Small Farms program dedicated to supporting farmers. Other Land-Grant universities with similar programs include Penn State University, Virginia State University, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Complementing these efforts have been investments by both the State and Federal governments agencies such as the USDA and advancements in new technologies and equipment, irrigation systems, soil health building systems, access to water and electricity, improved production systems and production practices, infrastructure like roads, and sound policies as well as risk management.

The USDA, for example, recently announced that it would support all U.S. farmers impacted by recent trade disruption. This is in addition to several other programs for farmers that are impacted by other extremities that come with a changing climate.

At the same time, the U.S. also invested in improving its phytosanitary standards, further allowing it to trade commodities, allowing for export-led economy. In addition, U.S. citizens have access to food they cannot produce all the times.

A recent technical brief showed that many African countries phytosanitary standards are not up to date, further limiting African countries from benefiting from exporting and importing food.

Countries in Africa that are the most food secure such as

Tunisia, Mauritius, Morocco, Algeria, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa and those which are making progress toward being more food secure such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya have achieved their progress by using some of the same strategies as the U.S., through USAID Feed the Future Initiative, and other USAID funded programs and initiatives such as USAID Feed the Future Innovation labs.

Other African countries can follow suit. Of course, other foundational frameworks these countries have are stable democracies and export-driven economies.

Building a food secure future can be achieved when countries are open to weighing in on proven strategies. Time is now.

IPS

Paralegals equip schoolgirls with child rights awareness

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

THERE are millions of school-age children in Tanzania who are not going to school due to poverty.

Studies by government agencies and non-governmental organisations attribute massive school-dropouts reported in different parts of Tanzania to abject poverty facing respective families. Faced by poverty, some parents abandon their children, leaving them with no means to survive, some of them becoming street boys and girls and exposed to risk environments.

12-year-old girl (name withheld) was a standard six pupil at Shirimatunda primary school-Hai District (Kilimanjaro). Since she was born she had been living with her mother in the same village. But both the girl and her mother were living in a house built by her grandmother.

This is a poor family- the girl, her mother and grandmother, which was struggling to get a single-meal a day, let alone other basic needs, pay for the girl's education and health services. Despite the critical situation faced by the family, the girl was still going to school.

As she looks for other means of getting out of poverty, the

girl's mother decided to relocate to Dar es Salaam, searching for greener-pastures leaving behind her daughter and grandmother.

In order to survive and keep the family going, the girl's grandmother decided to start-up local brew "Gongo" business, which provided them with small income for food, school-fee and other contributions for the girl. The product was being served inside and outside grandmother's home.

Automatically, the house became too busy, with "Gongo" drinkers moving in and out, looking for the illicit-liquor. In the course of time, the girl was exposed to risky environment. Under circumstances which her grandmother could hardly explain, some of the potential "Gongo" drinkers raped the girl.

At the school, teachers noticed some abnormalities in the girl's appearance; they reported the matter to Hai district social welfare office, to which she was taken for interview and collection of important information before taking further decision. Social welfare office advised school management to consult Hai paralegal Gabriel Mndeme and discuss better ways of how to rescue the girl, taking her away from

the risky to a safer and secure environment.

"In the course of discussions, I decided to take the girl to my home. She is now in safe hands, she is going to school just like other pupils," says Hai paralegal, who was instrumental in getting the girl out of the risky environment.

The girl has since been transferred from Shirimatunda primary to Weruweru primary school—thanks to smart-partnership of Hai district social welfare, education officers and paralegal, who struggled to protect the girl.

"The girl is okay now; she is doing fine in class, performing well in many subjects," says her class-teacher at Weruweru, Sarah Munuo.

"As school management, we provide the girl with all the necessary support to make sure that she is comfortable and performs well.

In fact, her story pushed us to introduce special sessions in which Hai paralegal comes here and educate the pupils (on regular basis) on legal issues, child rights, how to protect themselves from such risks as rape, early marriages and early pregnancies etc." - Weruweru primary school head-teacher, Andrew Makiao.



Hai paralegal Gabriel Mndeme, educating pupils of Weruweru Primary Schools on legal issues, children rights, how to protect themselves from such risks as rape, early marriages and early pregnancies—under the nationwide community legal empowerment programmes supported by the Legal Services Facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

M-Pawa doubles customer profitability by rewarding 3rd draw winners

By Guardian Reporter

COMMERCIAL Bank of Africa (CBA) and Vodacom yesterday announced the 3rd draw winners for the five years of anniversary campaign intended to reward customers who have been using the product.

Some of the winners for M - PAWA 1st, 2nd and 3rd draws included Mangu Zanura, Nyerenga Rahim, Robert

Tuisenge, Mwafumba Martha, Ayilla Agness, Kayombo Hilda, Mollel Charity, Gwandu Elizabeth, Agust Emmanuely, Tezeyo Abinal, Mwita Joseph, Haule Reginberti, Kabona Fadhili among several others and were announced in the presence of gaming board officials including Saleh Chiku for the 3rd draw and CBA representatives in the ongoing draws.

M-Pawa subscribers sky-

rocketed to 8.5 million since its launch, most of whom are women entrepreneurs, youth and millions of Tanzanians especially in rural areas who do not have access to a bank. Mpawa has reached millions of Tanzanians in the unbanked communities whereby an individual can save from the minimum of 1/- and will get interest at the end of the month.

"The five years' anniver-

sary campaign is intended for 6-weeks with today's draw being the 3rd, we have had over 1000 winners so far since the promotion kicked off who have walked away with double balance starting from 1000 - 200,000/-, Smart Phones, and airtime vouchers and more will emerge winners in the remaining draws". Said CBA representative Maria Marbella, she also added that "the grand

draw prize winner will be rewarded with 15 million Tanzanian shillings at the end of the draws so we continue to urge Mpawa users to save and return loans early to stand a chance to win".

"Mpawa is a revolutionary banking product that allows our users to save money through their phones, earn interest from their savings and eventually get micro

loans when they need them. Through this we empower customers to increase their investments for a better future and realise some of their dreams. Therefore, we congratulate the 3rd draw winners and all our previous winners in the earlier draws. We take great joy in rewarding our loyal customers because it gives us satisfaction to see them benefiting from our services," remarked by

CBA representative.

To be eligible for the draw, MPAWA customers need to save an amount not less than 1,000/-, borrow and make an early repayment to stand a chance to win in all the categories. The grand winner will walk away with 15million/-. CBA and Vodacom has become a pioneer to open up the doors for the financial inclusions in Tanzania.

Uganda's rare tree climbing lions and endangered primates threatened by climate change

By Nailsha Adams, Johannesburg

As climate change leads to increased temperatures in East Africa, a thicket of invasive thorny trees with the ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions have begun threatening Uganda's second-largest park, home to a rare breed of tree climbing lions and one of the highest concentrations of primates in the world.

The Queen Elizabeth National Park forms part of the Greater Virunga Landscape, considered the richest part of the African continent in terms of vertebrate species. The park is Uganda's most diverse and boasts 5,000 species of mammals, including: 27 primates such as chimpanzees, red-tailed and monkeys, and baboons; birds; amphibians; reptiles; hippos and elephants.

But conservation experts at the Queen Elizabeth National Park are fighting to stop the spread of *Dichrostachys cinerea*, commonly known as sickle bush.

There is a fear that the further spread of the shrub, which has a long tap root and various lateral roots that make it difficult to remove, could further place at risk the already endangered species that exist here. A recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report found that there is massive loss of biodiversity globally that could "undermine human well-being for current and future generations," according to

Sir Robert Watson, the outgoing chair of the IPBES.

Though not new to the country or the region, the invasive plant, which is native to South Africa and known for its medicinal uses, has begun spreading rapidly across the park, taking up in recent years an estimated 40 percent of the almost 2,000 square kilometres that the park covers.

Edward Asalu, the chief warden here, told IPS that the spread of these thickets was affecting animal settlements in this ecologically diverse part of the country.

"This issue is being studied but we know that it is largely linked to climate change," he said, alluding to the increased temperatures in the country. He added that higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere also contributed to the fast spread of the sickle bush.

The sickle bush

The sickle bush and its recent rapid growth due to increased temperatures has led it to become the latest threat to Uganda's wildlife conservation efforts. Credit: Wambi Michael/IPS

According to a climate risk assessment report on the country by the Climate and Development Learning Platform, which aims to integrate climate change into development programming, "climate projections developed for Uganda ... indicate an increase in near-surface temperature for the country in the order of +2°C

in the next 50 years, and in the order of +2.5°C in the next 80 years."

Robert Adaruku is a tour guide with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and has noted that increased temperatures have affected the growth of the sickle bush.

"As the temperature goes high, such kinds of plants like the sickle bush are able to survive in a hotter environment are able to expand. Because the weather or environment will be favouring their expansion," he told IPS.

Thicket drives away animals

The spread of the sickle bush is evident as one drives along the road overlooking the Kazinga Channel, a 32 kilometre stretch of water that joins Lake George and Lake Edward. The channel has previously been considered the ideal spot to view game.

A lonely male elephant is spotted in the early afternoon under a thicket of sickle bush. There is no grass underfoot.

Asalu told IPS the thickets were not easily penetrated by most animals and that "grazers like antelopes, warthogs and buffalo are avoiding those thickets because they can't find food under there."

"We have areas which were grasslands but are now being taken over by thickets. Animals, especially the herbivores, like open areas where they can be able to see the carnivores trying to eat them. That is why you cannot find them in area colonised by the sickle bush," Asalu ex-



plained.

Adaruku explained that he first noticed the sickle bush in the park way back in 1997. "The sickle plants were there but on a very small scale. As time goes on it has been able to expand and colonise this area."

Sickle bush spreading rapidly across Africa and beyond

But it is just not this park that the sickle bush is taking over. Asalu confirmed that Tanzania's Randilen Wildlife Management Area also recently had to deal with the spread of the sickle bush.

Quoting a study by the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), a non-profit inter-governmental development and information organisation, Asalu said that *Dichrostachys cinerea* spreads very fast because it can produce up to 130 shoots from the mother stem.

Studies from West Africa have found that the sickle bush is mostly found in warm, dry savannahs but it can grow in more than three climate groups.

CABI said the subspecies spreading in East Africa is thought to have originated in countries such as Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa and is spreading all over the world.

"*Dichrostachys cinerea* has a high reproductive rate, meaning that they produce many seeds throughout the year. Although not all offspring are successful, the plants that do es-

tablish themselves can typically expect a long lifespan due to their tolerance to natural disturbances like fire, drought and pests," reads part of a 2017 report by CABI.

It added that the ability by the sickle bush to prosper on nutrient-poor soils and disturbed areas made it very adaptive and resilient in its native region of South Africa.

A 2017 study in the journal *Nature Communications* found that alien invasive species, like the sickle bush, have the ability to expand rapidly at higher latitudes and altitudes as the climate warms, out-pacing native species. The park is estimated to be 914m above sea level, while Uganda is about 140 kms above the equator.

Geoffrey Baluku is a part-time tour operator around Kilembe and Kasese, the areas alongside the Queen Elizabeth National Park. He is also concerned about the spread of the sickle bush.

"It is a serious problem. What will happen to this park if all the animals go away?" Baluku said in an interview with IPS.

He told IPS that the sickle bush is not entirely new to the area but the rate at which it is expanding was.

"We have used those same plants to treat some diseases. It is very good soothing to tooth ache.

"But ...even elephants don't eat their leaves. Other small animals don't want to

stay in areas colonised by sickle bush so they move to other areas, including where there are human settlements," Baluku said.

Uganda Wildlife Authority wardens

Uganda Wildlife Authority wardens at one of the areas formerly colonised by the sickle bush. The authority has undertaken restoration efforts since July to clear the Queen Elizabeth National Park of the shrub. Credit: Wambi Michael/IPS

A problematic plant

Dr Peter Baine, a research officer at Uganda's invasive species research unit, told IPS that the sickle bush forms a canopy in a colonised area, releasing chemicals that kill the grass underneath.

"It is quite problematic to other plants because of its ability to spread fast, grow fast, disperse numerous seeds, and the seed's ability to last in soil up until a year," he said.

Baine did not rule out the fact that its rapid spread could be linked to climate change. He told IPS that invasive species and climate change are two of the primary factors that alter ecological systems.

He said the National Agricultural Research Organisation and UWA were conducting studies to understand the interaction between climate change and the sickle bush for a possible management plan to fight the problem.

By Frank Bainimarama

ARE the most climate-vulnerable nations of the world right to demand that developed and major economies commit to carbon neutrality by 2050?

Should the poorest nations of the world insist that the “haves” put their significant economic and political resources behind aggressive efforts to combat climate change?

Do we have the right to expect political leaders to show the courage, vision and will to lead their citizens to responsible action to stem the growth of global warming?

The answer is yes, of course, and the reason is simple: We cannot save the world from climate catastrophe if the largest emitters of CO₂ don't step up now.

And the most vulnerable countries of the world cannot adequately reduce our emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change without economic support from the developed world that is flexible and accessible. Governments, private financial institutions, international financial institutions and foundations must be a part of the solution.

Last week, European Union leaders missed a critical opportunity to develop a more aggressive collective mitigation target by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Perhaps more importantly, they had a chance to lead the world to carbon neutrality, but they failed to step up at the critical moment.

Their failure was a bitter disappointment to countries, like Fiji, that are doing everything within our means to achieve those same results. Island nations are determined to lead by example.

We have laid the ground work, but unfortunately, our efforts, strenuous though they may be, will not be enough alone. We need developed economies—and advanced developing economies—to make the same strenuous effort.

We are at a critical juncture in this fight, at a point where we know we can still act globally to change the course of human-made climate change or fail to act and face the reverberations of climate, environmental and biodiversity crises for generations to come.

The political and scientific ground has

We cannot save the world from climate catastrophe if largest emitters of carbon dioxide don't step up now



shifted under our feet since we signed the Paris Agreement in 2015. Governments have changed, and populists and climate sceptics have gained ascendancy in some countries.

Then, last October, the IPCC released its Special Report on 1.5 Degrees, which made it clear that time is closing in on us; we simply don't have the time to turn the tide that we thought we had in Paris.

It was a struggle then for small island states and members of the High Ambition Coalition to win the inclusion in the Paris Agreement of an aspiration to limit global warming to of 1.5 degrees, when the official goal of the agreement was 2 degrees.

Now we find that we are less than 12 years away from dramatic, far-reaching, and possibly irreversible consequences of surpassing 1.5 degrees of warming if we keep going the way we're going. We simply cannot miss opportunities like the one the EU missed last week, and

we must embrace all possible solutions.

There are three things we need to focus on now. First, we need to reduce the amount of carbon we are releasing into the atmosphere. This means that countries need to set much more ambitious targets in their national climate commitments under the Paris Agreement that lead to rapid decarbonisation of high-emitting industries and sectors.

I am encouraged to see that the number of countries that are stepping up to the 2020 deadline is growing, but I'm both proud and concerned that most of these are from the developing world. The names of many developed and major economies are still notably absent from this list.

Second, we need to remove more of the carbon that has al-

ready been emitted into the atmosphere and this means massively increasing our investment in nature – developing and implementing natural climate solutions that can be implemented worldwide.

Nature has the incredible power to remove carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere, but we are currently failing to protect this vital resource. We will not be able to achieve 1.5 degrees without dramatically recalibrating how we look after and restore our natural landscapes. Under the leadership of China and New Zealand, we are expecting a big step forward on this front at the upcoming UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit (in New York on September 23 this year).

And, third, developed and major economies should increase the amount – and rapidly deploy

– climate finance for developing countries to allow us to achieve and increase our mitigation targets, as well as urgently build our resilience to the impacts of climate change. This means at least \$100 billion a year by 2020.

The irony of the EU's failure of will is that so many European leaders understand fully what is at stake, and many individual European countries—and non-European countries—are beginning to take responsible action.

Still, it is a sad fact that the Marshall Islands and Fiji—two of the most marginal carbon emitters in the world—are the only two countries to have officially submitted long-term plans to the UN for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Paris Agreement committed signatories to achieving net

carbon neutrality by the second half of the 21st century, but it was unclear what was intended by the term “second half.”

We know now that the deadline must be the beginning of the second half, not the end. Fifty years of ambiguous wiggle room, 50 years of hesitancy, and 50 years of procrastination will lead us to the catastrophe we fear.

Setting a date for achieving net-zero, matched with boosting short-term action, is critical and that's where national leadership comes in. It gives all the relevant stakeholders, government departments, businesses and citizens the signal they need to start making concerted changes.

If developing countries can develop robust emissions-reduction targets that truly drive us toward the goals we agreed to in Paris, then other nations can, too.

The EU, and the rest of the developed world, can still change course. The UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in September will provide a forum for every country to lay out their climate ambitions before the world and be judged.

I urge developed countries to come to New York with the most aggressive and most ambitious plans they can devise. In Paris, the small island states used our moral weight to push the world to accept the aspiration of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. In New York, vulnerable developing countries must do the same.

We cannot accept that countries with the means to do more will sit on the sidelines and do less.

Frank Bainimarama is Prime Minister of Fiji

A roadmap for children as victims, not terrorists

UNITED NATIONS

THE feeling in the air at a recent meeting of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was one of compassion and benevolence.

The focus was on children as Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), a subject that everyone at the panel discussion argued is delicate and politically sensitive.

Alexandra Martins, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer at the UNODC, pointed out that “‘Nobody is a lost cause, and there is always a possibility to rehabilitate and reintegrate children from these groups.’”

Two of her words were repeated by almost every speaker: “rehabilitate and reintegrate”.

The meeting was meant to discuss the release of the UNODC Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups.

The roadmap's main goal is to provide UN's 193 Member States with guidance on how to treat children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups. It argues for an approach to rehabilitate those associated with or accused of being FTFs, and to reintegrate them back into their communities.

Though many of the children accused have taken part in terrorism, the UNODC advocates for a change in the way Member States handle the children.

Speaking during the release of the handbook, Dr Jehangir Khan, Director at the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism/Counter Terrorism Centre (UN OCT/CCT), said “children must be seen first and foremost as victims.”

The roadmap was released alongside 4 technical assistance tools: UNODC Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups; The Role of the Justice System (2018); the UNODC Training Manual on Prevention of Child Recruitment by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups (May 2019); the UNODC Training Manual on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Child Victims of Re-

cruitment by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups (to be released in July 2019); the UNODC Training Manual on Justice for Children in the Context of Counter-Terrorism (May 2019).

The documents are based on three years of technical assistance work conducted by the UNODC to Member States that have found children as FTFs.

One country already advocating its support for the Roadmap is Lebanon. Until 2013, children accused of being or associated with terrorist fighters were kept in adult prisons and tried as such.

“It is in prison that I learned the meaning of life” one of the boys, aged 19, remarked in a video played by the representative from Lebanon stated.

A step in the direction of treating children as victims came in 2013, when they were moved to a juvenile prison.

Lebanon's Head of the Prison Administration at the Ministry of Justice of Lebanon, Judge Raja AbiNader, said: “By showing them the same respect we showed the rest of the children, things started to change.”

Martins told IPS that there are many such countries, like Lebanon, whose children and communities have already benefited from the guidance offered in the Roadmap.

“As a result of the protocol, children deprived of liberty for association with Boko Haram were released and transferred to child protection authorities to begin a process of reintegration in their communities,” she said.

Martins stated that more than 30 countries have received guidance on child FTFs from the UNODC's, from 6 different regions (West Africa, East Africa, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Central Asia).

Despite the Roadmap offering guidance, at the panel discussion, Martins clarified that “there is no one size fits all approach” on handling children.

There have been different approaches offered on handling the children in general, and specifically when dealing with different genders.

There will be a second event during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September that Martins hopes will “promote the guidance fur-



ther.”

Gender and the Roadmap

But there appears to be some disagreement still on the treatment of boys and girls during the rehabilitation and reintegration processes.

Under international law (Havana Rule 87.d., Bangkok Rules), boys and girls must be held in separate detention facilities. But the Roadmap encourages them to still engage together, to foster development.

The Roadmap also advocates for targeted approaches on the treatment of girls.

Martins told IPS that girls are “considerably more vulnerable to both physical and sexual abuse and require special attention in this regard.”

She noted that “girls deprived of liberty are exposed to other forms of sexual violence such as threats of rape, touching, ‘virginity testing’, being stripped naked, invasive body searches, insults and humiliations of a sexual nature.”

Given these sensitive issues, and the fact that girls are different physiologically and often psychologically from boys at certain development stages, the Roadmap advocates for an awareness of gender and for specific targeted approaches.

“A section in the manual alludes that girl victims of recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups require specific approaches to reintegration, because of their increased

exposure to violence at multiple levels and from different actors,” Martins said.

But it is not clear yet that this section on gender differences has been implemented.

While Martins says the Roadmap takes seriously the different approaches for girls and boys, Judge AbiNader told IPS that in Lebanon “Very honestly, we're not working specifically with girls concerning rehabilitation.”

As of June 7th, Lebanon has 10 boys and 2 girls in prison for being associated with or accused of being FTFs.

When asked why there were not specific programs that tackle children of divergent genders differently, he argued that they girls “should be treated the same” dur-

ing rehabilitation.

“And it hasn't been discussed because the number [of girls in prison for accusations of being FTFs] is so low,” he added.

Despite the low numbers of accused girls in detention facilities, Martins believes that targeted women's health education should be provided, and that “Access to age- and gender-specific programmes and services, such as counselling for sexual abuse or violence, has to be given to girls.”

Though the UNODC has advocated a change in outlook on children involved with terrorist organizations, the Roadmap's release is just the beginning of that change being implemented.

By Property Watch Reporter

DOCUMENTS showing the real value of new Oysterbay Police Barracks offices, senior officers' and ordinary staff quarters at Mikocheni and Kunduchi Beach respectively which lay idle since last year after completion, should be submitted to Home Affairs Ministry in a month's time.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Hamad Masauni issued the order last week to Tanzania Police Force after visiting the three sites and witnessing the finish property laying idle while the force faces shortages of such space.

"President Magufuli has already ordered that police barracks are not places where private investors can put their businesses," Masauni charged while censuring the Police Force top brass of delaying the evaluation process being done by a joint committee under Ministry of Finance.

He argued that even the committee has taken a lot of time to finish the evaluation work so that the buildings can be handed officially to the government for use by the police officers.

"The pace at which you are moving is not aligned to President Magufuli's speed of doing things so please pull up your socks," the Deputy Minister ordered.

He said the controversial project which allowed Ashish Thakkar of Mara Capital Group of Uganda to build a shopping mall, modern police station and staff quarters at Oysterbay Barracks signed in 2014, has taken too long to be handed over.

President Magufuli first expressed

DEPUTY MINISTER GIVES POLICE ONE MONTH TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS OF O'BAY OFFICES, QUARTERS



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (C) being briefed on the completed Kunduchi police officers quarters which have been idle for over a year. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya.

his disapproval of the deal between the Police Force and Mara Capital in 2016 calling it a vivid example of mismanagement of resources by the law enforcement organ.

Addressing the Police Force top brass at a national meeting in Dodoma, Magufuli said instead of the investment deal, a more rational option would have been for the Force to use the property as collateral and acquire a bank loan for the project.

"Everyone knows that Oysterbay is a prime area. You have just signed a contract with an investor to build your houses there. I'm not sure if those buildings would really deserve to be there. Why didn't you use the title deed to acquire a loan from a bank so as to construct your own structures?" the vividly disturbed Magufuli asked.

In 2012, the Force under Inspector General of Police, Said Mwema leased the city's prime barracks to Mara Capital for \$270 million to develop it into a modern commercial complex in a 50-year lease period.

Among other things, the controversial project would include shopping malls, a modern hospital, a conference hall, hotel, office block, apartments parking lots.

Nairobi on list of 100 most expensive cities

NAIROBI

A sustained climb in the prices of goods and services has pushed Nairobi back into the list of 100 most expensive cities in the world, making it a more costly location for expatriate workers.

The Kenyan capital leaped 26 places to become the world's 97th most expensive city this year, according to a Mercer Cost of Living report released Wednesday.

Nairobi, which was in 2018 ranked at position 123 out of the 209 cities surveyed, last appeared in the list of top 100 most expensive cities in 2010 when the global consultancy firm placed it at number 88.

Mercer's cost of living and rental accommodation index is based on changes in prices of some 200 goods and services that are commonly purchased by expatriates. The items are grouped as food, alcohol and tobacco, domestic supplies, housing, utilities, clothing and footwear, recreation and entertainment, home services, personal care and transportation.

This year's report is based

on a survey conducted in March 2019 after the global consultancy firm reviewed prices of items such as a single cinema ticket for the latest international release, men's blue jeans, a cup of espresso coffee at a popular café, a litre of petrol and fast food meal for one person in each of the 209 cities.

Kenya's inflation rate averaged 4.69 percent last year, down from 7.99 percent in 2017, indicating that other cities recorded a lower rate of increase in prices of goods and services than Nairobi. The exchange rate of the Kenyan shilling, which has generally held stable against the US dollar, has also played a significant part in the ranking that sets Nairobi apart as the most expensive city in East Africa and 14th in Africa. Governments as well as organisations with cross-border operations often rely on Mercer data to protect the purchasing power of their employees and to compute fair housing allowances for expatriates.

"Each African country has its own unique economy and this is why multinationals

need not approach their expatriate packages for Africa with one single strategy," Yolanda Sedlmaier, principal leader - Africa Mobility at Mercer, said in a statement.

Nairobi already hosts several multinational firms and multilateral agencies such as the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), IMF and the World Bank Group, which have hired hundreds of expatriates who are paid in dollars. It also hosts several diplomatic missions that pay their staff in foreign currencies.

Chad's capital N'Djamena, at global position 11 is the most expensive city in Africa followed by DR Congo's Kinshasa (22), Gabon's Libreville (24), Nigeria's Lagos (25) and Angola's Luanda (26).

The survey has ranked Hong Kong as the world's most expensive city for expatriates for the second year running, with eight of the top 10 cities being from Asia, including Tokyo (2), Singapore (3), Seoul (4), Shanghai (6), Ashgabat (7), Beijing (8) and Shenzhen. Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan.



A view of part of Nairobi skyline.

Airbnb offers around-the-world adventure trips



An Airbnb combo photo of adventure destinations around the globe.

CAPE TOWN

Hospitality booking site Airbnb has introduced a service that allows guests to book adventure trips and travel around the world, for up to 80 days.

The new Airbnb Adventures, an expansion of Airbnb Experiences, provides users with a new way to book trips and take a voyage across six of the world's continents. The service aims to introduce guests to natural wonders, cultures and communities that are hard to reach on their own.

Users can choose from hundreds of small group excursions and bucket list nature trips, which the home-sharing platform says are designed by expert hosts who have a wealth of local knowledge and outdoor credentials.

In addition to planning activities, Airbnb Adventures hosts also provide lodging and meals, coordinate the gear list and provide local

transportation. "Getting access to epic and transformational travel has never been easier than through Airbnb Adventures," says Joe Zadeh, VP of experiences at Airbnb.

"Like Airbnb Experiences, people can escape their day-to-day and put their screens and devices away. But now instead of just a few hours, they have the option to be fully immersed off-the-beaten-path, to push themselves out of their comfort zones and have experiences that will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

Hosts are the providers of the adventures: they arrange their own adventure, and control when and where they host, the itinerary, where they stay, what services they offer, and what they charge, notes Zadeh.

"Typical adventure trips available range from tracking lions on foot with Sabache Warriors in Kenya, to hunting for unidentified flying objects in Arizona, to a surf camping trip in Malibu. Also on offer is a local shark research adventure in

Bredasdorp, and a camping trip on the side of a cliff in Colorado, US," according to Airbnb.

Trips range from two to 80 days, with over 200 adventures to choose from. Flights are not included, with the exception of inter-country travel within the 'around the world in 80 days' itinerary. Hosts offer a range of prices from \$79 (R1 133) for an overnight trip, up to \$5 000 (R72 000) for a 10-day trek.

Airbnb recently introduced Airbnb Luxe, expanding its home-sharing options to include some of the most expensive and luxurious accommodation across the globe. "Today's luxury traveller is craving more than just high-end accommodations; they seek transformation and experiences that leave them feeling more connected to each other and to their destination," notes Brian Chesky, Airbnb co-founder and CEO.

"With Airbnb Luxe, we are applying the same approach we've used since we launched Airbnb more than 11 years ago — creating local, authentic

and magical travel moments to reimagine the way people think and experience luxury travel." According to Airbnb's most recent annual report, SA had 43 000 active hosts on the platform in 2018. Of those, about 17 000 were in Cape Town.

Tourism in SA contributed 1.5 million jobs and R425.8 billion to the economy in 2018, making it the largest tourism economy in Africa, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council's annual review of the economic impact and social importance of the sector.

The company says since Airbnb's local launch in 2015, hosts across SA have earned over \$260 million (R3.7 billion) in total, helping to grow SA's economy. Airbnb says its tourism model supports 22 000 jobs across SA, with half being freelancers, part-time workers, or stay-at-home parents. Last year, the company made a \$1 million investment commitment to promote and support community-led tourism projects in Africa.

By Property Watch Reporter

AIRTEL MONEY BRANCHES PEAK OVER 800 NATIONWIDE

OVER 800 Airtel Money Branch shops have been opened countrywide so far as the mobile phone services company targets to ease customer cash transaction needs.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week during the launch of "Tuko nawe kila kona" campaign, Airtel Tanzania Plc's Director of Marketing, Isack Nchunda said the roll out of the shops across the country is among the company's commitment to support financial inclusion as advocated by the government.

"Our plan is to continue building a strong, reliable agent network with an array of services that can be accessed through our Airtel Money Branches in addition to traditional cash in and cash out services," Nchunda said.

Nchunda noted that the launch of more Airtel Money Branches is a response to customer feedback and that the company will continue to address all customer needs by offering reliable, innovative and customer friendly Airtel Money services.

"We are confident with this expansion our mobile money agent's network will serve over 80 percent of the unbanked population. We have integrated with various payment platforms such as e-government where customers can make several payments at a go," the Airtel Tanzania Marketing Director added.

He further pointed out that Airtel Money is also connected to over 40 banks in the country which makes it possible for customers to do instant money transfer from their accounts to their Airtel Money wallet from anywhere and at any time.

Among other things, the mobile phone services company has recently launched initiate reversal



An Airtel Money Branch at Mbezi Beach in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

functionality that enables customers to reverse transaction when they make mistakes on money transfer as well as improved customer menu user experience.

On her part, the company's Corporate Communications and Regulatory Affairs Director, Beatrice Singano said Airtel Tanzania remains committed to continue investing in bringing reliable, innovative,

relevant and affordable products and services to customers.

"We continue to offer most affordable mobile money service currently allowing send money for free and growing the agents network to cement our to further drive financial inclusion in the country," Singano said.

She said at Airtel Money Branches, clients can also get services such as

PIN reset, SIMSWAP, Biometric SIM card registration, credit and savings financial literacy offered by employees and agents.

"Today we are glad to announce this biggest achievement to complement our largest agent network on Airtel Money service offering across the country and assure our customers and partners float/cash service availability," the Airtel Tanzania Cor-

porate Affairs Director added.

Airtel Tanzania is a subsidiary of Indian based Bharti Airtel Limited which is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 16 countries across Asia and Africa. Headquartered in New Delhi, the company ranks amongst the top three mobile service providers globally in terms of subscribers.

Azania Bank in three months savings mobilization campaign

By Property Watch Reporter

ONE of the country's largest banks, Azania Bank Limited yesterday launched a deposits mobilization campaign dubbed, 'Amsha ndoto,' covering the next three months.

The campaign which involves both existing and new customers and is aimed at encouraging Tanzanians to adopt a saving culture in order to have a financial stability will only feature 'Ziada' and 'Watoto' Accounts.

ABL's Managing Director, Charles Itembe said in Dar es Salaam at the launch that there will be an award galore for the winners who will be eligible to participate in the promotional campaign in which they will receive personalized awards to assist them achieve their goals.

On eligibility of customers to win prizes, Itembe said they must deposit a minimum of 1m/- with at their Azania accounts after which they will receive tokens that will enable them to qualify for the final draw when grand prizes will be given out.

The lucky winners will then enjoy 6 percent interest rate on their savings during the campaign period and throughout the year.

"We encourage all the parents and guardians to open 'Watoto Account' for their children so as to be assured of a safe and secure future for them. In this way, parents and guardian will not struggle while wondering on how to invest in their children for the future," Itembe said.

He noted that 'Watoto Account' also serves as a yardstick for preparing children to adopt a culture of saving from tender age.

The promotion, whose tagline is: 'Weka akiba ushinde tumuwezeshesha ada ya shule,' will be communicated through different digital media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google Display placement and the local websites. ABL has also created a microsite landing page for signing up of new clients, among other digital sites.

Shelter Afrique loss widens to Sh940 million

NAIROBI

Pan-African mortgage financier Shelter Afrique loss extended by 18.5 percent to \$9.23 million (Sh940.8 million) for the financial year ended December 2018, condemning it to the fourth straight year in loss.

The management blamed the poor performance on the continued self-imposed lending moratorium that was started at the end of 2016 as the then senior officials fought off mismanagement allegations.

"The non-resumption of underwriting new business impacted the financial performance for 2018, and consequently, the revenue streams continued to decrease year-on-year basis was driven by the sustained decline of the existing loan book," says the company in its latest annual report.

The last time the lender posted a profit was in 2014, coming in at \$0.45 million or Sh45 million, before a streak of losses set in. Failure to underwrite any new business saw interest and fee and other incomes dip by 29 per cent and 24 per cent to \$17.6 million (Sh1.79 billion) and \$1.8 million (Sh183 million) respectively. Its loan book fell by a third during the period.

Previously reassessed viable loan commitments were also scaled down from \$20 million to \$10 million, out of which \$6.9 million was disbursed in 2018. The scale-down signals even lower interest income in the absence of new loan commitments.

The firm now wants to end the lending restriction and grow its loan book under the 2019 to 2023 revised strategy. "The key to restoring the company's financial sustainability is to resume immediate underwriting of new business and focus on solely fulfilling its mandate of financing affordable housing for Africa," says the lender.

Gross income dipped to a seven-year low of Sh967.5 million. Operating expenses rose 2.4 percent to Sh906 million putting pressure on operating income. The firm disclosed that the rise in operating expenses was due to extraordinary items relating to Sh100 million spent on staff redundancies and Sh91 million incurred on business restructuring.



Tourists on a boat ride in the Selous Game Reserve. File photo.

Tanzania and Kenya: An idyllic setting for nature and wellness retreats

NAIROBI

Combining a once in a lifetime safari with a holistic and wellness retreat in Kenya and Tanzania gives you the chance to experience nature first hand, where you get to see wild animals in their natural habitat, spend time away from your smart devices and a chance to meet with the locals.

All these added benefits in the wild plus the benefits of a wellness retreat is why wellness tourism is on the rise both globally and in Africa. From 2015 to 2017, it grew by 6.5%, twice as fast as general tourism. In Africa alone, wellness tourism is expected to grow by more than 11% by 2022 per year. Some of the top destinations in Africa where Wellness tourism is growing is Kenya and Tanzania.

Maintaining a pure and positive state of mind and seeking personal renewal in the peaceful rhythms and solace of mother nature has immense benefits and has been a practice of humankind since the early days of civilization.

That's what makes Kenya and Tanzania the ideal places to host your next wellness retreat. Experience nature at its finest with all the serene breathtaking scenes and activities serving as the icing on top. The good

news is that many travel companies across Kenya and Tanzania are now including nature and wellness retreats as part of the modern day travel and leisure itinerary.

Benefits of holistic and wellness retreats in Africa

The general objective of a nature and wellness retreat is to help you relax and rejuvenate, reconnecting you with the beautiful essence of nature while strengthening your central core. It helps you regain your mental, physical, emotional balance and harmony enabling you to be at peace with the universal energy and rhythms around you. All these benefits can also be enjoyed in Tanzania and Kenya and even more. Other benefits include:

Relieves and releases stress

Arriving at a serene beachfront, or a mountain range holistic wellness retreat, is like entering the very heart and core of life's true essence and meaning. You start to relax and decompress from the hustle and bustle of your normally hectic daily schedule, you start to relax into sync with the natural rhythms, aromas, energy and sound of the surroundings in the wild. You become precisely aware of your own natural balances, harmonies and sensations that you are hardly aware of. Your body rhythms, mental ac-

tivity and emotional balances react to align with the pure, nurturing environment you find yourself in.

Health enhancing exercises

Pilates and gentle resistance stretching sessions in relaxed yoga enable you to regain your natural sense of physical balance and wellbeing. You experience the heights of elation resulting from a healthy and empowering exercise like meditation, yoga and digital detox. All of these done with a lush background of rolling plains and endless hills on the horizon. The experience is unlike anything you've ever felt.

Digital detox

Our dependence on our screens for information, entertainment, work, and relationships has taken a toll on us. Digital detox goes a long way in showing you how to become less of a slave to technology moving forward. It gives you the chance to step back temporarily and when you return back to your normal way of life, you feel more recharged, productive, and with a different perspective on how you lead your life.

Meditation

Meditation helps us discover real bliss and inner peace. The wild offers a perfect environment for achieving inner peace. Spending time with nature away from the normal

day to day hustle and bustle enables us discover the depth of our inner selves and helps us change the way we think about experiences, reduce stress and anxiety.

Mental and emotional benefits

Calming wellness activities such as yoga and meditation provides a soothing way to let go of any negative feelings or emotions. The holistic approach for many decades has proven to be a productive method for tackling negative emotions like stress, anxiety and depression. The feeling of knowing yourself have come to the ideal location to be one with nature's soothing palette of colourful and infinite wonders sets in. You welcome the solace of community with nature while doing yoga in the wild, meditating during the day with the sounds of wild animals, and dining under the stars at night.

Spiritual benefits

The ability to reconnect with self and rediscover your beliefs and true values in life can be achieved through the help of holistic healing. Stress, on the other hand, is a detrimental effect that unbalances our lifestyles and spiritual well-being by using up a lot of our body's energy. Through the help of holistic teachings of meditation and yoga retreats, you can learn to relax, reduce stress and reconnect to your spiritual core.

CONSTRUCTION

MADRID

SPAIN IS THE LATEST TO WRESTLE WITH HOW TO KEEP TENANTS FROM BEING PRICED OUT

The effort by Spain's Socialist government to control apartment rents in one of the developed world's more buoyant property markets is off to a rocky start.

In May, two months after imposing a battery of rent-suppression measures for new leases, rents rose at a 7.5 per cent annual pace, according to property website Idealista.com, which supplies data to Spain's central bank. That was an acceleration from 6.6 per cent in March when the measures were enacted.

The new rules for privately owned apartments in Spain's \$5.8 trillion (Dh21.3tn) home market were meant in part to counteract speculation and conversion into Airbnb-type rentals. Tourist flats now exceed a quarter of the sunny, beach-filled Andalusia market and total 18 per cent in Catalonia, the region of Barcelona, Spain's most visited city and a foreign-investor magnet, according to property website Fotocasa.

From Berlin to New York, governments are wrestling with how to keep tenants from being priced out of their neighbourhoods. Fingers point at stagnant wage growth, moribund government support, international buyers and surging purchase prices. These are some of the hallmarks of 21st century urban housing markets, and they are proving to be an unprecedented challenge for governments struggling to fix them with regulations.

Berlin is going even further than Spain, with plans to freeze rents for five years and give tenants the opportunity to demand reductions if rents are determined to be too high. German real estate stocks slid after the programme was announced.

Similar measures are being contemplated across Europe and the world. In New York, state legislators just completed the biggest rewrite of rent regulations in decades, elim-



A construction worker looks at a new apartment block draped in a giant Spanish flag in a suburb of Madrid.

inating most tools landlords have used to raise regulated rents.

In Spain, the new rules limit annual rent increases for five years to the inflation rate, currently 0.8 per cent. That's not happy news for landlords, although after that period is over they can raise, or lower, them as they wish, in a new contract. The prices quoted by Idealista reflect what landlords are asking for in

new contracts. Spain's housing secretary Helena Beunza says rental rates will begin moderating as the state creates more affordable housing, and when new contracts kick in with the five-year caps, up from three years previously. The government is also devising new public-private partnerships and reference prices for tax deductions for landlords who don't

overcharge, she said in an interview. The new cap is seven years for institutional owners like Blackstone, which bought Spanish homes when the market was plagued by overbuilding.

"The big institutional investors are specialists, they're opportunistic and will focus on where the outlook and conditions are most favourable," said Joe Lovrics, who runs Citigroup's Iberia mar-

kets desk in Madrid. "They look at these rules and say: 'If this is permanent, we'll look elsewhere.'"

In fact, the Development Ministry in Madrid plans more regulations. Economists are divided on whether the limits will backfire.

While some insist they will restrain hikes indefinitely, many say landlords will react by starting new contracts at higher initial rents, or converting more property into short-term Airbnb-type rentals, eliminating supply for permanent residents and driving up rents.

"It's a classic economics problem, but it doesn't have a classic supply-and-demand solution," said Alejandro Inurrieta, an economist who is writing a book on the country's rental market. "In fact, the problem of runaway rents stems more from escalating home prices than people realise."

In the Madrid region, for example, economists like Mr Inurrieta say the 34 per cent increase in home prices over the past three years is more to blame for the 33 per cent hike in free-market rents. That's because landlords push for returns to keep pace with the sales market, Mr Inurrieta says. Would-be

buyers are also forced into renting by the higher purchase prices.

Spain is a peculiar market within Europe, with one of the highest levels of owner occupancy, and with more than 95 per cent of rental units owned by individuals, rather than institutions.

"It would be a revolution if this worked in Spain," Mr Inurrieta said of the new regulations. "There is so much under-the-table money here, and so many amateur landlords that don't have to adhere to any strategic plan with investors."

Spain's real estate crash almost a decade ago depressed rents and values, although the attractiveness for investors improved with the turnaround. The average gross return of 4 per cent in 2018, according to Spain's Development Ministry, compares favorably with the benchmark German bond yielding less than 0 per cent. Spain's IBEX 35 index ended last year at its lowest annual level since 2012.

Property investors typically expect that as long as there's population growth, and a relatively free market, home purchases and rentals can beat inflation over the long term - an as-

sertion that will be tested with new rent-cap rules.

Some economists argue that purchase prices have surged so much faster than consumer prices in many developed markets because often the two aren't structurally linked. For example, home prices, a perennial worry for middle-class urban families, are absent from the consumer basket in many of the world's consumer price inflation data. Instead, rental costs are typically used.

In Spain, for example, rental housing has just a 3 per cent weighting in consumer inflation, whereas the average family spends about 30 per cent of its income on rent and even more buying a home.

Since Spain's property crash, banks have rarely financed 100 per cent of a purchase. That's one factor increasing demand for rentals. So is 35 per cent youth unemployment. Yet, there are many dynamics that are seen across the globe in job-rich cities with scant vacant land. "This isn't just Spain, it's most big markets," Citigroup's Mr Lovrics said. "Look at Seattle, which was very affordable years ago, and now it's just for high net worth."

HSBC becomes one of WeWork's biggest tenants with 1,135 London employees

LONDON

HSBC will move more than a thousand of its London workforce to a WeWork co-working space, becoming one of the office space juggernaut's biggest tenants, the Financial Times reported.

Europe's biggest bank by assets inked a multi-year agreement with the New York company. It will relocate employees to 1,135 desks at WeWork's Two Southbank Place facility in the Waterloo district in Central London.

The Waterloo WeWork location, with capacity for more than 6,000 desks, is expected to open in phases in July and October. WeWork has leased it from the London-based property developer Almacantar.

As a global financial hub, London is an important market for WeWork. According to the US-based real estate services firm JLL, flexible offices will account for about 11 per cent of London office spaces by 2023, up from 6.3 per cent last year.

In an earlier interview, Patrick Nelson, WeWork's head of property for Europe, said a third of the company's London portfolio is made up of large business customers. "If you look at future sales and where that goes in the next two or three years, that number is increasing," said Mr Nelson.

Valued at \$47 billion, WeWork has over 500 locations in nearly 30 countries; the HSBC agreement represents one of its biggest deals in Europe to date.

Co-working space is growing faster than other segments of real estate industry, noted JLL. "With huge amount of venture capital poured into the [co-working] sector, the aggressive growth rate shows no signs of slowing."

Nearly 1,688 new co-working spaces will be opened worldwide in 2019, a little less than half in the US, according to a report by Coworking Resources. While that is 500 less than the last year. However, the number of



WeWork's London offices.

co-working spaces will grow more than 40 per cent in next three years and reach 25,968 globally, it added.

WeWork, which is backed by Japan's SoftBank Vision-Fund, which counts Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund as its

two largest outside investors, is also planning to enter the Middle East by the end of this year with the announcement of its first location in Dubai.

Founded in 2010, the company offers diverse options of private offices and desks, with varying prices depending on the markets. For example,

one can rent a desk in Mumbai at \$150 (Dh550) but the same will not cost less than \$400 in London.

Besides leasing properties, WeWork has also started to purchase properties but it remains a small part of its business. WeWork counts rivals like Regus, Knotel, Convene

and Impact Hub, which all take on long-term leases on buildings in city centres. They in turn refurbish the space with modern amenities and sleek meeting areas to entice tenants on all-inclusive contracts for shorter periods than typical office space landlords.

Adnoc closes \$4bn pipeline deal with BlackRock & KKR

ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company completed its \$4bn deal with BlackRock and KKR who will in exchange have a 40 per cent stake in its pipeline infrastructure.

The infrastructure funds financed by a syndicate of international banks through which the private equity firms invested were oversubscribed during syndication, Adnoc said in a statement on Thursday.

"The successful closing of this pioneering transaction and the oversubscribed financing is a clear vote of confidence by the global investment and finance community in both the UAE and Adnoc as an attractive investment destination," said Adnoc finance and investment group director Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi.

"It also highlights the quality of Adnoc's midstream pipeline assets and our innovative approach to structuring value-creating investment opportunities for our partners and investors," he added.

In February, BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager as well as KKR paid \$4bn upfront through a special purpose vehicle to invest in 18 of Adnoc's pipelines, totalling 750 kilometres in length and with a capacity of 13 million barrels per day. The infrastructure will be leased for 23 years to the companies through a newly formed entity Adnoc Oil Pipelines, in which the private equity firms will hold a 40 per cent stake, with Adnoc retaining the majority stakeholder.

The agreement marked the first time that leading international financial institutions were able to make investments related to the company's midstream

assets following a competitive selection process by Adnoc.

The Abu Dhabi Retirement Pensions and Benefits Fund later contributed \$300m to the SPV, with the financial closure for that deal expected in the forthcoming quarter.

As part of the agreement, Adnoc will retain absolute sovereignty and management of the pipelines, which transport stabilised crude and condensate from its onshore and offshore fields to export and refining facilities.

Adnoc Oil Pipelines will receive a tariff from the state-owned company for its share of crude and condensate transported through the pipelines. Minimum volume commitments are also in place.

KKR made its first direct investment in the region through its \$7.4bn Global Infrastructure Investors Fund with this deal. The New York-headquartered company has been acquiring pipeline assets in the north and central Americas, including in the Gulf of Mexico, DJ Basin, Canada's British Columbia and Alberta Montney regions, as well as Mexico's Bay of Campeche.

BlackRock has almost \$6 trillion in assets under management invested through its third Global Energy & Power Infrastructure Fund. Adnoc's financial advisors on the deal included Bank of America Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan, while Moelis & Company acted as an independent financial advisor.

Ahead of the pipeline transaction, Fitch rated Adnoc the most creditworthy oil and gas player globally. The ratings agency assigned the group a standalone credit rating of AA+ - the highest given to companies in the energy sector - for "high upstream output, significant reserves and strong profitability."

Democrats fight over healthcare in first US presidential debate

MIAMI

DEMOCRATIC presidential contenders battled over healthcare coverage during a surprisingly heated first debate on Wednesday, laying bare the party's divisions on whether to abolish private insurance and shift to a Medicare-for-All system.

In the first round of back-to-back debates, several contenders also clashed over border policy as some of the lesser-known candidates vied for attention in the crowded race to take on Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election.

Candidates at times shouted over each other, battling to grab the spotlight and prove to Democratic activists they are capable of standing up to Trump.

Former congressman Beto O'Rourke came under fire most often during the 10-candidate debate in Miami, tangling with former Housing Secretary Julian Castro, a fellow Texan, and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.

The battle over healthcare began when the candidates were asked to raise their hands if they support eliminating private health insurance. Only US Senator Elizabeth Warren and de Blasio did so, but they quickly challenged the other eight candidates on stage.

Warren, a leader of the party's progressive wing who has been surging in opinion polls, said private insurance was taking advantage of Americans. She backs a government-sponsored

Medicare-for-All approach and criticized those who say it is not politically feasible.

"What they are really telling you is they just won't fight for it. Healthcare is a basic right, and I will fight for it," she said.

But former US Representative John Delaney, an outspoken critic of Medicare for All who supports a universal healthcare approach that includes private insurance, said Democrats should not throw away a system that some Americans are happy with.

"I think we should be the party that keeps what's working and fixes what's broken," Delaney said.

After years of defending former Democratic President Barack Obama's landmark healthcare law known as Obamacare from Republican attempts to repeal it, Democrats have struggled during the campaign to agree on the best approach to fixing it.

The Medicare for All approach pushed by Warren and US Senator Bernie Sanders, which has gained support in Congress, would create a government-operated plan that eliminates private insurance. It is modeled on the Medicare government healthcare program for seniors.

O'Rourke said private insurance was "fundamental to our ability to get everybody cared for," but de Blasio cut him off.

"Congressman O'Rourke, private insurance is not working for tens of millions of Americans when you talk about the copays, the deductibles the



Democratic presidential candidate former Texas Republican Beto O'Rourke, center, answers a question, during a Democratic primary debate hosted by NBC News at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Art, on Wednesday, in Miami, as from left, Senators Cory Booker, Senators Elizabeth Warren, Senators Amy Klobuchar, and Republican Tulsi Gabbard, Hawaii, listen. (AP)

premiums - it's not working. How can you defend a system that's not working?"

INTENSE EXCHANGES

O'Rourke also came under attack from Castro over the separation of families and detention of migrants at the southern border. Castro said he would decriminalize border crossings by migrants, which he said had led to the separation of families. He challenged O'Rourke and others to support him.

O'Rourke said that as a congressman he helped introduce a bill that would ensure that those who are seeking asylum and refuge in the United States are not criminalized.

Castro responded: "I'm not talking about the ones that are seeking asylum, I'm talking about everybody else." He accused O'Rourke of not doing his homework.

The Democrats also agreed with each other frequently, particularly when it came to Trump. They criticized his economic policies, saying they had benefited the wealthy at the expense of working Americans, and calling his border policies heartless.

Trump hinted he would not tweet his reactions to the debate live. It was taking place as he flies aboard Air Force One to Osaka, Japan, for a G20 summit.

But shortly after it began, he could not help himself. "BORING!" he tweeted.

The intensity of the exchanges, after six months of a relatively mild and dispute-free campaign, reflected the high stakes in what could be a make-or-break moment for some of the contenders struggling to be noticed in the field of more than 20 candidates.

All 10 participants in the first encounter had an opportunity to step out of the shadow cast by front-runners Joe Biden and Sanders, who are scheduled to take the stage yesterday night with eight other contenders.

Warren was the headliner on the opening night. She was joined onstage by nine other candidates, including US Senators Cory Booker and Amy Klobuchar.

Washington state Governor Jay Inslee said he was the only candidate on the stage that had passed a public healthcare option and a law protecting a woman's right to reproductive health and health insurance.

That drew a sharp response from Klobuchar.

"There are three women up here who have fought pretty hard for a woman's right to choose," she said, looking at Warren and congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard.

Agencies

Kagame's denial of human rights allegations arouse strong resonance

KIGALI,

RWANDA'S president Paul Kagame hit back in a recent interview with France 24 at allegations of Rwanda's human rights situation, which aroused strong resonance in Rwanda and in social media.

The French television interviewed Kagame, alongside the European Union (EU)'s Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica at the European Development Day event in Brussels, Belgium, earlier this month.

The interview video was posted on France 24's website on June 24. The presenter raised up a question that how much Rwanda's human rights concern EU when it comes to providing development funding investment, citing an EU human rights report focusing on Rwanda, and then continued with more questions on human rights issues.

Kagame in the interview dismissed allegations of Rwanda's human rights record in the report, saying the report is "ridiculous." "What we are talking about in terms of development, these are human rights: development, schools, education, health and food security," Kagame said in the interview.

The level of poverty in Rwanda has decreased by almost by 60 percent, and Rwandan people are participating in improving their own lives and have improved lives, he said.

"You really need to stop this superiority complex nonsense about human rights. You think you are the only one who respects human rights, all others are about violating human rights," the president told the presenter.

"We have fought for human rights and freedom for our people, much better and more than anyone including you, (and) people who keep talking this nonsense," said Kagame.

"Where we have taken our country from and where it is now speaks for itself," he said. Some people think they know everything about human rights and all the kinds of things, and people in "another world" don't know, but "these are our human rights," the president said.

Despite the tremendous improvement of human rights in Rwanda and the developments including economy and human rights that are happening in Rwanda, there is generally a lack of understanding of what exactly is going on in Rwanda, Richard Karugarama Lebero, senior lecturer from school of law at the University of Rwanda, told Xinhua on Wednesday in a telephone interview.



People already have preconceived ideas of what Rwanda should be, and what Rwanda shouldn't be, many of which are not based on evidence, said Lebero.

Rwanda's human rights record is impressive and keeps improving, he said, adding that the country has freedom of speech, assembly and expression, right to education, as well as independent courts, he said.

Frank Habineza, member of the

Rwanda's parliament and President of Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, said the issue of superiority complex "is there in the West."

Rwanda is signatory to Universal Declaration of Human Rights, therefore the country knows what human rights are and what to respect, Habineza told Xinhua, adding that no one should have a "prerogative" to claim that he or she knows human rights better.

"Western countries have this superiority complex by belittling African countries on many things including human rights, President Kagame corrected this perception," said Ismael Buchanan, senior lecturer at the University of Rwanda, in a written interview.

Rwanda has made tremendous differences in every sector and part of life, in politics, health, human rights and so on compared to 25 years ago, said Buchanan. The government of Rwanda and partners have put in more efforts to ensure that human rights are promoted and respected, he said.

Rwanda has ratified almost all core international human rights instruments, domesticated them in the constitution and in other national laws to ensure that citizens have these rights, said the scholar.

He further called on Rwandans and Africans to define their own destiny. Rwanda's private and leading newspaper The New Times on Tuesday published an editorial titled "When will they get off their high stools and get back to reality."

"Rwandans and their leaders are not there to please them (international noisemakers). They do things in their interests, no one else's," read the editorial on the interview of France 24.

Clips of the interview have been widely circulated on twitter, one of which reached over 189,000 views by the time of the report's publication and the full interview video posted on YouTube reached over 86,000 views.

Many Twitter users expressed support to Kagame on twitter posts with the hashtag "#WhoAreYou", a rhetorical question Kagame used in the interview to ask people not to be a "judge" of others.

Another Twitter post said the interview meant to be a discussion on development turned into a "masterclass" on confronting and challenging "long-held racist views." "Africa will not stay in that little box you've created for us," it said.

Xinhua

First China-Africa trade expo to forge closer economic partnership

CHANGSHA

THE first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo opened yesterday in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province.

The three-day event has attracted more than 10,000 guests and traders, including those from 53 African countries, according to the organizing committee.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory letter.

"Industrial development and free trade amongst ourselves will foster faster growth for our mutual benefit," said Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni at the opening ceremony. "This Forum should, among others, enable us to devise ways of turning these rays of hope into a reality."

Hailing the long-term friendship with Africa, Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Qian Keming said at the expo that the bilateral trade and economic cooperation should be practical and concrete to meet the development needs of African countries in areas such as infrastructure construction and talent cultivation.

China saw 3 percent year-on-year growth of foreign trade with African countries in the first five months this year, hitting 84.8 billion U.S. dollars. China's direct investment to the continent has increased by 1.5 billion U.S. dollars in the past five months, up 20 percent year on year, according to Qian.

According to Assome Aminata Diatta, Senegal's Minister of Trade and SMEs, China is an ideal partner for Africa to improve its capacity building when China is seeking higher-quality growth driven by innovation.

Bringing modern production lines to Africa, especially in the special economic zones, will likely provide tens of millions of jobs for Africa, accelerate its industrialization and improve the trade structure between China and Africa, Diatta said.

Conferences, seminars, forums and exhibitions focusing on agriculture, trade, investment and infrastructure construction will be held during the expo, with experts sharing views on closer bilateral exchanges.

The expo will feature exhibition areas covering more than 40,000 square meters, including national pavilions and display areas for enterprises that showcase the achievements and opportunities of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation.

Launched under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the expo establishes a new mechanism for economic and trade cooperation between China and African countries.

Xinhua

Russia's request to make public emails related to DNC server hacks turned down by US

MOSCOW

THE United States turned down Russia's request to make public correspondence about the hacking of the Democratic party's server, distorting its essence at the same time, Nikolai Murashov, the deputy director of the National Coordination Center for Computer Incidents, told a news briefing yesterday.

"Russia had to refer an official request with the US authorities to make public correspondence on that matter. The US Department of State refused to do that citing as a reason the necessity to observe information exchange privacy agreements," he said. "But, as a matter of fact, it is the American side that breaches them."

For instance, Christopher Painter, the former coordinator for cyber issues at the Department of State, is indulging in that. He continues to position himself as an official at international events and publicly comments on this correspondence. Moreover, he flagrantly distorts its nature and essence." Murashov also noted that the US mass media deliberately hushed up statements by authoritative American experts who pointed to the fact that the Democratic party's information resources had been poorly protected.

Thus, John McAfee, a leading cyber security expert, said in an interview with Russia Today that a fragment of an old malware was used to hack the server. More to it, it was done by "an independent one person kid that downloaded the software." "The hackneyed DNC hack narrative began to be hyped exactly when it promised political dividends. As a matter of fact, it was an attempt to make the best of a bad business," Murashov said.

Leaks from the Democratic Nations Committee's servers was exposed in April 2016. In June, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton put the blame for the hacking on Russia but a month later the White House said there were no grounds to accuse any particular country.

According to Murashov, the matter might have been settled right then should the US Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security has asked Russia's assistance.

But, in his words, an official request via the Russian-US closed communication channel came only six months later.

"Washington, as I have already mentioned, is sticking to a different position. We gave a substantial answer to the United States' inquiry."

Agencies

BRI promotes yuan internationalisation despite trade war

THE internationalization of the yuan keeps improving along with the promotion of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which shows that confidence in China's economy is growing despite the ongoing China-US trade war, analysts said.

"Chinese financial institutions have established more than 10 subsidiaries in Africa, and eight countries including South Africa have included the yuan in their foreign reserves," Vice Commerce Minister Qian Keming told a press conference on June 4.

China has established yuan settlement arrangements with Zambia, and local currency swap agreements with four countries including Morocco, Qian said.

De-dollarising has become a trend, analysts said. Given decades of cooperation, China has won Africa's trust, so it is reasonable for these countries to choose to include the yuan in their foreign reserves, Dong Dengxin, director of the Financial Securities Institute at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology, told the Global Times



on June 4.

Yuan internationalisation will proceed faster due to US unilateralism and bullying. "US protectionism and its so-called 'America First' policy have put the world's economy under a threat, no matter whether it's the European developed countries, or other

developing countries," he said.

In contrast, as the world's second-largest economy, China's unswerving opening-up policy and years of high-quality economic growth have offered a secure shelter for the rest of the world, and including the yuan in foreign reserves shows countries' trust in China, Dong noted.

"The BRI has been a great platform for the yuan's internationalization thanks to massive trade settlements that are involved for the currency," Tan Xiaofen, deputy head at the

School of Finance at the Central University of Finance and Economics, told the Global Times.

More than 60 foreign central banks or monetary authorities have included the yuan in their official foreign reserves, including Singapore, Russia and Australia, media reports said.

According to Czech media on May 30, the Czech Republic's central bank confirmed that it has decided to adopt the yuan as a reserve currency.

Qian said that new business models have been developing rapidly un-

der the framework of the BRI, such as cross-border e-commerce. For example, Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba has announced the joint development with the Rwandan government of the first global e-commerce platform in Africa.

Trade between China and Africa reached \$204.2 billion in 2018, up 20 percent year-on-year, and China has been the largest trading partner of Africa for 10 consecutive years, Qian told the press conference.

Global Times

All eyes on G20 Osaka summit as global growth, multilateralism at crossroads

OSAKA, Japan

LEADERS of Group of 20 (G20) economies are gathering in Osaka, Japan for the annual paramount event of the group, as the world pins high hope on the high-stakes summit, scheduled for today and tomorrow, to steer the global economy out of the current uncertainties and restore confidence in the multilateral system.

According to the host Japan, priority topics to be discussed at the summit include the global economy, trade and investment as well as innovation, among others.

However, many expect the talks to heavily focus on ways to ease the current global trade tensions and pave the way for sustainable growth.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April lowered its global growth forecast for 2019 to 3.3 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from its January estimate, with IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde saying that the global economy is at a "delicate moment."

Upon the conclusion of the meeting between G20 finance ministers and central bank governors earlier this month, Lagarde noted that trade conflicts are the "principal threat" to the global economic outlook.

The World Bank also expressed particular concern over "a slowdown in global trade growth to the lowest level since the financial crisis ten years ago."

Unilaterally escalating the trade tensions, the United States in May raised additional tariffs on 200 billion U.S. dollars' worth of Chinese imports from 10 percent to 25 percent, and threatened to levy extra duties on more Chinese products.

The global economy has been feeling the pain from the U.S.-China trade friction that was initiated by Washington. The recently announced tariffs between the two countries, combined with those implemented in 2018, could reduce global gross domestic product



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives for the 14th Group of 20 (G20) summit at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. (Xinhua)

(GDP) by 0.5 percent in 2020, resulting in a loss of about 455 billion dollars, according to the IMF.

"The largest issue at the upcoming G20 summit would be the trade war between the United States and China, whose impacts have been felt by most economies in the world," said Fredy B. L. Tobing, dean of the international relations faculty at the University of Indonesia. "Economic cooperation is now heavily disrupted by trade barriers, tariffs and so on," he said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump are expected to meet on the sidelines of the summit, with Xi saying last week that Beijing and Washington should jointly play a leading role in pushing for positive outcomes at the summit, so as to inject confidence and vitality into the global market.

"It would be very helpful if leaders of China and the United States could meet and discuss their differences," said Liu

Hong, chair of the School of Social Sciences at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

"But the talks must be based on respect for a country's sovereignty and political system without interfering in domestic affairs. This is China's bottom line," Liu said.

Just like what Japan has put it on the official website of the Osaka summit, "the rule-based multilateral trading system is at a critical juncture."

G20, which accounts for some 80 percent of global trade and about 85 percent of global GDP, has been a major platform for working out multilateral solutions for many of the world's pressing challenges.

At a time when the long-standing multilateral system and globalization itself are at stake, whether G20 members will reach consensus and keep the ball rolling could make a real difference for the future.

"The G20 has never been more im-

portant since its inception than it is today," said Peter Drysdale, head of the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research at the Australian National University.

Noting that the United States is "attacking the multilateral system," the expert saw the G20 as "the best hope of protecting the multilateral system on which both global prosperity and security have been built."

Since 2013, President Xi has attended six G20 summits, offering China's wisdom in improving global economic governance, safeguarding the multilateral trade system, developing an open world economy and boosting strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive global growth.

At last year's G20 summit in Buenos Aires, Xi highlighted the danger of unilateralism and protectionism in his speech, and called on G20 members to "stay committed to openness and cooperation and uphold the multilateral trading system."

"Rapidly developing economies with China in the lead have become the new flag-bearers of free trade and globalization," said Swarn Singh, a professor with the School of International Studies at the New Delhi-based Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"That same trend is likely to continue at the 2019 G20 summit in Osaka," he said, Japan, which has assumed the G20 presidency for the first time, is expected to urge countries to resolve tensions within a multilateral framework, said Masatsugu Asakawa, Japan's vice minister of finance for international affairs. "Japan will continue to take a multilateral approach in promoting free trade," he said earlier this month.

The IMF in April revised up the 2019 growth projection for China to 6.3 percent, a recognition of the resilience of the Chinese economy amid global headwinds.

Despite the gradual slowdown,

China is expected to account for more than 30 percent of global growth this year, said Changyong Rhee, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department.

In fact, with the launch of the G20 meeting in 1999, China's active participation in globalization has brought about one of the biggest changes in the world economy, said Lee Hee-ok, a professor of political science at Seoul-based Sungkyunkwan University.

China's GDP has grown exponentially for the past 20 years through innovation that created leading industries in certain areas, resulting in a significant improvement in the quality of people's lives, he noted.

But China's contribution to the global economy goes beyond growth data. Lee pointed out that the Beijing-proposed Belt and Road Initiative offers an open platform and an opportunity for every country to enjoy shared prosperity.

He said the initiative, which allows every party to join in rather than excluding a certain party, is an open and multilateral idea that goes against unilateralism and isolationism.

Apart from trade and economy, the Osaka summit will also see leaders touch upon issues including the digital economy, inclusive and sustainable growth, infrastructure, climate, energy and the environment.

Finance ministers and central bank governors from G20 economies said in a joint statement after their gathering in June that they are committed to using all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks by stepping up dialogues and actions to enhance confidence.

They also put emphasis on quality infrastructure as an essential part of the G20's efforts to close the infrastructure gap, stressing the importance of maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth.

Xinhua

China-Russia economic, trade index reflects stronger bilateral relationship

THE first China-Russia (Harbin) economic and trade index was released on June 16 in Harbin, capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The index is composed of both the national trade index and the regional trade index, including China's trade with Russia, exports and imports with Russia, trade in specific industrial lines, the compatibility of trade and the influence of the city of Harbin on surrounding areas.

Trade relations between China and Russia have strengthened in recent years. In 2018, the import index from Russia increased 127.93 percent compared with 2010.

Li Chunding, an assistant researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), told the Global Times that the index reflects the increasingly close strategic partnership. "Traditionally the top three trading partners of China have been the US, the EU and ASEAN countries, but now Russia is playing an increasingly important role," Li said.

Free trade area agreements and the compatibility of trade in Russia and China are behind this trend, Li said. In 2016, a free trade zone between China and Russia was established in Harbin to inspire more trade and communication.

"But deep down it's because Russia and China are compatible in their import and export structures," Li said. "Russia is benefiting from cheap and good-quality daily necessities, and China is securing its energy from imports of gas and crude oil from Russia."

Global Times

Xi to hold meetings with world leaders at G20 summit

By Li Xuanmin

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will hold multilateral meetings with leaders of BRICS countries, trilateral talks with leaders of India and Russia as well as meetings with leaders of African countries during the G20 summit in Japan from June 27 to 29, Chinese officials said.

Against rising protectionism and unilateralism in the US, observers and business representatives said that the summit could be a platform for China to strengthen relations with both the developing and developed world and promote regional cooperation so as to jointly defend the free trade mechanism and make the global governance system fairer.

Xi will attend the 14th G20 Summit in Osaka, marking the seventh time Xi will attend or chair the meeting, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Zhang Jun said at a press briefing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing on Monday.

On the sidelines, Xi will hold informal meetings with BRICS leaders, trilateral talks with Russian and Indian leaders as well as small-scale meetings with African leaders to communicate and negotiate on topics like "cooperation among emerging economies and developing countries and the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda of the United Nations," Zhang said.

Meanwhile, Xi will also hold bi-



Media center is seen prior to the G-20 summit in Osaka, western Japan, yesterday. The two-day summit starts today. (AP)

lateral meetings with leaders to deepen cooperation and push forward bilateral relations.

"Certain individual countries which advance unilateralism have abused trade remedy measures and national security concept, severely threatening global trade and economic growth.

China is willing to work with all parties to firmly uphold its opening-up policy and contribute to creating a predictable and stable environment for enterprises and investors," Zhang said.

The Chinese President's meeting with other state leaders has become a tradition of the summit, but analysts said in the context of a world system full of uncertainties, this year's meeting will pro-

vide China's all-round cooperation - from trade and investment, infrastructure, the environment and military to culture - with strategic partners to hedge against risks associated with strained relations with the US.

The Xinhua News Agency reported last week that Xi agreed to meet US President Donald Trump after a phone conversation at the request of the US side. So far, top negotiators from both sides are following up on the consensus reached by the two leaders and preparing for the meeting between them, Zhang said.

The heads of state of 19 countries and the EU are expected to participate in this year's summit, according to a statement on the

G20 website.

Among their top concerns is protectionism, as the trade dispute between the world's two largest economies involves every stakeholder and all G20 members seek to minimize such an impact. He Weiben, a former senior Chinese trade official, told the Global Times.

The G20 members represent more than 80 percent of global GDP and 60 percent of the global population.

Chinese officials have also called on the G20 to uphold multilateralism, back international justice and create a good environment "for bringing the world economy back on the right track."

Global Times

Iran: US withdrawal renders nuke deal 'almost ineffective'

UNITED NATIONS

AN Iranian envoy said on Wednesday that the United States' withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and re-imposition of sanctions rendered the deal almost fully ineffective.

"The US withdrawal from the JCPOA (commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal) and re-imposition of its sanctions rendered the JCPOA almost fully ineffective, with respect to Iran's benefits, which is of course a clear violation of the US commitments under the JCPOA and a breach of its obligations under Resolution 2231," Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi told the UN Security Council's semi-annual briefing on the implementation of Resolution 2231.

"The US also brazenly continues threatening other states to 'either violate Resolution 2231 or face punishment.' This irresponsible conduct by a Council's permanent member, unprecedented in the history of this body, is a frontal assault on Resolution 2231, violates the UN Charter and international law and further erodes the trust and confidence in the Council," said the ambassador.

"As a result, the US itself is not fulfilling its obligations under



Iranian then deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi

Resolution 2231, is not allowing Iran to implement certain parts of the JCPOA and is preventing other states from implementing their obligations under the resolution," he noted.

"Nevertheless, in the span of one year after the US withdrawal, the only reaction of Iran was to give more opportunity, weeks after weeks and months after months, to remaining JCPOA participants, mainly the E3 (Britain, France and Germany), upon their request, to compensate for the consequences of the US withdrawal," the envoy said.

The ambassador complained that Iran's good will and maximum restraint as well as repeated promises of other participants for taking practical solutions "yielded no concrete result."

In exercising its strategic pa-

tiency policy in order to preserve the JCPOA, Iran however has paid "a heavy price" as a result of the US economic war and its so-called "maximum pressure policy," including the US attempts to cut Iran's oil exports to zero and disrupting free trade with Iran, he said.

"A multilateral agreement cannot be implemented unilaterally. Iran has done a lot and much more than its fair share to preserve the nuclear deal. Iran alone cannot, shall not and will not take all of the burdens anymore to preserve the JCPOA," he continued.

Therefore, in order to protect the security and national interests of the people of Iran and to bring a balance to the JCPOA, on May 8, Iran decided to limit, in phase one of its plan, the implementation of its commitments in two cases, namely the level of reserves of "enriched uranium" and "heavy water" as identified in the JCPOA, said Ravanchi.

The Security Council held its semi-annual briefing on the implementation of Resolution 2231 on Wednesday.

Undersecretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo presented the latest secretary-general's report on the implementation of Resolution 2231.

Xinhua

Race to win keys to Downing Street heats up as gap between rivals narrows

LONDON

BORIS Johnson, Britain's former foreign secretary, remains favorite to become the new occupant of 10 Downing Street, but latest odds show the gap between him and his trailing rival has narrowed.

Current Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has been given new hope of catching up and overtaking Johnson in the race to become Theresa May's successor as Britain's prime minister.

Johnson's lead has started to slip following an escalation in Hunt's campaign, and the

fallout from a highly publicized domestic incident at the weekend between Johnson (pictured) and his girlfriend Carrie Symonds.

"Whether this is a small blip or the first signs of something more catastrophic for the former Foreign Secretary remains to be seen," stated the Daily Telegraph on Wednesday.

A YouGov poll carried out just prior to the domestic row story breaking found Conservative Party members backed Johnson by a margin of almost three to one. At the heart of their respective campaigns is the fate

of Brexit, and what will happen on Oct. 31, the deadline set by Brussels for Britain to agree a deal for its withdrawal from the European Union.

Both Johnson and Hunt insist the leave result in the 2016 referendum, exactly three years ago, must be respected.

Johnson has insisted in his latest media interviews that Britain must leave on Oct. 31 even if there is no deal.

Most of Britain's national newspapers zoomed in on a promise Johnson made in a radio interview when he said he would take out of the European



Union by the deadline date "come what may, do or die."

Johnson said on his social media account: "If I become PM, we will leave the EU on 31st

October, deal or no deal."

And throwing down the challenge to Hunt, Johnson added: "I have asked Jeremy Hunt whether he will also commit to this date, no matter what. We must keep our promises to the British people and deliver Brexit no ifs, no buts, and no second referendum."

Hunt said Johnson's "do or die" deadline could trigger a snap general election that could see Jeremy Corbyn moving into Downing Street as a Labour prime minister. In the process it could wreck Brexit altogether, said Hunt.

Hunt said Wednesday he will keep no deal on the table as an option, but has left open the potential for a short extension if an agreement with the EU is within reach.

"I will leave the European Union without a deal. But I'm not going to do that if there's a prospect of a better deal, and if I did it would be with a heavy heart because businesses up and down the country would face a lot of destruction," Hunt told the BBC in a television interview.

Brussels has insisted so far that the deal they agreed with

outgoing Prime Minister Theresa May is not up for renegotiation by the new prime minister.

The big question for whoever wins is what would happen if, in October, the British parliament votes on whether they will allow a no-deal Brexit.

A no-deal departure from the EU would mean Britain having to trade with EU member states under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

Johnson's threat of a no-deal Brexit threw the contest for the leadership of the governing Conservative Party into a higher gear. **Agencies**



Some in India's opposition see red over new orange cricket jerseys

MUMBAI/MANCHESTER

SOME opposition politicians on Wednesday slammed the Indian national cricket team's new orange jerseys, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing Hindu nationalist party of pushing its trademark saffron hue on the team.

"For the past five years, the Modi-led government is trying to saffronise each and every thing. Be it sports, cultural activities or anything for that matter," said Congress lawmaker Arif Naseem Khan, according to Reuters partner ANI.

But an International Cricket Council (ICC) source told ANI that the Indian cricket board (BCCI) had simply opted for orange over its classic blue jersey to distinguish itself from England, whom India are due to play in the World Cup on Sunday.

BCCI officials were not immediately available.

India's bowling coach Bharat Arun brushed aside the controversy during a chat with reporters at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"We are not even aware of what colour we are going to be wearing, so we have not given any thought to that. All our focus is on the match tomorrow," he said, alluding to Thurs-

day's game against West Indies.

This is not the first sartorial controversy to hit the Indian team, who are so far unbeaten in the tournament.

Earlier this month, the International Cricket Council asked Mahendra Singh Dhoni to remove an army insignia from his wicket-keeping gloves, forcing New Delhi to weigh in after a nationalistic furor in the country.

Dhoni and his team members also wore army camouflage-style caps in a one-day match against Australia in March to show their solidarity with Indian paramilitary police killed in a militant attack by a Pakistan-based group.

A spokesman for India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not respond to a request for comment on the jerseys outside business hours.

Pawan Khara, a spokesman for the main opposition party Congress, which lost to Modi's BJP in last month's general election, downplayed the debate.

"The colour of the jersey worn by players is decided by the BCCI and not the government. This is a needless controversy," Khara told Reuters.

REUTERS

Serena headed to Wimbledon seeking return to form

LONDON

SERENA Williams will bring her quest for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title to Wimbledon next week where she will try to shake off a nagging knee injury and show the tennis world that her window of opportunity is still open.

Williams has been stuck on 23 Grand Slam titles, one behind the all-time record held by Margaret Court, for over two years and has shown little evidence of late that she will be able to snap that drought at the All England Club.

"As long as she's playing, she's going to be a threat to win anything," ESPN tennis analyst and former world number one John McEnroe told a conference call.

"But it's just now there's more things that can go wrong, I suppose, like more days where she might not have it and other days where players won't give in as easily. So that just makes it more difficult."

The 37-year-old American's time on court has been limited to a handful of matches since the Australian Open in January due in part to a knee injury that kept her from competing in a tune-up event ahead of Wimbledon, where action begins on July 1.

After losing in the third round at the French Open, Williams did not exactly sound her confident self when asked if she would have enough time to get in optimal shape for Wimbledon, where she is a seven-times winner.

"I hope so. I'm still working on it and working on getting there," said Williams. "So I think it will be, I think it be enough time. We'll see, but I definitely hope so."

When Williams was at the peak



Serena Williams

of her career, she was so far above the competition that she could barrel her way through a Grand Slam draw even if she was having an off day.

But the combination of injury, a limited playing schedule and an increased standard of women's tennis over the past few years have left many to question whether she can again triumph in one of tennis' blue riband events.

TWO STEPS SLOWER

Williams won the most recent of her Grand Slam titles at the 2017 Australian Open when she was in the early stages of her pregnancy, which led to her taking a year off from competition.

She came back with a bang in 2018 and despite not playing at her best managed to reach the

final at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

"It's hard for me to bet against Serena. Look what happened last year: Two finals in Grand Slams," said ESPN tennis analyst and 18-times Grand Slam champion Chris Evert.

"The one difference that I see in Serena is since she's come back, she's been one or two steps slower than normal. I think that's a little bit of fitness. I think it's a little bit of match play. I think it's a little bit of confidence."

Healthy legs are key to any player's game but perhaps even more vital for someone like Williams who relies heavily on her physicality and court coverage to set up big shots.

Williams has been unable to deliver her trademark big

serves on a consistent basis of late but will likely take comfort in the friendly confines of the All England Club given she is most effective on grass.

But unlike in her prime, Williams' rivals know she is not the same player she once was and do not walk onto the court nearly as intimidated as they once were when facing one of the game's all-time greats.

"There's so many things that may be going against Serena, and she thrives on that, and she loves that, and that's when she comes through," said Evert.

"I would have said in January, if there was any Grand Slam she was going to win, it would probably be Wimbledon ... and if her serve is on, she's going to be tough to beat."

REUTERS

US men likely to wander Wimbledon wilderness once again

LONDON

THE Americans set to compete at Wimbledon are unlikely to end the United States' 19-year drought for the men's title at the All England Club as the nation's top athletes continue to be drawn to other sports, tennis great John McEnroe has said.

Normally U.S. tennis fans would hold out hope that 34-year-old John Isner, who reached the semi-finals 12 months ago and is this year's ninth seed, could break through and capture his maiden major title.

But the big-serving Texan hasn't played since suffering a foot injury in his final loss to Roger Federer at the Miami Open in March and none of his countrymen are at a level where they can threaten the best, McEnroe said in a call with reporters.

"I think that the odds are pretty low," the American seven-time major champion said

when asked if compatriots might challenge.

"Isner has been out ... so he's sort of an unknown quantity.

"And the other guys to me, whether it's (Reilly) Opelka, who is like a younger version (of Isner) or (Frances) Tiafoe, who has been struggling – it doesn't look to me like there are guys ready to go and make that move."

McEnroe said the situation would improve as up-and-comers like 21-year-old Taylor Fritz gained experience but for now the stranglehold that veterans Federer, Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic have on the sport would likely continue.

THE LURE OF FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL

Despite being a country of nearly 330 million people, American men have not been much of a factor in tennis since the retirements of 14-times Grand Slam champion Pete Sampras in 2003 and eight-times major win-

ner Andre Agassi in 2006.

Sampras was the last American man to win Wimbledon in 2000, his seventh.

One reason is that the best male athletes from the U.S. tend to gravitate toward more accessible sports.

"We've been seeing this for years or decades, but our best athletes seem to be playing football and basketball more. Soccer has grown as well, so you need to go after athletes," he said.

"Tennis, if anything, is more expensive than it was before. So the accessibility is a big factor."

He pointed to Tiafoe, the son of immigrants from Sierra Leone, as one to watch.

"We have Tiafoe who is a great athlete but he's still learning," he said of the 21-year-old who learned the sport at a facility in Maryland where his father was head of maintenance. REUTERS

Analysis: For Durant and Leonard, the move is to stay put

BY TIM REYNOLDS

TORONTO'S Kawhi Leonard and Golden State's Kevin Durant are both very difficult to figure out. They seem to enjoy giving cryptic answers, a minimum of clues, and clearly relish having enigmatic status.

It makes free agency tough to forecast.

Luckily for Toronto and Golden State, the math should be very simple.

Leonard and Durant are the biggest dominoes that will fall sometime after the free-agent window opens Sunday evening – unless, of course, neither ends up falling elsewhere and decide to stay put for now. And that is what the math says both of them would be wisest to do.

Durant will be offered a \$221 million, five-year contract from Golden State. That's one year and \$57 million more than any other team can offer. Provided that he won't be playing next year anyway because of his ruptured Achilles and that there's no guarantee that the after-surgery version of Durant will remain in the best-player-on-the-planet conversa-

tion, it would be less than prudent to leave that much money on the table.

"He's been everything to us," Warriors general manager Bob Myers said earlier this month.

With Leonard, it's all a bit more complex.

The NBA champion Raptors could offer him anything from \$32 million for one year to \$190 million for five years, and the reality is that Leonard probably wants something in between. In the summer of 2021, after Leonard completes his 10th year in the league, he goes from being able to command 30% of a salary cap to 35% of a salary cap.

That 5% is going to be a lot of money. That's why, for Leonard, the smarter play in terms of finances is to sign a shorter deal this summer – two years, \$68 million or so, maybe with a third year at his option – and cash in for all he will have coming two years from now.

"He's a confident human being," Raptors President Masai Ujiri said. "He's an unbelievable person. He is his own person. ... I think we've built a trust there."

Of course, all that is the money



Fans hold up signs for injured Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant during the first half of Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals between the Warriors and the Toronto Raptors in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, June 13, 2019. (AP Photo)

aspect of things.

Leonard has already pocketed about \$85 million in on-court earnings and the big

money is really going to start rolling in now. Durant is up to around \$190 million on the court, with probably just as much off the

court. They're both set for life, so money won't be the sole driving force in their respective decisions.

The basketball stuff still matters. No matter how much Durant and Leonard have in the bank, they cannot buy championship rings.

This is where the ambiguity starts to kick in, although there shouldn't be much. Even with the Los Angeles Lakers about to get Anthony Davis in a trade, even with the Brooklyn Nets quite possibly about to land Kyrie Irving in free agency, it's fairly clear that the Raptors and Warriors – this past season's NBA finalists – will go into next season with the most realistic championship aspirations.

The Warriors won't have Durant because of his Achilles injury. They will still have Stephen Curry and, probably, Klay Thompson – provided he re-signs, as is expected. They will still have Steve Kerr calling the shots. They will have

deep-pocketed, free-spending owners who won't want the team's first season in the new Chase Center to be, by Warriors' standards, a step backwards after five consecutive NBA Finals appearances.

The Raptors have a chance to go back-to-back and even though the Eastern Conference is deeper now than it has been in recent years – Milwaukee won 60 games this past season, Philadelphia should be strong again, Boston and Indiana have some work to do but could find themselves right back in the mix – there's an argument to be made that Leonard's best path to a third title ring would lead him to stay in Toronto.

For Durant and Leonard, all the talk about New York and Brooklyn and Los Angeles should be just that – talk.

The simplest, and right, move for both is this: Run it back. Stay put. Be the dominoes that don't fall, and let the rest of the league react to that.

Kenya still have a long road ahead to join Africa's elite

CAIRO

KENYA still have a long, hard road ahead if they are to come anywhere near matching the success they have enjoyed in athletics on the football field, coach Sebastien Migne said on Wednesday.

Kenyan, known as the Harambee Stars, are taking part in the Africa Cup of Nations for the sixth time and have won only one match out of 15 – beating Burkina Faso 3-0 on their last appearance in 2004 when they had already been eliminated.

They have never got past the group stage and have never qualified for a World Cup.

Migne said that travelling to other countries had made him aware of the gap between the popularity of football in Kenya and elsewhere.

"Kenya was until now not a country of football," he told reporters. "During the qualifying competition we went to Ghana and I saw kids everywhere in the street playing football. In West Africa, they are everywhere."

"I lived for three years on Oman and, from four o'clock in the evening on the beach, on all the coast you have small games of football."

This was not the case in Kenya, however.

"You can go along the coast, which is wonderful, but it is difficult to see a football match," he said.

However, things were starting to change. When Kenya hosted Ethiopia in their decisive qualifier

in October, a game they won 3-0, Migne said that the stadium was full two hours before kick off and thousands of fans were left outside.

"We have to go step by step because we have some talented players," he said. "The Harambee Stars are becoming important for the Kenyan people – we are on the way but the road will be long to get to the top 10 in Africa."

Kenya were to face East African neighbours Tanzania later yesterday in a key match for both sides, who lost their opening games against Algeria and Senegal respectively.

Migne admitted he was disappointed with their performance.

"We'll enter the pitch tomorrow to try to show our qualities, to start our game from the first second," he said. "I believe in my team and we have some qualities. I think for the next game we will be there. It will be important to learn quickly."

Migne said his team must not throw away their chance after such a long absence from the tournament.

"We were absent for 15 years so we cannot miss this event. We need to be alive, to feel all the moment. I hope tomorrow you will see another face of my team," he said.

"Tomorrow, the players will try to write history and win the first game with something at stake during the final of CAN – and after that everything is possible."

REUTERS

Morocco coach Renard hopes to torment Ivory Coast again

CAIRO

SINCE transforming perennial underachievers the Ivory Coast into African champions four years ago, Herve Renard has tormented them as coach of Morocco.

The 50-year-old Frenchman, whose matchday shirts are always white, ensured the 2017 title defence of the Ivorians did not last beyond the first round as they fell 1-0 to the Moroccans.

Renard inflicted more misery on his former team in 2018 World Cup qualifying with a 2-0 triumph in Abidjan taking Morocco to Russia at the expense of the Ivory Coast.

Considered potential winners of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt, Morocco and the Ivory Coast meet Friday in a Group D top-of-the-table showdown in Cairo.

"This is a special game for me," said Renard, the only coach to win the Cup of Nations with two countries, Zambia and the Ivory Coast.

Here, AFP Sport previews the Group D doubleheader with the Ivory Coast-Morocco clash followed by Namibia against South Africa, while Group E leaders Mali face Tunisia in Suez.

Ivory Coast v Morocco

Both countries launched their campaigns with solitary-goal victories in sweltering mid-afternoon Cairo heat, but the Ivorians will have been the happier side.

While they outmuscled South Africa and should have won by more than a Jonathan Kodjia strike, Morocco laboured to win that came via a late Itamunua Keimuine own-goal.

Ivory Coast coach Ibrahim Kamara said "the result was more important than the performance. It was critical not to fail in our opening match".



Morocco coach Herve Renard watches an Africa Cup of Nations Group D match against Namibia in Cairo (AFP Photo)

Rather than slam a lacklustre Moroccan display, Renard hailed Namibia: "They were well organised and coached."

While both nations should make the last 16, winning the group would set up a fixture against one of the third-place qualifiers while coming second means taking on the Group E winners.

Namibia v South Africa

Namibia coach Ricardo Mannetti played for his country when they were humiliated 4-1 by South Africa

at the 1998 Cup of Nations in Burkina Faso

"The best way to banish those memories would be to beat Bafana Bafana (The Boys). We have never won a Cup of Nations match and that is our priority," he said.

"My players were heartbroken after holding Morocco for 89 minutes and then losing to an own-goal."

South Africa were inept against the Ivorians and this match could decide which country sneaks through as a third-place finisher and which makes an early exit.



England-born coach Stuart Baxter has warned his players not to underestimate Namibia because "this match is like a cup final for them".

Mali v Tunisia

Tunisia coach and former France star Alain Giresse knows what to expect from Mali as he coached them twice at the Cup of Nations with mixed results.

Under him, the Malians came third at the 2012 Cup of Nations in Gabon but made a first round exit in the same country two years ago without winning a match.

Now Giresse hopes to bring the Malian Eagles down to earth after they achieved the biggest win of the 12 first series matches in Egypt, a 4-1 hammering of debutants Mauritania.

The Mali scorers included burly Moussa Marega, who notched six goals for Porto in the Champions League last season, the equal third best tally.

Tunisia were the only one of the six top group seeds not to collect maximum points and midfielder Ferjani Sassi blamed "an inability to convert chances" for a 1-1 draw with Angola.

AFP

Winger Warda expelled from Egypt national team for sexual harassment

CAIRO

ACCORDING to an official release from the Egyptian national team, 25-year-old winger Amr Warda was booted from the Africa Cup of Nations national team squad for disciplinary reasons.

The national team is unable to replace him and will continue with a partial 22-player squad.

Egypt is hosting the tournament and is set to take on the Democratic Republic of Congo this evening in their second match, having topped Zimbabwe 1-0 in their opener.

Warda earned his 29th cap in that match, coming off the bench to play for 19 minutes.

While the release did not specify the disciplinary reasons for Warda's dismissal from the squad, officially deeming his removal from the squad for "unsporting behavior," he was exposed after a host of women came forward with screenshots and other evidence of harassment after they rejected his advances via social media and text message.

Warda eventually deactivated his Instagram account after the claims gained steam.

"Amr Warda is banned from the national squad after discussions with the team's technical and administrative bodies," the official



statement wrote. "This is to maintain the discipline and focus of the team."

The first to come forward was Egyptian-British model Merhan Keller who also named Egyptian internationals Ahmed Hassan Mahgoub and Mahmoud Hamdi in her accusations.

This is not the first time Warda has seen his football career affected by sexual harassment discipline. He saw a loan to Portuguese club Feirense in 2017 terminated after he was accused of sexually harassing the wives of his teammates.

(AGENCIES)

One coach, two teams; no problem multi tasking, says Dupuis

CAIRO

MADAGASCAR coach Nicolas Dupuis, is one of the few technicians at the Total Africa Cup of Nations Egypt 2019 training two teams.

The Frenchman combines his Madagascar job with his role as Technical Director of French fourth-tier side FC Fleury 91.

Dupuis finds himself in the same position as DR Congo's Florent Ibengue, who doubles as head coach of local side AS Vita. Ibengue has been combining the two roles since 2014.

For Dupuis balancing and multi-tasking has not been a problem, even with the demands that come with the two jobs.

"I think it is something great when you can share your knowledge at two different places.

Balancing the two is just a matter of understanding between the different employers. But, it is not easy, because you have to make a lot of sacrifices," the tactician told CAFOnline.com.

"You have to divide your time well and give attention to all the details. The two teams are very special to my heart and they are good projects I love working on."

"But for me at this time, I made it clear to Fleury and I told them that even before I joined them that my concentration will be hugely on Madagascar. We have qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time and it is my duty to ensure we prepare well and perform well at the competition," Dupuis who has been the Barea head coach since 2017 stated.

(Agencies)

It is a joy being the first to qualify for the Round of 16 - Nigeria coach Rohr

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

NIGERIA coach Gernot Rohr is reveling in his team's performance after their 1-0 victory over Guinea in their second Africa Cup of Nations Group B game.

A second-half header from Kenneth Omeruo was enough for the three-time African champions to edge their West African rivals at the Alexandria Stadium.

The victory stretched Nigeria's tally at the summit of Group B standings to six points after two games and also secured their progress to the Round of 16.

In his reaction to the result, Rohr expressed satisfaction with his team's display against the Syli Nationale and he is now aiming to end their group outing on a high against Madagascar on Sunday.

"It was a good performance from the team today, we played really well though it was a tough game from Guinea," Rohr said after the game.

"I am happy we could deal with the danger they posed and being the first into the round of 16 is a joy for us."

"Now we have to ensure we finish off well against Madagascar in our last game to top the pool."

Nigeria will battle Madagascar in their final Group B game at the Alexandria Stadium on June 30.

On the other side, Guinea coach Paul Put has blamed his team's lack of concentration for their 1-0 loss to Nigeria in the Africa Cup of Nations on Wednesday.

After Kenneth Omeruo's header in the 73rd minute, the West African country's hopes of qualifying for the knockout stage of Afcon are hanging on a thread.

The Syli Nationale have only one point after two games, which means even a win against Burundi in their final Group B game wouldn't guarantee them a spot in the knockouts.

"We had a small moment of lapse of concentration from a set piece and we conceded," Put told the press after the game.

"It is disheartening because this



Nigeria's Kenneth Omeruo celebrates scoring their first goal with Moses Simon and Wilfred Ndidi during their Africa Cup of Nations 2019 - Group B match against Guinea at Alexandria Stadium in Alexandria, Egypt on Wednesday. REUTERS

was an important game for us which we really needed to win.

"It is now tough for us; we must win against Burundi in our final game to stand a chance."

Meanwhile, Following their 1-0 defeat to Nigeria, Guinea captain Naby Keita said they will keep fighting to advance to the knockout round of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

The Syli Nationale's chances of making it out of Group B was dented by Kenneth Omeruo's header in the 73rd minute as the Super Eagles ran out winners in Alexandria.

The defeat leaves Guinea with just a point after two games in Egypt, but Keita has issued a rallying call to his teammates to remain confident ahead of their next match.

"It wasn't our day today but we did all we can and played to our level best," Keita told the press after the game.

"We have to keep our heads high and move to the next match with an aim to win. It is not yet over and we will fight till the end."

Keita was in action for 70 minutes and looked to be close to his best, before he was later replaced by Lass Bangoura.

Guinea will face Burundi in the last Group B fixture at the Al-Salam Stadium on Sunday.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Kenya still have a long road ahead to join Africa's elite

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:57 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL) is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

east africa 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

KMC FC paired against Atlabara in 2019 Kagame Cup opener



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC players celebrate a goal netted by one of the team's players during a past Mainland Premier League match.

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC is expected to make its maiden appearance in the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Club Championship, popularly known as Kagame Cup, by locking horns with South Sudan's Atlabara in Rwanda on July 7.

The regional competition, which is organized by CECAFA, has been penned for July 6-21 and will bring together 16 outfits which have been placed in four groups.

KMC FC are in the Group A, which also has guest outfit, TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and one of the tournament's hosts, Rayon Sports.

Tanzania's Azam FC, the tournament's defending champions, KCCA FC of

Uganda, Kenya's Bandari and one of the hosts, Mukura Victory Sports, make Group B.

Group C has been made up of Uganda's Proline, Heegan of Somalia, Zambia's Green Eagles and Rwanda's APR FC. Zanzibar's champions KMKM, AS Ports of Djibouti, DC Motema Pembe of DRC and Kenya giants Gor Mahia are in Group D.

Nicholas Musonye, the regional football governing body's long serving secretary general, noted preparations are in top gear with a record attendance of the

16 clubs. "We are determined to organize a highly credible tournament that will be remembered for many years to come," Musonye disclosed.

Musonye expressed his sincere regards to Rwanda President Paul Kagame and the country's people for their commitment in enabling CECAFA organize an event of this magnitude.

"We are confident of staging a successful event," he insisted.

Two matches, both bringing together Group C sides, will take place in the opening day, with

both matches taking place at the Kigali Stadium.

first will pit Green Eagles against Heegan, whereas hosts APR FC will confront Proline later in the evening.

Eight clubs will be in action on July 7, with Huye Stadium and Kigali Stadium hosting the matches.

In the first of the day's matches KCCA FC will face Bandari, Azam FC will open their title retention bid by taking on Mukura Victory Sports. Rayon Sports will entertain TP Mazembe, a game that

will be preceded by the match pitting KMC FC against Atlabara.

The regional tournament will be a timely chance for KM FC's newly recruited coach, Ugandan Jackson Mayanja, to have a good look at his squad and shape up for the 2019/20 CAF Confederation Cup.

Dar es Salaam outfit will be one of two clubs which will represent Tanzania in the second tier of the continental club tournaments. Azam FC is also the country's representative in the competition.

Zambia gather for COSAFA Women's Championship preparations

CAPETOWN

ZAMBIA will be gunning for a maiden COSAFA Women's Championship title win when they contest the 2019 competition in South Africa's Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality from July 31-August 11.

The Shepolopolo have yet to make the final, but won three bronze medals and last year finished fourth when they lost to East African guest nation Uganda in the third-place play-off.

Coach Bruce Mwape has retained the core of the 2018 group as the side gathers for a 10-day training camp in Lusaka, and he is confident they can grab that elusive gold medal this year.

"Our players have gained experience; they played the COSAFA last year and at the Africa Cup [Women's Championship]. I am sure they are now geared to lift the cup," Mwape was quoted by the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ).

"Of course, when you go to a tournament you always target number one position."

One of the stars of the side is likely to be Spain-based Barbara Banda, who plays for EDF Logrono and will bring vast experience to the group.

"I have got a lot of experience which I am able to share with my friends here and I think I will add more value to the team," Banda told FAZ.

"We are in camp for 10 days in preparation for the COSAFA and All Africa Games. Everyone is looking in shape, we are all determined to do well at the COSAFA.

"The results we did last time, they are behind we have a new vision. We will take the COSAFA as preparations for us."

Mwape has brought a 36-player squad into camp, which will be cut down for the COSAFA tournament.

Zambia will find out their pool opponents on July 3 when the draw is made for the COSAFA Women's Championship and the COSAFA Under-20 Women's Championship, which will be hosted concurrently from August 1-11.

The teams at the senior championship will be split into three pools of four sides each, with the top team in each group advancing to the semi-finals, along with the best-placed runner-up.

Aside from Zambia, other confirmed participants in the senior championship are Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

AT lauds NCAA for backing athletics

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

ATLETICS Tanzania (AT) has expressed sincere regards to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) for the latter's support to the sport's development at the domestic level.

The authority has lately been putting its weight behind several projects held by the national athletics governing body.

The NCAA, for instance, sponsored the last year's National Open Athletics Championship, which took place at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

The body has as well been footing preparation expenses for domestic athletes who are competing in different international meets.

Wilhelm Gidabuday, AT secretary general, promised the authority that the association will keep on playing an active role in seeing to it Tanzania's tourist attractions are well



Athletes battle it out in the 5000m race of the last year's National Open Championship in Arusha.

known all over the world.

This year's National Championship is, again, expected

to take place at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha from July 5-6, as disclosed by Gidabuday.

The official noted the championship will bring together all regions in Mainland Tanzania

and Zanzibar.

Gidabuday added the competition is the biggest event domestically this season, as per the AT calendar, and will see 365 athletes and 31 officials participate.

Male and female athletes will battle it out in 14 events, he disclosed. He said the events include 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, 5,000m, 10,000m relay and 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay races.

Other events are javelin, discus, shot put, long jump and triple jump.

"All regions have been notified of the competition, which will be run as per rules set by the world athletics governing body, IAAF, and AT," the official noted.

Gidabuday pointed out each of the participating regions has been informed of the number of athletes they are to field in the championship and have as well received the rules.

The official added the national athletics governing body requests regions to confirm their so preparations for the tournament can go as per the association's plans.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

STRAIGHT LINE IS THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS.
WHAT'S THE LONGEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS?

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