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Protests rock Malawi cities after Mutharika wins re-election

LILONGWE

THOUSANDS of opposition supporters took to the streets of several cities in Malawi yesterday to protest last month's re-election of President Peter Mutharika (pictured).

In Lilongwe, Blantyre and Zomba, protesters are calling for the chief of the electoral commission, Jane Ansah, to step down.

President Mutharika won the election with less than 40 per cent of all votes cast.

Two opposition parties, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) and the United Transformation Movement (UTM), are challenging the result in court after alleging vote rigging.

Judges are due to rule on the case today. Malawi police used tear gas to disperse supporters of the opposition.

On Tuesday, protesters stormed government offices in the capital, Lilongwe, accusing the ruling Democratic Progressive Party of rigging the polls with the help of the



We declare the presidential elections to be free and fair and these results are the true reflection of the will of the people of Malawi

Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), whose top officials are appointed by the president.

"MEC, instead of being a natural referee in these elections, it was MEC that was in the forefront of rigging these elections," said Ezekiel Ching'oma, MCP spokesman. The commission denies any vote-rigging.

Commission chairperson Jane Ansah who announced the official election results late last month, said the commission has thoroughly reviewed all the complaints that were lodged on the presidential candidates.

"We declare the presidential elections to be free and fair and these results are the true reflection of the will of the people of Malawi," she declared.

The MEC declared Mutharika the winner in the re-election with 39 percent of the vote, while opposition Malawi Congress Party leader Lazarus Chakwera was a close second with 35 percent.

Vice President Saulos Chilima's opposition United Transformation Movement Party came in third with 20 percent.

Chilima told reporters Friday that he has evidence, in the form of a letter, which proves

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Govt summons US envoy over Masaki attack scare



GARBAGE MYSTERY

A Dar es Salaam resident passes by hundreds of stinking hides and skins, apparently abandoned, at a spot in the city's Mbagala Rangi Tatu suburb yesterday. There was no immediate comment from people in the neighbourhood or Temeke municipality sources on the bizarre development. Photo: Correspondent Miraj Masala

Muhimbili gearing up for bone marrow transplant

By Henry Mwangonde

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) is set to become the first health facility in East Africa to offer bone marrow transplant services with the first batch of experts scheduled to complete specialized training abroad by end of next month.

MNH's director of medical services Dr Hedwiga Swai told reporters in Dar es Salaam that 11 experts leave next week for training at Apollo Hospital in India and are expected to return end of July.

"The team of experts that leaves for India next week consists of immunologists, microbiologists, hematologists, physical scientist and medical



Around 130 to 140 patients—mostly suffering from cancer and sickle cell— seek bone marrow transplant each year but two-thirds of them die due to lack of services

engineers," said Dr Swai, noting that a procurement expert is also in the team to enable purchase of equipment and medicines.

This comes as good news for patients as treating one patient abroad for bone marrow transplant costs anything from 150m/- to 200m/-.

"Around 130 to 140 patients—mostly suffering from cancer and sickle cell— seek bone marrow transplant each year but two-thirds of them die due to lack of services," she said.

In preparations to start offering the services, the government has disbursed 6.2bn/- where 3.7bn/- is meant for purchasing various equipment, the director noted.

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Four of same family killed in road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FOUR people including the bride have died in a road crash at Mlomboji-Machimbo along the Mbeya-Njombe highway in Mbarali district, Mbeya region.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei (pictured) said the accident occurred in the morning of Wednesday.

He said a goods vehicle, T 213 APW Mitsubishi Fuso driven by Peter Aldo (25) collided with a Toyota Raum, with registration number T 251 DGK driven by Ibrahim Mwandunga (30)



causing the death of four people namely, Diana Jackson (26), Faraja Jackson (32), James Jackson (41) and child Jocktam Baraka (3).

Matei said their bodies are preserved at the Mbeya referral hospital.

The RPC linked the accident with laziness by one of the drivers (Peter Aldo) who is said to disappear to unknown destinations immediately after the accident. He said the driver wanted to overtake a stationary car -T 336 CMX 1

RPC Matei said that Diana Jackson was

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I want to assure Tanzanians that this kind of alert is normal practice by American missions. We have engaged with the embassy through the police force

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday allayed security fears and summoned the U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania for questioning over an alert the embassy issued on the possibility of an attack in Dar es Salaam.

Addressing journalists, Home Affairs minister Kangi Lugola said the country's security remains stable, calling on citizens and residents to continue with their daily activities without fear.

His remarks came following on alert issued by US Embassy on Wednesday, of a possible terror attack in the up-market Msasani suburb of Dar es Salaam, with alert being described as normal and not a cause for alarm.

Lugola however intoned that the government through the police force had reached out to the embassy with regard to the matter.

"I want to assure Tanzanians that this kind of alert is normal practice by American missions. We have engaged with the embassy through the police force," he said.

Lugola urged the public to give little thought to that alert, noting that security organs were working round the clock and there was no need worry about security.

"Continue with your activities. If this information turns out to be true, still the country is stable," he declared.

In another development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said in a statement that it has summoned the acting US envoy to Tanzania to provide an explanation over the alert posted on the embassy's social media platforms early yesterday.



Continue with your activities. If this information turns out to be true, still the country is stable

The embassy sent Ann Marie Warmenhoven-Tilias, a representative of the acting ambassador, who confirmed the alert was indeed from the embassy.

"In her explanation, Tilias agreed that the embassy made a mistake for spreading reports that did not only target American citizens but also other members of the public, at the same time knowing that it has no mandate to do so, a move that caused tension to the public and visitors expected to visit Tanzania," the statement read in part.

The ministry also reminded the US Embassy on the need to abide by national laws and diplomatic rules that guide the issuance of such information.

Permanent Secretary Dr Faraji Mnyepi called upon citizens and foreign residents to continue with their activities for there is no confirmed information about any likely attack, saying security organs were at work following up any threat to the country's security.

In a rare security alert, the US embassy advised US citizens to take precautions, saying there were rumours of impending attacks in the commercial capital.

However the embassy also said it had no substantiating evidence on the threat or

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Home Affairs minister Kangi Lugola (3rd-R) leads a World Refugees Day march in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others include the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Major General Jacob Kingu (2nd-R), UNHCR representative Chansa Kapaya and Prisons Commissioner General Phaustine Kasike. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Muhimbili gearing up for bone marrow transplant

FROM PAGE 1

African countries that offer bone marrow transplant include South Africa, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria and Comoro, she said.

This will be another milestone for

the country's main referral hospital after several successful establishments of key services in the past two years.

The first was Cochlear implant, radiology intervention and kidney transplant, with experts being sent for training on conducting liver

transplants.

The kidney transplant was the second achievement after successful cochlear implant surgery in June 2017.

The move reduces costs of liver transplant by 50-percent. One

successful transplant costs about 100 million usually directed at medical facilities in India.

By the start of this month, Muhimbili had conducted 43 kidney transplants, 339 cases of interventional radiology, while inserting 21 Cochlear implants to

Four family members killed in road crash

FROM PAGE 1

expected to get married at the end of this week after her send-off party during the weekend in Mbeya.

This is another incident in a series of shocking accidents in the past year or so, after ten people dead last month in a ghastly road accident at Murela village, Uvinza district in Kigoma region.

Kigoma Regional Police Commander Martin Otieno linked the accident with

over speeding and tyre burst, disabling the driver of the T 247 BNG Toyota Hiace, who lost control, in the evening of May 4th.

Otieno said the driver was trying to overtake another car before the tyre burst. Police arrested the driver, Rajab John who was hospitalized at the Maweni Regional hospital, to be arraigned after completion of investigations.

Protests rock Malawi cities after Mutharika re-election

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that MEC's Ansah was part of plans to rig the elections.

He has given her five days to resign. "At this stage, it will be me and her

who are privy to the contents," Chilima said. "But should she not resign, the public will know the contents on Friday next week."

MEC officials were said to be in a meeting and could not comment.

Govt summons US envoy over Masaki attack threat

FROM PAGE 1

information on the timing.

The alert reads: "There are rumours of impending attacks in the Masaki area of Dar es Salaam, specifically at hotels and restaurants frequented by tourists, and at Slipway Shopping Centre on the Msasani Peninsula. The Embassy

has no substantiating evidence of the threat or information on the timing, but nonetheless warns US citizens to take precautions."

The alert goes ahead to advise US citizens to be aware of their surroundings, to avoid crowds and to stay alert in surroundings frequented by tourists or westerners.

Bloomberg expanding its financial journalism programme to Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent

BLOOMBERG Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) has announced the expansion of the Financial Journalism Training (FJT) programme to Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Zambia.

The programme is meant to advance financial journalism and improve access to accurate, reliable data on the continent. It will be delivered in partnership with University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the university's Business School.

BMIA said in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday that the training was launched in Ghana and Zambia earlier this year and follows the programme's success in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

It said more than 40 delegates will take part in the first intake of the upcoming training to be offered in Tanzania, adding: "This unique educational offering will support the development of financial journalism and contribute to Tanzanian and African economic growth."

During the next six months, the delegates will spend 19 days in interactive sessions led by prominent members of faculty at local universities and will cover topics to strengthen their skills in and understanding of data analysis, capital markets, accounting, public policy, economics and the transforming media landscape.

Financial journalism sessions will be taught by Bloomberg News reporters, while delegates will also receive a free six-month subscription to the Bloomberg Terminal, offering access to global data, news and analysis.

UDSM Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisye commented on the announcement, saying: "We are pleased that the BMIA Financial Journalism Training Programme has been launched in Tanzania."

"Well-trained financial journalists can make significant contributions as conduits of information and, as the country's economy continues to evolve, it will be crucial to increase the number of skilled media professionals and journalists in Tanzania."

Four intakes of the interactive, hands-on training programme have been delivered in each Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa over the past three years, resulting in 568 graduates from 13 countries to date.

Close to 70 per cent of delegates trained were journalists and representatives of the media. The first intakes in Ghana and Zambia are currently under way and have enrolled 91 delegates.

Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg L.P. and Bloomberg Philanthropies, said: "Reliable, accessible financial reporting is critical to driving sustainable economic growth and good governance. The expansion of the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa to five new countries will significantly further our mission to advance financial journalism and transparency on the continent."

Andreas Dracopoulos, Co-President of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, meanwhile noted: "We are very excited to see the start of this new phase of the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa Financial Journalism Training programme."

"The Stavros Niarchos Foundation is proud to partner with Bloomberg in helping equip a global talent pool of journalists with the sort of specialist expertise that can propel them towards attaining a high level of professional excellence. This is the basis of a robust, ethical, independent press, which now seems to be more critical than ever," he added.

The programme is a core component of the BMIA, which is meant to contribute to the advancement of business and financial reporting in Africa. This is in recognition of the decisive role the media play in promoting transparency, accountability and good governance.

The BMIA is a project of Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the FJT programme in Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, and Zambia will also receive support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Since its launch in 2014, BMIA has reached more than 1,000 stakeholders in Africa and sponsored four annual conferences for media owners and senior leaders in business, government and civil society.

The most recent took place in Livingstone, Zambia, in November 2018 - with 320 leaders representing 25 countries in attendance.

The programme has also offered a Fellowship for editors and senior journalists, which has been completed by 45 Fellows. This is aside from a fund to promote community media and citizen journalism - the Community Media Fund - from which ten organisations in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa have received grants. The Ford Foundation has been a leading supporter of these programmes.

In sum, the BMIA programme seeks to increase the pipeline of skilled financial journalists and analysts who embrace data-driven journalism, highlights the connection between business, finance, and social development, and promotes best practices in reporting across Africa.

The strategy it uses is to develop and deliver integrated education modules, use local university partners to deliver the training by targeting reporters, editors, university faculty, graduate students, and a select group of government officials and NGO leaders, and cover specific content areas and incorporate meta-content themes.

Expectations from the training include higher numbers of well-qualified business and financial journalists in Africa, and noticeable improvement in skills among programme participants.

Among the others are improved curriculum offerings at universities, enhanced understanding of - and interest in - financial journalism among students, and greater gender and ethnic diversity among media professionals.



Zanzibar's Education and Vocational Training deputy minister Simai Mohamed Said (L) in discussion with the Director of High Education, Science and Technology Zanzibar, Prof Maullio John Kipanyula, at the SADC Ministerial Policy Dialogue Round Table meeting in Windhoek on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Setson Nghidinwa

Highest number of people displaced since World War II, Ethiopia on top

By Guardian Correspondent

ETHIOPIA has the highest number of new displacements globally, with new figures revealing that over 70 million people are on the move worldwide - the highest number ever recorded.

"Every day an average of 37,000 people are forced to flee their homes. The international community must provide safety and protection for fleeing families, not build fortified walls to lock refugees out," Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), said while on a recent visit to Ethiopia.

"Rich countries now host a meagre 16 per cent of global refugees, as international peace diplomacy is failing and new horrific wars come on top of too many unresolved conflicts," added Egeland.

Egeland's visit coincides with World Refugee Day (June 20), which sees over 70 million people displaced worldwide, according to the UN refugee agency - UNHCR. This is 2.3 million more people than last year and twice as many as 20 years ago.

Of the overall figure, 41.3 million are internally displaced, according to the Internal

Displacement Monitoring Centre. Close to 30 million are refugees and asylum seekers.

The largest host countries for refugees are Turkey (3.7 million), Pakistan (1.4 million) and Uganda (1.2 million). Last year alone saw another 13.6 million people displaced owing to war and persecution, including 10.8 internally displaced and 2.8 million refugees and asylum seekers.

A total of 593,800 refugees were able to return home, while 62,600 have been integrated and allowed to start a new life where they are.

"No one chooses to be displaced. No one chooses to be uprooted from their homes or forced to flee with nothing but the clothes on their back. Refugees find themselves caught up in a vicious cycle that they did not create but cannot escape. The suffering I witnessed in Ethiopia is heartbreaking," said Egeland.

Ethiopia has a strong record of welcoming refugees. But the extreme levels of new displacement brought on by internal conflict have put immense strain on the country.

An estimated 3.2 million people were displaced by conflict and drought by April this year. On top of this, Ethiopia hosts over 900,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan,

Somalia and Eritrea.

Coffee farmer Abraham was forced to flee to the Gedeo region because of the conflict in West Guji. He told NRC that needs among his community are high, noting: "I have seen a lot of people starve to death because they couldn't find anything to eat."

"Ethiopia is the definition of a forgotten crisis," said Egeland, adding: "Despite colossal needs, the crisis is under-reported, under-financed and under-assisted. The scale and quality of the humanitarian response is grossly inadequate."

The UN's aid appeal for Ethiopia called for \$1.31 billion for 2019, but is only one-third funded halfway through the year.

Despite repeated promises of increased international responsibility sharing, richer countries hosted a meagre 16 per cent of refugees last year, and international support to poorer host countries is insufficient to meet the scale of needs.

"We need a 180-degree shift in attitudes. Wealthier nations must share the heavy-lifting, dig deep and support generous countries like Ethiopia to ease the human suffering of millions fleeing from conflict worldwide," pleaded Egeland.



Tanzania Private Sector Foundation board member Subhash Patel (L) presents an award to Kilimanjaro SAR Ltd managing director Ivan Braun for emerging CEO of the Year during the East Africa Brands Awards in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (C) is Harish Bhuptani from Uganda's Mama Care Foundation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

It is not easy climbing mountains like Kilimanjaro, but it may get harder if you happen to be a lady in the male dominated trade, but this has not deterred Glory Thobias from winning the coveted 'Best Mountain Guide 2019' award.

Glory emerged the winner of the category during the maiden Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) Tour Guides Award, held at the Mount Meru Hotel. She competed among the shortlisted ten other local mountain guides and beating the rest black and blue.

The Lady Mountain Guide was presented with a 'Gold Trophy,' as well as a digital Tablet to help her stay connected.

During the maiden TANAPA Award Gala, attended by among other distinguished guests, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangallah, is was John Mngoja who was named the overall 'Best Safari Guide,' in the country.

"I would like to praise the winners, challenging them to worker even

Lady mountain guide named the year's best in 2019 tour awards

harder in order to outdo themselves next year," he said, while also extending the same acknowledgement to the Tanzania National Parks Management for organizing the industry performers' recognition event.

Dr Simon Mduma, from the Arusha-based, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), on the other hand, emerged the top personality in the 'Best Scientific Research and Knowledge Contribution in Tanzania's Tourism,' while the Moshi-based, Zara Adventures became the best revenue contributor in tourism industry.

Zara International was also described to be the local expert when it comes to mountaineering expeditions, even though the company also runs hotels and game driving types of safari events. Some media outlets, such as the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) were also recognized during the

event. The Director General for TANAPA, Allan Kijazi said the awards are meant to assist in improving service provision in the tourism industry. He pointed out that the gala went in sync with introduction of 'Customer Service Charter,' as well as the announcement of International Standards Organization (ISO) certification serialized as ISO: 9001:2015-QMS.

Tanzania receives an average of 1.5 million tourists annually with country targeting to up this figure to reach 2 million before the end of next year.

TANAPA oversees a total of 21 National Parks in the country, among them the legendary Serengeti as well as Africa's Highest Summit, Mount Kilimanjaro and the country's second highest peak, Mount Meru, protruding from Kilimanjaro and Arusha National Parks respectively.

EAC tables USD111m budget estimates for 2019/2020 fiscal year

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has tabled to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) its 2019/2020 budget estimates totalling US\$ 111,450,529 to focus more on industrialization and job creation which are the bloc's key priorities.

Themed: "Transforming lives through Industrialization and Job Creation for shared prosperity", the 2019/2020 EAC budget will focus on the consolidation of the Single Customs Territory and promotion of intra and extra EAC trade and export competitiveness, development of regional infrastructure, effective implementation of the Common Market Protocol and the enhancement of regional industrial development.

Other priority areas include the implementation of the roadmap towards the EAC Monetary union, institutional transformation focusing on implementation of the institutional review recommendations and improvement of performance management at the EAC Organs and institutions.

Tanzania Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, presented the budget speech on behalf of the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Rwanda's Minister for State, EAC in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Amb Olivier Nduhungirehe.

Other key areas the Minister said are promotion of peace, security and good governance and the constitution making process for the EAC Political Confederation, factors that will be necessary for successful implementation of socio-economic programmes to further support the growth and development of the EAC region.

The EAC is further expected to streamline and further consolidate its operational systems to achieve the desired level of efficiency, accountability and value for money.

The Chair of Council of Ministers cited a number of assumptions on which this year's budget is pegged on to include the continued and consolidated political support of the EAC integration and the availability of adequate financial resources and remittances. Political stability and good governance as well as safe and stable security across the region are other areas of consideration.

Last Financial Year, the august House approved a Budget of \$ 111, 933,303. The said amount was earmarked for among others; consolidation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods; Infrastructural development in the region and liberalization of free movement of skilled labour across the Partner States.

The Minister cited performance of the EAC Organs and institutions in the above areas noting general improvements, enhanced partnerships and drive/enthusiasm to address existing and new challenges "Given the accelerated growth within Sub-Saharan Africa attributed to strong agricultural production, rapid public investment and private consumption in the past two years, the EAC region has maintained its position as the fastest-growing sub-region in Africa, with estimated growth of 6.3 percent in 2018, up from a revised growth of 5.6 percent in 2017", said Dr Ndumbaro.

He added: "Strong growth was widespread in the region, with Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda growing at more than 6 percent. Economic growth in Burundi and South Sudan remained subdued in 2018, with some strong signs of recovery".

The GDP growth in Burundi was 0.1 percent in 2018 compared with a contraction of about 1.3 percent in 2017. In South Sudan, the economy contracted by 1.2 percent in 2018 compared to a contraction of 3.5 percent in 2017.

On Infrastructure, the Minister informed the House of the completion of both the dual construction of the Sakina - Tengeru section, 14 km long, and construction of the 42-km long Arusha by-pass.

He said the completion of detailed design studies linking the 400-km long Malindi-Lunga Lungu and Tanga-Bagamoyo road between Kenya and Tanzania and that discussions between the African Development Bank and the two governments were in place and at advanced stage.

Dr Ndumbaro added that completed are the feasibility studies and designs linking the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to the Central Corridor.

On Civil aviation and airport matters, he noted that the EAC Secretariat had coordinated the implementation of the EAC seamless upper airspace project including the harmonization of regulations, manuals of air navigation services operations and development of common secondary surveillance radar (SSR) codes.

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WMA inspectors nab three allegedly for using uncertified weighing scales

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Weights and Measures Agency Tanzania (WMA) has arrested three leaders of the cotton buying company-ICK for allegedly using uncertified weighing scales since 2016.

WMA manager in Mwanza, Albagasti Kajungu said the suspects are residents of Chakalawi village in Kapamwa ward, Kwimba district.

He said that the agency officials were tipped off by a good samaritan on the company's use of sub-standard weighing scales when buying cotton from farmers.

According to Kajungu, the agency conducted inspection at the company whereas one of its weighing machines was tempered and was not certified by WMA.

WMA's major task is to protect farmers and other users of the weighing scales by ensuring proper quantity of their crops.

The inspection is conducted in accordance with Section 340 of the Weights and Measures Act, 2002 which was revised in 2016. Certified weighing scales are stamped with a special government sticker and special number codes.

According to the law weighing machines must be verified after every twelve months.

"They were stealing from farmers, we are entitled to ensure fairness in business as well as letting farmers get proper quantity of their crops when selling them to cooperative

unions," he said noting the arrested leaders have been taken to police and will be arraigned after completion of investigations.

He said they were stealing 3 kilos of cotton in every 20 kilogrammes. He said the stringent measures taken against them will be a lesson to other local government leaders tasked to supervise selling of farmer's crops.

WMA Technical Director, Stella Kaywa said the agency is conducting inspection exercises in all the regions cultivating cotton, coffee, sesame and tobacco.

"We are going to inspect all the weighing scales in the particular regions. We want farmers to benefit from their seats," said Kaywa insisting the inspectors will reach all the buyers.

Representative from ICK Company, Shija Gimbisha confirmed to have one uncertified weighing machine, insisting the company was not using the machine.

"We were in the process to certify the machines before using it. All the crops were measured using one of our two scales which is certified by the agency," said Gimbisha.



We are going to inspect all the weighing scales in the particular regions. We want farmers to benefit from their seats



Kioo Limited human resources manager Jacob Msuya (L) receives Best Employer of the Year award from Tanzania Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers (Tuico) deputy secretary general Salehe Tamim at a ceremony the trade union organised in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The Dar es Salaam-based firm emerged overall winner. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Costantine Kanyasu said yesterday that the government intends to lure more tourists from China insisting the need for tourism stakeholders to learn the Chinese language.

He made the remarks in Dodoma during his meeting with leaders of the China tourism college known as JXCFFS. He said the meeting gears at enhancing the two countries cooperation on tourism matters as well as building the capacity of tourism stakeholders in both countries.

He said: "As we aim to lure more Chinese tourists we must ensure that our tourism stakeholders especially tour guides learn Chinese language to be able to offer quality

Learn Chinese language to lure more tourists, govt advises tour operators

services," said Kanyasu.

The meeting was attended by delegates from both countries including the JXCFFS tourism college vice councilor, Prof Xiong Nanyong, permanent secretary in the ministry of natural resources and tourism, Lucius Mwenda and other ministry officials.

Prof Xiong Nanyong said they are determined to conduct capacity building trainings to Tanzanian tourism stakeholders including teaching them Chinese Language. He said they have already secured permit from the Ministry of State in the President's Office responsible

for Public Service and Good Governance.

In March this year, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa received more than 300 visitors, the first batch of more than 10,000 tourists whose bookings with travel agents were confirmed.

The visit was part of a programme jointly organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and the TouchRoad International Holding Group, a Chinese firm.

In 2017, China ranked eighth in terms of tourist numbers with more than 29,000 travellers visiting the

country.

Currently the statistics shows that the number of tourists that toured in Tanzania in 2018 stood at 1.3 million and the Government is targeting to attract 2 million tourists by 2020.

According to the China Outbound Tourism Research Institute (COTRI)'s study, approximately 4.31 million Chinese visited Africa last year. Not only that but also China is considered as the largest tourism industry in the globe according to data released in 2017, which showed that about 145 million Chinese toured different parts in the world.

By Guardian Reporter

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the Tanzanian government is next week expected to conduct a five-week training of trainers programme for Somali personnel drawn from different fisheries institutions in Somalia.

The training will be held between June 24 and July 27 at the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA), at Mbegani, in Bagamoyo District.

FETA is one of the well-known training institutions in the field of fisheries education in East Africa. Marine conditions of Tanzania and Somalia are quite similar and FETA has rich experiences in training for Sub-Saharan African people.

JICA, government organise five-week fishery training for Somali personnel

During the 5-week training period, Somali trainees will have an opportunity to have lectures on fishery modules including the use of very important and potential Fishing Aggregate Devices FAD's by experts from the JIN Corporation Company from the United States of America.

In addition, participants will also have an opportunity to visit the Dar es Salaam International Fish Market, Bahari Food Company, Zanzibar Deep Sea Authority and Kariakoo Market in Dar es Salaam.

According to a statement issued yesterday by JICA, job creation, especially for young people, in all post-conflict countries, is an essential part of peace-building and more importantly, in conflict prevention or in preventing such countries from relapsing into conflicts.

JICA, the implementing agency of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the Government of Japan, has identified 3 sectors namely fisheries development, building construction and manufacturing (automobile maintenance) as

potential sectors which could increase youth employment opportunities in Somalia, which is a post-conflict country.

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega is on Monday expected to flag off the unique training. Dr Rashid Tamatamah - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. Others in attendance include Mohamed Hassan Abdi - Ambassador of Somalia in Tanzania, and Kentaro Akutsu, Senior Representative JICA Tanzania.

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said that it has secured money for taking home refugees who have requested to return to their countries of origin voluntarily.

Home Affairs Minister KangiLugola made the remarks yesterday during an event to

Govt to repatriate refugees whose countries are now peaceful again

commemorate World Refugees Day organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"We have got the money and there is a possibility

that we may have two trips of 2000 people per week," said Lugola.

The Minister said Tanzania hosted by May this year, 81,153 refugees from the Democratic

Republic of Congo (DRC) by 188,753 Burundians and 248 from other countries.

He said the refugees were hosted at Camps located in Kigoma and refugees settlements in Katavi and Tabora and few who are in villages in Kigoma.

"Due to the return of peace in Burundi in 2017, we started facilitating the voluntary return to their country where 69,536 registered voluntarily to return home," he said.

However, Lugola 10,199 who registered to return continued stay in the camps because there were no funds from key stakeholders.

He said money has been found from the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

He added that the government will continue to implement all international conventions including the 1951 and its amendments made in 1967 and 1969 Refugee Convention, of the


United Nations multilateral treaty that defines who a refugee is, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.

UNHCR representatives for Tanzania ChansaKapaya said the day gives chance for stakeholders to commemorate and reflect that all the children and women had homes and went to school before they were called refugees.

"It is sad that the number has been increasing year after year and millions of people are becoming homeless because of insecurity," she said.

She said Data from the UN shows the number of people fleeing their home because of War reached 70 million in 2018.

World Refugee Day, international observance observed June 20 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.



Serving the common good

INADES-Formation Tanzania (IFTz) 20th June, 2019

Vacancy

Job title : Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF).
Location : National Office, Dodoma City.
Purpose: The CAF is responsible for the administrative and financial management functions of the National Office (NO). The position performs its duties under the Managing Director (MD).
Accountability : The CAF is supervised by the MD of the NO, and is accountable through the MD to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors (BOD).

Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist the MD in drawing up of IFTz Plan of Action (POA) and preparing work plans, the budgets and financial projects to donors.
- Heads the Accounts section - maintains proper books of accounts; takes care of all the NO budgeting; calculation of financial costs & follow-up of implementation, budgeting of capital expenditure and indirect recurrent expenditure, production of cash account plans & cash-flows.
- Assist the MD in working out policy for Financial and Human Resources Management, and 'Partnership Policy'.
- Takes part in field training activities as part of the trainers' team. Especially for financial, economic and business management activities with farmers.
- Ensures the best practice of internal control and audits
- Takes part in the design of IF Mission; participates in Board of Directors' Meetings as may be deemed necessary, but without voting powers.
- Supervises directly all the support staff, as well as the personnel, administrative, financial and managerial obligations of other senior staff.
- Staff management, including setting-up and follow-up of personal files, follow-up of employment agreements, job analysis, description, appraisal and evaluation, and renewal of contracts in collaboration with the MD.
- Supervises directly the work of support staff: Assistant Accountant, Secretary, Driver, Office Clerk, Watchman and Messenger.

Key requirements: Tanzanian citizenship; Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance or related field; CPA will be an added advantage; At least 3 years of experience in accounting and finance with NGOs; Experience in managing financial transactions on multi donor -funded programs and familiarity with NGO regulations; Experience with relevant financial software packages, including Microsoft Excel; Sage 100; Excellent English writing skills and speaking ability.

Applications
 Applications, including cover letter, resume and copies of academic certificates and testimonials should be sent to The Managing Director, INADES Formation Tanzania, P. O. Box 203, Dodoma, Email: inadesformation.tanzania@inadesfo.net or inadesfz@gmail.com, no later than Wednesday 30th June 2019, 17:00hrs.

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 unayoijua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO
DRINKING WATER

Maji ya kuaminika kila siku



ITC partners EABC, TPSF to sharpen skills of trade practitioners in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Trade Centre (ITC) in partnership with the East African Business Council (EABC) and the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) are carrying out a workshop for trade practitioners in Tanzania to boost knowledge, skills on the World Trade Organisation's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The workshop held in Dar es Salaam has been organised as part of the European Union-East African Community Market Access Programme (MARKUP).

MARKUP is a four-year regional development initiative that aims to contribute to the economic growth of the EAC region.

The programme assists small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda by targeting specific agricultural commodities.

It aims to support increased exports of agribusiness and horticultural products, promote regional integration and enhance the participation of SMEs in intra-regional trade and exports to the European market.

A press statement issued by EABC stated that the training which is the first of three national events on the TFA in Tanzania equip Tanzanians and East African local business-support associations and traders with a comprehensive knowledge of the TFA with a view to identify obstacles to cross-border and advocate for their removal. Similar workshops will later be held in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda as well.

According to the statement the training has been developed in response to persistent delays and red tape hampering the movement of goods across borders in East Africa.

Among the East African Community

(EAC) partner states, inefficient trade procedures and non-tariff barriers represent an obstacle to expanded intra-regional trade and deepened regional integration.

"The simplification, modernisation and harmonisation of export and import processes have become a key issue for the global trade system and for regional economic communities, such as the EAC, to create new opportunities for businesses that are operating in regional and international markets," the statement said.

With provisions to speed up the movement, release and clearance of goods, the WTO TFA - which entered into force in February 2017 - represents a viable option to resolve cross-border trade inefficiencies.

Through the MARKUP initiative, project stakeholders will achieve greater sensitisation on the need to simplify cross-border trade procedures and to ensure greater inclusion of the private sector in public-private dialogue platforms responsible for the implementation of the TFA at the national level.

The joint capacity-building initiative is an extension of the efforts undertaken since the entry into force in 2017 of the TFA, and is part of collaboration between EABC, the EAC Secretariat and ITC through the financial contribution of the European Union.

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations based in Geneva, Switzerland. It helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing and transition countries to connect and become more competitive in global markets, contributing to the sustainable economic development in the Aid for Trade agenda and to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndagai (R) is welcomed by El Sayed Mahmoud El Sharif, Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, on arrival at Cairo International Airport on Wednesday. Left (foreground) is Tanzania's Ambassador to Egypt, Major General Issa Suleiman Nassor. Photo: National Assembly

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Government guarantees end to farmers-pastoralists disputes across the country

THE government said yesterday that most of the long-standing disputes between farmers and pastoralists across the country have been ended insisting on improving various infrastructures to boost productivity and national income.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega made the remarks here when speaking at a forum which brought together religious organisations, pastoralists and farmers to discuss various issues related to improvement of social services. The event was held at Kambala village in Mvomero district.

He said the fifth phase government

has been working to end the farmers/pastoralists conflicts with the purpose of enhancing productivity of livestock products. He said the conflicts were contributing into poor performance of the sector thus affecting its contribution to the national income.

Data from the ministry indicates that Tanzania is rich in livestock resources with 32.2 million cattle. The country is endowed with 20 million goats, 5.5 sheep, 2 million pigs and 636,997 donkeys. He said there are also 79.1 million

chickens of which 38.5 million are traditional chicken breeds and 40.6 million broilers.

According to data from Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) the livestock sector contributes 7.4 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) whereby 30 percent of it is from the dairy industry.

"The sectors' 7.4 percent contribution to the GDP is small, the trend was partly contributed with the existing conflicts. The agriculture sub-sector should contribute more since our

country is among the leading African countries with a big number of domestic animals," said the Deputy Minister adding the government is now constructing ponds and cattle dipping facilities at different regions.

He added: "We are also establishing milk collection centers in milk producing regions to ensure all the milk is taken to processing factories", said Ulega calling upon livestock keepers to utilize the available market in major cities such as Dar es Salaam.

CUTTING-EDGE AND INNOVATIVE CCTV, SURVEILLANCE AND SECURITY SOLUTIONS, REVOLUTIONIZING THE SECURITY LANDSCAPE IN TANZANIA, WERE SHOWCASED THIS WEEK AT THE HYATT REGENCY IN DAR ES SALAAM.



Reddot Tanzania Country Manager MR. MOHAMED HASSANALI

HIKVISION and Red Dot Distribution held a joint event on Wednesday, 12 June which was attended by leading players in the security, banking and construction sectors. Groundbreaking products showcased included the Turbo 5.0, AcuSense, ColorVu systems as well as access control systems and trailblazing Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications were presented. These are all designed for accuracy and reliability - and are more advanced than any other solutions available currently in Tanzania.

In attendance at the event was Country Manager, Mohammed Hassanali from Red Dot Distribution who introduced HIKVISION as one of the leading providers of CCTV, Surveillance and Security worldwide and also commended the Tanzanian government in revolutionizing their security strategies and including it in the National budget. Also in attendance was Senior Sales Manager, Bob Bian, Marketing Manager, Jade Wang and Technical Engineer, Marco Ying, who presented new and improved technologies with applications in Banking & Finance, Retail, Surveillance, Education, Smart cities, Transportation & Traffic, In-



The HIKVISION and RED DOT Distribution staff beside the invited participants from both the Banking, Security, Hospitality and Construction sectors.

House & Out-House Security and Construction.

Founded in 2001 with only 26 employees, HIKVISION is now the No. 1 and largest provider of innovative CCTV, Surveillance and Security solutions in the world. This Chinese state owned company has more than 1200 patents and

34,000 employees, over 16,000 of which are R&D engineers. The company annually invests 7 - 8% of its annual sales revenue to research and development for continued product innovation. HIKVISION has established a complete, multi-level R&D system that includes every operation from research to design, development, testing, technical

support, and service. Centered at its Hangzhou headquarters, HIKVISION also has a footprint in a lot of African countries with the vision to provide the best solutions that cater to the Banking & Finance, Retail, Education, Smart cities, Transportation, Construction and Hospitality industries, in raising the overall quality of life.

Red Dot Distribution are national distributors for HIKVISION and have been Tanzania's leading IT distributor for more than 20 years, offering an uncompromising focus on customer service, regular partner training programs, continuous marketing support and a world-class logistics model.





The Jane Goodall Institute

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

Chief of Party Kigoma, Tanzania

The Jane Goodall Institute is currently recruiting for a Chief of Party (COP) for a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) Project in western Tanzania, Kigoma region. The project is focused on strengthening landscape-scale conservation and will be achieved by developing a strategic landscape approach and building upon USAID's previous and continued support to natural resource management and conservation in Western Tanzania.

The successful candidate for the Chief of Party role should be a senior-level professional with a proven track record of successfully implementing and managing cooperative agreements/grants in landscape/conservation projects in a remote location. The COP will be responsible for oversight of the entire multi-million project, and will be required to work with various stakeholders, including high level government and USAID officials.

About the Jane Goodall Institute

Founded in 1977, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) USA is an international non-governmental organization that continues Dr. Goodall's pioneering work on chimpanzee ecology and behavior. Its mission is to promote wildlife conservation, in particular chimpanzee sustainability, through research, education, and community conservation. The breadth of JGI's mission reflects Dr. Goodall's personal philosophy that the survival of all species, whether chimpanzee or human, depends upon the collaboration of all people. In 2012, JGI formally adopted an ambitious 30-year goal to protect 85% of Africa's wild chimpanzee populations in their natural habitats. In reaching this goal, JGI will capitalize on its considerable strengths and experience gained from working throughout the chimpanzee range, which includes more than 50 years of chimpanzee behavioral research at the Gombe Stream Research Center; 20 years of developing people- and community-centered conservation strategies; impressive expertise in the use of geospatial technology to innovatively map and monitor human and chimpanzee use of forest resources; and a global environmental and humanitarian youth program—Roots & Shoots.

Under its Africa Programs (AP) Department, JGI USA implements community-based conservation activities in Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, and Uganda. Our Africa Programs partners include, but are not limited to, Arcus Foundation, Disney Conservation Fund, J.P. Fletcher Foundation, USAID, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), and a strong individual donor base.

The Chief of Party's primary responsibilities are to provide overall leadership, management and general technical direction for the LCWT project. Key to providing this leadership of the project is ensuring an integrated vision among different components and actors, and a focus on achieving the results defined in the grant. The COP will act as a strategic liaison between USAID/Tanzania, key stakeholders and implementing project partners.

Essential Functions:

Provide strategic direction and overall technical vision:

- Monitors progress in achieving project objectives;
- Evaluates program effectiveness, through the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation instruments, and determines corrective action needed to enhance program implementation and impactful results;
- Oversees the full compliance and implementation of the USAID Cooperative agreement and JGI policies and procedures designed to support the strategic direction of the organization and the program;
- Speaks at global forums.

Manage relationships with peer orgs and the Government of Tanzania:

- Works to build and/or maintain constructive relationships with government officials, project partners, environment sectors, donors;
- Works to build and/or maintain constructive relationships with government officials, project partners, environment sector leaders, donors/collaborators, and others as appropriate;
- In coordination with the Program Director, organizes and facilitates Stakeholder Review meetings and other ad hoc meetings with stakeholders and partners as necessary.

Manage a 30+ person team and 3-5 direct reports as well as partner staff and consultants:

- Visits project sites and provides direction and informs the Program Director of progress, issues, challenges and concerns; makes recommendations; and implements decisions;
- Maintains regular contact with staff and consultants, establishes leadership and personal credibility, and implements and maintains clearly understood chain of authority and accountability;
- Conducts staff performance reviews for director reports and supports evaluations for other staff.

Manage Budgets and Financial Reporting:

- Works with the finance team to ensure timely, cost-effective, and procedurally correct procurement and transport of goods and services to meet project objectives;
- Works closely with the Finance and Administration Manager in monitoring project expenditure and cash flow. Keeps Program Director apprised of significant variances;
- Ensures accurate and timely technical and financial reports to donor(s) and JGI management;
- Assists in managing grant/project budget within approved spending levels, supports auditing procedures as needed, and ensures grant/project expenses are reasonable, allocable, prudent, and spent in accordance with donor rules and regulations;
- Assists in monitoring grant management, sub-awards, service agreements or contracts while meeting with NGO subcontractors regularly for update, planning, and problem-solving;
- Assists with property and equipment acquisition, disposition, and management in compliance with donor requirements.

Minimum Qualifications

- Master's degree in natural resource management, natural or biological sciences, economic growth or other relevant discipline.
- At least seven (7) years or more of progressively responsible international work experience implementing multi-sector landscape/conservation projects in remote locations with demonstrated strong management and coordinating skills.
- At least seven (7) years of strong and demonstrable management experience.
- Demonstrated experience required in leading teams and/or managing an office with a diverse staff.
- Experience addressing gender equality in project sectors is also required, as demonstrated by at least three years of senior-level experience working on projects that addressed gender-related constraints.
- Demonstrated leadership skills and experience building and maintaining productive working relationships with donors, national government, and local actors.
- Proven track record of managing and working through U.S. government funded initiatives and related reporting requirements and funding parameters.
- Familiarity with landscape and conservation in western Tanzania, is preferred.
- Demonstrated excellent communications and writing abilities and superior interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills, spoken and written Swahili strongly preferred.
- Relevant previous experience in East Africa, Tanzania and/or western Tanzania is a plus.

Apply through the JGI career portal at www.janegoodall.org by the closing date of 12 July 2019. Due to the number of applications received, only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (R) and Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairman Salum Shamte meet at yesterday's inauguration in Dar es Salaam of sector skills councils meant to enable college students to have capacity to compete in the labour market. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Sector skills councils to polish new graduates launched in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in partnership with the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation yesterday launched Sector Skills Councils that will mould college finalists into skillful competitors on the labour market.

Launching the councils in Dar es Salaam, the Minister for Education, Science and Vocational Training, Professor Joyce Ndalichako, said the government attaches significant importance to the councils because, she said, the programme is a joint initiative between the government and private sector and more importantly because the nation needs skilled workers in every sector for the national benefit.

The minister said it had been realized that most graduates do not have adequate skills to perform well in all

sectors of the economy and therefore needed pre-engagement training to acquire skills to become competitive skillful workers.

She said the government views the councils as important agents of change in this regard and it also views councils as helpers of the government in achieving declared national objectives. "These councils hold a special place in achieving our industrialisation drive and making Tanzania a middle-income industrialised nation," she told the launch.

Earlier, the Chairman of TPSE, Salum Shamte said the councils would among other things act swiftly as conveyor belts for both public and private institutions in spearhead socio-economic development and growth.

"This is very crucial stage and I am optimistic that these councils will play a key role in bridging the skills gap in

Tanzania," Shamte said, adding that through the councils, the needs of each sector of economy could easily be identified and prioritised.

He said the councils would focus on six key areas of agriculture, tourism, industries, construction, energy and ICT.

Expounding further on the councils, the chairman of the private said finalists in colleges and other higher learning institutions would also be exposed on enterprise-base training and public-private partnership delivery. "The establishment of the councils is now reality and we have agreed that they should have members not less than 11 or more than 13 people," he explained.

He said the chairmen and members of each council would be picked from the sector where he or she was coming from and most of them would be from the private sector.



Plot 4B, Nyerere Road, P.O Box 911, Dar es Salaam
Telephone: +255 22 2860047/9, Fax: 2 8 64041, E-mail: info@tolgases.co.tz

NOTICE

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Meeting of the Shareholders of TOL Gases Limited for the year ended December, 31, 2018 will be held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) – Ruaha Hall in Dar es Salaam Tanzania on 28th June, 2019 at 9.00 am to transact the following business:-

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the year 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 24th August, 2018.
3. Matters Arising from minutes of the year 2017 Annual General Meeting.
4. Chairman's Statement.
5. To receive the Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December, 31, 2018.
6. Amendment of Dividend Policy.
7. To approve Dividend Payment.
8. To approve Directors' Fees.
9. To appoint Auditors for the year 2019.
10. Any other business (Duly notified at least seven days before the meeting)

A member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint any person (whether a member of the Company or not) to attend and vote in his stead.

All proxy forms or letters appointing proxy must be lodged at the office of the Company Secretary at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the holding of the meeting.

All members are required to enter the meeting hall with the following:-

- (i) Original share certificate or original CDS depository receipt and recognized identification document eg. Driving License, Passport, Voters Registration Card, National ID Card or Work Identity Card.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

JULIANA MRIKARIA - MWAKYOBÉ
FOR COMPANY SECRETARY

Grass-making firm named best employer of the year

By Guardian Reporter

A Dar es Salaam-based glass con-

tainer manufacturer—Kioo Ltd has emerged the best employer for the year 2019, award which was presented by

Tanzania Union of Industry and Commercial Workers (Tuico). The award giving is annual event by

Tuico after assessment from various industries and among criteria which are taken into consideration by judges of the competition are the good relationship between employer and employees, working environment and how the employer considers workers welfare.

Tuico Deputy Secretary General, Tamim Salehe handed over the trophy to the KIOO Ltd Human resource Manager Jacob Msuya who represented the company in the award giving ceremony that was held yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Tamim said KIOO Ltd becomes best employer of the year due to good work-

ing relationship with its employees, good working environment and how it take care of their welfare.

Speaking after receiving the award, Msuya said the trophy is the honor to all KIOO Ltd employees adding that the award is the results of employee's diligence and discipline at their working places.

"We are very happy for being best employer of the year 2019, this trophy is a results of tireless effort by our management in works welfare, we are doing better and we promise to do more than what we have achieved," said Msuya. He expressed pleasure for the victory

adding that the management of KIOO Ltd was committed to working hard for the benefit of the people of Tanzania.

He said mutual understanding between the company and employees are among the criteria that gave them the chance to win the trophy.

"This award has given us strength that the society recognize what we are doing so we promise to sustain the work spirit of maintaining good relationship with our employees, we will continue to support the 5th phase government to take Tanzania into middle income country and revolution in industries," he said.



George Bajuta, who identified himself as national chairman of the community of herders, pictured in Mbeya yesterday while on an official tour scheduled to take him across Mbeya and Songwe regions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Yassin

Tourism stakeholders to launch partnership strategy in Dar today

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tourism Confederation of Tanzania (TCT) in collaboration with other stakeholders in the growth of the Tourism Sector in the country is today expected to jointly launch a partnership strategy aimed at boosting the sector.

TCT Executive Secretary, Richard Rugimbana said the partnership strategy, is aimed at reinforcing private-public players in the sector, among the private sector and forging close working ties between the private sector and diplomatic corp.

Rugimbana said the strategy is aimed at facilitating the growth of tourism to ensure the sector creates more jobs, increased number of tourists to Tanzania, improve the current sustainable conservation efforts and provide inclusive growth to marginalized communities in Tanzania.

The Minister for Natural resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla, is expected to take part at the launching ceremony. The event is also expected to be attended by a cross-section of institutions in the Tourism Sector, including TANAPA, Ngorongoro Conservation Authority and Tanzania Tourist Board.

The Secretary General for TCT, is scheduled to make a presentation on the "Future of Tourism in Tanzania" while the project manager for Best Dialogue, Hans Determeyer, is to make remarks at the launch of the strategy.

TCT is the umbrella organisation of private business sector dealing with travel and tourism sector. The organisation is responsible for appropriate macro-policies and strategies for maintaining an improved environment for the benefit of international and domestic tourism in Tanzania.

AMBONI

AMBONI PLANTATIONS LIMITED

P.O. Box 5023, Tanga – Tanzania.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

HUMAN RESOURCES

Amboni Plantations Limited, which owns the Mwera, Sakura and Kigombe Sisal Estates in Tanga Region, is the largest producer of sisal fibre in Tanzania. The company is part of a major international plantation group that is expanding its operations in Tanzania and elsewhere.

Amboni Plantations is seeking to recruit a Human Resources Manager for the company who will be resident at the group's operational headquarters on Mwera estate. The Human Resources Manager's responsibility will be to manage and implement all aspects of HR and personnel, to implement company policy, develop, coordinate and administer recruitment, staff development, welfare and labour relations. The Human Resources Manager will be responsible to the General Manager but will also work in conjunction with individual Estate Managers.

The ideal candidate will be aged 35 to 55 years, has a degree or diploma, and should have at least five years managerial experience in a similar position on a farm or other organization with a labour force in excess of 100 employees. The candidate must be well organized, have good communication skills, and should be capable of using initiative and working as part of a team.

An attractive remuneration package and good long-term career prospects are available for the right candidate.

Applicants should send their applications, together with CV, original references and copies of certificates to:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
AMBONI PLANTATIONS LIMITED
P.O. BOX 5023
TANGA

215283907



ASA MICROFINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED
A Company for Poverty Alleviation

Vacancy Announcement

ASA Microfinance (Tanzania) Limited (www.asatanzania.com), incorporated under the Companies Act 2002 (No. 93819) of Tanzania and an affiliate of ASA International (www.asa-international.com), one of the largest microfinance companies in the world. We are hereby inviting qualified citizens of Tanzania to be part of our team for the following positions. ASA Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer who requires dynamic, loyal and committed young men and women who have passion for people's socio-economic development to fill in the following positions for immediate appointment.

Position: Deputy Head of Internal Audit (DHIA) -01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Understand the financial, commercial and strategic risks inherent within each business line and the effectiveness of the mitigating control environment that manages these risks.
- Support the Head of Internal Audit to assist management in improving the risk management process, control environment and operational efficiency across ASA Microfinance (Tanzania) Limited, including the governance, operations and information systems.
- Assume an active role in the development and maintenance of an audit universe and risk-based audit plan, as well as in the development of engagement plans setting out the scope, objectives, risks and tests for internal audit assignments.
- Take primary responsibility for engagement supervision and preparation of draft reports and assume an active role in the discussion of recommendations and agreed remedial actions with the appropriate level of management.
- Assist the Head of Internal Audit in establishing an effective programme for selecting, developing and managing the Internal Audit team.
- Deputise for the Head of Internal Audit when necessary.
- Assist in the preparation of periodic reporting on the Internal Audit activity to Senior Management, the Board of Directors and the supervising authorities;
- Performance of audit verification reviews on the implemented measures following the audit recommendations.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 5 years professional experiences as Auditor Senior or relevant role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law and risk management practices.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: General Manager – Microfinance Operations-02 Posts

Job Responsibilities:

- Coach, mentor and supervise core business persons and ensure that they are adequately trained and operate at a high standard of timeliness and technical competence.
- Oversee Branch functioning with respect to operations, business development, systems and processes.
- Responsible for procurement and other logistics.
- Organize, coordinate and control the activity of the company.
- Participation in the development of the operating budget.
- Provide reports on operations as requested by the CEO and the board of directors.
- Responsible for effectiveness and efficiency of the branches, team development, team morale and implementation of microfinance code of conduct at the various levels in operations.
- Consult Technical managers for necessary advice on operations, reports, monitoring and evaluation, training other related matters to ensure compliance with internal and external controls.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in Any field.
- Master's degree is an Added Advantage.
- Above 8 years professional experiences in relevant field.
- Experience in working with Banking, Microfinance or any Financial Institutions is a MUST
- Well conversant with Ms Office Package, Excel.

Position: Accounts Assistant-02 Posts

Job Responsibilities:

- To maintain all petty cash on daily basis. Making monthly report and posting data on system on timely manner.
- To maintain and record keeping books of accounts and reconcile the Accounts on timely manner.
- Respond to enquiries from the Chief Financial Officer and ASAI Dhaka Team resulting financial results, special reporting requests and the like.
- Liaison with the respective government department, submitting return, and maintain proper compliance with them.
- Handle the company tax, pay tax and other withholding tax.
- Ensure and handle external and internal audits.
- Ensure the timely reporting of all monthly financial information.
- Ensure the accurate and timely processing of positive pay transactions.
- Ensure monthly and quarterly Bank Compliance activities are performed in a timely and accurate manner.
- Collaborate with the other departments in the organization to support overall department goal and objectives.
- Monitor and analyze departmental work to develop more efficient

procedures and use of resources while maintaining a high level of accuracy.

- Assist in development and implementation of new procedures and features to enhance the workflow of the department.
- To maintain liaison with the bank and financial institutions regarding loans and assist the controller in the daily banking requirements.
- To have frequent visit to different branches when and as necessary.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) will be an added advantage.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 2 years professional experiences in Accounting role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: Grievance Mitigation Committee Manager (GMC) -01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Reviews procedures and protocols, making appropriate recommendations for improvement.
- Assures that the most current grievance policies and procedures are accurately followed.
- Receives grievances.
- Forms an arbitration panel on a case-by-case basis.
- Ensures that proper protocol is followed.
- Reports findings of the arbitration panel to the appropriate person(s) and governing body.
- Maintains records of each grievance according to established protocol, ensuring confidentiality.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in any discipline.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 5 years professional experiences in Government or in any reputable Organization.
- Preferably Retired Government Employee.
- Well conversant with Ms Office Package, Word & Excel
- To be a force of proposition for the company.

Position: Loan Officers (LO's) - 50 Posts

Job Responsibilities:

- To build and maintain a substantial and high-quality loan portfolio.
- To conduct members recruitment and screening.
- To orient clients to the particular loan products and services.
- To make groups in all working days in a week, minimum Total clients will be 350.
- Make a regular contact with the groups and clients in field.
- To process loan applications, verify client's income generating activities (IGA) and other related
- Collect instalments from the clients in groups on regular basis and on time.
- To manage loan disbursements and monitor & collect loan repayments.
- Verify client's Guarantors house and other necessary documents.
- To provide quality and good customer service to clients.
- To accomplish day by day activities as required.
- To accomplish all the documentations for the day as required.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Diploma/ Advance Diploma/bachelor's degree/Masters.
- Experience is not required but will be an added advantage.
- Willing to work in field level.
- Willing to relocate.
- Ability to work independently at minimum supervision.
- Sensitive to operational risks, self-initiative and decisive with high standard of integrity.
- Ability to work efficiently in a team environment and to demonstrate good negotiation skills.
- Good oral and written communication skills.

General Requirements for Applicants of All Posts.

- Application Letter.
- Curriculum Vitae enclosing details of Work experience, skills and with postal and telephone contacts of Three Referees.
- One passport size photograph attached in CV.

Mode of Application

Applicants who consider himself/herself competent with the above-mentioned position, please send your application to recruitment@asatanzania.com before 1700HRS on 5th July 2019.

Only short-listed candidate will be contacted for interview. No phone calls are allowed for inquiry. No allowances will be admissible for interview.

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The Guardian

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FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

These goodwill gestures should help LHRC function even better

OUR attention is drawn to recent reports, which are what have prompted these comments, that Tanzania's Legal and Human Rights Centre is yet again the recipient of an award for a job well done.

According to the reports, which were the basis of a news story we ran on Wednesday, the US-based World Justice Project has picked LHRC for special mention in recognition of the centre's achievements in devising and executing innovative "solutions" facilitating the advancing of access to justice and the rule of law in Tanzania.

It is specifically noted that the centre was honoured for its outstanding record in addressing legal problems and challenges faced by ordinary citizens unaware of the availability of legal options and remedies and unable to hire legal experts to "fight their cases" on their behalf.

Now, it is on record that LHRC has adopted an array of options aimed at making facilitation of public access to justice a reality, this including training paralegals, sensitising the media and various other prospective agents of change, and providing mobile legal aid services right into some of the remotest corners of the country.

Those who have followed the centre's history closely enough will find nothing out of the ordinary in all this - precisely in that the centre has always given its mission as striving to empower the public as well as promote, reinforce and safeguard human rights and good governance in Tanzania.

As appears in its own website, LHRC has for long witnessed human rights abuses and violations such as land evictions, with citizens finding themselves in problems mostly owing to ignorance of the law and of their rights - and hence its well-documented role in raising awareness on issues relating to human rights and the need for the citizenry to "wake up" and lawfully fight for those rights.

It is undeniable that LHRC has done much in establishing platforms from and through which people have been airing their views and complaints, most related to abuses of basic human rights.

But, as noted, it has also repeatedly made it right into some remote areas

of the country, raising awareness and providing resources to enable the citizens to increase their ability to solve some of their problems amicably, without necessarily engaging in protracted and invariably costly legal battles.

It is no wonder that many link its record as both a human rights watchdog and a flag bearer of sorts with respect to the crusade for human rights in Tanzania and the fact of its having been accorded observer status by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights since 2000.

By striving to empower the people of Tanzania as a way of promoting, reinforcing and safeguarding human rights and good governance in the country, LHRC is fighting for a worthy cause.

We say this primarily because using legal and civic education to create or enhance the awareness of vulnerable or underprivileged victims of human rights violations without doubt contributes positively to national developed and ought to be encouraged and emulated.

It is also noteworthy that the centre, while focusing its efforts to the public, LHRC has been working openly and transparently alongside all manner of stakeholders in seeking to accomplish its mission. These include government ministries, departments and public agencies.

Among the others are Tanzania's own development partners, UN agencies, CSOs, faith-based organisations, research and training institutions, the media, trade unions, the private sector, and other local and international human rights crusaders.

This is as it should be, and one could well guess that be among the factors behind LHRC's continued recognition from various quarters as an NGO fighting a worthy cause and fighting it as boldly and transparently as one would expect from an agency of its kind.

The recognition and appreciation the centre has been getting from near and far should serve to motivate it into working even harder and more effectively. We believe they know as much - and will move along accordingly.

Stunting levels an eye-opener to quality of economic growth

A just-ended seminar for journalists was treated to shocking revelations relating to nutrition countrywide, especially the high levels of stunting in the top grain-producing southern highlands regions.

Owing to political nomenclature where maize is routinely referred to in the mass media and political rallies or public platforms as 'food' quite simply, hearing that the presence of maize and nutrition levels was not linked was mentally straining. It compels the public to rethink food as such, not being satisfied with maize.

To be sure, at no time had it been announced previously that when a region has maize it is all right in its wellbeing expectations or chances of secure feeding and nutrition, especially for children under five years of age.

The problem is that for reasons of political shorthand, the public has been trained to think of maize as food quite simply, in which case when the country has sufficient maize it is written or broadcast that it is food self-sufficient, not grain or maize self sufficient. It is to take the other aspects for granted as if the rest was around the corner, just picked.

Equating maize with food meant that the rest was within reach, such that one just goes around the house or in front of it to pick vegetables, or milks the cows or it is taken for granted that most families afford a quarter or half kilo of meat on a regular basis, etc.

All this was just fleeting in mind rather than actually espoused, as the fact that a woman finds other accessories needed to prepare a nutritious maize meal are not a vote gatherer, don't contribute to government legitimacy but availability of maize. The difference between having maize and ensuring that children are healthy was never therefore in discussion.

The levels of stunting showed in the data backed by the World Food Programme and the Tanzania Food and Nutritional Centre indicate that the country is divided literally in half, with a whole series of regions having stunting levels hovering around 30 per cent and another series with stunting levels just above 20 per cent.

It is an indication that the quality of economic growth is poor, and that for this to be corrected, rather radical changes to overall levels of poverty will be needed. Piecemeal additions will cut the rates insignificantly.

While Tanzania has usually claimed or otherwise been hailed for having high levels of economic growth, less propagated data show that the country has always been near the bottom of the Human Development Index (HDI), a flagship publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The prevalence at 30 per cent level of stunting in what euphemistically are blessed granary regions in the country is a wake-up call that we need to raise the quality of growth more proactively, especially in poverty reduction.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

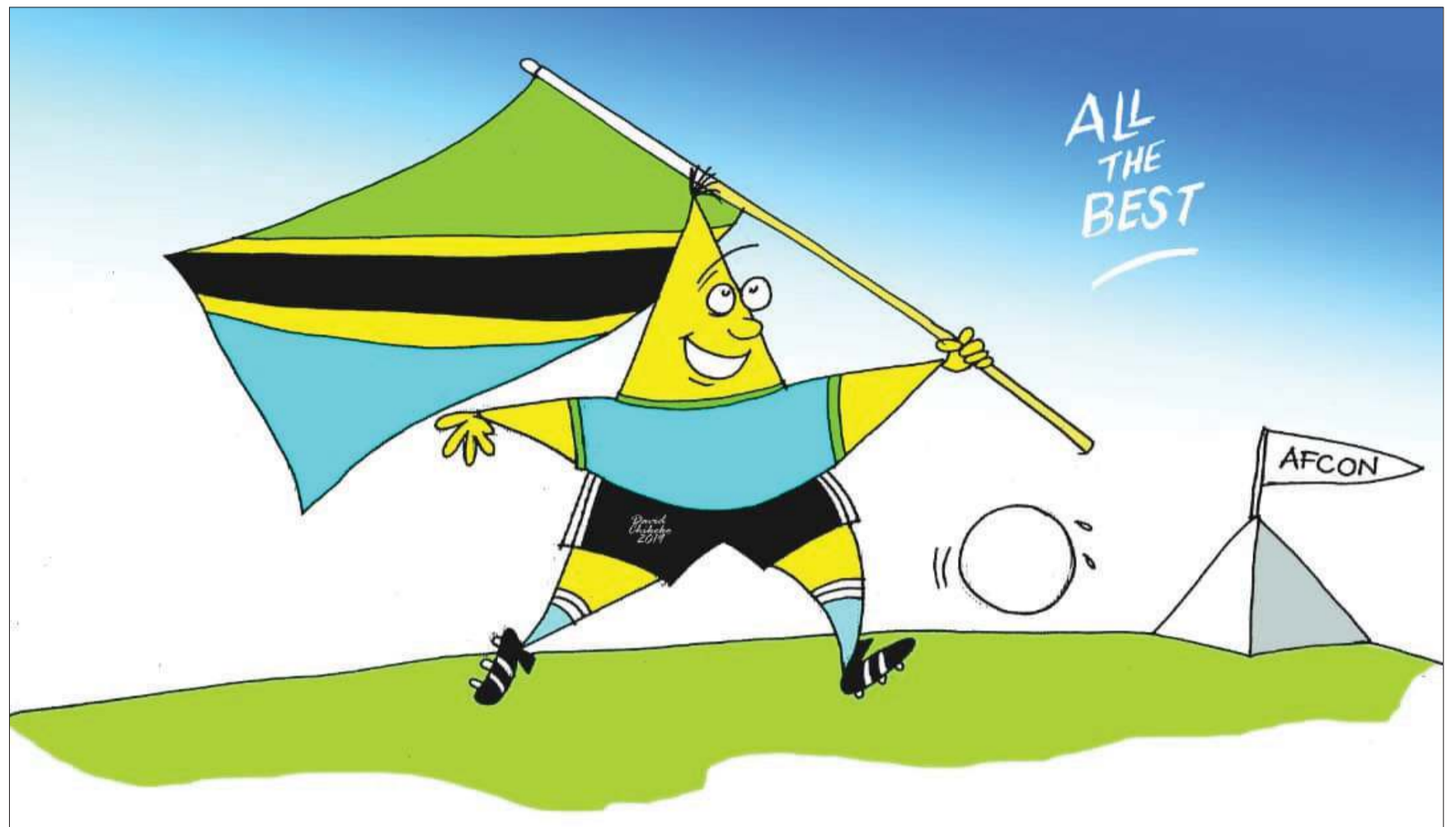
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By Special Correspondent in Kigoma

AFTER more than a decade of incredible success, preventing over 2,200 maternal deaths, the international partnership behind the Maternal and Reproductive Health Programme in Tanzania held a handover ceremony here yesterday.

The event marked the final transition of the programme to the community, the Government of Tanzania and local authorities.

The programme was a partnership between the Government of Tanzania, EngenderHealth and Thamini Uhai, and was co-funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Fondation H&B Agerup.

The programme supported Kigoma, Morogoro and Coast regions but primarily focused on Kigoma Region, where over 100 health facilities were supported in a spirited effort to improve provision of maternal and reproductive health services.

Implementing partners and the Kigoma regional administrative secretary's office signed a transition document to ensure the continuation of vital maternal and reproductive health services to mothers and newborns in the region.

The memorandum of understanding establishes that an increased number of skilled health professionals would be placed in the region, that health workers trained under the programme would remain in place, and that annual budget planning for health facilities would be supported to ensure the availability of adequate funds for life-saving services.

The Tanzanian government's prioritisation of maternal health has been a catalyst for bringing life-saving health services to communities around the region. This support included upgrades of 13 health centres for the provision of comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care (CEmONC).

Highlights at the handover ceremony included the dissemination of the results of a final programme evaluation, conducted by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Some of the key findings of the programme evaluation were that nearly 2,200 maternal deaths were prevented in project-supported facilities through obstetric care and family planning services and over 210,000 babies were delivered in programme-supported health facilities - with trained providers in place - under the programme.

Now, after over a decade, that moment time has finally come, the programme would transition from an international partnership to full local governance for sustainability and long-term success.

Kigoma Regional Medical Officer Dr Paul Chaote said at the ceremony: "We have observed strengthened and

Maternal health programme transitions to local ownership



improved maternal, reproductive and child health services in Kigoma Region. Our region has improved greatly on key maternal health indicators as compared to the past."

"Many pregnant women are seeking care and delivering at the improved health facilities supported by the government in partnership with development partners," he noted, adding: "We have learned a lot - as a region - from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Maternal and Reproductive Health project, and this lesson can be scaled up countrywide and in other similar areas."

Dr Neena Prasad, director of the Maternal and Reproductive Health Programme at Bloomberg Philanthropies, meanwhile said: "No one should accept that it's impossible to provide high-quality maternal and reproductive healthcare to women who live in rural communities in developing countries." "In the thirteen years that we have supported this programme in Kigoma, the region has gone from having among the worst maternal health indicators in Tanzania to having among the best," she noted, adding: "Together with the Government of Tanzania, implementing partners and dedicated communities, we have built a model for delivering maternal healthcare that can inform similar efforts around the world."

"We feel proud that the project's goals of increasing utilisation of obstetric and family planning care services have been accomplished, and have the fullest confidence that the government is committed to sustain it," she noted.

Over two years of consultations and collaboration around the transition were concluded at yesterday's closeout ceremony attended dignitaries

including the regional commissioner, representatives of the international philanthropic organisations and high-ranking government officials.

Among those represented were the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), the Health, Community Development, Elderly and Children ministry, and members of Parliament from Kigoma Region.

Thamini Uhai Executive Director Dr Nguke Mwakatundu said: "The project's success has proved that, with well coordinated and well implemented interventions designed and meant to improve the quality of care, experience of care in the health facilities and mobilising the communities to use the facilities, it is possible to significantly improve the maternal and reproductive health situation in rural areas in Tanzania."

"The project's model is a sustainable one, and I am hopeful the results obtained will be maintained by the government by continuing to use the model and ensure the interventions put in place continue to be implemented in the coming future," added the executive director.

Prudence Masako, Country Representative for EngenderHealth Tanzania, remarked: "We are celebrating the successes of project today as its activities transition to the government. This success was only possible because all parties played their roles as required. From the national level right down to the community level players the coordination functioned like a machine, with each party playing its role as expected."

"These successes need to be celebrated by all of us and there is also a need to ensure what the project

leaves behind will be sustained in the coming years for more celebrations in the future. That will be especially for the wellbeing of Kigoma women and girls, all of whom obviously would enjoy accessing family planning and comprehensive post-abortion care services whenever they need," elaborated Masako.

Other highlights at the event were the dissemination of the results of a final programme evaluation, conducted by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Other key findings of the programme evaluation were that there was a 75 per cent increase in facility-based deliveries - from 48 per cent in 2011 to 85 per cent in 2018. This pointed to success in efforts to ensure that mothers and babies had access to life-saving medical care in the event of unexpected complications.

There was a rise in the rate of life-saving Caesarean sections provided - from 2.7 per cent in 2011 to 4.5 per cent in 2018 - while the rate recommended by the World Health Organisation is within the between 5 per cent to 15 per cent range.

It was further reported that more than 400 health providers were trained on family planning services, the initiative meant in part to prevent death and injury resulting from - or induced by - unintended pregnancies.

More revelations: there was an increase in contraceptive prevalence rate from 15.6 per cent in 2014 to 21.0 per cent in 2018 for women in union using all manner of modern methods, there was a 43 per cent increase in the number of obstetric emergencies treated - from 42.8 per cent in 2011 to 61.3 per cent in 2018 - in all facilities combined

Desertification can be more dangerous, insidious than war

ANKARA

Businesses are being encouraged to follow the lead of the youth to halt desertification, reduce degradation, improve agricultural sustainability and restore damaged lands.

"The youth is a very particular case. The youth give me a lot of hope because I see their passion, and I see their vision," head of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Ibrahim Thiaw told IPS.

"For the youth it's basically 'I care for the planet, this is our future.'"

Each minute, 23 hectares of productive land and soil is lost to desertification, land degradation and drought, according to U.N. Environment.

Thiaw said when this happens young people are forced to leave their homeland, and most never return.

He said restoring land will help in reducing risks of irregular migration - a major component of population change in some countries.

According to a new U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Population Division report launched on Monday, Jun. 17, between 2010 and 2020, 14 countries or areas will see a net inflow of more than one million migrants, while 10 countries will see a net outflow of similar magnitude.

"What is left for the young girl or young gentleman of Haiti if 98 percent of their forest have been degraded and they have barren hills that cannot generate food anymore? What is left for them to do but to flee?" Thiaw questioned.

"Therefore, restoring land would reduce migration, it will keep people on the ground, help them generate their own income and live their own lives. They don't want to leave their families. They migrate because they have no choice. So, restoring land is also bringing stability in our countries."

Like Haiti, Grenada - another Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member state - has seen its share of land degradation.

As countries observed World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) on Monday, Jun. 17, Grenada's Minister of Agriculture and Lands Yolande Bain-Horsford said while soils and land continue to play an integral role in the economic shift the island nation is experiencing today, these resources are under threat.

"The agricultural sector is a major contributor to national development through the provision of employment, household income, food and government revenues," Bain-Horsford told IPS.

"As we boast of the importance of this sector to our



Grenada has been spearheading the fight against desertification at local, regional and global levels. Credit: Desmond Brown/IPS

economies, unfortunately we must face the harsh reality of the challenges facing the sector, which include land degradation, lack of sustainable farming practices, climatic variations and droughts."

Bain-Horsford said Grenada has been spearheading the fight against desertification at local, regional and global levels.

Locally, the island nation has set ambitious targets to ensure it addresses and, in some cases, reverse the impacts of negative agricultural, construction, and other actions which lead to desertification.

Some of the actions taken include the Cabinet approving Grenada's Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality targets

that should be achieved by 2030.

To achieve the targets, Grenada has agreed to:

- increase the fertility and productivity of 580 hectares of cropland by 2030,
- transform 800 hectares of abandoned cropland into agroforestry by 2030,
- implement soil conservation measures on 120 hectares of land by 2030,
- the rehabilitation of 383 hectares of degraded land at Bellevue South in Carriacou by 2030,
- the rehabilitation of 100 hectares of degraded forests in Grenada and Carriacou by 2030, and

- increase forest carbon stocks by 10 percent by 2030.

The island also completed and submitted its 2018 National Report on the state of land degradation, nationally linking it to gender and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

But Thiaw said land restoration cannot be left in the hands of governments alone, explaining that it will not be sufficient.

With two billion hectares of land in need of restoration, the UNCCD head said the best solution would be for the governments to not only mobilise communities, but to mobilise private investments.

"As long as business does not see that investing on land and restoring land is a good business case, it will not happen," Thiaw said.

"Governments will have to review some of the land tenure systems that they have. It may be just a concession saying if you restore this land, I will give you the concession over the land for the next 50 years or for the next 60 years. Then they can harvest and they will leave the land restored rather than leaving it barren."

The government of Turkey is hosting three days of activities in observance of the 25th anniversary of the UNCCD and the WDCDD.

Turkey's Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said countries are facing a silent danger that constantly grows and threatens the planet.

"This danger is indeed more dangerous and more insidious than wars," he said. "This danger that takes our lands away, makes them unusable and risks our future is nothing but desertification."

Pakdemirli said just as desertification is a disaster that threatens the entire world regardless of national borders, degraded and destroyed lands pose a direct threat to the lives of people living on land-based activities.

He said these social problems sometimes force people to migrate, especially in countries such as Africa that are most affected by the consequences of desertification.

"Nobody wants to leave the land where they were born, grew up, and felt belonging to. Migration is a way to addressing the most desperate and needy situations," Pakdemirli said.

"In such cases, children and women are viewed as the most vulnerable category of victims. Therefore, before it is too late, we should take necessary measures before lands lose their productivity and become completely uninhabitable."

"While taking these measures, we must act in unison and adopt the principle that all lands around the world should be protected," Pakdemirli added.

IPS

By Correspondent James

Kandoyo

JULIETH, a 15-year-old girl from Same District in Kilimanjaro Region, lives with her grandparents after her mother passed away.

During her childhood, Julieth suffered from measles, which led to total blindness and hearing impairment on both ears. Julieth's grandmother used to tie her around a tree whilst she carried out her daily duties, so that she would not wander away.

In the night, Julieth would be tied around a leg of a bedstead so that she would not fall off or wander away. Her grandmother also had challenges of feeding Julieth due to difficulties in swallowing food.

One day Sense International Tanzania (SI Tanzania) staff found Julieth in this desperate situation, dirty and had been biting herself.

The SI Tanzania staff that found Julieth, untied her, assessed her mental health, and later took her to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) for further examination and treatment.

She was later, taken to Uhuru Mchanganyiko for an assessment where it was decided that Julieth could be enrolled to a mainstream school closer to her home in Same District, where she would be supported with the teaching assistant to learn alongside other peers.

Her father agreed to pay the daily cost of taking Julieth to and from school by a motorbike. At the same time, a special seats Member of Parliament in the district donated a tricycle for Julieth to support with mobility and transport.

Since January 2017, Julieth was enrolled into the home-based education programme, which has really

WHO, stakeholders call for concerted efforts towards the elimination of measles globally



Julieth (Right) welcomes Sense International staff while her grandmother (left) is watching

supported her to develop a variety of skills.

A lot of progress has been made in Julieth's development, Julieth can now sit and settle in the class and can walk a little bit and use a handkerchief to wipe off saliva.

Furthermore, she can eat food on her own, freely mingles and plays with other children and she no longer need to be tied.

Julieth had developed a physical disability on her left leg due to being tied up for a long time, however through

the support from her teacher and through the home-based education sessions, she is able to walk a few steps without any support.

The society around has been amazed to see how she has been able to go to school and participate in different activities through the support of the Inclusive Education programme provided.

Julieth's Individual Education Plan (IEP) is used to support her to reach her developmental goals.

Julieth's Teaching Assistant

(TA) has also included extra-curricular activities in her IEP, including supporting her to go back home and take care of her in the house whilst waiting for family members to return home.

Her school curriculum areas focus on life skills and include goals and objectives in the areas of communication, concept development, readiness skills, oral motor skills, and safety awareness, increasing strength and functional mobility, meal-time skills, and increasing her participation in daily routines.

Through the skills Julieth is improving and with the support from her TA, she is able to participate in a mainstream classroom, make friends, learn new skills and have an improved quality of life.

Julieth is one of the 100 children in 79 schools in Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro Region supported by the Sense International (SI) - a disability specialist charity, partnering with local organisations in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda.

It is one of the World's leading International Organisations working for people with deaf blindness/multi-sensory impairments (MSI) and their families.

The vision of the SI is to see people with deaf blindness in the world are equal and become active members of the society.

In partnership with Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the project is implemented as a pilot - an innovative approach to inclusive education for children with deaf and blindness in Tanzania.

Country situation.

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

The jab meant to reach missed and new ones will be administered in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to children

aged between nine and 59 months.

"The number of vaccines prevented diseases increased to nine from five in early seventies," this is according to Dr Dafroza Lyimo, the Immunisation Programme Manager at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

She said the follow up campaign slated to kick off from September this year targets to reach children from nine to 59 months irrespective of whether vaccinated or not.

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

The Immunisation Advisor from the WHO, Dr William Mwengee said the exercise to roll out measles jab targets to achieve 95 percent coverage in all districts to prevent outbreak and provide immunity (protection) in the communities.

"Despite tremendous gains towards increasing access and utilisation of immunisation services in the last decades and deaths, we need to sustain these gains and increase efforts to reach those who are not vaccinated and those not fully vaccinated."

He detailed that measles cases have climbed up during 2019 adding that the preliminary global data show that reports cases rose by 300 percent, in the first three months of 2019, compared to 60 the same period in 2018.

Dr Mwengee said WHO African Region has recorded a 700 percent increase while

the region of the America is 60 percent, the European region 300 percent the Eastern Mediterranean 100 percent, with 40 percent increase in Southeast Asia and Western Pacific.

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

Also over recent months, spikes in case numbers have also occurred in countries with high overall vaccination coverage including the United States of America as well as Israel, Thailand and Tunisia, as the disease has spread fast among clusters of unvaccinated people.

Global situation

An estimated 169 million children missed out on the first dose of the measles vaccine between 2010 and 2017, or 21.1 million children a year on average, this is according to the United Nations Children's Fund, (UNICEF).

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

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

"The measles virus will always find unvaccinated children. If we are serious about averting the spread of this dangerous but preventable disease, we need to vaccinate every child, in rich and poor countries, there is big challenge for the children who missed the second vaccination."

Certifications are outdated, be a lifelong learner

Your bachelor's or masters doesn't mean a prospective employer should hire you. Neither does an MBA certification mean you know how to run a business nor does the name of the institution you went to speak a thing literally!

Your degree doesn't matter. At least not as much as you think it does. Can you practically show it? What can you bring on the table with a degree or masters certification? Well, that's what matters.

Mr. Elison an HR Professional and veteran of the HR tech industry, degreed crystallized something I had always felt but wasn't able to put words to - he insists that a degree simply doesn't matter.

In as much as it's true your degree is an important record of your training on the fundamentals and learning how to think critically. It is important to step into lifelong learning as well because learning is a perpetual action not a means to an end. It simply doesn't matter as much as what you have learned since you graduated is tucked away in a drawer 50 KM away. You have to keep tabs and embark on a learning journey blend into new trends of the world's work place and the future of work.

What if your professional qualifications today might be replaced by a robot in the near future? Will your skills still be relevant?

Your BA isn't as valuable as your recent learning in



determining readiness or qualifications for a job. Never the less, Your MBA doesn't make you a better manager than someone who has helped grow a business and stays current with reading on entrepreneurship and leadership.

Simply, your degree doesn't matter as much as you are a lifelong learner, a student of life.

This Hr personnel summed it up well at a recent career boot camp, "increasingly I hear this mantra: skills not degrees. It's not skills at the exclusion of degrees. It is just expanding our perspective to go beyond degrees."

Degreed is "jailbreaking the degree." Degreed is offering a way to demonstrate the learning that does matter but not the practical work that is needed to execute and implement what has been studied.

Having started her career in Human Resources and having built and scaled global Customer Success teams at several fast-growing companies, he has had the opportunity to interview thousands of people. One of his favorite questions as he says has always been, "Why did you go to college, what did you study and how did that lead to where you are today?"

A three part interview question? The questions might catch one off guard but they are questions that really do matter for the work place today.

This has nothing to do with the school, the level of degree or even the subject an individual has passed through or is currently pursuing.

Personally, It did matter to me a while ago until the professional world taught me a lesson on skills and not papers. It had never mattered to me that much in the past just like today.

Mr Ellison talks about how he finds it interesting to look into the insights of an individual

and how has leveraged that foundation to learn and grow through their careers not even with his company but those the individuals will work for in the future as well.

"Oh... I have a degree in Public Relations and because I didn't know what I wanted to do and I have always been interested in running my own business. But after graduating, I ..." or "I have a degree in Procurement because I love store management but after graduating I found that I hate being stuck in Invoices all day so I ..." such replies and analysis are just but a tip of the iceberg and Mr. Elison explained it so candidly how

such sincere discussions reveal true potentials of prospective employees as unique individuals who desire to make ends meet and live their dreams.

Pretty much, the honesty in many of the answers can lead to an interesting discussion. The way candidates connect higher education to their career and lifelong learning is a great indication of what they are bringing to the table. It is an interesting insight into the Why of their career. It is almost rare anymore to find someone who went to college and received a degree in the same area as their current profession. Those that do business related studies you ought to celebrate! There is hope literally!

Even if your degree is perfectly aligned with the job you want, the hiring team wants to know what you have been doing since then and what you are willing to share and bring along for the benefit of their company.

The problem is several recruiters are still measuring skill acquisition with how attractive your GPA looks - - - by your college degree because that's the standard they have had to measure learning.

Well, I am aware that he is not the only HR professional or hiring manager that knows the degree isn't an effective measure of skills and capabilities.

I doubt any effective hiring manager is making offers on a degree alone. But that is all most of us have known. Or it was anyways.

Imagine if you could demonstrate everything you learned since you graduated. All of the relevant articles, papers, and books you have read that equip you to succeed in your job. Imagine a record of the conferences, webinars, and workshops you have attended that have helped you prepare for the job you want. If you could represent that to your organization, or future employers, wouldn't that be more valuable than saying you have an accounting degree from 5 years ago? Wouldn't you want that Hr manager to understand what you have learned since then? That's meaningful and something that I wish human resource managers would want to hear from us more when carrying through the interview process.

So what have you been learning since you graduated?



BY ALAN MARTIN

Solving South Africa's violent and costly Zama Zama problem

Around 30,000 illegal miners work in and around thousands of disused and active mines across South Africa. These illegal miners - known as Zama Zamas - are organised by criminal syndicates, and cause considerable financial losses and security headaches to established, publicly listed companies.

A paradigm shift is needed if South Africa is to successfully tackle the growing infiltration of industrial gold mines by the Zama Zamas. They represent the face of a new phenomenon that is confounding South Africa's law enforcement, mining officials and the industry.

A recent report by ENACT - a project of the Institute for Security Studies, INTERPOL and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime - reveals that illegal mining in South Africa is some of the most violent in Africa. It is responsible for billions of rand in lost tax revenue, and threatens physical infrastructure and public safety.

The Minerals Council South Africa estimates lost sales, taxes and royalties of R21 billion a year through illegal mining. ENACT research indicates that Zama Zama outputs are in excess of R14 billion a year, one of the biggest sources of illicit gold on the continent. The majority of it - at least 34 tons between 2012 and 2016 - is exported to Dubai, while more enters international markets via neighbouring countries.

The violence and insecurity in affected areas is as chaotic and conflict-ridden as the most problematic artisanal mine



Instead of criminalising artisanal miners, the target should be the syndicate bosses behind this lucrative illegal industry. File photo

sites elsewhere in Africa - including those in active war zones like the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Zama Zamas are emblematic of a changing South African mining landscape. They are a direct by-product of the unanswered socio-economic inequalities faced by one of Africa's leading economies and mining powers. While South Africa remains one of the continent's principal gold producers, its reserves are finite, and declining. As the industrial gold sector becomes less economically viable over the long term, artisanal mining is increasing.

Debates and approaches are still framed through, and deferential to, the perspective of industrial miners. While the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act of 2002 acknowledges artisanal miners, it is tone deaf to realities in the sector. The result is that Zama Zamas operate outside, and in defiance, of the law.

Illegal artisanal mining is principally carried out underground in industrial shafts, not in open pits, as is normally the case. In essence artisanal mining occurs within large-scale mines, not separate from them. While artisanal mining communities everywhere

are subjected to unsafe, exploitative and precarious working conditions, Zama Zamas face a more diverse range of dangers, including extortion, murder, forced migration, money laundering, corruption, racketeering, drugs and prostitution.

Durable solutions to address the Zama Zama phenomenon require a paradigm shift - among industry stakeholders and government in particular. The government considers the miners criminals who must be brought to heel through the force of law.

Non-governmental organisations working with Zama Zamas and

artisanal mining say such an approach is misguided and counterproductive. They argue that existing laws and strategies should be overhauled to find ways to harness the miners' economic potential, while targeting the criminal bosses who are orchestrating, and benefiting most from, the illegality.

What could be done differently? The extent of the violence and criminality requires the South African gold industry to urgently apply a stricter and more robust risk assessment to its supply chain.

With government support, the industry should also design and

implement due diligence measures consistent with those of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for conflict affected and high risk areas. Many other non-Western jurisdictions - including India and China - are already doing so, offering South Africa an opportunity to align its mineral regime with global best practices.

The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act needs to be overhauled. In its current form it enables illegal activity and hinders the ability of police to prevent criminality. The current act mandates the South African Diamond and Precious

Metals Regulator to license, monitor and investigate mining permit holders - tasks that critics claim it has little experience or inclination to do.

An amended act should either share this role with the police, as was the case before 2002, or be returned to the exclusive control of the police. Doing so would give law enforcement greater latitude and oversight to spot trends, undertake proactive due diligence on permit applicants, and monitor business activity of criminally exposed entities.

Regulatory compliance monitoring of permit holders and their operations should also be shared

between police and the South African Diamond and Precious Metals Regulator. Any legislative amendments should tighten the licensing requirements of scrap metal dealers and gold export permit holders, and mandate the Department of Mineral Resources to proactively publish their corporate details.

The government should centralise the gold buying system through which licensed scrap metal dealers purchase and process precious metals. Doing so would interrupt the syndicates' control of the illicit market and serve as a significant step towards formalising Zama Zama activity into the legal supply chain.

A single gold buyer would purchase at the daily spot price - offering Zama Zamas true market value for their gold, and thereby incentivising them to operate within a formalised and legal framework. Refining charges should be competitive with international market rates (i.e. not more than what Rand Refinery currently charges).

Last year Petra Diamonds and iKapa signed cooperation agreements with illegal miners on their property in the Northern Cape. This could be considered a model for companies with similar above-ground mining operations that have been affected by illegal mining. Such arrangements allow artisanal and small-scale mining within an industrial concession, but set parameters on how artisanal miners work and sell their production.

Alan Martin, independent investigative researcher and technical adviser specialising in illicit artisanal mining

More win in CBA/Vodacom M-Pawa financial inclusion draw

By Guardian Reporter

THE Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) and Vodacom yesterday held the second M-Pawa weekly draw for the savings and loan repayment promotion that is ongoing as a celebration of 5-year of a mobile phone financial services.

The draw announced 40 lucky winners in the presence of representative from the Gaming Board of Tanzania, Jehud Ngolo, CBA executives and comedians Mpoki and Dokii who are currently the M-pawa brand ambassadors.

Winners were selected basing on three criteria, which included savings draw, loan repayment and Savings challenge whereby winners with a minimum balance of 1,000/- to 200,000/- got double balance, lucky winners with a balance higher than 200,000/- were rewarded with 200,000/-.

Other winners were from the early loan repayment and savings challenge criteria and won prizes including smart phones and airtime vouchers.

"M-pawa values its customers and will continue to reward them with exciting prizes during the ongoing draws as we continue to offer the best financial service experience and work towards financial inclusion for all," said Zainabu Mushi, CBA bank representative.

"We therefore urge M-pawa users to participate by saving and early loan repayment to stand a chance to win as well as urge other people who are not using M-PAWA to join."

The draws will continue weekly for the next 4 weeks and will have one lucky winner at the grand draw who will walk away with 15 million/-cash prize.



M-Pawa brand 'ambassadors' Mpoki Mjuni (L) and Dokii Wenceslaus (2nd-L) communicate with winners of the second CBA/Vodacom M-Pawa promotion weekly draw in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Construction of longest transmission line in East, Central Africa ready soon

By Kenneth Mwenda

CONSTRUCTION of the longest transmission line in East and Central Africa nears completion. The line links Kenya to its northern Ethiopia for regional electricity trade.

The 1,045km lines interconnect at the Moyale common border. It has the capacity to carry 2,000 MW of electricity in either direction, the capacity being higher than Kenya's current maximum consumption (peak demand) of about 1,900 MW.

Construction is complete on the Ethiopia's side, being shorter, while Kenya's side is over 90% complete and is expected to go live early next year. On Kenya's side, it's being built by the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (Ketraco).

African Development bank (AfDB), French Development Bank (AFD), World Bank and government of Kenya have funded the project at a cost of US \$620m. It's expected to be completed in April 2020.

The project is developed by a consortium of contractors comprising Germany-based Siemens for the converter station, KEC International of India, Larsen and Toubro of India and Kalpataru Power

Transmission of India. China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Company is overseeing the line construction.

Kenya-Ethiopia interconnector line, also known as the Eastern Electricity Highway, is Kenya's first direct current (DC) line having 500kV high-voltage direct current (HVDC). All the other transmission and distribution lines in the country are alternating current (AC) wires.

Direct current transmission is best suited to cover long distance electricity transportation, over 600km on land, in line with global best practices. Through this line, power will be wheeled to the South African Power Pool and this can be on both sides.

Currently, the 400kV Loiyangalani-Suswa 435km line built last year and connecting Turkana wind farm to the national grid holds the top spot in the region in terms of capacity, along with the 400kV Mombasa-Nairobi 428km line completed in 2017.

The Kenya-Ethiopia project will enable cross-border trade of reliable and affordable energy from the East African region and eventually to the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP), through Tanzania.

Tanzanian arrested over drug peddling, cocaine seized

HYDERABAD, India

EXCISE sleuths on Monday arrested a drug peddler from Tanzania in Hyderabad and seized three grams of cocaine from his possession.

Acting on specific information,

the enforcement wing of the excise department laid a trap and arrested John Paul Mbelle, 29, at Langar Houz on Monday.

John, who is currently residing at Banjara Layout in Haramaru area of Bangalore, has been peddling drugs since the past few years,

excise sleuths said.

John, a native of Dar es Salaam City of Tanzania, came to India in 2013 on a student visa. His visa expired three years later, but John continued to stay illegally and was arrested under the Foreigners Act. After coming out of jail on bail,

John started peddling drugs for one Emanuel.

In a month, John came to Hyderabad seven times to peddle narcotic substances.

When John arrived to deliver drugs on Monday morning, the excise department sleuths arrested

him near Essar Petrol Pump at Langar Houz and seized three grams of cocaine worth Rs 25,000 along with a cell phone.

The sleuths handed over the accused and the contraband to the Golconda prohibition & excise sleuths for further investigation.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION FOR LICENCES

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received licence applications from the following applicants:

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	SHAREHOLDER/ GUARANTOR NATIONALITY & PERCENTAGE	TYPE OF LICENCE	AREA OF OPERATION
1.	BNH Communication Solutions Limited	1) Betson D. Kiwanga (Tanzanian)-25% 2) Henry D. Mataji (Tanzanian)- 25% 3) BNH Communication Solution, Inc (USA)-50%	Regional Application Service licence	Dodoma
2.	Milan Cable Television Limited	1) Milan Tribovandas Majithia (Tanzanian) 50% 2) Sudha Milan Majithia (Tanzania) 50%	District Application Service licence	Arusha
3.	J & S Services Company Limited	1. Joseph Damasi Mwakipesile-51% 2. Irene Joseph Njau-49%	District Content Services(Free to Air) Licence	Dar Es Salaam
4.	Clouds Plus Productions Limited	1) Joseph Mlebya Kusaga (Tanzanian) - 80% 2) Ramadhani Athumani Bukini (Tanzanian)- 20%	Content Services (Subscription Broadcasting- Television)	National
5.	Dodoma FM Limited	1. Leila Rayben Sanga (Tanzanian) 30% 2. Baptist J. Mutesasira (Ugandan) 30%	Content Services Licence (Free To Air Television)	Dodoma

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

Comments should be addressed to:
Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
Mawasiliano Towers
20 Sam Nujoma Road
P.O. Box 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz



Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ref: No. PR/SCITZ/2018/004959

Law Firm to Provide Legal Service to Save the Children International

Background

Save the Children has been operational in Tanzania since 1986 providing development and humanitarian relief programmes to children in support of the Government of Tanzania priorities and policies both directly and through local partners. Current programs focus on child protection, child rights governance, education, nutrition, health and emergency response with current operational presence in Kibondo, Shinyanga, Zanzibar, Mbozi, Dodoma, Rukwa, Iringa and Morogoro.

Purpose of EOI:

Have a retainer agreement with Save the Children Tanzania for the provision of legal advice on all matters referred by the organisation on areas of labour law, compliance, NGO registration, Tax regulations and overall Tanzania legal regulations. Duration of this service will be One Year Renewable.

Considering the current programming context coupled with the need to comply with Save the Children internal policies and government regulations, the organisation is looking for a law firm that will provide legal advice, research relevant legislation, precedent and other source of law.

Legal services

- Advise on Legal matters in different aspects as required by Save the Children, this includes; Tax regulations, NGO registration, compliance matters, work permits, labour law etc.
- Representation of Save the Children in all Courts of law as instructed.
- Representation of Save the Children in negotiation requiring legal representation.

Fee.

This will be as per agreed retainer fee. Interested Law firms should quote the retainer fee and outline what is covered under the retainer. Also, include the modality of the extra fee to be charged for the service not covered in the retainer fee.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The company or firm must be registered in Tanzania.
- The firm must have its office in Dar es Salaam City.
- Previous experience in similar assignments with International NGOs is preferred.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND INSTRUCTIONS:

All reputable and eligible Law Firms interested to work with Save the Children International, are requested to submit their application to Save the Children International.

Disclaimer: Issuance of this EOI does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the Save the Children International, nor does it commit Save the Children to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of EOI. Only shortlisted company will be contacted for the further process.

Applicants should submit their documents in either a sealed envelope (separating technical and financial proposals) marked "Legal Service Proposal (Ref: No. PR/SCITZ/2018/004959)" or through email on Tanzania.Tenders@savethechildren.org by 28th June 2019 on or before 2:00 pm. Any proposal received after the indicated time shall be rejected.

Tender Committee
Save the children International – Tanzania
Country Office, PlotNo.257 Kiko Avenue, Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikochoeni
P.O. BOX 1041, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania

Any requests for additional information should be addressed in writing through email to: tanzania.logsshared@savethechildren.org

Save the Children reserves the right to accept or reject any application or part thereof, and is not bound to give reasons for its decision. Applicants who will not hear from us after 60 days should consider their application unsuccessful.

By Ani Jozeni

DECADES of painstaking diplomatic work appear ready to be consigned to the dustbin of history after the current administration in the United States issued clear signals - and is organizing an international conference for that purpose - to formally ditch United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 as a framework of negotiations. It is a change that has no pair in history, with the possible exception of the shift from the League of Nations to the United Nations after World War II. It is almost as shattering as the fall of the Berlin Wall precisely 30 years ago.

This event consigns to failure the work of astute diplomats including veteran UN envoy and briefly Tanzanian foreign minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, who may in darker moments have envisaged that it could come to this end. The trouble is that the resolution depended on the United States to bring Israel to accept it, which it could never do, and on the other hand the Palestinian camp has had its horizons fixed on a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The difficulty though comes up in the inability of the Palestinian leadership to issue any workable guarantees that a peaceful Palestinian state can be formed that can coexist with Israel.

With the breadth of the Middle East enveloped in war and instability, or threats of conflagration for

instance between the US and Iran to add to the excruciating war in Yemen that has caused an untold humanitarian disaster, few in the region will raise a finger to counteract the US policy course. The traditional allies of the Palestinian liberation movement (PLO) have since deserted that camp, with supporters of liberation movements or those adhering to that mode of thinking dwindling by the day. The Palestine issue was an extension of the struggle against colonialism and apartheid in southern Africa, and once this phase ended, the Middle East was less attractive.

On the part of Tanzania, the position laid out by the fifth phase government and followed by the fourth phase though not as explicitly is that after Egypt was given back the Sinai in accords with Israel arising from peace accords in 1979 and 1981, the matter was no longer relevant to the African Union. No portion of Africa is occupied by Israeli forces as it was the case when the Sinai was under Israeli boots and tanks, in which case the MidEast process is either a media issue or a bilateral matter of regional policy for each state to take its position, and we know who wins. Israel has had extended and deepened relations with many African states, and this will continue.

Old school African diplomats have a model for what is now happening East of the Nile, as in the far west, efforts to recognize the Western Sahara state as a

End of an era as US finally ditches UN Security Council Resolution 242



sovereign state have floundered as Morocco has never accepted that position. History shows that states are created out of epic battles and these results are never annulled by diplomatic efforts, in which case the Six Day War outcome is not being formally recognized as law. US Am-

bassador to Israel, David Friedman, hit buttressed the Kushner position by backing Israeli annexation of major Jewish settlements areas.

The Palestinian cause in African states was habitually driven by sentiments of solidarity enmeshed with a common world view, which had the

struggle against global capitalism and visions of socialism as a shared ideal. That situation has taken a battering as these positions mostly coincided with old school single party states in Africa espousing strategic non-alignment and ideological affinity with the East primarily, against

colleagues who were bedridden with French, UK or US advisors. Times have changed; African states are more cohesive internally and the direction of ideological radicalism has also shifted from national liberation to democracy and human rights, therefore current militancy

in Africa has little to do with Palestinian sympathies.

What can be envisaged at the moment is a sort of deepening of globalization in Palestinian zones as well as gradual beefing up of security measures against radical movements like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Their operational spheres were closely tied up with unquestioned legitimacy of the pursuit of an independent Palestinian state in pre-1967 borders, a position that has gradually been enveloped with a military campaign and civil desperation to move back into Israel, spelling its doom. This has hardened reflexes in the Arab world, in that the goals of the 'right of return' are incompatible with a negotiated peace, and with current regional convulsions, will just let it drop.

Egyptian authorities are at the moment battling a wide ranging state of insurgency in its Sinai vast region, where the forces it is battling are closely allied with Hamas - thus when the US plan starts rolling out and investments are poured into the Sinai, it is hard to see tolerance for Hamas continuing. Similarly in the West Bank bridges will start being built between Jordan and the West Bank, some kind of incipient confederation where an economic union of sorts comes up, to enable Palestinians to move back and forth, invest or settle, on the basis of total abandonment of armed struggle. Those in Jerusalem still face pressure not to sell houses to Jews; this should end.

UNITED NATIONS

The world's developing nations, currently fighting an uphill battle in their attempts to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are facing another stark demographic reality: a rise in world population by 2.0 billion people in the next 30 years: from 7.7 billion to 9.7 billion in 2050.

The population of sub-Saharan Africa alone is projected to double by 2050 (99% increase), according to a new report, The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights, published by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and released June 17.

Of the nine countries, which will make up more than half the projected growth of the global population - eight are in Africa and Asia.

The eight include: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia and Egypt, plus the United States (in descending order of the expected increase).

Around 2027, India is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country, according to the report. Asked if this increase will have an impact on the implementation of the UN's 17 SDGs, Joseph Chamie, a former director of the UN Population Division and currently an independent consulting demographer, told IPS: "Without a doubt, the population increases, especially for countries in Africa and South Asia, will have serious consequences on the implementation of the SDGs by 2030, with repercussions extending beyond those regions."

High population growth rates, he pointed out, outpace efforts to educate, employ, house and achieve

fundamental development goals.

Chamie described the report as "a major achievement" because it provides invaluable demographic information about the past and likely future for the world, regions and countries.

While world population continues to grow but at a slower pace, enormous demographic diversity exists and numerous population changes are underway across regions and countries, he noted.

Asked if the anticipated increase in world population was a positive or negative factor, Chamie said: "Certainly, several billion additional people will have an enormous impact. More people mean more items consumed and more resources used."

A world population reaching 8 billion in several years, nearly 10 billion by 2050 and close to 11 billion at the century's close, poses critical challenges for humanity and the world's environment, he argued.

Prominent among those challenges, especially relevant for the rapidly growing developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, are concerns about food, water, housing, education, employment, health, peace and security, governance, migration, human rights, energy, natural resources and the environment.

Purnima Mane, a former President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pathfinder International, told IPS rampant and unplanned population growth always has negative consequences. But the situation is not the same everywhere.

"As you know, in parts of the world, population is growing rapidly with limited access to contraception while in others population is not growing adequately

Rising population trends threaten UN's development goals in Asia and Africa



to meet the economic demands of the country," said Mane, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Programme) at the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

If the anticipated population growth happens mainly in the developing world, as is expected, resources are more likely to fall short of the needs of the people, she warned.

This would not foster national development and individual and family well-being, she noted.

"Ironically, many countries which have low popu-

lation growth are shutting their doors to immigrants who could take on economic roles which would benefit those countries as well as the immigrants who are moving away for a better life and to leave behind the political and economic instability in their own countries," Mane added.

Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said the report offers a road map indicating where to target action and interventions.

"Many of the fastest growing populations are in the poorest countries,

where population growth brings additional challenges in the effort to eradicate poverty, achieve greater equality, combat hunger and malnutrition and strengthen the coverage and quality of health and education systems to ensure that no one is left behind," he added.

The report also confirmed that the world's population is growing older due to increasing life expectancy and falling fertility levels, and that the number of countries experiencing a reduction in population size is growing.

The resulting changes

in the size, composition and distribution of the world's population have important consequences for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the globally agreed targets for improving economic prosperity and social well-being while protecting the environment.

The world's population continues to increase, but growth rates vary greatly across regions.

But many regions that may experience lower rates of population growth between 2019 and 2050 include Oceania excluding Australia/New Zealand

(56%), Northern Africa and Western Asia (46%), Australia/New Zealand (28%), Central and Southern Asia (25%), Latin America and the Caribbean (18%), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (3%), and Europe and Northern America (2%).

According to the report, life expectancy at birth for the world, which increased from 64.2 years in 1990 to 72.6 years in 2019, is expected to increase further to 77.1 years in 2050.

While considerable progress has been made in closing the longevity differential between countries, large gaps remain.

In 2019, life expectancy at birth in the least developed countries lags 7.4 years behind the global average, due largely to persistently high levels of child and maternal mortality, as well as violence, conflict and the continuing impact of the HIV epidemic.

Asked about the credibility of the figures, Chamie said past UN global projections have been found to be impressively close to reality and the current world population projections are expected to be similarly reliable and insightful.

Asked about the long-standing concept of zero population growth, he said while ZPG may not be as visible as it was in the 1960s, it remains an important goal for many people.

Without global population stabilization, governments will increasingly struggle to address critical issues including global warming, biodiversity, environmental degradation, as well as shortages of energy, food and water supplies.

High-growth countries, particularly those in Africa, should endeavor to pass as quickly as possible through demographic transition to low death and birth rates as has already been realized throughout much of the world, he noted.

By Beatrice Philemon

LOCAL and foreign investors have been invited by Tanzania National Parks Authority (Tanapa) to construct guest and hotel rooms at seven of its national parks facing shortage of such facilities.

Tanapa's Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and Business Development, William Mwakilema told Property Watch that the authority has already set aside thousands of square kilometers of space for such investments.

"We want to get world class hotel rooms to accommodate the growing number of tourists visiting our national parks which are current facing shortages," Mwakilema said. He said such investments are urgently needed in the Southern Tourist Circuit where investment had been lacking for sometimes.

Mwakilema named the national parks as Ruaha with an area of over 20,000 square kilometers, Katavi with 4,471 square kilometers, Mahale has 1,577 square kilometers and Mkomazi with an area of 3,245. Other national parks are: Mikumi which covers an area of 3,245 square kilometers, Saadani with 1,100 square kilometers and Kitulo which has 413 square kilometers.

"We need investors who can build hotel falling in the categories of between three and five-stars and possible above such grading because currently we have serious shortage of such hotel rooms in the parks," he

TANAPA SEEKING INVESTORS TO CONSTRUCT HOTEL ROOMS AT SEVEN PARKS



Tanapa headquarters in Arusha city. File photo.

stated saying that investors are assured of maximum returns because tourism is growing rapidly in the country.

According to Tanzania Tourist Board, some 957,536 tourists visited national parks in 2015/16 season earning Tanapa over 171.09bn/- in revenue from 46.9bn/- in 2013/14 season. The country received over one million foreign arrivals last year.

With its 19 national parks, 28 game reserves and 38 game controlled areas, Tanzania expects to welcome more than two million foreign arrivals by 2020 mostly coming from Asia where Air Tanzania Company Limited will start flying later this year.

According to PricewaterhouseCoopers published 8th edition of its "Hotels outlook: 2018-2022" report that provided an overview of how the hotel industry in South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Kenya and Tanzania is expected to develop over the coming years, the country is expected to have 900 additional rooms during the period.

"PwC expects 900 additional rooms by 2019 and 1,200 by 2022, with the total number of available rooms increasing from 7,700 in 2017 to 8,900 in 2022," the PwC report stated.

Mobile phone firm takes 4G network to Mara region

By Property Watch Reporter

RESIDENTS of Tarime district in Mara region are now connected to fourth generation technology which promises cheap and efficient communication services.

Tarime District Commissioner, Charles Kabeho welcomed Tigo Tanzania's investment in upgrading the 3G network tower to 4G saying it will go a long way in speeding up development in the district which is a vibrant agriculture, fishing and mining resources.

Kabeho said the 4G network will revolutionize communications in the area with enhanced technology aimed at offering the best voice, internet and mobile money services to the public.

"I recommend the management of Tigo for connecting residents of Tarime with this

fourth generation network facility," Kabeho noted while calling on residents of his district to make use of Tigo's investment.

"We are living in an era of science and technology, almost nothing can be done without a mobile device or access to the internet. As you are well aware, Tarime is a mining district, we are also bordered to the south with the famous Serengeti National Park and to the north to east with Kenya, meaning the new 4G network can facilitate a lot of economic activities at a faster pace," Kabeho added.

Speaking at the same event, Tigo's Territory Manager for Lake Zone, Daniel Mainoya said with 4G network, the company has assured residents of Tarime access to quality and affordable services through its innovative

offers such as 'SaiziYako.'

"With 'SaiziYako,' if a customer uses more minutes than internet and SMS one will get the best package for minutes. If one uses more internet than minutes and SMS, then the customer will be awarded with the best package for internet," said Mainoya.

Apart from 'SaiziYako,' customers in Tarime town can also get access to Tigo's special site offer, whereas customers swapping their 3G SIM cards to 4G will get awarded with four gigabytes of free internet for a week.

"We believe that the upgrade of this network site to 4G in combination with our special offers give our customers an excellent user experience in terms of high-speed data transfer at affordable rates," the Tigo Lake Zone Territory Manager noted.

South Africa to build the first plastic road in Africa

CAPE TOWN

South Africa is set to construct the first plastic road in Africa in Kouga Municipality in the Eastern Cape, with an aim of solving waste plastic epidemic.

Horatio Hendricks, Mayor of Kouga Municipality announced the reports and said that local civil engineering and construction companies SP Excel holdings (PTY) and Scribante Construction would partner with Scottish firm MacRebur, a plastic road company to construct a 1km stretch road as a trial run in the coastal town.

"We are determined to help solve the waste plastic epidemic and the poor quality of roads we drive on around the world today. MacRebur's innovative solution comprises of processing waste plastics destined for landfill or incineration and adding them into asphalt for road construction and surfacing to extend and enhance the bitumen (fossil fuel) binder," said Mayor Hendricks.

The idea was first presented to the provincial legislature by

Vicky Knoetze, a member of the Eastern Cape Legislature in 2017. Unfortunately it was declined by the department the same year. Vicky said that up to 1.8 million plastic bags could be used to build a 1km stretch of road.

"Non-recyclable plastic waste, which ends up in the ocean or clogging up landfill sites, will be processed into pellets and used to replace a large

component of the bitumen in a conventional asphalt mix," said Knoetze.

"The last product is a road that is stronger, more durable, and more heat resistant and prevents water, the maker of road potholes, from penetrating easily as it does in the traditional asphalt mixes," Knoetze added.

Construction work on the trial road is expected to start in

about a month with the partners ready to cater for the costs so that it doesn't be a burden to the municipality. Hendricks said that if the trial turns out to be a success, the municipality may build a factory to recycle and produce plastic pellets locally.

"In this case it will be a triple win for our people that is better roads, less pollution and more job opportunities," said the mayor.



Construction of a plastic road in Kouga Municipality in the Eastern Cape.

'Sand mafias' are destroying beaches and habitat, report warns



Beach-raiding in Tanzania.

NAIROBI

With global demand for sand and gravel standing at up to 50 billion tonnes per year - and forecast to rise 5.5% a year - a UN report has sounded a klaxon over an emerging global environmental problem.

"Sand mafias" are destroying beaches, while even permitted extraction to feed the international sand trade is causing pollution, flooding and the erosion of marine habitats, says the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

It says that while urbanisation and infrastructure development can raise living standards, the huge demand for aggregate is causing trouble, and effective policy and planning will be needed to meet demand in a world of 10 billion people.

Already in the last 20 years, global demand for sand has increased three-fold. It calls on countries to

avoid unnecessary use of sand and aggregate, recycle and find alternatives, and cut sand-mining's impact on habitats.

In Morocco, half of the sand - 10 million cubic metres a year - comes from illegal coastal extraction. "Sand mafias" have turned a large beach between Safi and Essouira into a rocky landscape, the report says.

Asilah in northern Morocco has suffered severe beach destruction, the report warns. Beach erosion even threatens buildings and infrastructure near the coast. Ironically, the sand is used to build hotels, roads and other tourism infrastructure, but raiding beaches this way is likely to lead to the destruction of the main tourist attraction - the beaches themselves.

The expanding city-state of Singapore is singled out for being especially sand-greedy. The biggest importer of sand worldwide, it has

increased its land area by more than 20% in the last 40 years by dumping aggregates into the sea. Singaporean demand for sand and gravel has triggered an increase in sand mining in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, sand mining in the Mekong basin, affecting Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia, is impacting delta erosion. The report also notes a mismatch between the reported total amount of sand imported by Singapore (517 million tonnes) and the total of sand exports to Singapore from its four neighbours (637 million tonnes).

How Singapore has expanded It says the illegal trade in sand should be monitored better. But as the price of sand rises, so does illegal traffic. The average price of sand imported by Singapore was \$3 a tonne from 1995 to 2001, but the price increased to \$190 a tonne from 2003 to 2005, the report said.

Using up our sand budget

The report, Sand and sustainability, shows how shifting consumption patterns, growing populations and increasing urbanisation have increased demand for sand three-fold over the last two decades. "We are spending our sand 'budget' faster than we can produce it responsibly," said Joyce Msuya, acting executive director UNEP. "By improving the governance of global sand resources, we can better manage this critical resource sustainably and truly demonstrate that infrastructure and nature can go hand in hand."

The report says sand and gravel resources are the second-largest resource extracted and traded by volume after water. With sand extraction regulated differently around the world, important regions for biodiversity and ecosystems are made more vulnerable.

By Property Watch Reporter

BARCLAYS TARGETS TO OPEN FOREX TRADING SHOPS AT MAJOR PORTS OF ENTRY

In a bid to extend its foreign currency trading services country-wide, Barclays Bank Tanzania is targeting to set up similar shops at all major entry points in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam after opening a second foreign currency trading shop in the commercial capital's central business district, BBT's Head of Global Markets, Esther Maruma said they target to open shops at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA).

"Our target is to be in areas with footfall and ensure service availability as and when clients need them even it means extended working hours to include availability on weekends and public holidays," Maruma said.

She said in its new investment drive, BBT will also open shops in Zanzibar where negotiations to acquire space are at advanced stage. "Equally, we are evaluating potential sites in Arusha," the BBT Head of Global Markets added.

Barclays and several other commercial banks are investing in foreign currency trading shops to fill the vacuum caused by Bank of Tanzania's decision to close down hundreds of private bureau de change shops in Dar es Salaam and Arusha earlier this year after violation of regulations.

The bank's Head of Retail Banking, Oscar Mwamfwagasi seconded Maruma's statement by pointing out that as a business strategy, BBT's management had to review and improve its forex board rate pricing, in order to make services affordable across the clientele base trading in cash, online and through the bank's footprint.

"The forex trading service, which is an extension of our forex portfolio, gives us opportunity to serve clients



Head of Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited's Head of Global Markets, Esther Maruma talking to Hyatt Regency's Director of Operations, Timothy Mlay (2nd R) after official opening of the bank's foreign currency trading shop earlier this week. Others in the photo are BBT's City Mall Branch Manager, Winford Mwang'onda and the bank's Head of Retail Banking, Oscar Mwamfwagasi (R). Photo: courtesy of BBT.

beyond the regular working hours," Mwamfwagasi said. He pledged that Barclays will continue to offer

foreign exchange services in accordance with regulations laid down by Bank of Tanzania.

The bureau, which will be open seven days a week covering weekends and holidays, is the second to

be opened in Dar es Salaam in Barclays' ambitious forex services provision having opened one last April.

Kenya's controversial Lamu coal plant is costly mistake, says report

NAIROBI

The three-unit, 981MW-net facility would lock the Kenyan government into a 25-year power-purchase agreement (PPA) costing consumers more than \$9bn, even if the plant never generates any power, the report argues.

The developer's claims about the cost of electricity generated are unrealistically low, while assumptions about how much electricity the plant will generate are overly optimistic, it says.

Using more realistic assumptions, electricity from the plant could cost as much as 75 cents (US) per kilowatt-hour on average during the years 2024 to 2037, which is more than 10 times what proponents have claimed.

"This project would lead to excess generating capacity in Kenya and sharply increase electricity rates for consumers," said report author David Schlissel, director of resource planning analysis at Cleveland-headquartered IEEFA, which promotes sustainable energy economics. He added: "The original assumptions that justified the project, no longer apply."

The report examines how the Lamu project was intended to replace the country's ageing diesel-fired generation and strengthen baseload capacity, but factors such as lower-than-projected demand and higher costs for imported coal have "rendered the plan obsolete".

Schlissel further argues the Lamu plant, which has been the subject of local protests over its environmental impact, would slow the development of readily available, low-cost geothermal, wind and solar resources.

First proposed in 2015, the Lamu plant is scheduled to enter commercial service in 2024 at an initial cost of \$2bn. The developer is Amu Power Company Limited, a special-purpose entity 51% owned by Kenyan investment firm Centum Investments.

Other partners in the consortium include Kenyan firm Gulf Energy; Sichuan Electric Power Design & Consulting Company and Sichuan No 3 Power Construction Company, which are both subsidiaries of Chinese energy giant PowerChina; and China Huadian Corporation Power Operation Company, reported Creamer Media's Engineering News.

Oil leak tech to raise cost of Mombasa-Nairobi pipeline

NAIROBI

Taxpayers will dig deeper into their pockets to finance a leak-detection system for the Sh51 billion Mombasa-Nairobi oil pipeline that burst in Makueni spilling more than 551,000 litres of oil.

Petroleum Secretary John Munyes said procurement for a state-of-the-art leak-detection system was ongoing, a confirmation that earned him a barrage of questions from Senators, who wondered why the technology was not part of the original contract.

Mr Munyes was taken to task over why the system was not factored in the construction of the 450-km pipeline that was commissioned last July. "With the lack of leak detection system, this spillage is bound to happen. But we are in process of procuring a system to detect leaks. In the meantime, KPC has developed three systems that include an inline inspection to inspect the entire 450km line," Mr Munyes said.

The electronic gadget is supposed to check and report corrosion or reduced thickness. The Senate committee on Energy cited negligence on the part of the Ministry and the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) in the award of the contract to a Lebanese firm, Zakhem International, for the construction of the new oil pipeline commonly known as Line 5.

Senators accused the Ministry and the KPC of failing to factor in a leak detection system in the original contract, reducing costs to taxpayers. "It would have cost the public less if the detection system was put during the construction of the main pipeline. We see negligence on the part of the ministry and the KPC," Ephraim Maina, who chairs the Energy committee, said. After the oil spill, waters of affected rivers were declared unsafe, leading to a clash between the county and the pipeline agency.



Workers inside Cimerwa cement factory in Kigali.

Rwanda government puts its stake in Cimerwa on the market

CAPE TOWN

Hilton (NYSE:HLT) announced the signing of a management agreement with Growthpoint Properties, South Africa's largest REIT, to open a hotel under its lifestyle Canopy by Hilton brand.

The 150 guestroom Canopy by Hilton Cape Town Longkloof is expected to begin welcoming guests in 2021 and will be the brand's debut property in Africa.

Canopy by Hilton launched in 2014 to appeal to travelers seeking locally inspired stays and wishing to immerse themselves in the culture and history of local neighbourhoods. It currently operates

in nine destinations around the world with more than 35 properties in the pipeline, aiming to guarantee travelers unique and authentic experiences.

Located a stone's throw away from the city's historical epicenter, the Company's Garden, and will bring to life the heritage of a 112-year-old site, Longkloof Studios. The project forms part of a precinct redevelopment by Growthpoint, representing a R550m investment in the city.

DHK architects will redevelop a building which began life as the premises of what was then the United Tobacco Company and subsequently served as the home of Cape Town's Women's Institute.

Rudolf Pienaar, Chief Development and Investment Officer, Growthpoint Properties, said: "Growthpoint is thrilled to partner with Canopy by Hilton to launch this phenomenal brand in Africa. Our prime Longkloof redevelopment project is in a magnificent multi-faceted historic urban quarter of Cape Town and is the perfect setting for the first Canopy by Hilton branded property on the continent.

Our investment in this property reflects our confidence in Cape Town as well as Hilton's exceptional upscale lifestyle hotel brand. We believe Canopy by Hilton Cape Town Longkloof will become a South African landmark and will be supported by

travellers from all over the country and the world."

Patrick Fitzgibbon, Senior Vice President, Development, EMEA, Hilton, said: "Cape Town is one of the world's most sought-after destinations, offering an array of attractions to suit every travel occasion. Canopy by Hilton becomes our third brand to gain a presence in the city and we are eyeing further expansion. The decision to locate Africa's first Canopy by Hilton here, is testament to not only the strength of the destination, but the quality of partners at Growthpoint as we seek to create a showcase interpretation of the brand to introduce to the African continent."

CONSTRUCTION

DUBAI

DUBAI DEVELOPER'S VISA-FREE TRAVEL IN EUROPE OFFER GENERATES INTEREST IN UAE

A Dubai developer has claimed its offer of visa-free travel to Europe is generating major interest among UAE residents.

The Kleindienst Group is giving Moldovan citizenship to anyone who invests Dh5 million in its Heart of Europe project – a cluster of six islands designed to recreate European living on The World. Moldova is not a member of the European Union but passport holders enjoy visa-free travel across Europe's 26-country Schengen zone.

Since the promotion was launched on June 1, two UAE residents have already bought properties, while close to half of the 173 people interested in buying are based here. "Our phones are ringing all the time," chairman, Josef Kleindienst, told The National.

It is not the first time such schemes have garnered interest here. Portugal's "golden visa" scheme is also popular in the Middle East, with Arabs and South Asians among the most common applicants. Many UAE residents have also applied for second passports from Caribbean nations. Buyers do not have to visit Moldova to secure a passport and the majority of those interested come from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Vietnam and China. Many want a second passport to make it easier to travel around the world.

The Heart of Europe is cluster of six islands in the middle of The World – a man-made archipelago of 300 islands just a few kilometres off Dubai's coast. The six islands aim to recreate life on Germany, Monaco, Switzerland, St Petersburg and



How The Heart of Europe will look like when finished.

Sweden. Scores more hotels, waterfront palaces and floating villas dubbed "seahorses" all part of the development. Mr Kleindienst rejected claims one of these floating villas sunk last year and said it was a platform for events that had fallen into the sea. It is claimed the Heart of Europe development will be complete by 2021.

The World was built in 2008 at

the peak of the property boom but the financial crash scuppered major plans to develop it. Work has now restarted, buoyed by the recovering Dubai economy. Of the 4,000 units on the Heart of Europe, developers have sold close to 1,500 and a Dh5m investment could get buyers two hotel apartments there. The development can only be reached by boat and

it is not clear when the entire project will be finished.

Last year the group offered free yachts to encourage buyers but the current promotion is expected to surpass sales made last summer. "We will have somewhere in the region of between 50 to 100 sales," said Mr Kleindienst, of this year's expectation. "[Last year] it was less than 20. We see big inter-

est in the Middle East and Asia for a second passport," he said.

Many European countries offer these types of investments. Three – Cyprus, Malta and Bulgaria – give passports to non-EU citizens. The final decision on who gets a passport rests with Moldovan authorities. However, the EU is seeking to tighten rules around the proliferation of such schemes,

warning it could reimpose visa requirements if rigorous security checks were not carried out on applicants.

Moldova, with a population of 3.5 million, is one of the poorest countries in Europe. The country is overwhelmingly dependent on agriculture and launched the passport scheme to boost its flailing finances.

"In the case of Moldova, the commission is closely monitoring the impact of the scheme launched in November as it could pose migratory and security risks," a European Commission spokesperson told The National. "Appropriate due diligence and security checks should be applied."

Visa experts also warned that these types of schemes – which are offered around the world – can be a concern. The Netherlands recently asked the commission to suspend visa free travel for Albanian citizens over fears of a rise in criminality.

"Thus the Moldovan citizenship by investment [scheme] will not go unnoticed, in particular after the country started granting citizenship to wealthy investors who do not even need to reside in Moldova even a day," said Granit Sadiku of Schengen Visa Info, an independent site covering visa news from the EU.

Mr Kleindienst, meanwhile, stressed that the final decision to award a passport rests with Moldova but if checks were done rigidly, there should not be a problem. "[But] we are not the one who decides. We only submit proposals for passports to governments through authorised agents here and make sure they fulfil the obligations."

Young engineer invents brick made from waste plastic

NEW DELHI

A young Indian entrepreneur and engineering student has been shortlisted for a global environmental award for his and colleagues' efforts to commercialise a new kind of brick made from waste plastic.

The bricks are made by shredding plastic retrieved from bins or recycling centres, heating the shavings, and cooling the mixture in moulds. Abhishek Banerjee, 22, a construction engineering student at Jadavpur University, has been shortlisted for this year's Young Champions of the Earth Award, which is organised by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The brick, called the "Plastiqube", is intended to address two big problems in India. One is that India produces over 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day, according to India's Central Pollution Control Board, much of which ends up in landfills or finds its way into river and drainage systems.



A plastic brick - the plastiqube - made by the entrepreneurial team at Qube.

The other is that India's conventional brick-making industry burns around up to 40 million tonnes of coal per year, pumping out carbon dioxide and sulfur. Bannerjee says the Plastiqube needs 70% less energy than fired clay bricks.

The plastic brick is light, sturdy and has good thermal and sound insulation performance, according to Bannerjee's social enterprise, Qube, formed in 2017 to commercialise the concept. Co-founders of Qube are his engineering classmates, Agnimitra Sengupta, Ankan Podder and Utsav Bhattacharyya.

"I believe there should be a complete ban on single-use plastic materials by all the countries and the manufacturing of plastic should be regulated strictly," Bannerjee told UNEP.

"However, most people

tend to forget that there is still an awful lot of plastic in the oceans and spread across the land. Our options are either to work with this plastic waste or engineer new technologies for recycling it."

The Qube team works with waste collectors to gather plastic debris from dustbins and junkyards in the local area, after which the plastic is cleaned, shredded, heated and compressed into bricks. The Plastiqube faces several challenges. Its fire resistance is lower than that of clay bricks, and they have not been accepted for large-scale construction.

"We are still developing our product to enhance the thermal resistance," Bannerjee said. Plastiqube is, however, supported and endorsed by Jadavpur University and India's Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise.

Mexico's housing market further strengthening

MEXICO CITY

Mexico's housing market continues to strengthen with the nationwide house price index rising by 4.73% during the year to Q1 2019, an improvement from last year's growth of 2.98%. In fact, it was the biggest increase since Q2 2016. On a quarterly basis, house prices increased 1.27% during the latest quarter.

For a decade the housing market has hardly moved. In 2009, house prices rose 0.77% (inflation-adjusted), in 2010 it fell 0.59%, in 2011 + 2.37%, in 2012 -1.15%, in 2013 + 0.39%, in 2014 + 0.84%, in 2015 + 4.36%, in 2016 + 4.07%, and in 2017 +0.73%, all inflation-adjusted. In 2018, house prices increased robustly by 4.32%.

Luxury market buoyed by both foreign and domestic demand Mexico's real estate market has been buoyed by strong demand in resort communities, according to the International Consortium of Real Estate Associations (ICREA). American and Canadian buyers are returning to Mexico, after a several-year slump, thanks to low oil prices and the strong US dollar, pushing home values up.

Mexico's rising middle class continues to boost the housing market. The country's middle class was estimated to account for almost half of the total households, at 14.6 million. They are expected to continue growing, with about 3.8 million more households projected to move into the middle class by 2030.

Recent news

The central bank Banco de Mexico (Banxico) held its key rate unchanged at a 10-year high of 8.25% in May 2019, following 15 rate hikes since December 2015, after inflation exceeded the target range.

The Mexican economy grew by just 1.3% in Q1 2019 from a year earlier, a slowdown from an expansion of 1.7% in the previous quarter. In fact in a quarterly basis, GDP contracted by 0.2% during the latest quarter.

Newly-elected President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, widely known as AMLO, has alarmed investors since taking office on December 1, 2018 by vowing to transform the country's "neoliberal" economic model and terminating a new US\$13-billion airport for Mexico City that was already one-third complete. The economy is expected to expand by 1.5% this year – the lowest growth since 2013.

Hyper-wealthy buyers from the US snapping up properties in London

LONDON

Hedge fund billionaire Ken Griffin is not the only American who thinks now is a great time to buy a London mansion.

The proportion of homes in London's best districts sold to Americans has almost doubled so far this year compared to 2018, reaching its highest level in at least a decade, according to research by Knight Frank. American buyers are second only to those from China on the list of biggest overseas purchasers of real estate in the city's prime postcodes, the broker's data show.

Overseas buyers have benefitted from a weak pound since Britain voted to leave the European Union, helping cushion the blow of increased sales taxes.

While much of London's luxury housing market has continued to struggle over the past four years, there are signs that the most expensive homes are finding buyers willing to commit despite the Brexit uncertainty and benefiting from steep discounts. Ken Griffin negotiated a substantial reduction on the asking price when he bought a £95 million (Dh439.29m) house near Buckingham Palace in January. "We have experienced high levels

of interest from the North American market," said Chris Richmond, head of sales at developer CIT Group Partners, which is redeveloping a historic crescent overlooking London's Regent's Park into luxury homes and apartments. About "30 per cent of the units sold to date have gone to American buyers" at the Regent's Crescent project where prices start from £2.9m, he said.

US buyers spent an average of £7.3m when buying in prime central London according to Knight Frank, up from an average of £5m over the past decade. That compares with an average spend of £9.1m by Russian buyers and £13.4m by purchasers from Saudi Arabia.

In addition to the weak pound, the relatively benign impact of Brexit so far and the strength of the London economy over the past two years have been major drivers of US demand, Knight Frank global head of research Liam Bailey said.

"Over this period, London has taken the dominant share of US corporate investment in Europe – leading to a significant uptick in demand for prime property from relocating US employees, entrepreneurs and business owners – especially from the tech sector," he said in an email.



Up market apartments at London's Regent's Park.

WORLD

UN report blames Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi's murder. What next?

RIYADH

IN a new report that blames Saudi Arabia for Jamal Khashoggi's killing, a United Nations human rights expert has provided a minute-by-minute account of the journalist's execution and dismemberment inside the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city.

Those details, based on Turkish intelligence audio recordings, make for grim reading.

They recounted how the Washington Post columnist's suspected killers discussed cutting up and transporting a body as they waited for what they called the arrival of the "sacrificial animal".

"Joints will be separated ... If we take plastic bags and cut it into pieces, it will be finished," one of the suspects is quoted as saying in Wednesday's report.

The recordings and other evidence collected during a six-month investigation showed Khashoggi's death on October 2 last year was "planned" and "premeditated", said Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions.

Holding Saudi Arabia "responsible" for the murder, the rapporteur said

there was "credible evidence" to warrant further investigation of the involvement of high-level Saudi officials in the murder, including that of the powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS).

Callamard urged UN bodies, particularly the office of the secretary-general (UNSG), to launch an international criminal investigation and called for sanctions against MBS.

Hours after the release of the report, Saudi Arabia dismissed Callamard's findings as "nothing new" and "baseless". But Turkey "strongly endorsed" the rapporteur's call for accountability.

What will Guterres do?

Analysts said Callamard's report lent credibility to widely-reported Turkish intelligence leaks on high-level Saudi involvement in the assassination of Khashoggi, a critic of MBS. Still, much depended on the response of Antonio Guterres, the UN chief, as well as that of the United States, where the journalist was living in self-imposed exile at the time of his killing.

Hours after Callamard's investigation, a spokesman for Guterres said the UN chief could only launch an inquiry with a mandate from "a competent intergovernmental body". To



pursue a criminal investigation that would oblige all countries to cooperate would require a UN Security Council resolution, he added.

But Callamard said she believed the UN chief "should be able to establish a follow-up criminal investigation without any trigger" by other UN bodies or member states. "It would be absurd to limit the intervention of the UNSG to such scenarios," she added.

The call was supported by prominent rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Urging Guterres to "immediately take up" Callamard's recommendation, Amnesty's Middle East Director of Research Lynn Maalouf said the measure was necessary because steps taken by Riyadh to ensure accountability has been "inadequate".

But Matthew Bryza, a former US diplomat and senior fellow at the US-based Atlantic Council think-tank, said Guterres was unlikely to initiate a criminal probe.

"That leaves the Security Council [to trigger the launch of an investigation], but I fear the US, under President Donald Trump, will block any action in the Security Council or in the UN General Assembly. The other relevant body is the UN Human Rights Council. But Saudi Arabia sits on the body and may be able to stop other countries from launching an inquiry."

Calling the Callamard investigation "remarkable in its specifics", Bryza added: "These shocking and horrific details make the Saudi government's claim this was an interrogation that went off the rails seem absurd and impossible to be

true ... an impartial UN investigation is required." But for that to happen, a change in the US government's approach was needed, he said.

The US factor

The US's spy agency has reportedly blamed MBS for Khashoggi's murder, while US senators have passed a resolution assigning responsibility for the killing to the crown prince.

But Trump, despite calling the murder an "unacceptable and horrible crime", has insisted the US plans "to remain a steadfast partner of Saudi Arabia" to ensure Washington's business and political interests, including reported multi-billion dollar arms sales and countering its arch-foe, Iran.

"Saudi Arabia is seen as too big to fail to allow instability," said Bessma Momani, a professor of political science at the University of Waterloo in Canada. "It is the largest importer of arms in the world. And the largest suppliers are, of course, the United States and many European countries after that. It is also vital to world's oil supplies."

Momani said the Trump administration would be reluctant to move against Saudi Arabia because of its ongoing confrontation with Iran.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have risen since last year when Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of a landmark nuclear deal signed between Iran and world powers in 2015. Since its withdrawal,

Washington has reimposed and tightened sanctions on Tehran in a "maximum pressure" campaign it said was aimed at curbing its nuclear and ballistic missiles programme. **Agencies**

China stands ready to promote cooperation on high-quality BRI development - spokesperson

BEIJING

CHINA said Wednesday that it is willing to work with partners to promote international cooperation on high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to constantly score new achievements.

Lu Kang, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the remarks at a press conference in response to a World Bank report regarding the BRI.

The World Bank on Tuesday released the report titled "Belt and Road Economics: Opportunities and Risks of Transport Corridors," saying the "BRI offers opportunities for countries to improve their infrastructure, to increase trade and connectivity among themselves and the wider world, and

thus to increase growth and reduce poverty."

The report also said that the BRI projects could contribute to lifting 32 million people out of moderate poverty.

"China has taken note of the report," said Lu, adding that since it was first proposed six years ago, the BRI has yielded abundant achievements and has become a broadly participated platform for international cooperation and a widely welcomed international public goods.

Lu said the BRI's vision and cooperation areas are highly compatible with most developing countries' development strategies and have made positive contributions to these countries' economic development and improvement of their people's livelihood.



The joint construction of the BRI has helped unlock the bottlenecks in infrastructure construction in many regions along the Belt and Road, boosted connectivity and contributed significantly to global trade facilitation and

economic growth, said Lu.

"We think the World Bank's comments on this are objective," Lu said.

The report also mentioned that policy reforms are needed to increase transparency, improve debt sustainability, and mitigate environmental, social and corruption risks.

Lu said during the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, various parties reached consensus on the concept of high-quality BRI development proposed by the Chinese side.

Lu said China stands ready to work with cooperation partners to jointly build the BRI, upholding the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits as well as open-

ness, inclusiveness and transparency, implementing the open, green and clean approaches, and striving for achieving the goals of high-standard, livelihood-improving and sustainable development.

China is willing to work with cooperation partners to implement the outcomes of the forum, actively build global connectivity partnership and promote international cooperation on high-quality BRI development to constantly score new achievements.

"In this sense, this is consistent with relevant views and suggestions of the World Bank report," Lu said, adding he believed that relevant departments will conduct serious research on the suggestions given by the World Bank report. **Xinhua**

UN health agency to remove controversial opioid guidelines

THE World Health Organization notified US lawmakers Wednesday that it will discontinue two publications on prescribing opioid painkillers in response to allegations that the pharmaceutical industry influenced the reports.

The pledge to remove the guidelines comes a month after US Reps. Katherine Clark and Hal Rogers accused the WHO of being influenced by Purdue Pharma, the American manufacturer of the potent painkiller OxyContin. The lawmakers' report claimed the guidelines, crafted in part by organizations with financial ties to the company, downplay the risk of opioids despite the

American epidemic that has killed more than 390,000 since 1999.

WHO's reports are viewed around the world as best practices in public health policy, and the opioid prescribing documents have been in circulation for years.

"That is a very dangerous situation," Clark said. "We do not want to see the opioid crisis in this country exported around the globe."

The WHO, the health arm of the United Nations, could not be reached for comment Wednesday evening. Purdue has denied the allegations, and said it transparently discloses its relationships with doctors and organizations and markets

its drugs only as they have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The company is facing some 2,000 lawsuits in the US alleging the company's aggressive marketing helped spark the addiction crisis by minimizing the risk of addiction and pushing the drugs on patients with chronic pain. Such drugs have historically been used to treat patients with acute and cancer pain.

The lawmakers initially contacted the WHO in 2017, after reports that Purdue's international arm, called Mundipharma, was expanding overseas using some of the same controversial tactics.

Mundipharma was eventually caught up in a corruption probe in Italy, where police allege company executives paid a prominent pain doctor to help push more opioids.

Clark said all they heard back was that their letter had been received, which caused them to decide to dig deeper into the WHO's stance on opioids.

The congressional report released last month tracked how doctors and organizations tied to Purdue, including many of the leading figures who worked to expand opioid prescribing in the United States in the 1990s, influenced the WHO document.

The 2011 guidance called "Ensuring balance in national policies on controlled substances" includes a claim that Clark says is reminiscent of Purdue's marketing of OxyContin in the 1990s, in defiance of known science about the addictiveness of opioids.

It states: "Opioid analgesics, if prescribed in accordance with established dosage regimens, are known to be safe and there is no need to fear accidental death or dependence." The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that up to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain eventually misuse them. **Agencies**

Sudan's army calls for talks with protesters without preconditions

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S military council said talks on the transition of power should resume without preconditions, signaling a continued standoff with opposition leaders who launched nighttime demonstrations to push for civilian rule.

Protest leaders have set conditions for a resumption of talks, including a withdrawal of the military and militias from cities, the resumption of internet

service and an international investigation of the violent razing of their sit-in camp on June 3.

Transition talks collapsed over the military's crackdown.

At least 128 people were killed across the country since security forces cleared the sit-in area outside the military's headquarters. Authorities offer a lower death toll of 61, including three from security forces.

Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan, head of

the council, told health workers in Khartoum on Wednesday that the council did not have preconditions for returning to the negotiating table with the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which has represented protesters.

He said neither side should make up-front demands.

"I repeat our invitation to all political forces and the FDFC to come (for talks), and there is no need for precon-

ditions," he said. "We do not deny their role in the uprising and the popular revolution ... but the solution should be satisfactory to all Sudanese factions."

Protest leaders could not be reached immediately for comment.

On Saturday, the Sudanese Professionals' Association said it would stick to its conditions for the resumption of talks.

Meanwhile, protest leaders launched

nighttime protests this week.

Late Wednesday, about 300 protesters, mostly young people, marched in Khartoum's western district of Abbasiya, waving Sudanese flags and calling for justice for those killed since the sit-in dispersal.

Protesters avoid daytime demonstrations for fear of being quashed by security forces heavily deployed in Khartoum.

The military council has rejected

the idea of an international probe and said it had started its own investigation along with another one by prosecutors.

An Ethiopian initiative to resume talks apparently failed to make progress in the deadlock.

A top general in the military council pushed back last week against a key demand from the protest leaders to have the majority in a transitional legislative body. **Agencies**

Four charged in downing of MH17

NIEUWEGEIN

INTERNATIONAL prosecutors announced murder charges Wednesday against four men – three of them Russians with military or intelligence backgrounds – in the missile attack that blew a Malaysia Airlines jet out of the sky over Ukraine five years ago, killing all 298 people aboard.

The case, built with the help of wiretaps, radar images and social media posts, marks the most significant step yet toward tying the tragedy to Moscow, which has backed the pro-Russian separatists fighting to seize control of eastern Ukraine.

In announcing the charges, prosecutors appealed for witnesses to help lead them even further up the chain of command in President Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Investigators "want to go as far as we can get" because "it's important to know who can be held responsible for this absolute tragedy," top Dutch prosecutor Fred Westerbeke said.

The trial for the defendants, who also include a Ukrainian separatist fighter, was set for next March in the Netherlands, though it appeared unlikely any of them would be brought before the court, since Russia and Ukraine forbid the extradition of their citizens.

Russia's Foreign Ministry called the charges against the country's citizens "absolutely unfounded" and accused the investigators of using "dubious sources of information" and ignoring evidence provided by Moscow in order to discredit Russia.

It said, too, that the international team turned a blind eye to Ukraine's failure to close its airspace to commercial flights despite the fighting that endangered aircraft.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was brought down on July 17, 2014, over eastern Ukraine by what investigators said was a Buk missile from a Russian anti-aircraft unit. Investigators believe the Ukrainian rebels probably mistook the Boeing 777 passenger jet for a Ukrainian military plane.

Russia has repeatedly denied involvement in the attack, but eastern Ukraine's pro-Moscow rebels have relied heavily on Russian military assistance during the separatist conflict that erupted in April 2014 and has claimed more than 13,000 lives.

Associated Press reporters spotted a Buk, an unusually big and sophisticated type of weapon, in the Ukrainian town of Snizhne just hours before the jetliner was shot down, raining debris and bodies down onto farms and sunflower fields.

The investigation team said that even if the four defendants may not have actually pushed the button to launch the missile, they had a role in the preparations.

One of those charged was Russian citizen Igor Girkin, a retired colonel in Russia's main intelligence agency, the FSB. He led Russian and separatist forces in Ukraine's Donetsk region in 2014.

Girkin dismissed the accusations in a telephone interview Wednesday, saying the "insurgents did not shoot down the Boeing." Girkin lives in Moscow.

The three others charged are Russian citizens Sergey Dubinskiy, identified as a former employee of Russia's military intelligence service, and Oleg Pulatov, described as a former soldier in military intelligence; and Leonid Kharchenko, a Ukrainian citizen who led a combat unit in the Donetsk.

Girkin led a group of Russian men who crossed into Ukraine and occupied the town of Slovyansk, which became the site of major fighting. He wrote on his social media account around the time of the jetliner attack that the rebels had shot down a Ukrainian military plane in the area where the Malaysian aircraft went down. He later deleted that post. **Agencies**

Trump says will meet with Russian, Chinese counterparts during G20 summit

NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump said he would hold meetings with the presidents of Russia and China, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of the upcoming G20 summit in Osaka.

In an interview with Fox News aired late on Wednesday, Trump said he wanted to be friends with Russia and China.

"I want to get along with Russia, and I think we will. I want to get along with China, and I think we will. I'm meeting actually both of them next week in Japan at the G20," he said.

He blamed the investigation into Russia's alleged meddling with the US presidential elections for the current US-Russian diplomatic chill.

On Wednesday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters the schedule of Putin's bilateral talks on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan's Osaka is still being worked out and there is no data on the Russian leader's meeting with Trump. Commenting on the possibility, Peskov said the Kremlin "has no news, there is nothing particular to say." **Agencies**

China, DPRK to further enhance friendship, jointly create bright future

By Li Jinjun

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, also the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), arrived in Pyongyang yesterday for a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the invitation of Kim Jong-un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.

The DPRK visit, Xi's first as CPC chief and Chinese head of state and also the first of its kind in 14 years, came as the two neighboring countries are celebrating the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

Xi's plane arrived at the Sunan International Airport around noon. Bathed in sunshine shortly after rain, the DPRK capital was brimming with a friendly atmosphere.

It will open a new chapter of bilateral friendship, and become a major and pleasant event of the year for the two parties, two countries and two peoples, as well as a new milestone for the relations between the two countries.

China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. Over the past 70 years, the two parties and countries have always treated each other with sincerity and trust, helped each other, and made concerted efforts no matter in the period of striving for national independence and national liberation, or during the period of socialist revolution and construction.

Over the past 70 years, generations of leaders of both countries maintained close exchanges, and the people of the two countries always supported and trusted each other through hardships.

Over the past 70 years, the two parties, two countries and two peoples worked hard and collaborated with each other with sincerity to safeguard independence and sovereignty and



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) and Kim Jong-un

maintain regional peace and stability.

Practices have proven that the friendship between China and the DPRK has withstood the test of the ever-changing international landscape. The friendship has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples and will remain strong and unbreakable.

Since late March last year, President Xi has held four meetings with Kim in less than 10 months. Both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and other issues of common concern in a comprehensive and in-depth manner.

A series of important consensuses were reached, pointing a direction for the development of China-DPRK relations in the new era and writing a new

chapter of the traditional friendship.

Furthermore, both heads of state of the two countries agreed that regardless of any changes in the international situation, both sides will firmly grasp the general trend and the big picture of China-DPRK relations, strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen strategic communication, expand friendly exchanges, and benefit the people in the two countries and beyond.

Under the promotion and guidance of the two leaders, bilateral exchanges and cooperation especially in culture and sports have made steady progress with more dynamism.

Since April 2018, multiple Chinese delegations including an art troupe, a delegation of celebrities and an athlete delegation have visited the DPRK, bringing the Chinese people's friend-

ship to the DPRK. In January this year, an art troupe from the DPRK paid a visit to China, and was well-received by Chinese audience. Such exchanges have strengthened the bond between two countries and built closer relationship between two peoples.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The country has entered a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The entire Chinese people are rallying closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core and striving to realize the two centenary goals and the Chinese dream of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The DPRK people, under the leadership of the WPK headed by Kim Jong-

un, are actively implementing the strategic line of the WPK to concentrate all efforts of the whole party and the country on the socialist economic construction, and advancing the socialist construction into a new phase.

The China-DPRK relationship is standing at a new historical starting point. Both leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on issues of common concern during the upcoming meeting, and draw a blueprint for the China-DPRK relations in the new era.

It's believed that President Xi's historical visit to the DPRK will continue the friendship between two countries and further the bilateral relationship so as to benefit the two countries and the two peoples, and make positive contributions to the peace, stability, development and prosperity of the region and even the world at large.

A Korean proverb says that a neighbor close by is better than a cousin, and there is a similar saying in China that a near neighbor is better than a distant relative.

China and the DPRK are good neighbors, good friends and good comrades. Serving as the Chinese Ambassador to the DPRK for over four years, I have a deep feeling of the profound and close friendship between the two countries, and also the strong aspirations and expectations from two parties, countries and peoples on maintaining and further developing the traditional friendly relationship.

I firmly believe that the traditional friendly and cooperative relationship between China and the DPRK will be further enhanced with joint efforts under the care and guidance of the top leadership of both parties and countries, and President Xi's state visit to the DPRK will create an opportunity to usher the relationship into a brighter future.

(Li Jinjun is the Chinese Ambassador to the DPRK.)



Malawi parliament elects first ever female speaker

LILONGWE

MALAWI'S Members of Parliament on Wednesday elected fellow legislator, Catherine Gotani Hara, as speaker of Parliament, making her the country's first female speaker for the August House.

Hara (pictured), who belongs to the main opposition Malawi Congress Party (MCP), won the seat in a tightly contested electoral process, beating former deputy speaker of the house, Esther Mcheka Chilenge, who belongs to the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

The election took place at the New Parliament Building in the capital, Lilongwe, and Hara amassed 97 of the legitimate votes against Mcheka Chilenge's 93.

Earlier before casting the votes, both government and opposition sides of the legislative house agreed on having a woman as the speaker.

Hara took oath of office and she immediately assumed her role as speaker, and presided over the election of First and Second Deputy Speakers.

The newly elected speaker boasts of legislative experience having served as member of Parliament from 2009 to 2014.

She also served in the government as Minister of Health, Minister of Environment, Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, and Deputy Minister of Transport and Public Works.

Xinhua

China-Africa expo to boost economic and trade ties

HARARE

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on Wednesday hailed the launch of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo as a platform that will further boost trade and economic ties between the two sides.

The inaugural expo is scheduled for June 27-29 in central China's Hunan Province.

The bi-annual expo has been established under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation as a new mechanism for economic and trade cooperation between China and African countries.

UNECA Southern Africa Office director Said Adejumo told Xinhua in an interview that the expo will provide African countries with an opportunity to explore trade and economic opportunities in the vast Chinese market.

"It's an opportunity to expose the goods and services. It's an opportunity to broker networks, form partnerships and to really be able to learn lessons from the Chinese experiment," Adejumo (pictured) said.

"China is perhaps the only country that has had the fastest transformation in the world. In less than 50 years, China's economy was dramatically transformed and I think African businesses going for the expo will be able to gain from the exposure, the interaction and the partnerships."



He said the success story and dramatic transformation of China's tech giant, Alibaba, which now controls close to 40 percent of global online consumer shopping, should inspire many African participants at the expo.

Adejumo said the launch of the expo, which coincides with the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), will add further impetus to trade promotion and growth between the two sides.

"I think the AfCFTA provides a good opportunity for Africa to relate with China from a relative position of strength and a position in which China itself can also explore ways to support the AfCFTA," he said.

However, the two sides should

also discuss and address concerns from African businesses of unfair competition from cheap Chinese goods, he said.

He said Africa should also clamor for more Chinese investment in the manufacturing sector, especially the textile industry.

"We should be able to see if it's possible for China to produce from Africa, whether it is possible for China to support Africa in terms of skills and entrepreneurship development, research and development and in terms of technology transfer in infrastructure development rather than China having to do it for Africa."

The UNECA official said China should encourage Africa to search for technology from all over the world to independently

build its economies, rather than having China itself implementing the technology in Africa.

"What China did for its own transformation was to learn by doing, and not by others doing it for her. China was able to search for technology from all over the world to do what it needed to do and I think the same approach is what China should encourage Africa to do," Adejumo said.

He said it is in the best interest of China for Africa to develop, noting that Africa's development will ensure that China has a good partner to work with.

"Raising the standard of living in Africa is in the interest of China because African people will have more disposable income to buy goods and services. So it's a win-win situation for China and a win-win position for Africa."

It is therefore prudent, according to Adejumo, for Africa to engage with China in a way that will be transformative for the continent.

He noted that Africa has benefited from its relationship with China when it is able to assuage the recent economic crisis because it has diversified its trade with China.

"In the long-run, the game changer will be how China works with Africa to transform African economies. Technology transfer and support to SMEs are critical areas that China will have to work hand in hand with Africa for Africa to move to the next stage," Adejumo said.

Xinhua

Some issues raised ahead of Putin's Q&A session already being solved - spokesman

MOSKOV

REGIONAL authorities have already started dealing with problems, reported by citizens to the hotline of the Russian president's annual question-and-answer session due on Thursday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russia's Channel One.

"In fact, this year saw certain progress made on some issues even before they were voiced by the president. In other words, right after a channel makes a report about a certain issue, local authorities start to take measures. This is a very positive trend," he said.

According to the Kremlin spokesman, Putin devotes several days to studying information, prepared for him by various state agencies prior to the Q&A session.

"He personally watches some of the video addresses and written messages. This process continues almost until the very last moment before the start of the session," Peskov (pictured) said.

Meanwhile, the Russian Investigative Committee said in a statement its officers have already launched 12 inquiries into complaints, submitted by Russians to the program's hotline.

Those complaints are primarily about violations com-



mitted during the resettlement of people whose homes had been deemed unfit for living, frozen buyer-funded construction projects, lack of access to potable water in some settlements and other problems.

Pre-investigation checks have also been launched into other complaints, including the one about the lack of proper medical aid for a girl diagnosed with cancer.

On June 20, 2019 at 12:00 Moscow Time the annual special program, headlined "Direct Line with Vladimir Putin," will be aired by Channel One, Rossiya-1, Rossiya-24, NTV, OTR, Mir TV channels, and Mayak, Vesti FM and Radio Rossiya radio stations.

Questions will be submit-

ted by phone, through SMS and MMS messages starting from 8.00 a.m. Moscow Time on June 9 and until the end of the program on June 20. The president will answer the most interesting and pressing questions live.

The questions may be also sent through Moskva-Putinu mobile app and moskva-putinu.ru website. The users of VKontakte (VK) and Odnoklassniki social networks will be able to send their questions and video messages. The users of Moskva-Putinu and OK Live mobile apps will be able to contact with the studio via a direct video link-up.

According to infographics released by the Rossiya-24 channel, a total of 1,053,326 questions have been submitted as of 09:00 Moscow time on Wednesday. More than half of them (616,505 questions) were submitted by phone, 291,311 - via SMS and MMS messages, 55,133 - via the mobile app, 49,800 - via the program's website and 40,557 - via social networks.

This will be Putin's 17th Q&A session. The very first Q&A session with the Russian president was held in late 2001. Since then, Direct Lines have been held annually, except for 2004 and 2012. Last year, the Q&A marathon took place on June 7.

Agencies

Stephen Roach: US has basic misunderstanding of how tariffs work

By Wu Lejun

THE US government has "basic misunderstanding of how tariffs work", said Stephen Roach, former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia branch.

Roach made the remarks when receiving an interview of People's Daily, responding to US actions of imposing additional tariffs and the frequent trade frictions the country provoked against its major trading partners.

Roach, also a senior fellow at Yale University, noted that the preponderance of evidence has

shown that these tariffs are being paid by US importers rather than Chinese exporters.

"I think the president views these actions as a 'big stick' in the trade conflict. He is looking for China and others to back down from core positions under the threat of punishment and pain," said Roach.

"I also believe that President Trump is operating under the presumption that the US economy is so strong right now that it can afford to take risks of retaliation on the tariff and trade fronts without suffering any dire economic consequences,"

Roach expressed, adding that it "pays to be mindful of the global trade was that occurred in the 1930s after US enactment of the Smoot-Haley tariffs of 1930 - a 60 percent collapse in global trade and a recession that turned into the Great Depression."

"While the developments on the trade war front are rapidly changing and difficult to predict, the latest trajectory is quite worrisome insofar as its potential impact on the US, Chinese, and world economy," said Roach.

As near-term US growth momentum appeared to remain

firm in early 2019, with a 3.2 percent increase in real GDP in the first quarter this year, "US growth already seems to be receding, with most estimates now calling for just a 1-2 percent gain in 2Q-2019", according to Roach.

He noted that "tariff-and-trade-related impacts could push US 2019 growth about 0.25 percentage point below consensus expectations that are currently centered on 2.5 percent. In the event of a trade war escalation, the US growth trajectory could slip below the 2 percent threshold."

Regarding the huge US trade

deficit with China, Roach has repeated in his articles that bilateral imbalances are largely an outgrowth of macroeconomic saving imbalances rather than inequitable trading practices, saying that "the US had merchandise trade deficits with 102 nations in 2018."

When mentioning the US extreme pressure on Chinese tech firm Huawei and the country's recent move to add the company to an "Entity List" for export control, Roach said that "The subtext of the recent escalation of US pressure on Huawei is unmistakably clear - America's

existential fears that China will dominate the emerging industries of the future. With Huawei leading the way in 5-G development and rollout, suddenly those fears go from the abstract to concrete threats."

"Rather than raise questions about the lack of domestic 5G capability, US politicians have been quick to point the finger at others, with Huawei in the cross-hairs," said Roach, expressing that this move of the US government "follows the same approach used by the US Trade Representative in relying on flimsy evidence to support the Section 301 allega-

tions that were aimed at China in March 2018 that have gone on to become the foundational evidence for Trump's tariffs."

During the interview, Roach also responded to the recent threats made by the US to impose additional tariffs on imports from Mexico that aims to relieve the issue of illegal immigration in border areas.

Roach pointed out that "US-Mexico economic linkages and the North American supply chain they support are critical to the efficiencies that NAFTA provide to US businesses and consumers."

People's Daily



The Brit was floored four times as the Mexican Ruiz relieved him of his four world titles. (Agencies)

Joshua: Rebuild needed before Ruiz Jr rematch - Khan

LONDON

ANTHONY Joshua should consider taking "one or two fights" to rebuild before facing Andy Ruiz Jr in a rematch, says Amir Khan.

Joshua, 29, lost his IBF, WBO and WBA world heavyweight titles to Ruiz in a massive upset in New York on 1 June.

Khan said that when he lost for the first time in 2008, it proved "the best thing that ever happened to me" as it prompted a "re-build".

"I don't think he should fight Ruiz straight away," said Khan, 32.

"If he fights him again, it will be very hard to overcome that. I thought it would be very good for Joshua to have one or two fights to rebuild himself and his confidence.

"Not that he needs it but while you have the opportunity to do that, you might as well.

"In boxing, people just want to see you in harder and harder fights. Had he won, people would want him in with Deontay Wilder or Tyson Fury.

"He's so young as a heavyweight, this would give him a chance to improve on things and come back stronger.

"Then when it does come to be time for Wilder and Fury, he would be more than ready. Maybe defeat by Ruiz will be a blessing for him."

Joshua - whose defeat by Ruiz was the first of his career - has a contractual right to a rematch with the American-born Mexican, slated for later this year.

Khan too was stunned in 2008 by Breidis Prescott, as he was stopped for the first de-

feat of his career. He has since compiled a record of 33 wins and five defeats, including a world-title reign at super-lightweight.

"There's always pressure on you when you get beaten," added Khan. "You think: 'Do I still have it in me?'"

"People start saying you're not what they thought you would be. That does affect you mentally. You have to use the criticism as motivation.

"Getting beaten so early in my career, I learned to build myself up again. I had to prove people wrong - and becoming a world champion was a good way to stop critics.

"It was hard to take at the time but it was probably the best thing that ever happened to me as it made me a better fighter mentally."

Khan faces Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat in Saudi Arabia on 12 July, a fixture which has drawn criticism given that Khan appears to be taking a step down in class, having fought WBO world welterweight champion Terence Crawford in his last bout.

But Khan insists he "deserves a tune-up fight" after his defeat by Crawford and still hopes to face high-calibre opponents after the contest, including WBA world welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao, who meets American Keith Thurman on 20 July.

"There are always talks about that fight," Khan said. "Let's hope he beats Keith Thurman and we will see what happens after that."

"I know this is the last chapter and this is why I wanted to fight in Saudi Arabia as I never knew if I would get the opportunity again."

BBC

Dstv, Tigo set to stream AFCON tournament live



Tigo Head of Product and Services David Umoh (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the launch of Tigo and Dstv first customized and affordable packages to stream upcoming African Cup of Nations that will take place in Egypt. Right is MultiChoice Tanzania Head of Marketing Baraka Shelukindo and Data Products Specialist from Tigo, Allen Salaita. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

CUSTOMERS from Tigo and Dstv are set to be the first to enjoy live matches of the upcoming African Cup of Nations (AFCON), to be hosted by Egypt, anywhere, anytime after the two firms launched customized and affordable Dstv Now service partnership that gives customers access to watch the games directly from the DstvNow mobile app.

Making the announcement during a joint-press conference held at Tigo Head Offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tigo's Head of Products and Services, David Umoh, said that Tigo's partnership with Dstv fits in well with their company's goal of promoting a digital lifestyle for every Tanzanian. "The partnership with Dstv reinforces our relentless pursuit of innovation for our customers," Umoh noted. "We are proud of launching

this customized and affordable Dstv Now services that gives our Tigo customers during this special football season the convenience to watch their favorite team, Taifa Stars, and all other African teams play online from any location in the country."

He added: "With our robust 4G network, we can ensure that Dstv subscribers on our network will be able to stream and experience the AFCON anywhere, any time without interruption using the DstvNow Application on their smart devices, which is also very ideal for those who are on the move and cannot access their TV sets."

According to Umoh, Tigo is offering its customers subscribed on Dstv service with three affordable Dstv Now internet packages to choose from.

Customers can access 1.5 GB package that is worth just 2,000/- valid for 24 hours, a 6 GB package for 7,000/- valid

for seven days, and the third package which gives customers 16 GB for 30 days for just 20,000/-.

He noted these packages for Dstv Now users are accessible through www.tigosports.co.tz, TigoPesaApp, and *147*00# & *148*00# Menus.

On his part, MultiChoice Tanzania Head of Marketing, Ronald Baraka Shelukindo, said that the beauty of the Dstv Now mobile app is that it can work on up to four devices at no additional costs.

"No extra cost is involved in watching Dstv on multiple devices, as this feature is included in the monthly subscription. All Dstv subscribers need to have an active Tigo internet connection to download the Dstv Now App on their smartphone, tablet, laptop, or other smart device and begin watching the AFCON games," he noted.

"Another unique feature is that Dstv subscribers can

also link up to four different smart devices simultaneously, in addition to, streaming and watching on a TV connected to their decoder."

Shelukindo added: "To subscribe to Dstv Now, customers can visit now.dstv.com, and follow the prompts to create a username and password. After this simple process is complete, customers will be able to download and log in to any compatible smart device with their details and begin streaming."

According to Shelukindo, the AFCON games will be available on all Dstv bouquets from the lowest DstvBomba all the way to Dstv Premium.

"Dstv subscribers in all packages will enjoy all 52 matches of this great football tournament. With this partnership with Tigo, our customers can enjoy and experience the games on the widest 4G network in Tanzania 'on the go'," he revealed.

Dominican AG: Ortiz shooting result of mistaken identity

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FORMER Red Sox slugger David Ortiz was shot in the back by a gunman who mistook him for the real target, another man who was seated at the same table at an outdoor cafe, Dominican officials said Wednesday.

The Dominican Republic's attorney general and national police director told reporters that the attempted murder was ordered from the United States by Victor Hugo Gomez, an associate of Mexico's Gulf Cartel. They said Gomez had hired a gang of killers to eliminate his cousin, whom Gomez suspected of turning him in to Dominican drug investigators in 2011.

The cousin, Sixto David Fernández, was seated with the former baseball star on the night of June 9, when a gunman approached and fired a single shot at Ortiz, the officials said. Fernández owned an auto-repair shop and was friends with Ortiz, according to Attorney General Jean Alain Rodríguez and Maj. Gen. Ney Aldrin Bautista Almonte, director of the Dominican Republic's national police.

Ortiz remains hospitalized in Boston, where doctors have upgraded his condition from guarded to good.

At least 11 people have been arrested in the case so far, ranging from the alleged gunman to a series of drivers and relatively minor accomplices. Rodríguez and Bautista said the case of mistaken identity began when one of the accomplices shot a blurry photo of Fernández seated at the Dial Bar and Lounge in an upscale section of Santo Domingo. In the photo, a white freezer obscures Fernández's lower body, making it look like he was wearing white pants when, in fact, he was wearing black pants, officials said.

"It was a badly lit photo taken minutes before the attack," the chief prosecutor said.

Ortiz was wearing white pants on the night of the shooting and law-enforcement officials said that the gunman, Rolfy Ferreyra, mistook him for the target and fired.

Nonetheless, many Dominicans were skeptical that their country's most famous person, a 6-foot-3-inch (2 meters) man weighing around 250 pounds (113 kilograms), could be mistaken for Fernández, who appeared to be far smaller with a lighter complexion in a photo provided by authorities.

"He is big. He likes to attract attention," said Daniel Pou, an independent consultant on public security. "He wears a lot of jewelry. He's flashy all around."



Attorney General of the Dominican Republic, Jean Alain Rodríguez, gives a press conference in relation to the attack on former Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Wednesday June 19, 2019. According to Rodríguez, Ortiz was shot by a gunman who mistook him for the real target, Sixto David Fernández, who was seated at the same table. (AP Photo)

The alleged shooter is a skinny, tattooed 25-year-old whom U.S. prosecutors said is wanted on armed robbery and gun charges in New Jersey. His driver was captured immedi-

ately after the shooting when he fell off the motorcycle he was trying to use to escape.

Ferreyra and the other suspects were captured over the next few days. Ferreyra told

reporters from the window of a jail cell this week that he did not mean to shoot Ortiz, but fired at him in confusion over his clothing.

Gomez, the alleged mastermind, is believed to be in the United States and is being sought by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Bautista said, pointing to a news report in which federal authorities identified Gómez as one of several suspects in a March 2019 drug trafficking sting in Houston, Texas.

The weapon used in the shooting, a Browning Hi Power semiautomatic pistol, was buried in the garden of one of the suspect's home and was later turned over to police by his mother, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Also accused is Gabriel Alexander Pérez Vizcaíno, aka Bone, whom they say was hired by someone who is in prison on unrelated charges to be the liaison between the hit men and the person who paid them. Authorities say Pérez shared the picture of the target as he met the other suspects at a nearby gas sta-

tion just minutes before the shooting.

They said Pérez then sold the cellphone used to plan the attack and to distribute a picture of the target to a woman for \$180 so he could get rid of the evidence a day after the shooting.

Police are still looking for at least three other suspects: a woman known as The Venezuelan or Red; Luis Alfredo Rivas Clase, aka The Surgeon, who is wanted for a 2018 shooting in Reading, Pennsylvania, and was believed to be driving a car used to stalk Fernández; and Alberto Miguel Rodríguez Mota, whom authorities believe paid the hit men. Authorities have said coordinator of attack was offered 400,000 Dominican pesos, or about \$7,800.

A video from the scene of the shooting shows everyone fleeing or crouching except for Rodríguez, who stands calmly amid the chaos.

"He grabbed his beer to make sure it was safe," Bau-

tista said.

Authorities also are investigating Fernández, the supposed target, Bautista added.

Ortiz is recovering at Massachusetts General Hospital. Doctors in the Dominican Republic removed his gallbladder and part of his intestine before he was wheeled into an ambulance sent by the Red Sox and flown to Boston.

He led the Red Sox to three World Series championships, was a 10-time All Star and hit 541 home runs. The Red Sox retired his number, 34, in 2017, and he has a bridge and a stretch of road outside Fenway Park named after him. He has a home in Weston, on the outskirts of Boston, that he shared with his wife and three children before putting it up for sale.

Although he lives in Boston, the 43-year-old Ortiz visits the Dominican Republic several times a year. His father and sister live in Santo Domingo.



Afcon Power Rankings: Who can challenge Mohamed Salah's Egypt?

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

WHO are the favourites to win the expanded 24-team Africa Cup of Nations, and which teams face an uphill struggle to advance past the group stage in Egypt.

Ahead of the big kick-off on June 21, here's ESPN's Power Ranking for all 24 Afcon qualifiers, delivered, in time-honoured fashion, in reverse chronological order.

24.NAMIBIA

A recent 1-0 friendly victory over Ghana has offered some hope that Namibia can trouble the big boys, but they'll need more than that after being pitted alongside South Africa, Ivory Coast and Morocco in Group D.

The 4-1 thumping by Zambia in qualifying was a fairer reflection of their quality, and they face a tough - and likely brief - summer experience in Egypt.

23.MADAGASCAR

The debutants overachieved to qualify, but may fancy their chances of progressing ahead of either Burundi or Guinea. However, an ageing -- if seasoned -- attacking unit, a limited defence, and a lack of tournament experience suggests they've reached their ceiling.

22.MAURITANIA

Over-achievers under Corentin Martins, although Mauritania's physicality and direct approach means they can't be written off just yet.

A bruising opening derby against Mali won't be pretty, but it'll be instructive as to whether the debutants can cut it at this level.

21.BURUNDI

First-time qualifiers after neutralising Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's Gabon during qualification, Burundi are perhaps the best placed of the 'debutants' to advance.

They won't be fazed by Guinea or Madagascar, and they could be the surprise package of the summer if the attacking duo of Fiston Abdul Razak and Saido Berahino, and the prompting Cedric Amissi, can ignite.

20.TANZANIA

Emmanuel Amunike has cultivated an attractive style in this Tanzania team, who have qualified for the first time since 1980, and the 3-0 victory over Uganda in March may represent a genuine coming of age.

A lot will be expected of attacking duo Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta, but they risk being outgunned -- and outclassed -- by Algeria and Senegal.

19.KENYA

Like Group C stablemates and neighbours Tanzania, the Harambee Stars face the ominous prospect of facing two genuine heavyweights in their opening two matches.

However, unlike Tanzania, Kenya have a recent track record of taking down on of the continent's big boys, and a 1-0 victory over Ghana in qualifying should serve them well if lessons have been learned.

18.ZIMBABWE

Sturdier than they were in 2017, but with no less offensive threat, Zimbabwe could have been one of the outsiders for the final four had they not been drawn into such a tough opening group.

The Warriors will hope the defensive rigour they've demonstrated under Sunday Chidzambwa can form the basis upon which they can mount an escape from Group A, but they risk falling just short.

17.GUINEA-BISSAU

Older and wiser than upon their debut appearance in Gabon two years ago, but their limitations were evident in a weak qualifying group.

16.ANGOLA

Consistent underachievers at the Africa Cup of Nations, Angola have only twice reached the quarterfinals despite being one of Africa's 13 World Cup qualifiers.

They'll back themselves to progress this time around, particularly considering the good work done

Egypt coach Aguirre plays down Salah influence

CAIRO

EGYPT coach Javier Aguirre refused to discuss the potential influence of talisman Mohamed Salah but captain Ahmed Elmohamady had no such reservations two days before the start of the African Cup of Nations.

"Mohamed Salah is a player in my team, just like the remaining 22 players," Aguirre told a news conference on Wednesday when questioned about the Liverpool forward as the host nation continued preparations for Friday's opening game against Zimbabwe in Cairo.

"All of them are Egypt's players," he added, deflecting attention from the 27-year-old Salah who has been a significant influence on the side in recent years.

His goals helped Egypt end a 28-year wait to qualify for the World Cup in 2018 and he was the key player as they reached the final of last Cup of Nations in Gabon two years ago.

When Salah was hurt in last year's Champions League final against Real Madrid and missed most of Egypt's pre-World Cup preparations, plus their opening game in Russia, the team's prospects sank like a stone.

"Salah is now one of the leading three players in the world. This is a

very big and positive thing that will definitely help us in our quest to win the Nations Cup," Elmohamady said.

Egypt will be returning to the Cairo International Stadium which has rarely been used over the last eight years because of security concerns but was the venue where they won the Cup of Nations when they last hosted the tournament 13 years ago.

"We are going back to playing at the Cairo Stadium, this is an incentive. We have already won the title in three consecutive editions, and in the last tournament, we reached the final," Elmohamady said.

The 31-year-old Aston Villa full back featured in the Egypt's Cup of Nations winning squads in 2008 and 2010 and was in the team who finished runners-up in the last edition of the tournament.

Aguirre said the hosts were wary of outsiders Zimbabwe.

"Zimbabwe deserve to be here in this tournament. We are well aware how strong they are," Aguirre said.

"This game is very important because it's the opener. However, this will not put us under pressure but rather make us aware of the responsibilities on our shoulders."

REUTERS

Who is new Spain soccer coach Robert Moreno?

MADRID

ROBERT Moreno has been thrust into the biggest coaching job in Spanish football despite no playing career and never having taken charge of a first team after Luis Enrique resigned as national team coach on Wednesday for personal reasons.

Moreno, 41, was appointed assistant coach when Luis Enrique took charge of Spain last July and acted as caretaker when the former Barcelona manager took a leave of absence in March to deal with what was described as an urgent family matter.

Spain have won all three of their games under Moreno and hold a five-point lead over Sweden in their Euro 2020 qualifying group. Federation president Luis Rubiales said it was important to maintain the project which Luis Enrique had started.

"They (the coaching staff) told me they could leave if I wanted them to but they are working very well and they are the best option," Rubiales told a news conference on Wednesday.

"The results will tell us whether we made the right choice or not, but all the players identify with the coaching staff and it's the best decision for the federation."

Moreno, who will be in charge until after Euro 2020, called his appointment "bittersweet" but said he felt spurred on to take the role after being encouraged by Luis Enrique

to do so.

"I feel contradictory feelings, sadness on one hand but responsibility on the other," he said.

"Above all the fact that Luis Enrique has supported us and wants us to do this has served me well and made me decide to take it on. His support is key to us. I'm sure we're going to have good results."

"We know that we won't please everyone, but we can't control that. All we can do is offer to work hard with the players and help them, as they are the ones that will determine whether we win or lose."

Moreno, who holds a degree from the University of Barcelona in trade and international relations, began working alongside Luis Enrique with Barcelona's B team in 2010 in the scouting department.

He followed him to AS Roma and Celta Vigo and then back to Barca, with the Catalans winning two Liga titles, three Copa del Rey trophies and the 2015 Champions League before Luis Enrique resigned in 2017.

Asked about his lack of experience, Moreno defended his credentials.

"I do have experience. I've been with Luis for nine years, watching him work with the top players in the world," he said.

"I'm sure we'll do a great job although I can't promise results. If we win the European Championship no-one will remember whether or not I had experience."

REUTERS

Messi: 'Crazy' if Argentina have early Copa exit

BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

ARGENTINA captain Lionel Messi said "it could be crazy" if the squad doesn't advance from the Copa America group stage following their 1-1 draw against Paraguay on Wednesday night.

Messi scored from the penalty spot to salvage the draw for Argentina at the Mineiro stadium in Belo Horizonte, negating a first-half strike from Paraguay's Richard Sanchez.

"Frankly, it's a little frustrating not being able to get the win we need to take the next step," Messi said after the match. "We knew this would be difficult, we're still looking for the best group, for the best performance, to keep growing."

Argentina are still bottom of Group B with one point from two games but they could progress to the last eight with a win over third-placed Qatar in their final group game on Sunday.

"[The squad] is hurt by the situ-

ation because we can't manage to win a game, and we know today was key for us," Messi said. "We know we have to win the next game to advance."

The result ensured Colombia clinched top spot in the group on six points after they beat Qatar 1-0 earlier on. Paraguay are second on two points.

"We know we'll be playing for our lives," Messi said. "It would be crazy if we can't advance from the group stage, when basically three [teams] advance from each group. I have no doubt we'll do it."

Argentina's caretaker coach Lionel Scaloni admitted his side had not played well and struggled to cope with the shock of conceding the first goal.

"Our first half was not good, we played with desperation at times and we couldn't control the play or create attacks. We had a very clear plan but couldn't execute it as we kept losing the ball," he told reporters.

(AGENCIES)



Mohamed Salah

by Serbian coach Srđan Vasiljević in recent years, but detractors will point to the fact that they haven't truly been tested as they will be in Egypt.

15.UGANDA

The Cranes are one of Africa's emerging forces, having taken great strides under Milutin Sredojevic and, latterly, Sebastien Desabre.

They boasted a magnificent defensive record in qualifying, remaining un-breached until the final qualifier against Tanzania, but a nightmarish group-stage draw may halt their progress.

Of the 'smaller' teams in the tournament, Uganda are the best placed to stifle stronger opponents; but will it be enough for them to reach the knockouts for the first time since 1978?

14.BENIN

Returning to the high table for the first time since 2010, Benin can call upon the nous of coach Michel Dussuyer -- bouncing back after his failed spell with the Ivory Coast -- and an experienced spine of Khaled Adenon, Stephane Sessegnon and Mickael Pote.

A 1-0 victory over Algeria in October could be the blueprint for them to launch similar surprises against Ghana and Cameroon.

13.DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

After finishing third in 2015, and producing a strong showing two years later, the DRC have struggled to kick on under Florent Ibenge.

The turning point may have been the two World Cup qualifiers against Tunisia, when their hopes of reaching Russia faded, and they staggered to qualify on matchday six.

There's immense talent here, but a tricky opening group and a lack of consistency suggests they could be in trouble early on.

12.GUINEA

Much hinges on the fitness of Naby Keita, who hasn't been seen since picking up an adductor injury in Liverpool's UEFA Champions League semifinal against Barcelona.

He's a talismanic presence for Guinea -- witness his single-handed demolition of the Ivory Coast during qualification -- and the Syli Nationale risk being one dimensional if he's absent or unfit.

11.SOUTH AFRICA

Defensively stout during qualification - Bafana Bafana conceded just twice -- they held their nerve to defeat Libya away in Tunisia to qualify on matchday six.

Stuart Baxter's team will be stronger for that experience, although a 0-0

draw against minnows Seychelles in October raises significant concerns about their firepower.

Things haven't been helped by the injury-enforced absence of Keagan Dolly.

10.MALI

Mali cruised through qualification and can be delighted with their draw.

Moussa Marega, fresh from scoring six in the UEFA Champions League this season, will be a threat, and they have quality across the squad, even if Brighton & Hove Albion's Yves Bissouma -- out with a shoulder injury -- is a big loss.

9.GHANA

The Black Stars are serial Afcon semifinalists, having reached the final four in the past six editions of the tournament.

However, Kwesi Appiah's second tenure in charge has been unconvincing; defeat by Kenya during qualification was the low point, while the rift that saw Asamoah Gyan quit the national side after being informed he'd lost the captain's armband, only to be coaxed back by a presidential intervention, threatens to divide the camp.

As if that wasn't enough, the Black Stars are also ravaged by injuries, and will take to Egypt without a swathe of potentially key contributors.

8.CAMEROON

For reigning champions, Cameroon are taking a pretty lowly spot in our power rankings, although they've enjoyed muddled fortunes since a patched-together team took gold in Gabon 2017.

Clarence Seedorf was drafted in following the miserable Confederations Cup showing, and promptly alienated captain Benjamin Moukandjo -- since retired -- and declared himself to be happy with a draw against the Comoros...!

There's talent and title-winning experience here, but can the untested Seedorf pull it all together in time?

7.IVORY COAST

Ivory Coast have a tricky opening group, but they cannot be underestimated, due primarily to an offensive unit that will be the envy of their rivals.

Wilfried Zaha, Max-Alain Gradel, Nicolas Pepe and Maxwel Cornet will vie for roles supporting Wilfried Bony, who put his recent toil behind him with a barnstorming two-goal display in a recent friendly victory over the Comoros.

A midfield of Jean Seri, Franck Kessie and Ibrahim Sangare could also compensate for the injury absence of Eric Bailly.

6.NIGERIA

Bounced back from a disappointing World Cup to breeze through qualification, including impressive victories -- home and away -- over Libya.

However, there are concerns over various key positions -- goalkeeper, central defender, centre-forward - and it remains to be seen whether John Obi Mikel, at 32, can enjoy the influence he once did.

5.ALGERIA

No Afcon-bound team left more talented individuals at home than Algeria, with Ishak Belfodil, Faouzi Ghoulam, Said Benrahma, Nabil Bentaleb and Saphir Taider all overlooked from a squad brimming with quality.

If they click, offensively, they could be a joy to watch, particularly with goal machine Baghdad Bounedjah

leading the line and the likes of Youcef Atal and Ismael Bennacer are coming off fine campaigns.

Could there be any success sweeter than winning the Afcon in the home of their fiercest rivals?

4.TUNISIA

The Carthage Eagles are going somewhat under the radar ahead of the Afcon, even though they pipped Egypt to top their group in qualifying.

The excellent Wahbi Khazri is an underrated attacking threat; he shone at the World Cup, and finished the Ligue 1 season with 13 goals.

An overall lack of star power need not be fatal, although the absence -- through injury -- of Mohamed Amine Ben Amor, and ongoing fitness concerns around influential playmaker Ferjani Sassi, may dampen expectations.

3.EGYPT

Home advantage should ensure that Egypt are one of the last teams standing this summer, while the presence of Mohamed Salah -- a genuine superstar, and one of the world's finest players -- will help as well.

Salah and the Pharaohs also have a point to prove after their first World Cup since 1990 proved to be a miserable, point-less affair.

They haven't had the luck of the draw this time around, but an organised structure, the experience of Javier Aguirre, and Salah, who heads into a major tournament in full fitness after his injury nightmare 12 months ago, sets them among the favourites.

2.SENEGAL

The Teranga Lions look to be the strongest of the sub-Saharan African contenders.

They were unfortunate to miss out the knockout stages of the World Cup, where they became the first team eliminated on yellow cards accrued, and were largely untroubled through qualification, taking more points than any other team.

Sadio Mane has only embellished his reputation after another fine season at Liverpool -- and a UEFA Champions League winner's medal no less -- while the emergence of Mbaye Diagne gives Senegal a powerful all-round centre-forward who'll offer a greater goal threat than M'Baye Niang.

Defensively, the central triangle of Salif Sane, Kalidou Koulibaly and Idrissa Gueye will be a match for the continent's best attacking units.

1.MOROCCO

There's a lot that's in Morocco's favour as they aim to win the Afcon title for the first time since 1976.

In terms of tactical approach, style and professionalism, few, if any, teams in the continent can match them, and they were unfortunate to fall at the first hurdle at the World Cup, where their intense pressing style and movement won many admirers.

In Hakim Ziyech, they have one of the continent's finest players, while Herve Renard is a tournament master -- and the only coach to win the Afcon with two different sides.

They'll enjoy the 'familiar' confines of North Africa, and have improved significantly since a quarterfinal showing in 2015.

However, their opening group is tough, their intensity will be tested in the peak of the Egyptian summer, and recent warm-up defeats by Gambia and Zambia should serve as a reminder that they aren't the complete package just yet.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Ndugai urges Taifa Stars to work hard

SPORT

Afcon Power Rankings: Who can challenge Mohamed Salah's Egypt?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai (seated C), in a group picture with Taifa Stars' players in Egypt mid this week. He had met the players at their training base as they prepare for the Africa Cup of Nations which kicks off in Egypt this weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Guardian Reporter

SPEAKER of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai, has called on the senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' to play their hearts out and represent the country well in the Africa Cup of Nations, which kicks off in Egypt this weekend.

The speaker visited the side's camp in Cairo on Wednesday and spoke to the players.

Ndugai presented a message by President John Magufuli urging the players to cover every blade of grass and see to it they successfully hoist the national flag

in the continental showdown.

He said the squad should know it is carrying the hopes of Tanzanians that are turning their attention to them.

Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta, promised Ndugai he and the rest of the team have received the President's message and they will work hard and see to it they excel.

He noted they will do all they

can to see to it they register victory in all duels in their group.

Taifa Stars are in Group C of the continental showdown alongside Senegal, Algeria and Kenya.

The Tanzania squad, which is competing at the AFCON finals for the first time after 38 years of absence, will start the group games against Senegal, then Kenya before completing with Al-

geria.

Skipper Mbwana Samatta, speaking shortly before Taifa Stars' trip to Egypt, assured Tanzanians that the squad is ready for the finals.

"We are ready for the AFCON finals, everyone is looking forward to games, others may think that we will not do well, but the fact is that we are ready and am sure of good results," he said.

Coach Amunike has assembled a very good side which is expected to compete and not simply making numbers.

Taifa Stars have such players like Samatta, who plays in Belgium and Simon Msuva and Hassan Kessy, who play in Morocco and Zambia respectively.

The team is also made up of experienced and that include Kelvin Yondani and John Bocco.

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:57 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Koli Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL) is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Overage players exposed in Morogoro

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Ifakara

ELECTRONIC system technology (e-system) has exposed 30 overage youths in Ifakara District, Morogoro, who presented fake records in an effort to participate in this year's national primary schools games (Umitashumta) which will take place in Mtwara.

The program, which collects records of youths from primary schools, found the players do not merit participation in the competition as they are past the age that is eligible for the event.

An operation to identify the overage players was conducted on Wednesday by special team under the supervision of Morogoro Regional Sports Officer Grace Njau, as a final stage for assembling the regional squad was taking place.

She disclosed the region had scheduled early inspection of pupils who will represent in the competition with a view to avoid misunderstanding with opponents, as well as an avoiding facing unnecessary costs.

Morogoro Regional Education Officer (REO), Joyce Baravuga, said 100 players were selected for the regional squad out



Morogoro Regional Education Officer, Joyce Baravuga, speaks during the unveiling of players who will make the regional team which will compete in this year's Umitashumta games in Mtwara. Looking on is Acting District Executive Director for Ifakara, Monica Sayile. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

of 616 who had earlier been chosen from nine districts. She maintained there are no overage players in the region's team given the region has put

in place strategic plans to cross check registration of each player by using tablets containing the e-system technology, which stores information on each pupil

since he or she was registered at their respective school.

"I congratulate the inspection task force, those 30 youths exposed today will be a lesson

to others who wanted to engage on the habit, from now on once one is caught he or she will be booted out of the camp," she said.

Joyce associated the act with the delay in payment for participation fee, noting that cash that is meant for meeting participation costs for the regional team is instead directed to hire those players, a situation which will cost the squad should either of the member sustain injury in the games.

"Due to this, regional sports coordinator, Nyerere will no longer oversee the regional team's camp, all officers have to cross check names of 100 representatives in case there are still overage players in the team," she ordered.

Acting District Executive Director for Ifakara Monica Sayile who was the guest of honour, commended the leadership for avoiding such a behaviour, noting next time all suspects' names and team's coaches will be displayed publicly.

"Next year Kilosa District is going to host the same competition at the regional level, please take care, this is a nearby district, I promise to follow up with a view to get the best representatives," she said.

Oliver Nambunga, who was involved in assembling the regional team, congratulated Joyce's decision to expelling ring leaders involved in recruiting overage players who preventing upcoming players from showcasing their talents.

The regional team will be accompanied by Mamuya from Gairo District, patrons and matrons namely as Gasto Lundeke from Ifakara, Gloria Msalakwa from Kilombero, Ibrahimu Kwitega from Mvomero, Musiba John from Kilosa, Robert Manditi from Ulanga and John Maro from Mvomero.

Kilimanjaro school impressed by achievement in sports

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

HAI District-based Rafiki Foundation has said they are delighted that 10 female players from the school have been selected to represent the district at the national finals of primary schools games (Umitashumta), which will be held in Mtwara later this year.

Athletes' administrator at the school Paschal Martin said they are happy that their school is contributing a lot in sports development in the country.

He said since 2017 the school has been producing athletes in all sectors like tennis and football.

"Our Rafiki Foundation has been doing well in sports development, last year we had players who formed the regional team which competed at Umitashumta games in Mwanza," he noted.

"This year we have ten players selected for the regional team that will participate in the national finals, we thank Dekker Chrysantien who has been of great help to our sports development program, we are doing a lot in Sports especially in Tennis and girls football".

He said the team puts much emphasis on the development of sports.

Martin named the players who have been selected for the regional team as Aurelia Mushi, Deborah Priscus, Nsia Shoo, Upendo Kimaro, Vivian Ulomi, Furaha Monies, Lucky Munisi, Lusya Sangawe, Rachel Musa and Rachel Swai.

"Our team trains twice a week on Monday and Friday, the coaches are doing a very good job and we are very delighted with what they are doing and I am sure the players selected into the regional team will perform wonders," he said.

Rafiki Foundation has been doing well in sports, especially in tennis and women football.

Currently four players from the school Victoria Ndosi, Naitoti Singo, John Singo and Beatrice Kimaro are competing at the ongoing seniors open tennis tournament at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana club (DGC).

Flexibles by David Chikoko

