



National Pg 3 Zanzibar May Day celebrations



National Pg 4 Hyenas invade villages in Kahama District



National Pg 6 Better cotton farming practices



Havoc as highway traffic is disrupted

From the submerged Bijiri Bridge, long queues of vehicles could be seen from the bridge up to Mailisita area in Hai district and King'ori area in Arumeru district, Arusha region

By Guardian Reporters, Moshi, Arusha

THOUSANDS of passengers along the Moshi-Arusha and Arusha-Namanga highways were stranded for most of

yesterday after heavy rains pounded the area, forcing scores of residents to flee their flooded homes.

At the busy Moshi-Arusha highway water

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Armed with a bunch of mouth-watering ripe bananas for sale, a resident of Tukuyu was among the multitudes at President John Magufuli's rally during his ongoing official tour of Mbeya Region yesterday. Photo: State House



TPDC starts Lindi home gas connections soon

Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CONNECTING liquefied natural gas to homes for domestic use is scheduled to start at the end of this month in Lindi region.

The Minister for Energy, Dr Medard Kalimani (pictured) told the legislature here yesterday that the plan is to ensure the region's residents benefit from the natural resources exploited in the region.

He made this affirmation in response to a question by Nominated MP Salma Kikwete (CCM) who demanded to know when the region's residents would start benefiting from the gas.

"It seems implementation of the project to distribute gas to residents is only for Dar es Salaam and Mtwara regions but little is heard about Lindi region. When shall the

residents benefit?" asked the MP.

In his response, the minister assured the lawmaker that come late this month Lindi residents will start being connected.

Recently, the minister called on the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to hasten the pipeline connection project in Dar es Salaam, to ensure residents are reached within three years.

On the same note, deputy minister Subira Mgalu noted that TPDC is going on with the project and is building infrastructure to distribute gas in Mtwara, Coast and Dar es Salaam regions.

She was responding to a supplementary question by Newala Rural MP Rashidi Akbar (CCM) who had argued that available information indicates that gas from Mtwara and Songo Songo is used by only six percent of capacity.

"Why is it that the Dangote factory in Mtwara has not been connected with gas up to now?" he wondered. The deputy minister responded that the factory is connected to the natural gas network and the first phase of electricity generation using gas started in August last year.

"Up to April 2019, the Dangote factory had five million metric feet of

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JPM pours cold water on Malawi border tiff

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday downplayed the tension between Tanzania and Malawi as nothing serious and a work of imperialists, pledging to strengthen the relations between the neighbouring countries during his time in office.

Addressing residents of Kyela town in Mbeya region, the Head of State said the strain between the two sister nations was not as a result of hatred amongst citizens but foreign hands.

President Magufuli said Malawi and Tanzania are both African countries sharing common heritage including communities living in both countries, along with the same developmental challenges. Hence they have no reason whatsoever to harbour animosity between them.

"The misunderstanding between our countries was caused by imperialists. Sometimes you citizens



The president said he decided to visit Malawi out of all the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries because of the common issues that the two countries share

were being used as pseudo-imperialists to serve their interests," he said.

He urged the people of Kyela to continue doing business with the people of Malawi, insisting that the two countries have shared common interests since independence.

The president said he decided to visit Malawi out of all the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries because of the common issues that the two countries share.

"I promise that during my presidency, our relations with Malawi will be strong and as am talking we want to build a one stop centre at Kasumulu border so that we strengthen the state of doing business as brothers and sisters," he said.

He gave an example of a city called Mzuzu in Malawi where he said a huge number of Tanzanians are residing and doing business freely, saying that should be the spirit even when

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'Connect all rural areas by next year'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) yesterday appealed to mobile phone companies to extend their network coverage to rural areas so that all villages are reached by December 2020.

He said that this is the government target and with support from the Universal Communication Access Fund (UCSAF), the companies have no excuse not to work in line with the government in realizing this objective.

The premier who was the chief guest at a ceremony to mark ten years of UCSAF services noted that communication is vital in accelerating economic growth towards the 2025 middle income economy target.

"Let all service providers work with the government and ensure the remaining six percent of Tanzanians who are not currently reached by communication networks are covered by the end of next year," he urged.



The PM said the government has enabled 703 wards of 2,501 villages and five million inhabitants to be reached with communication, and invested a total of 118 billion/- during the past ten years to ensure that all people are connected.

The government acknowledges the contribution of service providers to reach different parts of the country, as currently there are communication towers built through cooperation among mobile phone companies, he pointed out.

Majaliwa appealed to the public to help protect such infrastructures, in cooperating with the companies as they work in respective areas.

He expressed gratitude that as the fund marks ten years of service, many parts of the country are now accessible to communication networks. "I would like to assure you that the government will continue sending network facilitation to all areas that have not been reached so far," he declared.

He directed UCSAF to identify areas with

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is shown radiation measurements by the director of radiation protection, Dr Firm Banzi, moments after the inauguration of the Tanzania atomic power committee in Arusha on Monday. Photo: PMO

Govt rules out extending maternity and parental leave

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

The government said yesterday that there were no plans to extend maternity and parental leave from the current 84 days.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children, Dr Faustin Ndugulile told the House that mothers

who give birth to one baby will continue enjoying 84 days of maternity leave while those with twins are entitled to 100 days. The deputy minister was responding to a question by Grace Tendega, opposition Member of Parliament, who had wanted to know whether the government has plans of extending maternity leave for mothers who give birth to premature babies.

He clarified that a working lactating mother is supposed to be given two hours per day for breastfeeding.

The minister said the government will continue to implement the 2007 health policy on provision of free health services to special groups, including pregnant women.

"The ministry is striving to improve various child delivery services. We

are now implementing phase two of a strategy to improve the health of infants including premature babies," he told the House in the capital Dodoma.

However, Ndugulile admitted that medicines for premature babies are expensive, adding that the government is looking forward to addressing the issue to make such medicines affordable for all citizens.

TPDC starts Lindi home gas connections soon

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gas to produce electricity," she said. The second phase of the project was

completed in December 2018, she said, while company sources indicate that the factory currently uses gas to operate its 45 MW electricity generation plant.

'Connect all rural areas by next year'

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communication network challenges for the government to act, with a note of urgency.

It should also follow up on areas where communication towers have been built using government subsidy so that the government can put in more efforts to ensure that residents benefit from available facilities.

Representatives of telecom companies pledged to continue working with the government to ensure to attain the 2020 target.

Grace Chambua, executive head of the Central Zone for Vodacom (T) Ltd, said the company enjoys partnership with the government, the major goal being to connect people digitally.

She also expressed the company's commitment to work with UCSAF in

the new challenges posed by the PM.

"It is through partnership with UCSAF that Vodacom Tanzania managed to put up over 200 communications towers in 210 wards, connecting about 3.6 million people," she remarked.

Atashasta Nditaye, the deputy minister for Works, Transport and Communication, underlined that communication and its infrastructure is important in accelerating economic growth.

While UCSAF is oriented towards the realization of the 2025 economic target, it is also bent on ensuring that 292 wards are connected to networks by the end of this year.

A tender for the connection of 250 wards would be announced soon, he said. "The communication sector will continue to uplift the national economy and improve people's lives," he added.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry permanent secretary Dorothy Mwanyika (R) stresses a point to the Tanzanian delegation at a meeting in Kagera Region on challenges facing Tanzania and Uganda. Others include Livestock and Fisheries ministry PS Prof Elisante ole Gabriel and his Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation counterpart, Dr Faraja Mnyepe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

East African Legislative Assembly resumes business in Arusha

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has resumed its plenary sessions in Arusha, with the review of the accounts' report for the financial year ended June 30, 2017, among issues up for consideration during the three-week sitting.

According to a communiqué from the regional House, the sitting which runs up to May 18 will also debate on the East African Community Youth Council Bill, 2017.

The Bill aims to provide a legal framework for the harmonization of laws and policies regarding the youth in the Community.

This Bill is premised on Article 120 of the EAC Treaty and in particular seeks to implement the EAC Youth Policy, 2014, which is an integral component of the bloc's fourth development strategy. The development strategy identifies,

among others, strengthening and promotion of policies, laws and programmes that focus on the development of youth in the Community.

Last month, EALA held public hearings in the partner states to concretize the inputs and views of youth among other stakeholders on the Bill.

The report of the Committee on Accounts was debated but not adopted when the Assembly met in Arusha in November last year.

Instead, the House asked the Committee on Accounts chaired by MP Ngwaru Maghembe (Tanzania), to revise the recommendations contained therein the report to make it more time bound and actionable. The House is expected to receive an update on the matter.

Also, to be tabled and debated is a key report of the Committee of Agriculture,

Havoc as highway traffic gets cut off

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was flowing over the key Bijiri Bridge located in Hai district in Kilimanjaro region for hours, forcing motorists on both sides of the bridge to wait intermittently stranded.

And in Arusha city, scores of residents of Unga Limited, Sokoni One, Kimandolu, Engutoto and Kiranyi wards fled their flooded homes to elevated grounds as Mother Nature displayed accentuated force.

The Arusha - Namanga highway was impassable for hours while a trail of destruction could be seen on a number of roads within Arusha central business district.

The downpour which started after midnight continued non-stop for most of the day, with motor vehicles stuck for hours.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) manager for Arusha region John Kalupale said the downpour damaged portions of the infrastructure and major rehabilitation works need to be conducted.

"A section of the Moshi-Arusha highway was washed away, leading to disruption of traffic in the area," he said.

From the submerged Bijiri Bridge, long queues of vehicles could be seen from the bridge up to Mailisita area in Hai district and King'ori area in Arumeru district, Arusha region.

And they had to wait for hours for the raging rain waters to recede and transport resumed on the busy route in Tanzania's tourism hub.

"We have been stranded here at Kwa Msomali (the bridge location) since early in the morning. The bridge is submerged and more water is coming from the mountains," said Faustine Mollel, a passenger.

Elikizanda Msuya, a driver who has

been plying the route for years, said there is need for authorities to find a permanent solution to the bridge as it gets submerged and transport is interrupted periodically during the long rains.

"We understand that there are challenges of climate change but the government should do something about this bridge as it has become a perennial problem," he said.

But according to Hassan Mwaka, the problem in the area is technical rather than Mother Nature who many blame.

"This bridge is too narrow to allow much water to pass underneath when it rains heavily. The solution is to expand the infrastructure and little else," he stated.

His sentiments were echoed by John Bunda, who appealed to Tanroads to expand the bridge and bring an end to periodic disruption of traffic in the area.

"This road leads to the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) and you can see there are passengers here who may have missed their flights," he said.

But the Tanroads manager for Kilimanjaro region, Ntije Nkolanta discounted the idea that the bridge is narrow, saying that the problem is unpredictable rainfall patterns with consequent above-normal rainfall.

"It is true that water flows above the bridge regularly and transport gets disrupted. The matter has already been included in the 2019/2020 financial year estimates for expansion of the waterway under the bridge," the manager noted.

Hai District Commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya said he had taken note of the problem and promised that the relevant authorities would take appropriate measures to ensure that transport in the area is not continually interrupted.

JPM pours cold water on Malawi border tiff

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Malawians visit Kyela.

A week ago, the president made a two day visit to Malawi where he discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues with Malawi President Prof Peter Mutharika.

The two Heads of State expressed satisfaction with the cordial relations between the two countries, underscoring the need to further deepen the cooperation in various areas including transport, communication, tourism, culture, investment and social affairs.

Furthermore, the two presidents reaffirmed the need to boost trade ties between the two countries. To that end, they agreed to commence the construction of a One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at the Songwe- Kasumulu border post right away.

Malawi and Tanzania have been involved in a dispute over the border of Lake Nyasa for many years.

The dispute between the two countries resurfaced in 2012 when Malawi awarded exclusive prospecting licenses to two British oil companies.

Malawi claims to own the whole lake in its entirety, ignoring the customary principle of a median line enshrined in international law.

The two neighbouring countries last met in March 2014 in Maputo for the lake talks after hostilities loomed large over the lake, after discovery of an oil basin in the lake.

Lake Nyasa is home to 1,000 species of fish. It is located at the crossroads of Malawi in the west, Mozambique to the south and Tanzania to the northeast. With an estimated fish stock of 168,000 tonnes, it is a source of livelihood for nearly 10 million people.



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment and People with Disability), presents an award and a certificate to Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) director general Masha Mshomba during the Commemoration of World Day for Healthy and Safety 2019 in Mbeya municipality at the weekend. WCF sparked in the Occupational Health and Safety category involving insurance and social security schemes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Shein expected to grace international workers day

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein will today grace the international workers day to be held at Tunguu grounds in South Unguja region.

The President is also expected to address workers and Isle residents at the Dr Ali Mohamed Shein hall at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA). The celebrations will be attended by various dignitaries including officials from the Zanzibar Employers Association (ZANEMA) and International Labour Organization (ILO).

Locally, this year's theme for the Labour Day is: "National economic stabilisation for improved workers remunerations", while at international level the theme is: "Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement".

Zanzibar has been marking the international workers day each year whereas last year the celebrations were held at Wete, North Pemba region. The seventh phase government under President Shein directed authorities to make sure workers day celebrations are held at different regions within the Isles.

In his various address to the nation, President Shein has been insisting to

promote human rights and improve workers remunerations. Last year, Dr Shein assured workers both from private and private sector of improved remunerations depending on the state's economic situation.

He said the government would want to improve worker's welfare regardless of the kind of employer. He said worker's are among the country's valuable assets since they are the ones contributing fully in the development process.

Taking into consideration the contribution of workers in economic growth, the government in Zanzibar has been making interventions to improve their welfare.

The international workers day is official holiday celebrated to commemorate the 300,000 workers who demonstrated in Chicago in 1886 in demand of their basic rights.

Tanzania joins international community in celebrating the Labour Day which is market every year at national level.

"National economic stabilisation for improved workers remunerations", while at international level the theme is: "Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement".

Elections conducted according to law, regulations - House told

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has denied any involvement in the Zanzibar's general elections, saying the elections were held in accordance with the law and regulations.

Deputy minister for Home Affairs, Hamad Masauni said in the National Assembly yesterday while responding

to a question by Malindi MP, Ali Saleh (CUF) who had wanted to know when the Union government will stop having interest in Zanzibar election results.

"When shall the Union government refrain from interfering with election results in the Isles and let the rightful winner be announced?" he asked.

Masauni responded that it is not true that the government always interferes

with elections in Zanzibar since there are laws and regulations that govern elections.

"It is not true at all that the government intrudes in Zanzibar elections but in most cases there are acts of violence during elections and due to that, law enforcers are always sent to restore order for peaceful elections" he said.

Earlier, Chwaka MP, Bagwanji Maganlal Meisuria (CCM) had complained about use of police force and other law enforcers during elections. "I have to admit that police and other law enforcers are usually sent to Zanzibar whenever violence erupts, mostly during elections," added the minister.

The deputy minister used the

occasion to inform members of the public that it is the government responsibility to maintain peace in the country at all times, including during election.

He said the police force will continue with training of its officers on investigations, among other activities to avoid incidences of law violation and peace instability in the country,

especially during elections.

The lawmaker had sought the government statement to the public, arguing that it is a common trend that violence and act of lawlessness erupt in Zanzibar when it comes to holding elections.

He said the occurrences sometimes scare members of the public from participating in elections.



Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) holds talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Ambassador Makila James, Deputy Aide to a top-ranking US government official overseeing East Africa and Sudan. Photo: Foreign Affairs

Tanzania Forest Service set to introduce standards to curb wanton felling of trees

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) is set to introduce standards for forest products in a new drive aimed at adding value on the products and curb wantonly tree felling in the country.

Dr Celine Mongo, TFS acting Director of Forest and Bee keeping announced on Monday when presenting a paper at the workshop aimed at showcasing modern technology used for lumbering.

Held in Mafinga, in Mufindi District the workshop was organized by TFS.

"There is a great demand of timber in the foreign countries, so in order for us to win the market we need to have better standards of trees that will enable

products that come from various parts of the country to have similar standards," said Dr Mongo

She confirmed that the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has already prepared the standards for forest products and that further process to verify and test the standards is continuing before they are released for use.

"The TBS in collaboration with the TFS is working to make sure they set proper standards that will meet international requirements for forest products," added Dr Mongo.

TFS's forest officer, John Olomi said the aim of the government to establish the standards is to make sure the forest resources are utilized for the benefit of the coming generation.

"We the TFS we have being given the responsibility to oversee the policy and

forest laws of 1998 that insist sustainable utilization of forest resources, so we have decided to set a strategic procedure to enable harvesting and facilitation of sustainable business on forest products," said Olomi.

Olomi said because of the challenge of lack of enough raw materials, the demand of the raw materials is great as compared to what is obtained from natural and artificial forest.

"However, the government has being embarking on various efforts by collaborating with various stakeholders and institutions to increase the volume of tree planting," he said.

The agency has also made efforts to increase forest farms from the present 10 to 24 farms.

He explained that, there is an increase of tree planting at high pace in various

areas of the country in line with provision of trees to Wananchi for free for them to plant in their home places.

He cited in the Sao Hill tree farm where during the planting session of 2018/2019, the farm has managed to provide 1 million trees to citizens surrounding the areas in order to ensure the availability of forest products is sustainable for the benefit of the coming generation.


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TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY

INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY (MAY DAY 2019)





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





H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein,
President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Government

Board of Directors, Management and Entire Staff of TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY wish to join His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Government, and all Tanzanians in commemorating the International Worker's Day.

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Govt establishes incubation centre in efforts to curb unemployment

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through Livestock Training Agency (LITA) is working on plans to establish incubation youth centre to help prepare youth for self employment.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega told the parliament that youth that complete certificate and diploma trainings will have opportunity for self employment once the centres are established.

The deputy minister was responding to a question by the Ngara MP, Alex Gashaza (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government was doing to empower youth that are trained on agriculture and animal husbandry but are not employed.

"What is the government doing to establish modern animal schemes that could also be used to empower young people and avoid conflicts between herders and farmers?" he asked.

He argued that in the past there were areas allocated for animal grazing and farming as stipulated in the law and policy on proper land use but as the population increases such land have been invaded, causing conflicts.

In his response, the deputy minister said, the government in considering the need for such animal schemes, through LITA is working on plans where young people with training on animal husbandry will be able to start their own animal husbandry projects.

"Once they graduate, they will have opportunity for self employment through animal keeping and will also be able to start own farms at their

places," said Ulega.

He noted that the government has also established tutorial training in Simanjiro, Manyara region whereby 750 farmers and 32 extension officers were trained, adding that the plan is to roll out the training to all district councils in the country. He added that in Kaliua District, Tabora Region, some 438 farmers and 33 extension officers were trained.

The deputy minister said the training focuses on improving livestock breeds, control of diseases, right usage of drugs, understanding of law, regulations, among others.

He said the plan also aimed to increase productivity of raw materials from livestock with high quality to meet demands.

"In addition to these efforts, the ministry continues to encourage farmers to set up areas for production of quality animals," he said, adding that the government has established 365 demo farms at different places in the country.



What is the government doing to establish modern animal schemes that could also be used to empower young people and avoid conflicts between herders and farmers?



Vodacom Tanzania Plc employee Neema Mgombelo (kneeling-R) demonstrates how to identify and help a person who has fainted. This was during First Aid training held in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Looking on is Knight Support First Aid instructor Adam Mikidadi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fear as hyenas invade villages in Kahama District

By Guardian Reporter

PACKS of hyenas have been on the prowl in north-western Tanzania's district of Kahama, injuring five people and killing dozens of domestic animals at night, authorities have said.

The attacks have spread fear among the local population around the gold-rich district located 242km south of Lake Victoria.

Two wards of Nyandekwa and Kilago located few kilometres from Kahama

town are highly affected by the hyenas' attack.

Peter Emmanuel, Kilago ward councillor confirmed the incident saying, the victims were injured when they were trying to fight with the hyenas, which stormed their villages.

He said that so far the laughing animals, which are moving in groups had killed dozens of cattle, goats, and poultry in different parts of the district.

"The injured people were rushed to Kahama District Hospital for treatment, he said, adding that people's safety was paramount.

Thomas Manumbu, Natural Resource Officer in Kahama District Council confirmed on the hyenas attack saying, the wild animals started attacking villages since February this year.

"The affected wards are those located far from the town and close to game reserves," he said.

According to him, the government

has already sent rangers to the area to track down the doglike animals, which hunt at night in packs.

"The challenge we're facing is that all the attacks happened at night, making it difficult to track them," he said.

Mapanya Karuto, a conservator from Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) called on villagers living in the affected areas to take precautions.

Karuto revealed that the wild animals have strayed from the nearby Moyowosi-Kigosi game reserves.



National Insurance Corporation managing director Sam Kamanga addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the planned verification of people with life insurance cover. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Trade Centre (ITC) is hosting a week-long training on building market profiles for Tanzanian agricultural products from April 29th to May 3rd 2019.

A statement issued by ITC said the training programme will enable trade practitioners from public and private entities to develop market feasibility studies for given products.

The training which has been organised by the European Union-East African Community Market Access Programme (MARKUP) is taking place in Dar-es-Salaam.

ITC hosts week-long training to help SMEs become more competitive in global markets

Access to market intelligence is critical to export success in regional and international markets. Participants will be equipped with technical skills in the collection and analysis of trade information through ITC's Market Analysis Tools and other relevant sources.

These tools help users to examine

international trade flows, customs tariffs, official market access regulations, export potential up to 2023 and company contacts in target markets.

More than 825,000 users in 224 countries and territories have registered to the tools, which are free online to developing countries.

According to the statement, the workshop combines both theoretical and practical approaches that will allow the 35 participants from Tanzania's government officials and Trade and Investment Support Institutions (TISIs) to elaborate a market profile of an agricultural product.

Participants will also be given an

opportunity to present the preliminary findings to their peers and gather feedback from ITC experts.

The list of agricultural products will include the four MARKUP priority products - tea, avocados and spices - and other Tanzanian agricultural products with high export potential.

To ensure visibility of findings, ITC's MARKUP Regional Office and local organisations will disseminate these market profiles online for the public.

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations.

It assists small and medium-sized enterprises in developing and transition economies to become more competitive in global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the Aid-for-Trade agenda and the UN's global goals for sustainable development.

One student held in custody allegedly for faking his kidnap

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

POLICE in Mwanza Region are holding a Form Two pupil for allegedly faking his kidnap and attempting to defraud his parents of ransom money for his release.

The pupil at school located in Sengerema District is now in the hands of law enforcers for allegedly pretending to be the kidnapper and telling his parents to cough up the cash or risk being taken to a foreign country.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Mwanza Regional Police Commander (RPC), Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Muliro Jumanne said that the student aged 17, on April 24 this year texted his parents with short message (SMS) by using Number 0689447247 that he had been held captive and if they did not send money he would have been taken to Zambia for forced labour.

On that material day, the student was escorted by his father from Mahaha in Magu to Buzuruga Bus Terminal in Mwanza to board a bus to Sengerema to continue with studies, he said.

He noted that the student thereafter did not go school, instead sent an SMS to his parents needing them to send him money a move that could save him from being taken to Zambia.

Following the situation, parents reported the matter to police who started to make follow up and succeeded to arrest him alive at Lamadi with the sim card he used to tell his parents that he had been kidnapped by unknown people.

According to the RPC, police are still interrogating the student and will be taken to court after investigations are complete so that law could take its course in a bid to ensure that people have to live in good morals.

Dormitory built by Tasaf relieves girl students in Njombe from needless walk

By Guardian Reporter

FEMALE students at Mlowa Secondary School in Makambako Township Council in Njombe Region have all reasons to smile as they are now not obliged to walk long distance to reach the school, thanks to Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) for constructing a dormitory to accommodate the group.

Various reports point out that favourable and supportive learning and teaching environment was vital in improving children's performance in schools.

According to the school's head teacher Raymond Kyando, the students had to walk 30-km everyday to and from the school, something which affected their studies and performances in class and in examinations.

Kyando told a team of journalists who are visiting TASAF implemented projects in the region that are being funded by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

According to him, lack of hostels in the school was also fueling absenteeism and dropouts among students.

He said that Mlowa Secondary School was established in 2014 and it accommodates 337 students (218 females and 156 males). The school has 20 teachers (11 females and nine males).

"The built hostel has a capacity to accommodate 72 female students, so we are appealing for others to extend their support to enable all girls stay in hostel," he said.

TASAF monitoring officer in

Makambako, Edwin Mlowe observed that the support is a continuation of the implementation of phase III of the OPEC funded project.

Mlowe disclosed under the programme, people are given a chance to select a project of their need and TASAF support them by funding it.

"As for this particular project, at least 75m/- has been spent in the construction of the hostel, teachers houses and offices," Mlowe said.

He pointed out that the construction encompasses water system and three water tanks for all the three buildings at the school.

Mlowa Ward Councilor, Paul Mwalongo extended appreciation to TASAF for availing the funds and ensuring timely completion of the project.

"I profoundly applaud the government for introducing this programme which has saved lives of many poor people especially who earlier couldn't sustain themselves, but through TASAF they are now running small businesses and living a better life," he said.



As for this particular project, at least 75m/- has been spent in the construction of the hostel, teachers houses and offices



Small traders display their goods near the Ilala Market section of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road yesterday, effectively blocking motorists and pedestrians from moving on. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretaries from Tanzania and Uganda on Tuesday met in the country's northwestern region of Kagera to discuss border-related challenges.

Faraji Mnyepe, Permanent Secretary in Tanzania's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, said among the key issues to be discussed include ways of reinforcing international borders between the two states as well as sustainable development of Kagera River Basin-a river that drains into Lake Victoria.

Mnyepe said that the two-day meeting is held in Bukoba town located on the western shores of Lake Victoria-Africa's largest lake, which is being shared by Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.

Tanzania, Uganda officials in Kagera to address border-related challenges

According to him, the meeting involves permanent secretaries in the ministries of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Livestock, and Fisheries, Water as well as Ministry of Energy.

"This meeting is part of the regular meetings organized to address challenges facing the two countries," Mnyepe said, adding that such meetings are also meant to improve trade relations, and smooth movement of goods and people between the two

countries.

Faustin Kamuzora, Kagera Regional Administrative Secretary, said that before the meeting, experts from the two countries met and their recommendations are to be presented to the permanent secretaries for endorsement.

He described the meeting as a key platform for the two countries to discuss developmental issues.

Tanzania is a strategic partner of Uganda in many areas, particularly trade, security, education, agriculture

and energy. Tanzania and Uganda are both founding members of the East African Community (EAC) and maintain well diplomatic relations.

Tanzania has an embassy in Kampala and Uganda also has an embassy in Dar es Salaam.

In 2013, Tanzania exports to Uganda reached USD62.2m worth of goods (mainly machinery, agriculture products and medicines), while imports reached USD62.6m worth of goods from Uganda (mainly corn and telecommunication equipment).



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (R) has a word yesterday with people affected by raging floods. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Singida

AUTHORITIES in Singida Region are determined to increase cotton production from the current 5,000 to 20,000 tonnes annually.

Singida Municipal Council Executive Director, Bravo Lyapembile revealed this here over the weekend when speaking during his official tour to cotton growers of Unyima, Mtipa, Mtama, Mwankoko and Uhamaka areas.

Lyapembile urged farmers in those areas to actively venture into

Cotton growers in Singida urged to use better farming practices to spur yields

cotton farming by deploying modern agronomic practices to increase production.

He said the current ginnery has a capacity of processing 20,000 tonnes annually, and currently production of the crop is at 5,000 tonnes.

"So, it is high time for farmers to seriously venture into growing cotton which has an assured markets," he said.

According Lyapembile, farmers should work closely with agricultural officers so that they know time to plant and agro-inputs to apply in their fields.

For instance, the official advised farmers to plant the crop in December.

"I am aware that there are farmers who ignore experts' advice, and they end up replanting in January when there are not enough rains. In turn they end up

getting little."

He said the market is there and if farmers in the region failed to meet the target, there is a possibility for buying the crop as far as Simiyu, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma and Coast regions.

For his part, municipal Agriculture Officer, Faustin Kiyui, advised farmers to use improved seeds for higher productivity.

Global firm makes appeal for production free from deforestation to clear the world of desertification

By Guardian Reporter

AS climate change and runaway deforestation become among top environmental challenges facing Tanzania and the rest of the developing world, a call has been made to manufacturers to opt for deforestation-free production.

International food and drinks processor Nestlé yesterday announced that 77 per cent of its agricultural commodities are verified as deforestation-free, terming the move a key milestone in the company's efforts to achieve its zero-deforestation commitment.

A statement released by Nestlé's regulatory and scientific affairs manager in Tanzania Marsha Macatta-Yambi called upon other processors and manufacturers to follow the zero-deforestation path to save Tanzania and the world from the wrath of desertification.

Environmentalists warn that more than 370,000 hectares (915,000 acres) of forests are being cut in Tanzania every year, mostly for fuel. This is the stark reality at a time when statistics show that 2.3 million tonnes of charcoal are consumed in the country each year with roughly half of it in Dar es Salaam alone and demand is expected to double by 2030.

Nestlé said in the statement that it made no deforestation commitment in 2010 to ensure that none of its products globally would be associated with deforestation by 2020.

Over the years, the company has worked with its partners and suppliers to identify areas at risk of deforestation by using a combination of tools, including certification, supply chain mapping, on-the-ground verification and satellite imagery from the Starling System to achieve this goal.

"Starling is the result of a fruitful

collaboration between Airbus, Earthworm Foundation and Nestlé. Nestlé is now using the system to monitor its entire palm oil supply chain. Pilots in pulp and paper are also now underway and the company plans to extend it to soya later in 2019. Starling's cutting-edge technology helps Nestlé understand better where deforestation occurs, what drives it and who is involved. The company uses this information to verify compliance, to challenge its suppliers and prioritize transformative actions," reads the statement.

Magdi Batato, Executive Vice President, Head of Operations, Nestlé S.A., said: "Innovation and technology like Starling is accelerating our journey towards zero deforestation. This is transforming the way we manage deforestation risks in our palm oil supply chain - we are using this tool to hold our suppliers and ourselves accountable. We are satisfied with our progress, but there is much more to do. The last miles to go are always the hardest."

"Starling turns terabytes of satellite images into actionable insight, enabling customers to understand where and why deforestation happens and make the best possible decisions," said Grazia Vittadini, Chief Technology Officer, Airbus.



Starling turns terabytes of satellite images into actionable insight, enabling customers to understand where and why deforestation happens and make the best possible decisions

EAC capital market regulators embark on a hunt for regional financial services commission

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE regional capital markets regulators, under the umbrella of East African Securities Regulatory Authorities (EASRA) have emphasized on the need for the EAC Policy and the Bill for establishment of the East African Financial Services Commission (EAFSC).

Speaking, the Chief Executive Officer of Capital Markets Securities Authority (CMSA), Nicodemus Mukama said it will be aligned with the EAC treaty and the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) protocol for better functioning of the EAFSC.

In this regard, EASRA noted the opportunities for the EAFSC to take on key roles in coordinating adoption of regional standards as well as stimulating coordinated market development initiatives towards the establishment of an "East African Asset Class."

He noted one of the critical tools that should be harnessed by the EAFSC is the use of existing Council of Ministers directives on securities markets standards that have served to already guide convergence in 14 critical areas from licensing, to investor compensation and market conduct.

It was therefore reiterated that the legal position of Council directives for these purposes should continue to be upheld to support the delivery of the treaty.

Mukama said the call was made during the 48th EASRA Consultative Committee meeting which was held in Arusha.

In recognising the value proposition from the integration of regional markets, he said the regulators agreed that structures would need to be put in place to improve linkage and coordination of priorities with industry. The Consultative Committee therefore strongly endorsed the convening of the East Africa Capital Markets Day to be held in Kigali, Rwanda from May 23 - 24th, 2019 which will provide an important platform for all stakeholders to agree on common priorities and implementation options.

Acknowledging the central role of

small and medium enterprises (SME) as prime drivers of regional economies, the consultative meeting noted the opportunities for accelerated growth that could be unlocked through providing an enabling environment to facilitate SMEs to raise capital through equity and debt crowd funding.

Member acknowledged these opportunities would have to be informed by clear policy guidance to ensure a proper balance between encouraging innovation and investor protection.

In this context members also deliberated on the emerging opportunities from fintech and the use of regulatory sandboxes to accelerate innovation and to broaden the reach of securities markets, he said.

The Consultative Committee benefited from a presentation from the EAC Secretariat on the progress to date of the East African Community Capital Markets Infrastructure Project.

In this regard, the Consultative Committee was pleased to hear that most milestones had been addressed to pave the way for synchronisation for all activities by end of August 2019 in the participating markets.

The Committee reinforced its support for sustainable mechanisms that can successfully link both exchanges and CSDs in the EAC Region.

For his part, the Chairman of EASRA, Paul Muthaura stated that "the ultimate benefits of this project will be realised when investors in the region have access to the full spectrum of listed securities across all regional markets more conveniently and which will undoubtedly increase liquidity at the respective exchanges".

Further, he reiterated the need to ramp up the oversight efforts by all the securities markets regulators in East African capital markets so as to cope up with increased exposure that may be associated with the expanded market.

In particular, he urged members to strengthen their risk based supervision tools as well as revamping crisis management frameworks at jurisdictional level to support the regional market soundness.



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro exchanges greetings with Njombe regional commissioner Christopher ole Sendeka in the latter's office yesterday. Photo: Police Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's petroleum watchdog-Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) has finally connected Dar es Salaam's Coca-Cola Kwanza industry to natural gas pipeline from Songo Songo.

Speaking during a function to connect natural gas to the industry, Energy Minister, Dr Medard Kalemami said that Coca-Cola Kwanza will now use natural gas for manufacturing, a move that conserves the environment and reduce operation cost.

The successfully connection of natural gas at industries and residential houses around the University of Dar es Salaam, Mlalakuwa and nearby streets are a result of TPDC's work in the 2018/2019 fiscal year which included construction of a natural gas pipeline from Songo Songo in Mtwara to Dar es Salaam.

Dr Kalemami asserted that the Songo

TPDC finally connects Coca-Cola Kwanza to natural gas pipeline from Songo Songo

Songo-Mtwara gas pipeline project included construction of extra four pipelines which will distribute natural gas to several other industries.

"Using natural gas for production reduces operation cost and enhances productivity. When we use natural gas for both domestic and industries, we conserve our environment", he noted.

He advised TPDC and its subsidiary company which operates the gas pipeline-Gas Supply Company Limited (GASCO) to consult local government leaders and citizens to allow laying of gas distribution pipes in their streets.

He said that consent from citizens and local leaders will facilitate natural gas connections to many city residents as well as 150 houses in Mtwara region.

"The plan is to distribute gas to

planned areas first while looking for the best ways to supply the product in unplanned areas," he said.

The minister directed TPDC to make sure that quarter of the country's commercial city residents are connected with natural gas before the services is expanded to cover motor vehicles.

Under the project, a total of 200 vehicles will be connected to natural gas, he said.

He urged TPDC to use locally manufactured equipment to fast-track connection of natural gas to the factories as well as to reduce project cost.

According to Dr Kalemami, the natural gas project is fully supported by the government whereby it has set

aside 50bn/- for the project.

Dr Kalemami was accompanied by Acting Commissioner for Petroleum and Gas, Mwanamani Kidaya, Acting Commissioner for Energy and Petroleum Affairs, Eng Innocent Luoga and TPDC Acting Managing Director, Eng Kapuulya Musomba.

In February this year, the government has released a total of 20bn/- for the gas distribution network to homes in Mikocheni as well as 150 houses in Mtwara region.

According to TPDC acting managing director, Kapuulya Musomba, the company first launched the distribution pipeline that connected 57 initial homes in Mikocheni in 2014. The system supplies gas from Ubungu main station to Mikocheni homes.



Ulanga district commissioner Ngollo Malenya views an assortment of items including stationery, soap, mosquito repellents and sanitary towels worth over 3m/- distributed to Form Six students in the district on Friday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ulanga motivates Form Six students ahead of final exams

By Guardian Reporter

LEADERS in Ulanga district, Morogoro region, have devised a motivation plan for Form Six students by providing them with basic necessities as a way of encouraging them to study harder and perform better in the national examinations.

To that end, Ulanga District Commissioner Ngollo Malenya last Friday handed over stationeries, soaps, mosquito repellents and sanitary towels worth 3,765,000/- to Form Six students from various secondary schools in the district who will be

sitting their exams shortly.

The DC said the items will ensure the students endure minimum stress during the lead up to their final examinations, which she hoped will reflect positively in their final results.

DC Malenya thanked President John Magufuli for giving education top priority whereby primary education is now free in Tanzanian and Ulanga district has been allocated 702,000,000/- for dormitory and classroom infrastructures.

"We all know that education is the key of life and we in Ulanga value education greatly," said the DC.

She thanked Tanzgraphite Company which donated the items and added that the firm was among major stakeholders in her district since 2012, terming valued development partner in the district.

Students who received the items expressed their gratitude and promised to work hard and post good grades in the coming national exams.

Malenya called upon other stakeholders and the community at large to assist in the development drive of the district.

Tanzgraphite is a graphite company preparing to develop the Epanko

graphite mine in Ulanga.

The firm has previously supported the district in the supply of school furniture for Epanko Primary and Nawenge secondary schools. It has provided sanitary towels for both Nawenge and Celina Kombani secondary schools in recent years and sponsored students to attend vocational education courses. In addition it is supporting the construction of a classroom at Nawenge Secondary school and committed to building 16 pit latrines for Epanko primary school and a dispensary at Epanko Village.

Cassava production advisory services available in Nigeria via mobile phones

By Special Correspondent

NIGERIAN farmers can now access extension and advisory services related to weed control, best planting practices and other aspects of cassava production on their cell phones free of charge, thanks to the African Cassava Agronomy Initiative (ACAI).

The mobile telephony service is powered by Airtel using the 3-2-1 Service of Viamo. Farmers with Airtel sim cards who want to access the service and get good advice on cassava production can simply dial 3-2-1 and listen to all the information they need to make the most out of cassava production.

According to Dr Alfred Dixon, IITA Director for Development & Delivery, the use of mobile phones would give farmers - especially women - access to the knowledge they need to improve their livelihoods.

"The mobile approach will also enable the recommendations contained on the "Six Steps to Cassava Weed Management and Best Planting Practices to reach the hard-to-reach terrains in Nigeria," he said.

The cassava information on weed control and best planting practices on the 3-2-1 service are the combined recommendations from the now-merged IITA Cassava Weed Management Project (CWMP) and the IITA African Cassava Agronomy Initiative.

The recommendations from these projects were validated during a stakeholders' meeting involving the National Root Crops Research Institute (Umudike) and the two premier universities of agriculture in Abeokuta

and Makurdi. State extension agencies from Abia, Benue, Ogun and Oyo were also part of the initial message development.

Development partners such as Germany's GIZ, Catholic Relief Services and the Market Development in the Niger Delta project (MADE) also gave useful insights into the message development process.

ACAI Coordinator Dr Pieter Pypers said the release of evidence-based messages on the 3-2-1 service provides farmers the tools they need to improve cassava yield and make more profits.

Harriet Blest, Country Manager of Viamo, meanwhile said they were excited to work with IITA in the framework of ACAI to transform cassava in Nigeria using the 3-2-1 service of Airtel.

With a subscriber base of 43.1 million, Airtel is one of the top three telecommunication companies in Nigeria. This is according to data reported by Nigeria's leading newspaper, the Punch.

IITA Digital Extension & Advisory Services Specialist Godwin Atser, who coordinated the messages with Viamo, said the development was a new dawn for cassava farmers.

"This move will complement the extension work we are doing in Nigeria by offering farmers the information they need in real time. All that farmers need to do is to dial 3-2-1 and listen to how to grow cassava", he noted.

In the days ahead, IITA-ACAI and Viamo plan to embark on a massive awareness campaign so that farmers can take advantage of the information on the 3-2-1 space to improve their livelihoods.

Chinese private enterprise setting up eight industrial parks across Africa

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S Kiluwa Group has signed business contract with the China-Africa Economic and Trade Commission to supervise construction of modern industrial parks in eight African countries.

Construction of the industrial parks is meant to create conducive investment environment and facilitate establishment of businesses by putting in place required infrastructures.

Speaking during the signing ceremony held in Beijing, President of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Commission Huan Zhaojin said the Tanzanian company will be facilitating the commission's investment activities and manages construction of industrial parks in the respective African countries.

Zhaojin named the African countries as Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Msumbiji, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Zimbabwe. "We aim at creating business friendly environment and facilitate investments within the continent. We will put in place necessary infrastructures for establishment of industries", said Zhaojin adding the demand for industrial parks in African countries is high.

Managing Director, Kiluwa Group, Mohamed Kiluwa said the company is determined to manage construction of the industrial parks due to its long time experience in investment issues across Africa.

"We will make sure the industrial parks are constructed in the respective countries. We have been working with investors as well as facilitating investments in several

African countries", he said insisting to immediately start implementing the job.

Kiluwa noted that since the fifth phase government gears at making Tanzania an industrialized nation, the company will continue to support the government towards achieving its industrialization strategy.

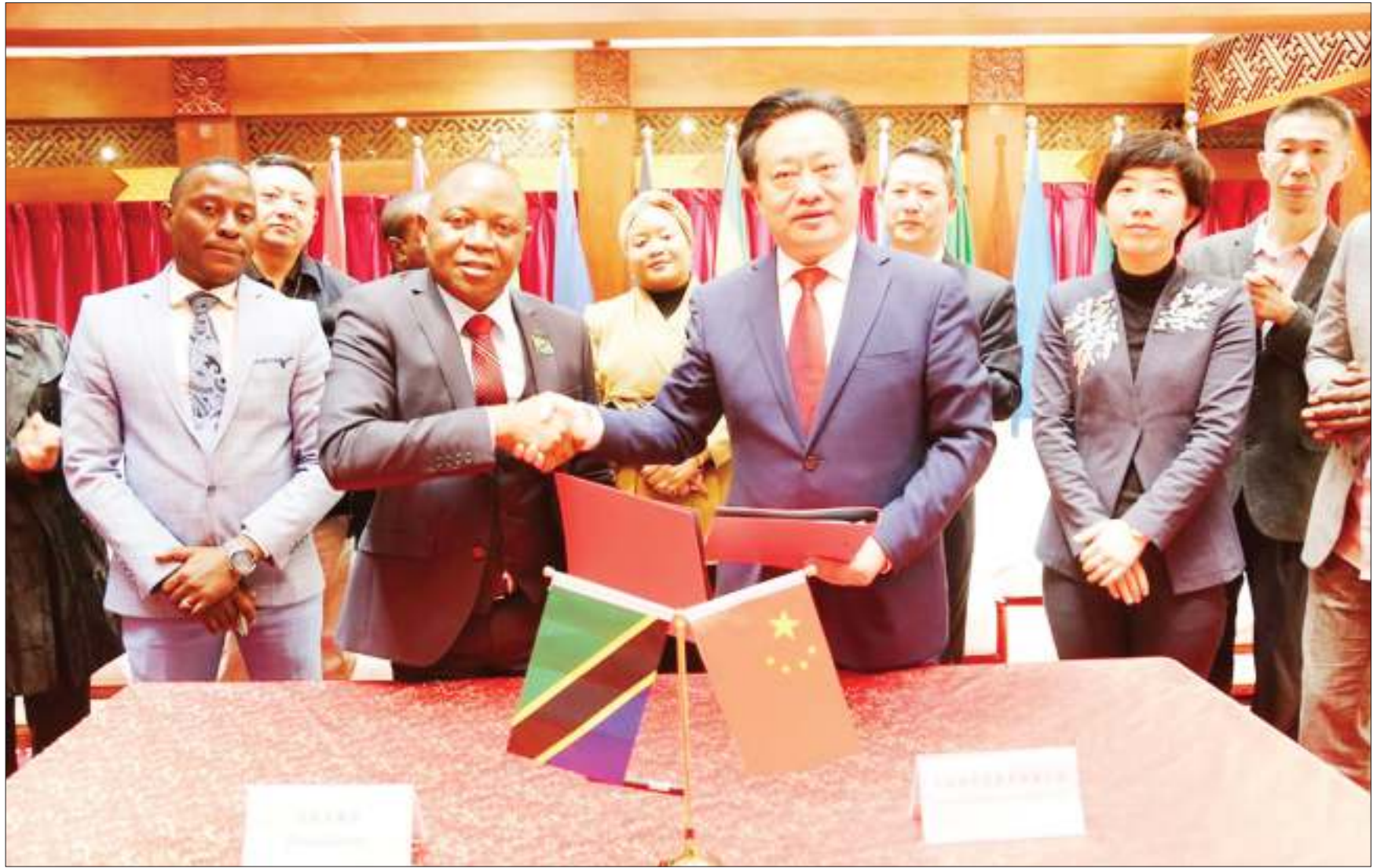
"We have constructed one of the mega industrial parks in Coast region, and successfully facilitated a number of foreign investments in Tanzania", Kiluwa said noting several Chinese investors have shown interest to establish businesses at the Kiluwa industrial park in Coast region.

He added that increased investments in Tanzania will open-up employment opportunities for Tanzanians and improve skills of the many youth working in the industries.

Kiluwa commended the government as well as several institutions and agencies for facilitating investments. He said the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has been supportive to investors and ensuring they go through proper channels and respect country laws.

"We also appreciate the support we have been getting from authorities in Coast region. They have been collaborating with us to ensure that interested investors establish their businesses within a short period", he noted.

The China-Africa Economic and Trade Commission with its headquarters in Beijing, China was established in 1991 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main objective of the commission is to look for investment opportunities and facilitate establishment of businesses outside China.



Kiluwa Group managing director Mohamed Kiluwa (2nd-L) and China-Africa Economic and Trade Commission president Huan Zhaojin exchange an MoU in Beijing at the weekend under which the former firm will oversee the construction of industrial parks in eight African countries. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NIC in new push meant to streamline service provision

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Insurance Corporation (NIC) is on Friday this week, set to commence a two-month exercise to improve information and database of its life insurance customers in a new push aimed to streamline service provision.

NIC managing director, Sam Kamanga said that in the exercise which is set to be completed on July 1, will require customers to visit the corporation's offices available across the country to verify their information.

According to him, the customers should carry with them necessary documents such as membership form, two passport size pictures, national/voter's ID card and a photocopy of a bank card.

Kamanga called upon customers to make well use of the time given and make sure that they visit the offices to verify their information.

He said that NIC provides high quality customer focused insurance services to organisational, commercial and personal line client through innovative marketing, efficient and

effective management of resources thus maximising stakeholders' returns and remain market leaders.

He further said that as it gears to commemorate 55 years since its inception in October 16, 1963, NIC will continue scaling up its services to reach all Tanzanians with quality services.

"We are also proud seeing NIC being among the corporation that expands vastly in various parts of the country providing exceptional services to customers," he said.

NIC is state owned entity working to oversee all insurance operations in the

country. On its inception in 1963, the Corporation was owned in partnership between the government and the private sector.

After nationalization in 1967 NIC became a full government controlled insurance entity and became the sole insurance operator in Tanzania mainland.

The situation continued up to 1990 when the government embarked on an economic structural programme in which it witnessed private insurance companies enter into the market and started operations.



Small traders conduct business under a high-voltage transformer along Uhuru Road in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo Market area, clearly courting danger. Photo: John Badi

Precision Air capitalises on connectivity via its northern hub

By Guardian Reporter

PRECISION Air yesterday announced to have strengthened its operations in Kilimanjaro following the establishment of the mini-hub in the region.

The initiative is part of a move to enhance connectivity in the northern region through its latest addition of passenger flight 421 departing from Kilimanjaro at 6:00 am to Dar es Salaam and flight 420 departing from Dar es Salaam at 21:10 to Kilimanjaro. These new flights make Precision Air the biggest operator into and from Kilimanjaro with 6 frequencies a day. Speaking on the new establishment,

Hillary Mremi, the Marketing Manager at Precision Air said that passengers can now catch several connecting flights from Kilimanjaro to Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Mwanza, Dodoma, Entebbe, Nairobi and beyond.

Mremi further noted: "Precision Air patrons and prospective customers may now afford the luxury of time and time management at their disposal, whether they are heading to a business meeting or just in time to catch a family event."

"Precision Air always strives to make sure that our country is well connected so as to facilitate peoples' movements and hence boost economic activities in the country. We appreciate the efforts

by our President John Magufuli to fast track economic growth in our country and as development partners, we are committed to support his Government efforts by providing reliable transport services," he added.

The new flights come at a vantage time when Tanzania tourism is at its peak following the Tanzanian government's initiatives to boost the sector. The new flights which are already in operation since the beginning of April will save as a fast and efficient gateway to various tourist destinations and attractions found in northern regions of Tanzania.

Established in 1993, Precision Air is a public listed airline that

provides scheduled flights to over 10 destinations within and outside Tanzania from its main hub in Dar es Salaam including Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, Mtwara, Kahama, Bukoba, Mwanza, Zanzibar, Tabora, Serengeti, Nairobi, Entebbe and most recently a route Tanzania's capital of Dodoma. Other service provided by the charter include chartered and cargo air services.

The conglomerate is also a recipient of multiple awards from Tanzania Society of Travel Agents, Africa Aviation News Port, Tanzania Leadership Awards, TASOTA, among others and a listed company at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange.

Giraffes may soon join endangered species list after 40 per cent slump in population

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

YEARS after international watchdogs began warning that giraffes are sliding toward a silent extinction, the Trump administration is taking the first tentative steps toward protecting the world's tallest land animal under the Endangered Species Act.

The move, which advocates say is long overdue, came after legal pressure from environmental groups.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week that its initial review has determined there is "substantial information that listing may be warranted" for giraffes.

The finding, to be published in the Federal Register, will begin a more in-depth review and public comment process that could lead to import restrictions on hunting trophies and body parts from giraffes, including hides and bones.

The giraffe population in Africa has declined by about 40 per cent in the past three decades, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The group, which designates endangered species, added giraffes to its "Red List" in 2016. It determined that the species as a whole is "vulnerable" to extinction and classified two subspecies as "critically endangered".

There are now only about 68,000 mature giraffes left in the wild, a number falling each year. That's less than a quarter of the estimated number of remaining African elephants, which have been protected under US law as a threatened species since 1978.

Biologists cite habitat loss, civil unrest and poaching among the threats driving the decline.

A coalition of environmental and conservation groups petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Service in early 2017 to

protect giraffes under the Endangered Species Act. After the administration took no action for nearly two years, the groups sued in December.

"The United States cannot stand idly by and allow thousands of US imports of giraffe parts every year without any regulation while these animals are on a path to extinction," said Anna Frostic, managing wildlife lawyer for the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International.

"It is time that the United States stands tall for giraffes and gives this at-risk species the protection that it urgently needs."

A spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service declined to comment.

Giraffes are often hunted for meat in the 21 African countries where they are still found.

They are also increasingly targeted by wealthy trophy hunters as their big-game animals have become scarcer.

More than 21,400 bone carvings, 3,000 skin pieces and 3,700 hunting trophies were imported into the United States over the past decade.

President Donald Trump has decried big-game hunting as a "horror show" but his administration reversed Obama-era restrictions on the importation of the hides, teeth and bones of elephants and lions.

The United States cannot stand idly by and allow thousands of US imports of giraffe parts every year without any regulation while these animals are on a path to extinction

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Equal opportunities for women mean a whole range of benefits

ONE big cost of inequality is that African economies do not reach their full potential. In many countries, for example, women account for most unpaid work, and are overrepresented in the low productivity informal sector and among the poor. Raising the female employment rate could contribute significantly to Africa achieving its goal in SDGs of becoming a middle-income countries.

Economic opportunities for women matter not just because they can bring money home. They also matter because opportunities empower women more broadly in society and this can have a positive impact on others. If women have a bigger say in how household money is spent this can ensure more of it is spent on children.

Improvements in the education and health of women have been linked to better outcomes for their children in many countries. In giving power to women at the local government level led to increases in public services, such as water and sanitation.

Just as the costs of inequality are huge, so is the challenge in overcoming it. The gaps in opportunity between men and women are the product of pervasive and stubborn social norms that privilege men's and boys' access to opportunities and resources over women's and girls'.

What is therefore required is a sustained, comprehensive drive to end inequality. This will require addressing multiple and reinforcing barriers to equality among families, job and product markets, as well as among formal and informal institutions.

A first step would be to improve the access for girls to education to reduce the in-built disadvantages that they have from birth onwards. This is recognized by many across sub-Saharan countries and there has been a lot of progress, with initiatives such as Educate Girls in many countries tackling the root causes of gender inequality in education. Many countries have achieved gender parity in primary education and more must be done to narrow the gaps in secondary education.

A second step would be to address market and institutional failures that lock women into low return, highly vulnerable forms of employment and of self-employment.

Much can be achieved by encouraging the creation of a large number of jobs that are seen as suitable and safe for women.

No country can reach its full economic potential and achieve widespread prosperity if half its population cannot participate fully in the economy. As we marked Women's Day, it is important to remember that equality for women is to the benefit of all.

World should ensure sustainable management of marine creatures

TUNA and tuna-like species are very important economically, to both developed and developing countries and a significant source of food. They include approximately 40 species occurring in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea. They are remarkable fish. Tuna can jump high out of the water; they travel in huge schools; they are warm-blooded. They have been known to team up with dolphins for protection from sharks.

As a result of the amazing qualities of tuna, the fish are threatened by an overwhelming demand. Two main products drive tuna production; traditional canned tuna and sashimi/sushi.

These products demonstrate relevant differences in terms of the species utilized, quality requirements and production systems. In the canned market, light meat species - namely skipjack and yellowfin - are dominant, whereas in the sushi and sashimi market, the fatty tuna of bluefin and other red meat species like bigeye are preferred. Bluefin tuna is the top preference for the sushi and sashimi market with most of it going to Japan.

Approximately 7 million tonnes of tuna and tuna-like species are landed yearly. As migratory tuna species account for 20 per cent of the value of all marine capture fisheries and over eight per cent of all globally traded seafood, the celebration by the United Nations of World Tuna Day is an important step in recognizing the critical role of tuna to sustainable development, food security, economic opportunity, and livelihoods of people around the world.

The Ocean Conference, held on June 2017 at UN headquarters, was a good opportunity to highlight the importance of reversing the decline in the health of the Ocean to ensure sustainable management of marine life, such as tuna, which we are so dependent on.

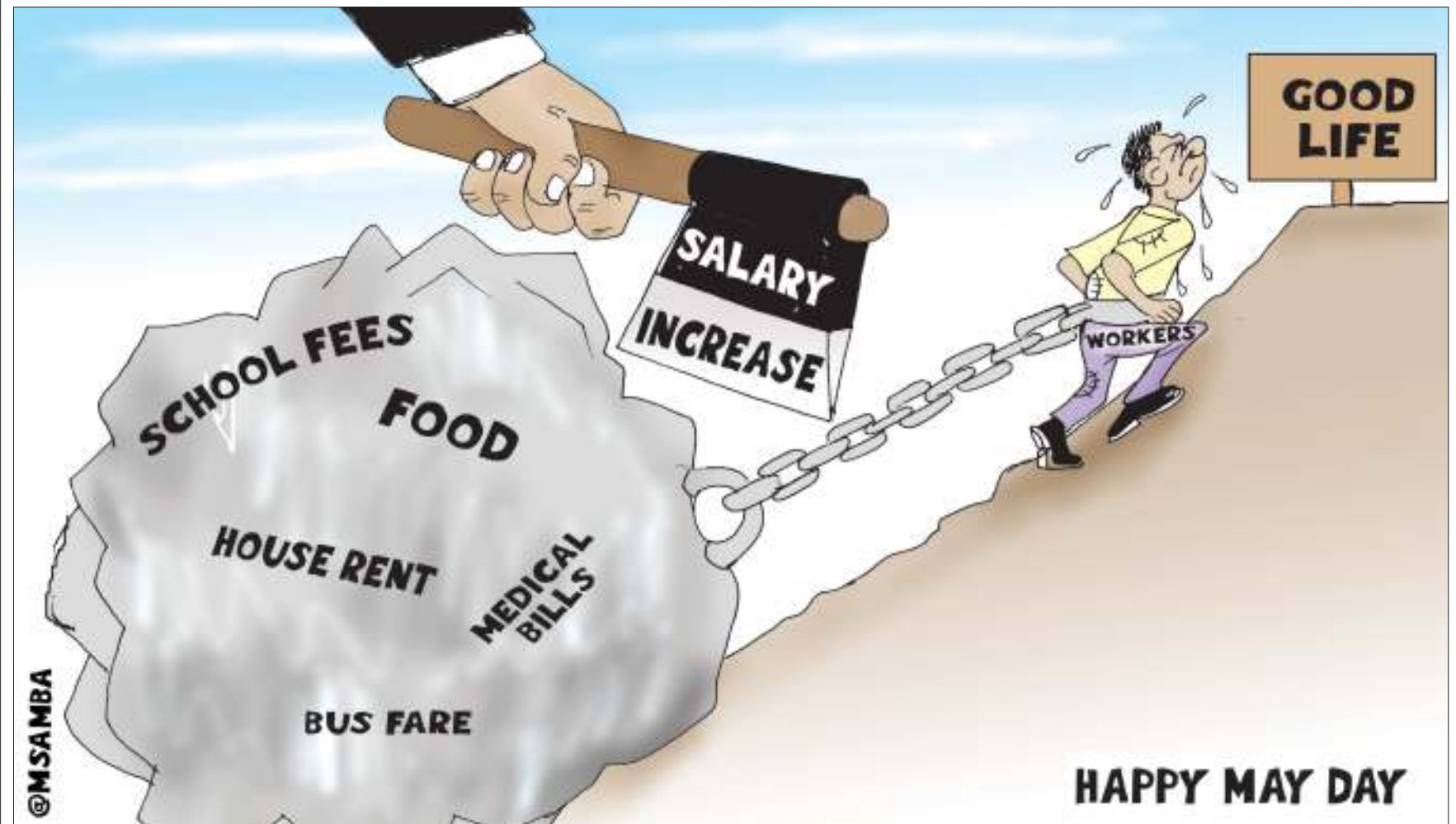
In the 2016 edition of The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) noted the need for effective

management to restore the overfished stocks including tuna. In the 2016 report, FAO registered new record catches for tuna. Total catches of tuna and tuna-like species were almost 7.7 million metric tonnes. FAO notes that market demand for tuna is still high, and that the significant overcapacity of tuna fishing fleets remains. Addressing the decline in tuna stocks resulting from overfishing in the world's oceans, the UN Legal Counsel emphasizes the critical importance of effectively implementing the international legal framework, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, widely known as UNCLOS, which has been strengthened by the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, recommendations of its Review Conference, annual General Assembly resolutions on sustainable fisheries, as well as other efforts by the international community at the global, regional and national levels.

In the latest report, "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture: Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals" (2018), FAO emphasized the sector's role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and its role in the measurement of progress towards these goals. It noted the particular contributions of inland and small-scale fisheries and highlighted the importance of rights-based governance for equitable and inclusive development.

Food and agriculture are key to achieving the entire set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and many are directly relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, in particular SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). The report highlights the critical importance of fisheries and aquaculture for the food, nutrition and employment of millions of people, many of whom struggle to maintain reasonable livelihoods.

We observe World Tuna Day to highlight the importance of sustainably managed fish stocks in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Has the World Bank really dispossessed the rural poor?

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram and Anis

Chowdhury

THE global financial institution has advocated for reforms that favour agribusiness and ignore peasants and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods depend on traditional land use.

The World Bank's Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) project, launched in 2013, has sought agricultural reforms favouring the corporate sector. EBA was initially established to support the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, initiated by the G8 to promote private agricultural development in Africa.

The New Alliance has been touted as "a new model of partnership" for agricultural transformation in Africa. The Bank has used the EBA to address the land issue in developing countries, particularly in Africa. The US and UK governments as well as the Gates Foundation are among its strong supporters in line with their broader support for corporate agriculture.

Emulating the influential annual World Bank Doing Business report, the EBA scores countries on the ease of doing business in agriculture. It purports to measure 'legal barriers' to agribusiness and to prescribe reforms in twelve areas, including seeds, fertilizer, trade and machinery.

It advocates reforms in favour of agribusiness by weakening regulations over seeds, fertilizer and pesticides and strengthening foreign agribusiness power and influence. Missing from the partnership are peasants and indigenous peoples whose livelihoods depend on traditional land uses.

Dangerous new indicator

The 2017 EBA report proposed a new indicator on land, initially piloted in 38 countries, to be extended to more in the 2019 report. The Bank claims to be seeking to better protect land rights and to ensure more equity in land access. It is biased towards industrial agriculture and agribusiness, and the intent of the new indicator makes it even more urgent to challenge the EBA initiative.

As Frédéric Mousseau of the Oakland Institute emphasised, EBA best practices seek to promote large-scale 'industrial' or plantation agriculture, at the expense of family farmers and communities using the land in other ways, including pastoralists and those currently categorized as indigenous peoples including swidden cultivators,



Villagers from Papua, Indonesia. Since November 2016, complaints against PT Nabire Baru – a subsidiary of Goodhope Asia – for landgrabbing and unsustainable practices like converting virgin rainforests have been allegedly not responded to by the RSPO

hunters and gatherers.

The EBA advocates certain reforms and policy measures, raising concerns about its likely impact, if implemented by governments. The Bank advocates formalizing (private) property rights, enabling greater commercial sale and lease of land, claiming that productivity will thus be enhanced.

UNCTAD's 2009 World Investment Report cautioned that "Greater involvement by TNCs will not automatically lead to greater productivity in agriculture, rural development or the alleviation of poverty and hunger".

Even joint research by World Bank and IFPRI staff is circumspect about the claimed benefits of large scale commercial farming in light of likely environmental, social and productivity impacts. Large scale commercial farming has often involved environmental degradation, forced evictions and human rights violations, worsening food insecurity and livelihood destruction.

Legal land grabbing

Since the turn of the century, large-scale land acquisitions by transnational corporations in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have accelerated. Such land targeted by 'investors' has often long been used by local people who may not have property titles, often deemed unnecessary.

Land use practices have often evolved with changing demography, ecology, knowledge, technology, political systems, commercial considerations and legal traditions. Such land may be legally deemed either public or

state land, and/or land to which local communities claim customary rights, but many other hybrid permutations have also evolved.

Unsurprisingly, 'land grabs' by new elites have encountered resistance from many of those opposing expropriation of what they see as their land. Success in delaying, disrupting or blocking new plantations, large farms and ranches has been varied and contingent on a variety of factors.

Enabling land privatization

Much public or state land in developing countries allows usufructuary rights in line with contemporary interpretations of customary practices. Natural resources, including land used in varied ways, are generally recognized as essential for sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions, and subject to either state or community management.

In many societies, land is still valued as a communal resource, often with deep social and cultural significance. Ignoring customary practices, the Bank is urging governments to privatize public land with 'potential economic value', to be put to its 'best commercial use'.

The Bank has been promoting the formalization of private land ownership to encourage agribusiness investments in capital-intensive agriculture, to increase productivity. Commodifying land will enable more capital-intensive agricultural production as the Bank believes that "undocumented [land] rights pose challenges and risks to investors".

By scoring countries in terms of ease of accessing land for agribusiness,

the new EBA land indicator seeks to accelerate land privatization and to facilitate corporate access to land in developing countries. By enhancing property rights and making land a 'transferable asset', its use as collateral for credit is also enhanced.

Marginalizing rural poor

The Bank strategy either ignores or seeks to take advantage of the considerable vulnerability of many family farmers, worsened as the land they depend on for their livelihoods becomes a tradable asset.

The development of land markets increases commercial pressure on land, destroying the livelihoods of many depending on land and the commons – grazing and fishing grounds, and forests.

By promoting land as a marketable commodity, the land indicator inevitably enables greater concentration of land ownership. In economies with 'formal' land tenure systems, farmers often lose their land to creditors.

Extending such proprietary rights legally enables and thus accelerates land dispossession, concentration and grabbing. While jobs may be created for some locals, many more may be marginalized without much hope for alternative livelihoods elsewhere.

Thus, facilitating corporate agriculture by concentrating control over land use is likely to exacerbate rural poverty and overall inequality. Land titling, purportedly to protect land users from eviction, thus accelerates dispossession of current land users. Hence, the EBA should be ditched.

Instead, governments should be helped to design food and agriculture policies that empower family farmers, pastoralists and indigenous peoples to address the major challenges of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, environmental degradation, resource depletion and climate change.

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor who was Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development at the Food and Agriculture Organization, received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought in 2007. Anis Chowdhury, Adjunct Professor at Western Sydney University & University of New South Wales (Australia), held senior United Nations positions in New York and Bangkok.

Feasibility Study: A DIY Guide for SME Projects

BOOK REVIEW

Title: Feasibility Study: A DIY Guide for SME Projects
Author: Jackson G Majura
Publisher: Xlibris, UK (April 2019)
Date/Size: Pages: 386 (Paperback)

AS the author affirms in the preface, the book will find comfortable refuge on the bookshelves of entrepreneurs and students in higher institutions of learning pursuing entrepreneurial studies or intending to start their own projects after graduation.

The tutorial-like approach the author has used in writing the book makes it very easy to follow even to readers without most of the tools required for putting together a feasibility study for a project. Most concepts are explained in very simple language for ease of understanding by the average reader.

The book starts with an overview on what a worthy feasibility study is or ought to be. It then goes on to explain the stages the writing a typical feasibility study goes through, starting with the conception of a business idea and right up to commissioning of the project commissioning and its presentation to the client.

Although most of the ex-

amples used in the rest of the book are production-oriented, the author assures that reader that the same principles explained in the book can be used, mutatis mutandis, for other services-oriented projects as well.

The author then devotes a good chunk of the book to how to conduct a simple market research on a DIY basis, and starts by emphasizing the importance of understanding the market and ensuring that buyers of the product or service one intends to offer actually exist, taking into account the competitive environment.

The market research steps are amply explained. At the end, the author explains how to use the information to design a marketing strategy for the project by tailoring the marketing tools (product, price, promotion and place) to the targeted market segments.

The author insists that if the market feasibility proves that the market for the project's products or services does not actually exist, then there will be no need to continue any further studies on

the project. But, otherwise, one can now embark on the next step - which is to find out whether the project is technically feasible.

Under Feasibility Analysis, which is the next chapter, the book delineates the important tasks of selecting plant capacity, site and location for the project. It goes on to analyze the main consideration for the choice of technology, depending on the type of project.

Considering that the wrong choice of technology has led to the early demise of many ventures, this is one of the most useful sections in the book. Ways to layout a particular project for an example are discussed with an example related to a fruit processing project.

Organisation and staffing. Human resources are emphasized as the most important asset of the business, although this does not normally appear on the balance sheet. Designing the structure of the organization, selecting the right personnel for the project and future business, and determining their compensation are gen-

erously discussed.

At the very outset of the Project Costing chapter, the author cautions that this should be carried out with diligence and meticulously because any significant error can affect the final project evaluation very adversely.

Following completion of the project costing, in a step-by-step fashion, the book goes on to demystify the preparation of financial statements, starting with clarification of most of the building blocks involved.

Then the all-important part of the feasibility study, that is, the project appraisal is explained to the reader with numerous pertinent examples. The final chapter is on how to plan the project implementation, once the appraisal has conclusively shown that it is feasible and there are no insurmountable risks.

A bonus from the book is a detailed case study on a tilapia farming project, which shows the reader how the various concepts in the book can be put to practical use.

Overall, the book is well-written, and the author clearly appears to have taken every precaution to ascertain that the average reader can understand it. It will immensely assist both seasoned and start-up en-



trepreneurs in putting up workable feasibility studies for their projects.

The book will soon be available in most bookshops in Tanzania. It will also be

available from online from sellers such as Amazon and eBay. For any queries, please

contact the author: jacksonmajura@hotmail.com (cell: +255 719 307 510)

Stemming the tide of illegal trawling in Sierra Leone

BY SIMON ALLISON

IN August last year, a group of frustrated fishermen from Sierra Leone took the law into their own hands when they tangled with a Chinese trawler off the West African coast.

'Local fishermen chased and boarded the Chinese vessel having repeatedly come under attack by illegal fishing trawlers which destroyed their nets,' Sierra Leone's navy chief Commodore Sallieu Kanu told Radio Democracy in Freetown. 'Once they boarded, they were allegedly offered a bribe by the Chinese crew, which they refused. They called on the navy and our boats sprang into action and brought the vessel and the crew ashore.'

As extraordinary as it sounds at first, this was not an isolated incident, nor is it unique to Sierra Leone. Humans consume 50% more fish today than we did 50 years ago, according to the World Wildlife Fund. As global demand for fish rises, more and more foreign fishing vessels are descending on the waters of West Africa, which are relatively abundant in marine life.

This is causing tensions with local fishermen and governments who worry that this abundance is under threat. And as fish stocks decrease, so populations that rely on fish for food and livelihoods come under threat.

Off the coast of Sierra Leone, trawlers from China are the main problem. In January this year Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone Wu Peng said the legal Chinese fleet in the region consisted of 68 vessels, amounting to around 75% of the country's industrial fishing capacity.

Peng argues that there is a clear economic benefit to this major Chinese presence: not only does it contribute around \$10 million annually in licensing and export fees, but it also helps to stabilise the price of fish in Sierra Leonean markets by ensuring a steady supply.

The Chinese government has also taken some steps to address the problem of overfishing. 'Since 2016, the country has cancelled subsidies worth €90 million (\$111.6 million) for 264 vessels caught undertaking illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, according to non-profit Greenpeace. Three of the 78 companies that owned these vessels had their distant water fishing licenses revoked, while 15 company owners and captains were blacklisted,' Quartz Africa reports.

Local fishermen have a very different perspective. They complain that Chinese trawlers use illegal and destructive fishing methods that have decimated fish stocks, making it difficult for artisanal fishers to make a living.

One such method is 'pair trawling', where a giant net is strung between two trawlers, indiscriminately hauling in everything in between. 'Industrial fishing boats from China and Korea are destroying our nets and also depleting the fish stock,' says Alpha Sheku Kamara, chairman of the Sierra Leone National Fishermen Consortium.

Douglas Berger, a researcher from Tufts University, explains why pair trawling is such a damaging practice. 'Pair trawling is incredibly damaging to marine ecosystems. It is associated with fish stock depletion and high levels of bycatch, i.e. when vast numbers of non-target fish and other species become accidentally caught in nets.'

'The Sierra Leonean authorities, with only a single patrol vessel, are ill-equipped to enforce the law against pair trawling. The country desperately needs the revenue legal trawl fishing could bring but lacks the capacity to enforce the regulations needed to keep it sustainable.'

In response to these concerns, the government took the unprecedented step of banning all industrial fishing in the month of April to give fish stocks a chance to recover. During this time, only artisanal fishers were allowed to work in Sierra Leonean waters.



'It was a very positive move as it shone a light on Sierra Leone's maritime law enforcement capabilities and what assistance they would require, and how it should partner with neighbours to ensure no such fishing occurs,' says Timothy Walker, a senior researcher at the Institute for Security Studies.

Enforcement of the ban was complicated by the fact that Sierra Leone has only one operational patrol vessel, although the government had said it would devote more resources to monitoring its

waters during April.

Most interesting to watch was the reaction of the industrial fishing fleets during the ban, who were all 'out of operation' a government representative told Deutsche Welle. 'The primary value of the ban was that it allowed us to observe whether fleets would attempt to circumvent the ban and the tactics they might use to do so. These would be replicated elsewhere and so this provides

a good opportunity to learn lessons for more effective maritime security,' says Walker.

The ban was welcomed by environmental groups. 'We applaud the ban but the long answer is for legal, equitable and sustainable fishing industry management to be introduced. We are working towards helping Sierra Leone with surveillance boats and a regulatory framework for sustainable fishing methods,' says Steve Trent,

executive director of the Environmental Justice Foundation.

But Sierra Leone cannot address this issue single-handedly, stresses Walker. This is a regional issue - and requires a regional solution. 'Industrial fishing fleets can roam the world's oceans and have the ability to loot and pillage vulnerable areas if acting illegally. It's a big cause for concern that African waters are so vulnerable to dangerous fishing

practices many use, because policing and deterring are capabilities that few possess.'

Thinking in the long term, he says, a 'concerted set of actions, anchored by multilateral and regional interests and principles, is likely to prove most effective in combating illegal and harmful fishing. Common vulnerabilities and risks require common solutions and agreements.'

FEATURES

CSR initiative distributes over 350,000 meals a year to Soweto's needy people

JOHANNESBURG

INDEPENDENTLY funded for the last five years, Kotula is now taking a new step in its development and is looking for investors to support the expansion of all its charitable projects.

Kotula is a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative launched in 2014 by Adam Ginster, founder and CEO of Johannesburg-based executive search firm Evolve South Africa.

This is a community development programme operating in partnership with Diakonia Aids Ministry, a registered NGO based in Soweto, as well as other institutions in Johannesburg.

Kotula's main ambition is empowering orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCS) as well as women and elderly residents in the community of Soweto's Central Western Jabavu community, which is affected by HIV, domestic violence and poverty.

Responding to this community's direct and specific needs, Kotula's services include food security, a children's dance academy and outreach programmes.

Ginster's ingenious idea was to develop abandoned land in Soweto to produce organic vegetables that will contribute to providing balanced nutritional meals to the most needy in the communities.

Having initially identified available land, where the soil was then tested for farming at the South African Department of Agriculture, Ginster then borrowed a tractor from Mavuso Msimang, a director of one of Evolve's major clients, to begin farming.

From here, volunteers in the community were identified and employed by Evolve, trained as farmers by the Department of Agriculture, and then paid monthly salaries to take full responsibility for the management of the farms.



Since its inception, Kotula has launched a total of 14 farms.

Kotula's Dance Academy supports 50 children with bursaries provided through Katz School of Dance, based in Bryanston, Johannesburg, every weekend.

The children performed their first play, *The Mini Lion King*, at the University of Wits Theatre in Johannesburg, which was an incredible achievement and received standing ovations. Kotula and Katz are currently designing the next theatrical production, which has just been decided upon as *'Black Panther'*.

"Theatre is a great way for children to express themselves and to gain self-confidence and discipline, and above all else hope and wellbeing. We have an

exciting new show in *Black Panther* that we are busy designing with plans to take it overseas on an international tour to the UK in December 2019," says founder Ginster.

All the programmes provided by Kotula are exclusively funded by Evolve, who get great support from Diakonia AIDS Ministry.

In order to carry out its projects, the initiative employs 15 full-time staff in its food security programme, including 13 farmers and two general managers, while also recruiting volunteers from neighbouring communities and various schools in Johannesburg - among them St Sthians and Redhill.

All these assist with the preparation of land for farming and have all been a tremendous help. In addition, they receive farming training through the Department of Agriculture, which has been as supportive as the local councillors in the Jabavu/Soweto region.

"The first response to human suffering must be solidarity, which we can all do, which applies even in Kotula's case as we only have limited financial and human resources. It all goes to show that where there is belief and total commitment, a little can go a long way in supporting those less fortunate than ourselves," notes Ginster.

He elaborates: "We have been

operating for almost five years and have demonstrated a track record of sustained success and growth. In order to continue our development and momentum, we are now seeking funding that will allow us to invest in developing and managing more farms and developing other support programmes that will include education, music and sports."

The feeding programmes support 5,000 children by feeding them twice per week and, as such, Kotula makes up to 10,000 meals per week during the summer months when farms are producing at maximum output. This falls to roughly 50 per cent production during the winter months.

The organisation also supports the elderly in the communities with food sourced through farming programmes as well as through additional food items acquired. In addition, Kotula organises activities for children that allow them to regain confidence in their lives. For example, 350 children were hosted by Evolve at the Johannesburg Zoo for Christmas celebrations and 500 were hosted at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Garden in Johannesburg.

These events were extraordinarily rewarding for the children, with the most fundamental learning for Adam and his team being that the children felt on these occasions a true sense of belonging and love, which is a most important gift.

These events included logistics, insurance, paramedics/medical, activities and management and were, needless to say, epic to or-

ganise. Kotula initially focused on the essentials by giving children the opportunity to enhance their diet so that they could carry out full lives including being able to concentrate in class.

The initiative is now planning to continue its support by expanding its programme to focus on education, which is its absolute objective, so that they help to emancipate the children by unlocking the gateway to their futures.

Accordingly, the organisation is now looking for potential financial partners. The financial assistance sought will enable it to ramp up its food production, which will enable it to sell the additional crops produced to the local communities to turn profits which will then be used to finance the programmes and critically make them self-sustaining entities - which is the end game!

As such, Kotula is currently being transitioned to a non-profit organisation (NPO) where its future will be as a stand-alone, independent for-profit organisation.

By next month, Kotula will transform into an NPO called KO-2LA, which means "to harvest". Meanwhile, by the end of 2019, it is targeting the production of 20,000 meals per week through its food security programme.

It will also be in a position to capacitate Early Learnings Centres of Development in the local communities that it feeds, as well as its intention to take the dance academy's Black Panther theatre production overseas on a tour to the UK and possibly the US.

Massacre of the innocents: Whereto from here?

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

WE have been here before. This blooded precipice is familiar, this looming abyss. What is unfamiliar, what renders the Easter Sunday massacre most vile and truly nightmarish is the total absence of any knowable rationality.

There is no context to this horror, no back-story; it cannot be framed, politically or historically. Other massacres were presaged; this one fell on an unsuspecting people, a killer-bolt on a clear Sunday morning. It is the most heinous and the most incomprehensible act of violence in our violence-ridden history.

Every massacre of innocents leaves behind a heap of questions. The larger why, the philosophical, existential why might be unanswerable, but the smaller whys almost always are.

Whether it was Black July, the Anuradhapura massacre, or any of the civilian bloodletting that came afterwards, there was a discernible path to the outrage paved with a history of real or imagined wrongs.

Not so this massacre of innocents. That the massacre is the work of an Islamic terror group is now certain, a conclusion made inescapable by the involvement of several suicide bombers. The attacks on the hotels are barbaric, but part of a comprehensible, global pattern. You want to hurt an economy dependent on tourism; you attack places where tourists congregate, from beaches and ancient ruins to hotels.

Not so the targeting of Catholic churches in Sri Lanka. That is where the utter incomprehension stems from. In Sri Lanka, there has been no history of violent animosity between Muslims and Christians/Catholics. Both communities have been targeted by Sinhala-Buddhists on multiple occasions. They were both victims of majoritarian violence, but never responded in kind.

Had the suicide bombers targeted state institutions, places of entertainment, Buddhist temples or even Hindu kovils, it would have made sense in terms of vengeance for a real or imagined wrong.

Why churches? Why only Catholic churches?

Churches have been targeted by Islamic terrorists elsewhere in the world, including Asia; the Surabaya bombings in Indonesia and the Jolo church attacks in the Philippines are cases in point. But every one of those attacks could be placed



within a national politico-historical context. There is no such context here in Sri Lanka.

Attacks by a lone gunman or a lone bomber might have been comprehensible, the work of a clinically deranged man. But an operation of this complexity and magnitude, involving the willing and knowing cooperation of hundreds of people, is unfathomable.

The killers, the human bombs, are believed to be Lankan Muslim men.

For any terror organisation, suicide killers would be a valuable possession, something you don't expend in vain. A suicide killer must be trained and groomed right up to the moment of murder, handled with meticulous care, kept on the pre-prepared path, shielded from every human emotion. Why use such valuable and not easily replaceable weapons on targeting a community that had not done you or your local co-religionists any harm?

Were the churches targets of opportunity? In Sri Lanka, churches (along with mosques and kovils) are relatively unprotected and vulnerable. But so are many other institutions and structures, both secular and religious. Was it to gain maximum publicity - bombing churches on Easter Sunday? That would have been a credible explanation had the authors rushed to claim responsibility.

** But so far, no organisation has claimed responsibility, another unusual occurrence. Generally, after a successful operation, the claim to own it is a race. Terrorists love publicity. That is how they gain new recruits and new resources.

So here we are, in a hell both familiar

and unfamiliar. How not to plunge from this to a worse hell is the hardest challenge ahead, much harder than identifying, apprehending and punishing the guilty.

An Unforgivable Failure

There is one haunting truth about the Easter Sunday massacre - with a little more vigilance, it might have been prevented. A section of the security establishment seems to have known that an Islamic terror group was planning to target Catholic churches. According to reports, they even knew the names and other details of some of the attackers, possibly ten days ahead.

The speed with which the first arrests were made gives credence to these reports. Such speed by our police can be explained only by prior-knowledge. Greater the speed, greater the prior-knowledge. And the speed was great, unprecedentedly so.

That begs two critical questions.

Who knew? Why did those in the know do nothing with their knowledge?

If the known attackers had been arrested, the massacre wouldn't have happened. And it could have been done under normal law. The Defence Secretary is lying if he claims that the information was vague and the absence of emergency regulations was a handicap.

If the churches were informed about their peril, they could have taken some precautions. That certainly didn't require emergency regulations.

With either of those two measures, three hundred innocent lives could have been saved.

We, as a nation, need to know why those lives were wantonly sacrificed. The SLPP had predictably accused the government of not supporting the intelligence agencies, of persecuting and discouraging them. That is incorrect. The intelligence agencies are not the victims of this story. They received the information, and opted not to do anything with it. That was a severe dereliction of duty.

President Maithripala Sirisena must shoulder much of the blame. As the Minister of Defence, protecting the people was his responsibility. He failed abysmally. And he has not apologised for that failure. That doesn't mean the UNP can exculpate itself from all responsibility, all blame.

The 'we were not told' excuse cannot hold water since one of the letters warning about impending terror attacks seems to have been circulating in the social media for days. If Minister Harin Fernando's father knew about the danger, then the Minister, his cabinet and non-cabinet colleagues and his prime minister cannot plead ignorance.

The government's failure to stop the massacre fits into a general pattern of indifference towards all forms of extremism. One week before the Easter Sunday massacre, on Palm Sunday, a Methodist church in Anuradhapura was attacked, reportedly by a Sinhala-Buddhist mob. The police refused either to apprehend the attackers or to protect the victims. The government didn't condemn the attack, didn't order the police to catch the culprits. All it did was to promise the church protection for Easter.

The promise reportedly came from the Prime Minister. There was not a hum from the President. Political leaders on all sides of the divide, including the minister in charge of Christian Affairs, acted blind, deaf, and mute.

Perhaps this blasé attitude of

the political class percolated to the intelligence establishment. Perhaps those in the know thought that there was no need to act if the intended target was a church, or some other minority religious establishment. After all, thirteen months have passed since the anti-Muslim riots of Digana. Time enough for the main suspects to be tried in a court of law. Yet no one has been formally charged and every suspect is out on bail.

Had the government honoured its promise to end impunity and ensure justice, had it honoured the promise to combat extremism and promote moderation, the Easter Sunday massacre might have been avoided. This government did not promote extremism, like its predecessor. But it didn't resist extremism either. It turned itself into a bystander. Three hundred innocent people paid for that cowardice, that indifference, with their lives.

The next vicious spiral

A new fault line has been created in Sri Lanka's already seriously compromised societal fabric. A new enmity has been birthed. This is not the moment for anodyne slogans about unity and peace. The peril cannot be resisted, if its existence is unacknowledged.

Sri Lanka's blood-soaked history provides us with ample warning of the dangers ahead.

Will the targeting of Catholics by Islamic terrorists create an endless blood feud between Lankan Catholics and Lankan Muslims? Will the wronged Catholics themselves do wrong by targeting innocent Muslims? The fear that the Easter Sunday massacre will lead to a round of attacks on Muslim properties and religious establishments has so far not materialised. For this, the government, especially the UNP, deserves the credit. When the first attack on a mosque was reported, immediate action was taken, including the imposition of a curfew. That probably saved the country from another round of bloodletting. But the danger will not be over in a day, or even a year. Only constant vigilance can prevent another tragedy.

Terrorists of all kinds have two targets - one the purported enemy,

the other, one's own community. The authors of the Easter Sunday massacre of innocents would have known that they were placing their own innocent coreligionists in peril. They would have known that retaliatory attacks could happen, if not in the immediate aftermath, then someday.

And they wouldn't have cared. That is a function of extremism. They not only hate their enemies. They don't care about their own community. The cancer of extremism that is affecting Lankan religions must be combated, perhaps primarily from within.

The first step is to start criticising one's own extremists. It is only by taking an unequivocal stand against extremists of our own community do we earn the moral right to criticise extremists of other communities.

Sinhalese and Tamils failed to take a stand against their own extremists; each community raged against the other's tribalism while justifying one's own. That failure caused both communities incalculable harm, and incalculable self-harm. Black July turned a marginal insurgency into a full scale war. The LTTE's countless atrocities eventually contributed to its own shameful defeat.

When Sinhala-Buddhists attacked Muslims in Digana in the name of Buddhism, the absolute majority of Buddhist leaders remained mute. The Muslim leaders will hopefully set a different example, not just in the immediate aftermath, but continuously. The task would be long and hard.

Though Lankan Muslims have been the victims of both Sinhala-Buddhist and LTTE violence, the atrocities committed by Muslims elsewhere in the world have rebounded on them unjustly, enveloping them in a miasma of fear and suspicion. Easter Sunday's massacre will worsen their plight.

***This analysis was written on April 23, two days following the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka.**

**** Since then, there have been reports that ISIS has claimed responsibility for inspiring the attacks.**

African investors urged to enhance value of the continent's economy

LAGOS

FORMER Ethiopia prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn has described as "exceptional and enormous" Dangote Group's investment in Africa's oil refining sector and urged other private sector investors to take a cue from the group's investment drive.

Speaking during a tour of Dangote jetty, fertiliser and refinery plant, Desalegn said Dangote Group president Aliko Dangote has enormous influence in the sector and his involvement in the general economic wellbeing of the whole of Africa is unquantifiable.

He appealed to other investors to consider the strategic nature of investments made by the conglomerate and emulate them in order

to enhance the value of the continent's economy.

"I think this is a lesson for other African investors - to take risk and bring about big change. A mega project of this magnitude actually needs dedication and commitment, as well as sacrifice," he said, insisting that Africa needs massive investment like the Dangote Refinery for economic development.

The former PM called upon investors in Africa to recognize that investment was an essential sector and would remain critical to sustainable economic growth, adding: "I think this project is not only for Nigeria but for the entire African countries."

Devakumar Edwin, Dangote Industries Limited Group's strategy, portfolio development &

capital projects executive director, meanwhile said the project would provide 135,000 retail outlets, 26,716 filling stations and 129 depots in Nigeria, while the 2,600 trucks for transport would create additional jobs.

He said another invaluable area of interest that the project would enhance was in skills development and capacity building for Nigerians, adding that training of the second batch of Nigerian engineers is already in progress in New Delhi.

"We are sending all engineers abroad in batches. They will engage in classroom training for one month and on the job training of one year. They will be working with real time experts in the industry every day," noted Edwin.

He disclosed that the company's target was for a significant portion of Nigeria's crude oil production to be refined domestically, rather than being imported, thereby creating jobs within Nigeria and bringing a halt to the current importation of refined petroleum products.

The refinery is further expected going to provide over 100,000 indirect employment opportunities through retail outlets, according to the director, who added that the refinery was designed to meet Euro V grade, "which is the highest standard in the world, and therefore products can be exported to any part of the world".

"It will be well diversified and able to process Nigerian crude, African crude and crude from

other parts of the world," explained Edwin.

He said that, in terms of evacuation routes, two crude oil single point mooring (SPM) buoys and three multi-product SPMs would be located within the Atlantic Ocean to transfer crude oil to a calling tanker.

The company is also constructing the largest fertiliser plant in West Africa with the capacity to produce three million tonnes of urea per year, he said.

Dangote Fertiliser Complex, consisting of ammonia and urea plants, is conceived to be one of the world's largest of the kind - with a total capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum of urea fertiliser, effectively helping farmers boost their crop yields through easy access to input.

African farmers look to genetic engineering in fight against plant diseases and pests

By Steven Cerier

IN many ways, you could argue that Africa is not in a position to view agricultural genetic engineering as a luxury. Indeed, it is a necessity in order to expand crop production to feed its growing population, bolster farm income, deal with the ravages of climate change and eliminate the scourge of diseases plaguing its crops.

Yet, this is a continent that finds itself besieged by campaigns that seek to vilify and demonize new technologies that could expand food output in Africa.

Among them: In March of 2018, the West African Peasant Seed Committee, which is part of the network of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, met in Senegal and called for the abandonment "of all activities supporting the introduction of GMO seeds or seeds derived from new biotechnologies (gene editing, gene silencing)."

Greenpeace has suggested there are risks and uncertainties that come with these breeding GM techniques, and that many of them are too new to have been properly evaluated for safety. "Gene-editing, for example, is poorly understood, especially in plants. As little is known about its mode of action it is also difficult to identify potential hazards," the group argues.

In a paper on the new gene-editing techniques, the African Center for Biodiversity said: "Claims that these technologies are safer than classical transgenesis techniques are unproven and are continuing to promote a chemical industrial agricultural model."

But failure to adopt new agricultural biotechnology techniques could have grave implications for Africa, where many people rely on farming for their livelihoods and where agricultural products are a major source of export earnings. Many of the major crops in Africa are threatened by disease and pests. As a result, many experts believe genetic engineering holds the key to fending off those threats.

"We believe science and technology creates jobs...poverty gap is also a technology gap and so we want to make the best use of any new scientific procedure to improve our agriculture, health and living standards on the continent," said Eric Okoree, the chief executive officer of the Ghana Biosafety Authority.

Others argue that new technology must be embraced. Said Chynyere Nzeduru, director of National Biosafety for the National Biosafety Management Agency of Nigeria:

And Dr. Issoufou Kollo Abdourhamane,

West Africa's regional representative for the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, said the movement to adopt biotechnology to agriculture in Africa is being harmed by people who claim to know more than they do about the technologies in question.

"We find in our midst some people who claim to be scientists who have never studied biology, medicine or agriculture who think they know agriculture more than the professors of agriculture...who are scaring people with the claim that GMOs are bad, saying it causes cancer and any kind of fabricated arguments," he said.

One of the most important staple African crops that can benefit from new gene-edited technologies is cassava.

The versatile cassava root is part of the starchy element of the diet in Africa, serving in much the same way as potatoes and rice do in other parts of the world. It can be fermented and fried and its leaves can be eaten after they are thoroughly boiled. It can be made into a starch that can be used as an adhesive and can be made into tapioca for use as a food thickener. It can be used to make beer, chips and sugar, while its flour can be used for bread, pasta and biscuits. Cassava also is used to make glue, animal feed, paint and paper.

The plant provides a source of livelihood for about 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, according to Kenton Dashiell, the deputy director general for partnerships and capacity development at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. In Uganda, one in every four people consume cassava as their main food source, while seven in 10 farmers grow it. Of the world's 12 largest producers of cassava, seven are African nations.

There are two main problems with consuming and cultivating cassava that can be corrected using new gene editing technologies. First, the root and leaves of the shrub contain cyanide and therefore the crop has to be carefully processed to be used safely. Using CRISPR, scientists at the Innovative Genomics Institute (a collaboration between UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco), have been able to silence the cassava genes responsible for cyanide production.

Second, cassava is susceptible to brown streak disease and mosaic virus, which cause about \$1 billion in losses to African farmers every year. Both are spread by whiteflies. The Donald Danforth Plant Service Center in St. Louis is working on a CRISPR-edited cassava in the lab that would be immune to brown streak. Meanwhile, re-

searchers in Uganda and Kenya are conducting field trials of cassava developed with RNA interference (RNAi) that would resist both diseases. RNAi was the GM solution that was found to make the Hawaiian papaya immune to ringspot virus. CRISPR technology has also been used to make the starch produced by cassava "waxy" which is highly desirable trait in the food and textile industry for its gelatinization properties.

Research also is underway in the banana industry, which has been plagued by bacterial wilt in central and eastern Africa.

This is of particular importance as bananas are an important source of livelihood and food calories in the regions. In Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, per capita consumption averages 300-400 kg a year. In those three nations, bananas are responsible for 30-60 percent of caloric intake. In Uganda about 70 percent of farmers grow the crop.

Annual losses from the disease in central and eastern Africa is estimated at around \$500 million a year. The disease is spread by insects, contaminated food tools, infected planting materials and rain splash.

A potential GM solution has been found that promises to make banana plants immune. It involves adding a gene from a green pepper to the banana. Trials in Uganda have been successful.

able pre-treatment checklist on the touchscreen. Like surgical procedures, the customisable checklist allows the clinician to set a review process, including a time-out for patient safety and e-signatures for speed and accuracy.

"We have been very impressed with Varian's new afterloader technology and it is a big advancement from our previous system," said Nanette Joubert, acting head, Medical Physics, Groote Schuur Hospital.

"The Bravos system easily integrated with our Varian ARIA oncology information system and allowed us to quickly and safely begin seeing a full schedule of patients," Joubert added.

Prof Jeannette Parkes, head of Division Radiation Oncology at Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town, meanwhile explained: "The Bravos system was quickly and easily integrated into the department to start treating gynecology cancer patients."

"This is one of the largest groups of patients in our setting. In the future, we are looking forward to extending the brachytherapy programme to treat prostate cancer patients, head



And with the recent passage of bio-safety legislation to regulate GMOs, it is hoped that a GM bacteria wilt-resistant banana will be commercialized as soon as 2020.

If the success demonstrated in field trials is replicated on banana farms in Uganda, it seems likely the new banana would be sanctioned in other African nations. Malawi and Kenya already are field testing the crop, while Ethiopia is conducting research on a genetic engineering solution for combating bacterial wilt disease for ensets, which is a form of banana.

Another crop that CRISPR could protect is cocoa, which is being decimated by swollen shoot virus. Of the ten largest cocoa producers in the world, four are in Africa.

Swollen shoot virus first appeared in central Ivory Coast in 2006 and 2007. Production of cocoa in affected areas declined by as much as 60 percent between 2009 and 2017.

In an effort to stop the spread of the disease, the cocoa board announced plans in 2018 to uproot 300,000 hectares of infected trees over three years.

In Ghana, about 17 percent of the cocoa trees are affected. A sharp decline in cocoa production resulting from the spread of the disease will have a devastating economic impact in the Ivory Coast and Ghana as cocoa and cocoa

preparations accounted for 39.8 percent of all merchandise exports for the Ivory Coast and 17 percent for Ghana in 2017.

Scientists have identified a gene in the cocoa plant that depresses the plant's disease response. If the gene can be "knocked" out, it could make the plant more resistant to swollen shoot virus.

CRISPR technology also may hold the solution for dealing with the spreading infestation of the Fall Army Worm by altering its genome. The pest has devastated agriculture in Africa and may soon make its way to Europe. The Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International estimated African farmers suffered losses of more than 10 billion British pounds from the start of 2017 to early 2018 in loss production of corn, sorghum, rice and sugar cane.

Regina Eddy, the head of the US government's global Fall Army Worm task force said the "pest has the potential to...put hundreds of million at risk of hunger."

By curbing plant diseases and the pests that cause tremendous crop damage, genetic engineering techniques can have a tremendous impact on the agricultural sector of Africa. But such benefits will not come to fruition if the opponents of the technology continue to deny its obvious effectiveness and insist that biotechnology has no role to play in agriculture on the continent.

Breakthrough for South Africa hospital in treatment of cancer

PALO ALTO, California and

CAPE TOWN

VARIAN announced yesterday that Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town is the first hospital in Africa to deliver High Dose Rate (HDR) brachytherapy treatments with the Bravos afterloader system.

Bravos is an integrated system designed to improve the patient and clinic experience by simplifying brachytherapy treatments and providing greater work-

flow efficiency.

HDR brachytherapy involves delivering radiotherapy by temporarily placing a tiny radioactive source directly into the tumor or other targeted area.

Using an afterloader, clinicians are able to position the radioactive source in a needle, catheter or tumor-specific applicator following a pattern designed to create a highly conformal dose distribution within or on the surface of the patient's anatomy. Once the treatment is completed, the

afterloader safely returns the source to the afterloader.

To simplify the treatment process, the Bravos afterloader features a touchscreen control and instinctive LED lights. The touchscreen provides easy access to patient treatment information on the afterloader, eliminating the need for the clinician to leave the room to retrieve patient and treatment information.

To help increase efficiency of the treatment process, Bravos features a customis-

able pre-treatment checklist on the touchscreen. Like surgical procedures, the customisable checklist allows the clinician to set a review process, including a time-out for patient safety and e-signatures for speed and accuracy.

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"This is one of the largest groups of patients in our setting. In the future, we are looking forward to extending the brachytherapy programme to treat prostate cancer patients, head

and neck patients and possibly other groups of cancer patients with HDR brachytherapy," she said.

"We are delighted to be partnering with Groote Schuur Hospital to bring this advanced brachytherapy technology to cancer patients in South Africa," said Vincent Ronfle, sales operations director Africa, Varian Oncology Systems EMEA.

"The Varian team conducted extensive global clinical research to better understand the needs of clinicians and patients to help simplify the brachytherapy treatment process. The result was Bravos and it is another important step towards creating a world without fear of cancer"

he noted.

According to the Department of Human Oncology of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, a remote afterloader is used to insert a radioactive source directly into a tumor, where it stays for a short time. This form of treatment delivers a precise, localised dose of radiation while minimizing exposure to healthy tissue.

Varian is a leader in developing and delivering cancer care solutions and is focused on creating a world without fear of cancer. It is headquartered in Palo Alto, California, and employs some 7,000 people around the world.

By Nobleman Runyanga

A few days before the violent and ruinous protests of January 14 to 16 this year in the main cities of Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare, the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) president Peter Mutasa and the leader of a shadowy protest group #ThisFlag, Evan Mawarire, became the faces of the demonstrations' organisers.

This is because they recorded and distributed a video message in which they encouraged Zimbabweans to participate in protests which were couched as a stay away.

This left many people wondering whether the labour body had also become one of the local opposition parties or a political activist group which dabble in politics full time.

Curiously, Mutasa's stunt came at a time when senior MDC members strategically kept silent in the run up to the demonstrations following indications by the Commission of Inquiry into the August 1, 2018 incident that some of their utterances encouraged the destructive protest by mostly MDC youths on the day in question.

Championing the destruction of business

Over the past few years, the ZCTU has been plagued by the dwindling number of paid-up unions owing to the ongoing economic challenges which have seen many companies, downsizing, right sizing or closing down altogether, throwing thousands of union membership subscription-paying people onto the streets.

In view of this sad scenario, any progressive Zimbabwean would do everything possible to support and save the businesses which are still open, but not so with the ZCTU, which misled the nation that it was calling for a peaceful stay away when it was planning destruction of employers such as Choppies Supermarkets which suffered destruction of their shops and looting of stock worth hundreds of millions.

One wonders what kind of a labour body the ZCTU is, which instead of joining hands with Government in its ongoing efforts to turn the economy around and create more jobs and labour unions, fights industry and commerce that are still availing jobs.

The extent of the damage which was wrought on the economy, businesses and individual in the three dreadful days should see the labour body self-introspecting and resolving to turn over a new leaf going forward if it still has a conscience. No labour body worth its

ZCTU should choose between labour, politics

salt would associate itself with the kind of lawlessness which the whole world witnessed during the three hellish days.

No sane organisation would gladly associate with people who violently seized control of Government infrastructure and establishments such as toll plazas and police stations in the name of protesting.

Surprisingly, the ZCTU never offered an apology to the businesses affected, Government, the individuals who were forced to pay for passage at the illegal "toll gates" and to the people of Zimbabwe at large for openly inciting excitable youths who terrorised innocent citizens.

Abandoning workers

Anyone who fights against businesses which are providing jobs and contributing to Treasury through various taxes and shamelessly claims to stand for workers is a shame to society.

This is what the ZCTU has become. It is now a labour body in name only as it has abandoned the workers who are the very reason for its existence.

The labour organisation may argue that the retrenchments and layoffs which workers are experiencing are beyond it, but in some cases, it is consciously turning its face aside while employees are being treated unfairly.

The case in point is that of the workforce of its bosom ally, the MDC, which the media reported last week to have gone for 11 months without pay.

The issue of the MDC riding roughshod over its workforce has its roots during that party's former leader, the late Morgan Tsvangirai's tenure.

The ZCTU and the MDC leaderships should be hanging their heads in shame given that the former played



midwife during the birth of the latter, which touts itself as a labour party. They should be ashamed of their selfish double standards.

In March 2017, the party sacrificed its party workers' welfare to save Tsvangirai's Strathaven house from sale over \$50 000 granted by the now-defunct Afrasia Kingdom Bank at a time that the workforce had gone unpaid for 17 months.

The party sold some of its vehicles to mobilise funds to save the house. In April 2018, the party's property was attached in a labour dispute with a former worker Sally Dura, who was owed 27 months unpaid salaries to the tune of \$108 000. Five months later another former employee Lawrence Paganga won a \$42 000 arbitral award over unpaid terminal benefits.

These are only a few of the many known such cases and the ZCTU never lifted a finger to admonish its ally over such crude labour practices.

One cringes at the thought that despite being a founding member of the so-called workers' party, the MDC leader Nelson Chamisa was part of the defence counsel in the July 31, 2015 case pitting fired Zuva Petroleum workers in which a ruling was made to the effect that employers could fire their workers for as long as they gave them a three-month notice.

This opened floodgates for such employers who fired up to 20 000 workers based on the ruling.

Chamisa and the ZCTU's nonchalant attitude to the plight of the MDC workers and thousands of other unknown ones out there, therefore, does not come as a surprise to those who know the history of the two.

Morphing into a political labour body

Realising that nothing much is coming from its fast diminishing affiliate labour unions, the ZCTU has not only abandoned workers, but is slowly changing into a political player.

It has gone beyond the tradition of inviting the MDC to its May Day celebrations and has begun to openly sink its teeth into opposition politics.

After the MDC senior members got their fingers burnt over the August 1, 2018 incident, the party roped in the ZCTU leadership to be one of the faces of the organisers of the January riots while the opposition party did the real underground organisation as evidenced by the video clip featuring that party's Chitungwiza North legislator Godfrey Sithole marshalling members to loot goods from shops which later circulated on the social media.

Already some ZCTU member unions have registered their disquiet over its decision to join the

MDC.

This followed the MDC national standing committee's resolution to allocate a quota of its posts during the forthcoming electoral congress to the labour body.

As the MDC prepared for the congress through provincial congresses, ZCTU was handpicked to oversee the process which was characterised by intimidation, manipulation and violence.

When the results were contested, the ZCTU through its secretary-general Japhet Moyo denied the labour body's involvement. What surprises many is the ZCTU's closeness to a single opposition party in a country which is teeming with dozens others.

The relationship between the two goes beyond the ZCTU's facilitation of the formation of the MDC in 1999.

Over the years, it has served as a conduit for Western funding to circumvent the Political Parties (Finances) Act, which prohibits the funding of local parties from foreign sources. When the MDC formed the National Electoral Reforms Agenda (NERA) in 2015, which culminated in the MDC-Alliance in 2018, the ZCTU provided meeting venues and played the middleman in sourcing funding for the initiative from some Western countries.

The ZCTU is cash-strapped and is hoping against the odds

that should the MDC land power through a power-sharing agreement, which the latter has been pursuing, its leaders would benefit.

This explains why they are cutting political deals behind the back and in spite of workers' protestations.

Time to choose

Moyo, Mutasa or any other ZCTU official is free to join a party of their choice, but they should remember that a labour body should be like a church.

It accommodates members of various parties without conflict. The ZCTU is made up of unions whose members support different political parties and taking it into the MDC is, therefore, very wrong. The MDC and ZCTU executives are attempting to subtly merge the two for their own personal gain in view of the ongoing economic challenges.

The ZCTU leadership should know that the labour organisation is not personal property.

They have to make the decision to either remain in the labour sector or be opposition politicians.

The fact that most of its members may support the MDC does not mean that the ZCTU is an MDC subsidiary.

They should respect workers by making a choice between politics and labour

Kenya and Ethiopia cross-border initiative: A move towards sustainable peace

NAIROBI, Kenya

MANY years of internecine conflict is being replaced by a new narrative of peace along the Kenya-Ethiopia border. Communities that once fought each other are now dreaming of a joint journey towards a better future.

Diverse communities constitute the inhabitants of the border area, a vast swathe with great potential to advance beneficial integration between the two countries. But niggling rivalries and violent conflicts have persisted for years, constraining any meaningful cross-border socio-economic activities.

The conflicts have been driven by a plethora of problems - scarcity of pasture and water, cattle rustling, politics of ethnicity and political/administrative boundary disputes.

With such clashes being the dominant motif in the region, leaders from the two countries have become frustrated by adverse impacts on trade, not just along their border but on wider regional integration and development between the two countries.

Kenya and Ethiopia provide a market of about 150 million people. While Ethiopia is known for its agro-based industries such as leather and coffee, Kenya has a relatively advanced manufacturing and tourism sectors, with collaboration between the two capable of developing strong regional value chains.

It is this dormant strength and potential that led the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, in partnership with IGAD, the European Union and the United Nations, to establish an integrated cross-border initiative (Video) to foster peace and sustainable development around Marsabit County in Kenya and

Borana/Dawa Zones of Ethiopia.

While the historic agreement between Ethiopia and Kenya was witnessed by the leaders of the two countries at a high-profiled event in Moyale, a recent peace conference held in Addis Ababa from 17 to 18 April 2018 was a clear sign that the serious business of facing up to the root causes of violent conflict and vulnerabilities is truly on.

The meeting was attended by representatives of national and local governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, IGAD, EU, UN in Kenya and Ethiopia, cross-border peace committees, traditional community leaders and youth & women's groups. Heart-on-sleeve discussions dominated the two-day meeting, with the resolutions indicating a clear consensus on the respective areas of responsibility towards lasting peace.

A clear point of convergence was that the challenges facing the communities know no borders, but also that they will not be resolved through solutions of the past. The need for a wider approach to the issues was brought forward, to leverage on non-traditional actors such as the private sector, civil society and academia.

The spirit of the regional conference is in line with UN Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres's vision for the Horn of Africa which underscores the importance of prevention, resilience building and reduction of vulnerability.

The priority now is to bring direct benefits to borderland communities. Under the leadership of the national governments and IGAD, the United Nations and the European Union will support concrete initiatives to reinforce stability and realise the economic potential of these areas.

Both organizations have committed to support a prosperous, peaceful and



President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr Abiy Ahmed. Photo Courtesy: Ethiopian Embassy, Kenya

secure region, based on mutual values such as human rights, good governance, reduced poverty and

peaceful coexistence, the rule of law, that aims at leaving no one behind.

The European Union is spearheading support for cross-border areas in the Horn of Africa

through a €68 million programme covering the entire length of the Kenya-Ethiopia border, incorporating south-west Somalia and also supporting the cross-border area between Western Ethiopia and East Sudan. Through providing investment in peace-building, socio-economic development and regional cooperation, the programme aims to transform borderlands into more prosperous and stable areas where communities have a sense of belonging and prospects for a better future.

The bold reforms going on in the UN will see not only the UN family delivering as one but delivering as one across borders.

We are already seeing UN country teams that adapt more closely to the priorities and needs of each country, enabling the leveraging of strengths across regions and specialized agencies. This will facilitate the establishing of new architecture adapted to trans-boundary priorities and realities.

One product of that new paradigm is the recent meeting that brought together participants from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia to develop plans for ending cross-border female genital mutilation (FGM).

President Uhuru Kenyatta talked about turning this region into a "Dubai" of the future. That vision is possible given the winds of goodwill blowing over the region. This is having a transformative shift towards peace for communities along the border and prosperity between the neighboring countries.

BUSINESS

EXPANSION

Airbnb to offer 200 luxury suites at New York's iconic Rockefeller Plaza - reports

NEW YORK

THE home-share titan is taking over 10 floors of 75 Rockefeller Plaza, with plans to convert them into 200 overnight apartment-style suites in a new partnership with RXR Realty, one of New York City's largest real estate developers. The deal will create a "new category of urban lodging" in New York, the companies said in a joint statement.

The new Rockefeller suites will be individually curated and custom-designed, with views of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Empire State Building, and, seasonally, the Rockefeller Center ice skating rink and Christmas tree. The idea is to combine "all the comforts of home" while providing guests a "curated, authentic NYC experience and sense of community typically reserved for locals," Airbnb said.

Airbnb's foray into luxury New York apartments comes as the company strives to reinvent itself from a scrappy home-share startup into an end-to-end travel platform, offering flights, accommodation and tourist experiences. Earlier this year, Airbnb agreed to buy HotelTonight - its biggest acquisition yet - in a move to increase hotel listings on the platform.

The partnership with RXR and the HotelTonight acquisition extend Airbnb's reach even further into the hotel industry as it's planning an ini-

tial public offering before late next year. Marriott International Inc. is expanding its own home-sharing business to the US, a person familiar with the hotel company's plans said Monday.

Airbnb and RXR are also exploring plans to shift short term rentals into other RXR properties, such as the 47 Hall Street project across from the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

This partnership could help Airbnb legitimise its presence in New York City, where it has faced stiff resistance from local government. New York has some of the strictest home-share rental laws in the US. In New York, it's illegal to rent out an apartment for anything less than 30 days without the permanent tenant present. This means potentially as many as one third of the estimated 55 000 Airbnb listings in New York are illegal, according to the city and fair-housing advocates. "When we launched Airbnb over 10 years ago, it was immediately clear how people opening their homes could make guests feel like locals," Airbnb's Chief Executive Officer Brian Chesky said in a statement.

"With this new partnership with RXR, we hope to provide that same unique feeling, in the form of new spaces in the heart of Midtown Manhattan and elsewhere so that everyone can enjoy an authentic New York experience."



Visitors admired tiles at Goodwill Tanzania Ceramic's factory in Mkuranga, Pwani. File photo.

CENSURE

CAG faults TBS, Chinese tiles manufacturer for substandard exports rejected by Kenya

By Guardian Reporter

CERTIFYING manufactured products even after they fail quality tests while follow up inspections physically at factories are not done which allows dishonest manufacturers to flood the market with substandard goods.

Controller and Auditor General, Professor Mussa Assad said in his latest annual report that Tanzania Bureau of Standards' procedure was tiles manufactured by Goodwill Tanzania Ceramic Company Limited re-

jected entry into Kenya last year.

The report stated that between September 2017 and May 2018, Goodwill's tiles were found substandard by authorities in Kenya hence denied entry into the East African Community member market.

"These products failed quality tests as per KEBS/HQ/QAS/18 of 18 July, 2018. Thirty of the 31 trucks which carried the substandard tiles were blocked but during inspection by TBS, they were not found with TBS marks and were found at different locations. One of the 31 trucks was nev-

er found and remains in disappearance to-date," the CAG report stated.

The report further noted that under the 2009 Standards Act, it empowers TBS to certify, license and conduct regular inspections at products manufacturing premises and shop outlets.

"This is done through impromptu inspections at markets and factories for domestic manufacturers," stated the CAG report while noting that under 2017 regulations, the bureau is also sanctioned to take relevant action against defaulters.

Warning that TBS negligence jeopardises efforts to export manufactured goods to the EAC market, the CAG noted that such substandard goods risk a backlash from consumers in the five regional bloc's markets.

"The products which are exported abroad bear Tanzania's name at international markets hence being substandard tarnishes the country's brand name," the CAG report warned while advising TBS to stop allowing industries which fail to attain minimum quality and standard marks, continue manufacturing goods.

COMPETITION

AB InBev drops one case against Heineken as beer battle goes on

NEW YORK

ANHEUSER-Busch InBev said it's dropping a US trade case against Heineken to focus instead on getting money from its rival beermaker.

Heineken is no longer importing its Blade or Brewlock beer dispensing systems into the US, so there's no need to proceed with a patent-infringement case at the US International Trade Commission, AB InBev said in a filing. The agency only has the power to block imports and can't award damages, so AB InBev said it's turning to the courts for cash.

"We are pleased to have achieved our de-

sired outcome in this proceeding - namely Heineken's withdrawal of its products from the market," Pablo Jimenez, a spokesman for AB InBev said in a statement. "Given we have achieved our desired result, we see no further need for the requested relief from the USITC."

When it filed its trade complaint against Heineken, AB InBev also filed a civil lawsuit in New York that was put on hold. AB InBev said it will ask that the case be reopened. It didn't say how much it believes Heineken owes in damages.

The world's two largest beermakers - both based in Europe - have accused each other of infringing patents related to a new type of

system designed as an alternative to bulky metal kegs. The beer containers are made of a plastic outer shell, while a bladder inside holds the beer.

Compressed air is shot between the two, which pushes the beer up. The companies say it gives a fresher flavour since no outside gas or air is in contact with the beer from the time it leaves the brewery to the time it's dispensed in a glass.

AB InBev claims it invented the bag-in-a-container technology that holds the beer, while Heineken says its invention covers the dispensing equipment. Heineken's lawyer told a trade judge on April 16 that neither the BrewLock nor the Blade are currently

sold in the US and questioned why the case was still proceeding.

"This was the first time that Heineken had stated on the public record" that the products are no longer being sold in the US, AB InBev said in a filing requesting that the May 6 trial at the agency be canceled.

Heineken said that AB InBev's request to end the trade case came after the judge issued an order interpreting the patents in a way benefited Heineken. "AB InBev's request for withdrawal today confirms Heineken's firm belief that its products do not infringe AB InBev's patents," John-Paul Schuirink, a spokesman for Heineken, said in a statement.

Schuirink said the withdrawal of AB InBev's case doesn't affect Heineken's case, in which it's seeking to block AB InBev's Nova system used for Stella Artois beer.

A trial in that case was heard before a different trade judge in Washington earlier this month. The judge is scheduled to release her findings in September and a final decision from the trade commission is scheduled for January.

In addition to the Blade and Brewlock systems, which are geared toward restaurants and small pubs, Heineken sells a system called a Sub that's designed for the home market. AB InBev contends all three systems are using its patented inventions.

BLACKOUT

'MultiChoice Group will in future no longer carry content that includes Steve Hofmeyr

CAPE TOWN

THE pay-TV company will now actively avoid airing any content in which he might appear in future, including the broadcast of any library material that features him.

In future MultiChoice's DStv service won't give the Afrikaans artist Steve Hofmeyr (54) any public exposure through airtime, or further opportunities for him to earn money for any of his possible future work or any past material he appears in, by no longer providing a platform for it to be broadcast.

The controversial and race-baiting artist who previously stated on social media that "blacks are the architects of apartheid", who kept singing Die Stem at concerts and arts festivals, and would gaslight with photos and messages of the old South African flag will no longer get any exposure on, be allowed to appear on, or be able to make any money from DStv or any of its broadcasting brands like kykNET.

MultiChoice, has threatened to withdraw its sponsorship of an Afrikaans music awards show held earlier this month if a new music video in which Steve Hofmeyr appeared wasn't removed as a nominee in one of the categories, no longer wants to

be associated with him or any of his past or future content.

Earlier this month, after the organisers of the 2019 kykNET Ghoema Music Awards pulled the nomination of Die Land (The Land) music video in which Steve Hofmeyr appears alongside other Afrikaans singers, Joe Heshu, MultiChoice's group executive for corporate affairs, in a statement said "We are committed to the building of a non-racial society and strongly condemn any acts of discrimination".

Proud to support Afrikaans, but not Steve

"MultiChoice is proud of its support for Afrikaans, not only our investment in content for our DStv platforms but also our sponsorships of festivals, events and the broader Afrikaans performing arts sector."

"Our commitment to Afrikaans and all local languages will not change. It has come to our attention that Steve Hofmeyr was nominated for a Ghoema music award in the category for Best Music video. We have requested that Steve Hofmeyr not form part of the event that we sponsor as his views are not aligned with our values. We welcome a society where freedom of speech is celebrated, however we take a stand against racism."

Following this, Channel24 sought

clarity from MultiChoice and asked if it's distancing itself as a broadcasting company from a new music video featuring Steve Hofmeyr, what its view is in terms of showing any other existing or future Hofmeyr-connected content.

Following the Ghoemas brouhaha, the Randburg-based pay-TV company is now making it clear that it's not just the new music video but any content that includes Steve Hofmeyr. MultiChoice says that it won't air future Steve Hofmeyr content he might appear in and will try to prevent the broadcast of any archive material in which he features.

"The MultiChoice Group will in future not carry content that includes Steve Hofmeyr on any of its platforms," the company told Channel24. The impact of MultiChoice's decision will be wide-ranging for the artist.

Archival material
He has a big collection of music videos and popular songs that once enjoyed continuous airplay across DStv channels and was once the host of the long-running talk show Dis Hoe Dit is ... met Steve on kykNET (DStv 144). He made numerous appearances until recently across a wide range of music, variety and magazine shows across the kykNET channels like Kwêla and Afrikaans music concerts that were



Controversial Afrikaans artist, Steve Hofmeyr.

broadcast as TV specials.

He appeared as a soap star in M-Net's Egoli getting re-airings, and drama series like Agter Elke Man repeated on kykNET as well as the SABC Encore (DStv 156) channel that is part of a MultiChoice channels deal with the SABC.

Steve Hofmeyr also appeared in several feature films, like for instance Agter Elke Man (1990), No Hero (1992)

and more recently Platteland (2011), Pretville (2012) and Treurgrond (2015). MultiChoice's decision means those movies likely won't be screened on DStv anymore.

It's now also a given that Steve Hofmeyr won't get any mention or appear in anything that kykNET produces in terms of special look-back TV programming as part of its celebration plans in 5 months' time for its big

20th anniversary happening in October 2019.

Should a channel like Comedy Central (DStv 122) from Viacom International Media Networks Africa (VIMN Africa) for instance want to show a marathon of its Comedy Central Roast of ... episodes, the 2012-episode featuring Steve Hofmeyr will in such a case likely not form part of such a multi-episode airing.

CONTROVERSY

Rwanda's AG report : Rwf5.6 billion lost on irregular public expenditure

KIGALI

THERE are fears that public funds amounting to over Rwf5.6 billion were either wasted or swindled in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Auditor General informed Parliament yesterday.

While presenting his report to Parliament for the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2018, Obadiah Biraro said that his audits reached cross-cutting findings of irregular expenditure.

The irregular expenditures were in the form of unsupported expenditure, partially supported expenditure, wasteful expenditure, unauthorised expenditure and funds diverted or fraudulently utilised.

Though the AG warned that more efforts need to be made in the attainment of proper public funds

management, he welcomed the improvements made. The figures for irregular expenditures in the AG's report for 2018 show that there has been a 68 per cent decline in irregular expenditure from Rwf17.6 billion in 2016 to Rwf5.68 billion in 2018, respectively.

"This is indicative of an improvement in our PFM (Public Financial Management) systems and controls when it comes to recording and accounting for expenditure," the Auditor General said. Conducted during the period from May 2018 to 20 April 2019, the previous fiscal year's audits covered 173 public entities and projects.

They comprise 142 budget agencies like ministries or districts and special projects, five Government Business Enterprises and 26 District Hospitals. The audits were

made on expenditures representing 86.6 per cent of the national budget, which is a slightly bigger coverage in comparison to previous year's audits that covered 86.4 per cent of budget.

The focus for the AG's audits in 2018 was again on high risk entities and those that implement programmes that impact on the lives of Rwandan citizens.

An example of those entities are the three biggest Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) that include energy giant REG Holding (which comprises EUCL and EDCL), the pension body RSSB, and the water and sanitation group WASAC.

The audits also targeted nine government boards whose mandates impact citizens' lives most, such as the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) among others.

The AG noted that "generally, the current status of opinion results for GBEs and Boards presents a huge opportunity for improvement" as they are in charge of executing programmes of national importance. "There is need for concerted efforts and attention to GBEs and Boards to ensure improvement of Public Financial Management aimed at improving service delivery to the citizens," he said.

Apart from cases of irregular expenditure, the AG's audits for the past fiscal year cited cases of delayed and abandoned contracts, stalled projects, continuing cases of idle assets, failure to recover advance payment and performance securities as well as non-compliance with taxation laws.

The AG also noted in his report that the trend on the status of implementation of his recommendations over the past five years shows that the rate is still low. He said that the average rate of implementation stood at 49 per cent in 2018, representing a slight improvement of 5 per cent from the previous year 2017.

"There is need for concerted efforts to implement Auditor General's recommendations by the audited entities to improve Public Financial Management (PFM),"

the AG said in the report.

Most MPs agreed with him that special efforts were needed to ensure that public funds are not lost in wasteful spending or outright theft. MP Christine Muhongayire called for investing in research to further understand the causes for continued irregularities in public financial management.

"Can we do research about the reasons behind these losses - is it lack of expertise or it is lack of diligence in what is being done? Is it just swindling? We need to conduct research to understand the cause for these things," she said.

MP Theoneste Safari Begumisa agreed, calling for efforts to bring those responsible for poor management of public funds to account. "Let's use this report to ask those in charge what went wrong and bring them to account. We can also make sure that they are replaced in their jobs where necessary," he said.

The report will be reviewed by the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the feedback will be presented to Parliament for more consideration.



Rwanda's Auditor-General Obadiah Biraro, with his deputy Patrick Habimana (right), presents the 2017/18 annual report to a joint session of the Lower House and Senate at the Parliamentary Buildings in Kigali on April 29. Left is Deputy Speaker in charge of Finance and Administration Sheikh Musa Fazil Harelimana.

SUPERVISION

CBN thinking of unit to regulate FinTech start-ups

LAGOS

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) plans to establish a Collateral Management Regime (CMR) to regulate the activities of financial technology (FinTech) firms and startups.

Its Governor, Godwin Emefiele, in his keynote address at the inaugural Lagos Fintech Week in Lagos, said: "CMR is being developed in line with on-going efforts to evolve a robust collateral management regime which will be proportionate to transactional level of participants within the payment system."

Represented on the occasion by the Director, Payments System Management Department (PSMD), Sam Okojere, the apex bank chief said the consequences of the new regime are that both in-

cumbents and new entrants will operate without unnecessary collateral burden.

A fintech lawyer and partner, Private Equity Capital at the chambers of Aluko and Oyebo, Oludare Sembore who also spoke at the event said: "The Nigerian approach to FinTech regulation is somewhat similar to the United States and South Africa. FinTech in these countries are not governed by any specific legal framework, as the regulators are currently taking steps to understand the concept."

He said the FinTech space in the country is largely regulated by circulars and guidelines published by the CBN and a host of existing regulations that apply to "traditional financial service institutions."

WINDFALL

South African Uber drivers received a one-time cash bonus this weekend

JOHANNESBURG

UBER drivers across the world each received a cash payment this weekend ahead of the ride-hailing giant's listing on Wall Street.

The company announced in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing published on Friday that it would pay around \$300 million (R4.4 billion) to its more than 1.1 million drivers worldwide. The payments were made around April 27.

"To acknowledge drivers who have participat-

ed in our success, we are paying a one-time cash driver appreciation reward to qualifying drivers in jurisdictions where we operate through owned operations," Uber said in the filing.

Uber South Africa did not want to comment on how much South African drivers received, referring Business Insider SA to the SEC filing. The document only contains specific information about the US payments.

Uber drivers in the US received one of six different cash rewards based on the number of trips they've completed. Drivers received

\$100 (R1,400) if they completed 2,500 trips by April 7th this year, up to \$40,000 (R572,000) for 40,000 trips.

"The amount of the driver appreciation reward paid to qualifying drivers outside of the United States will be based on the same trip criteria, but may be adjusted on a region-by-region basis to account for differences in average hourly earnings by region," according to the filing.

To qualify for the reward, drivers must have completed at least 2,500 Uber trips, including one this year as of April 7, and their account

must be in good standing.

According to South African Uber drivers Business Insider South Africa spoke to, the maximum amount earned in South Africa was R47,000. This was for drivers who have completed more than 40,000 trips and had a rating of 4.75 and higher, according to those BI spoke to, including one Uber partner, who managed a number of vehicles and drivers.

Drivers with fewer than 10,000 trips only received R470. Those with between 10,000 trips and 20,000 trips received R4,700, and the slid-

ing scale continued from there. Uber plans to raise more than \$10.3 billion in its initial public offering, potentially giving it a market capitalisation of \$90 billion (R1.3 trillion).

The ride-hailing giant will offer 180 million shares at a price between \$44 and \$50 per share. According to the SEC filing, drivers in the US will also be entitled to buy shares at the IPO price. The programme will allow drivers to own up to 3% of the company if they take up the shares. Drivers in South Africa are not part of this offer, however.



NMB Bank's acting Managing Director, Albert Jonkergouw speaking to government officials and Dodoma's business community at a breakfast meeting organized by the bank yesterday in the capital aimed at explaining its readiness to support the government decision to move its seat to Dodoma. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

RESTRICTION

SARS issues tender to prevent illicit business in cigarettes

JOHANNESBURG

THE SA Revenue Service is seeking a service provider to help it keep tabs on the illicit tobacco trade by tracking cigarettes from manufacturing plants to points of sale.

The tax agency said this "track-and-trace marker technology" would help it monitor the illicit tobacco trade, which is causing "significant losses" to the national fiscus. "This non-intrusive technological innovation is expected to boost the monitoring and control of duties and taxes in this industry significantly," SARS said in a statement on Tuesday.

A tender document has been published on the SARS website for "production management" for the track-and-trace solution.

According to the request for proposal, cigarette manufacturers must "implement the solution on the production lines [at] production facilities, locally and abroad, for those cigarette products that it produces, imports, markets and sells in the South African economy." The deadline is June 20.

Illicit cigarette manufacturing

The tax agency has been working to beef up its fight against the illicit cigarette trade since Mark Kingon took over as acting commissioner from Tom Moyane, who was suspended and later fired in 2018. Under Kingon, the agency revised a unit probing the illicit economy. The unit was one of several shut down under the now-infamous business restructure model ordered by Moyane.

Earlier this year the tax agency obtained a Warrant of Execution in the North Gauteng High Court against controversial businessman Adriano Mazzotti, of tobacco company Carnilinx.

PESSIMISM

Lufthansa losses soar on higher fuel costs and capacity glut

FRANKFURT

LUFTHANSA said its net loss widened nine-fold to €342 million (Dh1.4 billion) in the first three months of the year, hurt by rising fuel costs and excess capacity in Europe.

"We are confident, though, we will see a recovery in our unit revenue as early as the second quarter. Our confidence is based above all on our favourable booking levels for the month ahead," said chief financial officer Ulrik Svensson.

European airlines are battling overcapacity and uncertainty around Brexit has led some travellers to delay booking flights for their summer holidays, Reuters said.

Lufthansa expects the market to grow by 4 per cent in summer, compared with a rise of 9 per cent seen in winter, while it expects its home market - defined as Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium - to grow by 3 per cent.

Europe's biggest airline is abandoning plans to increase capacity at Eurowings by 2 per cent this year. "Capacity growth is now expected at 0 per cent," Lufthansa said on its website.

The decision to dial back growth at Eurowings comes after the German carrier in March said it would slow group capacity increases to 1.9 per cent this summer from the 3.8 per cent previously planned in an effort to bolster prices. Revenues for airlines across Europe have also been cramped by a fuel-price squeeze that's forced airlines out of business since the summer, according to Bloomberg.

Failures include Iceland's WOW, Britain's Flybmi, German holiday airline Germania and Nordic budget airline Primera Air. Lufthansa dropped as much as 3.1 per cent in Frankfurt trading. The shares were down 1.1 per cent at about €22 at 10:10 am. They've gained about 12 percent this year.

For 2019, the group still expects to make an adjusted operating profit margin of 6.5 to 8 per cent. Fuel costs are projected to be €700m above the previous year, and €50 m more than its previous guidance. Adjusted earnings in its Other Businesses and Group Functions segment is expected to be €100m below the previous year, compared with a miss by €150m projected earlier. Earlier this month, Lufthansa had said a €200m rise in fuel costs weighed on earnings, while ticket prices took a major dive.

Quarterly return on available seat kilometres was down 8.5 per cent at its low-cost carrier Eurowings and 5.2 per cent in its other airlines, while costs were reduced 7.2 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively.



A Lufthansa Airbus A380 at Frankfurt Airport, Germany.

IMPRESSIVE

Spotify revenue soars 33 per cent to €1.51 billion

BRUSSELS

SPOTIFY Technology reported a better than expected rise in first-quarter revenue on Monday as the music streaming company hit 100 million paid subscribers for its premium service, sending its shares up nearly 5 per cent.

Revenue rose 33 per cent to €1.51 billion, beating analysts' estimates of €1.47bn, according to IBES data from Refinitiv.

The global leader in the sector, with double the number of subscribers of nearest rival Apple Music, Spotify has launched in regions like India, Middle East and North Africa in recent months, seeking to fuel the next stage of its development as it continues to price aggressively in the developed world.

In March, the firm said it racked up more than 1 million unique users in India across its free and premium tiers in less than a week since launching. The launch saw the company stepping into a price-sensitive market crowded by well-funded players such as Reliance Industries' JioSaavn and Apple's Apple Music.

Company founder Daniel Ek promised a "custom-built experience" with all-new features tailored for the Indian music lover. "Not only will Spotify bring Indian artists to the world, we will also bring the world's music to fans across India," Mr Ek said at the time.

In February, Spotify reported fourth-quarter operating profit of €94m compared with a mean forecast for a loss of €16m in a Reuters poll of analysts, the first time the company had

made a profit. In November, The National reported the streaming service's launch in the UAE and across the wider Middle East and North Africa.

Users in the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Palestine can now access the service free of charge, or through premium membership of Dh19.99 per month, which allows music streaming to be uninterrupted by commercials, in addition to downloading songs that can be heard offline. Spotify on Monday said it had 217 million monthly active users (MAUs) in March, up from 173 million in the same quarter a year earlier. Analysts on average were expecting the company to have 218.6 million subscribers, according to research firm FactSet.

Premium or paying subscribers at the end of the quarter were 100 million, up from 75 million a year earlier. Analysts were expecting the company to have 99 million paid subscribers.

Europe contributed 40 per cent of the total paid subscribers, followed by North America with 30 per cent. Spotify said it expects to have about 107 million to 110 million premium subscribers by the end of the current quarter.

It also said it expects total revenue of €1.51bn to €1.71bn for the second quarter. Analysts were expecting it to forecast €1.62bn. The company reported a loss attributable to shareholders of €0.79 per share. Analysts were expecting a loss of €0.35 per share.



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

I T V

FRIDAY 26 April

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Movie:
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Movie:
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

SATURDAY 27 April

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 12:00 Shamba lulu
- 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki
- 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
- 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
- 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
- 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:30 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 28 April

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari

- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidíngo
- 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
- 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: It wasn't me
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Mjue zaidi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:00 Bongo Movie: It wasn't me
- 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

MONDAY 29 April

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Igizo: Elininyo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Kimya Milele
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Kesho Leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 30 April

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari

- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:15 Igizo: Mtego
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TFDA
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Mizengwe rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 The great queen Seonduk
- 19:00 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Tanzania yetu
- 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Chetu ni chetu
- 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 01 May

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Movie: Cut off prt 1 & 2
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
- 13:00 Dakika 45
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino):
- 15:00 Movie: DNA
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Ijue Sheria
- 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
- 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 21:40 Kesho leo rpt
- 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu mzuka
- 22:10 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)

- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 02 May

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Igizo: Riziki
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Igizo: Elininyo
- 11:15 Kesho leo rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 13:30 Tanzania yetu
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 03 May

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

SATURDAY 04 May

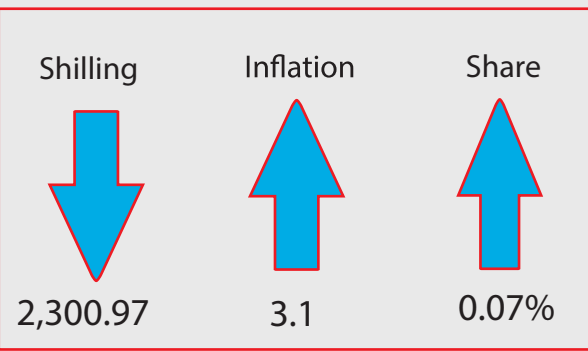
- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 12:00 Shamba lulu
- 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki
- 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
- 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
- 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
- 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:30 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 05 May

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidíngo
- 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
- 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: It wasn't me 2
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Mjue zaidi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt



Spotify's founder Daniel Ek.



Total Market Capitalization

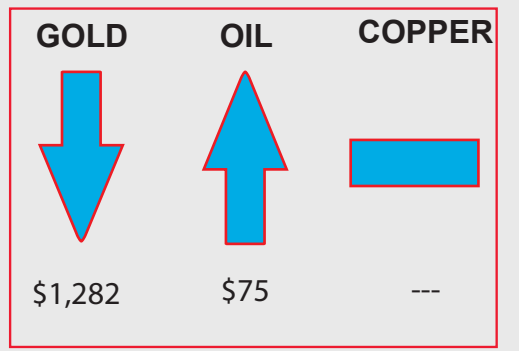
TZS	19,604.30 bln (USD 8,562.64 mln)
Indices April 25, 2019	
TSI	3,482.82 +1,463.96
DSEI	2,033.89 -1,448.93

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Maize	60500.00	Finger Millet	142850.00
Rice	185208.33	Wheat	132666.67
Sorghum	78571.43	Beans	173541.67
Bulrush Millet	84200.00	Round potatoes	73375.00

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,578.38	2,605.09
USD	2,278.12	2,300.91
KES	22.57	22.75
GBP	2,986.62	3,017.64



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: April 25, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	4,770	4,750	+0.42
CRDB	125	125	+0.00
DCB	340	340	+0.00
DSE	1,280	1,280	+0.00
EABL	4,960	4,820	+2.90
JHL	9,250	9,250	+0.00
KA	110	110	+0.00
KCB	1,020	1,010	+0.99
MBP	490	490	+0.00
MCB	500	500	+0.00
MKCB	800	800	+0.00
MUCOB	400	400	+0.00
NICO	170	170	+0.00
NMB	2,340	2,340	+0.00
NMG	1,320	1,340	-1.49
PAL	400	400	+0.00
SWALA	490	490	+0.00
SWIS	1,700	1,700	+0.00
TBL	11,400	11,400	+0.00
TCC	17,000	17,000	+0.00
TCCL	600	600	+0.00
TICL	385	385	+0.00
TOL	660	660	+0.00
TPCC	2,100	2,100	+0.00
TTP	120	120	+0.00
USL	10	10	+0.00
VODA	800	800	+0.00
YETU	600	600	+0.00

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI	3,482.82	+1,463.96
DSEI	2,033.89	-1,448.93

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	19,604.32
Equity Turnover	142,742,705.00
Total Volume	79,036
Total Deals	28

TOP MOVERS

CRDB	125	52,565
TPCC	2,100	16,280
TBL	11,400	10,000

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
NMG	1,320	-1.49%
KCB	1,020	+0.99%
ACA	4,770	+0.42%
EABL	4,960	+2.90%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

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

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

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

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDZTS traded at 2,300.0000 on Friday April 26. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Gold slips from over 1-week high as strong data boosts equities

- * SPDR gold holdings at lowest since Oct. 19
- * Gold specs raise net short positions in week to April 23
- * Palladium hits fresh one-month peak

LONDON, April 29. (Reuters) - Gold prices slipped on Monday from a more than one-week high hit in the previous session as strong data from China and the United States buoyed stock markets, denting the appeal of bullion.

Spot gold was down 0.3 percent to \$1,282.26 per ounce at 1007 GMT. U.S. gold futures shed 0.3 percent to \$1,284.50 an ounce.

Global shares rose, supported by data showing profits at Chinese industrial firms grew for the first time in four months and a strong reading of U.S. first quarter growth data last week.

"Since quite some time it's been a risk friendly market, with equities on the rise. Gold prices are also trading below a very important level of \$1,300, which is weighing on the market," Commerzbank analyst Eugen Weinberg said.

The recent uplift in equities has led investors cut their exposure to gold, with holdings of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, falling to its lowest since Oct. 19 at 746.69 tonnes on Friday.

Hedge funds and money managers also increased their bearish wagers on COMEX gold in the week to April 23, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said on Friday.

"We remain in a very uncertain period for gold though. On the one hand, the environment is primed for gold to come under more pressure, but when we broke through \$1,280 two

weeks ago, any downside momentum quickly faded," OANDA senior market analyst Craig Erlam said.

Gold on Friday rose to its highest since April 16 at \$1,288.59 and also posted its biggest weekly percentage gain in five weeks.

"We saw a nice pop higher at the end of last week as the dollar softened a little on the back of the GDP data. The headline number was strong - and much better than expected - but the underlying figures are less impressive," Erlam said.

The U.S. GDP data instigated questions about the actual economic strength of the country, since the quarterly growth figures were largely driven by temporary factors like a smaller trade deficit and the largest accumulation of unsold merchandise since 2015.

Data showed the core personal consumption expenditure price index figure, the Fed's preferred metric of inflation, increased at a rate of only 1.3 percent versus 1.8 percent in the prior quarter.

Investors are now looking ahead to the Federal Reserve policy meeting and a raft of global data including on U.S. core inflation and payrolls this week.

Elsewhere, silver fell 0.5 percent to \$14.99 per ounce, while platinum gained 0.1 percent to \$895.25.

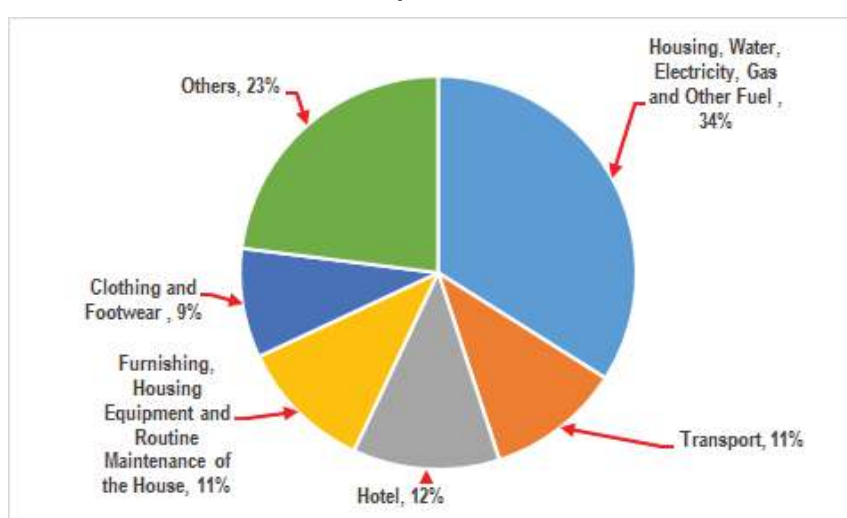
Palladium was down 0.1 percent at \$1,463.51, having climbed to its highest in a month at \$1,466.42 earlier in the session.

All Share Index : 26 April 2019

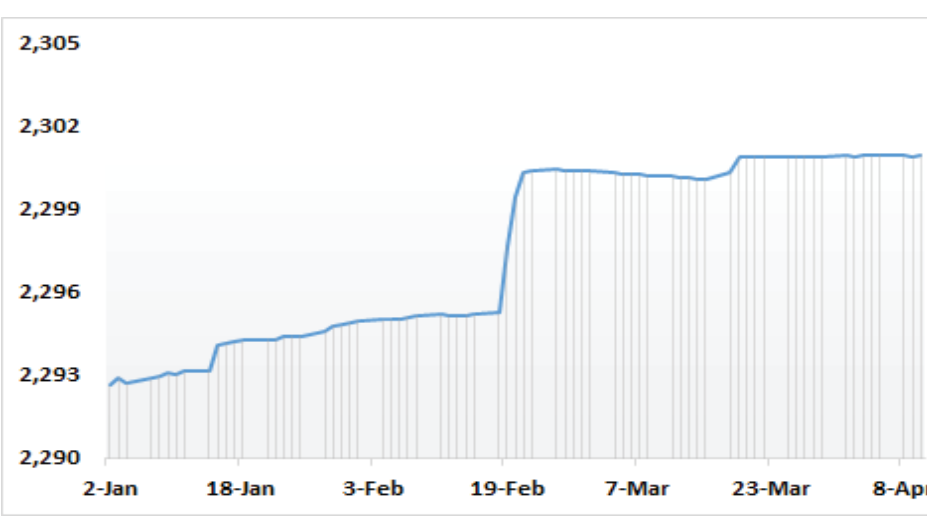
Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	29,920	21.46	0.07%	-0.55%	-3.61%	-26.58%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	52,342	128.68	-0.25%	-1.58%	4.90%	1.79%
JALSH-All Share	58,650	156.79	-0.27%	-1.50%	4.45%	0.68%
Egypt EGX 30	14,771	0.89	0.01%	-0.62%	0.68%	-19.30%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,130	3.54	0.03%	0.15%	0.41%	-14.76%
NSE All Share	159	0.16	-0.10%	0.28%	0.86%	-11.71%
Nairobi 20	2,858	15.50	-0.54%	-0.42%	0.21%	-22.87%
DSEI	2,034	15.03	0.74%	1.61%	-1.70%	-17.02%
TUN	6,944	2.26	0.03%	0.03%	-0.72%	-2.37%
GGSECI	2,346	15.30	-0.65%	-0.51%	-3.14%	-32.27%
Gaborone	7,866	2.42	0.03%	0.02%	-0.30%	-6.57%
NSX Overall	1,370	0.94	-0.07%	-2.31%	4.62%	-2.39%
SEMDEX	2,146	1.20	-0.06%	-0.44%	-1.12%	-5.62%
Zimbabwe Index	429.39	5.48	1.29%	1.88%	5.84%	30.63%

The DSEI increased 1 points or 0.07% since the beginning of 2019, according to trading on a contract for difference (CFD) that tracks this benchmark index from Tanzania. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.

Inflation 3.1% - March 2019: Top Movers



Fluctuation of a Shilling



Oil falls after Trump presses OPEC to make up for Iranian sanctions

LONDON, April 29. (Reuters) - Oil prices fell on Monday, extending a slump from Friday that ended weeks of rallying, after President Donald Trump demanded that producer club OPEC raise output to soften the impact of U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Brent crude futures were at \$71.59 per barrel at 0840 GMT, down 56 cents, or 0.78 percent, from their last close.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$62.93 per barrel, down 37 cents, or 0.58 percent, from their previous settlement.

Both benchmarks fell around 3 percent in the previous session.

Trump said on Friday he told the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to lower oil prices.

"Gasoline prices are coming down. I called up OPEC. I said you've got to bring them down. You've got to bring them down," Trump told reporters.

"Spoke to Saudi Arabia and others about increasing oil flow. All are in agreement," the president later tweeted.

Trump's remarks triggered a selloff, putting at least a temporary ceiling on a 40 percent price rally in oil prices since the start of the year.

GRAPHIC: Brent crude oil prices, click tmsnr.rs/2XWLBqT

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 3rd Apr 2019

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

Foreign Exchange- April 26

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.11422	0.0012	0.11%
GBPUSD	1.29081	0.0011	0.09%
AUDUSD	0.70360	0.0023	0.33%
NZDUSD	0.66378	0.0014	0.21%
USDJPY	111.52	0.0970	-0.09%
USDCNY	6.72559	0.0236	-0.35%
USDCHF	1.01934	0.0009	-0.08%
USDCAD	1.34548	0.0030	-0.22%
USDMXN	18.9186	0.0964	-0.51%
USDINR	69.9240	0.2360	-0.34%
USDBRL	3.9323	0.0207	-0.52%
USDRUB	64.7950	0.1455	0.23%
DXY	98.04	0.1589	-0.16%
BTCUSD	5,161.60	29	0.57%

Exchange Rates for April 25, 2019

Currency in 100 Units	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
EAST AFRICAN CURRENCIES		
Kenya SHS	2,244.52	2,262.51
Uganda SHS	57.47	61.52
Rwandan Franc	251.53	254.42
Burundi Franc	218.12	219.77
OTHER SELECTED CURRENCIES		
USD	227,818.81	230,097.00
Pound STG	294,911.45	297,952.61
EURO	254,906.47	257,547.57
Canadian \$	169,470.22	171,114.00
Switz. Franc	223,724.65	225,873.17
Japanese YEN	2,037.37	2,057.56
Swedish Kronor	24,475.37	24,479.71
Norweg. Kronor	26,497.04	26,760.76
Danish Kronor	34,148.58	34,484.89
Australian \$	160,133.84	161,758.19
Indian RPS	3,258.88	3,290.44
Pakistan RPS	1,532.78	1,620.40
Zambian Kwacha	18,043.25	18,334.42
Malawian Kwacha	289.17	309.43
Mozambique-MET	3,537.56	3,567.40
Zimbabwe \$	42.63	43.49
SDR	316,030.26	319,190.56
Gold (T/O)	289,729,234.68	292,691,184.29
S. African Rand	15,829.33	15,980.62
UAE Dirham	62,028.65	62,636.99
Singapore \$	167,513.83	169,126.79
Hong Kong \$	29,049.63	29,338.63
Saud Arabian Rial	60,751.68	61,354.29
Kuwait Dinar	748,788.21	756,002.76
Botswana Pula	21,141.59	21,537.08
Chinese Yuan	33,906.65	34,229.93
Malaysia Ringgit	55,228.80	55,713.56
South Korea Won	197.63	199.26
Newzealand	150,519.89	152,117.13

World Commodities (\$) 26 April 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil Brent	63.8904	-1.89%	-0.91%	7.59%	-6.14%
Natural gas	2.4845	-1.07%	-1.45%	-8.32%	-10.24%
Gasoline	2.1006	-1.40%	-1.33%	10.88%	-0.82%
Heating oil	2.0564	-2.16%	-2.20%	3.89%	-4.07%
Ethanol	1.316	0.00%	-1.28%	4.15%	-9.16%
Naphtha	565.26	0.03%	1.25%	-6.79%	-6.79%
Propane	0.65	0.02%	2.26%	-3.22%	-21.06%
Uranium	25.4	-1.17%	-1.93%	-0.97%	22.41%

CROPS, PRICE PER 100KG APRIL 24, 2019

Region	Maize		Sorghum		Bulrush Millet		Finger Millet		Wheat		Beans		Round potatoes	
	Low	High												

WORLD



A staff member demonstrates the procedure of producing customizable two-way radios at a smart production line of Hytera Communications Corporation Limited in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, Dec. 12, 2018. (Xinhua)

'Made in China' still a key link in global value chain

BEIJING

FOR those naysayers who constantly peddle that China is losing appeal to foreign investors amid trade disputes, it is time to face the truth that China remains a top magnet for foreign companies.

"There is little evidence of a systemic spike in the number of firms shifting production away from China in the wake of the trade dispute," Herald van der Linde, HSBC Global Research's head of equity strategy in the Asia-Pacific wrote in a study released in the South China Morning Post.

It is true that some companies have announced that they are looking to set up export manufacturing capacity elsewhere worrying about the potential impact of raised U.S. import tariffs, but for most, the advantages of "Made in China" still outweigh the risks, he wrote.

Indeed, with a globally competitive supply chain eco-system, growing consumption power driven by the ever-expanding middle-income group and optimized domestic business environment, China will continue to appeal to investors worldwide.

ADVANTAGES OUTWEIGH RISKS

In late March, German chemicals giant BASF inaugurated a new liaison office in the southern city of Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province, a step closer to implementing its Verbund project.

The planned Verbund site aims to provide products and solutions for local and multinational manufacturers in industries including automotive, construction, high-speed rail, electronics and even aerospace. Total investment is expected to hit 10 billion U.S. dollars. It will become the third-largest BASF site worldwide, following Ludwigshafen, Germany and Antwerp, Belgium, according to Lin Hanping, project leader of BASF's Zhanjiang Verbund site.

China has become one of the world's largest chemicals markets, and its share in the global market is expected to further expand in the future, said BASF CEO Martin Brudermueller, noting that these are opportunities that the group cannot miss out on.

Like BASF, foreign-funded companies are vying for a bigger presence in the country. In the first quarter of this year, a total of 9,616 new overseas-funded companies were established, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

BIGGER PIE, MORE OPPORTUNITIES

While newcomers are rushing in,

those companies who slowed investment plans in 2018 have increased their reinvestment budget this year to meet growing demands from customers, according to Harley Seyedin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in South China.

In its annual white paper on China's business environment and a special report on the state of business in southern China, the AmCham in South China said 240 surveyed companies have increased their 2019 reinvestment budgets from profits by a whopping average of 37.9 percent over 2018, the highest level since 2010.

Half of the respondents see the Chinese mainland as their top investment destination with 80 percent reporting "very positive" or "positive" returns on their investment, said AmCham in South China.

"Foreign businesses in China sensed a positive signal last year with the shortened negative list; also, their confidence for investing was fueled by the newly established intellectual property rights (IPR) courts," Seyedin added, noting that most companies are ready to further expand their presence in the country.

Upbeat momentum continued to gather this year. In the first three months, foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland rose 6.5 percent from one year earlier to 242.28 billion yuan (about 36.2 billion U.S. dollars), the MOC data showed.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS

In the January-March period, the FDI in high-tech industries soared 50.6 percent year on year, with the high-tech manufacturing sector attracting 25.97 billion yuan, indicating the foreign investors' bigger bite into the country's manufacturing sector.

While more and more overseas players are coming in, domestic manufacturers have also gained better growth with stronger home-grown innovation capacity on the back of lavish investment and better IPR protection.

At the ongoing 125th China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair which opened two weeks ago, the G-tech fission air conditioner, launched by domestic home appliances leader Gree Electric Appliances, has wowed many visitors from both home and abroad.

Overcoming the cleaning difficulties facing the traditional air conditioning industry, this model boasts more than 360 patents, just one example of the technology and innovation prowess of the home appliance giant.

Xinhua

Scientists in Oman receive patent to fight HIV virus with camel milk

MUSCAT

Two scientists from the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) received a patent for their new formula for the eradication of HIV virus, the university has announced.

British doctor Sidgi Syed Anwar Abdo Hasson and Omani professor Ali Abdullah Hasan Al Jabri on Monday said that they filed the patent application for the invention on Aug. 25, 2017, and the patent was granted by the U.S. Patent Office on April 8, 2019.

The two scientists are from the Department of Microbiology and

Immunology, College of Medicine and Health Sciences with the SQU.

They explained that the invention was a result of more than 16 years of continuous research work involving a wide range of medical-scientific research disciplines accompanied with challenges and disappointments.

They have prepared and tested the HIV therapeutic formula using a female camel as a life factory model for the synthesis of a composition to eradicate HIV.

Both scientists have contributed significantly to the scientific community across the world by publishing papers

in well-known journals on HIV/AIDS.

Al Jabri said that the therapeutic formula for eradicating AIDS virus from the body of the patient consists of three main elements in addition to camel milk, which contains antibodies against HIV.

About the possibility of manufacturing, he said there are clinical studies of pharmaceutical companies to examine the effectiveness of treatment, adding that "we are sure 100 percent of its effectiveness and this has already been scientifically proven by experts and committees."

Xinhua

US deputy attorney general submits resignation to Trump

WASHINGTON

US Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Special Counsel Robert Mueller in May 2017 to investigate links between the Russian government and President Donald Trump's campaign, said on Monday he was resigning from his post.

Rosenstein's departure, effective May 11, was not surprise. He had been expected to step down in March. The Whitehouse had no immediate comment, but noted that Trump had already nominated Deputy Transportation Secretary Jeffrey Rosen to replace him.

Rosenstein (pictured) ended up staying on the job longer to help Attorney General William Barr manage the public release of Mueller's findings from his 22-month investigation, which was completed on March 22.

In a letter to Trump, Rosenstein echoed two of Trump's signature phrases, writing that he helped staff the department with officials "devoted to the values that make America great" and adding that "we always put America first."

Mueller's investigation did not establish evidence that Trump's campaign illegally conspired with Moscow. Mueller, in his final report, did not



make a determination on whether Trump obstructed justice, but instead presented evidence on both sides.

After receiving the final report, Rosenstein and Barr made their own determination, finding there was insufficient evidence to charge the president.

"We enforce the law without fear or favor because credible evidence is not partisan," Rosenstein wrote in his resignation letter.

Rosenstein, a Republican, was often criticized by Trump and his allies for

appointing Mueller. He has also been involved in decision-making at the Justice Department that has been criticized by Democrats.

Democrats have directed most of their anger at Barr for how he chose to selectively release certain details of the Mueller report before making it public and for his decision to declare Trump had not obstructed justice.

But Rosenstein played a prominent role in weighing the evidence Mueller had gathered on obstruction and deciding that Trump should not be charged.

Last autumn, questions swirled about whether Trump might fire him, after the New York Times reported that Rosenstein had suggested in 2017 secretly recording Trump with a wire and recruiting Cabinet members to remove the president from office under the US Constitution's 25th Amendment.

Rosenstein has said the story was "inaccurate." Despite stoking Trump's ire, he remained on the job.

In a speech last week, he blasted "mercenary critics" and defended how the Mueller investigation was handled.

"If lawyers cannot prove our case in court, then what we believe is irrelevant," he said. **Agencies**

Kremlin says Zelensky's election victory is clear, respects Ukrainians' choice

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin respects the Ukrainians' opinion expressed at the presidential election and considers that Vladimir Zelensky's victory is obvious, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"From the very beginning

we have said that we respect the choice of the Ukrainian people and that Zelensky's victory is obvious, because the figures [outcome of Ukraine's presidential election] speak for themselves," Peskov stressed.

Peskov noted that in this regard it is incorrect to say that Moscow has recognized or has not recognized

the Ukrainian election results.

The Ukrainian Central Election Commission is yet to announce the official outcome, he noted.

Ukraine's runoff presidential election was held on April 21. With 100% of the vote counted, showman Vladimir Zelensky, a candidate of the Servant of the

People party, won by a landslide with 73.22% of the vote (more than 13.5 mln people backed him).

Incumbent Ukrainian President Pyotr Poroshenko, who has ruled the country for five years, garnered 24.45%. The new president is due to be sworn in by May 31. **Agencies**

Australian quits anti-Muslim party over strip club video

CANBERRA

A CANDIDATE in Australia's upcoming general election quit his anti-Muslim political party yesterday after video of him groping and propositioning dancers in a US strip club was broadcast on national television.

Steve Dickson had been Queensland state president of the One Nation Party and a Senate candidate in May 18 elections.

The 56-year-old resigned from the party after Nine Network television on Monday night broadcast his antics in the Washington, DC, club in September that were secretly videoed by Al Jazeera.

It was the second time that Dickson (pictured) and his party have been embarrassed and politically damaged by the Qatar-owned broadcaster.

Dickson said in a statement yesterday that his political career was over.



He said the strip club video "shows a person who was drunk and not in control of his actions and I take full responsibility for allowing that to happen."

An Al Jazeera documentary broadcast in March reported that Dickson and One Nation official James Ashby flew to the United States for meetings with pro-gun interests including the National Rifle Association and political donors Koch Industries seeking money to undermine Australian gun laws. Dickson visited the strip club

during the same trip.

One Nation's leader, Pauline Hanson, who was criticized for once wearing a burqa in the Senate, said Dickson's behavior was unacceptable for a candidate for her party.

"Steve is a family man. He is deeply upset about this," Hanson told reporters. Dickson is married with two adult sons.

Hanson also accused Al Jazeera of trying to hurt her party, which opposes Muslim immigration, three weeks before an election.

Al Jazeera said it did not give consent for its video to be broadcast.

"Al Jazeera did not consider it in the public interest to broadcast the material," the broadcaster said in a statement. "Al Jazeera condemns the unauthorized use of its material."

Nine said in a statement that the video was "leaked" to the program

Sri Lanka maintains high alert for attacks ahead of Ramadan

COLOMBO

SRI LANKAN security forces maintained a high level of alert yesterday after the Easter Sunday bombings, officials said, amid intelligence reports that Islamist militants were planning fresh attacks before the start of the holy Islamic month of Ramadan.

The head of the police ministerial security division had said in a letter to lawmakers and other officials that attacks were expected on Sunday or Monday by militants dressed in army uniform.

There were no attacks on Sunday and Monday but security across Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka remains ramped up, with scores of suspected Islamists arrested since the April 21 attacks on hotels and churches that killed more than 250 people, including 42 foreign nationals.

However, the government lifted a ban on social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and viber, a source at the president's office said. The ban had been imposed immediately after the attacks to prevent the spread of rumours.

"Security will stay tight for several days because military and police are still tracking down suspects," a senior police intelligence official said yesterday.

Another government source told Reuters a document has been circulated among key security establishments instructing all police and security forces across the Indian Ocean island nation to remain on high alert because the militants were expected to try a strike before Ramadan.

Ramadan is scheduled to begin in Sri Lanka on May 6.

The government has also banned women from wearing face veils under an emergency law put in place after the Easter attacks.

Authorities suspect members of two previously little-known groups - National Thawheedh Jamaath (NTJ) and Jammiyathul Millathul Ibrahim - of carrying out the attacks, although the Islamic State extremist group has claimed responsibility.

Authorities believe Zahran Hashim, the founder of NTJ, was the mastermind and one of the nine suicide bombers.

In India, police said they had arrested a 29-year-old man in the southern state of Kerala, close to Sri Lanka, for planning similar attacks there. The man had been influenced by speeches made by Zahran, the government's National Investigation Agency said in a statement. **Agencies**

Palestinians launch global diplomatic campaign against US Mideast peace deal

RAMALLAH

DESPITE the severed Palestinian-U.S. ties, Washington is trying to push ahead with its "Deal of the Century," Nabil Shaath, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' foreign relations advisor, said on Monday.

But U.S. President Donald Trump's support has encouraged the Israeli government to take more steps against the Palestinians, including a possible annexation of part of the West Bank to keep only Jewish settlements there, he added.

In response, the Palestinian

Authority announced a new diplomatic campaign against the U.S. peace deal, after Trump recognized Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Shaath told Xinhua in a special interview that the Palestinian campaign will target Arab countries and the European Union, as no European leaders have endorsed the "Deal of the Century."

"Our request for the Arab states is loud and clear, that is to stop normalization of ties with Israel and support us financial-

ly to show objection to the U.S. peace deal," he said.

The Palestinians are now preparing for joint moves with the Arab states at the United Nations, Shaath added.

Abbas is scheduled to meet French President Emmanuel Macron soon to address the role of France in rejecting Israel's violation of the Paris Protocol, he revealed.

The 1994 Paris Protocol is the agreement stipulating the economic relations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel during the interim period designated under the Oslo Accords.

The Palestinian Authority announced the boycott of the U.S. government since it recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 and moved its embassy to Jerusalem last May.

Since then, the Trump administration has taken several steps that enraged the Palestinians, including shutting down the office of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Washington, and cutting aid to the UN Palestine refugee agency.

The Palestinian campaign against the U.S. "Deal of the Century" will be launched on

all levels, including politically, diplomatically and legally, said Omar Awadallah, head of UN and Specialized Agencies at Palestinian Foreign Ministry.

Diplomatic efforts will be made at the United Nations, including the Arria-Formula meetings, the UN Security Council meetings, with reports to be made on the illegality of the Israeli annexation of the Palestinian territory, he added.

In addition, efforts to lobby the Europeans will be made through the foreign ministers, and through special presidential envoys to the European

countries at the same time, he said.

The main message that the Palestinians want to convey to the European states is "to put an end to the support for Israel at the expense of Palestinian rights," said the senior diplomat, urging the EU to take practical steps to protect the two-state solution instead of mere condemnation.

However, experts argued that the Palestinian campaign may not go so well as the Palestinian Authority expected.

Mohammad Younis, a Ramallah-based political observer, downplayed the role of Arabs in the campaign, saying the Arab states may not support the Palestinian Authority financially under the U.S. pressure.

"The only thing that is holding them together now is Abbas' stubborn rejection to the U.S. deal. This is the main factor that prevents any Arab states from normalizing ties with Israel," he said.

The EU, on the other hand, may not recognize Trump's moves in the region, but "they are far from recognizing Palestine as a state," he added. **Xinhua**

The
Guardian

SPORT



John Singleton

John Singleton found a perfect marriage of movie and moment

LOS ANGELES

RARELY have a filmmaker and a moment been so perfectly matched as John Singleton and the summer of 1991.

When "Boyz n the Hood" was released that July, Singleton took what had become a cultural obsession – South-Central Los Angeles and the young black men growing up in it – and imbued them with a depth, humor and humanity lacking in the scare stories and songs that up to that point had defined them to much of the world.

Singleton died Monday at age 51, after having a stroke earlier this month.

Nearly 30 years earlier he was fresh outta film school and in his early 20s when he took elements of his own upbringing, bathed it in the hip-hop culture of the late 80s and early 90s, and emerged with "Boyz n the Hood," which would give him a groundbreaking Academy Award nomination and a permanent place in the American film pantheon.

Stories about gang violence and the drug trade were a constant on newscasts at the time, and in the developing 1992 presidential race candidates angled to show they would be toughest on street crime.

N.W.A., with its explosive beats and stinging rhymes, told such tales from the inside. The group was breaking up in 1991, but its influence was at its apex. Singleton took his title from a song by one member, Eazy-E, and cast another, Ice Cube, as one of his three leads in his acting debut.

Singleton took yet another approach to the same stories. He was as interested in boys as the hood. He begins with his central characters as grade-schoolers trying to exist in an environment that refuses to let them be kids. The first act plays like an urban version of Rob Reiner's "Stand by Me" from five years earlier, with kids walking along railroad tracks and trying to out-swear one another. One line, "y'all wanna see a dead body?" suggests the similarity was deliberate.

Seven years later we see the same boys as young adults. Ice Cube is a Crips gang member who plays dominoes and speaks wisdom: "Either they don't know, don't show, or don't care about what's going on in the hood," he says as the film ends.

Cuba Gooding Jr. is a standout at school and work who navigates a neighborhood that threatens to pull him down.

Lawrence Fishburne as Gooding's stern, politically woke father, Jason "Furious" Styles, made for one of the more memorable dads in screen history, his angry gaze making for

many memes two decades later.

It also featured a small role for young Regina King, who would shine alongside Janet Jackson in Singleton's follow-up, "Poetic Justice," in 1993, and like Gooding would go on to win an Oscar. Singleton made all of them both feel real, sympathetic and lovable, without sacrificing any of the harshness of their lives or the ways some had to lash out against their circumstances. It was the first look at this world for some audiences. For others, it was the first time they saw themselves.

"Boyz n the Hood was a seismic event," filmmaker Brandon David Wilson said on Twitter. "I literally saw friends from elementary and middle school in the film playing bit parts. It was filmed in my neighborhood. I'm an L.A. native, but it wasn't until BNTH that I saw (asterisk)my(asterisk) L.A. onscreen."

Less than a year after the movie came out, the 1992 LA riots broke out, making the circumstances shown in the movie feel all the more vital. Singleton was outside the courthouse at the time of the Rodney King beating verdict, which triggered the riots, and told local news cameras that trouble was likely to follow. He died April 29, the 27th anniversary of that day.

Ice Cube made note of the date in paying tribute to Singleton Monday.

"Your passion for telling our stories from our point of view was more than an obsession, it was your mission in life," Ice Cube said in a statement. "On April 29, 1992 you were on TV warning the world what was to come. I'm sad today, cause on this April 29th you will warn the world what's to come?"

That same year, Singleton became the first black filmmaker, and the youngest person ever, to be nominated for an Oscar for best director. It appeared that recognition for and support for black filmmakers was a burgeoning trend. But nearly 30 years later only five more – Lee Daniels, Barry Jenkins, Jordan Peele, Steve McQueen and Spike Lee – had been nominated, and none had won.

Most of those men paid effusive tribute to Singleton on social media Monday.

"John Singleton's Films Will Live On Forever," Lee said on Instagram.

Dozens of copycats of "Boyz n the Hood" would come in the ensuing years, with none finding its balance of grit, craft and heart.

Singleton didn't quite find it either. As with Orson Welles and "Citizen Kane" half a century earlier, it can be difficult for a filmmaker who finds a perfect moment to find another one, and no other Singleton film would get close to the same adulation.

AP



Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) draws a foul on Philadelphia 76ers forward Tobias Harris (33) as he drives to the net during second-half, second-round NBA basketball playoff action in Toronto, Monday, April 29, 2019. (AP)

Butler scores 30 as 76ers beat Raptors 94-89 to even series

TORONTO

JIMMY Butler's big game helped Philadelphia snap a lengthy losing streak in Toronto and, more importantly, brought the 76ers level in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Butler had 30 points and 11 rebounds, James Ennis scored 13 points and the 76ers held on to beat the Raptors 94-89 on Monday night, knotting the series 1-1.

It was Philadelphia's first win in Toronto since Nov. 10, 2012, snapping a 14-game losing streak.

"Everybody wants to paint the picture that we haven't won here in however many years," Butler said. "I'm just glad that we came out on top. We don't care how many games we've lost, nothing like that."

Butler scored 12 in the final quarter to help the 76ers withstand a late Toronto rally.

"He was just a tremendous rock," coach Brett Brown said. "He willed us to a lot of different situations. He was a stud."

Butler scored just 10 points in Game 1, when he shot 4 for 12.

"Jimmy Butler is a gamer," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "He wasn't going to be quiet this whole series."

Game 3 is Thursday night in Philadelphia.

Down 19 in the first half, Toronto cut the deficit to one late in the third, only to go cold to start the fourth, missing six of its first seven shots.

The Raptors kept coming, however. Lowry made 3-pointers on both sides of a pair of foul shots by Butler cutting it to 90-

87 with 1:36 to go. Toronto got the ball back, and Siakam scored on a layup to make it a one-point game, but Joel Embiid answered with a driving shot at the other end, restoring the three-point advantage with 24 seconds left.

After Lowry nearly turned the ball over, Danny Green missed a potential tying 3, and Philadelphia's Tobias Harris came up with the rebound, his 11th. Harris was fouled and sealed it by making a pair with 3.9 seconds left.

"We got lucky there at the end," Brown said.

Embiid scored 12 points in 32 minutes despite missing the morning shootaround because of flu-like symptoms. Brown said Embiid received intravenous fluids before the game.

"Full credit all over the place to Joel," Brown said.

Embiid acknowledged feeling rough, but refused to sit out.

"There's no way I was missing this game," he said. "This game was really important to us. It doesn't matter what I had, I was going to play."

Kawhi Leonard scored 35 points, Siakam had 21 and Lowry 20. Toronto shot 10 for 37

from 3-point range and 33 for 91 overall as its franchise-record five game postseason winning streak came to an end.

"We didn't play well tonight," Lowry said. "They played really desperate and played super hard tonight and they got a victory."

Toronto missed six of its first eight shots, matching the number of misses it had in the first quarter of Game 1, when the Raptors made 16 of 22. Toronto shot 7 for 24 in the first and missed its first seven from 3-point range before Norm Powell connected.

Butler scored six points for Philadelphia, who led 26-17 after one. Toronto got 17 from both Leonard and Siakam in the first quarter of Game 1, when they scored 39 points.

Ennis and Butler each scored seven points in the second and Philadelphia led 51-38 at the half.

Leonard scored seven more as Toronto used a 13-4 run out of the break to cut the gap to 55-51. Leonard had 11 points in the third and Siakam had seven. Toronto trailed 61-60 with 2:50 left in the quarter but Embiid made four free throws before the quarter ended and the 76ers took a 69-63 lead to the fourth.

AP



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, drives past Denver Nuggets forward Torrey Craig in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Monday, April 29, 2019, in Denver. The Nuggets won 121-113. (AP Photo)

Jokic's 37 points leads Nuggets past Portland 121-113

DENVER

THE Denver Nuggets avoided both an emotional letdown and another Damian Lillard masterpiece.

Forty-eight hours after dispatching the Spurs in their first Game 7 triumph in 41 years, the Nuggets rode a 37-point performance from Nikola Jokic to a 121-113 win over the well-rested Portland Trail Blazers in the opener of their second-round series Monday night.

Lillard, who struck for 50 points, including a 37-footer at the buzzer to oust Oklahoma City in five games, scored two more points than Jokic.

But he had a-half dozen turnovers, missed 8 of 12 3-point attempts and Gary Harris blocked his 3 from behind in the closing minute to keep the Trail Blazers from closing in.

"We just made him uncomfortable," said Jamal Murray, who added 23 points and eight assists for Denver to go with just one turnover.

Despite logging 41½ minutes after playing 43½ two nights earlier, Jokic continued his playoff coming-out party by dominating once more. He made 11 of 18 shots and all 12 of his free throws to go with nine boards and a half dozen assists.

"He's a sponge," Paul Millsap said. "He picks it up. He sees how people are playing him and guarding him and he makes the right play every time. That's what's great about him – he doesn't force anything. Everything is going to be the right play. He's going to make the right reads. He's like a quarterback out there."

"I consider him like a Tom Brady – he's always going to pick you apart and make the right reads. Commend him for doing that at this stage in his career. It's unbelievable."

Denver coach Michael Malone was more concerned about his team's

emotional state than his players' physical state after a hard-fought series with San Antonio while the Blazers, making their sixth straight playoff appearance, were enjoying nearly a week off.

"Saturday night, an emotional high, winning a Game 7, that was part of my biggest concern about tonight," Malone said. "Obviously you're worried about guarding them but how would we react from that emotional hangover? I thought our guys did a pretty good job."

Game 2 is Wednesday night at the Pepsi Center.

The Nuggets were coming off a 90-86 win over San Antonio 48 hours earlier, their first Game 7 victory since May 3, 1978, against Milwaukee.

That, said Jokic, was "a really good game for us. It's Game 7 against an experienced team and I think the level of physicality, the level of pace was at a really, really high level that night. It was a really tough game for us to win and we won it. It gave us an example of how we need to play."

That's exactly the kind of mettle Malone was looking for from his team, the youngest in the West.

KANTER RETURNS

The Trail Blazers got a boost from Enes Kanter, who separated his left shoulder in Game 5 against the Thunder. He scored 26 points in his return to the lineup.

"Enes was terrific, very efficient, finished around the basket playing through the shoulder injury," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "I couldn't have asked any more of him."

Kanter was more concerned about facing Jokic.

"I didn't even think about my shoulder," Kanter said. "It's the playoffs."

AP

Barca to copy City against Liverpool - sources

BARCELONA

BARCELONA are taking inspiration from Pep Guardiola's tactics against Liverpool in the Premier League this season as they prepare for Wednesday's Champions League clash, sources have told ESPN FC.

Manchester City have earned four points against Jurgen Klopp's side in the league this season to leave themselves in pole position to win the Premier League with two games left. They won 2-1 at the Etihad Stadium and drew 0-0 at Anfield – blowing the chance to take all three points when Riyad Mahrez missed a late penalty.

Sources have told ESPN FC that Ernesto Valverde and his staff are confident going into the semifinal first leg this week, but they are aware the tie against Liverpool is Barca's toughest test in recent years.

Valverde has spent hours going over 24 carefully selected Liverpool games from this campaign, but it is their two matches against Guardiola's City side which he has been paying particular attention to.

The Barca coach believes the key to nullifying Liverpool's threat will be to overcome their pressing. At times City resorted to long balls, and even though Barca have never played that way, the source said it is being considered as the "last option."

"Liverpool apply very high pressure in the form of six or even seven players," a club source told ESPN FC. "They want to make you uncomfortable and, if possible, they want to rob the ball back."

"Our intention is to play as we always do. We want to get the ball at the back and play through their press. But we haven't ruled out going long if we have to."

A lot of work has also gone into analysing Liverpool's front three of

Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino, while full-backs Andrew Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold are also players Barca know they have to pin back as much as possible.

Valverde confirmed before Saturday's win over Levante – which saw Barca crowned Spanish champions for a fourth time in five years – that he has been exhaustively analysing Liverpool, while centre-back Clement Lenglet also spoke about the video work players have been doing.

"To prepare [for Liverpool], I have videos of the players I am going to face," he told El Periodico. "I look at what they like to do, how they dribble, how they move, how they behave at certain moments, what foot they prefer."

"When does Robertson, for example, like to cross and where does he usually put the ball? Does Firmino prefer to go to the front post or attack the back post? I like to have every piece of information possible."

Barca returned to training on Monday to step up preparations for Wednesday's game. The players had Sunday off after winning the league on Saturday, which was followed by the trophy presentation on the Camp Nou pitch and a small party.

"I won't lie, I've had a beer and I want another," midfielder Ivan Rakitic said on Saturday. "We have the day off [on Sunday], and when we get up in the morning we may have a headache. But after that, we have to think about the Champions League."

Valverde has no new injury concerns going into the game. Lionel Messi has started the last two matches on the bench but will return to the side for the visit of Liverpool, while Rafinha is the only Barca player nursing an injury.

(AGENCIES)

Manchester United's Solskjaer must show authority by dropping De Gea - Wrighta

LONDON

MANCHESTER United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer must show he is not afraid to make big decisions and drop error-prone goalkeeper David De Gea for the final two games of the Premier League season, former England striker Ian Wright has said.

De Gea has made a number of uncharacteristic mistakes in recent games, including one that allowed Chelsea to equalise in Sunday's 1-1 draw that dented sixth-placed United's chances of finishing in the top four. Solskjaer backed De Gea to shake off his poor form in their final two games against Huddersfield Town and Cardiff City but Wright believes the Norwegian has to take a different approach.

"If he (Solskjaer) really wants to stamp his mark and let people know he isn't afraid to make decisions, he should take him out," Wright said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

"If the manager explains every-

thing and tells him face to face why he's leaving him out and giving him a break, that's man-management and that's what Solskjaer has to do."

De Gea's contract was due to expire this year before United activated a one-year extension but that has not stopped media reports from linking him with a move away from Old Trafford. Wright said an early end to De Gea's season would help the struggling Spaniard sort out his future at the club, while back-up Sergio Romero fills in.

"He (De Gea) needs to go on holiday and sort his contract out," Wright added. "Sometimes you have to take someone out the firing line. He's one of the best goalkeepers in the world and he needs a break."

"There's a lot going on and he's under a lot of pressure. When you look at how United are playing at the moment, putting him in that situation is putting him under more pressure."

REUTERS

United consider triggering Oblak clause

LONDON

MANCHESTER United are seriously considering triggering Atletico Madrid goalkeeper Jan Oblak's €120 million buy-out clause, sources have confirmed to ESPN FC – throwing David De Gea's future into doubt.

Oblak, 26, signed a new contract at Atletico in April, but his buy-out clause was only increased by only €20m to a figure which the United hierarchy believe would still be excellent value for a player considered one of the world's best in his position. De Gea, 28, was United's player of the year in four of the last five seasons, but made the latest mistake of an error-strewn 2018-19 campaign in Sunday's 1-1 Premier League draw against Chelsea, and has just one year left on his contract.

Oblak had the opportunity to join Liverpool in the past, and Chelsea have also shown an interest. The Slovenia international had previously always preferred to stay at Atletico.

Despite extending his deal with Atletico up until 2023 with a pay rise included, sources have told

ESPN FC Oblak is in a similar situation to teammate Antoine Griezmann in that he would like to see more top players arrive in order to help them compete with Barcelona – while Real Madrid are also likely to strengthen. Atletico have already lost 2018 World Cup winner Lucas Hernandez to Bayern Munich, while defenders Diego Godin, Juanfran and Filipe Luis are all out of contract in the summer. Meanwhile, several top clubs are interested in other key players including midfielders Saul Niguez and Rodrigo.

United are considering whether to pay Saul's €150m buy-out clause, while Manchester City and Barcelona are interested in Rodrigo, who has been likened to Sergio Busquets.

There is an understanding that Oblak would only leave Atletico for a team playing in the Champions League – something which is far from certain at United, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team sitting sixth with two games remaining after taking just one point from the last nine available.

(AGENCIES)

Liverpool have potential to be Barca's kryptonite

By Graham Hunter, Spain writer

ACROSS the 43-year history of their rivalry, Barcelona have never knocked Liverpool out of Europe, never defeated the Reds at the Camp Nou. Four home matches: two defeats, two draws, one solitary goal scored – 12 years ago, by Deco. It's an angry blemish scarring an otherwise superb European record from a club that, like Liverpool, is pursuing its sixth Champions League trophy.

And the harsh truth, amid the champagne and backslapping of their La Liga title win on Saturday, is that if Barcelona perform against Jurgen Klopp's team this week like they did in beating Levante 1-0, then both those bleak records are guaranteed to continue. Their bid for a third Treble, when no other club has more than one, will be in tatters.

Does that sound a little ungracious given that for Barcelona's squad, staff and fans, this is a time of momentous achievement? Eight domestic titles in 11 seasons – particularly, played in a league in which the quality is enormously high, in which it's proven that any team, however humble, can beat any other, and that is populated by serial UEFA trophy winners such as Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Sevilla – is awesome.

However, facts must be faced. I'm stating the same truth that Ernesto Valverde, Gerard Pique, Luis Suarez & Co. will be digesting and trying to avoid at all costs.

What happened on Saturday, while Paco Lopez's Levante played absolutely superbly, going toe to toe with a squad that was assembled for hundreds of times the cost and is paid hundreds of millions more, was precisely what Lionel Messi has recently warned against. Barca's genius stepped off the pitch seconds after the final whistle against Manchester United in the quarterfinal and shrugged off praise from his interviewer so that he could go straight to the nub of the matter.

The gist of his message was: They have spoken among themselves about not playing as sloppily as they did in the first 10 minutes against United. They need to not repeat this again because a bad spell of eight or nine minutes in the Champions League and you're out.

The thrashings at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain, Juventus and Roma in recent seasons were the stimulus for his critical message. United, a team in stasis, had been dealt with, but no such advantageous circumstances lay ahead in the semifinal. Liverpool are better, faster, stronger and more confident.

It's worth going back to Messi's words because, against Levante, Barcelona were wasteful, slow and lacking intensity – and that's before their level dropped.

Putting it politely, Liverpool's scouts must have left the Camp Nou licking their lips in anticipation. Klopp's players – or at least those who weren't spending Saturday praying that Burnley would do them a favour against Manchester City – would have been forgiven for messaging their agents to book flights and hotel rooms in Madrid, where the final will be



Ernesto Valverde - Jurgen Klopp

held, for family and friends.

One reason for writing so scathingly about Barcelona's weekend performance is the clash against Klopp's red machine already felt like Superman meeting kryptonite for the first time.

In case you're not familiar with the 81-year-old extraterrestrial, he went by the name Clark Kent and who has made millions for DC Comics and Hollywood filmmakers. He left mortals standing, but kryptonite mysteriously weakened him – just as Liverpool's pressing, athleticism, high-tempo passing, three-man front line and height at set pieces can potentially do to Barcelona.

Indeed, just in case you've forgotten modern football history, never mind Superhero antecedents, it's not just PSG, Juve and Roma who are our reference points.

It's true Barcelona's home record could make the Camp Nou seem like an unassailable citadel. No team in Europe has an equivalent record of 31 home games in UEFA competition without defeat.

Liverpool, as powerful as they are and as much as the two rivals' states at present makes them feel like favourites, face a club that has won 28 and drawn three in the past six years, scoring 91 while conceding just 15 times. Pretty remarkable.

However, Barcelona's lone conquerors in that span were Jupp Heynckes' Bayern Munich. They were not identical to this Liverpool team, but not far off it: high tempo, physical, confident and wholly aware of where Barca's Achilles heel was in 2013.

It's coincidental that one of the jokers in Jurgen Klopp's pack, capable of springing surprises on unwary opponents and a different kind of footballer from those around him at Anfield,

is Xherdan Shaqiri. He played for Bayern in that aggregate 7-0 semifinal rout.

If Klopp quizzes his Swiss international, Shaqiri will surely tell him that the 2013 version of Barcelona had also run away with their league title, but that they hated being harassed at high tempo, weren't at their athletic peak, were capable of being bullied, were vulnerable at set plays and needed to be overwhelmed.

I'd estimate Klopp's sermon to his players this week has been almost identical in content and tone to the one delivered by Heynckes. Bayern then, like Liverpool now, played 4-3-3, darting in behind the normally foraging Barca full-backs. The Catalans then, like Saturday at least, weren't at their peak of energy and stamina.

A year after Bayern thrashed Tito Vilanova's Barcelona 7-0 on aggregate, Xavi told me, vehemently, that the fundamental difference between the sides was that he and his teammates were exhausted and not at their physical best, and the Bavarians were absolutely flying in terms of pace, stamina and freshness.

I was doubtful, the problems appeared to run more deeply. But it was only two seasons later that a buzzing Barca squad, not heavily changed but much more energetic after Luis Enrique had heavily rotated their first XI for months, pretty clinically dispatched Pep Guardiola's Bayern side in what was an epic Champions League semifinal en route to Barcelona's second Treble.

This lesson seems to be the key. If Barca are fresh, rather than frazzled, it's Liverpool who are underdogs. Otherwise, it's vice-versa. While Valverde has undoubtedly reduced the minutes of his vital, slightly more senior squad members, has it been sufficient?

If Messi is to fulfill his promise to bring the

European Cup back to the Camp Nou, then there needs to be a massive leap forward in intensity, pace of passing, attention to detail, pressing and finishing.

Liverpool, judging by their domestic and European form, are coming to the boil. Barcelona, if you inserted a thermometer, would show a tepid temperature.

What Barcelona have achieved in winning the title both early and by a decent margin, while making this European semifinal plus reaching the Copa del Rey final, is exceedingly special. So few clubs have won Trebles because it's unbelievably difficult; there will be days when you win by luck, thanks to referees' blunders or, well, when you don't really know how you've got through.

So if you take a close look at Barca's recent level of performance – away to United, at home to Atletico, in drawing 0-0 against Huesca, shipping four against Villarreal, ambling around against Real Sociedad and conceding sufficient chances to lose against Levante – then the conclusion is that any team in this situation would be counted as distant second favourites to eliminate a phenomenon like Liverpool.

However, what's special about Messi, Pique, Suarez, Jordi Alba, Ivan Rakitic, Marc-Andre ter Stegen, Sergio Busquets isn't just their talent, it's their mentality.

They know that leaving massive gaps between the lines like they did against Levante, being robbed of the ball, giving it away lackadaisically, getting jittery and allowing the importance of the occasion to gnaw away at their intensity and excellence, well, that will end their European season. Good bye, Wanda Metropolitan on June 1. Good bye, Treble.

(AGENCIES)

Has Sarri done enough to keep his job at Chelsea?

LONDON

IT is now all so simple for Chelsea and Maurizio Sarri. Victories against Watford and Leicester over the final two weekends of the Premier League season will ensure that Stamford Bridge stages Champions League football again next season.

Forget about the safety net of a potential Europa League final in Baku, Azerbaijan – six points from two games and Chelsea will be over the line and back where Roman Abramovich expects them to be: among the elite clubs of Europe.

It would mean that Sarri's first season in charge is a success. Relative success, of course, because Chelsea have been nowhere near challenging for the title, but success all the same for a coach who has also seen his team come within a penalty shoot-out of beating Manchester City to win the Carabao Cup. Yet even if Chelsea finish in the top four and win the Europa League, it might not be enough to keep Sarri in a job after a turbulent campaign.

Marina Granovskaia, who runs Chelsea on a day-to-day basis, remains Sarri's biggest advocate, and that is big tick in the former Napoli coach's favour.

But once the dust settles on Chelsea's season, the questions and doubts over Sarri will remain and Granovskaia will have to convince Abramovich that the 60-year-old is the man to take the club forward and through a difficult transitional period, which could yet involve a 12-month worldwide transfer ban.

Being back in the Champions League will clearly help Chelsea through their rebuilding programme (if they are actually allowed to sign players), but this season has thrown up more questions than answers about their progress and development under Sarri. And if Chelsea do seal a top-four finish, it could be argued that it would largely be a result of the failings of



Maurizio Sarri

Arsenal and Manchester United rather than the success of Sarri's methods.

Harsh? Perhaps, but Chelsea have opened up a two-point cushion between themselves and fifth-placed Arsenal despite claiming two points from a possible nine in their past three Premier League games.

They conceded 10 goals without scoring in successive away games against Bournemouth and City earlier this year and it was only Sunday's 1-1 draw at United which spared Sarri's team the ignominy of becoming the first Chelsea side to lose away to all big six rivals in a season since Abramovich bought the club in 2003.

At one stage in February, after the 6-0 defeat at City and FA Cup exit at home to

United, it appeared that Sarri was heading for the exit door – a prospect which appeared inevitable after goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga defied his planned substitution in the Carabao Cup final by ignoring Sarri's instruction to leave the pitch for Willy Caballero. Sarri rode the storm, however, and, to his credit, has been able to restore some kind of order and stability in recent weeks, but the doubts over his suitability for Chelsea remain.

There are many reasons to question Sarri's ability to deliver genuine success to Chelsea. Firstly, his recruitment has been poor. The two players he pushed Chelsea to sign – Jorginho and Gonzalo Higuain – have struggled to make any kind of positive im-

pact, with neither able to replicate the form they displayed under Sarri with Napoli.

Tactically, Sarri has also been exposed. The supporters have vocally criticised his so-called "Sarri-ball" approach, and his rigid refusal to change has left some players frustrated.

There is an argument to suggest that Sarri has not had the players to make his tactics work, but with Jorginho and Higuain proving so underwhelming, the Chelsea board may take some convincing to back the manager if he wants more of the same this summer.

Sarri's stubbornness over Chelsea's home-grown players, most notably Callum Hudson-Odoi and Ruben Loftus-Cheek, has also brought him into conflict with the fans and it does not bode well if the squad cannot be improved during the transfer window.

And with Eden Hazard entering the final year of his contract and likely to push for a move to Real Madrid, Chelsea will be losing their best player, the one who has done more than any other to keep them alive in the race for the top four. Can they afford to go into next season with a coach who has so far offered little sign of having a coherent plan to move the team forward?

In the past, Abramovich has been ruthless with his managers and sacked some for achieving far more than Sarri. But the Russian has been less visible at Chelsea this season after his investor visa expired and his long-term intentions are unclear, so Sarri might be handed the chance to stay on beyond the summer.

It is by no means guaranteed, however, and Chelsea may yet decide that change is needed, even if they find themselves back in the Champions League.

(AGENCIES)

SPORT

Liverpool have potential to
be Barca's kryptonite

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC's player Emmanuel Okwi is one of the outfit's players that were honoured during the last year's Mo Simba Awards.

Steven Smith hopes to sign off with a flourish

BENGALURU

DURING his year in international cricket wilderness, most of Steven Smith's competitive cricket had been in T20 leagues. There was the CPL, then the BPL, and finally, the IPL. The bare stats will tell you that his returns overall haven't been of the kind to set the world on fire. An average of 30.58 is fine, but his strike rate across 20 matches in these three leagues has been 117.64 - well down from the 125.36 it was 12 months ago.

A little more digging into the numbers suggests an upward trend, though. Smith has played 11 games for Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2019, and batted ten times. But ever since he was appointed captain of the team, his batting has also gone on an upswing. In his first six innings, Smith scored at an average of 37.2, but with a low strike rate of 108. In his last four knocks, the average has gone up to 44.3, and crucially, the strike rate has rocketed to a respectable 130. He's finding the boundary every six balls, compared to the 10.2 he was taking in the first half of the tournament.

He has also gotten off the blocks much quicker. In the first ten balls of his innings, his strike rate and dot-ball percentage in the first six games was 107 and 36.6. In the last four, it has been 139 and 30.5. That strike rate of 139 is the fifth fastest since April 20 - the day he assumed captaincy - among all batsmen, given a minimum of 30 balls faced.

Smith's turnaround has coincided with Royals also enjoying an upsurge, with three wins in their last four matches. They are on 10 points now, with two games in hand, but the match against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Tuesday will be the last one Smith will be part of. After that, he'll be linking up with the Australian team for their World Cup preparations. With both remaining matches being practically must-win games to have a shot at the playoffs, Smith's finale for Royals needs to be a grand one.

"I think I have probably taken a little while to sort of warm into things again," Smith said on Monday in Bengaluru. "The start of the tournament did not go as well as I would have liked, personally or collectively as a group. But I think the more I have padded up, the better I have felt as the tournament has gone on. I've been able to contribute to a couple of wins probably in the last two matches. Felt very good."

"We have won three out of the last four, and it is very important for us to win the last two games to give ourselves a chance to qualify. We can't think about other results, all we can focus on is how we are playing. Hopefully the boys can get over the line tomorrow night and then go and win Delhi as well and give ourselves a chance to qualify."

Part of Smith's easing into form could be down to the natural rustiness of going from constant top-flight cricket to sparse outings at a high enough level. Some of it is also due to the elbow injury Smith has been battling off and on, which restricted his batting and lofted shots in the 'v' early on. His elbow remains "not 100%", but it's healing well. **AGENCIES**



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) secretary general, Wilfred Kidao, speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday on an international friendly Spain's Sevilla FC and Simba of Tanzania, which will take place in Dar es Salaam on May 23. Also in the picture are (L-R) TFF official, Salum Madadi, SportPesa Tanzania Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, and TFF Information Officer, Clifford Ndimo. PHOTO: SPORTPESA

Simba set to play Sevilla FC in friendly

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S soccer giants, Simba Sports Club, will now play Spanish side, Sevilla FC, in a special international friendly match organized by SportPesa and scheduled to take place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 23.

Simba have been selected to play Sevilla FC due to the former's best performances in the SportPesa Cup held in the country in January this year.

Earlier, there were a plan for the traditional rivals, Young Africans Sports Club and Simba to play special friendly match and the winners would get a chance to play against

Sevilla FC.

The proposal failed due to the tight schedule for Simba and Young Africans in the ongoing Mainland Premier League as well as Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Secretary General, Wilfred Kidao, added another reason was the camp of the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars ahead of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals to be held in Egypt in June.

Kidao said the two teams sponsor, SportPesa Tanzania, contacted them to solve the matter and approved Simba which qualified for the semi-final of the SportPesa Cup. Young Africans did not reach the stage.

"We did not favour Simba in the selection and we did not consider they are defending champions of the Mainland Premier League rather than Simba's performances in the SportPesa Cup," Kidao noted.

SportPesa Tanzania Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, urged Simba to shape up ahead of the encounter due to the fact that Sevilla FC will use their first team.

"It is history for Simba and the country, good thing is the match would be televised by one of the biggest television stations in the world that will give field Dstv and would be covered all over the world," Tarimba noted.

Dar coaches attend SportPesa football coaching course

By Guardian Reporter

THIRTY two soccer coaches have started a three-day clinic under the supervision of English Premier League giants Southampton FC technical staff.

The coaches have been picked from various clubs in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar for the course, dubbed Coaches to Count On, which is organized by gaming firm, SportPesa Tanzania.

They have been sponsored by SportPesa Tanzania, with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) coordinating the training.

Southampton FC Partnership Manager, James Newbigin, said they have been impressed with the development made by the country in football.

Newbigin said the serious investment in technical staff and qualification of the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) are one of the positive signs of the game's development in Tanzania.

Other coaches, who are conducting the training are Andy Martino (Southampton FC) and Jason Holmes.

Newbigin also said that hosting of the 2019 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations in Tanzania is a sign of serious nation in football and called on TFF not to be satisfied with the stage and the federation should increase efforts to promote the sport.

He said there are so many coaches,



Southampton FC Partnership Manager, James Newbigin, instructs domestic coaches that attended a clinic conducted by the club at the Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Gaming firm, SportPesa, sponsors the clinic. PHOTO: SPORTPESA

who have the international standard, and the task ahead is for the national football governing body to prepare more refresher coaching courses for improving the trainers' skills.

"These kinds of the trainings develop the coaches' skills and philosophy. They will learn the aspect of the game as well as the new teaching methodol-

ogy. Coaches are required to apply these in their teachings," Newbigin disclosed.

SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, said they are proud to be a true football stakeholder in the country and their target is to make the game attain the highest development by investing in technical and

other related football fields.

Tarimba moreover urged the coaches to use the training for the benefit of the game.

"This is not the first time to have this kind of training. Everton technical staff also had the same training for the youths and Everton legend Steven Pienaar did the same during his visit," Abbas said.

Mo Simba awards set for next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE second edition of Simba SC awards, dubbed Mo Simba awards, will be held at the end of the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League season, the outfit disclosed yesterday.

The awards aims at rewarding the club's players and supporters who have been outstanding during the 2018/2019 season and the function will be held at a venue and date to be announced later.

In a press release, Simba said the awards will have 11 categories which are best player of the season, best goal, striker, defender and midfielder of the season.

The red carpet function will also recognize the best goalkeeper, young player, best female player and best team supporters and a person who motivated many people to follow and love the team using social media and hall of fame honour.

The team said the awardees would be selected by the team's supporters through voting and judges will select the final winners.

Mohammed Dewji who is the club's investor, was quoted as saying the event is aimed at honoring and recognizing people who contributed a lot to the team's success this season.

The Msimbazi Street side has managed to reach the quarterfinals of the 2018/19 CAF Champions League.

He said to reach this far many people contributed a lot but the outfit cannot award all people hence the decision to only selecting a few.

Dewji also promised improved red carpet event than that of the last time, saying this time they have prepared well so that even those who will watch at their homes should enjoy the memorable event.

"The 2018/19 season has been very successful to our club and the country football in general, we reached the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, so this year we want to honor those who did their best for the club, this year it will be more improved unlike last time," he said.

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The red carpet function will also recognize the best goalkeeper, young player, best female player and best team supporters and a person who motivated many people to follow and love the team using social media and hall of fame honour.

EATV TODAY @11:00
DADAZ
WEDNESDAY DADAZ
10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ [Live]
15:00 FUNGUA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSEELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:30 Mid Week Movie

DADAZ This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

eastafrika 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