



## AGRICULTURE



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## 'Jaguar' to spend more days in cells after being denied bail

NAIROBI

THE Kenyan legislator arrested on Wednesday after threatening to attack Tanzanians and other foreign nationals doing businesses within his constituency in the capital will spend three more days in police cells after being denied bail.



**The MP from the ruling Jubilee Party then repeats the phrase "enough is enough" as people applaud**

Nairobi Resident Magistrate Tobiko Sinkiyan said yesterday that Starehe MP Charles Njagua, a former musician popularly known by his stage name Jaguar will have to stay longer at Kileleshwa Police Station to protect ongoing investigations on his remarks deemed as incitement to violence.

Sinkiyan said though it had not been proven how Njagua could interfere with the probe, she however acknowledged that he was a person of influence.

In a clip widely shared in East Africa and beyond, Njagua was recorded at Gikombaa market which popular for second-hand clothes saying: "When you look at our market, Tanzanians and Ugandans have taken our businesses. Enough is enough. If we will give them 24 hours and they will not leave, we will beat them and we are not scared of anyone."

The MP from the ruling Jubilee Party then repeats the phrase "enough is enough" as people applaud.

The magistrate ruled that there is reasonable ground and well founded fear to have the ongoing investigations

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# Alarm as MUHAS cites rise in cases of stroke among youths

**"The only intervention against the disease is for the patients to have regular medical check-ups in clinics and other health facilities and attend physiotherapy," she recommended**

By Correspondent James Kandoya

**C**ONTRARY to popular belief that it is senior citizens who are most likely to be struck by stroke, a new study shows that the number of stroke afflicted patients aged between 18 and 45 is on sharp increase, with a fatality rate of nearly 50 per cent, owing to an unhealthy lifestyle and other factors.

Presenting a paper entitled 'Stroke in young adults admitted at MUHAS Academic Medical Centre : A comparison with older adults' yesterday, Dr Sarah Matuja said the study she conducted at the Mloganzila branch of the Muhimbili National Hospital from June last year to January this year showed that more young people suffer from the disease than previously thought.

"Out of 123 patients included, 60 died after 30 days which is equivalent to 49.1 per cent fatality rate," she said.

"The survey also found that the number of women affected by stroke is also on the increase as opposed to earlier reports that put men at higher risk," she stated.

Unhealthy lifestyle including over-nutrition and lack of exercise is blamed since it leads to type two diabetes and hypertension, the two major risk factors for stroke.

Dr Matuja noted that the aim of conducting the study was to determine the magnitude of first ever stroke, describe stroke sub-types, risk factors and outcomes in young people less than 45 years compared to older adults over 45 years.

"The only intervention against the disease is for the patients to have regular medical check-ups in clinics and other health facilities and attend physiotherapy," she recommended.

Stroke in young adults has devastating outcomes linked to the presence of unique

**"Out of 123 patients included, 60 died after 30 days which is equivalent to 49.1 per cent fatality rate," she said.**

risk factors inherent to genetics and the environment, the researcher underlined.

Dr Matuja clarified that strokes in young people could be on the increase because of lack of alertness on risk factors, saying there is a need for early screening and monitoring so as to prevent subsequent development of stroke.

There was similarly a gap in knowledge on the magnitude, risk factors and short term outcomes following a stroke in young adults.

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**DELIGHTFUL MOMENT:** British tourists visibly excited as they take turns to 'test' hot spring water with their fingers during a tour in Lake Manyara National Park on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Minister doubts TBA staff competence, orders audit

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

MINISTER for Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwelwe yesterday said key construction projects undertaken by the state-run Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) are supervised by staff without the right qualifications, leading to delays in completion of the works.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during an inspection tour of the 20bn/-



**There are TBA staff overseeing construction projects all over the country but without training in civil engineering. This is why many projects are not completed in time**

Magomeni Quarters project whose completion was first set for 2017, Kamwelwe blamed the delays in implementation of the modern apartments and other projects on inefficiency and low level of professionalism at TBA.

"There are TBA staff overseeing construction projects all over the country but without training in civil engineering. This is why many projects are not

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## TASAC 'monopoly policy' enrages shipping agents

By Felister Peter

SHIPPING agents in the country are up in arms against the government's decision to give exclusive mandate to its own agency to handle most of their functions in recent changes of law.

Through the Tanzania Shipping Agents Association (TASAA), the agents have expressed concerns over the government decision to give exclusive mandate to the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) to carry out



**He suggested that since the government has been insisting on creating a friendly business climate and support the private sector, it is high time that shipping agents are left to continue with their agency function as it was previously**

shipping agency functions, saying the move threatens the existence of private agencies and jobs of nearly 500 employees.

The association is calling for immediate intervention which includes alteration of Section 7 (iii) of the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, No.3 of 2019 through which the changes were endorsed. Amendments to the shipping agency law were tabled and passed in the National Assembly on Thursday.

Speaking to The Guardian yesterday, TASAA

Executive Secretary, Abel Uronu said: "We believe that the objective of the government is to promote the private sector, create a friendly business climate and enhancement of competition among traders. We request the bill to be reviewed for the betterment of promoting the private sector as well as enhancing competition in the shipping industry."

He suggested that since the government has

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## Minister doubts TBA employees' competence and calls for an audit

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completed in time," the minister said.

Kamwelwe who is a civil engineer then directed the permanent secretary in the ministry to furnish him with a full list of site agents supervising construction projects being conducted by TBA.

He issued the directive after he was irritated by the slow pace of construction, saying it has piled up massive delays due to lack of clear and workable plans.

"I am not happy with the pace of construction. It appears to be dormant as supervisors have no plan on what to do to make sure the work is progressing at the right pace," he said.

"I want the permanent secretary to bring to me the list of supervisors so that I can scrutinize the profession of each agent contracted to supervise construction projects," he ordered.

Kamwelwe said he will meet with the permanent secretary to change the management that supervises the Magomeni Quarters construction project in order to enhance its progress and due completion.

"I want to change the management of TBA to make sure it becomes strong and able to implement construction projects at given standards," the minister emphasized.

For his part, the acting director for consultancy at TBA, architect Kileo Yusuph said that so far construction work has reached 40 percent of total works expected.

He said lack of funds to accelerate the work has been a major challenge that retards implementation of the project in the stated period.

TBA has already submitted the construction plan to the government in order to complete the rest of the work, he stated.

Delay in the completion of the Magomeni Quarters project has turned into a nightmare for 644 families living in rented premises since 2012 when they were evicted from the old quarters to pave the way for modern apartments.

Addressing the residents in September 2016 when he laid a foundation stone for the mega project, President John Magufuli offered the evicted residents a five year grace period to mobilize cash so that they can own the new apartments in recognition of the time they have taken to wait.

"All the 644 residents will live for free for five years once these new apartments are completed. Since you have been living in rented houses for the past five years, you shall not pay rent and you will be given priority to buy the apartments once the five years are over," the president stated.

He directed TBA then to complete the project in 12 months saying Treasury had already allocated the funds for it in the 2016/17 financial year.



President John Magufuli presents a Tingatinga painting and a sculpture to Mozambique's Verónica Macamo Dlovo, current Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum, shortly after talks at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House.

## TASAC 'monopoly policy' enrages shipping agents

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been insisting on creating a friendly business climate and support the private sector, it is high time that shipping agents are left to continue with their agency function as it was previously.

Uronu explained that with the changes in the law, shipping agency functions including tanker ships, car

carrier vessels, cruise vessels, exhibition vessels, casual callers, chartered vessels and military ships have been shifted to TASAC. Tanker ships are designed to transport liquids or gases in bulk, including oil products, liquefied gas and chemicals.

He said the government did not consider some of the implications in implementing the bill, noting that

shipping agents who have invested in the sector for more than 15 years, especially those handling tramps, car carriers and tanker vessels will have to close their offices regardless of existing contracts with their principals.

"Almost 500 people employed by about 11 shipping agents will lose their jobs as the agents will no longer

have business. There will be no competition in the industry as customers will be served by only one services provider," noted Uronu, anticipating that the reputation of the transit corridor will be impaired.

"We anticipate negative reaction from investors and carriers as per current business. It is beyond comprehension that competitors'

manifest and other documents will be subjected to a single agent," he remarked.

Early this month, during his meeting with members of the business community from all districts and regions across the country, President John Magufuli reiterated the government's determination to put in place proper mechanisms to empower small-scale

entrepreneurs, expressing commitment to facilitate the private sector by improving the business environment.

TASAC was established by the government in 2017 to regulate the maritime transport industry in Tanzania mainland, assuming some of the responsibilities of the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA).

## Jaguar to spend more days in remand after bail request rejected

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protected.

Police had made a request to the court to have the legislator detained for 14 when he was arraigned on Thursday.

The government of Kenya reacted in a statement, saying it deeply regretted the careless and inciteful language against foreigners living and working in Kenya in public utterances made by Hon. Charles Njagua, the Member of Parliament for Starehe Constituency.

"This aggressive and ill-tempered language goes against the letter and spirit of Kenya's welcoming ethos, as well as the progressive nature of the Constitution of our Republic," read the statement in part.

The singer turned politician in an Instagram post has since maintained that his speech was misinterpreted and he did not mean to interfere with regional coercion and trade.



Tahir Fatawi (2nd-R) of the Zanzibar government's Road Construction and Maintenance department briefs Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday on newly acquired road construction equipment. This was at the department's Kibwele Station in Central Unguja District. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Alarm as MUHAS sees rise in cases of stroke among youths

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she stated, emphasizing on the urgent need of integrating preventive strategies to combat stroke in young adults, as failure widening the rate of exposure to stroke risks. Dr Matuja, a specialist in internal medicine presented the paper at the seventh Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Scientific Conference held in Dar es Salaam with the theme 'Health Research and Innovation for Sustainable Economic Development' which brought together local medical researchers and foreign colleagues.

An article published in July 2010 in a respected medical journal Lancet entitled 'The incidence of stroke in rural Tanzania' noted that stroke incidence in urban Tanzania was about three times higher than in the rural setting, suggesting that urbanisation was to blame for increasing stroke risks.

The Lancet article was published after a study involving Denmark-based researchers, and was part of the Tanzania Stroke Incidence Project, which documented the incidence of stroke in Hai District (rural) and Dar es Salaam (urban) during a three-year period beginning June 2003.

Researchers also noted that age-standardised incidence rates in Dar es Salaam were higher than in most studies of developed countries, possibly due to a difference in the prevalence of risk factors.

"Hypertension seems to be the main modifiable risk factor: two-thirds of patients who died from stroke in Tanzania had a history of hypertension," the study authors noted. In addition, the prevalence of hypertension in patients with stroke was somewhat higher in Dar-es-Salaam than in Hai.

World Health Organization data shows that 15 million people suffer from stroke worldwide each year. Of these, five million die and another five million are permanently disabled.

High blood pressure contributes to more than 12.7 million strokes worldwide, with Europe averaging approximately 650,000 stroke deaths each year.

Incidence and mortality of stroke differ between countries, geographical regions, and ethnic groups.

In high-income countries mainly, improvements in prevention, acute treatment, and neuro-rehabilitation have led to a substantial decrease in the burden of stroke over the past 30 years, the WHO report underlined.

## Kenya's modern train service promoting beach tourism - official

NAIROBI

Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is promoting beach tourism along the Indian Ocean shores, says a senior government official.

Najib Balala, cabinet secretary, ministry of tourism and wildlife told journalists in Nairobi that the Mombasa to Nairobi railway line has reduced the cost of travel to

the port of Mombasa.

"Since the completion of the SGR, we have seen a surge of local and international tourists visiting the coastal beach of Mombasa," Balala said during the launch of the partnership between Express Travel Group and Travel Leaders Group to form Travel Leaders Kenya.

Balala revealed that the SGR has

increased the travel options for visitors seeking to tour the coastal region.

"Previously tourists had to contend with high cost of air travel or the unreliable road transport network," he added.

The 480 km SGR line built by Chinese from Nairobi to Mombasa was launched in 2017 while the construction of the 120 km Nairobi

to Naivasha section which is also funded by the Chinese is almost complete.

Balala said that once the SGR is complete, it will open up the western tourism circuit which is largely unexploited due to high cost of transport and lack of public awareness of the rich cultural heritage in the region.

"Through the use of SGR, we

hope to expand the tourism sector by making all parts of the country accessible to both domestic and foreign tourists," he added.

The government official noted that Kenya's main tourism products are the beach tourism and the safari product which largely attract high-end clientele.





Ijala legislator Mussa Azzan Zungu, who is also National Assembly chairman, opens a capacity building seminar for members of the Tanzania branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Africa Region in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

## MUHAS research reveals increase in the prevalence of fatty liver disease

By Henry Mwangonde

A STUDY by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) has revealed that there is a rising prevalence of Fatty Liver Disease (FLD), a complication caused by too much fat stored in liver cells affecting people who drink little to no alcohol.

The study which was presented yesterday during the 7th Muhas Scientific Conference was conducted to determine the prevalence of FLD, associated factors and to assess awareness of fatty liver disease among outpatients attending internal medicine clinics at Muhas academic centre, Mloganzila.

Presenting the findings Dr Nontobeko Simelane who conducted the study said the overall findings revealed that FLD is not uncommon in Tanzanian population and that there is a significantly poor awareness among the general community regarding FLD in its totality.

"Factors that were associated with FLD in this current setting were similar to the ones reported in several other settings around

the globe," she noted.

According to her, 60 of the 432 patients whose samples were used in the study had FLD.

The study also called for several strategies to raise community awareness and improve health education saying it was vital especially in this era where NCDs are blooming.

"Early diagnosis and timely management of FLD will certainly improve the quality of life and its expectancy at large," reads part of the study.

The MUHAS conference is held under the theme: Health Research and Innovation for Sustainable Economic Development.

Though there is no local study which has been conducted to determine the burden of fatty liver disease in Tanzania, the country like other resource-limited setting nations is witnessing an escalation of non-communicable diseases on top of the ever existing infectious diseases.

It is estimated that over a third of the global population is suffering from fatty liver disease, and this proportion is expected to rise.



**Early diagnosis and timely management of FLD will certainly improve the quality of life and its expectancy at large**

## 'Same and Hai recorded much fewer GBV cases than other districts'

By Guardian Reporter, Rombo

MORE than 150 cases related to gender based violence (GBV) have been reported to the police gender desk in six months within Moshi municipal council, Rombo district leading in the list.

Head of gender and children desk in Kilimanjaro region, Zuhura Suleiman made the revelation when speaking at a five days training to prosecutors, police officers, magistrates and social welfare officers from Moshi district.

She said that Same and Hai districts have reported a few number of GBV cases compared to other districts linking the drop in violence cases with good caring of children by parents. She said in the areas where GBV cases are rampant, children are being raised by grandmothers and guardians

who do not have enough time to look for the children.

The training which was organised jointly by Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange Community Organisation (KWIECO) and Crossroads International with its headquarters in Canada aimed at empowering the officers with extra skills on dealing with issues related to GBV.

"There are many gender based violence cases such as child abuse and rape. We also have a number of cases where women have been abandoned by their husbands.

She said the main challenge facing officials as well as police in dealing with such cases is lack of cooperation from both girls and parents. She said that sometimes parents collude with their children to protect the culprits. "Parents have been taking money from culprits to convince their chil-

dren not to cooperate with the police", she said calling upon men to prioritize family caring by protecting their children from any forms of violence. Suleiman said they have been providing education to the residents and insist on them to report such cases to police.

Mohamed Seif is the social welfare officer in Moshi municipality; he said the many changes within the community associated with globalisation have fuelled gender based violence in the area.

He however linked failures to combat GBV with lack of coordination between organizations that works on children matters including social welfare officers, advocates, judges and parents.

According to Seif, the Access to Justice programme conducted by Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange Community

Organisation (KWIECO) and Crossroads International, magistrates and social welfare officers are now working more closely.

Siha Resident Magistrates Court Judge, Jasmine Abdul said some of the country laws need to be improved to facilitate case procedures. She said the laws also restrict judges from issuing ruling if the suspect is not present at court.

"There are challenges in getting witnesses, but police inspectors also take too long to complete investigations", said the Magistrate. KWIECO communication officer, Veronica Ollomi said they signed agreement with Canada's Crossroads International to implement the project that aims at ending GBV in Kilimanjaro region. She said the NGO has been working to end GBV in the districts of Kilimanjaro region since 2016.

## Government dismayed over poor repayment of loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

THE government has expressed dismay over poor loan repayment after it recovered 17.7m/- from the disbursed 158m/- for the youth empowerment development fund in Iringa region.

Acting director in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for labour, youth, employment and disabled, Juma Mswadiku said failures by most of the loan beneficiaries to repay the money had mad other eligible youth to miss the loans.

He said that Iringa region has yet to

re-collect more 140m/- from the youth insisting authorities at the district levels have promised to ensure the monies are deposited in the youth empowerment development fund.

Mswadiku was in the region to inspect youth projects as well as following up expenditure of the government funds issued to support youths. He said the government has in five years provided 5.4bn/- to empower youth, but loan repayments had always been a challenge.

"We make follow ups to know how the youth had benefited from the mon-

ies and the amount that had been repaid. We encourage youths to repay the loans so that more young people could benefit from the programme", he noted.

The official explained that such visits are also meant to observe implementation of government directives for each of the districts to set aside special investment areas as well as land plots that will be used by youths to establish economic activities.

He insisted that for youths to benefit from the funds, they must work in groups. He said most of the projects

fail because each of the youth operates on their own hence failing to repay the loans.

Economist from Prime Minister's Office, Onesmo Mrope said the government has established a number of projects in support of the youth including the green house cultivation schemes which aims to empower youth through vegetable and fruits farming. He noted that through the green house schemes youth are likely to harvest more fruits and vegetable for both, internal and external markets. He said the move is designed to curb unemployment chal-

lenges to the young people.

Late last year, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled Anthony Mavunde said that plans were afoot for the government to launch greenhouse cultivation schemes in 35 districts from across the country.

Mavunde said the timely initiatives which focus to curtail unemployment rate among youth in the country is expected to cover a total of 287,000 hectares and involve at least 3,500 youths.

He added that the industrial econo-

my was to a large extent banking on entrepreneurs' and youth, hence a need to empower them to engage effectively into different economic activities, basically in agricultural and other business facets.

He said the parent ministry through National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) will continue supporting the youth by rolling out capital loans.

"Within the NEEC, there are 19 different funds, worth at 1.3trn/- for providing loans to youth groups in the country," he said.

## Central bank report cites fall in agricultural earnings after ban on exportation of cashewnuts

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA'S agricultural export earnings fell by more than half over the past year, the central bank said in a report published on Thursday, hurt by a government ban on cashew exports.

The report showed earnings from agriculture exports slumped to \$554.1 million in the year ending April, from \$1.225 billion in the year-earlier period.

Agriculture accounts for about one-third of economic activity and 67% of employment in the East African nation, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The Bank of Tanzania attributed the slump to the delay in exporting the country's biggest export crop, cashews, and also said that exports in cloves and tea had fallen.

The delay came after the government intervened in the cashew market in November, blocking traders from buying the crop from farmers after rejecting their prices.

President John Magufuli then ordered a 94 percent increase in cashew nut prices, arguing that farmers were hurt by low prices. He then deployed the army to collect over 200,000 tonnes of cashew from farmers - the country's entire harvest - but the government has thus far not been able to find buyers for the crop.

In a report which was not made public after Tanzanian authorities did not consent to its publication, the IMF said in April that "a lack of predictability in government policies" was hampering the agriculture sector's potential.



Controller and Auditor General Prof Mussa Assad (R) has a word in Dodoma yesterday with Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee chairperson Naghenjwa Kaboyoka at the launch of an accountability report for financial year 2017/2018 organised by Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability. Photo: Godfrey Mushi



## Southern Africa: Tanzania unlikely saviour in SADC maize scarcity crisis

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA, which will export maize to some countries plagued by inclement weather and droughts, has emerged the sole shining light in the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) corn crisis.

The country is set to sell 700 000 tonnes of the staple maize food to Zimbabwe, which is enduring reduced yields after the Cyclone Idai ravaged crops when it made landfall in March. Tanzania is also exporting 1 million tonnes of maize to Kenya, which is experiencing yet another drought.

This represents the highest amount of corn Tanzania has exported in history.

For a country that has continually faced food shortages and hunger crisis over the years, the country of 60 million people is the unlikely saviour of exporters.

"Sometimes the light comes from the most unusual places," noted Wandile Sihlobo,

chief economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa.

He said at first glance, it was inconceivable that Tanzania could export that much maize, with its yearly production set to be about 5.5 million tonnes, which is up by 2 percent from the previous season. This is against an annual consumption of 5.3 million tonnes.

However, the economist pointed out, "... but the thing is, Tanzania has had a really good harvest over the past few years."

Over this period, the country managed to accumulate large reserves with the 2019 maize stocks estimated at 944 000 tonnes.

"So, if one adds the ending stocks data, with the expected harvest, it is conceivable that Tanzania could emerge as a saviour in this maize supply challenge in Southern and East Africa," Sihlobo added.

President John Magufuli recently stated Tanzania had a surplus during the 2018/19

farming season and felt obliged to assist fellow SADC member state, Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's 2019 maize production is estimated at 800 000 tonnes, slightly more than a half lower than the previous year. Zimbabwe requires some 2 million tonnes annually.

Apart from Zimbabwe, Mozambique is another country facing imminent shortages after devastating cyclone Idai struck.

It was the epicentre of the disaster and was struck by another cyclone, Kenneth, later. The 2018/19 maize harvest for Mozambique could fall by 27 percent year-on-year to 1.8 million tonnes.

Droughts, which delayed plantings at the start of the 2019 season, also affected Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

A crisis was feared as South Africa and Zambia, who are typically the region's maize exporters, are expected to have tight supplies due to lower production in the 2018/19 production season.



One Acre Fund Tanzania training coordinator Grady Kikoti briefs Kilolo district commissioner Asia Abdallah (L, in headscarf) during Harvest Day celebrations held yesterday at Kitumbuka village in the district's Irole Ward, Iringa Region. The Fund helps smallholder maize farmers by lending them inputs as a way of boosting their productivity. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## US to empower 50 million women entrepreneurs in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IN Africa, only five per cent of women occupy the position of Chief Executive Officers of organizations, despite the fact that businesses which have most women on their boards have an operating profit of 20 per cent higher than industry average, according to Marie Royce, the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States.

To change the narrative and empower more women

in Africa, the US has initiated the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) to support women entrepreneurs around the world to attain their full potentials.

"One of my greatest priorities is to empower women in the economy. Last year alone our Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, (ECA) committed over \$25 million and we reached over 150,000 women around the world. The programme is specifically designed to empower women and girls,"

the Assistant Secretary said.

AWE is part of the US Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, a government effort established in February 2019 to advance global women's economic empowerment.

The goal is to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2015. "We think that women are perfectly the most untapped resources in the developing world," she said.

AWE aims to provide online education resources, foster

networks that support access to mentorships, and connect women through existing exchange programmes. "Our goal is to teach, train and mentor women around the world to become successful entrepreneurs," Ms Royce said.

The initial cohort according to the programme design, will feature women in 26 countries, including 10 from Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Delivering the keynote address to 40 exchange programme alumni from various countries at an alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminar (TIES) on women's entrepreneurship on Wednesday in Accra, the Assistant Secretary addressed issues regarding mentorship, access to capital, business expansion best practices, and overcoming barriers to women in business.

The seminar was themed: "Strengthening Business and Trade for women entrepreneurs in Africa."

Alumni TIES are regionally focused gatherings for past participants of US government sponsored exchange programmes. Participants will have opportunities to explore issues of shared value, receive training, and collaborate with fellow alumni to implement projects in their local communities after the seminar.

They will also have the opportunity to learn how to create and sustain better business climates for women through busi-

ness development and trade, develop strategies for overcoming disparities in income and opportunity for women in business and entrepreneurship in Africa.

Alumni also, have the opportunity to apply for grants up to \$10,000 to focus on how to navigate financial systems for expanding women led businesses, access to markets and market information, technology solutions and skilled networks, as well as strengthening women's capacity to enter and succeed



Josephat Kandege (2nd-R), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), cuts a ribbon to launch Vodacom Tanzania Foundation's plans on contribution to community development for the 2019-2021 period. Looking on are Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority board chairman Dr Jones Killimbe (R), Vodacom Tanzania director general Hisham Hendi (C), Education, Science and Technology ministry permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo (L) and VTF director Rosalynn Mworio. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## IITA, Harvest Field sensitising farm stakeholders on aflatoxin management, Aflasafe adoption

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Harvest Field industries have engaged stakeholders within the maize and groundnut value chain and major decision makers on the emerging threat of aflatoxin and the benefit of incorporating Aflasafe as part of farmers inputs in Nigeria.

The sensitisation which identified a viable framework for training farmers on how to effectively use the product for best result, ensured that maize, groundnut producers, aggregators, processors, policy makers and other value chain stakeholders suggest ways to increase awareness about the issue and drive the mass adoption of Aflasafe at the State level.

Speaking at the one-day national stakeholders engagement on Aflatoxin management and adoption of Aflasafe for safe food production, at One Man Village, Nasarawa State, the commercialisation manager for Aflasafe, IITA, Peter Okomoh said for over 10 years, IITA worked with partners to produce the Aflasafe which is has deployed across Africa.

Okomoh said the aim is to strengthen the awareness about aflatoxins and the benefits of Aflasafe among key actors in the value chain at the state level, adding that is intended to lead to greater promotion and adoption of Aflasafe and drive its collection across all Federal Ministry of Agriculture Green Houses nationwide.

According to him, "IITA is basically focused on research for development, part of that also means that whatever research that we conduct at IITA has to address fundamental development on issues like health and nutrition, food security.

"Aflatoxin has been one of the major problems that we are having not just in Nigeria but across Africa and it is as a result of how we are situated along the equator, climate change also has not really helped over the last couple of years, and we have seen incidences of aflatoxin in areas where hitherto there were no really cases of aflatoxin.

"So, over ten years ago, IITA working with partners, decided to look for a solution to aflatoxin contamination in Africa, and that's when the Aflasafe technology was introduced, and over time the technology has been tested not just in Nigeria, but in several other countries and it has been found to be very safe and that's why the National Agency for Food Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) formally registered Aflasafe for use in Nigeria and we equally had it registered in other countries, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Gambia, Senegal and in West Africa.

"We are also extending it to other countries like Mali, in East Africa, also in Kenya, Tanzania is equally registered, we are really working to make sure that the technology is available across Africa for aflatoxin control", Okomoh said.

## Kaliua community calls for construction of TRA office

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

BUSINESS community in Kaliua District has appealed to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to construct an office in the area to facilitate payments of government taxes.

The traders complained that lack of TRA office in the district was contributing to increased costs of doing businesses since they are forced to travel to Urambo district to get the

services. "We have delayed to pay relevant taxes due to transport challenges, hence subjected to a number of fines. TRA should consider constructing an office in our district to ease operations", said one of the traders when speaking at a seminar organized by TRA to educate business people on various issues related to taxes.

Mtatio Mwita said that most of the traders have been subjected to penalties due to delays lack of

an office in Kaliua district. He said sometimes they are forced to travel twice in a week because at times the electronic tax payment system does not function properly.

Another trader, Mwandu Manoni insisted that construction of TRA offices in the district will help improve businesses environment as well as make more people pay government taxes. He said there are some people who are not paying taxes only because there are no

nearby offices.

Responding to queries raised by traders, TRA manager for Tabora region, Thomas Masese underscored the need for traders to pay taxes including those who have been registered to pay the Value Added Tax (VAT).

According to Masese traders in the region did not to pay taxes because challenges associated with transport problems.

Meanwhile, traders from Nzega

and Sikonge districts have called upon TRA to increase the number of staff at its offices to boost productivity. They were concerned that the few staff are sometimes overwhelmed by customers, hence delays in paying taxes.

Responding Masese said they are expecting more staff in the near future. He said the staff will be allocated to areas with limited number of workers in order to improve efficiency.





Work in progress, though one might say rather slowly, on the new Afrika Sana market at Kijitonyama Mpakani A in Dar es Salaam, as found yesterday. Sources at the site told The Guardian that the facility should be ready for use "soon". Photo: John Badi

## Authorities in Moshi embark on new efforts to implement biometric registration of SIM cards

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania Communications Authority (TCRA) in collaboration with the National Identification Authority (NIDA), Immigration, police Cybercrime unit, and telecommunication operators are implementing biometric registration of telephone lines (Sim cards) in Moshi to ease the ongoing exercise countrywide.

Speaking with the reporters here yesterday during the exercise that went together with creating awareness on biometric Sim Card registration, and Cyber crimes, among many others, Senior Public Rela-

tions Officer (PRO) with TCRA, Mabel Masasi explained that, the authority collaborates with other key stakeholders to ease Sim Cards biometric registration.

"This is to implement the national exercise which commenced on May 1 this year, requiring all Simcards holders to re-register by using National Identification Card..." she explained.

Masasi further explained that, they had the same exercise in ten regions of Tanzania and TCRA will continue educating the public on the importance of Simcard registration as the system has a number of benefits but it seems that the

public is not aware of the importance of the exercise.

Commenting on the Cyber crimes, the Assistant Inspector of Police from Cyber Crime at police headquarters in Dar-es-salaam, Calistus Mhode explained that, the exercise among others aimed at curbing criminal activities in the country. According to him, the new system will also reduce the unknown mobile phone users, thus curtail the rise of terrorism and cybercrimes.

For his part, Julius Felix who is the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Officer from TCRA Northern

zone explained that, the new system will among many others reduce the rate of cybercrimes.

"My appeal to all people is to make sure that they kept their mobile IMEI numbers so that they can be recovered incase stolen," he explained.

Abubakari Kalinga, NIDA registration officer for Kilimanjaro region and Nicholas Meela from Immigration department in the region said that the authority was all ready to facilitate biometric registration of mobile telephone numbers assuring the public that the exercise will be completed on time.

## Women Enterprise Fund and Coca-Cola renew women empowerment deal

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WOMEN Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Coca-Cola Central, East and West Africa Limited (CEWA Ltd) have announced that a further 285,000 Kenyan women will be empowered in their joint economic empowerment program.

This partnership established in 2014, is rooted in their shared interest in creating a fair and equitable environment to help women overcome barriers and build sustainable businesses. From Coca-Cola's perspective, women form a central pillar of

its sustainability agenda which is linked to their global effort to economically empower five million women by 2020.

With 557,000 Kenyan women already impacted through business skills training and access to loans to date, this re-commitment will play a significant role in helping women entrepreneurs succeed and thriving communities at large. To make this possible, WEF has renewed its cooperation with Coca-Cola who will be investing US\$125,000 to support the initiative.

"The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) owned by

women are the engines through which the growth objectives of the developing countries such as Kenya can be realized. Despite their potential to create employment, create wealth and develop innovation, women owned MSMEs encounter various barriers as a result many perform dismally and fail.

Such barriers include inability to access credit from financial institutions, lack of relevant business information and lack of inadequate entrepreneurship programmes hence investments in entrepreneurship training is critical." Eng. Charles Mwirigi,

CEO - Women Enterprise Fund The public-private partnership aims to address and remove barriers that women may experience in creating economic opportunities by providing access to loans and grants to enable them start and grow their enterprises.

Participants in the program receive business skills training, financial services, as well as access to peer networks through a business club for mentoring and ideas sharing. In 2018, the initiative empowered 161,000 Kenyan women.

"Women are not only the backbone of communities across

Kenya but they also play a crucial role in boosting local economies. The progress made by this partnership to date has been inspiring and encourages us to persist in ensuring that women across the country have access to the expertise, education and support that will allow them to prosper and succeed in business.

As we renew our partnership with the Women Enterprise Fund, we intend to continue to address the needs of female entrepreneurs in Kenya as well as sustain our growth towards our 2020 target," Michael Goltzman, Vice President, Global Policy,

and Environmental Sustainability & Social Impact.

Formed in 2007, the Women Enterprise Fund is a government institution that empowers women socially and economically, through offering subsidized credit for enterprise development. They also carry out capacity building through business skills and value chain training.

The Fund aims to empower one million women in Kenya by end of the FY 2019 / 2020 which is in line with The Coca-Cola Company's 5by20 goals. Additional partners in the golden triangle initiative that brings to-

gether capabilities from across the private sector, public sector and civil society include Hand in Hand International, Export Promotion Council, UN Women and Jomo Kenyatta University.

"When we started with WEF we only expected to get financial assistance but we have also benefited a lot from business skills training that have empowered us to better manage our businesses for profit and business sustainability and we very grateful to WEF and all their partners for the training initiatives," said Mary Wakarindi, Member; Narindiso SHG - Starehe Constituency, Nairobi.



A chicken soup vendor prepares the delicacy from her Genge village railway station spot in Muheza District, Tanga Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Prison service starts investigating large-scale livestock thefts

PORT ELIZABETH

THE Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is currently investigating several cases of theft of agricultural livestock at its St Albans and Middledrift correctional centres in the Eastern Cape.

This was according to Nobuntu Gantana, DCS Eastern Cape spokesperson, who said the department found the thefts disturbing and both the DCS and the South African Police Service were investigating these crimes.

National DCS spokesperson, Singabakho Nxumalo, had

not replied to Farmer's Weekly's request for details of the numbers and species of livestock stolen by time of publication.

However, media reports cited an unnamed prison source who said 5 000 chickens had been stolen from the St Albans poultry project, and dozens of pigs, as well as a tractor, were missing from the Middledrift piggery project.

According to the reports, the piggery supplied pork to more than 10 000 prisoners at 13 prisons in the Eastern Cape.

"At this stage, no official has been fingered or implicated in the

theft cases as reported. Should it happen that some of our officials are found to be involved, they will be subjected to the criminal justice system just like any [other] member of society and the [DCS] will also take punitive action against them," Gantana said.

She added that the DCS was concerned about these security breaches and that, as a result, the prisons would also be investigated to determine how these breaches occurred.

Measures would also be put in place to prevent them from recurring.

## Gas company pays 57 million/- in dividends to shareholders

By Guardian Reporter

Congo (DRC).

FOR the first time since entering the stock market in 1998, TOL Gases Limited Company will give dividend worth 57m/- to shareholders.

This was revealed yesterday by the company's Board Chairman, Michael Shirima when speaking at the annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam.

"We have recorded a good profit and we wish to give dividends to our shareholders. A single share is worth 17.37/-", said the Board Chairman.

He said the company's revenue grew by 23 percent from 15bn/- recorded in 2017 to 28.4bn/- . He said that profit before tax grew by an impressive 71 percent from 2.1bn/- in 2017 to 3.7bn/- in 2018 while profit after tax grew by 25 percent from 2.1bn/- recorded in 2017 to 2.7bn/- in the 2018 financial year.

"The good performances is a clear testimony of our determination and focus in delivering our strategy of investing for reliability, responsiveness and disciplined approach", he said noting that apart from the recoded profits in revenues, the company managed to reduce operation cost by 12 percent.

Shirima added that since the industrial gas market is still growing fast in Tanzania, the company is determined to improve and expand its services to neighbouring countries such as Zambia, Malawi and Democratic Republic of

"The growing demand for industrial gas has led into the firm investing in new technologies", he said adding that shareholders are aware of the challenges and loss that have accrued in the past years and the profits that are now been recorded.

Managing Director, TOL Gases Limited Company, Daniel Warungu attributed the company successes to the efforts by staff, the board of directors and shareholders who contributed into increased revenue.

According to Warungu the profits are expected to increase in coming years following the acquisition of markets in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC).

He mentioned some of the countries that purchases gas from the company as Tanzania, DRC, Zambia, Burundi and Malawi. He said they are working to get more customers from across Africa and the overseas.

Local companies that have been using TOL services are Azam, CocaCola Company, Pepsi, Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Mloganzila Hospital, Agakhan and Geita Gold mines.

He reiterated the company determination to continue supporting the government's efforts towards industrialisation by providing better gas services.



## Ethiopians, Germans collaborate in launching location-based game

By Nardros Fekadu

Enter Africa, the creative African Network, has launched a location-based game named "ARADA - THE QUEST FOR OMNISCIENCE," recently at Goethe-Institute Addis Ababa.

A project by the Goethe-Institute "ARADA" is part of Enter Africa involving game designers and gamification experts from Germany and Ethiopia.

Dagmawi Bedilu, a software engineer and Game design Lead told The Reporter that the game was started three years ago, with an aim to build a new gaming experience which came-up with the name "ARADA".

"Regarding the game, "ARADA" is defined as a mindset, a state of awakening, a state of omniscience, and an underground community. So, while playing the game, the player is not one character but tries to become omniscient which can only be achieved by combining the values and powers of different communities and generations represented by individual characters which we call it the ARADA experience," Dagmawi said, adding

"When you are playing the game you go around the city and you will be in the shoe of 13 characters so that players can only solve tasks by combining the strengths of the individual characters.

Thus, the purpose of life, under the Arada Order, is to explore as many identities as possible in one's lifetime."

The game, which can be found on both the App Store and Google Play, involves two phases. First, the player engages with the city and goes to different locations to collect characters, each of which has a different special ability and in the second step; one has to solve tasks in five different sub-stories. A special feature of the game is the possibility to trade characters.

"If one does not want to play the game using a mobile phone, there are card games, print and play games so that everyone can enjoy it," Dagmawi explained.

The message of Arada is to embrace differences and working together is the only way of becoming omniscient - which is not only relevant for Ethiopia but anywhere in the world.

Enter Africa which was



National Insurance Corporation officer Honest Valence (R) briefs visitors to the ongoing 43rd edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday on the firm's operations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Humanitarian faces ten years imprisonment

By Samuel Getachew

PETER Dalglis, an Order of Canada recipient has been found guilty of sexual abuse of children in Nepal, placing his time in Ethiopia under public scrutiny.

He started his humanitarian career in Ethiopia working with vulnerable children and is a celebrated

advocate of children in war-torn nations through the UN-Habitat and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Arrested a year ago and placed inside a crowded jail in Kathmandu, the 61 year old who left an exclusive legal career for charity after organizing an airlift of food and medical supplies

for Ethiopia, and volunteering in drought affected regions as a wonder boy in his twenties, is expected to be sentenced next month and face a minimum of 10 years in prison.

"While Peter Dalglis's guilty disposition to child sex abuse has serious implication for the humanitarian sector, humanitar-

ians have steadfastly remained silent since his arrest in April 2018," Lori Handrahan (PhD), a United Nations Anti-Trafficking Task Team told

The Reporter adding "Dalglis's crime is outrageous and reflects the fact that the #MeToo #AidToo movement has had almost no impact at all on the mi-

sogynistic, abusive and predatory culture in the international aid sector."

Peter, a divorced father of one, was convicted of sexually assaulting two boys, aged 11 and 14 from a poor area after befriending them with gifts.

According to his official biography, he was said to have

returned to Canada after his brief time in Ethiopia in the mid-1980's and told his senior colleagues abruptly, "that he was giving up the profession to pursue a career alongside some of the world's most vulnerable children."

Some of his activities in Africa, including in Sudan, with

vocational training schools for street kids was bankrolled by Sir Bob Geldof's Band Aid through a charity he co-founded with another Canadian, Frank O'Dea, founder of Second Cup coffee chain and a former homeless person via Street Kids International that has since merged with Save the Children.



His business slow yesterday, a fruit seller at Dar es Salaam's Mwananyamala market takes a nap while waiting for customers to come knocking. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpeza

## SADC calls upon stakeholders to raise drug abuse and illicit trafficking awareness

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has called upon all stakeholders in the criminal justice, health and social services sectors to work together to raise awareness about major problems arising from drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax made the call on the commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

She said that multidisciplinary and integrated approach is required to sustainably address the challenges related to drug production, trafficking and use.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was set aside by the United Nations General

Assembly in 1987 as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The global observance of the day aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs present to society. It is marked in every June 26th.

This year's theme is 'Health for Justice: Justice for Health' according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

"This year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking should remind us of the urgent need for collaborative efforts to strengthen information sharing systems, enhance bilateral and joint operations and enforcement of laws to counter drug abuse and trafficking. The future and our aspirations may be in jeopardy if we allow drug abuse

and illicit trafficking to thrive in the region", she noted

She however commended the steady progress that SADC continues to make in curbing drug vending and illicit trafficking in the region.

She applauded the SADC chiefs of police and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization (SARPCCO) for the tireless efforts in the fight against drug trafficking and for cooperating with other regions and international organizations to prevent and combat transnational and cross-border crimes.

The Executive Secretary asserted that the joint operations and efforts have resulted into large quantities of drugs being seized in the region, as well as the arrests of drug traffickers.

She said the theme recognizes that

while justice and health seem very different, they are closely related when dealing with drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

She insisted that effective response to the world drug problem requires inclusive and accountable institutions of criminal justice, health and social services to work together to provide integrated solutions to the challenge.

"SADC recognizes that, like the rest of Africa, drug and substance abuse and trafficking is a cause for great concern, because of the many challenges it presents to society, such as family disintegration and slowed economic growth, and the proliferation of drugs in schools, colleges and universities, which is affecting young people on whose shoulders the future of the region lies", said Tax.

# Coffee gets cheaper, Brazil finds ways to grow more for less

By Correspondent Felix Andrew  
BRASILIA

RODRIGO de Freitas Silva's coffee farm in the heart of Brazil is flourishing, even during one of the worst price routs in decades.

Over the past dozen years, the 41-year-old has expanded his growing area to 220 hectares (544 acres) from 12.5 hectares, with yields doubling. His whole farm is mechanized, and 90 percent is irrigated. Most important, even as coffee prices globally trade near the lowest in 13 years, Silva is profitable and expects to increase production with potentially higher yields on more land.

"I still have room to triple my coffee-planted area, only considering the farms I already have," Silva said, while showing a space that will hold a lab to classify coffee on his farm in Jeriquara municipality in Sao Paulo state.

Brazil's coffee boom is posing huge challenges for coffee farmers in various corners of the world. Many growers, from Nicaragua to Tanzania, produce fewer bags of beans from each hectare, pay higher fertilizer and labor costs, and export at currency rates that aren't as favorable as that of the Brazilian real. The depreciation of the real has given its exporters more of their local currency for every dollar of coffee shipped overseas, an incentive to grow more.

Many non-Brazilian farmers are dealing with benchmark prices on ICE Futures U.S. in New York that fall short of their cost of production. Prolonged losses and limited access to credit are spurring some growers, from Central America to Africa, to leave the business. No such signs of strain appeared in a crop tour last week across coffee farms along a stretch of more than 1,700 kilometers (1,056 miles) from the Mogiana region in Sao Paulo to the southern and Cerrado regions in Minas Gerais, areas that collectively produce 70 percent of Brazil's arabica beans, the preferred variety of roasters such as Starbucks Corp.

Everywhere, from along the roads to

the tops of mountains, mature groves or a sea of baby green trees filled the view. Among them walked farmers who couldn't hide the pride they feel about their expanding harvests.

"I've been expanding to new areas and renewing old groves with double the yields," Silva said. He has no plans to stop investing because coffee prices are lower. "I'm still turning a profit with coffee."

Silva expects to collect 10,000 bags of arabica beans in 2020, almost triple this year's crop, the lower production year of a two-year cycle. He reinvests profit to expand, mechanize, irrigate and heavily fertilize his farm. In 2016, his yield in one part of the farm peaked at 136 bags per hectare, and his average yield ran about 50 bags. A bag is 60 kilograms (132 pounds).

Last week's crop tour across Brazil's coffee belt revealed mostly healthy, well-treated trees. Along roads in Sao Paulo or Minas Gerais, new plantings have emerged, surrounded by harvesting machines and even giant pools for irrigation.

Brazilian farmers used profits from times when prices were higher to mechanize, replace low-yielding trees and improving husbandry. That boosted output and reduced costs for many.

This high-speed locomotive doesn't seem to be hitting the brakes, signaling more bumper crops.

Unless drastic weather problems arise, in 2020 the South American nation may reap another record crop of as much as 70 million bags, according to Marcos Figueiredo, a farmer and warehouse operator in the Araguari municipality of Minas Gerais.

"The crops have never been so well-treated," Figueiredo said.

This ample supply explains why futures can't sustain higher levels, Rodrigo Costa, the U.S.-based director at Brazilian exporter Comexim, said in a telephone interview. In addition to Brazil, Vietnam and Colombia have also invested in recent years to boost production, adding to global supplies, Costa said.



# Dangote's PP bag factory unable to roll owing to forex shortage

By Kaleyesus Bekele

THE PP bag manufacturing plant built by Dangote Cement Ethiopia at a cost of USD 20 million is unable to start rolling due to shortage of foreign currency required to import raw materials.

The Dangote Cement Ethiopia built the cement PP bag manufacturing plant in front of the cement factory 80km west of Addis Ababa in Adaberga Wereda. Originally, Dangote Cement Industries planned to build a PP bag manufacturing plant which can produce 120 million bags annually.

The PP bag would be used to pack cement by Dangote and other local cement factories. However, the plant capacity was reduced to 60 million bags per year due to the shortage of foreign currency and electric power.

Danilo Trugillo, Dangote Cement Ethiopia PLC Country Manager, told The Reporter that even though the construction of the PP bag manufacturing plant was completed in April 2018 the factory could not start running due to shortage of foreign currency required for the importation of raw materials.

"We need one million dollars to import raw material every month. But the government cannot allocate the foreign currency to us. So we

cannot start production," Trugillo said.

According to Trugillo, if Dangote Cement Ethiopia can secure one million dollars every month it can start running the PP bag factory within 45 days. "The PP bag factory is a game changer for us. It is ready for commissioning. But we need foreign currency to get it up and running."

Trugillo said that if the PP bag plant can get one million dollar for the import of foreign currency every month it can save 1.4 million dollars spent on the import of PP bag.

He said the plant does not only save foreign currency but it will also create job employment opportunity for the local people. "We at least need 165 key workers and will create more than 100 indirect jobs," he said.

"The Chemical and Construction Inputs Development Institute has been cooperative to us but the government did not consider it as a priority area," he added.

Trugillo said Dangote Cement Ethiopia has requested the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) to allocate the required foreign currency but the bank has been unable to provide the foreign currency till now.

"We have been communicating with the bank and the Ministry of Finance. We also asked the Ethiopian Investment Commission to help us

convince the government to allocate the required foreign currency to us. But so far our effort has not been successful.

The unemployed youth in the area are asking me every day when the PP bag manufacturing plant would start operation but I cannot give them a definitive answer."

According to the manager, the PP bag plant is a modern technology built by an Australian company. "The PP bag would not only benefit Dangote Cement but we will also supply the PP bag to other local cement factories."

The Dangote Cement factory was built by Dangote Industries at cost of more than USD 600 million. The factory, which started operation in June 2015, has the capacity to produce 2.5 million tons of cement per annum.

The company had planned undertake an expansion project. The company was contemplating to build a second cement production line with an outlay of USD 600 million.

The second line would have an installed production capacity of 2.5 million tons of cement. Dangote Industries signed an agreement with a Chinese contractor, Sinoma International, for the construction of the second phase. However, the company suspended the expansion project due to some challenges it has faced.

Trugillo said his company has decided to

suspend the project due to shortage of foreign currency and electric power the country is facing. "Dangote Cement is unable to repatriate the profit it has been making to its parent company in Lagos, Nigeria. Repatriation is one of the biggest challenges we are facing. If we cannot send money to our parent company and service our debt that used to build the first plant how can we invest on the second line," he said.

Erratic electric power supply is the second issue. "While we are not able to get enough power for our existing cement plant, we cannot build the second plant," Trugillo said.

"I reviewed the project proposal and we recently deliberated on the matter in our recent board meeting. The expansion project is not scrapped but it has been put on hold because of the prevailing situations," he said. "If the business environment improves the project would be reactivated," he added.

There is also security concern in the area. Former Country Manager of Dangote Cement Ethiopia, Deep Kamara, his secretary and driver were shot dead on May 16, 2018 a year ago on their way back to Addis Ababa after a field visit to the cement plant. The culprits have not been arrested and brought to justice. The late Kamara was trying to manage labor disputes.

The Adaberga Wereda Administrator Moti

Gemedo told The Reporter that the relationship between the labor and management has improved since the arrival of the new country manager in July 2018.

"Previously there were problems with the management of Dangote in respecting workers' rights. Now the local administration is working closely with the management of Dangote and Social and Labor Bureau in solving labor grievances. The situation has improved significantly," Moti said.

According to Moti, the assailants who murdered the employees of Dangote have not been identified. "The search is still on by security forces. The local administration is working with security forces and all other relevant authorities not to have similar incidents," he said.

Trugillo shares Moti's view. "It is fair to say the labor management relation has improved. We now have open communication with the workers. My office is open to everybody. We are closely working with the labor union, Wereda administration and the community leaders. There are some residual issues from the past that we are trying to resolve through dialogue," Trugillo said. "But since I came last July the situation is peaceful. Peace and security is a national concern. It is not a peculiar problem to our company," he concluded.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents a certificate of appreciation in Dodoma on Thursday to NMB Bank central zone manager Nsolo Mlozi (L) in acknowledgement of the bank's sponsorship of the Dodoma Investment Forum. Guardian Correspondent

## Namibia wildlife resorts to get more sustainable

By Matthias Ngwangwama

STATE-OWNED enterprises (SOE) fulfil significant social and economic roles. This is why members of the public keenly follow their affairs, especially their financial performance. It, therefore, goes without saying that one of the appropriate indicators on whether a commercial SOE is performing or not, is its ability to generate a profit for its shareholder which in this case is the Namibian Government. However, it must be mentioned that for profitability to occur, re-investing funds in the maintenance of facilities is essential to generate future sustainable profits.

This is why, with the limited resources at its disposal, NWR has begun addressing the maintenance challenges that some of its resorts have been experiencing, with Okaukuejo its flagship resort receiving attention, as well as Dolomite, Onkoshi, Sossus Dune Lodge and Sesriem being in line to receive attention as well. In addition to this, NWR is in talks with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to look at synergies that can be employed to address the conditions of the roads within the Etosha National Park as well as the Namib Naukluft Park (Sesriem). The company is positive that these interventions will improve the customer service experience.

With the current economic adversities that the domestic market is going through, NWR has taken a bold step in encouraging domestic travel through offering a standard Namibian discount of 25% to its nationals and 35% discount to pensioners and companies alike.

## Parliament passes resolution to ensure government accountability

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA'S House of People's Representatives (HPR) has passed a resolution which requires the accountability of public offices and managements in relation to audit findings.

The resolution has come two weeks after the Federal Auditor

General reported the 2017/18 audit findings which were carried out among 174 budget recipient offices, under the executive branch of the government.

The draft bill is believed to be one of the strongest resolutions the Executive has issued in recent times conveying strong messages

to government offices under the executive branch, to be legally accountable over budget utilization as per the directions and recommendations issued to them by the Office of the Attorney General.

During the session, the Public Expenditure Administration and

Supervision Standing Committee of the House presented a draft resolution before the House, demanding a strong legal and administrative action to be taken by the government in relation to the Auditor General's Financial and Performance audit findings which include budget abuse, fi-

ancial misuse, inappropriate expenditure, unsubstantiated expenses, and poor performances.

Presenting the draft resolution, Chairman of the Standing Committee, Mohammed Yesuf told the House that illegal procurement, failure to collect public revenues, undocumented

expenses, repeating negligence to take corrective mechanisms, and misuse of public money are among the major problems that the audit findings reveals from year to year. He further indicated it is because of the government's recurrent negligence to take actions, made public offices

reluctant to take corrections repeatedly. Hence, according to the chairman, the latest resolution has been brought to the House in a bid to insure accountability.

After the house reached a consensus on the importance of the resolution, it was endorsed by a majority vote with two abstaining.

## Government moves step closer to reviving oil sector with new terms

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S oil ministry has moved a step closer to alleviating more than two decades of oil-sector. The country's new petroleum Revenue Sharing Agreement, or RSA, relates to Somalia's petroleum law, which was approved last month in an effort to kick-start oil development that has been halted by two decades of civil war. Companies including Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Exxon Mobil Corp. have stakes in blocks, which has seen no activity since war broke out in 1991.

Under the terms of the RSA Somalia's central government will retain 55% of revenue from future offshore oil production while its member states will receive the remainder, according to an oil ministry statement released on Friday.

For onshore oil output, the federal government will retain 30% of revenue, while member states and their local communities, which are free to decide how to invest the cash, will keep

the rest. However, it's still working on commercial terms for the companies which would operate the oil blocks.

Somalia's new licensing round, which opened in February, has 15 offshore blocks on offer. The government is targeting a potential bid date for the blocks, which cover about 75,000 square kilometers, in November and hopes to award the first new licenses in January 2020. A Shell spokesman said the company will not be taking part.

None of the blocks on offer are in a disputed area with Kenya, which the United Nations has yet to determine ownership of.

Despite the government pegging the offshore area's oil reserves at about 30 billion barrels, it's going to be a tough sell to international operators.

While war has halted onshore crude production, Somalia's waters have suffered from piracy. Somali Oil Minister Abd-rashid Mohamed Ahmed said in an interview in London that's all in the past.

"Offshore Somalia is safe. The

two companies that conducted the seismic for us experienced zero incidents. There hasn't been piracy for a long time," Ahmed said. "The data is promising and the location is attractive."

The government said seismic data show "a high likelihood" that Somalia's offshore has "similar geological structures" to large oil and gas reserves which have been found in neighboring basins in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique.

However, the government hasn't released details of commercial terms which will be available to international operators it's trying to attract back to hunt for oil in Somalia.

"We believe our model PSA should be attractive to oil companies and the Somali people," Ahmed said, adding that the government is working with the African Development Bank on what sort of commercial terms it may offer. The bank did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Killimanjaro regional commissioner Anna Mgwira (R) hands over Uhuru Torch to her Tanga counterpart, Martine Shigella, at Bwiko village in Korogwe District on Thursday. The Uhuru Torch is one of the national symbols of Tanzania, first lit on top of Mount Kilimanjaro at then Tanganyika's Independence on December 9, 1961. The countrywide Uhuru Torch race is an annual event. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



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SATURDAY 29 JUNE 2019

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Heightening awareness of asteroid hazards, efforts to prevent impact

**A**STEROID is a small rocky body orbiting the sun. Large numbers of these, ranging enormously in size, are found between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, though some have more eccentric orbits. Asteroid Day also known as International Asteroid Day is an annual global event which is held on the anniversary of the Siberian Tunguska event that took place on June 30, 1908, the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth in recent history.

The United Nations has proclaimed it be observed globally on June 30 every year in its resolution. Asteroid Day aims to raise awareness about asteroids and what can be done to protect the Earth, its families, communities, and future generations from a catastrophic event.

Asteroid Day was co-founded by filmmaker Grigoriy Richters, B612 Foundation COO Danica Remy, Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart and Brian May, Queen guitarist and astrophysicist.

Over 200 astronauts, scientists, technologists and artists, including Richard Dawkins, Bill Nye, Peter Gabriel, Jim Lovell, Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins, Alexei Leonov, Bill Anders, Kip Thorne, Lord Martin Rees, Chris Hadfield, Rusty Schweickart and Brian Cox co-signed the Asteroid Day Declaration. Asteroid Day was officially launched on December 3, 2014.

In February 2014, Brian May, astrophysicist and guitarist for the rock band Queen, began working with Grigoriy Richters, director of the film 51 Degrees North, the story of a fictional asteroid impact on London and the human condition resulting from such an event.

May composed the music for the film. After screening the film at the 2014 Starbus Festival, Richters and May co-founded Asteroid Day in October 2014 which they officially announced during a press conference with Lord Martin Rees, Rusty Schweickart, Ed Lu, Thomas Jones, Ryan

Watt and Bill Nye.

The event was live streamed from the Science Museum in London, the California Academy of Sciences, New York and São Paulo. On Asteroid Day 2017, minor planet 248750 (discoverer M. Dawson) was officially named Asteroid Day by the International Astronomical Union.<sup>[10]</sup>

The workgroup of Asteroid Day created a declaration called 100X Declaration, which appeals to all scientists and technologists who are supporting the idea of saving the earth from asteroids, but not only specialists are asked to sign, everyone can sign this declaration. Today, the 100X Declaration has been signed by more than 22,000 private citizens.

More than 1M asteroids have the potential to impact Earth and through all the available telescopes worldwide, we have discovered only about one percent.

The 100X Declaration calls for increasing the asteroid discovery rate to 100,000 (or 100x) per year within the next 10 years. "The more we learn about asteroid impacts, the clearer it became that the human race has been living on borrowed time," remarked Brian May. "Asteroid Day and the 100X Declaration are ways for the public to contribute to an awareness of the Earth's vulnerability and the realization that Asteroids hit Earth all the time."

Asteroid Day would be the vehicle to garner public support to increase our knowledge of when asteroids might strike and how we can protect ourselves." First, employ available technology to detect and track Near-Earth Asteroids that threaten human populations via governments and private and philanthropic organisations. Second, a rapid hundred-fold acceleration of the discovery and tracking of near-Earth asteroids to 100,000 per year within the next ten years and third, Global adoption of Asteroid Day, heightening awareness of the asteroid hazard and our efforts to prevent impacts, on June 30 - With the United Nations recognition, this action item has been achieved.

## It's not for nothing that UNESCO settled for World Philosophy Day

**D**EFINING philosophy is as difficult as trying to define love. The word philosophy is not much help. Philosophy is a combination of two Greek words, philein sophia, meaning love of wisdom. In ancient times a lover of wisdom could be related to any area where intelligence was expressed. This could be in business, politics, human relations, or carpentry and other skills. Philosophy had a wholeness approach to life in antiquity. In contrast to this, some modern definitions restrict philosophy to what can be known by science or the analysis of language.

In today's world there is a popular use of the word philosophy. Philosophy is a term applied to almost any area of life.

World Philosophy Day was proclaimed by UNESCO to be celebrated every 3rd Thursday of November. It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002.

By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual. UNESCO has always been closely linked to philosophy, not speculative or normative philosophy, but critical questioning which enables it to give meaning to life and action in the international context.

In establishing World Philosophy Day in 2005, UNESCO's General Conference highlighted the importance of this discipline, especially for young people, underlining that "philosophy is a discipline that encourages critical and independent thought and is capable of working towards a better understanding of the

world and promoting tolerance and peace". UNESCO's General Conference was convinced that "the institutionalisation of Philosophy Day at UNESCO as 'World Philosophy Day' would win recognition for and give strong impetus to philosophy and, in particular, to the teaching of philosophy in the world".

Philosophy (from Greek, philosophia, literally "love of wisdom") is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. The term was probably coined by Pythagoras.

In other words, philosophy is a way of thinking about the world, the universe, and society. It works by asking very basic questions about the nature of human thought, the nature of the universe, and the connections between them. The ideas in philosophy are often general and abstract.

But this does not mean that philosophy is not about the real world. Ethics, for example, asks about the ideas underlying our everyday lives. Metaphysics asks about how the world works and of what it is made.

Sometimes people talk about how they have a "personal philosophy", which means the way a person thinks about the world.

One philosophical question is this: Is there any knowledge in the world which is so certain that no reasonable man could doubt it?

Socrates was a Greek philosopher and is considered the father of western philosophy. Plato was his most famous student and would teach Aristotle who would then tutor Alexander the Great. By this progression, Greek philosophy, as first developed by Socrates, was spread throughout the known world during Alexander's conquests.

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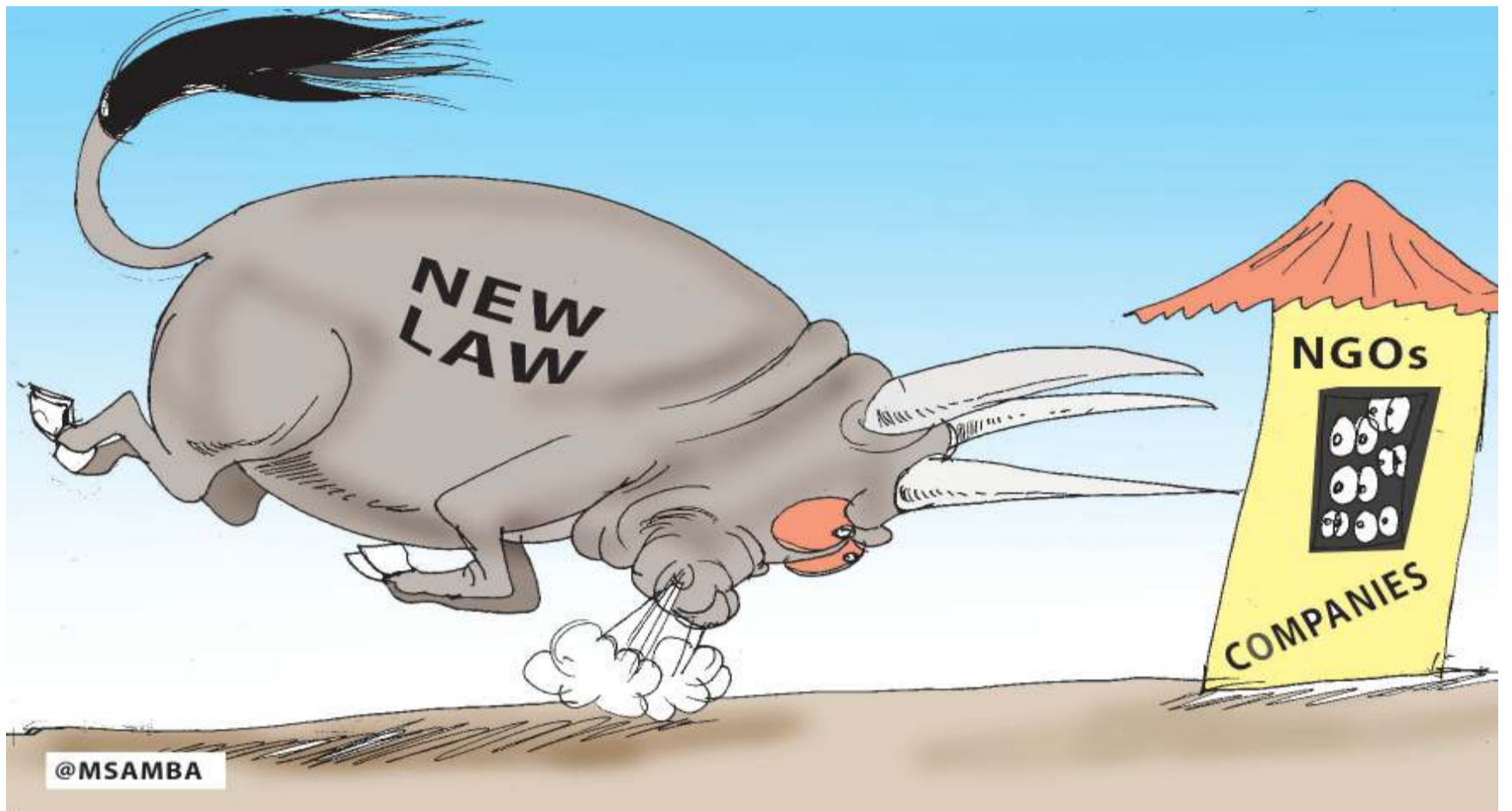
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## Greater electoral choice has direct bearing on the state of democracy

By Gerard Boyce

**R**ECENT higher levels of electoral choice might reflect deeper trends that could harm South Africa's democracy in future. Now almost exactly a month after national elections were held, members of parliament have been safely sworn in and national celebrations over the holding of, yet another, peaceful democratic election have abated. With their memory still fresh in the popular mind and before the work of the sixth sitting of the National Assembly begins in earnest, now might also be the ideal time to reflect upon what these elections reveal about the state of our relatively young (25 years old) democracy.

A good place to start might be by comparing the political choices voters were faced with during this election and the historic 1994 elections. The most immediate difference between then and now is the considerable choice, which voters now enjoy, in terms of the number of political parties that they could vote for at least. Voters could choose between 48 political parties in this election. In contrast, less than half as many political parties (19) contested the country's first democratic elections in 1994. Incidentally, only seven of these original parties contested the elections this year. Voters took advantage of greater availability of choice and elected a record 14 political parties to Parliament. Considering that only eight parties were elected to send representatives to Parliament in 1994, it is reasonable to presume that a greater diversity of views is now represented in Parliament.

At face value, the existence of greater choice for voters and the performance of smaller parties can be interpreted as a sign of a healthy and strong democratic system. On the other hand, they could easily be interpreted as a sign that all is not well in our democracy. More specifically, if it was inferred from these developments that a culture of democracy has failed to take root within the political parties that are at the heart of our representative democracy.

In support of this view, consider that many of the newer parties seem to have been established with the express purpose of advancing narrow special interests or, more often than not, built



around particular personalities who frequently were expelled from larger parties or left to establish their 'own' parties following an ugly public fallout. Speculatively, this development could highlight that political parties are unable (or is that unwilling?) to accommodate bigger, divisive personalities who nevertheless command much influence within their parties or appease constituencies that may feel sidelined within their parties.

Part of this inability could be explained by prevailing social dynamics which are apparent in other aspects of South African society. For instance, perhaps it reflects that the same factors that influence South Africa's social media landscape are at play. It is somewhat ironic that, even though South Africans are connecting in ever-increasing numbers, the manner in which we select into the groups of people with whom we exchange views means that South African social media users end up effectively engaging with like-minded people on 'black twitter' or 'white twitter'. Groups thus serve as echo chambers in which members rarely challenge each other's fundamental views. A consequence of being socialised in arenas where snappy comebacks and online validation by one's followers substitute for reflection and genuine dialogue is that South Africans, young people especially, might be having their outlooks shaped in settings

which tend to confirm their biases and where conformity is the norm.

Or perhaps this trend reflects the triumph of a winner take all individualistic outlook, which is so prevalent in our economic interactions over a more communitarian approach to internal party politics. By characterising politics as a zero-sum game where the winners take all, few of those who hold dissenting views from the majority in their party are likely to hold out hope for securing compromises which veer even slightly from the dominant position.

Consequently, there is little that would induce them to stay in parties where they believe chances of their views being accommodated are slim and every incentive to start their own political parties or foreswear party politics altogether. Increasingly it seems, South Africans are exercising this latter option. In fact, the biggest constituency after the ruling African National Congress is represented by citizens who chose not to vote. In other words, the proportion of citizens that believe that the record number of political parties vying for their vote did not cater for their special interest.

Whatever the underlying socio-political reasons therefore, the net result is less diversity of views within parties and the creation of more ideologically pure spaces in which dissent is not tolerated. Is it any wonder then that

citizens' voting patterns are beginning to reflect a narrower short-term perspective where parties are perceived to serve boutique interests and members are not bound by some overarching ideological framework?

Tentatively, such spaces are unlikely to be conducive to the cultivation of values like tolerance or respect that are foundational values in any democracy. Neither do they bode well for the grooming of leaders who are equipped with the diplomatic nous to navigate differences in a diverse society. Worryingly, these trends are likely to set the tone for more division and fuel the acrimony that already poisons the political environment in our racially fractious society.

Feelings of political frustration stoked by the inability to have one's views heard, or concerns addressed in one's political home could lead people to eschew dialogue and spurn consensus in favour of like-mindedness. This could, in turn, so easily translate into greater racial intolerance in society in general and spur the formation of racial laagers as citizens seek solace in racial familiarity. To some extent this is already happening, as can be seen in the increased volume of racist rhetoric employed by parties on the left and the right which, although claiming to constitute efforts to shed light on a specific agenda, seem to have quickly evolved into promoting what appears to be racially exclusivist agendas.

Seen from this perspective, democracy in South Africa might not be in as good shape as at first appears when looking at the wide choice available to voters. Under these circumstances, it is incumbent upon political parties, party leaders and ordinary party members alike who genuinely desire to see democracy strengthened more than seeing their party win, to engage in greater introspection and work to democratise their internal structures lest these spaces create conditions that will fracture society even further in future.

Anything less is an abrogation of their responsibility and makes a mockery of the democracy, which South Africans of diverse political persuasions fought so hard and so long to secure then and undermines the desire for a just, equitable and racially harmonious South Africa which unites all South Africans of goodwill now.

*\* Doctor Gerard Boyce is a senior lecturer in the School of Built Environment and Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Howard College), South Africa. He writes in his personal capacity*



## Returning migrants rebuilding their lives – with trees

By Jacob Wolinsky

**I**N the face of conflict and other security problems, many in West Africa are often forced to leave their homes and resettle elsewhere as refugees. This displacement and resettlement weakens the balance of affected rural populations and can cause further conflict in newly settled regions.

For that reason, enabling refugees to return home whenever possible is ideal. However, the process of resettling populations is difficult owing to a lack of in-place economic activities and support structures for returnees.

Refugee and migrant populations can remain stuck in a cycle of poverty, lacking autonomy and resources to rebuild the home they once had.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is working with specialised non-governmental organisations to combat this issue by developing economic activities and opportunities for families returning to their homes in the village of Medina-Touatt, Senegal. The village is located in Kolda, a region affected by the Casamance conflict and one of the poorest economies in Senegal.

Guided by the principle that the most effective means of return is to be able to create a favourable environment that supports the livelihoods of those returning, IOM is working with NGOs able to help re-establish these much-needed societal foundations.

Trees for the Future (TREES), an international development nonprofit working with farmers across Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa, is partnering with IOM to develop pilot projects for farmers returning to Medina-Touatt.

The agency will work closely with farming families to educate and train them in agroforestry techniques, enabling them to revive the land and their livelihoods.

A leading cause of poverty in Senegal is linked to farming on degraded land. Much of the land has been stripped of trees that would have provided biodiversity, soil stability, shade and moisture.

Through TREES' Forest Garden Approach, farmers will plant thousands of trees and see diverse crop yields and regular pay days. Forest Gardens provide healthy food and steady in-



come for the farming family, while also contributing to the local economy and the environment.

By relying on the trees they planted themselves, farmers will ensure a "green return" by preventing the mining of nearby forest for fuel wood and food products, mitigating the impact of climate change on the returning population.

Trees for the Future will begin the project by conducting education and public awareness actions through focus groups with local residents in Medina Touatt. These focus groups will allow TREES to better analyse the potential impacts of the project on each family.

Then TREES technicians will train farmers in Forest Garden techniques. Farmers will attend 16 module training courses at nearby Sou Ranch, a demonstration farm 5km from Medina

Touatt.

The farmers will focus on agroforestry and sustainable agriculture as well as income-generating practices. They will then begin planting their Forest Gardens and shortly later will see their first harvest.

Since 2018, TREES has been accredited by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as a leading trainer in the field of agroforestry and sustainable agriculture.

Because of the nature and novelty of this IOM project, there will be increased monitoring and evaluation of all intervention zones in the village.

Through this project, TREES is involved in mitigating one of the biggest causes of poverty in the southern part of Senegal - loss of forests and degradation of farmland. Every year, TREES commits to expanding its intervention zones in the most remote areas of

West Africa.

This year the agency will bring its expertise to an arena within the development community in need of support - the implementation of environmental sustainable projects combined with economic returns for resettling refugees.

In sum, Trees for the Future is working to end hunger and poverty for smallholder farmers through revitalising degraded lands.

**Jacob Wolinsky - of New Jersey in the US - is the founder of ValueWalk.com, a popular investment website focused on value investing and hedge funding. Prior to ValueWalk, Jacob was VP of Business Development at SumZero, and previously worked as an equity analyst first at a microcap-focused private equity firm.**



## G20 sticking to its original aspiration

By Jing Yi

**W**ORLD economy is picking up, but still faces weak growth momentum, increasing hindrances, and even the risk of derailment.

Meanwhile, unilateralism, trade protectionism and hegemonic practices are sweeping the world, attacking the global economic order and reducing confidence in international trade and investment.

Worried about the current global economic situation, the international community is looking forward to the 14th Group of 20 (G20) summit which kicked off in Osaka, Japan. It is hoped that the summit could release positive signals, point a way out for development and boost confidence in global market.

Such wishes are exactly the original aspiration that the mechanism held 11 years ago when the first G20 summit took place.

Back then, the outbreak of the international financial crisis casted a shadow over the globe, and countries worried that the world might fall into the same old trap of the Great Depression in the last century.

At the critical moment, the early members of G20 joined hands with each other and acted in the spirit of unity and win-win partnership. They pulled the world economy back from precipice and pushed it back to the track of stability and growth through equal consultation and coordination.

Since then, G20 has been regarded as a major platform for international economic cooperation, and thus ushered in a new chapter of global economic governance.

Today, when international landscape is going through complicated changes, it's especially important for G20 to review its history and adhere to its original aspiration.

It should champion right concepts. From highlighting international financial problems at the beginning, G20 has now expanded coverage to trade, innovation, health, sustainable development, and anti-corruption. The constantly enriched G20 agendas revealed the contagion of major international issues that no country is able to deal with them independently.

Regarding this, major economies should live up to their responsibilities, stick to the spirit of multilateralism and stop misunderstanding and finger pointing. Besides, they should also respect others and leave no space for unilateralism or bullying practices, so that consultation on equal footing and win-win cooperation will become an eternal belief.

G20 should steer the world towards progress. At present, global economy is facing sluggish recovery, and the rising protectionism is also creating downward pressure for global economic growth.

In the face of these challenges, we can't simply blame others and expect that all problems can be resolved overnight. On the contrary, each country should keep the courage to carry out reforms and focus on high-quality development.

Only by boosting growth through innovation can countries stop the old practice of "carving up" and avoid the mistakes of undermining global value chain and exacerbating fragmented governance.

G20 should keep being development-oriented. G20 is more effective than conventional coordination mechanisms among major countries because it serves as an important platform for equal-footed dialogues and consultations between major developed economies and developing countries.

It should base its efforts on the goal of resolving the fundamental problems of imbalanced development, highlight development in the discussions of digital economy, infrastructure, climate change, energy and environment, and find solutions to developing countries' deficiency of capital, capabilities, and governance in the above-mentioned areas, so as to avoid new development gap.

As an important member of G20, China sticks to its original aspiration for cooperation and devotes itself to providing solutions to and facilitating global economic governance.

There were three clocks in the press center of the G20 London Summit in 2009, showing Beijing time, London time and Washington time respectively. It demonstrated that China, representing an open major developing country, is playing a vital role together with its partners.

At the G20 Brisbane Summit in 2014, China submitted a growth strategy that included 134 measures. According to an estimate by international organization, China was among the greatest contributors to G20's comprehensive growth strategies.

The world will never forget that at the 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit, China called on all relevant parties to join hands to build an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy, which pointed a new way for world economic cooperation and furthered G20's transformation from crisis-management to long-term global governance.

Ready to shoulder its responsibilities and benefit the whole world, China is constantly injecting new vitality into the progress of G20 with its own development and concrete actions.

It's believed that China will continue strengthen mutually-beneficial cooperation with each country and make new contribution to the growth of world economy.

People's Daily

## Grand dreams of going boldly into the future mean little when millions go to bed hungry

By Isobel Frye

**H**UNGER does not allow for a decent life. Hunger prevents children from optimal development and learning and prevents adults from being fully productive members of society. It is not a 'nice to have' for the realisation of the SONA's full vision, but a basic necessity.

President Cyril Ramaphosa's commitment to ensuring no one goes to bed hungry within 10 years is welcome. To begin to rebuild the massive trust deficit that has built up between the state and its citizens, it is crucial not only that this goal is achieved, but that throughout the next years it is seen to be met.

Taken out of context, this is an admirable goal. However, headlining this goal constitutes a sleight of hand in terms of our national development, and one that leaves a bitter taste. What we witnessed was a fundamental downscaling of a goal of the National Development Plan which committed to ensuring that everybody would be lifted above the middle (lower bound) poverty line by 2030.

Now, the government's grand goal is to ensure that no one falls below the lowest poverty line, the food poverty line. It may not have been done with ill-intent, but the shifting of goals without acknowledgement of such a dramatic step appears to contradict the lip service paid to the importance for the nation of addressing poverty and inequality and calls for greater scrutiny of that promise.

Understandably, given the economic vulnerabilities of the state, great emphasis was placed on the macro issues of governing. The SOEs, we are told, are "too big to let fail". While this is true, who is looking after the micro - the well-being of the populace? Is enough being done to reassure the populace that their rights are paramount, rather than just

messaging external national lenders?

The goal of eliminating food poverty, or hunger, is a necessary step towards the state's constitutional obligation to ensure that everybody's inherent right to dignity is met. Hunger does not allow for a decent life. Hunger prevents children from optimal development and learning and prevents adults from being fully productive members of society. It is not a "nice to have" for the realisation of the SONA's full vision, but a basic necessity. Alongside the rights to equality, dignity and life contained in the Constitution, the right to sufficient food is a stand-alone right, contained in Section 27.

Food poverty constitutes the lowest of the three national poverty lines. The latest (2018) food poverty line (FPL) is R547 per person per month. The FPL is "the amount of money that an individual will need to afford the minimum required daily energy intake".

The last Poverty Trends report was released by StatsSA in 2017. According to this report, 25.2% of South Africans fell below the 2015 FPL level, which meant 13.8 million, or one in four South Africans daily go to bed and wake up hungry.

While the focus of many is rightly on righting the state of economic play, is enough being done to ensure our approach to poverty eradication is receiving the necessary attention too? It does seem as if we are operating in fits and starts, frequently without any progress until challenged by organisations of the poor through the courts.

In April 2019, 12.3 million poor children received the child support grant (CSG) of R420 per child per month. This amount falls short of the basic FPL by R127. We have unacceptably high stunting levels of children under the age of five - 30% for boys and 25% for girls.



Bowls of food to feed pupils at a primary school in Rustenburg, South Africa. File photo

This is an immediate comment on the adequacy of food available to children. An obvious policy response would be to index the value of the CSG to the FPL, which is one of the strong recommendations handed down to government by the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights at the end of 2018.

Working-age people face a much greater challenge in terms of meeting their daily survivalist needs. Despite there being (another) constitutional right to social security, there are no grants available to working-age people between the ages of 18 and 59, as working-age people are meant to provide for themselves through employment.

According to our last employment data, 6.2 million people were officially not employed, with a further 15.8 million working-age people defined out of the unemployment figures by being categorised as "not economically active".

This includes three million people who have given up actively looking for work, and 70% of the formally unemployed people are known as "long-term unemployed" - they have been unemployed for longer than a year. Globally one year is the marker of re-employability.

Poor people older than 60 are able to access a means-tested state old age pension of R1,780 per month. In April 2019, 3.5 million poor older people were in receipt of this monthly pension.

While it is set substantially higher than any of the poverty lines, in reality, it is used to support many more poor household members than the eligible pensioner.

Given the structural exclusions of the majority of working-age people from the productive economy, we suggest that the simplest step to meeting our national goal of ending food poverty by 2030 is to provide access to a (means-tested) basic income grant.

For working-age adults, this does not necessarily have to be rolled out at the FPL level, but can be progressively increased. The economic impact of giving spending money to the poor is globally documented. If we want people to buy local to positively disrupt the current negative economic growth, people need to have access to money.

**Isobel Frye is director of Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, a not-for-profit research organisation based in Johannesburg.**



# Will 'UN@75' revive multilateralism?

WASHINGTON DC

**D**ESPITE the polarization and stasis that characterizes so much of the present politics at the United Nations, Secretary-General António Guterres is betting that the 75th anniversary of the organization, in 2020, will provide an opportunity for the international community to begin to address the "crisis in multilateralism," and to shape a more robust and effective organization.

On 14 June, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a "modalities resolution" (A/RES/73/299, titled "Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations") setting out the framework and practical arrangements for actions by various UN stakeholders to mark the UN's 75th anniversary.

A growing civil society network, the "UN2020 Initiative," has campaigned since early 2017 for using this anniversary as an opportunity to involve governments and other UN stakeholders in a process of stocktaking, review and consideration of measures to strengthen the organization.

And prospects for a stand-alone resolution for UN75 gained momentum earlier this year with the active encouragement from the President of the General Assembly, Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa of Ecuador.

The resolution identifies the theme for the 75th anniversary (which is meant to guide all activities, meetings and conferences organized by the United Nations in 2020) as "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism."

A Leaders Summit is scheduled for 21 September 2020, while "meaningful observance ceremonies" took place on June 26 (the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Charter) and October 24 (UN Day). A youth plenary will also be organized in the spring of 2020.

An outcome document will be adopted at the Leaders' Summit. Arrangements for the negotiation of this political declaration are to be determined by the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly, Ambassador Tijani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria.

Against this backdrop, the Secretary-General has appointed a Special Adviser for 75th Anniversary Prepara-



tions, highly-regarded Fabrizio Hochschild Drummond of Chile, who had previously served in the S-G's Executive Office as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination.

At a meeting June 5-7 hosted by the Washington-based Stimson Center, along with the Global Challenges Foundation, One Earth Future Foundation, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New

York Office, Hochschild shared with civil society representatives a draft of the Secretary-General's ambitious plans for a "UN@75" program of activities.

The Secretariat aims to stimulate a "global dialogue" at the local, national and international levels on "The future we want, the United Nations we need."

From "classrooms to board rooms, village houses to houses of parliament," the intention is to employ a mix of intellectual, communications, media, and engagement tools in order to catalyze widespread public engagement on the role of the UN system in addressing global challenges.

All 130 UN Resident Coordinators will be involved, as will UN regional commissions and many UN agencies and programmes. Young people in particular are expected to be drivers of this worldwide dialogue.

The planning document for UN@75 recognizes that an unprecedented confluence of existential threats, systems changes and new actors, including the role of mega-corporations and tech giants, present new governance

challenges.

These changes "are occurring faster than public institutions ability to adapt or regulate." The document calls for "a reflection on successes as well as failures, inviting transformational thinking about the potentially momentous paradigm shifts for how the multilateral system as a whole confronts global challenges."

More than a simple commemoration, these proposals go far beyond what was organized for the UN's 70th anniversary in 2015.

Considering the current levels of international hostility and indifference to the very idea of international cooperation and a rules-based world order, the commitment of Mr. Guterres to an ambitious UN@75 program, though commendable, surely faces long odds. Many public officials in similar circumstances would be more risk-averse.

Is there a public appetite for such a far-reaching worldwide dialogue about the United Nations and global governance? We shall see.

IPS

# Can we afford to drop the guard against piracy?

By Denys Reva

**P**IRATE attacks off the coast of Somalia have dropped dramatically over the past eight years - from 237 incidents in 2011 to nine in 2017 and just three attempted attacks in 2018. However criminal networks continue to operate in Somalia, and as long as this happens, the threat of a resurgence of piracy will loom over the region.

Important reforms to counter-piracy policy and practice in the Western Indian Ocean are currently under way, partly because of this drop in piracy. Those involved in making these changes must ensure that security measures that have proved to work are not undermined, and that solutions to piracy are sustainable.

At the same time, ways must be found to use existing counter-piracy resources and strategies in the fight against other maritime crimes such as illegal fishing and the trafficking in goods, people and narcotics.

Members of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia met in Mauritius in June to discuss broadening the group's mandate to include other maritime security issues. They agreed that regional states should lead efforts against piracy and related threats. Kenya was elected to chair the group for the next two years. Delegates stressed the need for more coordination of existing initiatives, and clarified the role that international naval forces should play in the region.

The meeting was preceded by an important decision to reduce the geographical boundaries of the High Risk Area for piracy in the Indian Ocean from 1 May. The decision was taken in March by the Round Table of international shipping associations and the Oil Companies International Marine Forum.

The High Risk Area - established in 2010 in response to the increase in piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia - denotes a geographical area where ships are at the greatest risk of being attacked. Safety guidelines for this zone were developed for ship masters travelling through the High Risk Area. These guidelines were key to bringing down piracy off Somalia's coast.

For example, ships navigating through the region are encouraged to increase their speed and install protective systems on board. They are also asked to follow the predetermined and protected Maritime Security Transit Corridor, making it harder for pirates to attack.

The reduction in size of the High Risk Area shows that international shipping industries believe the threat of Somali piracy has declined to such an extent that they can sail closer to the Horn of Africa. This significantly reduces fuel costs and sailing times in the region.

Another example of the move to broaden maritime security beyond



piracy is the amendments to the Djibouti Code of Conduct. Signatories to the code, a key counter-piracy and maritime security instrument created in 2017, met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in April to discuss implementation of the amendments.

The Jeddah Amendments were introduced in response to the threat of other maritime crimes to shipping in the region. These include trafficking in people, arms and drugs, illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping. With 14 out of 20 signatory countries being African, it is clear that Africa is taking the lead on this important maritime initiative.

Each of the institutions and mechanisms discussed here originate from successful multilateral efforts to over-

come the threat of Somali-based piracy, which has largely disappeared from the Indian Ocean. This is a significant achievement, but states need to guard against complacency.

The most recent piracy attack in the Western Indian Ocean occurred from 21 to 23 April this year. The incident began with a group of pirates capturing the Yemeni fishing dhow Al Azham in Somali territorial waters. The vessel was resupplied with a pirate crew at a Somali pirate base camp, and was later used as a mothership in an attack on the Korean fishing vessel FV Adria 280 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia.

FV Adria performed an evasive manoeuvre and increased its speed, as per the best practice guidelines, and the attack was eventually repelled by the private security guards on board. The pirates were apprehended by the European Union Naval Force, and were delivered to Seychelles for trial.

This incident illustrates the success of the counter-piracy security architecture that has been established in the region. But it also shows how easily pirates can re-equip and take to the seas again, and that maritime security still depends on the presence of foreign naval forces.

Nevertheless counter-piracy

stakeholders seem to agree that other maritime threats should now be prioritised - even though piracy is still a risk for ships in the region, especially if the collective guard is dropped.

A 2018 report by the University of Copenhagen's Centre for Military Studies shows how successful international counter-piracy measures have forced some criminal networks to switch to lower-risk crimes, such as trafficking in people, drugs and arms. If security measures around piracy are relaxed, these groups still have the means to attack ships off Somalia if the opportunity arises.

Given the interconnected nature of maritime crime, a holistic

approach will ensure a sustainable solution to piracy. But broadening maritime security beyond piracy shouldn't be done without tackling the root causes that originate on land and allow criminal networks to proliferate and adapt. These include poverty, instability, weak governing structures and unemployment in Somalia.

Peace and stability in Somalia - requirements for preventing piracy - are not yet in sight. While this situation prevails, maintaining effective responses to piracy must be the priority.

**Denys Reva, Junior Researcher, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, ISS Preto**

**Maritime security is about much more than piracy, but broad approaches shouldn't detract from effective anti-piracy measures. File photo**



# Stakeholders praise NIC for enhanced efficiency

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Insurance Corporation (NIC) has been lauded for transforming the sector, which is important in spearheading the government's industrialization agenda.

In separate interviews, Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) managing director, Ladislaus Matindi described NIC as one of the public entities, which are performing well and works in line with the fifth-phase government's agenda of making Tanzania among the middle-income nation by 2025.

"Since the revival of our airline, we started building better relations with key players so that we get improved services such as aviation and car insurance. In this, NIC is our key partner and we're satisfied with the services offered," he said.

He also urged the country's business community and the public at large to use insurance services, which are vital during disasters.

For his part, Medical Stores Department (MSD) Director General, Laurean Bwanakunu also commended the state-run insurance firm for the outstanding performance in the country's insurance sector.

He said that NIC has transformed the sector through the effective use of information and communication technology (ICT).

"These efforts need to be emulated by other players, though NIC also is required to work hard in this as the technology keeps changing on daily basis," Bwanakunu said, adding:

"Getting into ICT system is one of the key aspects for the corporation to compete in the current competitive markets. I call on NIC to continue working on improving its services."

According to him, MSD has been dealing with different insurances such as property, accident insurances.

NIC managing director, Sam Kamanga said that NIC had registered a number of achievements including winning public confidence, lauding the government's move of encouraging public institutions to be insured by the national insurance firm.

He revealed that his firm has achieved a lot during the fifth-phase government, whereby the corporation managed to work with institutions which implement different development project in the country.

He cited some of the institutions and companies which work on Standard Gauge Rail-

way is a railway system, under construction, linking the country to the neighbouring countries of Rwanda and Uganda, and through these two, to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Other project include the Stiegler's Gorge Hydroelectric Power Station (SGHPS), Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and companies that deals with expansion of Dar es Salaam Port and bridges as well as ATCL and Mtwara-Dar es Salaam Natural Gas Pipeline (MDNGP).

He said the reason for NIC achievements include research and paying customers on time.

"We thank this government under President John Magufuli and through this endeavour we say that it is possible to industrialize our nation," said Kamanga.

He also lauded the government for encouraging public parastatals to work with the National Insurance Corporation.

On ICT development, Kamanga said: "Our aim is to provide demand driven insurance services, through innovative marketing, efficient ICT systems and management of resources."

"We're currently reaching our customers through ICT



NIC managing director Sam Kamanga

and we're also working on ensuring that our clients are accessed through their mobile phones," he said.

Experts define insurance as a means of protection from financial loss. It is a form of risk management, primarily used to hedge

against the risk of a contingent or uncertain loss.

An entity which provides insurance is known as an insurer, insurance company, insurance carrier or underwriter. A person or entity who buys insurance is known as an

insured or as a policyholder. The insurance transaction involves the insured assuming a guaranteed and known relatively small loss in the form of payment to the insurer in exchange for the insurer's promise to compensate the insured in the event of a covered loss.

# Leapfrogging Africa's innovation agenda with local cloud solutions

By Adlyne Wangusi

PAN-AFRICAN connectivity provider, BringCom, in partnership with science and technology investor, Impriatur Capital, and European edge cloud software company, GIG Technology, have together birthed what is to provide the African technology industry with cloud sovereignty - afriQloud.

Today launched in Uganda, afriQloud will provide, at internationally competitive rates, local and foreign customers

with an innovative and secure distributed edge cloud service.

Hans van Linschoten, founding partner of Impriatur Capital Africa and CEO of afriQloud "We see significant potential in the growing African cloud market where an estimated \$2 billion is being spent in cloud this year, and we're excited to bring this service to the continent. By the end of 2019, we will complement the few developed markets clouds with a powerful and local distributed cloud in at least 15 countries. This ensures data sovereignty for institutions and govern-

ments within Africa's shores."

Most of Africa's content on the internet is currently hosted on servers outside the continent. Implementation of edge cloud computing services in Africa has been adversely affected by lack of reliable and secure connectivity from various service providers. The cost of setting up ICT infrastructure with improved data latency and minimized downtime has also contributed to the slow adoption of cloud solution across the continent.

Mark Simmonds, Chairman of GIG Technology: "Although

cloud adoption is predominantly private, the African markets are generating growth of 30% in public cloud sales. Few other ICT market segments in the African tech ecosystem have the potential of adding an incremental \$2 billion in top-line revenue over the next 5 years."

Fabrice Langreny, CEO of BringCom: "Opening up of the global market will require African companies and organizations to be equally competitive in the deployment of e-solutions, scalability, secure data accessibility and connec-

tivity in line with international standards."

afriQloud is also building bridges to the African incubators and tech hubs. More than 440 tech hubs are available today and more funding is being raised by tech startups across the African continent. The aim of afriQloud is to have the Edge Cloud installed in cities and tech hub ecosystems which hosts a high number of startups and developers. Now present and operational in Uganda, afriQloud will be spreading its services further into the different regions of Africa this

year. Willem Hendrickx, CEO of GIG Technology: "We believe in partnerships and the creation of a local economy using our cloud technology. Having assessed the cloud readiness of different African markets, we are thrilled to launch in Kampala."

Hans van Linschoten: "We have hit the ground and we intend to keep up the pace. This service in Africa is long overdue. In a few months, we will expand our service in East Africa - Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia will be afriQloud

active very soon. We are working through channels in Southern Africa as well - Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique are our next target markets. And of course, the West African region is good and ripe for the plucking. Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Cameroon - we'll be present in all these countries this year! We're very much looking forward to working with tech startups, MNOs, ISPs, government institutions, banks and financial institutions, universities - there is much to be done, and the time to begin is now."

# Chinese rice farm helps in boosting food security, employment in central Uganda

KALUNGU, Uganda

A LARGE expanse of lush green rice paddies is a major highlight along the highway from Uganda's capital Kampala to the southern part of the country.

The 3,000 acre rice farm, with a target of reaching 6,000 acres here in the central district of Kalungu, is owned by Zhong's Industries Ltd, a private Chinese enterprise.

At the farm, workers from across the east African country are busy working.

At the section of ready to harvest rice, dozens of youths battle with swarms of birds that come to feed on the rice. As a daily task, they whistle, shout and flap to scare away the birds.

"I wake up at six in the morning to go and scare away the birds. We are a group of several youths who do this," 24-year-old Brown Mfitumukiza told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Several hundreds of meters away, combined harvesters are busy as tractors ferry the harvested rice to the rice processing facility also located on the farm.

At the facility, there are huge sun drying areas where the rice from the field is spread out on cemented floors by several dozens of youths mostly women.

After the drying the rice is ferried into the processing facility where it is milled before it is packed in 50kg bags with inscriptions "Zhong Yi" rice.

Zhong Shuangquan, manag-

ing director Zhong's Industries Ltd, told Xinhua in a recent interview that there are over 1,200 local employees and five Chinese working on the farm.

The Chinese largely offer technical expertise especially in preparing the land for cultivation, technology, machinery and sales, according to Zhong.

He said planting, cultivation, harvesting and processing and sales goes on throughout the year. On average the farm makes daily sales of up to 40 tons of rice per day.

Zhong said the company plans to also use the out-grower model where millions of acres of land will be opened up for rice farming across the country.

In Uganda, rice growing is considered strategic as it has the potential to contribute to increasing rural incomes and improving food and nutrition security.

Some of the rice of the country has been exported to regional markets like neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

Experts say the demand for rice is continuing to grow because of the increasing population. China through a tripartite agreement with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and some member countries has over the years been sending technical experts to Africa through the South-South Cooperation Program.

Uganda is one of the countries that have benefited from this on-

the-farm training of small scale farmers to boost production.

At the end of the second phase of the program in 2017, about 3,000 farmers were trained in cereals, horticulture, aquaculture and livestock in Uganda, according to the ministry of agriculture.

During the project, the Chinese technicians introduced the growth of Chinese hybrid rice. Official studies showed that the hybrid rice can yield up to 10 metric tons per hectare compared to the conventional rice which yields 4.5 metric tons per hectare.

Farmers in eastern Uganda, a region renowned for rice growing, have already taken on growing the Chinese hybrid rice to boost their household income.

Uganda also established the 220-million-dollar Kehong China-Uganda Agricultural Industrial Park. The park, according to the Ugandan government, will be critical in transforming the country's economy which is largely dependent on agriculture.

When fully operational, Kehong China-Uganda Agricultural Industrial Park is expected to produce about 600,000 tons of agro-products annually to meet the domestic and regional market demands. Among the agro-products include rice.

Zhong argued that massive investment in rice growing in Uganda will not only boost food security but also create employ-



ment. He said for every youth employed at the Zhong's Industries Ltd rice farm, there are several people who benefit.

Abel Mfitumukiza, a supervisor at the farm said after several years of looking for formal employment with no success, he left his home district Kisoro in southwestern Uganda and sought to work on the rice farm on recommendation of his brother who was already an employee at the farm.

Mfitumukiza said over the years he has managed to build a permanent house for his family back at home. He also uses part of his savings to pay school fees for his siblings who were on the verge of dropping out of school.

According to the managers of Kehong China-Uganda Agricultural Industrial Park, when the park is fully operational, it will create 25,000 jobs and avail opportunities of training for the local people.

Under the country's wetland restoration drive, there is increasing concern from environmentalists over the cultivation of rice in wetlands. The activists argue that the farmers should instead resort to upland rice farming instead of what they called destroying wetlands.

Ministry of water and environment figures show that the country's wetland coverage has reduced to 8 percent from 13 percent of the country's land surface. The reduction is attrib-

uted to the population pressure where people are now resorting to wetland reclamation to farm.

Zhong's Industries Ltd rice farm has faced this criticism but Zhong said they got clearance from the country's National Environment Management Authority.

Richard Vvuube, senior environment officer Kalungu district where the farm is located said that there is need to strike a balance between protecting the environment and also producing food and creating employment.

"We will advise them on how to protect and conserve the environment and at the same time we are getting the food," Vvuube said.



By Alan Winde

THE people of the Western Cape, who have fallen victim to crime, have lost loved ones and who live in fear as criminals run rampant, deserve better than a game of political point-scoring.

In the interests of our citizens, we have now re-opened various lines of communication between ourselves and the national leadership and in so doing made progress towards a united front against crime. I welcome Minister Cele's commitment to the deployment of an additional 1,000 police officers, from 5,000 currently undergoing training, to the Western Cape.

I am therefore puzzled that in his speech in Parliament Minister Cele chose to focus again on playing the blame game.

As a province, we acknowledge that achieving a lasting solution on crime in the province will take a concerted effort at every level of the state and involves more than just the allocation of more feet on the street, and includes better crime intelligence and prevention, education, social development, spatial planning and design initiatives and the creation of economic opportunities. We fully intend to commit our time and resources to applying those functions which sit with this provincial government, but policing is an exclusive national competence, where our role is oversight alone.

Notwithstanding Minister Cele's attack on the DA in Parliament, I have elected not to respond in a similar vein and rather work towards co-operation.

I will, however, point out that it is the SAPS which the Equality Court recently found to be allocating police resources in a way that discriminates against residents based on race and poverty in the Western Cape, including those living in areas like Khayelitsha. It is this resource allocation model that I hope we can fix by working with SAPS.

As regards the CCTV concerns raised by Minister Cele in Parliament in which he claimed that the high crime rate in areas like Khayelitsha can be attributed to the poor CCTV camera system and lighting, I have made some enquiries of the City in this respect and while we acknowledge that even more needs to be done, I am informed that the City

## Crime will not be solved by political point-scoring



of Cape Town finances and operates a sophisticated CCTV operation which is one of the largest on the African continent and it currently operates at international benchmark levels.

Using this system of cameras, during the period between December 2018 and February 2019, 4,211 incidents were detected. Around 36% of these were of a criminal nature. Staggeringly, a total of only 64 arrests were then made. A

detection rate of 6% is abysmal in cases where CCTV footage of the crime exists.

I am told that the reason for this low arrest rate is that the SAPS is currently not making effective use of the evidence from the cameras and the technology that exists in the City, despite this being fully funded by the City. We could have a network of thousands of camer-

as in each suburb, but if the police are not making use of them, they are not being used to their full potential.

Khayelitsha currently has 24 CCTV cameras, but the CCTV master plan is currently being revised to take into account crime statistics, and population figures, which means that high crime areas in the city will receive additional re-

sources. We will work with the City in the hope of speeding this up and at the same time work with SAPS to ensure that they can, and do, make full and effective use of this vital resource, not only in Khayelitsha but throughout the entire city.

It is my hope that despite his comments, Minister Cele and the SAPS will assist us in this regard, tap into this resource, and contin-

ue to keep the lines of communication open between the provincial and national leadership. We need to continue to meet, negotiate and find common ground.

Political bickering only benefits criminals who are ready and eager to exploit the gaps in the provision of safety and security services.

DM

## 'Unimaginable horrors' in Libya's migrant detention centres

UNITED NATIONS

OVER 10,000 migrants fleeing to Libya from war and violence, their fate often comes down to the mercy of human traffickers or the dark unknown awaiting in detention centers.

The northern shores of Libya - the largest departure point for African migrants hoping to reach Europe - is a hotbed for modern-day slavery. Captured on land, intercepted at sea, cuffed and injured by militias and human traffickers, migrants are sent to detention centers and exposed to every abuse possible.

The northern shores of Libya - the largest departure point for African migrants hoping to reach Europe - is a hotbed for modern-day slavery. Captured on land, intercepted at sea, cuffed and injured by militias and human traffickers, migrants are sent to detention centers and exposed to every abuse possible.

"From the moment [migrants] step onto Libyan soil, they become vulnerable to unlawful killings, torture and other ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, unlawful deprivation of liberty and rape," according to a report by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

However, not only has Libyan authority taken no measures to systematically address the issue, it has expanded its migrant detention capability with the aid of European governments.

"Serious Health Threat"

The detention centers, controlled by Libya's Ministry of Interior and guarded by the militias of the Government of National Accord (GNA), often hold hundreds of migrants in overcrowded spaces without proper ventilation or drinkable water.

"In some parts of the centre, toilets are overflowing and are in urgent need of repair. As a result, solid waste and garbage has piled up inside the cell for days and presents a serious health threat," a spokesperson for the UN's refugee agency said in a statement.

Poor sanitation has led to deteriorating health conditions inside the deten-

tion centers, causing multiple disease outbreaks.

The medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has called the situation "a disaster," noting that hundreds of detained migrants use "four barely functioning toilets, no shower and only sporadic access to water" in a visit to Zintan detention center.

Dr. Hussein Hassan, emergency coordinator from the World Health Organization (WHO) Libya office, told IPS: "TB with other respiratory infections, HIV and skin diseases are some of the conditions that migrants in more than 34 centers are suffering from."

Although a TB screening campaign was done in January, those tested positive for TB were kept in the same room with the rest. According to Dr. Hassan, 16 migrants contracted with TB are in worse condition due to interruptions in medical treatment and lack of proper referral system.

An internal UN report leaked to the Irish Times said that more than 80 percent of migrants in Zintan detention center may have been infected with TB.

But TB is not the only disease present in the health crisis, according to MSF.

"Many of them suffer from malnutrition, skin infections, acute diarrhea, respiratory tract-infections and other ailments, as well as inadequate medical treatment," MSF said in a statement. "Children are held with adults in same squalid conditions."

However, help is not on the way. Libyan law forbids non-citizens access to public health services, effectively denying migrants proper medical care. Humanitarian organizations are often restricted entry into the centers, causing delays in treatment.

"We have been abandoned here, I cannot go back and no one wants us anywhere," an Eritrean refugee told MSF. "I don't know where my place on earth is."

"We're dying"

Exploited by human traffickers and traded as commodities, migrants fear for their daily survival.

"Migrants held in the centers are systematically subjected to starvation and severe beatings, burned with hot metal



objects, electrocuted and subjected to other forms of ill-treatment with the aim of extorting money from their families through a complex system of money transfers," the UNSMIL report said.

Following the bloody civil war in 2011 that brought down military dictator Muammar Gaddafi, Libya fell in the hands of rival factions and Islamist groups. Two forces in the west and north fought to control the country's oil fields. The period of lawlessness gave rise to smuggling and trafficking along Libya's borders and coastlines.

Most migrants enter through the country's southern border. But the warfare between the Libyan National Army and the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) has left southern

Libya lawless and unpatrolled.

Human traffickers and well-armed militias intercept migrants enroute to Tripoli, buying off government officials to sell migrant labor at prices as cheap as a few hundred dollars.

Traffickers have created an on-line market for illegal weapons despite the arms embargo posed by the UN Security Council, adding further uncertainty to the political situation.

"Seemingly unlimited arms supply fuels the erroneous belief in a military solution to the conflict and contributes to the unwillingness of actors on the ground to agree to a ceasefire," said Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN.

Amid the chaos, migrants are

left helpless.

"Countless migrants and refugees lost their lives during captivity by smugglers, after being shot, tortured to death, or simply left to die from starvation or medical neglect," the UNSMIL report added. "Across Libya, unidentified bodies of migrants and refugees bearing gunshot wounds, torture marks and burns are frequently uncovered in rubbish bins, dry river beds, farms and the desert."

"We are dying," detainees told the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). "We live like animals; they beat us everyday."

"Complicit in Tragedy"

Libyan law groups migrants, political refugees and asylum seekers in the same category under the supervision of the Interior

Ministry of Department of Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM).

Even if migrants manage to escape from human traffickers and the DCIM's search and capture along the northern coastline, European patrol ships in the Mediterranean Sea intercept and return migrant boats to Libya.

The European Union (EU) has invested millions of euros in the Libyan Coast Guard in the name of "efficient border management," fully aware that those returned can only expect indefinite servitude and abuse.

Oxfam, Human Rights Watch (HRW) and dozens other international organizations condemned the EU's move, calling the policy "complicit," in an open letter in January.

IPS



## BUSINESS

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## This South African fast-food empire started in a garage in Mbombela

JOHANNESBURG

Regularly visits to Mozambique with his friend's Portuguese family led to Louis Germishuys developing a passion for chicken at the tender age of ten.

Germishuys would go on to found Galito's Chicken which today has over 149 stores in 17 countries, including South Africa, India, Pakistan and Canada. He said his sheer passion for chicken led to his success.

"[My friends' family] emphasis on savouring and sharing meals led me to discover a deep appreciation for the traditional flavours of the original chicken recipes," Germishuys said.

After studying cooking at the Wits hotel school for a year, Germishuys worked in the fast food industry for several years before finding Galito's in 1996. He said by that time he worked up the courage to become an entrepreneur, and moved his dad car out of their garage in Mbombela, where he developed Galito's chicken recipe - which is used to this day.

"I finally decided to break away and really focus on creating the food I loved." Galito's quickly expanded to three outlets, and by the time the fourth was opened in Polokwane, Germishuys started offering franchise op-

portunities.

He said Galito's secret is the ability to open new stores for only R1.5 million, while ensuring good returns. Opening a Chicken Licken store costs roughly R3 million, a McDonald's store R4 million and a Nando's R6.56 million.

Germishuys said for every store opened, it is important to provide the same level of service and atmosphere whether it is in a city or a rural community. "The price of the chicken is the same in cities and small towns so it's very important to us that the stores are the same standard too."

He said the company makes sure that all marinades and sauces are made in its own central kitchens and never outsourced. Germishuys also tries to keep prices affordable. "You can't sell for R80 if all a person has is R50, so we as franchisors are hard on suppliers." In the next three years, Germishuys hopes to open an additional 40 stores.

"I want Galito's to be accessible to the whole of South Africa and not just to Sandton and Eastgate and Menlyn. I want to take it into Thaba Nchu, Lebogo and Umthatha," he said. "Our future is bright. No matter where you are in South Africa or the world, home is where Galito's is."



Louis Germishuys behind the grill at the launch of the first Galito's in Dubai in 2016.

## DISTINGUISHED

## Instagram names Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Tarangire as top Safari destinations in Africa



By Guardian Reporter

THE country's leading tourist destinations of Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park have been named among the top ten Safari destinations in Africa according to Instagram.

In a report published by a popular website dubbed Africadotcom, the top ten Safari destinations are dominated by Tanzania, South Africa and Kenya.

The world's highest waterfalls, Victoria Falls on Zambezi River in Zambia lead the group of the top 10 most Instagrammed safari destinations followed by Serengeti National Park; Kruger National Park, South Africa; Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya; Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania; Addor Elephant National Park, South Africa

and Tarangire National Park, Tanzania; Amboseli National Park, Kenya; Sabi Sands Game Reserve, South Africa; and Chobe National Park, Botswana.

"The coveted number one spot was awarded to the famous Victoria Falls, with a remarkable 215,513 photos tagged. Given its status as the largest waterfall in the world, standing at an impressive 108 metres high, this isn't surprising," the report stated.

The top 10 locations were fairly evenly split between South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya. All three of these countries are home to some of the most incredible wildlife and natural views in the world, including the Serengeti, Masai Mara and Sabi Sands National Parks.

Other notable Safari spots included Livingstone National Park, which came in at number 22 with 13,674 tags, as

well as Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania, with 10,338 tags. Home to the breath-taking Mount Kilimanjaro, the Park has over 50,000 visitors each year, most of whom are international tourists.

"It's long been agreed that going on a safari is the epitome of a luxury holiday. It's the go-to for celebrities, royals and the high class society, and it's one of the most popular types of holiday for a honeymoon - in fact, Pinterest alone saw a 219% increase in Safari honeymoon ideas in 2018," the report noted.

There are few things in the world more exhilarating than witnessing wild animals in their natural habitats, making a safari trip a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A lot of people go to see the "Big Five": lions, leopards, buffalo, elephants, and rhinos.

"As going on a Safari holiday is one of life's greatest adventures, we decided to find out which safari destinations are the most popular - according to Instagram - by turning to the widely used photo sharing platform to analyse the number of times every traditional African safari destination was geo-tagged by users, sharing a photo in that location," the report added.

"With an entire continent to choose from, it can seem overwhelming, would you rather see the endless plains of the Serengeti or the magical waterfall at Victoria Falls? That's where our new study will help you, with accurate data ranking exactly the best places to visit for some 'out of this world' picture opportunities - and of course a fantastic spectacle for your own eyes too," the report concluded.

## PARTNERSHIP

## US-based Elanco Inc, Farm Radio ink deal to support farmers in East Africa

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

A US-based company, Elanco Animal Health Incorporated in partnership with Farm Radio International (FRI) have launched a 12-week series of radio programming on animal health in Northern, Coastal and Western regions of the country targeting livestock farmers.

In a statement, Elanco said the radio series will support and educate small-scale livestock farmers to manage the challenges around livestock health and wellbeing, supporting a drive to greater food security, livestock health and care in the region.

Through radio programming, the project is expected to support community livelihoods that rely on livestock, with relevant information on disease awareness, prevention and treatment, the statement said.

At the same time, FRI supports and develops the capacity of local broadcasters during the production and airing phases of the livestock programs. To maximize impact, the project is joined by Elanco's distributor in the country, Ultravetis Tanzania



Limited.

"We wish to extend our radio series and impact to more areas in Tanzania. The interactive radio ap-

proach that FRI has, together with the field support from our distributor Ultravetis Tanzania, will help us empower more farmers to improve

the health of their livestock and produce more quality animal protein for their communities," said Maria Zampaglione, Elanco Corporate Social

Responsibility Senior Advisor and Project Leader.

Elanco's support of the radio campaign with FRI forms part of a

ground-breaking project to provide sustainable development solutions to address food insecurity in East African countries - Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

The East Africa Growth Accelerator (EAGA) is Elanco's first pure 'shared value' project which is made possible through a \$3.1million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant enables the registration, manufacturing and distribution of affordable high-quality veterinary products, along with intensive training initiatives for smallholder farmers and channel partners.

"This initiative also has a strong gender component. As an organization training livestock farmers since many years, when we saw the potential of FRI based on the pilot phase, where between 35 and 45 percent of the listeners were women, we decided to join this initiative to reach more farmers via radio, especially women, who in many cases are the main livestock keepers in smallholder farms," said Wachira Mureithi, Chairman of the Ultravetis Group.

Livestock disease remains a significant threat to achieving food security in

East Africa where currently 25 percent of protein from farm animals is lost due to animal illness. "Radio presents a major opportunity to scale the important work of Elanco on livestock keeping. This is relevant for Tanzania, considering that only 20 percent of livestock farmers utilize extension services in the country. The results we saw from the first series of radio programming showed that there is real promise in this collaboration and we hope to see even higher listener-ship and impact this time around. Livestock health is a critical issue for so many in Northern, Coastal and Western Tanzania and these radio programs can help extend the life-changing messages to thousands in the region", said Mark Leclair, Farm Radio International's Manager of Communications.

Elanco's goal through EAGA is to enable more than 240,000 dairy and poultry smallholder farmers to access small sized quality products by 2020. The partnership with FRI further helps achieve this goal of improving the lives of smallholder farmers through sustainable livestock production.



## ADVICE

# Employee wellness key to productivity

NAIROBI

For 38 years, the only place of work Samuel Onyango knew was Deloitte. And when he retired last year in May, he could only reminisce about the years.

This is something that is slowly fading away as Millennials and generation Z change jobs faster than their profile pictures in search of progress and flexible work environment.

But for Sammy, as he preferred to be called, he knew employees with access to wellness programmes report a positive impact on their health the secret to retaining employees longer, having risen to the ranks of Deloitte East Africa CEO at the time of retiring.

"I used to see very bright women working hard but when they get married, they would ask for flexible hours and if there was nothing within the firm, they would resign," he told Business Daily in a previous exit interview about his stay at Deloitte.

"I remember one who came to me and said she had been struggling with pregnancies and the doctor had indicated that it was the heavy working environment that was causing the miscarriages." That was the genesis of flexible working hours at Deloitte. The firm did away with the culture of employees having to log in and out every day.

The flexi-hours, as the firm calls it, allowed staff to do whatever was required of them in the times they preferred. According to Sammy, flexi-time made the audit and advisory firm retain a higher number of women professionals and even cut overall medical costs for the company.

In addition, Deloitte introduced a generous maternity leave package and even allowed mothers who deliver twins get an extra month off. It also rolled out subsidised gym service with



Employees having a discussion.

a permanent instructor and introduced a massage parlour.

"Occasionally you find that some of the illnesses that employees have is related to looking at the computer for long hours and prolonged sitting," said Sammy. "The services reduced the amount of money we spend on medical care and people absences because some people fail to go to work because of a stiff neck."

Deloitte told Business Daily, its wellness programs that have improved the overall health and wellbeing of the workforce and reduced average sick leave by about 20 percent. The trend is spreading fast with many firms increasingly rolling out wellness programs to cut medical claims and boost workers' productivity.

Wellness checkup survey In the research 'Millennials and the digital marketplace', 63.3 per cent of its millennials say they are not fond of rigid

working environment but cite flexible working hours as a factor that motivates them the most in accomplishing their tasks at work.

"Our survey outcome revealed flexible hours to be the most sought after than health programs," says the firm. "This could also mean that having flexible working hours establishes control in their lives, which in turn reduces issues such as stress, hence leading to a positive impact on their overall mental wellbeing."

A recent Wellness Checkup Survey by UnitedHealth Group Inc, a US health care company, showed that 57 per cent of employees with access to wellness programs report a positive impact on their health.

This aspect has also pushed insurance firms to offer wellness programmes for their clients to reduce the health related claims in the long run. Zamara has been partnering with its

clients to set up lactation rooms for mothers in offices. According to Zamara Risk Business Managing Director Rosalyn Mugo, nutrition plays a key role in healthy children which means fewer visits to the doctor.

Minet and Jubilee have been carrying wellness weeks touching on gambling, alcoholism, abuse and depression of employees of their clients. This is expected to boost the mental wellbeing of employees in workplaces.

This was reinforced in a 2018 study by Transamerica which said Johnson & Johnson reported 3.7 percent lower average annual growth in total medical spending and saved between \$1.88 and \$3.92 for every dollar spent on wellness plans for 30,000 employees.

"Medical claims have been impacted positively by our initiatives we are beginning to see a reduction in medical claims attributed

to lifestyle diseases. But again it is important to note that the overall medical costs have been rising fast which unfortunately is credited to both hospital and pharmaceutical cost escalations within the past few years," said Helen Nangonzi, Head Corporate Affairs and Brand Marketing at Standard Chartered Bank Kenya.

"The wellness programs actually drive up productivity. Nowadays there are numerous lifestyle diseases, our business being of a sedentary nature if we didn't introduce these activities we possibly will have a larger number of staff battling various ailments and all. The trade off in our opinion is having healthier and happier staff who provide excellent customer centric service to our clients," she added.

The trend may be true for several other firms operating in Kenya. In the financial year ended December

2018, Barclays Bank of Kenya spent Sh440 million on employees' medical expenses, translating to 20 percent cut or Sh110 million saving when compared to Sh550 million in previous year.

The bank runs different wellness programs such as counselling services to staff and their families in moments like death and trauma. A total of 67 employees benefited from this last year. For lactating mothers, the bank has a nursing room fully equipped with milk storage facilities.

It has also invested in basic medical equipment in its offices for employees to test metrics as blood sugar, blood pressure and body mass indices. "The Barclays employee wellness programme has greatly contributed to less office stress, reduced burn-outs and therefore reduced sick-offs," reports BBK.

Barclays' counterpart KCB Group, with similar programs, has seen an improved

productivity among employees. Its staff to income ratio improved from 26.9 per cent to 23.7 per cent. This means for every Sh1,000 generated as income, the bank incurs Sh237 on employees.

Debt challenges Companies such as Safaricom, East African Breweries, Kenya Women Microfinance Bank, Nestle, Mabati Rolling Mills and Isuzu East Africa have set up breastfeeding stations, providing mothers with among other things refrigerator to store breast milk.

Safaricom CEO Bob Collymore says in the latest East Africa CEOs outlook survey by KPMG says he places people ahead of technology as a key to building a resilient organisation. "The most important job for a CEO is recruiting the right people. Secondly, learn to deal with people's issues quicker," he says.

The telco has trained over 460 line managers to be life coaches, helping support employee wellness and talent nurturing apart from just focusing on performance management. While focusing on employee wellness programs is gaining popularity, employees are also facing immense pressure to balance work and life as employers ask for more productivity.

This even as more employees admit to being stressed about their finances. Cash flow and debt challenges continue to plague many employees, lowering the benefits derived from wellness programs.

Wellness programs are now incorporating financial management skills for employees especially with financial literacy lagging behind the current 83 percent financial inclusion reported in Kenya. More than half of Kenyans have reported a worsened financial status, with many having soaked in excess debt from multiple sources, the 2019 Financial Access (FinAccess) Household

survey shows.

"The ability of Kenyans to use financial services and products to manage their daily needs, cope with shocks and achieve big goals has declined," said the report released in April. It adds that less than seven percent of Kenyans seek professional advice to manage their finances as majority rely on own wisdom or friends and relatives.

Insurance brokerage firm, Minet Kenya recently launched a wellness program which extends focus beyond health, encouraging adoption of sound financial decisions as critical for employees' mental stability.

"We have particularly incorporated mental wellness in our wellness programme because mental health disorders attributes to significant number of indirect deaths through suicide and self-harm," CEO Sammy Muthui said.

With many firms chasing efficiency, job cuts have resulted in the process usually causing panic and anxiety among workers. Firms such as Barclays, KCB and National Bank sponsored financial literacy programs for the staff that had been laid off to assist them on how to utilise exit packages.

In May, Liberty Life Kenya and Heritage Insurance launched free financial literacy programmes targeting workers as well as the public. Heritage Insurance MD Godfrey Kioi said employers must see the opportunity and self-interest in promoting a financial wellness agenda at the workplace.

Millennials now occupy a larger portion of the workplace, and it will increasingly become essential for employers to create an employee-centric culture that fosters productivity, according to job placement website BrighterMonday.

## POPULAR

## SA liquor stores make the most money among independent retailers

JOHANNESBURG

South African liquor stores have the highest turnover in the country, a new report by retail software platform Vend found.

The Retail Benchmarks Report for independently operated stores found that South African liquor stores have an average monthly revenue of R506,251, followed by shoe stores with R325,015.

The report showed that sporting goods stores have an average monthly revenue of R313,531, and home furnishing stores with R206,476.

The report was compiled from Vend's retail data in South Africa, as well as other countries across the world. It showed that South Africa's fashion and accessory retail industry delivered the best growth the past year, with average monthly revenues per store increasing by 13%.

Stores that showed the lowest average monthly turnover in South Africa included cosmetics, beauty supplies, and perfume stores, the report noted. Average monthly revenues for independently operate

Average monthly revenues for independently operates stores across key regions (supplied, Vend) Globally, independent retailers had a monthly average revenue of \$28,094 (roughly R397,000), with North American retailers generating the most revenue of \$31,038.52 (roughly R439,000).

North America was followed by Australian retailers who earned an average of \$29,081.51 (roughly R411,000) per month, New Zealand with \$28,527.71 (roughly R403,000), and the United Kingdom with \$28,066.89 (roughly R396,000). South African retailers showed the smallest average monthly revenue of \$18,785.98 (roughly R265,000).



A South African liquor store in Cape Town.



WARNING

# Avocados - farmers' green gold - push southern Spain towards water collapse

MADRID

Hundreds of small trees dot the terraced hillside, brown and parched under the early summer sun. They may not look like much now, but by next year they'll bear the fruit of one of Spain's most profitable export crops: avocados.

Joaquin Montes, who has been producing avocados for over 30 years, is one of many Spanish farmers cashing in on a golden era for the soft green fruit. Encouraged by the crop's profitability, last year he expanded his cultivation by 12 hectares.

Fueled by Instagram and the rising popularity of avo toast and all things vegan, society's growing appetite for the avocado shows no signs of slowing down. Lauded for its nutritional benefits, the versatile superfood has become a favourite addition to meals at all times of day and desserts, or enjoyed alone as a snack.

In Europe, the avocado market is booming. Demand for the fruit

is expected to keep market growth at, or above, 15 per cent for the next five years, according to the 2019 Avocado Forecast by Washington NGO World Avocado Association. Consumption in the EU last year surpassed 650,000 metric tonnes, and this year, imports are expected to exceed 750,000 metric tonnes, according to figures from Eurofruit.

Spain is Europe's largest avocado producer, currently supplying 10 per cent of the EU's avocados, and is striving to secure a larger share of the market. Production was up 17 per cent this growing season compared to last.

The main destinations for Spanish exports, the bulk of which are the popular Hass variety, are France, the Netherlands, Germany and the UK. Some Spanish avocados make their way to GCC and Middle Eastern countries, but the market is still in its infancy and growing.

Few places in Europe offer the highly specific growing conditions avocados require. In Spain, ninety per cent of avocado cultivation is limited to a small microclimate that



Joaquin Montes walks through his avocado plantation near Almuñecar, where he has been producing the fruit for commercial export for over 30 years.

rises abruptly from the coast in Malaga and Granada provinces. Avocados were introduced here centuries ago, with commercial export beginning in the 1970s.

"When farmers started planting avocados in the area, they saw it was a fruit with a future," says Javier Braun, vice president of the Spanish Association for Tropical Fruit Producers. The 2018-19 avocado season saw a turno-

ver of €124 million, according to producer collective Asaja Málaga.

"From the point of view of the farmers, this crop is considered essential. It's practically the only profitable fruit," says Javier Egea of Ecologists in Action, a confederation of Spanish environmental groups.

Driven by high demand and profitability, many farmers have ceased growing traditional rain-fed crops,

like olives and almonds, and switched to avocado cultivation, says Mr Egea. Others who were previously dedicated to oranges are now testing avocados too, Mr Braun adds.

The profitability means many producers want to expand their cultivation, but have been unable to do so because they are limited by water shortages, says Mr Egea. For years, Spanish ecologists have warned that water-intensive farming of subtropical fruits, like avocados, along the southern coast is pushing the area towards water collapse.

Spain has suffered repeated droughts in recent decades, and is expected to be one of the European countries most seriously impacted by climate change. "There have already been periods of drought where aquifers were overexploited, and many plantations could not be irrigated and dried up," says Mr Egea.

Studies vary, but to produce a kilogram of avocados requires somewhere between 1000 and 2000 litres of water, Mr Egea says. Ninety per cent of Spain's avocado production occurs in a small coastal microclimate in the provinces of Granada and Malaga. Plantations dominate the hillsides, as pictured here. Kira Walker for The National

Ninety per cent of Spain's avocado production occurs in a small coastal microclimate in the provinces of Granada and Malaga. Plantations dominate the hillsides, as pictured here. Kira Walker for The National

"The avocado needs around 6,000 cubic metres per year, and the amount provided by the authorities is a maximum of 5,300 cubic metres per year. These numbers show we are cultivating beyond our means."

Mr Egea says that despite water scarcity, the avocado industry does not intend

to adapt their production to real conditions. "To the contrary, producers hope to expand with more water brought from outside, paid with public funds." Farmer Mr Montes doesn't seem phased by the prospect of water shortages, and remains optimistic that a project to transfer water by pipe from the Rules Dam in the nearby Sierra Nevada will get government approval.

The project would allow producers to grow to the coveted 400m-elevation mark, allowing for 4,500 hectares expansion of cultivation, says Mr Egea. Elsa Martínez Ferri, a researcher at IFAPA, the Andalusian Institute of Agricultural and Fisheries Research and Training, agrees that the problem of water availability is real in the region, but the scarcity does not make avocados an unsustainable crop.

CREATIVITY

## It wasn't me! Dubai bank's creative Shaggy-inspired warning on fraud

DUBAI

Viewers have reacted positively to the 'hilarious' two-minute video by Emirates NBD and Dubai Police warning customers of the dangers of online comment

A UAE bank has been praised after it took an unorthodox approach to warning customers of the dangers of online fraud. Emirates NBD, in partnership with Dubai Police, has recorded a song and music video, to the tune of Shaggy's song It Wasn't Me, but with adapted lyrics to emphasise the importance of keeping personal details safe.

It sees a rapping bank manager, who even adopts Shaggy's Jamaican accent, repeating 'it wasn't me' in response to a customer who has been duped by fraudsters pretending to be from his bank.

The chorus sees the victim of fraud, playing the role of Shaggy's collaborator RikRok in the song, repeat phrases such as "he messaged me on WhatsApp" and "he told me I won the lottery". To each statement, the bank manager responds "it wasn't me."

Viewers have reacted overwhelmingly positively to the two-minute video, which

was released on Thursday evening. "Lovely way to convey a very important message," Sameer Ahmed, who lives in Dubai, wrote on Facebook. Responding on YouTube, Vivek Bharti, from Abu Dhabi, wrote: "Emirates NBD does advertising in [the] coolest way. This awareness video conveys a message with a swag. Thumbs up!"

Others described the post as "creative and hilarious" with the performance of the bank manager proving particularly popular. In a statement, Emirates NBD said the video highlighted "all the things a bank won't ask, but a fraudster will."

It said: "Our latest film "It Wasn't Me", in collaboration with Dubai Police, gives you the do's and don'ts of keeping your identity and account secure at all times." It Wasn't Me, released in July 2000, proved one of Shaggy's biggest hits, topping the charts across America, Australia and Europe.

Its lyrics tell the story of a man asking a friend what he should do after he is caught cheating in a relationship. He receives advice to deny it with the phrase 'it wasn't me,' despite overwhelming evidence of guilt.



<p><b>TUESDAY 25 June</b></p> <p>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 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Isidingo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Watoto wetu 11:30 Shamsam za pwani 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Shamsam za pwani 12:25 Igizo: Mtego 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Al Jazeera 13:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Uchumi na biashara 14:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TFDA 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Series rpt: Iris 15:30 Habari za saa 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:15 Jiji Letu 18:30 Mapiishi 18:55 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 19:55 Habari 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destiny) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY 26 June</b></p> <p>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 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk 11:00 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk 11:15 Jagina 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 14:00 Series rpt 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:15 Jiji Letu 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:55 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco 21:40 Ripoti Maalum 22:15 Series: Iris 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 27 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo: Kivuko 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Kivuko 11:15 Ripoti Maalum 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 Series rpt: Iris 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:15 Jiji Letu 18:30 Mapiishi 18:55 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 19:55 Habari 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p><b>FRIDAY 28 June</b></p> <p>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 Isidingo 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 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Series rpt: Iris 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibadia ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 29 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:30 Usafiri wako 12:00 Mapiishi 12:30 Series rpt: Iris 14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko 15:15 Igizo rpt: Ahadi 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapiishi 18:30 Igizo: Ahadi 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Kesho Leo 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 CNN International</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 30 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mkwewa 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 Mapiishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: Mkwewa 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destiny)</p> <p><b>CAPITAL</b></p> <p><b>Mon 24 June</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 Turning the spotlight rpt: 12:30 Drive it rpt 13:00 Series rpt : Godwin 13:45 Series rpt: The land of wind 14:30 Usafiri wako rpt 15:00 Cookery rpt: Culinary Delight 15:30 Toyota world of wildlife rpt 16:00 CNN International 17:00 EcoAfrica rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Business edition 20:00 Series: Stars &amp; 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Scars rpt 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Sun 30 June</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Iron chef rpt 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 Shamba lulu 13:30 Series rpt: Stars &amp; scars 15:00 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Series rpt: The land of wind 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
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The bank manager, right, has proven particularly popular with viewers.

CONCERN

## Greenpeace sounding alarm over shark overfishing in North Atlantic

OTTAWA

Thousands of endangered sharks are killed each year in the North Atlantic due to a lack of protection against overfishing in international waters, Greenpeace said on Thursday. Fishing vessels dedicated primarily to catching swordfish in the area collectively caught four times more sharks than swordfish by weight with their long lines loaded with thousands of hooks, the environmental group said in a report based on findings from Greenpeace ship Esperanza which visited the region earlier this year.

"It is absolutely immoral to kill sharks and other wildlife with these terrible fishing practices," said Will McCallum, of Greenpeace's Protect the Oceans campaign, in a statement. "We are exposing the culprits at sea now, but we urgently need a strong treaty and tighter fishing limits to protect our global oceans."

Shark finning becomes illegal in Canada Carving fins off live sharks and leaving them in the ocean to drown will be illegal in Canada as early as Friday. Importing shark fins that are no longer attached to a shark will also be illicit as part of efforts to prevent Canada from being comp.

The shortfin mako, the fastest shark in the world, and the longfin mako are among the shark species being caught in large numbers in the North Atlantic, according to Greenpeace. Both species are listed as "endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Spanish and Portuguese ships in the North Atlantic are catching as many as 25 000 mako sharks annually, according to Greenpeace's investigation. Environmentalists warn that losing sharks at the top of the food chain can mean smaller fish thrive and consume more of their prey, upsetting the ecological balance.



## WORLD

## Xi puts up three-point proposal on developing China-Africa ties

OSAKA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday put forward a three-point proposal on building a closer community with a shared future between China and African countries.

On the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in the Japanese city of Osaka, Xi chaired a China-Africa leaders' meeting, which was attended by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, also former African co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC); Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi, also rotating chair of the African Union (AU); Senegalese President Macky Sall, current African co-chair of the FOCAC; and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The leaders compared notes and reached a broad consensus on major issues such as deepening China-Africa cooperation, supporting the development of Africa and the work of the United Nations, and safeguarding multilateralism.

Xi pointed out that the FOCAC Beijing summit held in September last year ushered in a new era of China-Africa relations.

China cherishes its traditional friendship with Africa, Xi said, adding that no matter how the international situation changes and despite the interference

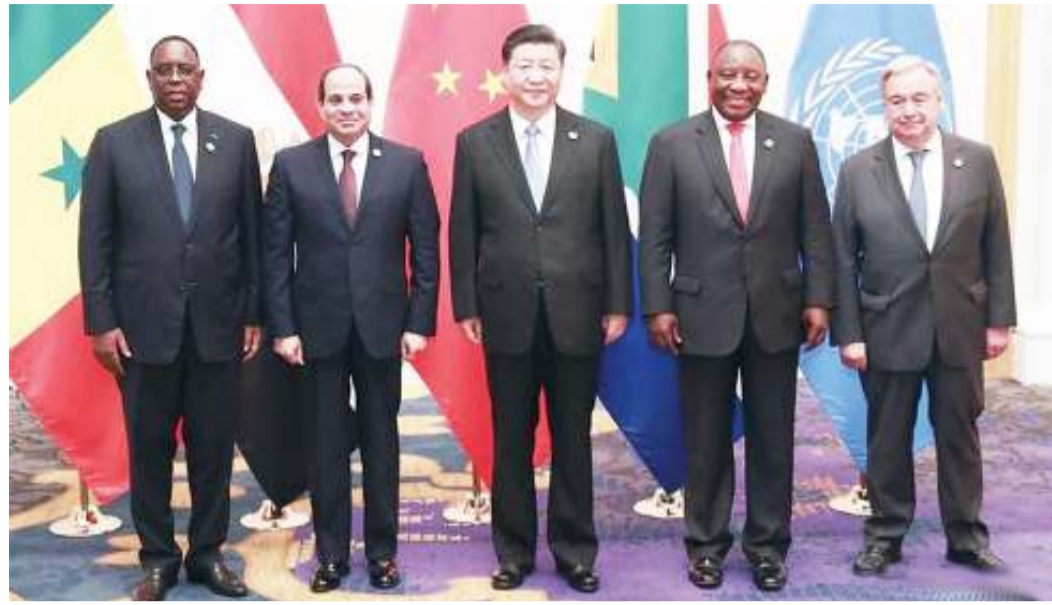
of certain powers, the original aspirations of China and Africa for win-win cooperation and common development will stay unchanged and the resolve to jointly build a closer community with a shared future will not waver.

At the China-Africa leaders' meeting, Xi put forward a three-point proposal.

First, Xi called on the countries to be pioneers for win-win development so that the fruits of cooperation will benefit more Chinese and African people.

The countries, he said, should align the construction of the Belt and Road with the AU's Agenda 2063, the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development strategies of African countries, and bring more visible and tangible benefits to the peoples of China and Africa through the implementation of the outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing summit.

Xi pledged that China will stay committed to the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith and the approach of pursuing the greater good and shared interests, honor its commitments to Africa to the letter, persistently support Africa's development, and make greater contributions to Africa's development and rejuvenation and African countries' joint efforts to become stronger.



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs a China-Africa leaders' meeting in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. (XINHUA)

Second, he called on the countries to lead the way in opening-up and cooperation and build stronger synergy to support Africa's development.

International cooperation with Africa should give priority to Africa, respect its will and guarantee its interests, Xi said, adding that any egotistical and self-centered moves benefiting oneself at the expense of others will lose ground and be unpopular.

China is ready to push the international community to increase input in Africa, work with the UN to help African countries properly cope with global challenges, and carry out third-party cooperation with the UN and international partners in Africa on the basis of respecting Africa's will, he said.

Third, Xi urged the countries to be guardians of multilateralism and make greater contributions to defending the international order.

The countries should stick to cultural diversity and inclusive development, uphold the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and join hands to push forward the democratization of international relations, Xi said.

They should also unequivocally oppose protectionism, unilateralism, bullying and the clash-of-civilizations mindset, jointly safeguard multilateralism and the free trade system, fully accommodate the legitimate demands, rights and interests of developing countries, especially the African ones, and actively safeguard international equality and justice, he said.

Xi vowed that China will speak up for African countries within the UN and other multilateral frameworks, help channel more relevant resources to Africa, continue to encourage the UN to fund Africa's own peacekeeping operations, and make

unremitting efforts for Africa's long-term stability, development and prosperity.

The Chinese president stressed that China is ready to take this meeting as an opportunity to work with African countries and the UN to strengthen strategic communication, deepen practical cooperation, inject positive energy into the international situation, and jointly build a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation as well as a community with a shared future for mankind.

African leaders agreed that the meeting fully reflected the importance China attaches to Africa and the closeness of Africa-China relations.

The leaders hailed the success of the FOCAC Beijing summit and the just concluded coordinators' meeting on the implementation of the follow-up actions of the summit.

Africa-China cooperation is practical, efficient and action-oriented, and has a strong follow-up mechanism, which meets the needs of African countries, they said.

The African side thanks China for its long-term positive contributions to supporting Africa's development and appreciates China's non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, they said.

The leaders said they hope other countries could follow China's example, help Africa with its development, provide development funds and raise the level of Africa's development.

African countries are ready to work with China to implement the eight major initiatives agreed at the FOCAC Beijing summit, actively build the Belt and Road, and forge a closer Africa-China community with a shared future, they said.

Xinhua

## ... says Gulf region at crossroads of war and peace

OSAKA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday that the Gulf region is now in a very sensitive situation and standing at a crossroads of war and peace.

China always stands on the side of peace and opposes war, Xi said when meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of a summit of the Group of 20 major economies in the Japanese city of Osaka.

Noting the increasing complexity and turmoil in the international

situation, Xi said the Gulf region is in an especially sensitive situation and standing at a crossroads of war and peace.

China always stands on the side of peace and opposes war, Xi said, calling on all sides to remain calm and exercise restraint, promote dialogue and consultation, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability.

Xi said China always upholds multilateralism and supports the United Nations playing an active role in international affairs.

The more complex and severe

the situation is, the more necessary it is to highlight the United Nations' authority and role, said Xi, adding that China will support the United Nations' and the secretary-general's work with concrete actions.

The G20 Osaka summit should fully consider the need of global development and deliver correct signals to the world, Xi said.

Xi said the Chinese side appreciates the secretary-general's efforts to promote international cooperation in addressing climate change, and is willing to push for positive

outcomes of the UN Climate Action Summit. For his part, Guterres said the international situation is now at a critical moment, as tensions are emerging in the trade area and the Gulf region, and the world is facing insufficient willingness to promote multilateralism and follow laws and rules.

Voicing his appreciation of China's support for the United Nations, Guterres spoke highly of China's important contribution to promoting the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue, addressing climate change and ad-

vancing sustainable development.

The UN chief said the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative is of great significance to boosting global development, especially the development of Africa.

Guterres said he looks forward to and supports China offering more leadership in international affairs, adding that the world body will make joint efforts with China to better enable global governance to play its due role and turn the practice of multilateralism into the mainstream in the international community.

Xinhua

## Impeach me, I'll jail you - Philippines' Duterte dares foes to test him

MANILA

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened opponents with prison if they try to impeach him, the latest in what a top U.N. official and an Asian lawmakers' group this week called a pattern of persecution and assaults on free speech.

Duterte (pictured) vented his anger late on Thursday amid intense media scrutiny and accusations that he is siding with China over a June 9 sinking of a Filipino fishing boat by a Chinese vessel, which happened inside Manila's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The maverick leader has echoed Beijing's line that it was an accident, not an intentional ramming, and shrugged off the presence of Chinese fishermen inside the Philippine EEZ, saying he would allow it out of friendship.

Some high-profile critics, among them a top judge and a former foreign minister, have called that a breach of the constitution, or worthy of his impeachment.

"Me? Will be impeached? I will jail them all," Duterte told reporters. "Try to do it and I will do it. Son of a bitch."

He added: "I am challenging you to do it. You really want to force



my hand into it? Okay. You sons of bitches, do it. Yes. File it."

A report on Tuesday by the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights chided the Duterte administration for what it said were threats and aggressive rhetoric and trumped-up criminal charges against opponents that amounted

to "deliberate effort to muzzle critics and weaken checks and balances."

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Monday said there was a "very real risk of violence" for Filipinos who speak out, noting threats were publicly made by state officials.

While Duterte's popularity and mandate have been bolstered by a recent midterm election, the sinking incident has put the domestic spotlight on cracks that are appearing in his much-trumpeted foreign policy of non-confrontation with China in return for eco-

nomic incentives.

Some analysts say China's offers of high-interest infrastructure loans and promises of massive investments have won Duterte's acquiescence, but with much of that yet to materialize and China further militarizing its artificial islands and strengthening its fishing militia, Duterte risks looking like he is being duped.

Asked yesterday about threats to jail opponents, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte was merely upset that people could not see he had the country's interests at heart.

Agencies

## Money for land? US Mideast peace plan rejected by Palestinians

MANAMA

THE U.S.-led two-day workshop aiming to promote a money-for-land plan to solve the Palestinian issue concluded here on Wednesday, without the endorsement of the Palestinian National Authority.

The peace plan, also known as the Deal of the Century, was mainly drawn up by Jared Kushner, senior advisor to U.S. President Donald Trump, amid an escalation of the decades-long conflict triggered by a U.S. declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

While Washington has claimed that the deal would launch a 10-year investment fund of about 50 billion U.S. dollars to help the Palestinians create over a million jobs and reduce their poverty rate by half, the Palestinians apparently didn't place much confidence in it.

"If a plan asks the Palestinians to drop their national agenda by just giving them a lot of money, it is nothing but a humiliation as if they could be bribed by money," Nimrod Goren, head of the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, told Xinhua.

CONFLICT SINCE 1948

The current conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis dates back to as early as mid-1948, about half a year after the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which recommended the creation of a Palestinian state and a Jewish state in the then British Mandate territory of Palestine.

After Israel declared independence in 1948, it continued waging war with neighboring Arab states in a bid to expand its territory, triggering a massive forced exodus of Palestinians from their homes.

The long-running conflicts culminated in the Six-Day War in 1967, during which Israel seized the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the entire West Bank.

After the war, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 242 as part of the UN Charter to urge Israeli forces to withdraw from all territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, which obviously was not fulfilled by the country.

Since then, the situation in the region has kept alternating between skirmishes and brief lulls with the mediation of the international community.

However, Israel's continuing expansion of settlements on the occupied Palestinian territories has increasingly become another wedge driven between the two sides, and eventually led to the collapse of the last round of peace talks in 2014.

In 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2334 which described Israel's settlement activity as a "flagrant violation" of international law and asked it to stop such activity immediately.

Backed by the UN resolutions, the Palestinians now seek to establish an independent, fully sovereign state along the 1967 pre-war borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

MOTIVE BEHIND PROVOCATIONS

Since U.S. President Donald Trump assumed office in 2017, Washington has started to veer from decades of commitment to the two-state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict toward being equivocal about the future of the Palestinians.

In May 2018, the United States relocated its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, further alienating the Palestinians who, along with all other Muslims, revere Jerusalem as the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.

After taking the core issue of Jerusalem off the negotiating table by relocating its embassy against the Palestinians' will, Washington announced on Aug. 31, 2018 that it will end all funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), a move that has plunged the UN relief agency into a widening budget gap.

Over a week later, the U.S. State Department announced the closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization's office in Washington, citing its lack of steps to advance direct negotiations with Israel, days before revoking the visas of the Palestinian ambassador to the United States and his family.

In an interview published by the New York Times earlier this month, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said that Israel has the right to annex parts of the West Bank while blaming the Palestinian Authority for the stalemate in the peace process.

"It is obvious that the recent U.S. measures taken against the Palestinians aimed at blackmailing us into surrendering and accepting the peace deal," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh said in May.

No sooner had the White House and the Bahraini government announced on May 19 the launch of the economic workshop, which is widely acknowledged as the first step of the Deal of the Century, did the Palestinian Authority voice strong opposition to both the workshop and the U.S. peace plan. "Any peaceful solution should depend basically on ending the occupation and gaining the national rights of the Palestinians," said Ishtayeh.

Xinhua

## China to safeguard global security through peaceful cooperation

By Zhong Sheng

FOR some time, some US politicians have unscrupulously practiced unilateral policies, making troubles for the international society. By waving the big stick of tariffs and frequently withdrawing from international organizations, they are producing risks for the world through every possible means.

They never feel sorry for their hegemonic strategy of "America first", and ignore the security interests of other countries and international orders for private profits.

Adopting rude solutions to solve com-

plicated security issues, they are taking national security interests as a business, which will only create severer security problems.

As the international community has witnessed, US hegemonic practices have been presented in many new forms. But the nature of these practices still remains the same.

As what The Atlantic has described, "America has attacked countries that did not threaten it."

The wrongdoing of the US politicians has triggered wide concerns and alarms of the international society, and showed to the world that the US is indeed the

most insecure factor in the world.

A poll by US non-profit organization Pew Research Center said that a median of 45 percent across the surveyed nations see US power and influence as a major threat in 2018, up from 25 percent in 2013. In US allies such as Japan and South Korea, the ratio stood at over 2/3.

Sustained peace has been a common aspiration of human beings for thousands of years. In today's world, economic globalization is going through drastic development, with closer economic cooperation and interdependence among each country. As a result,

security issues are becoming more interconnected, contagious, and synergic.

Amid profound changes in the global pattern, emerging markets and developing countries are gaining more national strength and making more voices in international security issues. The days when a few countries dominated global security orders have gone forever.

The world is calling for a new vision of security. The concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security proposed by China has exactly reflected the new characteristics of international situation and new requirements of development,

and answers the universal call of global countries for peace, development and cooperation.

Common security can address the closely intertwined interests and security of countries; comprehensive security can achieve effective governance when security becomes a growing issue in both scope and implication; cooperative security can resolve disputes through peaceful means and enhance mutual trust; and sustainable security can promote security through development, address both the symptoms and root causes, and achieve long-term stabil-

ity.

By adhering to justice and fulfilling responsibilities, China has continuously contributed positive energy to world peace and development. China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a major country for peacekeeping missions.

It actively promotes the progress of hotspot political issues, participates in bilateral and multilateral security cooperation, and provides more public security products for the world, with a firm goal to make the international order more just and equitable.

People Daily





Yang Tao

## Chinese businessman helps build Africa's e-commerce

CHANGSHA

CHINESE businessman Yang Tao has an ambition -- to build the best e-commerce platform in Africa.

The 36-year-old from central China's Hunan Province worked in Africa in 2012 when he found the retail industry there was mostly in forms of village markets, with "fewer commodities and higher prices."

"Why not introduce the prosperous e-commerce platform to Africa?" Yang said.

In 2014, Yang founded Africa's online shopping mall, Kilimall, in Kenya. "Clicking on the Kilimall website, African consumers can buy more than 10 million different products online, with guaranteed quality and 10-20 percent lower prices than those in the local markets, including electronics, fashion products and home appliances," Yang said.

With 73 percent mobile Internet penetration and more than 450 million Internet users in Africa, mobile payment in some African countries is becoming more popular, according to Yang.

"No one could ignore the trends, and we should leverage digitalization to realize the new possibility for Africa and China. E-commerce is a new option to accelerate economic growth and create employment," he said.

After five years of development, Kilimall now has 5 million African users and handles tens of thousands of orders every day. "The annual business volume can reach over 72 million U.S. dollars," the CEO said.

It has established operations in Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria, helping more than 5,000 sellers in Africa to do business online and having created over 10,000 jobs.

Yang has an even bigger goal of expanding the online shopping network across the whole continent by end of 2022.

Leveraging the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo which opened Thursday in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province, Kilimall has been upgraded to Kili.co, an online expo platform for cooperation and mutual exchange, which is expected to serve nearly 500 million Chinese and African customers as well as 1 million enterprises in the next five years.

"On Kili.co, Chinese consumers can also buy African products such as flowers and nuts, which they will receive in just two to five days," Yang said.

Xinhua

## Putin, May privately discuss Skripals' case

OSAKA

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and UK Prime Minister Theresa May have discussed the Skripals' case face-to-face. The Russian President's press secretary Dmitry Peskov reports that the British Prime Minister

obtained answers to all the questions she was interested in.

"It [the meeting] began in one-on-one format with only the interpreters present. This is when Prime Minister May was speaking about the Skripals' case, was putting this issue forward," he said.

Peskov clarified that May "had received all the necessary answers from the Russian President" to her questions. At the same time, he specifically underlined that "it was a bilateral meeting after a prolonged break in the dialogue at the highest level."

Agencies

## In breakout debate performance, Harris challenges Biden on race

MIAMI

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Kamala Harris dominated her Democratic rivals in a debate on Thursday, confronting front-runner Joe Biden on race and calling his remarks about working with segregationist senators "hurtful."

In a breakout performance, the daughter of a black father from Jamaica and an Indian mother was at the center of several heated exchanges during the second night of debates among Democrats vying for the right to challenge Republican President Donald Trump in the 2020 election.

Harris said the issue of race was deeply personal for her. She noted she was bused to school as part of integration efforts in California, and she questioned Biden's 1970s opposition to school busing.

The former prosecutor looked straight at Biden and demanded that he explain himself.

"I do not believe you are a racist. And I agree with you when you commit yourself to the importance of finding common ground," said Harris, 54, a U.S. senator from California who has ranked fourth or fifth in most national polls among Democrats.

"But I also believe - and it's personal and it was hurtful to hear you talk about the reputations of two United States senators who built their reputations and career on the segregation of race in this country."

Biden, who was on the defensive throughout the night, has faced heavy criticism for his recent comments that he worked decades ago with two Southern segregationist senators as a way to get things done in the U.S. Senate.

He appeared shaken by the attack, but defended his record on civil rights and said his remarks had been mischaracterized as praise for racists.

"If we want to have this campaign litigated on who supports civil rights and whether I did or not, I'm happy to do that," he said, noting he had only opposed busing for school integration ordered by the federal government, not by local governments.

"Everything I have done in my career, I ran because of civil rights and continue to think we have to make fundamental changes," he said.

He added a dig at Harris, noting he had been a public defender and "didn't become a prosecutor."

One of the lesser-known candidates, U.S. Representative Eric Swalwell, 38, also took a swing at Biden, sharply reminding voters of Biden's age and urg-



Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris debate racial issues as Senator Bernie Sanders listens during the second night of the first U.S. Democratic presidential candidates 2020 election debate in Miami, Florida, US on Thursday. REUTERS

ing the 76-year-old to pass the torch to younger candidates.

"I was 6 years old when a presidential candidate came to the California Democratic convention and said it's time to pass the torch to a new generation of Americans," Swalwell said. "That candidate was then-Senator Joe Biden."

"He was right when he said that 32 years ago. He is still right today," Swalwell said.

Biden responded: "I'm still holding onto that torch. I want to make it clear."

In a Democratic contest where racial issues have figured prominently, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, also faced pointed questions about accusations of racism inside his city's predominantly white police force after a fatal police shooting of a black man.

GOING AFTER TRUMP

The contenders frequently attacked Trump and sharply disagreed over the best way to boost access to healthcare insurance coverage. Biden and the candidate running second in polls among Democrats, Bernie Sanders, turned their fire on Trump repeatedly.

"The American people understand that Trump is a phony, that Trump is a pathological liar and a racist and that he lied to the American people during his campaign," said Sanders, who was relegated to the sidelines for much of the night. Biden, the former vice president making his third run for the White House, said Trump's tax cuts for the wealthy and other economic policies were increasing economic inequality in the United States.

"Donald Trump has put us in a horrible situation. We do have enormous income inequality," Biden said. "The one

thing I agree on is we can make massive cuts in the \$1.6 trillion in tax loopholes out there, and I would be going about eliminating Donald Trump's tax cuts for the wealthy."

The debate also included U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Kirsten Gillibrand, former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, self-help guru Marianne Williamson and entrepreneur Andrew Yang. All six are polling nationally around 1% or less.

Like the Democrats who debated on Wednesday, the contenders disagreed on the best way to expand healthcare coverage. Asked who would back a plan that eliminated private insurance, only Sanders and Harris raised their hands.

When asked if their administrations would support covering healthcare for immigrants in the United States illegally, all 10 candidates on the stage raised their hands.

Trump, who has made cracking down on illegal immigration a signature policy of his presidency, pounced via Twitter even though he is in Japan for the G20 summit.

"All Democrats just raised their hands for giving millions of illegal aliens unlimited healthcare. How about taking care of American Citizens first? That's the end of that race!" the Republican tweeted.

The Democrats frequently talked over one another, shouting to get their points across as some of the lesser-known contenders tried to get noticed. At one point, Harris stepped in.

"America does not want to witness a food fight. They want to know how we're going to put food on their table," Harris said, drawing applause from Biden.

Agencies

## UAE 'reduces military presence in Yemen' as Gulf tensions flare

DUBAI

THE United Arab Emirates, a key member of the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen, is scaling back its military presence there as worsening US-Iran tensions threaten security closer to home, four western diplomatic sources said.

The UAE has pulled some troops from the southern port of Aden and Yemen's western coast, two of the diplomats said, areas where the Gulf state has built up and armed local forces who are leading the battle against the Iran-aligned Houthi group along the Red Sea coast.

Three of the diplomats said Abu Dhabi preferred to have its forces and equipment on hand should tension between the United States and Iran escalate further after attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf and Tehran's downing of a US unmanned drone.

"It is true that there have been some troop movements ... but it is not a re-deployment from Yemen," a senior Emirati official told Reuters, adding that the UAE remains fully committed to the military coalition and "will not leave a vacuum" in Yemen.

The official would not provide details on the movements, the numbers involved or specify whether it was happening inside or outside Yemen, where the alliance intervened in 2015 to try to restore the government ousted from power by the Houthis.

It is not clear how many Emirati forces are in Yemen. One Western diplomat said the UAE withdrew "a lot" of forces from the Arabian Peninsula nation over the last three weeks.

Asked whether tensions with Iran were behind the move, the Emirati official said the decision was more related to a holding ceasefire in Yemen's main port city of Hodeidah, now held by the Houthis, under a UN-led peace pact reached last December.

"This is a natural progression," the official said, reiterating the UAE's support for UN efforts to implement the deal in Hodeidah, a lifeline for millions of Yemenis, to pave the way for talks to end the war.

Hodeidah became the focus of the war last year when the Western-backed, Sunni Muslim coalition tried to seize the port, the Houthis' main supply line. Under the Stockholm deal, which has yet to be fully implemented, both the Houthis and pro-coalition Yemeni forces would withdraw from Hodeidah.

TANKER ATTACKS

Two of the diplomats said progress on Hodeidah made it easier for the UAE to scale back its presence in Yemen to reinforce defenses at home in the wake of attacks on four oil tankers off the UAE coast in May that was followed by strikes on two more vessels in the Gulf of Oman a few weeks later.

Agencies

## Heat wave puts Italy, France on highest 'red' weather alert

PRAGUE

FRANCE'S national weather service issued its highest-level danger alert on Thursday as it warned that parts of the country could expect temperatures to reach an "exceptional peak" Friday amid a record-setting heat wave in Europe.

Meteo France raised the hazardous weather warning to "red," the highest level, for the Marseille and Montpellier areas in southeastern France, forecasting hazardous temperatures of 42-45 degrees Celsius yesterday.

It was the first red alert Meteo France activated since a four-level



weather "vigilance" system was introduced following an estimated 15,000 heat-related deaths in France during a 2003 summer heat wave.

"A heat wave of this amplitude so early in the year, in June, is exceptional," Meteo France meteorologist France Christelle Robert said. "We should expect more intense and

frequent heat waves with climate change, because it will accentuate the extremes."

The Italian Health Ministry said seven cities, including Florence, Rome and Turin, already were at Italy's highest heat warning level on Thursday. Yesterday, 16 cities was expected to be under alerts for high temperatures.

Italian authorities instructed people to avoid being outside during the hottest hours of the day and to stay away from areas with a lot of vehicle traffic to prevent ozone exposure.

In France, a red extreme weather warning advises extra precautions for children and older people and cau-

tions that even those in good health are at risk of heat stroke.

Most of the rest of France remained on the next-highest "orange" alert. In Paris and other big cities, including Marseille, authorities banned older cars since high heat exacerbates air pollution.

Amid the blistering weather in Europe, hundreds of firefighters struggled to contain a wildfire in northeastern Spain that forced the evacuation of 53 residents.

Firefighters said temperatures over 30 degrees Celsius, low humidity and high winds fanned the flames.

Agencies

## Open cooperation, joint development remain a thoroughfare

By Zhong Sheng

THE World Bank's global growth forecast for 2019 stood at 2.6 percent, the lowest in the recent three years, while the global trade growth this year was also revised down to 2.6 percent, the weakest since the global financial crisis II years ago.

The trade friction unilaterally provoked by the US is widely believed by international organizations and global countries to be the cause of the slide in global

economic and trade growth.

However, some US politicians have turned a blind eye to the damage brought by trade protectionism. They even claimed at the recent G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting that they don't think in any way that the slowdowns in parts of the world are a result of trade tensions at the moment.

The US administration objected to write "opposition to trade protectionism" into the ministers' statement, and excluded a

proposed clause to "recognize the pressing need to resolve trade tensions".

"Almost everyone in the room thinks that trade tensions are a threat to growth. It's not always the mood in the American administration," said Pierre Moscovici, European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs. German newspaper Handelsblatt commented it's a 19-1 negotiation when it comes to trade policy.

To create favorable conditions

for trade liberalization may promote global development. However, some US politicians just ignored such point in their pursuit of private interests.

They blamed others for America's domestic development issues and take other countries as threats. Waving the big stick of tariffs and exerting extreme pressure, they frequently damaged the economic globalization by "disconnecting" with the world, which revealed their deeply rooted and outdated ze-

ro-sum mentality.

Their practices could not be tolerated by even US media. CNBC recently remarked in its report that the US administration's pivot to using tariffs as a political weapon is so dangerous for the economy.

Unilateralism and protectionism are a single-plank bridge, while open cooperation and joint development remain a thoroughfare. It's not difficult for most of the countries in the world to make the right deci-

sion. Even at the hearing on the proposed tariffs on Chinese commodities held by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the opposition to the additional tariffs was the mainstream voice.

US business called Chinese products irreplaceable, and protectionism is being opposed all around the world, which indicated people's aspiration and the trend of time.

Visions of development determine paths of development. In

the modern world, only by adhering to equal, open, all-round and innovative development, can countries share development dividend in the general trend of economic globalization.

Through equal development, all the countries become participants, contributors and beneficiaries of global development, and shall not impede the development of others for their own interests or harm the others to benefit themselves.

People's Daily





Rafael Nadal

## Wary of past pain, Nadal eyes third Wimbledon title

LONDON

RAFA Nadal received a degree of sympathy this week when he questioned a Wimbledon seedings formula that relegated him down to third in this year's draw despite a world ranking of two.

After all, he has been champion there twice, is bang in form after a record-stretching 12th French Open, is injury free and last year was a whisker away from reaching the final.

Despite that, the 33-year-old would be the first to admit that despite twice lifting the trophy the All England Club's lawns have not always been a happy hunting ground.

While his 2008 defeat of Roger Federer in a final for the ages stands as one of his greatest days, shock losses at the hands of Steve Darcis, Lucas Rozol, Dustin Brown and Gilles Muller represent some of his darkest moments.

Wimbledon's low bouncing lawns also provide the ultimate test of the creaky knees that disrupted Nadal's season this year and forced him to withdraw from Miami.

It is why Nadal's excitement is tempered by a little trepidation every time he heads to his most erratic Grand Slam and why there is a sense of unfinished business.

After backing up his 2008 triumph by beating Tomas Berdych in the 2010 final and reaching the final again in 2011 – Nadal then went five visits without going past the fourth round.

Those dismissing his grasscourt prowess were forced to eat humble pie last year when Nadal roared through to the semi-finals when he lost 8-6 in the fifth set to Novak Djokovic in one of the highest-quality matches ever

seen on Centre Court.

With an exhausted Kevin Anderson waiting in the final Nadal's chances of claiming a third Wimbledon crown were bright.

"Last year he was very close," uncle and former coach Toni Nadal told Reuters this month in Mallorca. "If had beaten Djokovic I think he would have won the final."

Nadal has again opted to play no competitive grasscourt matches in the build-up to Wimbledon, preferring instead to practise in Mallorca and then take part in the Aspall Classic exhibition event at the swanky Hurlingham Club where on Wednesday he was soundly beaten by Marin Cilic.

Not that Cilic was reading too much into that and even suggested Nadal could be favourite to win the title and match Bjorn Borg's record of winning Wimbledon immediately after winning the French on three occasions.

"Rafa now winning the French Open I feel he might be a great contender, compared even to Roger and Novak he might be, in my own feeling, he might be slightly ahead. We'll see," Cilic said after handing Nadal something of a grasscourt lesson.

Nadal will sharpen his game before Wimbledon starts and despite being third favourite behind Djokovic and Federer, appears to be in the mood to do some damage.

"I know I played a great event last year. I have been able to be very close to win another title there. I love to play on grass," he said shortly after claiming his 18th Grand Slam title by defeating Dominic Thiem in Paris.

"Honestly, the last two years that I played in Wimbledon, I felt close again."

REUTERS

## Big brands bet on World Cup fever in India, where cricket is 'religion'

BENGALURU

INDIAN advertisers are on track to spend more than \$400 million during this year's ICC Cricket World Cup, looking to cash in on a mania that is smashing viewing records in the world's biggest market for the sport.

About 1.5 billion people are expected to watch the tournament worldwide, more than 15 times the audience for the Super Bowl of American football.

From ride-hailing firm Uber to tech giant Samsung Electronics and snacks maker Mondelez, companies are banking on television, radio and online campaigns, as well as live fan events, to woo cricket-mad consumers.

"We might have different religions, but cricket is the biggest one," said Shashi Kumar, a 34-year-old in the technology hub of Bengaluru, who said the game unites the country and brings people together.

The surge in advertisement spending during the six-week tournament that runs until July 14 could boost consumer demand and help India's economy run out its slowest period of growth in four years, analysts say.

"Brands would not like to lose the opportunity to capitalize on this frenzy," said Vinita Pachisia, senior vice-president at media agency Carat India, part of the Dentsu Aegis Network.

Although a niche sport with just 10 participating countries, versus 79 in the FIFA soccer championship, cricket's popularity in the Indian subcontinent means companies allot about half of their marketing budget to the World Cup. Sponsors and media buyers say they expect more than 800 million Indians to watch this year, but there are no official projections. Four years ago, 635 million watched, mainly on television, as online streaming was in its infancy in India.



Fans watch ICC cricket world cup match between India and Pakistan, on a screen at a brewery in Bengaluru, India, June 16, 2019. REUTERS

The much-anticipated match between arch rivals India and Pakistan on June 16 prompted 206 million fans to tune in to official broadcaster Star network, a unit of Walt Disney Co, to watch India win.

Star's streaming platform, Hotstar, said the 15.6 million concurrent users for the match was its highest tally for a one-day international game.

"WORLD CUP MANIA" The matches start later in India's day and run through prime time, while the return to a round-robin format cuts the chances of an early knockout of favorites Australia, India and New Zealand.

They are also being broadcast in six more Indian languages this year, as well as Hindi and English.

Greater television and internet access and India's success under captain Virat Kohli have helped push spot advertising rates up by 40% to 60% from

four years ago, media buyers say.

They estimate this year's advertising spend of more than \$400 million will be nearly double of 2015.

Smartphone maker Samsung Electronics Co, which is giving away Amazon Echo devices with high-end TV sets, said it doubled sales of big-screen TV sets in the month before the tournament began on May 30, versus last year.

Uber Technologies Inc, which operates in eight World Cup countries, ran a contest offering tickets to the games in Britain as prizes, while Mondelez International Inc, maker of Cadbury's chocolates, launched a special variety.

The "World Cup Mania" sale of Amazon.Com Inc's rival Flipkart, a unit of Walmart, offers discounts on televisions, and its digital payments unit PhonePe is running promotions online.

"We want to reach the next 250 million Indians who are on the internet, but not using digital payments yet," said the unit's chief executive, Sameer Nigam.

Spot TV advertising slots for the June 16 match cost up to 2.5 million rupees (\$36,000), versus a package for all games ranging between 1 million and 1.5 million rupees, media buyers say.

Some companies are also sponsoring fanzones.

A thousand fans watched the India-Pakistan match at a brew pub in Bengaluru, in an event sponsored by Bira 91, a recent entrant to the beer market, backed by U.S.-based Sequoia Capital.

"We wanted to pick up a sport which had very wide appeal to Indian consumers and there is nothing comparable to cricket," said Chief Executive Ankur Jain.

REUTERS

## Kohli backs 'legend' Dhoni's go-slow tactics

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

MAHENDRA Singh Dhoni's calculated batting in the middle overs has the full backing of the India team, skipper Virat Kohli said on Thursday amid criticism that the former skipper's slow approach has not worked in the World Cup.

Dhoni made 28 off 52 balls against Afghanistan, absorbing many deliveries before trying to accelerate and perishing as India had a narrow escape in the low-scoring game.

Against West Indies on Thursday too, Dhoni found it difficult

to get going before hitting two sixes in the final over to remain not out on 56 off 61 balls.

His early struggle was even more conspicuous with Hardik Pandya hitting a breezy 46 during their 70-run stand.

Former team mate Sachin Tendulkar has questioned Dhoni's approach but Kohli threw his weight behind the 37-year-old after the team's 125-run victory over West Indies.

"He knows exactly what he wants to do out in the middle," Kohli said at the presentation ceremony.

"The best thing about having

someone like him is when you need those extra 15-20 runs, he knows exactly how to get them with the tail.

"Keeping strike in the end and finishing off with two big sixes gave us a boost as a team. We were looking at 250 but we got close to 270-odd because he was out there in the middle.

"Hardik also played really well, but his experience has come good eight out of ten times for us."

Dhoni has played 346 one-day internationals and Kohli said the wicketkeeper knew better than most what was a par score on a

pitch.

"He is one guy in the middle who always sends out a message for the team: 'I think this is the par score on this pitch'...he has such a keen understanding of the game."

"He has always been that way, that is his strength, to play calculated cricket, to always stay in the game, equal to the opposition and then find ways of winning."

"He's a legend of the game, we all know that. He's doing a tremendous job for us and hope he can continue."

REUTERS

## SportPesa Racing Point - Sergio speaks up in Spielberg

VIENNA

**IN FRANCE YOU FINISHED P12 FOR THE THIRD RACE IN A ROW. YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST ON THE EDGE OF THE POINTS - HOW FRUSTRATING IS THAT?**

Sergio Perez: "It's obviously very frustrating when you are not scoring points. It's what you come here for and going home with no points hurts a lot. I think we have been going through a very difficult couple of races - the last three especially. But, especially in the midfield, it's so tight that a little improvement will be a big jump. The season is very long and we are still there or thereabouts in the midfield, so I'm still confident that we can turn around the season."

**WOULD SCORING POINTS AGAIN MAKE YOU HAPPY ENOUGH, OR CAN YOU LOOK FURTHER AHEAD?**

SP: "No, definitely scoring points this weekend would be a good step. We're solving issues with the car every weekend and in Paul Ricard we were closer to the points. I think without my penalty we should have just been getting into the points, so

we're definitely making progress. I think that if we are able to score points this weekend it would put us back on track. We've got some bits coming for the next races, so it should be a good step forward."

**DO YOU FEEL THE TEAM IS PAYING THE PRICE FOR THE UNCERTAINTY OF LAST SEASON?**

SP: "In a way yes, because these days every team is so strong in the midfield. There are no bad teams or teams that are too far away. Everyone is really there. When you have such tight margins, having an upgrade one or two races late hurts a lot. So, yeah, I think we are. But, as I say, I'm still very hopeful that we can turn the season around."

**WHAT'S THIS YEAR'S CAR LIKE TO DRIVE?**

SP: "We're struggling a bit to try to pick up the best bits we have at the moment with the package that we have. It can be quite inconsistent at times, but nothing unusual."

**SOME RECENT DECISIONS FROM THE FIA HAVE BEEN CONTROVERSIAL, WITH SOME DRIVERS AGREEING AND OTHER NOT. HOW DO YOU LIKE THE IDEA TO HAVE ONLY EX-FORMULA ONE**



Formula One in action

**DRIVERS AS STEWARDS - MAYBE EVEN ALWAYS WITH ONE EX-WORLD CHAMPION?**

SP: "I think that would be great. We've been talking about it for many years, to have the same stewards, to have that consistency throughout the races - but it's very hard. It's been very difficult for the past years to make it happen. Hopefully in the near future it's

something that will be in the sport because it will make it more consistent and mean we don't rely so much on the stewards' decision."

**AFTER THE NOT-SO-SPECTACULAR RACE IN FRANCE, ROSS BRAWN SAID HE HOPED FOR SOME INPUT FROM THE DRIVERS. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE IDEA TO INVOLVE ALL DRIVERS IN THIS AND WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST RIGHT**

**AWAY IF THERE IS SOME SORT OF MEETING?**

SP: "I think we have a couple of points in the GPDA that we all agree - all drivers - and I think we are the ones who can give the best feedback because we are the ones racing the cars. It would be good if on at least a couple of those points - they are not many - they can listen to us a bit more. That would be great, to make the sport better."

**IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE SPORT IS IN CRISIS DO YOU AGREE? AND WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER GOING FORWARD?**

SP: "I wouldn't say the sport is in crisis but it's certainly losing interest from a lot of people. You have some races that are incredibly boring at the front of field - but look at the midfield. I mean, when you look at the last race, what happened in the midfield, until the last lap they decided who won the battle, so I think that was incredible. I think

the problem is more with the top teams, the difference that there is. I think the whole pack has to be a lot closer together, giving equal opportunity to everyone and having more teams capable of winning. The way you do that is by making the rules a bit more complex and not having so much gap between teams. That will be the best way to create interesting races."

**TODAY THE MAYOR OF LONDON SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE A RACE ON LONDON'S STREETS. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A RACE ON LONDON STREETS - OR WOULD YOU RATHER STAY AT SILVERSTONE IF IT WAS ONE OR THE OTHER?**

SP: "Silverstone is a fantastic venue - but at the same time, racing on the streets would be very nice, especially in London. It will have to be a very nice street circuit to put it instead of Silverstone."

(AGENCIES)





## Mali player Niane latest to be kicked out of Cup of Nations

CAIRO

MALI have expelled striker Adama Niane from their squad for indiscipline, the third player to be turfed out by his team at the Africa Cup of Nations.

"Adama Niane was excluded from the Eagles group for non-respect," said the team's media officer Ibrahim Zie Coulibaly.

Reports said the 26-year-old Belgian-based player had slapped a team mate in an altercation over queuing.

The decision came on the eve of Friday's Group E match against Tunisia in Suez.

Burundi sent home 32-year-old midfielder Selemani Ndikumana for ill-discipline before their first game without offering any further details. On Wednesday Egypt sent Amr Warda packing for what the Egypt Football Association described as "disciplinary reasons".

Warda, who plays for Greek club

Atromitos on loan from PAOK, has been widely accused of trolling women on social media and has been the subject of a previous complaint, filed with Egypt's Attorney General, of harassing a fashion model on Instagram.

Warda has since posted a video on Facebook in which he apologised to his family, his team mates, to the EFA and to "anyone who is upset at me or anyone I have upset" as his team mates rallied around him.

Among them was Mohamed Salah who said: "Women must be treated with the utmost respect but I also believe that many who make mistakes can change for the better and shouldn't be sent straight to the guillotine, which is the easiest way out.

"We need to believe in second chances... we need to guide and educate. Shunning is not the answer."

REUTERS

## Well-prepared Algeria reaping reward at Cup of Nations

CAIRO

ALGERIA coach Djamel Belmadi says extensive preparations played a major role in their win over Senegal at the Africa Cup of Nations on Thursday.

The 1-0 victory in Group C in Cairo was the first match-up between two of the tournament's heavyweights and not only did it ensure Algeria a place in the next round it also emphasised their status as genuine contenders for the continental title.

"For a month, we have been working at this level, we were well prepared and tactically, we were spot on," said Belmadi.

"Against a big team from Senegal, they did everything right to get the win."

His players credited Belmadi, at 43 one of the youngest coaches at the tournament and less than a year into the job, with getting the tactics right against Sadio Mane and his team mates.

"All the credit goes to the coach, who put in a lot of preparation through the whole build-up and for the match against Senegal," said man of the match Ismael Bennacer.

Midfielder Sofiane Feghouli said their pre-tournament hard work

had paid off.

"We were very well prepared before the tournament, we trained in Qatar to get used to the heat," he added.

"It's true that it's a little hard with all the pressing we do, but I'm very happy that we do for the team and with the outcome."

Quick transition out of defence onto the counter attack was another feature of Algeria's play on Thursday, the win lifting them to six points from two games.

"We've played together for a long time and we work hard in training on our transition," said Feghouli, whose pass set up the 48th minute winner for Youcef Belaili after a quick counter attack started by captain Riyad Mahrez.

"Riyad and I have an understanding, we are always calling to each other to get moves going."

Algeria, whose only Cup of Nations success came when they hosted the event in 1990, were also among the favourites in Gabon two years ago but were bundled out in the first round after failing to beat Senegal in their last group game.

REUTERS

## Zimbabwe FA, players threaten Nations Cup pullout over wage row - reports

CAIRO

THE Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) and the players were locked in talks over unpaid salaries on Thursday with both parties threatening to withdraw from the Africa Cup of Nations ahead of their final pool match, local media has reported.

Reports said no agreement was reached with ZIFA offering to pay \$5,500 of the \$12,500 the players are owed on Friday, but it was rejected amid the threat of a boycott of training until the full amounts were settled.

Both parties then threatened to quit the tournament ahead of Sunday's clash with struggling Democratic Republic of Congo, where victory would give Zimbabwe a strong chance of progressing to the second round.

"We were called in and told of the developments about the possible withdrawal from the tournament and we told them (ZIFA officials) that we were ready to go home because we believe they haven't fulfilled our contracts," Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper quoted an unnamed player as saying.

The reports suggested ZIFA has gone so far as to engage the Confederation of African Football

over the cost of withdrawing - which could invite a ban from future tournaments.

For their part, a number of players have told officials they are ready to call it quits as the parties trade barbs and clamour for the upper hand in negotiations.

A ZIFA spokesman told Reuters he would not comment on the matter, but suggested clarity would be provided later on Friday.

The players were at loggerheads with ZIFA before the team left for Egypt and had threatened to boycott their opener against the host nation on June 21.

ZIFA crafted a lengthy statement on Tuesday to dismiss "misleading and false" allegations made on social media that funds destined for tournament preparations and player salaries had been misappropriated by officials.

"ZIFA is advising both CAF and FIFA on the role of these individuals in destabilising our football," the statement read.

"At the right time, a full dossier shall be released by ZIFA with detailed information on resources received and used, (as well as) destabilising efforts prior and during the tournament."

REUTERS

## Appiah promises end to Cameroon dominance of Ghana

CAIRO

GHANA coach Kwesi Appiah says the time has come to end the dominance of Cameroon over his country in the Africa Cup of Nations.

The Black Stars have confronted the Indomitable Lions four times from 1982 and the best they have achieved is two group draws while suffering two semi-final defeats.

"We are going to give Cameroon a really good game and I am sure we will emerge victorious," said the coach in his second spell as Ghana coach.

Defending champions Cameroon will start as slight favourites to win the Group F clash in Ismailia today having been the more impressive performers earlier this week.

Cameroon scored twice in three minutes to end the resistance of Guinea-Bissau and win 2-0 while Ghana had John Boye red-carded as they were held 2-2 by Benin.

Here, AFP Sport previews the three Saturday matches, with Benin and Guinea-Bissau the other fixture in an Ismailia double-header, while Angola meet Mauritania in Group E in Suez.

### Cameroon v Ghana

Appiah is not overly concerned with the two dropped points against lower-ranked Benin because Ghana are traditionally slow starters at the



Kwesi Appiah

Cup of Nations.

They always recover and boast a record of six consecutive top-four finishes from 2008, including finishing runners-up twice. He was upset by the dismissal of veteran Boye, believing his time wasting should have earned a verbal warning rather than a second yellow card.

Cameroon centre-back Ambroise Oyongo, one of four starters against Guinea-Bissau who were part of the 2017 title-winning team, says they must improve against Ghana.

"We have to raise our game against Ghana. We did not start with a win in 2017 but this time we did and I believe that is a good omen going forward in the competition."

### Benin v Guinea-Bissau

Former English Premier League midfielder Stephane Sessegnon has personal and team ambitions ahead of his probable return to the team after missing the Ghana match through suspension.

The Turkey-based 35-year-old captain of the Squirrels needs one goal to overtake Razak Omotoyossi and become the record scorer for the national team.

He also wants to help Benin finally win a match at the Cup of Nations after two draws and eight losses since debuting 15 years ago.

Another threat to Guinea-Bissau will be physically imposing Mickael

Pote, who also plays his club football in Turkey and bagged a brace against Ghana.

Guinea-Bissau contained Cameroon for 65 minutes, but once they fell behind to a Yaya Banana header the Djurtus (wild dogs) had little bite in attack.

### Angola v Mauritania

These Group E rivals defeated each other at home in qualifying for a 2019 Cup of Nations switched to Egypt after Cameroon fell behind with preparations.

Angola recovered from falling behind after just two minutes to triumph 4-1 in Luanda and Mauritania gained revenge four days later with a 1-0 win in Nouakchott.

Mauritania conceded four goals again this week when losing to Mali and often poorly positioned goalkeeper Brahim Souleimane could be axed by French coach Corentin Martins.

Serbia-born Angola coach Srdjan Vasiljevic was thrilled by the come-from-behind 1-1 draw with Tunisia, who are making a record-extending 14th straight appearance at the tournament.

"We got a good result after enormous difficulties in the preparation period. We want to play good football and compete with the best African teams," he said.

AFP

## No character, no experience, says Tanzania coach in brutal assessment



Kenya's Michael Olunga scores their first goal against Tanzania. REUTERS

CAIRO

TANZANIA's first Africa Cup of Nations participation for 39 years came to a premature end because the team lacked character and experience, coach Emmanuel Amunike said in a brutally honest analysis.

Coaches nowadays generally steer clear of criticising their own team for fear of 'losing the dressing room' but the former Sporting, Barcelona and Nigeria player had no such concerns as he offered a withering assessment of his players' efforts.

Tanzania's 3-2 defeat to Kenya on Thursday, after twice going in front, meant they became the first team to be eliminated from the 24-team tournament where only eight teams exit at the group stage.

The use of the head-to-head rule means they are guaranteed to finish bottom of Group C after losing their first two games.

"If you do not know how to manage your game, you pay the price," Amunike said. "There were a lot of crazy things going on and we committed a lot of mistakes. Our positioning was wrong, our marking was wrong."

Amunike was miffed that Kenya scored their second equalising goal with a near post header from a set piece.

"That is something we have practised over and over again... but players are players," he said. "As a coach you stand on the sidelines and you are helpless... there is no character in the team. We lack the

experience.

"It's an eye opener for Tanzanian football - the truth is we are not in a position to compete."

Amunike, who has had a low-key managerial career, took over as Tanzania coach last August and became a national hero after guiding them to the finals, albeit from a weak qualifying group where their rivals were Uganda, Lesotho and Cape Verde.

Only three members of the squad are based in Europe - Blackpool's Adi Yussuf, who has spent his career roaming the lower divisions of the English league, Racing Genk's Mbwana Samatta and Faridi

Mussa, who plays in the lower tier of the Spanish league.

Fourteen members of the squad are based in the Tanzanian league, something Amunike said was holding them back.

"It's important that the players must be able to interpret the game, know what to do when they have the ball and don't have the ball," he said.

"The players need exposure to stronger competition, in a place where they can grow and compete with other players in Africa. I'm not being harsh, just realistic."

REUTERS

## Egypt recall banned Warda after players demand reprieve

CAIRO

Egypt striker Amr Warda has been welcomed back into their African Cup of Nations squad 48 hours after he was suspended for disciplinary reasons, the Egyptian FA (EFA) said yesterday.

Warda will still be banned for Egypt's final pool match against Uganda on Sunday, but is available for the second round, with the hosts having already sealed a knockout place.

The EFA gave no specific details about the reasons for Warda's initial expulsion, but he has previously been accused of harassing a fashion model on Instagram and a complaint against him has been filed with Egypt's Attorney General.

His return comes after a public apology on Thursday and support shown by his team mates, including Liverpool striker Mo Salah, who appeared incensed at the EFA decision.

The association issued a statement on Friday, saying Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports, Ashraf Sobhi, had held a cordial meeting with the players and technical staff in the presence of Hany Abo Rida, president of the EFA.

"During the meeting, Hani Abu Rida praised the spirit of solidarity between the players, and their desire to pardon their colleague Amr Warda and to lift the suspension from him," the statement said.

"The association has decided to reduce the player's penalty to suspension until the end of the first round only."

Warda had posted a video on Facebook in which he apologised to his family, team mates, the EFA and "anyone who is upset at me or anyone I have upset."

Salah felt the EFA had been too hasty and harsh in their punishment of the player.

"Women must be treated with the utmost respect," he said. "I also believe that many who make mistakes can change for the better and shouldn't be sent straight to the guillotine, which is the easiest way out."

"We need to believe in second chances... we need to guide and educate. Shunning is not the answer."

Team captain Ahmed Elmohamady, who held up two fingers on each hand to make Warda's squad number 22 after scoring against Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, said the EFA were wrong to expel the Greek-based forward.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

## Mali player Niane latest to be kicked out of Cup of Nations

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## S.Africa to showcase football future at inaugural U-20 finals

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa coach Desiree Ellis will have a balancing act to play when she selects her squad for the COSAFA Women's Championship, given that the inaugural regional Under-20 women's competition will be played at the same time.

Ellis took a squad infused with youngsters to the recent FIFA World Cup, with as many as four players still eligible for the Under-20s.

Whether Ellis will retain them for the senior side or release them to the junior side remains to be seen, but either way they represent some of the most exciting young players in the country.

Karabo Dhlamini, 17, is a versatile star who made her senior national team debut this year and has looked to adjust easily to the top level.

She was also part of the South African side that competed at the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup in Uruguay.

Another teenager with a massive future is Sibulele Holweni, also a versatile star who played at the senior World Cup in the right-back position against China.

She is a huge talent and it will be fascinating to see whether Ellis retains her role for the senior side, or asks her to feature for the Under-20s, where, like Dlamini, she has the potential to be a star of the competition.

There are a number of other players from the Under-17 side that competed at the World Cup who could stake a claim for the Under-20s, including striker Zikhona Nogqala.

Young goalkeeper Kaydee Windvogel is another, while the likes of Noxolo Cesane, captain Morongwa Manamela, Sarah Walker, Oratile Mokwena, Jessica Wade, Sinxolo Cesane, Annah Queen Mokgatha, Christy Noble and Chelsea Daniels could all feature. Whatever squad is chosen, it will be a fascinating glimpse into the future of South African women's football.

The U-20 tournament will moreover will give the region's footballers the chance to add their names to the rich history of the showpiece competition.

It has proven a launchpad for many top names in the past, some of who will be returning the competition again this year.

Here is a list of five 'Heroines of the COSAFA Women's Championship'.

### BARBRA BANDA (ZAMBIA)

Banda is only 19 years old but has already left her mark on the COSAFA Women's Championship in recent years, which has helped her win a contract with Spanish side Edf Logroño.

Banda made her national team debut in 2016 and the following year played the regional showpiece tournament in Zimbabwe, where she led from the front as Zambia topped their first round pool. She netted six goals in the competition, including in every game Zambia played, as they finished third and took the bronze medal.

Banda kept up her scoring form with two more goals in 2018 as the Shepolopolo again made the semifinals, but this time finished fourth.

### TABITHA CHAWINGA (MALAWI)

The young Malawian sensation is another of the top players from the Southern Africa region and plies her trade in China with Jiangsu Suning. Still only 23, she has also played in Sweden and finished as the Golden Boot winner in that country in 2015. Her sister Temwa Chawinga is also a prolific scorer with the national side.

She shone at the 2017 COSAFA Women's Championship when she scored a hat-trick against Zambia, four goals in a win over Madagascar and another two goals in a Zimbabwe in a remarkable personal haul of nine goals in three games. She might have got more but Malawi narrowly missed out on the semifinals.

Club commitments meant she did not compete in 2018, but her display two years ago has written her name in the history of the COSAFA Women's Championship.

## Defensive mistakes cost Taifa Stars - Amunike



Taifa Stars' midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (L), challenges his Harambee Stars' counterpart, Victor Wanyama, in the Group C match of the AFCON finals, which was played in Cairo, Egypt on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Guardian Reporter

**T**AIFA Stars' head coach, Emmanuel Amunike, has admitted defensive flaws proved costly in the squad's 3-2 defeat to Harambee Stars of Kenya in a thrilling Group C match of the AFCON finals in Cairo on Thursday night.

"We started the game in a very good note, scoring first and the leading the game

towards half time," the Nigerian tactician said.

"But there was a lot of crazy thing going on on the field. Defensively we committed a lot of mistakes... even the second goal Kenya equalized, this is what we have practiced all over, knowing that they drop the ball in the first post."

"Unfortunately players are players, you stand on the technical area and you are helpless...

you just can't help them. You fell you want to do something to change things."

Taifa Stars started the match brightly as they drilled in two quick goals via forwards, Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta.

Msuva pounced on a rebound after Harambee Stars' keeper Patrick Matsi had parried a fierce strike by Samatta.

Samatta put Taifa Stars ahead with another well struck effort

from close range after Kenya had levelled matters via forward Michael Olunga. Stars took a 2-1 lead at the breather.

Taifa Stars' defense marshalled by David Mwantika and Kelvin Yondani could only watch as Olunga slammed home with a scissor kick to notch an equalizer for Kenya.

Harambee Stars regrouped after the restart and they levelled matters via Johanna Omolo as he

connected in with a free header.

Harambee Stars, later in the match, made certain of their victory with a left foot effort by forward Michael Olunga.

The loss has seen Taifa Stars jeopardize their quest for qualification for the last 16 of the continental showpiece.

The East African team has already suffered two defeats. They had opened their campaign with a 2-0 defeat to Senegal on June 23.

Taifa Stars are set to encounter a much tougher challenge in their last group stage assignment as they will face Algeria, who have all but sealed a place in the next stage.

Much as they have recorded two wins, Algeria will obviously be eager to grab a win over Taifa Stars and consequently post a perfect record.

Algeria cruised to a 2-0 win over Kenya in the first match and then edged fellow group favourites Senegal 1-0.

Taifa Stars will take on Algeria at the Al-Salaam Stadium on Monday night, with the group's other match between Senegal and Kenya scheduled to take place the same day.

Taifa Stars are at the bottom of the group without a win, having managed to post two goals and leak three.

## Taliss -IST swimmers to compete in Swim-thon event

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

**N**ATIONAL swimming champions, Taliss -IST will be represented by 14 swimmers in the swim-thon event scheduled to take place at the Upanga's Shaaban Robert Secondary School swimming pool today.

The event has been organized purposely to raise funds for supporting youths and senior national swimming teams ahead of major international competitions.

Taliss-IST team manager, Hadija Shebe, mentioned the club swimmers, who will compete in the event, as Mohameduwais Abullatif, Aravind Raghavendran, Fallih Ahmed, Ahmed Rashid, Adam Tapya, Augustino Lucas and Hussein Ebrahim.

Also in the list are Shivani Bhatt, Sylvia Caloiaro, Nawal Shebe, Amylia Chali, Laila Rashid, Doreen Ahmed, and Zahabiya Ebrahim. The swimmers will be under coach Alex Mwaipasi.

Shebe said the swimmers will compete in the club challenge in the 1.5kilometers relay, 400m, and 200m respectively.

The event is set to feature more than 250 swimmers from the various clubs in the city and individuals.

Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) secretary general Inviolata Itatiro said the event has been scheduled to start from 10am and swimmers of the



Taliss-IST swimmer, Amylia Chali, competes in a past event in Dar es Salaam.

different ages will compete.

Itatiro said there will be different swimming distances up to 10 kilometers whereby a swimmer can cover it in a specific time duration.

"There is short distance swimming length whereby even children can swim. It is an open event and swimmers can be registered while at the poolside," Itatiro not-

ed.

"Our aim is to raise at least 35m/- from the tournament, which will help them facilitate preparations of the teams ahead of the 2019 World Swimming Championship and Junior World Championship."

The World Swimming Championship will be held in Gwangju, South Korea, from July 12 and run through July 28 while the Junior World Championship will start on August 20 in Budapest, Hungary.

Tanzania will field four swimmers in the world championship. Two of them are men and the rest are women.

The swimmers are Hilal Hemed and Collins Saliboko, who will battle it out in men's events while Sylvia Caloiaro and Shivani Bhatt will compete to land accolades in the women's series, according to Itatiro.

The team will be accompanied by coach Alexander Mwaipasi and

two officials - TSA chairperson Imani Alimanya and vice-chairperson Asmah Hilal.

Itatiro said Alimanya and Hilal would also attend a FINA Congress.

The officials will travel to South Korea under the auspices of FINA.

The TSA appealed to firms and individuals for support, saying they need support to facilitate the swimmers' preparations and participation in the championships.

On the Junior World Championship, Itatiro said the country would have seven youngsters in the week-long event.

The TSA official mentioned the swimmers as Dennis Mhini, Delvin Barick, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Christian Shirima, and Isam Sepeu, who will compete in the boys' category.

There are two female swimmers in the team, namely Kayla Temba and Laila Rashid.



Chief of National Service, Martin Busungu (front row, 3rd L), in a group picture with the institution's other top ranked officers and sportsmen and women after he had received trophies won by the institution's outfits in various tournaments that have been held this year. The ceremony took place at the institution's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NATIONAL SERVICE

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

LET'S TOAST FOR YOUR GOOD LOOKS!

