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TANZANIA

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George Simbachawene

Simbachawene takes over at Home Affairs

FORMER Home Affairs ministry Permanent Secretary Maj Gen Jacob Kingu was appointed ambassador, his work station to be announced later.



Mussa Azzan Zungu

By Felister Peter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday announced a minor cabinet reshuffle, moving George Simbachawene to the Home Affairs portfolio.

Simbachawene replaces Alphaxard Kangi Ndege Lugola (born 25 May 1963), who was sacked after reports linking him to the signing an improper procurement deal worth Euros 408.5m (over Itrn/-).

Announcing the changes, Chief Secretary John Kijazi said long-serving Ilala (Dar es Salaam) legislator Mussa Azzan Zungu has been appointed Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Environment and Union Affairs), until the changes held by Simbachawene.

Former Home Affairs ministry Permanent Secretary Maj Gen Jacob Kingu was appointed ambassador, his work station to be announced

“This ministry has been giving me more headaches than the rest. I have formed a number of probe committee to investigate its problems and recommend changes but it appears that people working there are not willing to reform

China isolates city over virus outbreak

BEIJING

THE Chinese city at the heart of a deadly virus outbreak is under effective quarantine, with outward flights and trains suspended, subways halted and large public events cancelled as doctors in full-body protective suits treat patients.

The coronavirus has spread across China and beyond, with 17 people killed and more than 500 infected in an outbreak that started in Wuhan -- a central city of 11 million people described by state media as “the main battlefield” against the disease.

Most cases are in Wuhan, a major transport hub with a seafood market that has been identified as the epicentre of the epidemic. A few cases involving people who visited Wuhan have been found elsewhere in the United States and some Asian countries.

Authorities announced that flights and trains out of the city will be temporarily suspended from 0200 GMT on Thursday, while the city's public buses, subway and

“Once there's a suggestion of a new development, the first thought is to maintain stability” and stop rumours, “hoping that by muffling it, it will go away

long-distance coaches are also halted until further notice, it said.

“Without a special reason, city residents should not leave Wuhan,” the central city's special command centre to combat the virus said, according to state media.

The move is meant to “effectively cut off the virus spread, resolutely curb the outbreak and guarantee the people's health and safety,” Xinhua news agency reported, quoting the notice.

The decision came as hundreds of millions of people are travelling across China for the Lunar New Year holiday, which starts on Friday.

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President John Magufuli speaks shortly after inaugurating houses for use by Prisons officers and staff at Ukonga in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House.

Tanzania climbs in 2019 global corruption index

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has jumped one point upwards in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2019 released by Transparency International yesterday.

The country has posted 37 points out of 100, higher than the 36 points it recorded in the two previous CPIs—for 2018 and 2017.

This performance is better than

“Despite being the best performing region with an average score of 66 out of 100, Western Europe and the EU are not immune to corruption

neighbouring Kenya and Uganda which have both scored 28 points. In the preceding index, the countries scored 27 and 26 points respectively.

Rwanda tops the East African Community (EAC) bloc with 53 points although it has slipped down from 56 it posted in the 2018 index. The Seychelles earned the highest marks in the Sub-

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Cautioned heads of parastatals now remit 1.6bn/- in dividends

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

HEADS of state-owned companies and corporations have remitted 1.6bn/- in dividends to the Treasury, beating yesterday's deadline after which they risked losing their jobs.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (pictured) yesterday received a total of 1.6bn/- from city transport firm UDART (100m/-), technology college DIT (110m/-), Tanzania Development Finance Ltd (300m/-), Mbeya Cement(300m/-) and Williamson Diamonds Ltd (572m/-).



The government has now received a total of 25.12bn/- in dividends from 184 entities, meeting the 60 days time limit set by President John Magufuli late last year.

“I am happy today because all state-owned institutions have heeded the president's directive and paid dividend before the deadline,” the minister said, noting that those that failed gave concrete reasons.

Speaking after receiving submissions of companies that had not paid the dividend just before the midnight deadline, he said all

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Simbachawene takes over at Home Affairs

FROM PAGE 1

drones and other firefighting equipment while well aware that the money was not allocated as part of the Home Affairs ministry's budget or approved by the National Assembly.

"This ministry has been giving me more headaches than the rest. I have formed a number of probe committees to investigate its problems and recommend changes but it appears that people working there are not willing to reform," he remarked.

He wondered why minister Lugola had the audacity to attend the event (inauguration of Prisons quarters) yesterday when he had already tendered his resignation.

"I am aware that each of the Tanzanian officials was paid a US\$ 800 in sitting allowances per day and provided with air tickets. I have known Lugola for years; he was my student at Sengerema Secondary School, but for this - no," he thundered.

The president wondered why the two top officials signed the deal while knowing that only the Treasury has the mandate to borrow money, according to country's laws.

He also threatened to dissolve the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) over laxity in implementing construction projects.

He was especially concerned that the agency took 27 months to implement between 40 and 45 per cent of the Prison officers' housing project at Ukonga in Dar es Salaam, a task which was then fully completed within seven months by the National Service construction

department.

He said the government disbursed funds for the construction of the Prisons quarters way back in December 2016, but until March 2019 TBA and Tanzania Prisons had implemented the project by a lowly 45 per cent.

"I will dissolve TBA if things do not improve. We cannot have a national building agency while all the major projects are implemented by National Service," the president underlined, as he directed Commissioner for Prisons Kashike to make sure that the new prison officers' houses had tap water.

He was also concerned with the Prisons department delay in implementing the Karanga shoe factory in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region, which is being implemented by the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and Karanga Prison.

The prison was to have completed phase one of the project earlier than this month but it has implemented the job by only 49 per cent so far, he stated.

PSSF extended 9bn/- back in October for the work but yet the prison has failed to complete the project, he noted further.

Lugola, who has been MP for Mwibara constituency in Mara Region since 2010, was appointed Home Affairs minister by President Magufuli in July 2018 - taking over from Mwigulu Nchemba in a minor cabinet reshuffle. Nchemba had headed the ministry from late November 2015.

Prior to his appointment as minister, Lugola was Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Environment).



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi (C) has an audience at State House in Zanzibar yesterday with a Tanzania Cigarette Company delegation headed by Legal and Corporate Affairs director Godson Kiliza (2nd-L). Photo: Rahma Suleiman

China isolates city over virus outbreak

FROM PAGE 1

The city's tourism and culture department cancelled all group tours until February 8, while tourist attractions and star-rated hotels must also suspend all large-scale activities until that date, it specified.

The provincial library and two major local theatres cancelled exhibitions and performances, while four museums have suspended operations until further notice.

City officials had earlier urged people to stay away from Wuhan and for residents to avoid leaving.

The annual prayer-giving at the city's Guiyuan Temple, a major Lunar New Year event that attracted 700,000 people last year, was scrapped.

Plans to send opera troupes around rural areas during the holiday have also been pulled. The hashtag "Wuhan is sealed off" was trending on China's Twitter-like Weibo, with more than 30 million views.

"Once there's a suggestion of a new development, the first thought is to maintain stability" and stop rumours, "hoping that by muffling it, it will go away," one user said on Weibo.

Comments deemed

politically sensitive are regularly censored on the social media platform.

Others commended the government's response, with one person saying "we should spare no effort in supporting all of the country's policy decisions."

Fever scanners were checking passengers at the city's airport and train station this week.

Footage on state broadcaster CCTV showed Wuhan medical staff in full-body protective suits, gloves and plastic face visors as they registered patients.

The patients, wearing

normal clothes with face masks, had their temperatures checked as queues snaked out of the consultation room into the corridor.

A prominent expert from China's National Health Commission confirmed this week that the virus can be passed between people.

However, animals are suspected to be the primary source of the outbreak. Wild animals were illegally sold at the seafood market, officials said.

Police have conducted spot checks for live poultry or wild animals in vehicles exiting and

entering the city.

The city government announced the series of tightening measures after facing criticism for going ahead with an annual public banquet for 40,000 families at the weekend, despite the spread of the virus.

Wuhan's mayor told state broadcaster CCTV that they didn't then fully understand how the virus was spread and the decision to go ahead was based on a judgment that the spread was "limited."

"We are constantly learning more about the epidemic," he added.

Tanzania climbs in 2019 global corruption index

Saharan Africa region with 66 points. It is followed by Botswana with its 61 points. The country posted the same points in two previous CPIs.

Other top performers in Sub-Saharan Africa region are Cabo Verde with 58 points followed by Namibia and Mauritius which both scored 52 points.

Denmark and New Zealand top the 2019 CPI with 87 points followed closely by Finland (86) and Switzerland (85).

At the bottom of the index are Somalia (9) and EAC member South Sudan (12).

Regionally, the report shows that 14 of the top 20 countries in this year's CPI are from Western Europe and the European Union (EU), including nine countries from the EU alone.

"Despite being the best performing region with an average score of 66 out of 100, Western Europe and the EU are not immune to corruption," the report indicates.

With an average score of 43 for the fourth consecutive year, the Americas region has failed to make significant progress in the fight against corruption. While Canada is consistently a top performer, with a score of 77 out of 100, the country dropped four points



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute managing director Prof Mohamed Janabi (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday receiving from Computech30 general manager Sandip Datta a 22m/- V-Scan dual machine - for use in attending to in-patients and in the implementation of the institute's outreach programme. Photo: JKCI.

since last year and seven points since 2012. At the bottom of the index in the region, Venezuela scores 16, which is also one of the bottom five scores globally.

"A regional average of 45, after many consecutive years of an average score of 44, illustrates general stagnation across the Asia Pacific region. Despite the presence of high performers like New Zealand (87) and

Singapore (85), the region hasn't seen substantial progress in anti-corruption efforts," the report underlined.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia jointly came second as lowest performing regions, with an average score of 35. Across the region, countries experience limited separation of powers, abuse of state resources for electoral purposes,

political party financing and conflicts of interest.

With a score of 71, the United Arab Emirates is the best regional performer in the Middle East and North Africa followed by Qatar (62). At the bottom of the region, Syria scores 13, followed by Yemen with a score of 15. Both countries are significant decliners on the CPI, with Yemen dropping eight points since 2012 and Syria

dropping 13 points during the same period.

"As the lowest-scoring region on the CPI, with an average of 32, Sub-Saharan Africa's performance paints a bleak picture of inaction against corruption. With a score of 66, the Seychelles earns the highest mark in the region. At the bottom of the index are Somalia (9) and South Sudan (12)," it poignantly stated.

Cautioned heads of parastatals now remit 1.6bn/- in dividends

FROM PAGE 1

companies in the Treasury records heeded the Head of State's ultimatum except some that are run down.

The Treasury registrar's office shows that some institutions failed to pay dividends due to various reasons including lack of revenue generation, some being newly formed while others have since been referred to the government.

Those referred are Tanzania Pharmaceuticals Board and Camel (T) Ltd which are not operational, plus Abood Seed Oil Industries Ltd, Abood Soap Ltd which have been returned to the government along with Camel (T) Ltd, while the Teachers Registration Board is new and has no board or structured management.

This should be the last time such organizations wait for directives to submit dividends as from late this year the trend should be that all eligible companies make payments on the same date, he cautioned.

The minister echoed the president's position that he was ready to disband all boards and managements of institutions failing to meet the deadline.

In July, the minister received a total of 2.75bn/- as dividends following the president's call to 187 institutions that failed to present their dividends to the government.

The Head of State gave 60 days to 187 institutions to deposit the dividends or their chief executives and boards of directors will face the axe. The minister was charged with effecting the president's order that was tantamount to an ultimatum of 60 days.

At an event to receive dividends, the president received dividends and surplus contributions from 79

government institutions, authorities and agencies to the tune of over 1.05trn/-, citing the fact that the government had invested up to 59.6trn/- in 266 institutions.

"Unfortunately only 79 institutions are returning the favour," the president had declared, noting further that "the time to plead with each other is over and we cannot tolerate seeing the government continuing to lose."

He accused the non-performing firms of embezzlement of public funds by spending in luxury vehicles, hotels as well as expensive board meetings that had limited their ability to generate profits and pay dividends.

The contributions were for the financial year ending June 30, 2019. During the financial year 2019/20, the government projected to collect 33.1trn/- in which 59.7 per cent of the expected collection or 19.1trn/- would come from tax sources.

The contribution of government institutions and dividend forms 50 per cent of non-tax revenues. Records show that contributions rose to 1.05trn/- this year from 161.04bn/- in the 2014/15 financial year where only 24 institutions deposited dividends to the Treasury.

In 2015/16 there were 25 firms that paid 249.5bn/- while in 2016/17 the number of firms reached 38 and the dividends jumped to 637bn/-. In 2017/18 the number of institutions rose slightly to 40 and remitted a total of 842.13bn/-.

Although the trend of public entities contributing increased with time the level of dividend collections remained below the government target, the minister specified.

STAMICO to establish gold refining plant in Mwanza

By Guardian Reporter

THE State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) is in the initial stages for the establishment of Gold Refining Project and already the company that will be in partnership - Mwanza Precious Metals Refinery Company Limited has been established.

This was revealed mid this week by the Acting STAMICO Chief Executive Officer Dr Venance Mwase when presenting the Corporation's performance report for FY 2019/20 to the Energy and Minerals Parliamentary Committee on behalf of the Minister for Minerals.

Dr Mwase told the committee that the project will be run in partnership whereas STAMICO will have 25 percent shares and the investor 75 percent, adding that the project that will be built in Mwanza will have a gold refining plant with a capacity to refine 200 to 500 kgs per day.

He said the cost of the project is estimated at USD 58.2 million including the purchase of the refining plant, initial costs, purchase of gold from gold markets areas and other running costs, and added that the plant will be of international standards.

Dr Mwase further said that for the period of July to December 2019, already the project started to take several steps towards the project's implementation including acquisition of licenses for the construction and running the plant, the establishment of the partnership company, and acquisition of area of land for the project.

On other STAMICO activities he said it continues to offer business services including drilling work in the oil and gas sector and for FY 2019/20 it has succeeded to obtain 4 contracts for drilling work via various tenders valued at 2.2bn/-.

On the activities of Stamingold Mines, a STAMICO's subsidiary, the Parliamentary Committee was told that from July to December last year the mine produced and sold 7,133.00 ounces of gold and 879.19 ounces of silver all valued at 24,172,700,255/34, and added that during the same period the Mine paid a total of 1,712,455,550/91 in royalty.

For his part, the Minister for Minerals, Dotto Biteko said despite many challenges, STAMICO was doing well, and beseeched the committee to continue having faith in STAMICO as well as advising it as its direction is well meant.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-R) pictured in Dodoma yesterday receiving a dummy cheque for 300m/- from Mwananchi Engineering and Contracting Company Ltd (MECCO) board chairman Maungo Kwabhi (L) as the firm's dividend to the government. Others include MECCO director Abdulkadir Mohamed (R) and Finance and Planning deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (C). Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TRA seeks better relations with taxpayers to enhance compliance

By Getrude Mbago

IN what appears to be a change of tact by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) the taxman yesterday met large tax payers in the country with the aim of forging friendly relations in order to enhance voluntary tax compliance.

Speaking at a workshop for the tax payers in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Deputy Commissioner General for TRA Msafiri Mbibo said the initiative aims at making tax payers see remitting taxes as their

duty and not some sort of punishment.

"For our country to attain middle income status as envisaged, having robust and sustainable tax system is inevitable. A sustainable system that we need in our country is the one that reflects predictability and inspires confidence for the future by allowing growth of businesses as opposed to strangling them taking into account that businesses are sources of taxes," he said.

This comes as complete change

of approach by TRA because in recent years, tax payers have been voicing concerns over what has been termed as unfriendly enforcement approaches employed by TRA staff.

According to him, the fifth phase government's desire is to see taxpayers and businesses not only growing but also comply with the prevailing tax laws and regulations that is why TRA is advocating for a healthy business partnerships relations with taxpayers rather than regulator-based relationship.

Mbido said that TRA staff are bound to a code of conduct that observe three core values namely integrity, professionalism and accountability to ensure that it supervises and serves well tax payers population for the country's development.

"TRA has an annual set target of 19.1tr/- . In the first half of the year 2019/20 we collected 9.19tr/- (equal to 96.5 percent) out a total set target of collecting 9.52tr/- . The remaining six months of the fiscal year, TRA is required to col-

lect 9.9tr/- to achieve the annual target. So I urge you (taxpayers) to declare taxes honestly and pay them timely as our good partners to achieve the goal," he highlighted. He said that the large taxpayers department hosts the country's most prominent business from various sectors such as mining, oil and gas, commercial banks, telecoms, hospitality, manufactures, transporters, insurance, construction, service providers, ministries, government departments and agencies.

For his part, commissioner for Large Taxpayers, Alfred Mregi said that the workshop brought together large taxpayers community to learn and share experiences as well as strengthen relations between TRA and the community.

"During the workshop, the taxpayers will have an opportunity to be updated on the recent tax reforms enshrined in the Finance Act, 2019 to give them deep understanding of the law. They will also learn and share experience

on tax compliance aspect which will eventually assist them to avoid payment of interests and penalties," he said.

He said that in efforts to ensure that taxpayers pay their taxes timely and without any burden, the authority has strengthened its data and information system to enable customers fill returns on time, remit and confirm tax dues on time, extend cooperation to officers during filed and desk audits, timely provision of data, information and evidence.

LAND O'LAKES
VENTURE 37

AgResults
INNOVATION IN RESEARCH
AND DELIVERY

Request for Application for Competitors for the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project

On behalf of the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project, the Project Manager (PM) Land O'Lakes Venture 37 invites your organization to participate in a prize competition through which the Project aims to test Pay-for-Results mechanism approaches to scaling up innovative technologies, tools, and approaches to increase dairy productivity through the use of improved input. **The competition will take place in the coastal region of Tanzania, and specifically the regions of Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, and Morogoro (excluding Kilombero and Ulanga districts).**

Land O'Lakes Venture 37 is calling for applications from potential Competitors who are established entities from the private, parastatal, and non-profit sectors to participate in the project

The RFA outlines the competition background, objectives, and rules, and includes an application form. In submitting an application, your organization consents to the RFA terms, including the application procedures and instructions.

Please note the deadlines for receipt of the application, with all required signatures and certifications, is due no later than **1700 Hrs. ET on February 28, 2020**. Application documents must be submitted in one email to AgResultsTanzania@gmail.com or hand delivered to Veterinary Complex; 131 Nelson Mandela Road, Dar es Salaam. Please indicate "Competitor RFA-AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Project"

in the subject line of the email or on the cover page.

The Project management team will review applications according to the criteria described herein. The applicants whose applications meet the selection criteria will be invited to participate in the competition.

We encourage you to submit an application and join us for a chance to win prizes and contribute to the development of a dairy sector in Tanzania. Should you have any questions or comments please direct them to NMrema@landolakes.org. We appreciate your timely response to this RFA and look forward to cooperating with you on this important project.

Get a copy of the RFA on below link:

<https://agresults.org/news-and-blog/10-blog/152-rfa-tanzania-dairy-competitors>



TETRA TECH ARD INC

**WARIDI – WATER RESOURCES
INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE**

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Tetra Tech ARD, Inc. a US-based international development firm is implementing the USAID Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiatives (WARIDI) Activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. Tetra Tech is advertising for the position of Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator to be based in Morogoro for the duration of approximately (1) year. All applicants should be Tanzanian citizens and be fluent in Swahili and English. The position is immediately available. Candidates must be able to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and gender and have a demonstrated track record of effective monitoring and evaluation team leadership. Women are encouraged to apply.

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, WARIDI Morogoro, Tanzania

Reports To: Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)

Position Summary:

The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator leads WARIDI's monitoring, evaluation and learning team. S/he will ensure data generated from activities and interventions are reliable, accurate, and collected and reported in a timely manner. The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator is responsible for leading a team of 3-4 M&E staff, training and mentoring staff on data quality and analysis, and ensuring overall data quality assurance. S/he will ensure the project's M&E systems, policies, procedures, templates, forms and records adhere to the highest standards of quality in keeping with the USAID/WARIDI requirements.

Main Responsibilities and Tasks:

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator will report to the DCOP and work directly with all technical and managing supervisors including the Chief of Party (COP), Water Services Technical Lead, WASH Technical Advisor, Livelihoods and Partnerships Coordinator, and other members of the technical team or their designees as directed. S/he will have overall responsibility for ensuring comprehensive implementation of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP). S/he will have the following principle responsibilities:
- Work with project staff and partners to measure success towards the project's theory of change and implement the MELP in order to track progress towards achievement of project goals and intermediate results.
- Supervise and provide oversight of M&E staff including delegating responsibilities, following-up on work plans, and leading the team to meet all expectations of the MELP.
- Provide oversight and leadership in development, testing, training and implementation of a variety of data collection tools and systems.
- Assist with the production of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports for WARIDI according to the schedules required by the project.
- Provide quality control for the collection, analysis and reporting of indicator data including regular data quality checks.
- Ensure that WARIDI technical staff, consultants, grantees, partners, and subcontractors provide timely, accurate and reliable qualitative and quantitative data.
- Ensure that accurate and complete physical/hard and electronic copies of all M&E records are maintained.
- Compile and analyze WARIDI results for success stories, reports and presentations.
- Provide training and capacity building to WARIDI staff and grantees to ensure compliance of data quality standards.
- Coordinate with project team on any geospatial analysis or mapping and provide the information for key learning activities and events.
- Provide support and management in using and maintain Google Drive, Tetra Tech's centralized M&E data management system.
- Coordinate internal M&E reviews and modifications to the MELP that may arise as a result of project-learning, or USAID-required changes to the WARIDI Task Order.
- Coordinate with Tetra Tech Home Office M&E team on all aspects of completion and updating and implementation of WARIDI Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP).
- Work closely with technical managers to ensure program activity

achievements and outcomes are fully documented throughout implementation, monitoring, and learning.

- When requested, represent WARIDI at USAID and other periodic M&E workshops.

Qualifications: (MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)

EDUCATION: Relevant graduate degree in monitoring and evaluation, natural resources management or a related field.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Minimum of 8 years' experience working in monitoring and evaluation in rural water supply, agriculture, and/or natural resources management in Tanzania and/or East Africa. Experience as M&E team leader on USAID-funded projects in Tanzania and/or East Africa may be advantageous. Experience in building and effectively supervising a diverse team of employees. Experience building capacity of local organizations. Exceptional and demonstrated management, organizational, conceptual, strategic and analytical skills in monitoring, evaluation and learning.

SKILLS:

Excellent knowledge of best practices of monitoring, evaluation and learning on USAID projects. Must be extremely detail-oriented. Demonstrated ability to maintain a high degree of social awareness on sensitive issues. Ability to multi-task effectively and prioritize with competing deadlines and priorities. Strong organizational skills with excellent ability to analyze and understand complex water, agriculture or natural resources management projects at both high- and detailed-levels. Must be able to build and maintain excel files with standardized formula to calculate results accurately. Experience working closely with a variety of individuals and organizations, including Tanzanian and US government officials, local communities, local NGOs, consultants, international agencies and donor organizations. Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills, creative problem solving and ethical management.

LANGUAGES:

Strong command of the English and Kiswahili Languages (written & oral)

GENERAL:

Be a team member. Be trustworthy, be reliable, be self-motivated. Be transparent and proactive when problems arise. Having the ability to be multi-tasked and efficiently respond to the needs of the project support and technical staff.

Interested and qualified candidates should email a brief statement of interest, current curriculum vitae (CV) and 3 references to: jobs4wardi@gmail.com Subject of the email should include "WARIDI Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator". Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Selected candidate will be hired as soon as they are available. Compensation will be commensurate with relevant experience.

This position is open to Tanzania candidates only. Tetra Tech ARD is committed to diversity and gender equality and encourages applications from women and underrepresented groups. Tetra Tech is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Deadline for submission of applications: 6th February 2020 at 16:00hrs

Minister stresses need for workers' councils to deal with labour issues

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth and the Disabled, Jenista Mhagama has called on public and private agencies, institutions and organizations to establish workers councils in effort to address labour related issues.

She directed that all non-active workers councils should be revived and work effectively by the end of February, 2019 as stipulated in the law.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) workers council yesterday, she said the councils were instrumental in boosting the performance of institutions and organizations.

She praised NBS for having a strong and active workers council, which has helped the organization work diligently, getting international acknowledgement for good performance.

"Both public and private organizations must have active workers council that are very important in day to day activities and also help in solving unnecessary tension at work places" she said.

The minister noted that the Prime Minister's office directed all government institutions and organizations to constitute active workers councils that carry out their duties in accordance with the law.

Mhagama said that by the end of 2019, some 487 public and private institutions were required to have workers councils. Some 211 of them were from the local government authority whereby 50 of them were not active.

The minister added that 276 workers councils were from the central government whereby 16 were not active. "I therefore call upon the dominant workers councils to be revived by the end of next month since they have the legal obligation to operate effectively" she noted.

She expressed gratitude that NBS is a head and implement the legal requirement to have workers council, saying the organization is vital in shaping the national economy and development thus it preparedness to work effectively is worth praise.

She commended the management for the good work and healthy relation with workers which is evident in the way NBS does its activities, adding that it is pleasing to see that the organization is not one of the government institutions under public outcry.

Earlier, NBS Director General, Dr Albina Chuwa said the management and workers comply with the law and hold annual consultative meeting in effort to iron any grievances between the two parties.

She said such moves have propelled the national statistics body to international level, adding that it is working closely with the World Bank and IFM in producing good data.

"We are committed to adhering to the law by conducting workers council meeting as required" she said, adding that despite some challenges facing the organization, it is committed to work as expected by the public and the government.

She said the bureaus good work has attracted global organizations, noting that Argentina that is reforming its statistical law has used Tanzania as a case study.



Alphakrust company managing director Ganeshan Vedagiri (2nd-L) briefs Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina (L), who visited fish ponds in Mafia District on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Israel doctors 'discover' Tanzanians' ways of life in Ngorongoro

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CARDIOLOGISTS from Israel, currently visiting the country under President John Magufuli's invitation have expressed interest to visit local hamlets and experience how Tanzanian villagers live.

Arriving at Kilimanjaro International Airport on Thursday, the team of 23 doctors, managed to experience real life of

people in Arusha, Karatu and Ngorongoro, in addition to enjoying excursions at Ndutu wildlife area and the legendary Crater of Ngorongoro as well as the Olduvai Gorge.

"We have been working as medical volunteers in Tanzania, serving local citizens, this is now great opportunity for the team to experience, first hand, how our patients live in their homes, villages or regions," said Dr Asa Sagi, adding that, enjoying tour-

ists destinations is another advantage in the trip.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) is hosting the team; "A walking safari at Ndutu, will be good opportunity for the delegates to view wildlife closely, the game drive into crater is to offer them all the big five sighting within the caldera," stated Joyce Mgaya the Public Relations Manager at the NCAA.

The cardiologists from the Save a Child's Heart (SACH) or-

ganization of Wolfson Medical Center, have been volunteering in Tanzania since 2015 conducting heart surgeries at Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza and the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), in Dar es Salaam.

President Magufuli, who had previously met the medical experts at the State House, saluted the cardiologists from Israel for their commitment to saving the lives of Tanzanian children, as well as the Israeli government

for its support for the mission.

"I would like to thank Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for continuing to cement the existing bilateral relationship between our two countries," he said, noting Israel's support for various Tanzanian economic sectors including health.

Speaking here, Dr Naiz Majani of the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Institute said more than 300 children benefitted from car-

diovascular services offered by the volunteering Israel doctors, with 70 of them being referred for further treatment in Jerusalem.

Overall nearly 800 patients with various heart complications in Tanzania have so far benefitted from cardiovascular services offered by cardiologists from SACH since 1999.

In April 2019 more than 1000 tourists from Israel after completing their week-long itinerary

in Tanzania also got impressed by rural settlements they have witnessed in the country during their trip here.

The leader of the group, Hagit Geffen said they were impressed by Tanzanians' ways of life as most of them seem to live in rural areas far away from towns and cities and still the government manages to reach out to all these places, providing electricity, water and other essential services.



Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo is interviewed by East Africa Television/East Africa Radio presenter Deogratius Kithama in Dar es Salaam earlier this week after receiving sanitary pads for students in the district. The consignment was made available through 'Namthamini' (literally, I value her), an ongoing campaign coordinated by the twin broadcasting stations. Photo: EATV

Mbalizi residents jittery for losing farming land to pave way for building of varsity

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of the small town of Mbalizi in Mbeya District who have been farming in the farms formerly owned by Tanganyika Packers are now worried for their farms being taken following government plans to establish a university.

The over 6,000 hectare farms have been used by the wananchi following the meat factory built by the former owners, Tanganyika Packers not working since it was built in the 1970s.

Recently the government announced that it will use part of the land for building a branch for the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), and a chemical factory.

Speaking with this paper mid this week some of the residents who have been farming in the land said they were depending on the land for food production and if stopped it will be a big blow to them.

One of the residents John Mwasile said the farms are depended for feeding Mbalizi town as the produce many kinds of food crops.

He said personally he has 12 acres wholly in the disputed land which the government plans to build a university so it will be big blow to him and his family.

Minister Kairuki boosts confidence in investors in Coast Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office tasked for Investment portfolio, Angelah Kairuki, has reassured investors in Coast Region that the government would continue to address challenges they face in a move geared towards stimulating growth and development of industrial sector in the country.

"The fifth phase government under stewardship of President John Magufuli is committed to transform Tanzania into medium size and industrial base economy by 2025," Minister Kairuki said here recently.

Speaking after touring the Kibaha-based Global Packaging Factory owned by Tanzanian Joseph Wasonga, Kairuki said he was satisfied with the quality of

products manufactured there, saying the government was working on the challenges to ensure that business environment was conducive and attractive for investors

"You are doing a job and this can be reflected also into government's commitment in creating conducive environment suitable for investors. I am happy to hear that you comply with tax

regulations," she explained.

The minister said it was an undeniable fact that, the fifth phase government recognizes the importance of investors in building the country's economy and that was why it has been encouraging and attracting more investment into sectors of economy.

While at Global Packaging Factory, the minister was briefed

on different measures taken by the management to ensure it contributes significantly to the economy and bridges the gap of employment among Tanzanians.

"We are going to work very closely with all investors countrywide. I take also this opportunity to encourage Tanzanians with capital to venture into industries and support the gov-

ernment's industrial drive," she said. Earlier, the Factory Managing Director, Benno Mwitumba told the minister that Board and Management of the factory nod the performance of the fifth phase government and mega projects undertaken speak for themselves.

"The construction of Rufiji Hydro-electric Power capable to produce 2,115 Megawatts and

Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) were the testimonies on the government was committed to transform the country's economy," Mwitumba said.

Mwitumba said the completion of Rufiji project would be a panacea for industries and that Coast Region particularly Global Packing Factory set benefit from the power project and expand further.



Thamarat Abeid (R), Chief Instructor in Charge of airport operations at the Dar es Salaam-based Civil Aviation Training Centre, speaks on the academic opportunities available at the facility as well as the general qualifications for enrolment for aviation studies. She was addressing Tabora Boys and Tabora Girls secondary school students who participated in a capacity building workshop on the aviation industry held in the city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Simbachawene refuses to reopen Msalato abattoir over shoddy job

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GEORGE Simbachawene, until yesterday Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) yesterday refused to reopen Msalato slaughter house saying the repairs were trashy and inferior, that he had doubts on how money was spent and that the project did not conform to environment impact assessment requirements.

After a brief pre-function tour of the project, the minister (who has been appointed Home Affairs minister) regretted that he could not be a guest of honour because he had very serious reservations on how the project was implemented and how Tanzanian's money was spent. He said the physical layout of the project alone suggested that environment impact assessment prerequisites were disregarded. The

minister was accompanied by workers of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

"I am giving the contractor one week to put things right. A financial statement should be prepared to allow authentication on how taxpayers' money was spent and see whether or not the work is meriting the money that was spent on it," he calmly said.

He said Tanzanians have invested great faith in the fifth phase government led by President John Magufuli and called on civil servants to ensure they supervise properly project because, he explained, they were being implemented using tax payers' money, adding that the present government was keen on proper delivery on results. The slaughter house was closed by order of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries, Trade and Environment. The no-nonsense

minister's refusal to officiate the function sent a chilling message to the contractor and Msalato Ward leaders.

Msalato Councilor, Ali Mdele Mhamed, pledged that the ward leaders "will ensure the new works called for by the minister are done in accordance with the rules guiding the implementation of the project."

One of the abattoir beneficiaries, Emmanuel Daniel, called for speedy revamping of the slaughter house, saying many people were benefiting from sideline economic activities when slaughter house was operational. "We are now jobless," he lamented

Josephat Chiwanga, a butchery owner, echoed Daniel's appeal saying unacceptable actions of leaders of the slaughter house were affecting lives of thousands of people who have direct and indirect economic activities with the slaughter house.

Avoid unnecessary land conflicts, Mabula tells Kigoma land officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula has called upon district and urban councils in the country to ensure they plan, survey and provide title deeds to avoid land conflicts as well as increase government revenue through land rent.

Dr Mabula (pictured) issued the directives on Tuesday in Kigoma when speaking to land officials from the region's eight districts while in her inspection work performance of the land sector.

The councils include Buhigwe, Kasulu, Kasulu, Kikonko, Kibondo, Kigoma, Kigoma, and Uvinza.

She said councils' executive directors (DEDs) should understand that they have the responsibility to manage their councils both district and urban so that they well planned towns. She said what is going on right now



is slow pace in urban planning by the councils, and added that the small number of title deeds issued by the various councils in Kigoma Region is due to the slow pace in urban planning.

She said she is surprised to discover that Kigoma and Kasulu district councils failing to issue even one title deed within the period of six months this year, while Buhigwe district council issued only six title deeds.

On tax income from land rent Ma-

bula said she was not pleased with the collection pace in Kigoma Region where for the half year period of 2019/2020, the regions' councils collected 312,233,500/- or a mere 13 per cent while Kigoma and Kasulu District Councils collected less than 1.2 per cent.

She said the only council that did a bit well was Kikonko that collected 17,281,142/- or 28 per cent.

Earlier the Kigoma region lands Officer Jairo Pilla in his work performance half year (2019/2020) report for the lands sector said the small sum money collected in his region as land rent is due to the fact that large areas of land in the region has not been surveyed.

He said another issue that contributed to dismal land rent collection is due to the fact that the Land Department was not accorded priority by the councils in budget allocation for survey work.



Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Company Profile

Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited (ZCL) is a multi-million dollar international logistics Company operating a regional and global business. The Company recently changed its name to reflect the organization's new mandate and new vision as per revised Strategic Plan for the next two years from 2020 to 2021.

The Company was established in April 2001. ZCL is a wholly owned state enterprise of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, supervised by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) based in Lusaka. The Company's current corporate head office and its main operations center, Mukuba Depot, is located in Kurasini area, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania next to the dockyard. ZCL recently incorporated a company in Zambia and its current liaison office is based in Ndola. This Company in Zambia would enable Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited offer a seamless freight solution to the Zambian market through the port of Dar es Salaam. The Company has plans to expand in other markets in line with the revised Strategic Plan.

Hitherto, the Company has been handling mainly mineral cargo, especially copper, but over the years the Company has diversified its revenue base to include agricultural related cargo and other general cargo. For a more comprehensive view of the Company, kindly visit the Zambia Cargo & Logistics website at www.zamcargo.co.tz.

VACANCY: INTERNAL AUDITOR (01)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plans financial, regulatory, compliance or operational reviews/audits.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly and annual audit reports and timely submission of reports to Management for remedial action.
- Coordinates work with Risk, Legal & Compliance and other control - related activities and with others within the company.
- Conducts risk assessments and identifies controls to mitigate identified risks.
- Performs audit procedures to verify that controls are operating through testing and interviewing techniques.
- Analyses and concludes on effectiveness and efficiency of the control environment.
- Identifies control gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- Documents the results of audit work in accordance with audit department, the National Board of Accountants and Auditors and the International Auditing Standards.
- Prepares timely audit reports for the executive management.
- Acts as primary client liaison with the departmental heads.
- Assess, evaluate and promote compliance to internal Company policies.
- Contributes, as appropriate, in the year - end financial audit with the external auditor.
- Provides advice on internal control and participates in enhancing internal audit standards and practices within the company.
- Researches new or technical subjects when required to support audits (e.g. new trends in the sector, Basel I, II, III, market risk, financial instruments, etc.).
- Provide feedback on performance of external Auditors, on audit assignments, as applicable.
- Evaluate the company's readiness in case of business interruption
- Perform any other official duties as may be assigned by Supervisor

COMPETENCIES/ATTRIBUTES

- Conveys an inspirational auditing vision & strategy.
- Contributes to high performing Company Teams - may include supervision of quality assurance on Projects ensure they follow sound internal control practices and to manage risks appropriately.
- Acts as a team player - Collaborate and supporting colleagues and peers across the organization, while still being able to work independently when needed.
- Results oriented - Meet deadlines on assignments, juggle multiple demands and to work with all types of individuals up to and including the Chief Executive Officer.
- Focuses on the Customer by understanding the business from the customer's perspective and by keeping in regular contact with customers to understand business priorities and issues.
- Entrepreneurial
- Committed to self-development

REQUIREMENTS

- Knowledge of logistics and Inland Container Depot business operations and risk - based on auditing attained through a minimum of two years of progressive work experience with a focus on business risk and regulatory requirements. Though this is not a must but is definitely an advantage.
- Excellent understanding of the International Auditing Standards and ability to fully comply with National Board of Accountants and Auditors Standards.
- Ability to quality assures projects and, when required, supervises peers to follow sound internal control practices and to manage risks appropriately.
- Strong skills in analysis, interpersonal, tact and diplomacy, negotiating, relationship building, problem solving, and timely problem escalation.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Detail oriented but able to quickly grasp the big picture
- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural environment
- Ability to follow through complicated audit trails
- Fully registered member of the Tanzania National Board of Accountants and Auditors

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

- Bachelor's degree in Accountancy or CPA from a recognized training institution
- Must have relevant work experience of at least four (04) years in ideally a middle management role in a reputable organization
- Fully registered member of the Tanzania National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).

Application:

Interested candidates should send Application letters, Photocopies of Academic Certificates, detailed Curriculum Vitae (with three references including addresses, telephone numbers and e mail addresses) to:

Attention: Human Resources Department,
Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited
P.O. Box 105638,
DAR ES SALAAM.

And/or Email to recruits@zamcargo.co.tz

Closing date of application is January 31st, 2020 at 17:00hrs. Phone inquiries on this matter to the Company and any applications received after this stated deadline will not be entertained.



ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER TITLE: UPGRADE OF THE SERVER ROOM FOR THE TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS (HEADQUARTERS OFFICE)

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190522

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) wishes to engage a reputable firm/consortium to upgrade the TBS server room.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com. The closing date for submission of this tender is on Sunday, 16 February 2020.

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums must submit their bids through TMEA's mail box using the email address, procurement@trademarka.com. The email subject lines should clearly indicate the tender reference number, and procurement title description. Emails that are not titled as indicated may not be received. All attachments must be 5 MBs or less.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.



Current power cuts caused by ongoing rains, says Kalemani

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

THE ongoing rains in the country's various areas have contributed to some of them experiencing power outages.

This was revealed by the Minister for energy Dr Medard Kalemani in Chato, Geita Region during his visit to inspect power distribution projects to rural areas, in which he also switched on electricity to Nyantimba and Kanyindo villages in the District on Wednesday.

He said the rains accompanied by high winds sometimes cause short circuits to some of the power infrastructures that bur down transmission cables thereby causing power cuts in Morogoro Region and some areas of the city of Dar es Salaam.

Dr Kalemani said currently the power produced in the country is adequate for its needs and with surplus hence the problem of power cuts does not mean there is insufficient power.

He said because of this, sometimes technicians are forced to switch off power in some areas in order to rectify the damage to the infrastructures.

He called upon wananchi to be patient as well as cooperating with power sector while the government continues to refurbish and strengthen power infrastructures.

Speaking about power distribution to rural areas, Dr Kalemani gave one month to Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) to connect power to all wananchi in Nyalutembo Ward in Chato District, Geita Region who had already paid for the service.

Nyalutembo Ward has four villages some of whose residents had already paid for the service, but are yet to be connected.

He also asked the residents to pay 27,000/0 only to be connected to power and that they should not agree to be charged the cost of power poles, as this cost has already been met by the government.

The ward is being connected to power by Tanesco as part of its project to distribute low cost power just as it is for Rural Energy Agency (REA) project.

He told the villagers to use electricity for their own benefit and establish various businesses to increase their incomes.



Mathias Haule, a community development officer from the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, pictured at Miningani Primary School in Kondoa town yesterday addressing students on HIV and Aids. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister proposes amendments to law on adoption

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, has proposed amendments to the country's law on adoption in order to help over 900 children living in difficult environment.

The proposal was given on Wednesday while presenting

the ministry's six-month performance report before the Community Development Parliamentary Committee here.

She said: "The current adoption law in the country is complex compared to the neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya and others, in Tanzania the law has spelled out difficult conditions for the indigenous people to adopt children

and live with them."

He explained that the available data in the ministry show that between July to September 2019 only 13 children received adoption out of 900,000 living in difficult environment.

He said if the law is amended it will help in the reduction of incidents of child theft from hospitals and streets as it will allow a family to adopt a child under

easy conditions and live with him/her as their own child.

She said in the proposed amendments the indigenous should be given priority over people from foreign countries.

She nonetheless called on families to continue with the existing culture in taking care of orphaned children so as to reduce children living in difficult environment.

"Tanzania families had the culture of dividing orphaned children among themselves for taking care of them as we saw it as a shame to see parentless children roaming in the streets, but these days the streets are full of these children, as you to continue with that exemplary culture," she said.

One Committee member, Chema Member of Parliament

Juma Nkama said Tanzania is a big country with a large population, and if the law is amended these parentless children will be taken care of by families in need of children.

He said the children are the country's labour force for tomorrow, and if these children are taken care of in this country they will assist in the country's economic growth.

Another Committee member, Special seats MP Salma Kikwete advised the society to continue taking care of these parentless children and ensure they are protected against bad people bent on child abuse.

Kinondoni MP Maulidi Mtulizi said the law is required to have friendly environment for adoption for all people needing to adopt them as this will assist in



Dodoma City Council marketing officer James Yuna (in purple T-shirt) joins his workmates in an environmental cleanliness campaign at Bonanza market dumpsite yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Construction of new Selander Bridge hits 26 per cent mark

By Beatrice Philemon

THE construction of a 1.03-kilometre new Selander Bridge has now reached 26 per cent expecting to be completed by October 2021, the bridge's Consulting company (M/S Afrisa) has said.

The project which is implemented by South Korea's GS Engineering and Construction bridge will link the city's Barack Obama Drive and Coco Beach.

Lulu Dunia, Afrisa Consulting Bridge engineer made the remarks yesterday while briefing board members from Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board (AQSRB) who visited the project site to witness the progress of the construction work.

"The installation of rebar cage has been

done while bored pile construction and pile caps construction is underway...In the work a total of 180 bored piles among 254 have been installed," she said.

"The bridge is constructed with the support from Korean government which injected a total of USD 107,379,006.46 (equivalent to 243bn/-)," she noted.

Upon completion in 2021 the bridge will have a lifetime of over 100 years thus easing congestion in a grand plan designed to save the staggering amounts of money lost every year owing to road traffic jams in the city as well as add to the beauty of the commercial capital.

She further said that the project involves 677 local experts, 51 foreigners, and 17 graduate engineers while four others are engi-

neers from the Ministry of Works.

For his part, AQRB board chair Arch Ludigija Bulamile commended contractors implementing the project for the job well done wanting them to continue adhering to rules and laws to produce best work.

According to him, the tour meant to learn the progress, hear views and see how the board can advise the implementing company on better ways to proceed with the project for quality results.

"We are satisfied with the progress of the project, we have seen greater involvement of local experts, this is so encouraging... the board members have great hopes that through this project Tanzania will secure more qualified experts in construction field," he added.

USAID, USADF and CITI to help SSA entrepreneurs

NAIROBI

THE U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) have announced plans to award a total of \$400,000 in grant funding, with support from Citi Foundation, to 42 young African social entrepreneurs who are developing businesses to drive social and community change in 22 sub-Saharan African countries.

All of the awardees are 2019 Mandela Washington Fellows under the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

By pairing seed capital with technical assistance, USAID, USADF, and Citi Foundation provide young entrepreneurs with the tools needed to invest in their own communities.

Each winner of the competition will receive at least \$10,000 in seed capital to support the growth of his or her company -

in sectors that range from agribusiness and health care to renewable energy and education.

The goal of the public-private partnership is to increase the commercial know-how and access to seed capital of Africa's next generation of business leaders and social entrepreneurs.

The investments will allow the young businesspeople to create jobs, train other youth, improve their com-

munities, and create or expand markets by providing goods and services.

USADF is proud to work with Citi Foundation for the fourth year, and gains a new partner in USAID. USADF's goal is to catalyze young African ingenuity through entrepreneurship and support entrepreneurs to expand their social enterprises.

Since 2014, USADF has awarded over \$5 million to more than 250 young leaders in over 30 countries.

BONITE BOTTLERS LIMITED

Advertisements of Employment

1. Mechanical Technician

Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of Bachelor Degree /Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from a recognised Institution.

Key skills & Abilities:

- Ability to maintain all the mechanical equipment to acceptable and approved standards for efficient operation, and to ensure the smooth running of the Line and service equipment by close communication with other staff.
- Ability to operate the machines as directed and to ensure they are running smoothly and efficiently as required and kept clean as required.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision
- Self motivated and flexible person and a good team player

2. Electrical Technician

Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of Bachelor Degree/Diploma in Electrical/Electronic Engineering from a recognized institution.

Key skills & Abilities:

- Ability to maintain all the electrical equipment to acceptable and approved standards for efficient operation, and to ensure the smooth running of the Line and Service equipment by close communication with other staff
- Ability to operate the machines as directed and to ensure they are running smoothly and efficiently as required and kept clean as required.
- Ability to ensure the correct electrical functioning of all electrically operated machines on the premises.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision
- Self motivated and flexible person and a good team player

• Experience : 4 years or above in Mechanical/Electrical field.

• Location : Moshi.

Mode of Application:

All applications accompanied with cover letter, photocopies of certificates and CVs to be sent to the undersigned address to reach him not later than 28/01/2020.

The Managing Director,
Bonite Bottlers Ltd,
P. O. Box 1352,
MOSHI

AfDB approves grant for training in management of risk of disaster

HARARE

THE Board of the African Development Fund (ADF) on Wednesday approved a \$685,000 grant to strengthen Zimbabwe's capacity to manage disaster risks, including droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, through the Bank's Africa Disaster Risk Financing (ADRFi) programme.

The grant will cover training for various national agencies involved in disaster risk management and financing and contingency planning as part of the ADRFi project, designed to enhance the response of Regional Member Countries to climate disasters and promote innovative disaster risk finance instruments, such as disaster risk insurance.

It will also benefit populations at risk of exposure to extreme drought events, particularly smallholder farmers and vulnerable rural communities. ADF is the concessionary lending arm of the African Development Bank Group.

In collaboration with the Bank, the African Risk Capacity, a specialized agency of the African Union, will provide in-kind contribution for trainings estimated at around \$320,000. The project will run for two years, starting from March 2020.

Bank country manager for Zimbabwe, Damoni Kitabire, said extreme weather events such as prolonged dry spells, droughts, floods and tropical cy-

clones have affected agricultural production and disrupted livelihoods of rural Zimbabwe.

"Coupled with harsh economic challenges, these extreme weather events increase household vulnerability, food insecurity, chronic poverty and malnutrition across the country," Kitabire told the Board.

The project demonstrates the Bank's continued support to the country, while the government is working to reform the economy. The Bank is committed to leveraging support from other partners to successfully implement the project, Kitabire said.

In March last year, Zimbabwe was hit by Cyclone Idai, which caused damage to infrastructure and livelihoods in several rural communities. The drought, worsened by the unfavourable economic conditions in the country, is estimated to have exposed 5.5 million people in rural areas and about three million urban dwellers to extreme vulnerability and food insecurity in the first half of 2020.

The ADRFi project complements other initiatives currently being implemented in the agriculture sector and the Bank's post Idai rehabilitation and reconstruction project in Zimbabwe. The country is also a beneficiary of a Euro 1.2 million grant from the Bank, allocated for training of some eight resource-rich African countries, to improve their mining revenues.



It's time for group discussions for participants of a seminar on women development and gender policy for stakeholders in the western zone regions held in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Cotton farmers recommend free supply of seeds in effort to promote production

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Bariadi

TANZANIA Cotton Board (TCB) should work out on the possibility to give cotton seeds to farmers free of charge in a bid to promote development of the crop's sector in the country.

Speaking to this paper sepa-

rately in Bariadi recently, the scores of farmers said the system will stimulate as many people as possible to engage in the cultivation of the crop as compared to now when farmers buy the seeds at 650/- per kilogramme.

Masunga Mabula noted that if seeds are given to farmers

without any payments nothing will go wrong with TCB as the board will later on get the seeds after farmers sell their harvest.

Selling seeds to farmers is to burden them a situation that sets back development of the crop's sector that offers different employment opportunities to people in the country, he

said.

Also he noted that the board should give the seeds to buyers to supply to farmers in ratio based on the amount of cotton one bought in the past season unlike now where that is being overlooked to fast track development of the sector.

Who bought many tonnes

in the past season should also be given many seeds to supply to farmers for the next season short of which is to burden those buying small amount of the harvest and sometime fail to distribute them to the farmers accordingly, Mabula said.

He underscored that at present you may find that there

are some buyers who buy small amount of cotton but are being given many seeds by the board to supply to farmers that may be a burden to them and failure to reach as many growers as possible.

Maduhu Augustine appealed to the board to consider views by the crop's stakeholders at

the time of putting in place plans related to development of the crop's sector.

Augustine pointed out that spirit will significantly help the board to generate solution timely and accurately on serious challenges facing the sector in a bid to push it forward for national development.



Vendors of fresh coconut juice, a popular thirst quencher in most of eastern Africa's coastal zone, in anxious wait for customers near Dar es Salaam's Kisutu food market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Councils issued with new tamperproof electronic revenue collecting machines

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Selemu Jafo (pictured) has handed over 7,227 electronic machines (PoS) for collecting revenue to councils' executive directors in the country saying the former machines were not of good quality as they contributed to loss of revenue.

At the presentation event here yesterday Jafo said the new machines are modern and are tamperproof, and added that the old machines used to be switched off for more than one month necessitating revenue collection to be done manually.

He said in the circumstances many councils lost revenue as the money was collected without using them. He said the new PoS machines will ensure the councils to collect twice the amount they used to collect, hence they will stop depending on the central govern-



ment for subsidies.

He also said still many councils were not doing well in domestic revenue collection hence the machines will ensure the reverse of the trend.

He said the 7,227 ma-

chines has cost 2.32bn/- and are made in France adding that one machine costs 900,000/- but since the government purchased them in bulk they were sold at 320,000/- each.

He said the machines will also help reduce fraud on government funds that was used to be siphoned off via old machines, as their systems were easy to tamper with especially in changing the dates.

Govt resolves villagers-investors land conflict in Chunya

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

THE Government has resolved the conflict in Sangambi village in Chunya District pitting the villagers and investors over control of a mining area, and called the villagers to abide by the law.

The conflict erupted in 2016 after the Ministry for Minerals

handed a mining license to two investors - Singu Duwila and Stafford Mwanzyala in the area that had been separated from the village to give room for the village's forest.

It is claimed that the investors, after being given the area made discussions with Sangambi village leaders and agreed that they will pay the village

15m/- they paid 13m/- as initial amount.

Chunya District Resident Mining Officer Godson Kamihanda said the license granted to the investors is legal according to the law hence they were supposed to go on with their mining activities after they made an agreement with the villagers.

He said the conflict erupted

after some of the villagers started claiming the money which the investors had paid was little hence they started claiming the area so that they mine for themselves.

He said at first the investors decided to lie low and stopped mining activities in the area and started pursuing legal channels to enable them continue mining.

"The problem is that the villagers were ignorant of the laws, as these minerals, according to the law are for all Tanzanians but the villagers wanted to own it nevertheless, hence we saw it better to sit down with them to make them understand so that mining activities continue," said Kamihanda.

The Ward Councillor Njunjulu

Mhewa, said the conflict had no basis at all hence it was better for the government to intervene to allow mining work to continue.

The Chunya District Commissioner Maryprisca Mahundi warned the wananchi to stop issuing steps out of emotions as they affect their own development.

He called on the investors who are Tanzanians to pay the balance of the agreed sum and asked the wananchi to give them time to pay as they have been out of business during the whole time of the conflict.

Chunya is among the districts plagued by many land conflicts, many of which involve ownership of mining areas.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Preparations against locust invasion must be thorough

THE government has reported that consultations and efforts to enhance readiness are going in within the Agriculture ministry and some international organisations on the threat of an invasion of Tanzania by desert locusts from the north east.

Rapidly moving swarms of the hugely destructive pests have been causing extensive damage to vegetation and crops in the whole of northern Kenya and parts of its central zone even by late last week. While Tanzania is somewhat shielded by Kenya, locusts have been here before and may return.

Going by some top government officials on the state of readiness on this menace, there is plenty of reassurance on how capable the country is against the voracious but edible red insects.

Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga says sufficient stocks of pesticides are available for the government to conclusively deal with such a menace. But care must be taken to ensure that this assertion is doubly accurate, as it has both a general aspect and a hidden one; it is uncertain that the second aspect is being addressed.

The formal aspect the minister has touched upon is the fact that the best method of stopping locusts from causing vast damage to crops is aerial spraying.

The minister's affirmation came a few days after swarms of locusts invaded Kenya's Turkana County, destroying hundreds of hectares of vegetation and crops, thus worsening the threat of acute hunger in a region already suffering recurrent droughts.

Tanzania may have been less affected by drought in the past year, but we have had our fair share of ravages like floods and armyworms - that is, before considering the menace due to the potentially more devastating desert locusts.

Minister Hasunga talked of a team of experts he said were on standby to ensure that once any invasion takes place it is tackled directly to prevent food scarcity and loss of pastures from striking too hard.

It is the broader requirement of this assurance that needs to be deepened, as it ought to involve an element of readiness against insects' resistance of pesticides, which has already been noticed in Kenya.

The specificity of the minister's remarks was in relation to the fact that topmost priority will be given to border regions likely to be on high risk but the response mechanism covers other regions as well.

He noted that Tanzania is a member of the International Red Locust Control Organisation and is therefore entitled to assistance in the event of an outbreak, but it first has to prepare to face such an outbreak.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) works with the monitoring and advisory agency usually operating spraying planes, where a country is unable to muster sufficient resources for this purpose.

But still it is the pesticides issue that raises awkward questions, including as to what happens if the drugs a country has prove ineffective in deterring the locusts from migrating or from reproducing.

Contacted for comment on the likelihood of the locusts' resistance to aerial spraying, the minister said they first would have to take note of what drugs the Kenyan authorities used, and then look at alternatives available locally - that is, in Tanzania.

Our hope is that this matter will be tracked and solved as soon as practicable, not upon an invasion or a threat of an outbreak. For sure, looking for back-up resources in a panic isn't suitable as part of a cohesive strategy.

Diplomacy has big role to play in wake of US travel ban alert

REPORTS from authoritative sources in the United States say Tanzania is one of seven countries to be added soon to a US travel ban.

The latest reports arise from remarks by US President Donald Trump and are to the effect that the move would touch Belarus, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania.

However, the ban was not likely to be comprehensive as all that some countries will face are bans on particular visa categories. Noticeably, as well, the list of countries targeted was not final and could yet change.

Tanzania isn't much in the spotlight in any particular category, say drug trafficking or terrorism, so it is possible that some amendments or other form of 'accommodation' will be agreed.

Some observers see the move as likely to sour links between the US and the countries affected under an expanded ban. One example being cited was Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and most populous country boasting many years of extensive links with the US Department of Defence in efforts to combat the Boko Haram insurgency.

There is also the question of how commercial and other relations are conducted between Nigeria and its large Diaspora population, a significant or major part of which resides in the US.

Tanzania has a much less significant Diaspora population, but the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation ministry might find it more difficult to seek out investment partners with this tag being added to the image of the country.

But while the damage could be limited thanks to the fact that investment

decisions are more of private projections than official advisories, more noticeable damage could be felt when it comes to bilateral links.

A senior US government official is quoted as having affirmed that countries that failed to comply with specific US security requirements will be the most affected. For all that some analysts care, this is surprising in the specific case of Tanzania.

This is basing on the fact that things like biometrics, information sharing and counter-terrorism measures haven't been cited in any recent news event as standing against the US government and Tanzanian positions.

The public doesn't evidently hear everything. However, anything qualifying to lead to a travel ban ought to have been significant, in which case the travel ban intimation led more to curiosity than informed conclusions as to what the matters were at play.

More details on the issue will most likely be splashed around the globe in the coming week or so, as even the US Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The US State Department moved largely similarly, though all indications were that the intention to extend the travel ban was definite. In the circumstances, the travel ban may not stay long upon consultations and clarifications, even perhaps a few decisions.

We leave it to the relevant agencies and authorities to engage diplomacy in sorting things out, the idea being to minimise harm and build on whatever level of bilateral and other links with the US the countries on the "ban list" may have cultivated. It should work.

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Very urgent need for climate-proof infrastructure investments in Africa

By Akinwumi A. Adesina

IT'S a pleasure to join you at this special side event organised as part of the UK-Africa Investment Summit. Let me congratulate the organisers, the Department for International Development (DFID) and Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa, for hosting us today.

The DFID is a key strategic partner of the African Development Bank (AfDB). It has been a lead supporter of the bank. Its strong and consistent support for the African Development Fund has helped us to support the development of low-income states, especially the fragile ones.

And just think of the impact that our work has had on infrastructure alone in the past four years. The African Development Bank, through its operations, has helped to connect 18 million people to electricity, 101 million people with access to improved transport and 60 million people with access to improved water and sanitation.

Without any doubt, DFID and the UK government's investment in the African Development Bank pays off and delivers huge impacts in Africa.

So I would like to especially thank the UK Secretary for international development, Mr Sharma, Nick Dyer and his colleagues at DFID for making the UK proud with its investments at the African Development Bank. Together we will do more for expanding infrastructure for Africa.

There's much talk about the infrastructure financing gap. But we should now be framing this differently as the infrastructure demand opportunity for financing.

And the opportunities are many: from railways to ports, airports, water, sanitation, ICT and energy. That's a \$68-108 billion annual investment opportunity.

Investors tapped early into information and communications technology infrastructure in Africa. Those investments became game changers for Africa.

Just under two decades ago, Africa had fewer telephones than Manhattan in New York. Today, Africa has over 440 million cell phone subscribers. Returns on digital infrastructure are very high as the continent expands broadband infrastructure to boost connectivity and improve services.

Take the case of energy. Unmet demand for electricity is for some 600 million people. Huge oppor-



African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina

tunities exist for investments in renewable energy, especially for hydropower, wind, solar, thermal and geothermal.

But many of these opportunities can't be realised unless we invest a lot more in preparations to make projects bankable. The African Development Bank through its NEPAD infrastructure project preparation facility has helped to mobilise financing for \$8.5 billion of infrastructure projects. That's a leverage ratio of 1:525.

We helped to establish Africa 50, an institution meant to support infrastructure project preparation and financing. It has raised over \$860 million and will now be establishing a \$1 billion third-party private fund to finance infrastructure investments by private sector on a commercial basis.

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) based at the bank has supported investments in excess of \$800 million in renewable energy. And I was delighted yesterday to announce the partnership of DFID with the African Development Bank for £80 million to further support project preparation for infrastructure. There's definitely need for more resources for project preparation facilities in Africa.

The largest share of infrastructure finance is done by governments - some \$375 billion annually. There's a need to improve the efficiency of public financing for infrastructure through better, more efficient and more competitive procurement processes, quality design, timely execution and better maintenance culture.

Equally important is the need to focus on quality infrastructure, and move beyond the least-cost projects, as well as focus more on

life cycle costs for infrastructure.

Many countries are borrowing to finance infrastructure. Such financing can help, especially if concessional, but greater focus should also be put on ensuring that governments attract the private sector into infrastructure financing.

More focus is also needed to improve the policy, legal and regulatory environment to support greater private sector investments in infrastructure.

With global climate change, and increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, there is an urgent need to climate-proof infrastructure investments.

The devastating cyclones in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe led to massive destruction of critical infrastructure. The same applies for coastal states, which are more vulnerable to coastal erosion and floods. Infrastructure investments must now be climate-resilient. Institutional investors hold a large pool of capital that needs to be mobilised and channelled into financing of infrastructure. Total assets under management alone by pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and the insurance sector in Africa come to about \$1.8 trillion.

Tapping just a fraction of this into infrastructure will go a long way to close the infrastructure financing gap. Many reforms are needed. One is to designate infrastructure as an asset class for institutional investors. Meeting their infrastructure allocation targets would require them to hire quality staff who understand infrastructure. Multilateral development banks like the African Development Bank and others should take early-stage investment risk in the project development phase.

When cash-flow streams are stable, these brown-field projects can be rolled off to institutional investors.

The African Development Bank launched a \$1 billion synthetic securitisation that it used to transfer risks on its private sector portfolio assets to the private sector, the first time this has been done by a multilateral development bank. The bank was able to free up \$600 million for its balance sheet, which it is using towards renewable energy investments.

We are currently exploring with the DFID the use of synthetic securitisation for AfDB's sovereign portfolio. This will be used to transfer sovereign risk to the market, working with insurers and reinsurers in the UK. This could be a huge game changer for how governments can transfer their sovereign risks on infrastructure to the market.

Because the bulk of infrastructure is financed through foreign loans, and the revenue streams are in local currency, it introduces high financial and forex risks to investors. Using swaps and hedging are effective, no doubt, but more can be achieved by focusing on local currency financing. This will also help with debt sustainability as the bulk of Africa's external debt is on infrastructure.

That's why the African Development Bank launched the African Domestic Bond Fund - to support the development of infrastructure debt markets in Africa. This helps in crowding in international investors and improving cross-border investments in Africa.

The development of capital markets is also critical to create the liquidity and exits to encourage more investors into infrastructure in Africa.

A critical constraint to investments in infrastructure is the high level of risks, ranging from project risks, financial risks, operational risks, and political risks. De-risking instruments such as partial risk and partial credit guarantees are quite effective in leveraging private sector investments.

The African Development Bank used a partial risk guarantee to support the Lake Turkana wind power project in Kenya, the largest wind power generation project in Africa, which will produce 300 MW of electricity. The bank's €20 million Partial Risk Guarantee essentially backstopped the government of Kenya's obligations to developers against delays in the construction of transmission lines.

AfDB also has a Private Sector Credit Enhancement Facility, which it uses to reduce risks of financing private infrastructure projects in fragile states. And it works: so far with \$500 million in credit guarantees, provided through the African Development Fund, it has leveraged \$2.5 billion of financing into fragile states. And the default rate is zero.

To attract even more infrastructure investments, two years ago, AfDB launched the Africa Investment Forum, to advance bankable projects, secure financing and accelerating financial closure for projects. In 2019, at the fully transactional forum, investor interest was secured for projects worth \$40.1 billion in less than 72 hours.

The bank and its partners have formed a formidable financial alliance that pools together development finance institutions, commercial banks and insurers, with a co-guarantee platform to de-risk infrastructure projects at scale.

There's so much to do to help close the infrastructure financing gap in Africa. Progress is being made as Africa witnessed an increase in infrastructure financing to \$100 billion in 2018, an increase of 24 per cent over 2017 and 38 per cent over 2015-2017 on average.

As we develop and deploy innovative instruments for infrastructure, mobilise domestic resources, support governments to do the right things, and create more opportunities for greater private sector investments, we will fully meet Africa's infrastructure financing demand. Together let's do more to accelerate sustainable infrastructure investments in Africa.

This is the full text of keynote speech African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina delivered on Tuesday at the UK-Africa Investment Summit's Sustainable Infrastructure Forum in London.

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AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION TANZANIA LIMITED

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF BANK PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 AND 8 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 2014

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Dec-19	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-19
A ASSETS		
1 Cash	4,092	3,521
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	12,790	12,015
3 Investment in Government Securities	33,052	33,025
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	2,301	5,548
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	86	(48)
6 Interbranch float items	-	-
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-
8 Customers Liabilities on Acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	95,591	91,839
10 Investment in Other Securities	-	-
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Probable Losses)	129,492	130,381
12 Other Assets	33,011	33,902
13 Equity Investments	1,000	1,000
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	3,824	4,109
16 TOTAL ASSETS	315,238	315,291
B LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits From Other Banks and financial institutions	92,926	91,364
18 Customer Deposits	98,804	97,865
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-
20 Special deposits	-	-
21 Payment Orders/ transfers payable	-	-
22 Bankers Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-
23 Accrued Taxes and Expenses payable	-	-
24 Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25 Interbranch float items	-	-
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	-	25
27 Other Liabilities	3,420	5,869
28 Borrowings	69,553	68,364
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	264,703	263,487
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	50,535	51,804
C CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
31 Paid - up Share Capital	122,954	116,014
32 Capital reserves	0	-
33 Retained Earnings	(66,472)	(61,839)
34 Profit (Loss) Account	(7,012)	(3,433)
35 Other capital accounts	1,065	1,062
36 Minority Interest	-	-
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS	50,535	51,804
38 Contingent Liabilities	10,091	7,711
39 Non performing loans and advances	19,661	21,077
40 Allowances for probable losses	15,326	16,060
41 Other non performing assets	-	-
D PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	16.0%	16.4%
(ii) Non performing Loans & Advances to total gross loans	13.6%	14.4%
(iii) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	75.5%	77.4%
(iv) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	41.1%	41.4%
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	82.6%	82.7%
(vi) Deposit Growth	1.3%	1.2%
(vii) Assets growth	0.0%	0.3%

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Dec-19	Comparative Quarter 31-Dec-18	Current Year Cumulative Profits/Losses 31-Dec-19	Previous Year Cumulative Profits/Losses 31-Dec-18
1 Interest Income	10,588	11,694	42,633	48,538
2 Interest Expense	(4,861)	(5,620)	(19,013)	(22,785)
3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	5,727	6,074	23,620	25,752
4 Bad Debts Written Off/Recoveries	819	734	2,481	(1,037)
5 Impairment losses on Loans and Advances	(1,873)	(1,037)	(4,027)	(3,633)
6 Non Interest Income	1,429	1,493	5,426	5,926
6.1. Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	469	498	1,901	1,279
6.2. Fees and Commissions	812	181	3,003	4,648
6.3. Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
6.4. Other Operating Income	148	814	522	-
7 Non Interest Expense	(9,672)	(9,189)	(34,367)	(34,209)
7.1.1 Salaries and benefits	(2,741)	(2,376)	(10,878)	(9,940)
7.1.2 Fees and Commission	-	-	-	-
7.3. Other Operating Expenses	(6,931)	(6,813)	(23,489)	(24,268)
8 Operating Income/(Loss)	(3,570)	(1,925)	(6,867)	(7,200)
9 Income Tax Provision	(9)	(106)	(145)	(154)
10 Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax	(3,579)	(2,031)	(7,012)	(7,355)
11 Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	(320)
12 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	(3,579)	(2,031)	(7,012)	(7,675)
13 Number of Employees	154.00	158	154	157
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	(1.46)	(0.83)	(0.71)	(781)
15 Diluted Earnings Per Share	-	-	-	-
16 Number of Branches	7	7	7	7
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	-4.54%	-2.59%	-2.22%	-2.00%
(ii) Return on Ordinary Shareholders' Funds	-27.98%	-17.36%	-13.70%	-11.91%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	135.16%	121.43%	118.32%	-107.99%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	3.43%	3.06%	3.54%	9.88%

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in Million Shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Dec-19	Previous Quarter 30-Sep-19
I Cash flow from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	(3,570)	(1,297)
Adjustment for:		
- Impairment/amortization	3,065	1,588
- net change in loans and advances	1,780	1,054
- gain/loss on sale of assets	-	-
- net change in deposits	2,497	2,297
- net change in short term negotiable securities	(27)	(250)
- net change in other liabilities	(2,473)	(459)
- net change in other assets	757	507
- tax paid	(9)	(45)
- Net change in SMR	-	-
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	2,021	3,395
II Cash flow from investing activities:		
Dividend received	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets	(170)	(35)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-
Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-
Others (specify)	-	-
Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities	(170)	(35)
III Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayment of long-term debt	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-
Payment of cash dividends	-	-
Net change in other borrowings	-	-
Issue of preference shares	-	-
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	-	-
IV Cash and cash equivalents:		
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,851	3,361
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the quarter	112,923	109,562
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter	114,774	112,923

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
Current Year 2019							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	116,014	-	(67,756)	0	1,284	1,065	50,607
Profit for the year	-	-	(7,012)	-	-	-	(7,012)
Issue of share	6,940	-	-	-	-	-	6,940
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	1,284	-	(1,284)	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	122,954	-	(73,483)	0	0	1,065	50,536
Previous Year 2018							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	116,014	-	(69,349)	0.22	1,114	1,384	58,282
Profit for the year	-	-	(7,355)	9,119	-	-	(7,355)
Issue of share	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	9,118	(9,118)	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	(170)	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	(320)	(320)
Balance as at the end of the previous period	116,014	-	(67,756)	0	1,284	1,065	50,607

	Name	Signature	Date
Managing Director	I. John		24-Jan-20
Ag. Head of Finance	H. Kharbush		24-Jan-20
Head of Internal Audit	J. Kilato		24-Jan-20
We, the under- named, non executive members of the board of directors, attest to the correctness of the above statements.			
We declare that the above statements have been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief have been prepared in conformance with the instructions and are true and correct.			
	Name	Signature	Date
1 Director	P. Ishengoma		24-Jan-20
2 Director	Mr.R. Dave		24-Jan-20

Mosul, easily an epicentre of ISIS conflict, is a devastated Iraqi city

LONDON

AS Iraq this month faces the threat of new conflicts – including a proxy war between the US and Iran – the shadow of the last conflict runs long.

Two years ago the Iraqi prime minister declared victory over ISIS, but parts of Ninewa and Anbar are still in ruins, some 1.5 million people remain displaced and families have only begun to grieve for the tens of thousands killed.

Nowhere is this devastation more apparent than in Mosul, Iraq's second city and the epicentre of the ISIS conflict. The World Bank has estimated that losses to the Mosul housing sector alone are estimated at US \$6 billion.

And as revealed in a new report from the Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights and Minority Rights Group International, 35,000 claims for reparation for deaths, injury or destruction of property have now been lodged by victims of the ISIS occupation and the 'liberation' battle.

Interviews with civilians on the ground uncover a complex picture of loss and abandonment. The population who suffered under the occupation feel they were doubly punished by the devastating conflict waged to end it. Yazidis, Christians and other minorities who were forced to flee still remain largely displaced, despairing at the fact that no-one has been brought to justice for the crimes committed against them.

In such circumstances, individual reparations are essential, not least for reconciliation, a concept much invoked by international missions in Iraq but rarely specified. Without formal recognition for the loss they have suffered and practical help to rebuild, civilians cannot move on.



Resident of Hamdaniya district stands before a house destroyed in a Coalition airstrike, February 2017. File photo

As one interviewee explained: 'The compensation payments will never bring me back the loved ones I lost, nor will they allow me to rebuild my house as if nothing happened. But they will help us all to rebuild the city and bring back life into it.'

But among those claiming reparations, long-standing frustration is turning into growing resentment. The claims have been made under Iraq's

Law 20 which established a system for awarding compensation to 'the victims of military operations, military mistakes and terrorist actions'.

Over 420 billion Iraqi dinars (US \$355 million) has been awarded under the scheme since it was first established ten years ago, but it has been overwhelmed by the scale of claims

from the ISIS conflict. Claimants in Mosul complain of cumbersome bureaucratic procedures and pay-outs are agonisingly slow.

Meanwhile, the US-led Coalition against ISIS appears to have washed its hands of responsibility. During the nine-month battle the Coalition supported Iraqi forces mainly from the air, and

it was Coalition bombardment which, along with ISIS vehicle-borne IEDs, was responsible for most of the material destruction of the city. The monitoring group Airwars has conservatively estimated that between 1,066 and 1,579 civilians were killed by Coalition air and artillery strikes during the battle for Mosul. Local estimates are much higher. The Coalition describes all civilian deaths caused by its action as 'unintentional' and refuses to accept any liability for violations for which reparations should be paid.

Even the system of making discretionary 'condolence' payments in such cases, which the US employed previously in Afghanistan as well as Iraq, appears not to be applicable. In its annual report on civilian casualties, the Department of Defense states: '...in cases where a host nation or government requests US military support for local military forces, it may be more appropriate for the host nation or its military to respond to the needs and requests of the local civilian population by offering condolences themselves.'

But questions about the tactics used by the Coalition in Mosul, and in other recent sieges, are becoming hard to ignore. The civilian death toll acknowledged by the Coalition is slowly climbing, as it is pressured to reassess credible local reports, and currently stands at 1,347 deaths caused by Coalition actions in the anti-ISIS conflict across Iraq and Syria. A claim last year by the UK Ministry of Defence that no civilians had been injured in over 1,300 Royal Air Force strikes in Iraq was met with open disbelief. In November the Dutch Defence Ministry finally admitted that Dutch forces had been involved in two airstrikes in Iraq in which at least 74 people, including civilians, were killed.

but it still denied any liability for reparations.

The people of Mosul have nonetheless started to rebuild their homes and their city, albeit with inadequate support. Sponsorship by foreign governments of prestige projects, including the reconstruction of the great mosque of al-Nuri, is important for restoring Moslawis' pride in their city and their cultural heritage.

Less high profile, but arguably more significant, is the ongoing work of UN and other humanitarian agencies to support basic services, including for IDPs. But, as so often in Iraq, the UN is caught in a bind. UN OCHA warned earlier this week that operations to deliver medicine, food and other assistance to 2.4 million in need were now compromised by the delay in the Iraqi government renewing letters of authorization.

Nor is the ISIS conflict over. In the west of Iraq military operations against ISIS continue, including with the support of the Coalition.

ISIS' supporters are now gone from Mosul, a city which more than any other in Iraq knows the reality of ISIS rule. But with little official acknowledgement of the suffering of the population, practical help slow in coming for civilians to rebuild their lives, and tens of thousands of young men growing up in displacement, the situation is not sustainable.

As one interviewee for the report said: 'I haven't seen such anger in Mosul since 2003. It is a very dangerous situation.'

Iraq has tragically demonstrated in recent decades that the failure to deal with the legacy of past conflicts affects both the speed and the severity of their return. For the cause of both justice and peace, the question of reparations for civilian harm is now urgent.

Agencies

By Andrew J Orkin

BACK in March 2019, Marianne Merten wrote in Daily Maverick that the "Gordian knot" of State Capture and grand corruption during and following the Zuma-Gupta presidency "has wiped out a third of South Africa's R4.9-trillion gross domestic product". Merten then took an important stab at quantifying the growth-sapping adverse impacts of this development-destroying era. Apparently, inter alia, from 2010 to 2017 between 500,000 and 2.5 million jobs were not created; R500-billion to R1-trillion in tax revenue was foregone; and essential social

programmes, services and assistance went undelivered.

"State Capture has extracted an enormous price directly and indirectly on South Africans, most harshly on the poorest and most vulnerable," she wrote.

However, some influential people in the South African business commentary and investment world are asserting that an anti-corruption strategy is not a growth strategy for South Africa (they have included such players as FirstRand chairman Roger Jardine and Business Day writer Hilary Joffe.)

Actually, without a powerful and effective national anti-cor-

Fighting corruption is crucial to growth in South Africa

ruption strategy, any South African economic development, growth, investment, education, political stability and open society effort is likely to be still-born and ineffectual.

The international development literature on the direct and deleterious impact of corruption on socioeconomic development and growth seems rather clear – in a broad range of political and economic models from socialist to free market.

It appears that some of the lowest hanging fruit of any developmental or growth strategy with a reasonable chance

South Africa Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo chairs the judicial Commission of Inquiry into allegations of state capture. FILE PHOTO



of success are the minimisation, and preferably the elimination, of state and societal corruption. To put this another way, not putting in place anti-corruption measures that vanquish systemic and state theft makes overall development policy and practice likely to fail.

The developmental implications of corruption appear to be enormous as multipliers of national socioeconomic deadweight and drag. I offer the following excerpt from one leading review study from 2012: "Quantifying the Costs of Corruption: Assessing Current Methods and Recommendations for the Future" by the international governance entity, Transparency International. (Warning: super-dense text ahead, but it's a worthwhile meal – as is the large report from which it is lifted.)

"[T]he authors found that the relative contribution of the direct impact of corruption to be 19%, the relative contribution of the investment channel to the total effect is 32%, the relative contribution of the schooling channel to the total effect is 5%, the relative contribution of the openness channel to the total effect is 28%, and the relative contribution of the political instability channel to the total effect is 16%.

"Thus, the main effect of corruption on economic growth is found to be transmitted through investments. Finally, studying the long-term effects of corruption on growth finds that a one-standard deviation decrease in corruption levels increases the long-term level of investment by 4.86 percent points, consistent with Mauro's find-

ing. It further increases schooling by 2.21 years while increasing the openness coefficient by 0.30 and increases the political instability index by 0.06, thus revealing the long-term effect of corruption on those variables that are seen as drivers of economic growth."

Take a moment to reflect on the above mostly double-digit impacts-of-corruption-on-economic-development numbers from one of the Transparency International research works:

- The direct impact of corruption is almost 20%;
- The contribution of the economic "investment channel" to the total anti-development effect is 32%;
- The contribution of the "schooling (education) channel" to the total anti-development effect is 5%;
- The contribution of the societal "openness channel" to the total anti-development effect is 28%;
- The relative contribution of the political instability channel to the total anti-development effect is 16%; and
- A one-standard deviation decrease in corruption levels increases the long-term level of investment by 4.86 percent points.

It appears that an anti-corruption strategy is at the very least something without which national growth and development are unlikely to occur. At the most, it is itself a powerful growth and development strategy.

What might the criteria for a South African anti-corruption strategy – and thus also a growth and development strategy – be? The apex South African Constitutional Court has already provided most or all of the answer for

South Africa, in its March 2011 Glenister ruling: the applicable criteria are "STIRS", or specialised, trained, independent, resourced and secure. Given the supreme law status of Constitutional Court decisions, one might usefully add the concepts of immediate and robust. When you add them up, this all suggests STIR, SIR!

And surely for President Cyril Ramaphosa, this all translates into "Chapter 9 constitutionally-entrenched".

The Latin phrase sine qua non, oft-used by Roman-Dutch and common law lawyers alike, comes to mind. Contrary to the puzzling assertion of Jardine and Joffe that an anti-corruption strategy is not a growth strategy, the prompt significant reduction and eventual elimination of State Capture and grand corruption in South Africa would appear to be a (or even the) sine qua non of meaningful social and economic development in the country.

Merten's extraordinary State Capture and grand corruption grand totals – one-third of SA GDP, up to R1-trillion of uncollected tax revenue, and up to 2.5 million jobs not created – make the "sine qua non" empirically clear: without ending grand corruption, no growth and development.

What growth and development strategy could the Presidency or the SA business community possibly devise and implement – including to attract investment, restore confidence and reputation, and plug all the holes in the SA political and economic bucket – that could conceivably succeed without first meaningfully taming and then eliminating corruption?

Or what growth and development strategy could come with up to 2.5 million new jobs, R1-trillion in new tax revenues and increase GDP by an amount up to 33%, all in four, seven or 10 years? Grand corruption at the scale quantified by Merten and Daily Maverick is an undertow current against which a national economy life-saving team cannot possibly swim out, rescue a struggling polity and fiscus, and return to safe shores.

It would also appear that South Africa's continuing status as a democracy may even be at stake in the context of

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =042=

A crossword puzzle grid with clues provided. Clues include: 5 letter word: INN, LEE, MAD, LEO, NIL, TIE, TOP, SIT; 4 letter word: OPEC, AERO, BIRO, ALTO, NEST, STOP; 5 letter word: METRO, ALIBI, PROTO; 6 letter word: NOBBLE, LEADER, ALLOTS, ORIGIN; 7 letter word: PARABLE, BENEATH, SOLDIER; 8 letter word: ARRANGER, AMENABLE; 9 letter word: CAPRICORN, CHAIN MAIL, EDITORIAL. The crossword also includes words like METRO, ADD, and others.

A crossword puzzle grid with clues provided. Clues include: Clues: Across 1 Accept (11), 7 Deceive (3), 8 Direction (6), 10 Large amount of something (5), 12 From the east part of an area (7), 13 Bend (3), 15 Chief city of Mozambique (6), 16 Have debts (3), 17 Refuse to accept something (3), 18 Coloured liquid used for writing (3), 19 Without colour (5), 21 Large deers in US and Canada (4), 23 Desert plant with sharp spines (6), 24 Mineral (3), 25 Move foot (5), 26 Control direction of vehicles (6). Down: 1 Create alliances (9), 2 New Zealand bird (4), 3 Frightening character in children's stories (4), 4 State of extreme happiness (7), 5 An American coin equal to 10 cents (6), 6 Metal box for gears in a vehicle (4,3), 9 River in central and SE Europe (6), 11 Ice falling from the sky (4), 13 Type of a vegetable (8), 14 Something not effective (8), 20 Homes for birds (5), 22 Unknown amount (4), 23 Kept as a pet for catching mice (3).

TAA SET TO FLOAT TENDER FOR JNIA GROUND HANDLERS NEXT MONTH

By Felister Peter

AS only eight days remain to the end of the concession agreement for existing ground handler at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) is next month expected to announce tender to acquire service providers for the next five years.

Currently, ground handling services at the country's busiest airport are under Swissport Tanzania and Nas-Dar Aircro. Concession agreement for one of the existing operators at JNIA-Swissport Tanzania ends January 31st this year.

TAA Director General Julius Ndyamukama said that tender for provision of service at Dar es Salaam airport will be floated in February 2020.

"It will be an open tender that interested companies can bid and compete", Ndyamukama said, adding he has no idea of the number of interested bidders.

Aviation stakeholders have recently expressed concerns over delayed tender announcement calling for authorities responsible for regulation of the sector (TAA and Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) to ensure a fair and transparent tendering process.

Commenting on possibilities to add



the number of ground handlers at Mwanza International Airport and Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), Ndyamukama said such decisions can be done by TCAA.

"As a stakeholder, I don't see the need for another service provider at the two airports since they are not as busy as JNIA", he noted.

The number of required service providers at airports as per TCAA are KIA (2), Mtwara (1), Dodoma (1), Songwe (1), Mwanza (1) and three at Dar es Salaam's JNIA.

Mrisho Yassin, Chief Executive Officer, Swissport Tanzania told this paper that the company is anxiously waiting for the tender to be floated.

Yassin added: "We are eagerly

waiting for the regulator to announce the tender, we will compete to acquire the business since we are the main player having provided ground handling services at the country's major airports—JNIA and KIA for over 34 years".

TAA is responsible for the provision of airport services, ground support, infrastructure and construction of airports.

TCAA's mandate is to provide safety, security and economic oversight of the civil aviation industry. The regulated services include air transport services, aeronautical airport services (air-side airport operations, ground handling, in-flight catering and aviation fuelling) and air navigation services.

IFC and Mortgage Refinance Company partner to increase access to affordable housing in Tanzania

By Property Watch Reporter

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corporation (IFC)—a member of the World Bank Group has announced an investment of up to \$5.75 million in the Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company (TMRC) that will help grow the country's nascent mortgage sector and increase access to affordable housing.

According to a statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the financing includes the local currency equivalent of up to \$1.5 million in equity and \$4.25 million for a Medium-Term Notes (MTN) bond issuance, spread over multiple tranches. The investment leverages the International Development Association's (IDA) Private Sector Window local currency facility and blended finance facility.

Jumoke Jagun-Dokunmu, IFC's Regional Director for Eastern Africa, said: "IFC is committed to developing the property market in Africa by providing long-term, local-currency financing. By investing in the Tanzania Mortgage Refinancing Company, we hope to boost affordable mortgage lending to create more affordable housing for Tanzanian families."

TMRC was established in 2010 under the World Bank's Housing Finance Project and is regulated by the Bank of Tanzania (BOT). The World Bank, through the BOT, has to date provided a \$70 million long-term funding to TMRC, which has supported the growth of mortgage loans from 579 mortgages in 2011 to 5,411 in 2019. Furthermore, it helped improve affordability by extending the mortgage repayment period from five years to up to 25 years.

TMRC has issued two Medium-Term Notes totaling 21.7 billion Tanzanian shillings since 2018. The debt program is expected to reduce TMRC's dependence on public sector funding. IFC will tailor its participation in the subsequent bond issuances as needed, to achieve the maximum impact.

"IFC's investment will help TMRC attract new investors, meaning that we can obtain longer term, more diverse funding and sustainable pricing," said Oscar Mgaya, Chief Executive Officer, TMRC.

IFC's investment in TMRC will be accompanied by advisory support to grow awareness of the mortgage product in Tanzania, build primary mortgage lenders' capacity in mortgage underwriting, marketing and portfolio management, to standardize mortgage terms, and asset or liability management.

IFC—a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. It has been working with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities where they are needed most. In fiscal year 2019, IFC delivered more than \$19 billion in long-term financing for developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.



IFC's investment will help TMRC attract new investors, meaning that we can obtain longer term, more diverse funding and sustainable pricing

Submarine cable linking East Africa lands in Djibouti

By Odindo Ayieko

THE submarine cable linking the coast of East Africa has officially landed in La Siesta Beach in Djibouti and the marine installation is underway.

The 5,400-kilometer cable system dubbed the Djibouti Africa Regional Express-1 (DARE1) will link Djibouti, Mogadishu, Mombasa and Bosaso, and will deliver a capacity of up to 30 terabits per second.

It is as a result of a partnership between Djibouti Telecom, Telecom Kenya, SubCom and Somtel, a telecommunication company that operates in the Horn of Africa.

The giant companies have been in negotiation over the last couple of years configuring and designing the cable routes.

In addition to the installation of the trunk, the installation of the two branch legs to the system's four landing stations has also started.

According to contractor SubCom, the connection will offer 36Tbps of capacity to East Africa.

Upon completion, DARE will be the fifth regional submarine fibre optic system Kenya is connected to. The others include SEACOM, East African Marine System (TEAMS), Eastern African Submarine Cable System (EAS-ly) and Lion2 systems.

The landing stations, located in Djibouti (Djibouti), Bosaso (Puntland), Mogadishu (Somalia) and Mombasa (Kenya), will help enhance connectivity in the East African region and will enable more efficient communications.

The two installation vessels are progressing on schedule and marine operations are scheduled to be completed in March 2020.

While the marine vessels and crews work to install the trunk and branches, installation is also underway on the land cable and terminal equipment that will be used for the DARE1 system.

Last year, Kenya announced plans to connect to the DARE submarine fibre optic cable system at a cost of US\$59-million.

Kenya's Communications Authority stated the investment demonstrates government's desire to improve Kenya's position as a regional IT hub and is in line with the country's digital master plan launched at the 2019 Transform Africa Summit.

"It is also aimed at guaranteeing companies and individuals access to a faster, secure and reliable internet connection," he said. "Revenues generated by the digital economy should reach US\$23,000-billion by 2025, thanks to investments 6.7 times higher than those in other sectors."

Telkom Kenya's MD for the Carrier Services Division, Kebaso Mokogi says: "The DARE 1 Cable System will boost Kenya's current capacity, given that it will be the largest, it will also provide an alternative redundant international connection, more important powered by newer and more reliable technology."



DTB Country Manager & CEO Viju Cheria addresses the bank's branch and business development managers at the 12th Annual Business Plan Conference in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lender reveals plan to increase client base in 2020

By Property Watch Reporter

THE Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania Limited (DTB-Tanzania) has identified strategies to increase its client base as a key area of focus during the 2020 business calendar.

At the 12th Annual Business Plan conference, the lender's branch managers adopted the business motto 'Our Customer, Our Priority' as a guiding principle for service excellence within DTB-Tanzania workforce.

Speaking to members of press recently during the bank's annual business conference that took place in Dar es Salaam, the bank's Chief Executive Officer and Country Manager Viju Cheria said:

"As a business, the primary challenge fac-

ing us today is to achieve the critical mass to profitably leverage the digital and automation investments. The agenda for the year is to bring the Customer back to the centre stage and increase the number of clients exponentially. To achieve this, we aim to make the customer experience exceptional and move customer delivery standards from good to great".

DTB-Tanzania has set a training calendar for all customer facing staff members to attend soft skills capacity building in customer interaction and grievance handling this year. The Bank is fully committed to improvement of service standards parallel to balance sheet growth and branch network expansion. Although supported by the most contemporary alternative banking channels like ATMs, point

of sale of devices, Mobile and Internet banking platforms, DTB-Tanzania will continue to open new branches to accelerate further financial inclusion. The Bank opened a new branch in Singida on 19th December 2019 and the second branch in Zanzibar is likely to commence operation in April 2020.

Makoye Ngofillo, Head of Human Resources at DTB-Tanzania added, "Motivated employees equipped with incredible skills on customer interaction are the right workforce for the changing world's fourth industrial revolution. It is important to engage with our employees to further excel on service delivery. The brainstorming with the Branch Managers has given valuable inputs as we set to expand our branch and customer network. I am con-

fidant that the training initiative will see the 550 strong team DTB scaling new peaks of performance".

DTB-Tanzania has "Customer Focus" embedded within its core values besides Excellence, Integrity, Meritocracy and Progressiveness. The Bank has been widely considered as fastest growing bank in Tanzania increasing the number of branches from 4 in 2007 to 28 presently.

DTB Tanzania is part of the Diamond Trust Bank group, a pan East African Bank with over 130 branches across Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi. The Bank is an affiliate of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), the economic development arm of the Aga Khan Development Network.

UK INVESTS OVER £50M INTO CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS ACROSS AFRICA

By Yoana Cholteeva

THE UK government has announced investments worth over £50m into innovative, clean technology as the UK works with African countries to develop sustainable energy sources.

The government announced the winners of the investment packages for the continent's clean energy infrastructure at the African Investment Summit in London on 21 January 2020, which will go towards projects that aim to provide thousands with clean energy.

The approved projects include solar farms in Kenya, geothermal power stations in Ethiopia and clean energy storage in sub-Saharan Africa. The countries will receive funding and support as UK scientists and financial experts will work with their African counterparts to realise the continent's significant renewable energy potential. The UK will also assist the countries with attracting investment for innovative renewable projects, such as wind and solar farms.

The government underlined that close collaboration with African countries will be key as the UK prepares to host the UN climate talks (COP26) later this year.

Business and energy secretary Andrea Leadsom said "Our world-leading scientists and financial experts will work hand in hand with African nations to support their quest for energy security, powering new industries and jobs across the continent with a diverse mix of energy sources while promoting economic growth."

Speaking at the summit, Leadsom emphasised the opportunity for many African countries to substitute coal power with cleaner forms of en-



ergy, but stressed that more needed to be done to unlock investment.

With African energy demand set to rise by 60% by 2040, according to IEA report, UK experts will help deliver green solutions for the continent's growing energy needs.

Kenya is also set to benefit from a £30m government investment in affordable energy-efficient housing and the construction of 10,000 low-carbon homes for rent and sale. This

will support the creation of new jobs in Kenya's green construction industry and help address climate change.

Previous UK-funded projects in Africa include the winners of the Energy Catalyst Competition, with solar plants, energy storage batteries and hydro-power built in countries such as Botswana and Kenya; a £10m programme which matches UK based green finance experts with project developers from developing

countries to facilitate investment in clean energy projects; and the Nigeria 2050 calculator, a modelling tool designed by UK scientists to support the Nigerian government's sustainable development planning.

The latest investment in global clean energy comes after the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced a £1bn 'Ayrton Fund' for British scientists last autumn to help developing nations reduce their reli-

ance on fossil fuels and reduce their carbon emissions. The fund was named after leading British scientist and suffragette Hertha Ayrton - a pioneering physicist and inventor.

With over 50% of the UK's energy production being generated from renewable sources in 2018, the UK is now preparing to share its expertise with Africa's budding renewable industry.

Routes and AFRAA sign agreement to help drive growth for the Africa aviation market

NAIROBI

THE African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and Routes have signed their first formal agreement in history. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sees AFRAA, the leading trade Association for African airlines and Routes, the organizer of the leading route development events for the industry, work together to stimulate new air services and champion the African aviation industry.

Projections have indicated that, within the next 20 years, the African continent will be one of the fastest-growing aviation markets - accounting for 334 million passengers by 2037. Under this partnership which demonstrates the growing importance of African aviation industry, AFRAA and Routes will work jointly on sharing of data and analytics, promotion of key issues that are affecting airlines and airports within Africa, access to media opportunities among other mutually beneficial actions.

"This MoU is beneficial to support the development of aviation in Africa which is growing at above global average rates but accounts for less than 3% of global traffic. Strong partnerships among industry stakeholders are instrumental to the realization of African aviation's potential which will result to economic and social benefits for the continent," said Mr. Abdérahmane Berthé, AFRAA Secretary General.

Berthé added: "Among our new strategic objectives is to become a hub for data intelligence and expertise on the African Aviation Industry. African airlines have to keep up with the developments through proper information management and data intelligence. We count on the data and analytics support from this partnership to back this objective."

Mr. Steven Small, brand director for Routes, said: "We are delighted to have established a formalized agreement with AFRAA, following many years of working closely together. The synergies in values between our organisations, regarding driving a sustainable air transport industry for the African region, makes this a powerful partnership that we are excited to develop."

Small added: "For over a decade, Routes has recognized the importance of enhancing intra-Africa connectivity. We are delighted that senior leaders from AFRAA will continue to support and join us at our future events."

Togo welcomes low-carbon power supply agreement

LOME

GLOBELEQ, an independent power producer in sub-Saharan Africa, has signed a joint development agreement with the Togolese government to develop a utility-scale renewable energy project.

Under the terms of the agreement, Globeleq and the Togolese government intend to develop between 24MW and 30MW of reliable, low cost and 100% renewable energy to support Togo's industrial development policy.

The project could take the form of a pure hydropower plant, a combined hydropower and solar power plant, or a solar power plant with large capacity battery storage.

The development area of the project would be between Kara and Dapaong depending on the technological choice that will be made and will be connected to the Kara-Mango-Dapaong transmission line currently under construction.

The agreement was signed in Lomé on 5 December 2019 and will be developed on a PPP (public-private partnership) model. It forms part of the National Development Plan 2018-2022 and is the concrete manifestation of the Government of Togo's desire to increase economic relations with the United Kingdom.

Globeleq CEO Mike Scholey said: "We are delighted to be working with the Togolese government on this innovative project. It will bring new low-carbon power generation to northern Togo and promote development and growth in the region."

The Togolese Minister of Mines and Energy, Dédériwè Abla-Bidamon, said: "Togo is resolutely committed to the promotion of renewable energies to ensure its energy independence and guarantee the low prices necessary for the industrial and job-creating policy desired by the President of the Republic. We are delighted to be able to move forward on this path with the support of Globeleq and, through it, of the British government."



Raising banks' loan to deposit ratio while minimising risk

SINGAPORE

IN developing economies, the key to socio-economic growth is access to finance, but the challenge is to increase loans to individuals and SMEs without suffering the fallout of bad debt.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) increased the minimum loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) of commercial banks from 60 percent to 65 percent in the latter part of 2019. According to a Bloomberg report, the measure was among a raft of

regulations aimed at forcing banks to boost credit, mainly to farmers, small-and-medium-size businesses and consumers.

The loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) is used to assess a bank's liquidity (<https://bit.ly/2NOzZ6A>) by comparing a bank's total loans to its total deposits for the same period. The LDR is expressed as a percentage. If the ratio is too high, it means that the bank may not have enough liquidity to cover any unforeseen fund requirements. Conversely, if the ratio is too low,

the bank may not be earning as much as it could be earning.

According to the report, Nigeria's banks are some of the most reluctant lenders in major emerging markets, with an average loan-to-deposit ratio below 60%. That compares with 78% across Africa, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, with 90% in South Africa and about 76% in Kenya. Compare this with developed markets such as the UK, which according to Statista.com (<https://bit.ly/36cPcEJ>), states that Shawbrook Bank's loan to deposits

ratio on the British market between 2012 and 2016 increased from 74 percent in 2012 to 102.7 percent as of 2016.

The Director General, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Mr. Muda Yusuf, had stated that the greatest challenge business operators in the country have been facing over the years was access to credit, which he said had resulted to huge financing gaps.

In order to expedite this Loan to Deposit Ratio, new digital banks and progressive lending

institutions in emerging economies are looking at using technology to expedite the process, such as digital scoring methods based on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, where smartphone device metadata solutions, such as offered by CredoLab and other providers, is used to assess credit-worthiness instead of traditional methods.

Tarun Kumar Kalra, Global Head of Sales at CredoLab cited a successful example in Indonesia, which has one of the largest pool of unbanked customers in the world.

CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

AFRICAN-AMERICANS ARE 40% OF HOMELESS AND 13% OF THE POPULATION

NEW YORK

AFRICAN-Americans comprise 40% of U.S. homeless people overall, and 52% of homeless families, even though they make up just 13% of the population, according to the latest annual federal survey.

"African-Americans have remained considerably overrepresented among the homeless population compared to the U.S. population," notes the 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, which compiles statistics to paint a picture based on a one-night sampling.

The report estimates that 568,000 Americans were homeless at some point last year, up from 553,000 in 2018. "African-Americans accounted for 40% of all people experiencing homelessness in 2019 and 52% of people experiencing homelessness as members of families with children, despite being 13% of the U.S. population," the report said. "In contrast, 48% of all people experiencing homelessness were white, compared

with 77% of the U.S. population. People identifying as Hispanic or Latino (who can be of any race) are about 22% of the homeless population but only 18% of the population overall."

While homelessness overall declined in the U.S., there were some marked increases in those who were not in shelters. Most notably, "unsheltered homelessness," as it's known, among Native Americans rose by 2,200 people, a 28% increase, the report said. African-Americans without shelter rose 10%, by 5,288 people, and the number of whites out on the streets increased by 5,592, or 5%.

The number of homeless Native Americans reflected their proportion in the overall population, at 2% both of the homeless population and of the U.S. population.

Homeless advocates said that though there were some positive signs, such as the fact that homelessness overall decreased in 29 states and the District of Columbia, as opposed to increasing in just 21.

However that was all but off-

set by an overall 8.7% increase in unsheltered homelessness, the National Alliance to End Homelessness said in response to the survey. And within that increase were a 15% rise in the number of women, a 43% jump in transgender people, and a more than 9% increase in the number of people considered chronically homeless.

"The report reflects deep and persistent racial inequities among the people who experience homelessness," the group said in a statement.

The progress showed that eradication of homelessness is within reach and that now is the time to devote more resources to solving the problem, the group said. The gains were made because the federal government, homes services sector and philanthropists worked together to get people into stable housing so as to connect them with health, child care and other essential services, the alliance noted.

"This year's report is an urgent call to action to federal, state, and local leaders," alliance president and CEO Nan Roman said

in the statement. "We know how to end homelessness. Family homelessness has declined every year since 2012. And veteran homelessness went down eight of the past nine years. Now is not the time to abandon the practices that drove those results. Now is the time to get serious about funding them to scale."

In contrast, the group said, are the misguided measures of providing services before housing, or "far less effective and more expensive" punitive programs such as an ordinance passed in Las Vegas in November making street camping a crime.

Homeless camping now a crime in downtown Las Vegas »

A similar ordinance in Boise, Idaho, that would have criminalized those who sleeping on the streets due to lack of shelter beds was struck down in the 9th Circuit Court late last year. In December the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take it up again, leaving the initial ruling intact.

"Any increase in homelessness is bad news," Roman said. "But we must be clear about the causes and solutions."



A man with a sign saying that he is homeless sleeps on Worth Street near Broadway in New York

Mastercard commits \$510 million for new global cybersecurity centre in Vancouver

DAVOS

IN an announcement at the fiftieth annual World Economic Forum currently being held in Davos, Switzerland, Minister Navdeep Bains and Ajay Banga, CEO of Mastercard, revealed today that Mastercard will open its latest global technology centre in Vancouver.

Mastercard is investing \$510 million to build out the centre, intended to be an innovation hub for digital and cyber security, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT). Called the Intelligence and Cyber Centre, the space is Mastercard's sixth global technology centre and its first in Canada.

The more than half a billion dollar project is supported by the federal government through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), which will supply \$49 million, bringing the overall project total to \$559 million.

Johan Gerber, executive vice president of security and cyber innovation for Mastercard explained that the majority of the funding will be put towards investing in people and infrastructure to build out technology projects that meet Mastercard's overall objective for the centre. The VP told BetaKit that Mastercard's goal is to use the centre as a base to create global standards for connected commerce, IoT, and cybersecurity.

"How do we make sure that we have the right framework, especially in an environment where things are growing so fast [and] so quick," Gerber said. "[Mastercard thinks] that somebody has to take the initiative to really drive a meaningful approach to how we create trust in this ecosystem."

As a multinational financial services corporation that operates in 210 countries, it is easy to understand why Mastercard might want to create worldwide cybersecurity standards that protect payments and financial services. Sasha Krstic, president of Mastercard in Canada, stated that the Vancouver centre will help "meet the growing demand" for solutions to the cost of cyberattacks, secure payments, and vulnerabilities in IoT.

"That's really where this whole initiative started," Gerber added to BetaKit. "Can we put in place a visible standard so that ... at a minimum, we [can] provide this level of security that protects the consumer and protects the other stakeholders."

Mastercard is opening the centre with three key goals in mind: to reduce the cost of cyberattacks, enable current "connected devices" to be secure payment devices in the future, and address vulnerabilities associated with IoT. By hiring hundreds of employees, including industry experts, Mastercard plans to build tech-

nology in the hopes of becoming the international leader on ensuring the security of financial services and connected devices.

"Some of the primary goals we want to achieve here [are] obviously to create a set of standards," Gerber told BetaKit. "The rollout of this is looking at global standards, global initiatives that will impact commerce all across the world."

To achieve its goal of creating global standards for privacy and security of connected devices, Mastercard plans to collaborate with universities, startups, and governments.

Through these collaborations, the Mastercard centre will create software application development tools that can be used by other companies to "more efficiently" build and integrate cybersecurity technologies.

Building on NuData

The decision to open Mastercard's latest global hub in Vancouver, far from Mastercard Canada's Toronto headquarters, came about through its 2017 acquisition of NuData Security, a biometrics and analytics company based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"NuData is going to play a key role in driving the future of this centre," Gerber stated. "It's part of their whole heritage of where they came from...they will be basically the kernel of

these core teams and [Mastercard] will build around it."

Founded in 2007, NuData technology identifies people based on their online interactions, and the company helped pioneer the field of behavioral biometrics. Christopher Bailey, CEO of NuData, who became executive vice president of EMV and digital devices at Mastercard, told BetaKit that the centre will not be limited to the Vancouver startup community, but offer opportunities for companies across Canada to get involved.

Gerber and Bailey also noted that it was through discussion with the Canadian government and the Government of Canada's alignment with Mastercard on consumer privacy that led it to further develop the innovation hub.

"Consumer privacy, those are our initiatives that really are extremely difficult to push as a private corporation on your own, but in alignment and coordination with public [and] private partnerships, the government's able to actually enact those things," said Bailey. "Those are the types of things I think are hugely beneficial when we align with the government on that, and [it] can help move that forward."

Gerber hinted at opportunities in the future to not only work with the Canadian government, but also international governments as well; with the hopes of helping Mastercard achieve its dream of easy and industry-wide standards for cybersecurity.

"As Canadians use connected devices more and more, including for sensitive financial services like their banking, they want to know their data and privacy are protected," said Bains. "Our government is investing in a new cybersecurity centre in Canada to develop the technology solutions Canadians and people all over the world need to protect their personal and financial information when they use their devices."

Bains added that Mastercard's new centre will make Canada a world leader in cybersecurity, helping tackle the cost of cyber crime in Canada, which is estimated to be \$3 billion a year.

Floating technology underpins future of African nations' LNG

By John Snyder

USING FLNG vessels, three African nations will monetise stranded gas in deep and ultra-deep water over the coming decade

Underpinned by floating LNG (FLNG) technology, Mozambique, Mauritania and Senegal will become the newest African countries to export LNG starting in 2022, elevating the continent's presence on the global LNG export stage. Sub-Saharan African countries Nigeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon had LNG exports of about 29M tonnes in 2018, about 9.1% of the total global LNG trade. With nearly US\$60Bn in investment, Mozambique alone will add 31.5 mta of new nameplate capacity to the Sub-Saharan region by 2025.

Overall, investments in FLNG and onshore capacity expansion in Sub-Saharan Africa will more than double the region's nameplate capacity, from about 34 mta to 84 mta of LNG by 2025, according to energy research analysts Akap Energy Ltd.

Part of that new capacity will come from Africa's first purpose-built and the third FLNG vessel, Coral Sul FLNG, launched in January at Geje Island shipyard of South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI). Coral Sul FLNG will also push the floating technology envelope, monetising "stranded gas" in ultra-deep water.

With a gas liquefaction capacity of 3.4 mta, Coral Sul FLNG will operate in water of approximately 2,000 m starting in 2022, fed by six subsea wells offshore Mozambique. Of the four FLNG vessels in operation, none operate in water more than 250 m.

Petronas' PFLNG Dua, set for delivery in February 2020, will be the first to operate in deep water. When delivered, the US\$1.6Bn PFLNG Dua will be moored over the Rotan Gas Field in water of 1,300 m, 140 km offshore Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Built for Italy's Eni and the Area 4 partners, Coral Sul FLNG is part of the US\$9.9Bn Coral South project that will put in production 450Bn m3 of gas from the Coral reservoir, offshore Mozambique. With the launch, Eni says the project is now more than 60% complete and on target to begin production by 2022.

Coral Sul FLNG has an overall length of 432 m, beam of 66 m and weighs approximately 140,000 tonnes. Its eight-story accommodation module, which will house up to 350 people, is also ready to be lifted and integrated with the hull system. Fabrication activities are also underway for the 12 gas treatment and LNG modules, with all main equipment ready for integration and first deck stacking executed, reports Eni.

In 2017, Air Products signed a contract with TP JGC Coral France to supply cryogenic coil wound heat exchanger (CWHE) technology and the liquefaction process license for Coral Sul FLNG.

TP JGC Coral France, a joint venture formed by TechnipFMC and JGC Corporation, and SHI are constructing Coral Sul FLNG with Air Products' dual mixed refrigerant process. The liquefaction capacity will be 3.4 million tons per annum.

Air Products executive vice president Dr Samir J Serhan said: "The Coral South LNG Project is Air Products' first time providing our proprietary LNG technology in Mozambique, and it will

also be the first deep-water FLNG project for Africa. We believe our involvement with other FLNG efforts in different parts of the world gives us unparalleled experience in the floating LNG market."

Eni executive vice president for the East Africa region Adriano Mongini, said: "The Coral Sul FLNG hull launching is an outstanding milestone which has been possible thanks to the commitment of Eni, its Area 4 partners, contractors and Mozambican authorities. We share the belief that Coral South is a pioneering project that will trigger further developments and new investments."

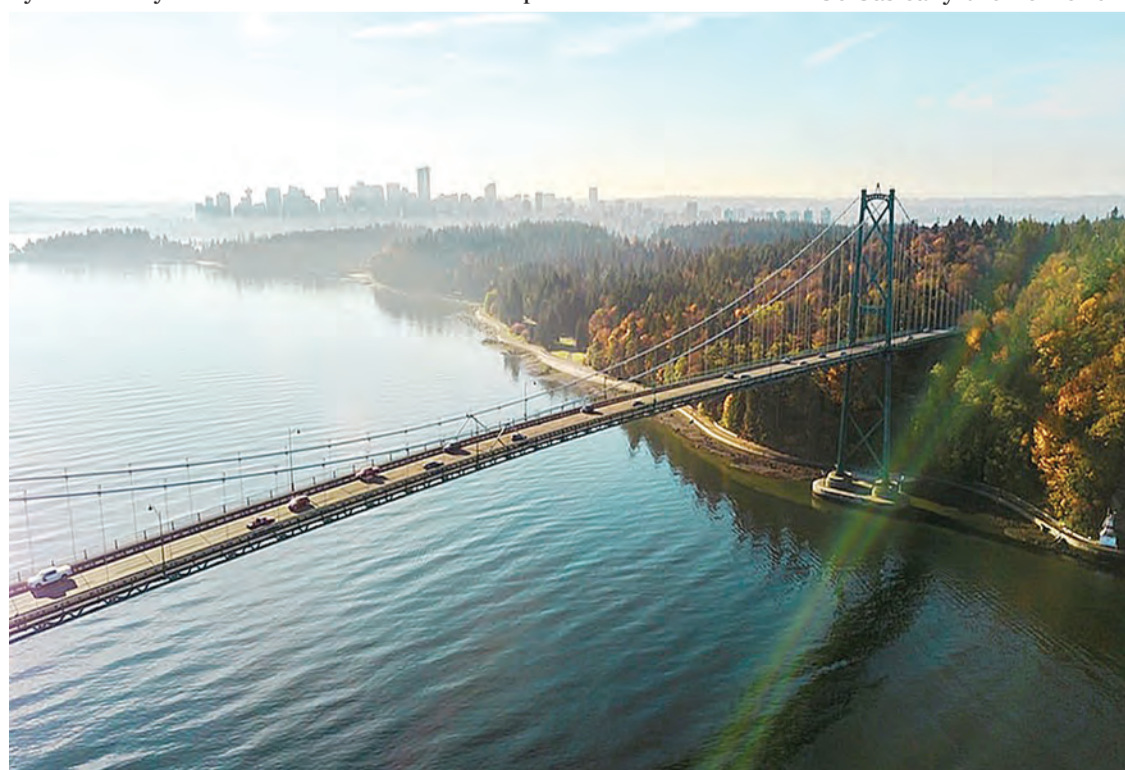
Area 4 is operated by Mozambique Rovuma Venture SpA (MRV), an incorporated joint venture owned by Eni, ExxonMobil and CNPC, which holds a 70% interest in the Area 4 exploration and production concession contract. Other stakeholders in Area 4 are Galp, Kogas and Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos EP, each holding a 10% interest.

Eni is leading the construction and operation of the FLNG facility on behalf of MRV. Between 2011 and 2014, Eni discovered substantial natural gas resources in the Rovuma basin, in the Coral, Mamba Complex and Agulha reservoirs, holding an estimated 2,400Bn m3 of gas in place. Eni also holds exploration rights to offshore blocks A5-B, Z5-C and Z5-D in the Angoche and Zambezi basins.

Investments of US\$50Bn in separate Mozambique projects, Rovuma LNG and Mozambique LNG, will add another 28.1 mta of LNG nameplate capacity on top of Coral South FLNG's 3.4 mta by 2025.



When commissioned in 2022, Coral Sul FLNG will operate in 2,000 m of water



WORLD

Democrats accuse Trump at impeachment trial of corrupt scheme to pressure Ukraine

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS accused President Donald Trump at his impeachment trial on Wednesday of a corrupt scheme to pressure Ukraine to help him get re-elected and warned that America's global prestige would suffer if the U.S. Senate acquits him.

The Republican Trump, who has denied wrongdoing, sounded a defiant note, telling reporters in Switzerland the Democrats did not have enough evidence to find him guilty and remove him from office.

In a two-hour opening argument for the prosecution after days of procedural wrangling, U.S. Representative Adam Schiff said Trump had pushed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and Biden's son on unsubstantiated corruption charges last year.

"To implement this corrupt scheme, President Trump pressured the president of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations into two discredited allegations that would benefit President Trump's 2020 presidential campaign," said Schiff, leading the House Democrats' prosecution team of "managers."

The Democratic team pressed its case against Trump in eight hours of arguments, which will resume on Thursday.

They contend that Trump was trying to find dirt on Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination for the November election, and his son Hunter Biden who had served on the board of a

Ukrainian gas company, to help the president win a second term.

Trump was impeached last month by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for his dealings with Ukraine and impeding the inquiry into the matter.

Trump is almost certain to be acquitted by the Republican-controlled 100-member Senate, where a two-thirds majority is needed to remove him from office. But the trial's effect on his re-election bid is unclear.

FOCUS ON JULY 25 CALL

His fellow Republicans in the Senate say his behavior does not fit the description of "high crimes and misdemeanors" outlined in the U.S. Constitution as a reason to oust a U.S. president.

"We believe without question that the president will be acquitted," Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow told reporters at the end of Wednesday's session.

Democrats have two more days to make their case. Trump's defense team will have three days after that for rebuttal in a trial that could potentially conclude next week.

The case against Trump is focused on a July 25 telephone call in which he asked Zelenskyy to open a corruption investigation into the Bidens as well as a discredited theory that Ukraine, not Russia, meddled in the 2016 U.S. election. U.S. military aid to Ukraine was frozen for a period of time.

"We have the evidence to prove President Trump ordered the aid withheld, he did so to force Ukraine to

help his re-election campaign ... we can and will prove President Trump guilty of this conduct and of obstructing the investigation into his conduct," Schiff said as the day concluded. Making references to 18th century U.S. founding father Alexander Hamilton and the late Republican President Ronald Reagan, Schiff said the world was watching.

"For how can any country trust the United States as a model of governance if it's one that sanctions precisely the political corruption and invitation to foreign meddling that we have long sought to eradicate in burgeoning democracies around the world?"

He said senators would "also undermine our global standing" if they did not oust Trump three years into his tumultuous presidency.

Tuesday's start of the impeachment trial drew about 11 million TV viewers, according to Nielsen ratings data, a figure that fell short of the roughly 13.8 million who watched last November for the first day of the House impeachment inquiry into Trump.

HISTORIC TRIAL

It is the third presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history. The opening days have been dominated by arguments over Democratic requests for more witnesses and records.

The Trump administration has not complied with subpoenas for documents and has urged officials like former national security adviser John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo not to participate in the impeachment investigation.

A Reuters-Ipsos poll released on Wednesday found a bipartisan majority of Americans wanting to see new witnesses testify in the impeachment trial. It said about 72% agreed that the trial "should allow witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the impeachment charges to testify," including 84% of Democrats and 69% of Republi-

cans.

In Davos, Switzerland, Trump told reporters at the World Economic Forum that he was happy with the way the trial was going.

"I thought our team did a very good job. But honestly, we have all the material. They don't have the material," Trump said.

Democratic U.S. Representative Val Demings, one of the House impeachment managers, said Trump's comment amounted to boasting about obstruction of Congress.

"This morning, the president not only confessed to it, he bragged about it: 'Honestly, we have all the material. They don't have the material,'" she said.

But a senior administration official, asked to explain what Trump was referring to, said: "What he's clearly saying is we have all the facts on our side, and those facts prove he's done nothing wrong." Trump said allowing Bolton to testify at the trial would present national security concerns.

"He knows some of my thoughts, he knows what I think about leaders. What happens if he reveals what I think about a certain leader and it's not very positive?" Trump said.

Bolton, a foreign policy hawk who was fired by Trump last year, has disdainfully described the Ukraine pressure campaign as a "drug deal" and testimony from him could be awkward for the president.

A parade of current and former officials spoke at House impeachment hearings last year of a coordinated Trump effort to pressure Ukraine.

But those televised hearings did little to change support for and against Trump's impeachment. Reuters/Ipsos polling since the inquiry began shows Democrats and Republicans responding largely along party lines.

Agencies

Hundreds of flights canceled as Wuhan locked down

BEIJING

HUNDREDS of flights from or to Wuhan had been canceled as of yesterday noon, after Wuhan, the center of a pneumonia outbreak in China, rolled out a slew of unprecedented measures to curb the spread of the deadly novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

A total of 566 flights were scheduled to leave or arrive in Wuhan on Thursday, but 288 of them had been canceled as of 11:30 am, said the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).

From 10:00 am Thursday, all public transportation, including city buses, subways, ferries and long-distance coaches have been suspended, and outbound channels at airports and railway stations have also been closed until further notice.

The CAAC advised airlines operating flights from or to Wuhan to pay close attention to the development of the pneumonia outbreak and adjust their flight plans accordingly.

As of 8:00 pm Wednesday, a total of 444 cases of novel coronavirus-

related pneumonia and 17 deaths had been reported in Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, according to local authorities. Nationwide, 17 people have died and 571 cases confirmed in 25 provincial-level regions by the end of Wednesday. Those who died, all in Hubei, were aged between 48 and 89.

Which airlines are heavily exposed? Many airlines, including Korean Air Lines, Singapore Airlines' budget carrier Scoot, Taiwan's China Airlines Ltd and Japan's ANA, announced they were cancelling flights in and out of Wuhan after authorities announced a lockdown. South Korean budget carrier T'way Air earlier this week postponed the scheduled launch of a new route to the city.

Flight tracking website FlightRadar24 showed that as of 0600 GMT on Thursday, 184 Wuhan flights, or 60 percent of the departures listed for the day, had been cancelled.

Wuhan's Tianhe airport serves around 2 percent of China's total air traffic and mainly serves domestic routes. Broker Jefferies estimated 88.8 percent of overall flights are domestic, with China Southern Airlines Co Ltd holding the



A thermal scanner arriving passengers for fever at Tianhe airport in Wuhan in China's central Hubei province on Jan 23, 2020. (LEO RAMIREZ / AFP)

largest market share at 30 percent.

Trips to China

Hanatour Service Inc, South Korea's largest travel agency, said that cancellations of trips to China increased about 20 percent this week compared to same period last year. The figure includes postponements and switches to other destinations, a company official said.

Rajeev Kale, country head for Thomas Cook India's holidays division, said, "Most of our customers are adopting a wait and watch approach to see further developments."

Xinhua

Belt and Road cooperation benefits both Myanmar, China

ON Jan.17, 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping kicked off his state visit to Myanmar, his first overseas destination in 2020.

The Chinese President held discussions with leaders of Myanmar to renew the thousand-year-old "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship between the two countries, and is also created a new chapter of bilateral cooperation, lift political ties, deepen cooperation on interconnectivity, advance the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), and bring China-Myanmar relations onto a new height.

China and Myanmar are close neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. The two peoples have lived alongside each other for thousands of years. The Mekong River, known as Lancang River in China, extends several thousand kil-

ometers from China's Qinghai province down south, and is shared by both peoples of China and Myanmar.

As the third decade of the 21st century has just begun, people from China and Myanmar are seeing closer bonds as they are not only sharing the same river, but also co-building the same "Road". Today, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is further intensifying the exchanges between the two countries.

In Xi's signed article titled "Writing a New Chapter in Our Millennia-Old Paukphaw Friendship" published in Myanmarese newspapers, he mentioned the BRI twice, saying that "we have further expanded our practical cooperation" and that Myanmar is "an important partner country of the BRI".

He said the two countries need to bring new impetus to their mutually

beneficial cooperation by deepening trade and economic exchanges, and stressed that "our two sides need to deepen results-oriented Belt and Road cooperation".

By deepening bilateral cooperation on pushing forward with the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road, China and Myanmar will better serve the wellbeing of the two countries and their peoples.

Joint efforts of China and Myanmar to advance the construction of the Belt and Road have been carried out under the guidance of leaders of both countries.

Since Xi proposed the BRI in 2013, government of Myanmar responded to and participated in the initiative actively. As one of the founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment

Bank (AIIB), Myanmar has played an active role in the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

In 2018, the government of Myanmar established a specialized steering committee for the implementation of tasks relating to the BRI, and appointed Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi as the chair of the committee. Last year, Myanmar set up another working committee for the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

Joint efforts of China and Myanmar to advance the construction of the Belt and Road have led to mutually beneficial pragmatic cooperation. China has long remained the largest trading partner and the most importance source of foreign investment of Myanmar. The two countries have witnessed a total of \$16.8 billion in value of bilateral trade in

the first 11 months of 2019.

China and Myanmar have deepened alignment of development strategies, signed cooperation documents on the construction of the CMEC and established a joint CMEC committee. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries on major projects including the CMEC have significantly improved the livelihood of local people in Myanmar.

Joint efforts of China and Myanmar to advance the construction of the Belt and Road enjoy extensive support from both peoples, whose fraternal sentiments and close ties date back to ancient times.

During Xi's visit to Myanmar, he and major leaders of the Myanmar government attended events including a series of celebration activities for the 70th anniversary of the establishment of

Tokyo pulled its territorial claims during talks with USSR in 1956 – newspaper

TOKYO

DURING the last stage of 1956 negotiations on restoring diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, the Japanese government dropped its claim that the sovereignty of the South Kuril Islands must be determined during future talks on a peace agreement, says the Asahi Shimbun newspaper, citing previously unpublished diplomatic notes made at the time by the staff of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The notes ended up in the archive of Japan's ex-Prime Minister Takeo Miki. After his death, in accordance with his will, the archive was handed over to Meiji University in Tokyo, where researchers have discovered the document.

Up until this moment, the government of Japan had claimed that during the 1956 negotiations with the USSR, it consistently demanded that the Kuril Islands dispute must be settled before a peace deal is signed.

However, the newly discovered document clearly proves that this demand was eventually withdrawn for the sake of speeding up the agreement, since the Soviet Union had yet to consent to Japan's admission to the United Nations, and that depended on the restoration of bilateral relations between Tokyo and the Kremlin, the newspaper says. However, that does not mean that Tokyo really gave up on its claims, it adds.

The two nations are stuck in the mud on negotiations for a World War II peace deal since the middle of the 20th century, with the South Kuril Islands issue remaining the key stumbling block.

After the war, the entire archipelago was included into the Soviet Union, but Japan laid claims to the islands of Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and a group of smaller Habomai islands.

The Russian Foreign Ministry repeatedly underscored that Russian sovereignty over these territories has been properly framed within international law and cannot be disputed.

The 1956 joint Soviet-Japanese declaration formally ended the war between the two nations and revived diplomatic relations. In the declaration, the USSR expressed its readiness to hand over the Shikotan island and a number of smaller islands to Japan, under a precondition that the territories would come under Japanese control only after a peace deal is signed.

The declaration was ratified by both parliaments on December 8, 1956. In May 2019, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov stated that the document makes it clear that a consideration of the territorial dispute can only be

Zimbabwe Supreme Court ruling on currency parity causes mixed emotions among creditors, debtors

HARARE

A RULING passed by the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe on Monday declaring that all debts incurred before Feb. 22, 2019 should be settled in Zimbabwe dollars at a 1:1 rate against the U.S. dollar has rattled the business community and left ordinary Zimbabweans with mixed feelings.

Chief Justice Luke Malaba said debts incurred before the date should be settled at the local currency value in line with Statutory Instrument 33 of 2019 which abolished the multicurrency regime in favor of the reintroduced Zimbabwe dollar.

The Supreme Court found ruled in favor of Zambezi Gas Zimbabwe Pvt Ltd which was appealing against two judgements of the High Court ordering it to pay coal and chrome mining company N.R. Barber Pvt Ltd more than 3.8 million U.S. dollars in debt.

Malaba ruled that the payment of 4,136,806.54 RTGS dollars made by Zambezi Gas was in full and final settlement of the debt in terms of the law.

Zambezi Gas had argued in the appeal that the Statutory Instrument issued by finance minister Mthuli Ncube in Feb. 2019 converting all U.S. dollar balances into the RTGS currency, meant that they could settle their debt in RTGS.

The judgement was delivered on Monday and released on Tuesday. Debtors will surely welcome the ruling because it removes them from the exchange rate burden while creditors have been left licking their wounds.

Lawyer Alex Magaisa said the Supreme Court judgement had sent shockwaves in the markets. "In effect, however, the Supreme Court has merely confirmed the ill-conceived and highly destructive step taken by Minister of Finance, Mthuli Ncube, last February.

The consequences, however, are noxious," he said in his column BSR. He said the implications of the judgement could not be more devastating for those who found themselves in the same situation as Barber Pvt Ltd.

Xinhua



Xi's Myanmar visit boosts Paukphaw ties

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Myanmar from January 17 to 18 at the invitation of Myanmar President Win Myint. The first overseas trip of Xi in 2020 and the first visit by a Chinese president to the Southeast Asian country in 19 years, Xi's trip came on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

For China, Myanmar is a friendly neighbor and a key player in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China hopes to open up its strategic gateway to the Indian Ocean by developing infrastructure in Myanmar, such as railways and expressways.

However, marked by the suspension of the Myitsone Dam in 2011, China-Myanmar relations encountered many challenges in the early stages of Myanmar's political transformation.

With the cooling-down of political reform and change in dynamics at home and abroad, Myanmar's National League for Democracy (NLD) has gradually started to realize China is a source of help for Myanmar's development.

To develop Myanmar's fledgling economy and win the next election, the NLD needs more support from China, which makes its China policies more practical. Hence, as relations get better, both sides continue to advance cooperation.

During Xi's visit, leaders of both countries summarized the historical interactions and map out the blueprint for future development. China adheres to the principle of noninterference in Myanmar's internal affairs.

Also, it fully supports Myanmar's efforts in pursuing its own development path based on its condition, protecting its rights and national dignity, and maintaining its stability.

When it comes to the conflict between Myanmar's government and rebel organizations, China plays a constructive mediation role. Both countries will jointly follow the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, support multilateralism, protect free trade and contribute to the establishment of a new and equitable international relationship.

Additionally, issues related to quality cooperation on the BRI and construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) will also be included in the discussion between both leaders.

In December 2017, Xi and State Counselor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi reached an important agreement on the construction of CMEC within the framework of the BRI. Since then, CMEC has entered the fast track.

Both countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the

project in September 2018. Only two months later, the Myanmar government formed a steering committee for the implementation of the BRI chaired by Suu Kyi.

CMEC includes cooperation in infrastructure, Border Economic Cooperation Zone, cultural exchanges and the Digital Silk Road.

Although with a clear development direction, there are plenty of political, economic and security obstacles ahead, such as the uncertainty of Myanmar's transformation, lack of trust, difference in development concepts, interference from outside forces, and instability along the China-Myanmar border.

China needs to strengthen its communication with Myanmar's central and local governments over policies, enhance the integration of the BRI with Myanmar's development planning, and focus more on the projects related to people's livelihood and cultural exchanges.

Besides, Chinese cities should connect with Myanmar's cities, thus promoting the construction of Myanmar's economic zones.

CMEC and other cooperative projects have helped create jobs in Myanmar, largely improving the living conditions. For example, the completion of China-Myanmar pipelines not only solves the sales problem in Myanmar's natural gas market, but also expands employment. Currently, China is Myanmar's largest trading partner.

Cultural exchanges is also an area of interest. In recent years, cooperation in health care and education has deepened, so have people-to-people exchanges.

There are Myanmar students receiving Chinese scholarships and studying in China every year. Strong links between both sides' museums, libraries and art academies have been established. In 2018, China is the largest source of foreign visitors that visited Myanmar.

Neighboring countries have been one of the top priorities in China's diplomacy. National development is the driving force shared by both sides. How to unravel the entanglement with neighbors is for both countries to resolve together. Building a China-Myanmar community with a shared future requires joint efforts of both sides.

Even though protectionism and unilateralism are rising, China and Myanmar are still injecting positive energy into win-win cooperation. The long-term mutual support between both countries fully explains the true meaning of "Paukphaw" or brotherhood. Xi's visit will endow a deeper connotation of the times into this term.

Global Times

Uganda on high alert as locusts approach common border with Kenya

KAMPALA

UGANDAN Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda on Wednesday said the country is on high alert as locusts draw close to the common border with Kenya.

All nine ministries have been instructed to work together to collectively heighten the country's preparedness to prevent or handle the invasion, said Rugunda in a statement issued here.

The locusts have reached Kenya's Samburu and Turkana areas, which are close to Uganda's northeastern border, he said, citing relevant reports.

"This is an emergency, and all efforts and agencies must be on alert



to play their role in a timely manner," Rugunda said. He noted that the agriculture ministry has been instructed to submit a budget to the finance ministry to make clear the resources required to prevent the invasion.

The agriculture ministry earlier indicated that it needed a contingency fund of 1.35 million U.S. dollars to be

used for aircraft fuel, pesticides and other supplies.

Rugunda (pictured) said the government is in touch with Kenya to seek joint efforts to contain the locusts.

The prime minister urged the public to stock up food reserves as a precaution. Experts have warned that an invasion of locusts would wreak havoc by destroying crops and vegetation and cause famine.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, a very small swarm of locusts eat as much food in one day as about 35,000 people.

Uganda last experienced a major locust invasion 70 years ago, with immense damage on crops, according to the agriculture ministry. *Xinhua*

World leaders meet at Auschwitz forum, Poland absent

JERUSALEM

DOZENS of world leaders convened in Jerusalem yesterday to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, amid a backdrop of rising anti-Semitism in Europe and the United States.

However, the president of Poland, where the Nazi concentration camp was built during the German occupation of World War Two, will stay away due to rankling disputes with both Russia and Israel.

Israel has hailed the World Holocaust Forum as the biggest international gathering in its history. Russian President Vladimir Putin and US Vice President Mike Pence are among the attendees.

Poland will host its own event at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum on Jan 27.

More than one million people, most of them Jews, were killed at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust.

Speeches at the Jerusalem event are likely to focus on the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust as well as a more recent rise in anti-Semitism rhetoric and attacks worldwide.

A global survey by the US-based Anti-Defamation League in November found that global anti-Semitic attitudes had increased, and significantly in Eastern and Central Europe. It found that large percentages of people in many European countries think Jews talk too much about the Holocaust.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin addressed this at a reception he hosted on Wednesday for the visiting leaders.

"I hope and pray ... that the leaders of the world will stand united in the fight against racism, anti-Semitism and extremism, in defending democracy and democratic values," he said.



An Israeli man walks with his dog by a hanging poster of the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem on Wednesday. (AFP)

In Jerusalem, the high-profile guest list includes French President Emmanuel Macron, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Britain's Prince Charles.

Polish President Andrzej Duda turned down an invitation to the conference, expressing dissatisfaction that representatives of Russia, France, Britain, the United States and Germany would speak, while Poland was told it would not be allowed to.

Israeli organizers said only the four World War Two allies, and Germany, would address the gathering.

Polish leaders have also been angered by comments made by Putin last month suggesting Poland shared responsibility for the war.

Warsaw will be scrutinizing speeches by Putin and Netanyahu, who Israel's Channel 12 TV reported might echo some of the Russian leader's accusations against Poland in return for the pardon of an Israeli woman imprisoned in Russia on drug charges.

"Above all, we are asking that the memory of the Holocaust, that terri-

ble crime, the memory of its victims, is not exploited for political reasons. That would be vile," Poland's deputy foreign minister, Szymon Szyński, said on Tuesday.

The international gathering could burnish Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's domestic image as an international statesman.

The veteran right-wing leader faces his third election in less than a year on March 2, amid legal woes and political deadlock.

Fighting for his political survival, Israel's longest-serving premier has been using sideline meetings with international leaders at the conference to call for more sanctions against arch-enemy Iran.

France, along with Britain and Germany, last week declared Iran in violation of a 2015 nuclear pact.

They launched a dispute mechanism that could lead to reimposition of UN sanctions lifted after the agreement to limit Tehran's atomic activities was signed.

Agencies

Angola may seek international arrest warrant for Isabel dos Santos - reports

LISBON

ANGOLA could issue an international arrest warrant for billionaire Isabel dos Santos if she fails to cooperate with a fraud investigation in which she has been named as a suspect, its chief prosecutor was quoted as saying.

Angola has named dos Santos (pictured), the daughter of former president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, as a suspect over alleged mismanagement and misappropriation of funds while she was chairwoman of state oil firm Sonangol in 2016-2017.

"At this moment, the concern is to notify (the suspects) and assure that they voluntarily come to face justice," Helder Pitta Gros said in Luanda late on Wednesday, according to Portugal's Lusa news agency. Failing that, his office would resort to legal instruments at its disposal, one being an international warrant.

Angolan news agency Angop also said the prosecutor, who traveled to Lisbon on Thursday, had spoken of the possibility of such a warrant.

Isabel dos Santos, who amassed her fortune during her father's decades-long presidency, denies wrongdoing and has said allegations against her are politically motivated. She could not be immediately reached on Thursday for further comment.

Eurobic, a small Portuguese bank in which she has owned a large stake, said yesterday she had decided to sell the stake. In Portugal, Angola's former colonial power, dos Santos holds significant stakes in several major firms including NOS and oil firm Galp Energia. Pitta Gros arrived in Lisbon on Thursday to meet his Portuguese counterpart Lucilia Gago.

He told reporters upon arrival he would seek help from the Portuguese prosecutor's office "on many matters", but would not comment specifically on the dos Santos case.

Angolan authorities froze dos Santos' assets there in late December. On Sunday, hundreds of thousands of files about dos Santos that were obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) were released by several news organizations.

The media reports focused on alleged financial schemes used by dos Santos to build her business empire, including transfers between Angola and Dubai. Dos Santos, who has been living abroad, said on Sunday that allegations made against her were "completely unfounded".

Agencies

WEF president praises China's anti-poverty progress

DAVOS

CHINA'S progress toward eradicating poverty is unprecedented and its effort to promote multilateralism should be embraced by all members of the global community for the sake of common development, the president of the World Economic Forum (WEF) has said.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the WEF, also known as the Davos Forum, which has brought

together politicians, business people and representatives from social and cultural circles to find solutions to the world's problems.

At the heart of the ongoing WEF gathering are Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

"The goals are very ambitious. The overall aim then is to eradicate all extreme poverty by 2030," on which China has an impressive record, Borge Brende, an experienced Norwegian politician and diplomat,

told Xinhua in an interview.

In decades, "we have seen more people lifted out of extreme poverty in China, maybe 800 million people. We have never seen that number of people lifted out of extreme poverty ever before in the history of mankind," so this is "a great achievement of China," Brende said.

Brende said although China has been developing very fast, there are still some poor regions in the

country, which makes the country's economic growth more complex. "So China has to continue to grow ... the growth now needs to take more care of clean water, clean air. It also has to create jobs further up in the value chain," Brende said.

"It will be very interesting to follow China moving forward, how it will continue to prosper its population but balancing it with nature and inclusiveness," he added.

Xinhua

Analysts name Putin's ten lessons for Russia's future political leaders

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN political scientists Oleg Matveichev, Pavel Danilin and Alexei Martynov presented their report entitled Putin's Mission - The Results of Vladimir Putin's Twelve-Year Rule at a TASS news conference yesterday. In their survey the analysts described the Russian president's mission and formulated ten lessons for political leaders of the future.

"Putin's mission, formulated in just one sentence, may sound like 'Make Russia great again!' His years-long work at the highest posts of state power in the country was geared to achieving this," the report says.

According to the authors of the survey "each of the president's steps was based on his philosophy of political leadership, enabling him to confidently respond to ever new challenges and act effectively amid constantly changing conditions."

"In making this report we repeatedly turned to this or that element of his [Putin's] philosophy. Put together in a single narrative, they can serve as a precious lesson for the political leaders of the future," the report says.

President's lessons

The authors said that Putin's lesson number one is to follow

"the moderate path."

"Never try to ram through. Overpower crude force with soft power, avoid using direct resistance to aggression, use the enemy's power to one's advantage, make concessions for the sake of future victory. Russia's foreign policy in 2000-2003 was carried out in strict compliance with these principles.

Putin easily found a common language with the leaders of the West, without seeking a leading place for Russia in the world for the time being," the authors of the report say.

Lessons two and three in the report mention the president's ability to "interchangeably use



the intensification of efforts and relaxation and pauses," as well as the custom of "following the natural course of life."

"Putin used the pendulum principle in the domestic policy, characterized by the continued change of periods of strict administrative control and the easing of screws..."

It is the authorities' business to maintain the internal bal-

ance in the country, considered as a complex system, to neutralize the factors that upset the balance, and to timely create the required counterbalances in response to the changing agenda. The homeostatic type of governance must prevail over planning," the report says.

The political scientists see Putin's fourth and fifth lessons in his ability to "avoid creating hypothetical doctrines" and to "possess information."

"Ideology is merely an instrument. The state needs both right-and left-wingers and the centrist forces.

As long as they remain in a condition of a lively discussion or active confrontation, they

keep the system in a dynamic balance and prevent society from sliding into one of the extremes," the analysts say.

Among other lessons, the political scientists say, are the president's ability "to have a reserve for a rainy day," "to keep problems in the background," "to keep outsiders ignorant of his plans," "to delegate one's tasks to the enemies" and "to work for strategic aims."

Results of work

The experts point out that Putin invariably translated all these principles into reality throughout his activity at the highest posts in the country.

"Without creating large-scale

ideological constructs or formulating abstract national ideas which one may easily become a hostage of (all most terrible things had been done for the sake of this or that great idea), he kept doing his job without unbracing for a second," the authors of the report said.

In their opinion, many results of the president's activity became evident at once, such as "people's growing wealth, restoration of production, major decline in the consumption of alcohol, greater life expectancy, revival of patriotism, successes of Russian school and university students at international Olympiads and growing military potential."



Spain's Garbine Muguruza celebrates after victory against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic during their women's singles match on day four of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Jan 23. — AFP

Kilimanjaro climb inspires Muguruza for push to Melbourne summit

MELBOURNE

HAVING scaled Africa's highest mountain during the offseason, former world number one Garbine Muguruza hopes to reach new heights at the Australian Open after suffering a tumble down the world rankings in 2019.

The Venezuela-born Spaniard made another determined push at Melbourne Park on Thursday, heaving herself out of a mid-match slump against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic to reach the third round with a 6-3 3-6 6-3 win in the early match at Rod Laver Arena.

The bright start at the year's first Grand Slam follows a disappointing finish to a 2019 season which saw her dumped out of the first round at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

The 26-year-old cut her season short, swapped her rackets for crampons and headed to Tanzania with a friend to climb 5,895 metre (19,340 feet) Mount Kilimanjaro, a five-day expedition in which she scaled cliffs, waded through icy rivers and passed bitterly cold nights.

"It was a very hard challenge, completely different to what I do," Muguruza, now ranked world number 32, told reporters at Melbourne Park.

"You're climbing that mountain and it's only you. You don't get any award, any prize, any photo, anything up there.

"I really like the experience to see myself in the middle of nowhere and, yeah, just having one clear thought just to keep climbing."

REUTERS

Kyrgios scare as latest freak weather disrupts Australian Open

MELBOURNE

FLAMBOYANT Nick Kyrgios suffered a fright before reaching the Australian Open third round on Thursday as the weather-disrupted tournament faced a new challenge: dirty rain, which left courts muddy and unplayable.

After a day of clean-up operations and delays, Australia's Kyrgios fought his way past Frenchman Gilles Simon in four sets, and Wimbledon champion Simona Halep stamped her class with a win over Britain's Harriet Dart.

Kyrgios, increasingly popular with home fans after spearheading fundraising efforts for Australia's bushfire crisis, was cruising at two sets up when he dropped the third set and with it, his composure.

But just when it looked like he would suffer one of his trademark implosions, he rallied for a 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory.

"I definitely lost my way a little bit... but I decided to refocus," Kyrgios said of his meltdown in the third set. "I could have gone to a very dark place in the fourth set but I put it away."

The win keeps Kyrgios on course for a fourth-round clash with Rafael Nadal and the next instalment in their grudge match after he hit back at criticism from the "super salty" Spaniard last year.

His victory followed a day of upheaval

James closes on Kobe, Davis has 28 as Lakers beat Knicks

NEW YORK

LEBRON James spent the first half showing why he will soon pass Kobe Bryant for third place on the NBA's career scoring list.

Then this season's assists leader put his own offense aside to help Anthony Davis find his.

James scored 19 of his 21 points before halftime to quickly cut into Bryant's shrinking lead over him for the No. 3 scoring spot in NBA history, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the New York Knicks 100-92 on Wednesday night.

Davis led the Lakers with 28 points in his second game back after a five-game absence, after the Western Conference leaders were handed their worst loss of the season Monday in his return.

James took only six shots in a quiet second half but Davis scored 17 points after the break to help the Lakers pull away.

"I was more of a facilitator in the second half," James said. "I wanted to get AD going. He looked a little out of rhythm in the first half. So it was a point of emphasis for me in the third quarter and the fourth quarter to get him going. And that was the difference."

James has 33,599 points, 44 back of Bryant. That leaves him in good shape to catch the former Lakers star Saturday at Philadelphia, where the five-time NBA champion was born. Los Angeles has a game in between Thursday in Brooklyn.

Davis scored eight points in the final 3:45 and finished 13 of 13 from the free throw line. He played 30 minutes after going only 23 in his return from a bruised gluteus maximus on Monday in Boston, where the Lakers were routed 139-107.

"Still getting my wind back. Just trying to find a rhythm again," Davis said. "I'm not trying to go out there and get my shots or force anything. Felt good tonight to get to the free throw line and see the ball go in the rim."

Marcus Morris scored 20 points and Damyean Dotson had 17 for the Knicks, who put up a much better effort after losing by 30 two weeks ago in Los Angeles. But they just couldn't come up with timely shots to re-



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) dunks with no one around defending him during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in New York, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020. (AP Photo)

ally threaten the Lakers in the fourth quarter.

James shot 8 of 10 in 17 minutes of the first half, but the Knicks held the rest of the Lakers relatively in check and the game was tied at 48 at halftime.

The Lakers led by six after three quarters, then opened the fourth with Dwight Howard's dunk, a 3-pointer by Rajon Rondo and a basket by Kyle Kuzma to extend it to 83-70.

"In the first half we weren't making them uncomfortable enough or taking the fight to them enough," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "It was a tie score and we knew there was another gear we had to get to."

New York hung around and was within six again late but the Lakers prevailed despite only two baskets, both by Davis, in the final four minutes.

"I thought we got some pretty good looks at times, and just didn't get them to go," Knicks

interim coach Mike Miller said. "We went into it and wanted to play good basketball. I think we went in and played good basketball. We're not out trying to play close games or anything like that, but we took a shot and we came up a few points short."

Meanwhile, in Detroit, one Detroit point guard has been carrying the scoring load. Another joined him Wednesday night, with his back now healthy enough to pitch in.

Derrick Rose scored 22 points and Reggie Jackson also had 22 in his return to lineup as the Pistons beat Sacramento 127-106 to hand the Kings their sixth straight loss.

Jackson had missed 42 games since leaving the second game of the season with a back injury. He said after this one the stress reaction in his lower back had affected his sleeping but credited the training staff with getting him back on the court.

"Teammates being lenient with me and just being put in a good position. I think all that combined and a little bit of luck, of course," Jackson said. "All that combined allowed myself to just flow pretty easily."

Jackson made a floater on his first attempt and played well in his 19 minutes off the bench, shooting 8 of 14 and handling out four assists.

"He gives us two big-time point guard on the floor," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "When you alternate those guys, you have stability at the point guard position, and that's what this league is all about, guys that can create and run the floor."

Rose scored 20 or more points for the 10th straight game, tying the career high he set in 2010-11, his MVP season in Chicago. He also eclipsed 11,000 career points and added 11 assists.

Christian Wood scored 23 points, and Svi Mykhailiuk added 13 points, the 11th time in 12 games that he has scored in double figures.

De'Aaron Fox had 22 points, and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 19 points for the Kings, who shot 12 of 23 from the line (52.2%).

"This was as frustrating as it gets," Kings coach Luke Walton said. "Basketball is a simple game: Defend without fouling, make the right play and knock down shots early. I feel like we didn't do any of those things."

The Pistons took a 57-50 lead into halftime, and stretched the lead to 93-75 as Jackson beat the third-quarter buzzer with a 3-pointer for Detroit's largest lead at the time.

The Pistons led by double digits throughout the fourth, and Sacramento shot 10 for 35 (28.6%) on 3-pointers on the night.

"I think our bad stretches have been happening for too long, too many times," Fox said. "You just try to play the best basketball you can for the most amount of time. I don't think we're doing that right now."

Both teams were without their starting post players because of injuries. Sacramento was missing Marvin Bagley III (foot) and Richaun Holmes (shoulder), while Detroit was without Andre Drummond (lip) and Blake Griffin (knee), who is likely out for the season.

AP

Jamie Foxx, Jordan Peele among honorees at AAFCA awards

LOS ANGELES



Jamie Foxx arrives at the 26th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Los Angeles. (AP)

JAMIE Foxx has won a plethora of major awards including an Oscar and Grammy. But after the African American Film Critics Association recognized him Wednesday night, the actor-singer called its honor just as special.

Foxx along with Eddie Murphy and Jordan Peele were among some of the honorees at the 11th annual ceremony in Los Angeles.

"People say so much about the other awards, but it's special when it comes from your own people," said Foxx, who won best supporting actor for his role in "Just Mercy."

"It's just special," he said after receiving the award from the organization, which actively reviews films with an emphasis on projects that include the black experience. The awards mainly highlight films produced, written, directed and starring people from the African diaspora along with other ethnic projects that break new ground.

Oscar contender "Parasite," a South Korean thriller, won two awards for best screenplay and foreign film, sharing the honor with "Atlantics," a Senegalese love story.

Through his translator, "Parasite" director Bong Joon Ho said African Americans played a big role for him while studying cine-

ma during college in South Korea. He said he used to create his own subtitles to Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing" and "Jungle Fever."

"At the time, my English wasn't that good, so subtitled it was quite an experience," Bong said. "I had no idea there was various curse words in the English language. Thanks to Spike Lee, I learned so many things."

Bong said he finally met Lee at an award show a couple weeks ago. The director took a picture with Lee, but didn't get a chance to tell him about how he subtitled his films in college.

"If any of you guys are acquainted with him, please tell him I would like to get in touch with him," his translator said as the audience burst into laughter.

After Bong left the stage, Academy Award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter — who has worked with Lee for more than 20 years — said she could put the two directors in touch with each other.

Murphy was not in attendance, but he won for best actor for his role in Netflix's "Dolemite Is My Name."

For a second time, a film directed by Peele won the AAFCA award for best picture. His movie "Us," starring Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke, won the show's top honor.

AP

AFP

Barcelona and Madrid made to sweat by Ibiza and Unionistas

MADRID

LA Liga's heavyweights were both given a scare by third tier opponents in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday as Barcelona needed two late goals to beat Ibiza and Real Madrid dug deep for victory over Unionistas de Salamanca.

Barca sit 44 places ahead of Ibiza and Madrid 56 above Unionistas but the lowly duo both came close to extraordinary upsets, only for Ibiza to lose 2-1 and Unionistas 3-1 in front of their jubilant home fans.

With Lionel Messi rested and not even on the bench, Antoine Griezmann proved the saviour for Barcelona, scoring twice in the second half, including a 94th-minute winner, after Pep Caballe had given the hosts a fairytale lead at Can Misses. "Scoring gave them confidence," said Barca coach Quique Setien. "We were a bit sloppy, we gave the ball away and that gave them life. It wasn't easy."

Discomfort was more fleeting for Madrid, who conceded an equaliser in the second half following a brilliant run and finish from Unionistas' Alvaro Romero, only to restore their advantage five minutes later.

Juan Gongora turned the ball into his own net after Gareth Bale, back from injury and illness, scored his first goal for his club since September 1.

Bale's celebrations were notably muted and he had to go off in the second half.

"He sprained his ankle a little," said coach Zinedine Zidane. "I don't think it's much but tomorrow we'll see."

At the end, Unionistas fans were waving their scarves with pride just as Ibiza's supporters had applauded their team off, even though Griezmann had dashed their hopes just moments before.

Only last week, Barcelona topped Deloitte's annual Football Money League with a total revenue of \$959.3m for 2018/19 while Madrid were just behind, the world's second richest club with \$864m.

Unionistas, meanwhile, only came into existence in 2013, launched by their own supporters after UD Salamanca went out of business.

It was a dream draw to get Real Madrid but they almost had to move grounds because their Las Pistas has one stand and lighting that needed upgrading.

Ibiza are even younger, having formed in 2015 and played in the fifth tier only three years ago.

Griezmann's rescue act was crucial

United fans right to feel 'disillusioned' - Solskjaer

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer admitted Manchester United fans have reason to be "disillusioned" after watching their team fall to a 2-0 defeat to Burnley.

Chris Wood and Jay Rodriguez scored either side of half-time to hand the visitors their first win at Old Trafford since 1962. It was an evening that saw United supporters again aim protest chants at American owners the Glazer family and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and a large number of fans leave the match before it had ended.

"At the end you do feel disillusioned as you say, because maybe they do, but for us we've just got to stick to our values, stick to our beliefs and know there's no use feeling sorry for yourself," Solskjaer told a news conference after the game.

"You've got to go out there with the same commitment tomorrow, the day after, get ready for Sunday."

Solskjaer's young squad has been stretched by injuries to key players Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford while there are nine days remaining of the January transfer window for the club to bring in much-needed new signings.

"We know we've had a lot amount of games since beginning of December and they are very stretched," said Solskjaer. "Some of these have

but important for Setien, who enjoyed a 1-0 victory in his first game in charge against Granada on Sunday but could hardly afford a loss of this magnitude so early in his tenure.

- Snapping at their heels -

For all the dominance of the ball, there was a lack of cutting edge against Ibiza, who restricted their star-studded opponents to one shot in the first half, Barca's lowest in any game they have played this season.

With a trip to Valencia to come in La Liga on Saturday, Setien left Messi, Sergio Busquets and Gerard Pique out of the squad. Youngsters Ansu Fati, Riqui Puig and Carles Perez all started.

Ibiza were at their visitors from the off, closing the gaps and snapping at their heels. If the home side's aim was to contain, they went one better by taking the lead in the ninth minute.

Puig was at fault, caught napping by Caballe, who finished off Javi Perez's cross.

Twice Ibiza almost added a second as Angel Rodado scored after bundling through Clement Lenglet but too enthusiastically, with the goal chalked off. Then Rai Nascimento hit the post after being played in by Javi Lara.

Ibiza's pressing lost intensity in the second half and in the 72nd minute, Griezmann equalised. Frenkie de Jong's reverse pass was perfectly weighted, with Griezmann able to hit first time on the turn.

Ibiza looked set for an extra 30 minutes but Griezmann struck again. Jordi Alba slid him through down and his finish flew across German Parreno and found the far corner.

Bale announced his return to the Real Madrid line-up with a goal as his right-footed effort took an awkward deflection on its way in, even if there was little sign that he enjoyed it.

In the 57th minute, Romero, who was playing in the Spanish third tier last season, capitalised on a slip from Eder Militao to weave through and apply an excellent, lifted finish but parity was brief.

Gongora turned the ball into his own net under pressure from Brahim Diaz, who then added a third in injury-time.

Elsewhere, holders Valencia beat Logrones 1-0 while Segunda strugglers Tenerife knocked out La Liga's Real Valladolid with a surprise 2-1 win.

AFP

'Embarrassing' Man United suffer fresh woe, Spurs boost top four bid

LONDON

MANCHESTER United were labelled an "embarrassment" as pressure mounted on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer following Burnley's shock 2-0 victory, while Tottenham boosted their top four prospects with a 2-1 win over Norwich on Wednesday.

Solskjaer's side suffered a third defeat in their last four Premier League games to put the United boss's job security back under the microscope. Burnley's first top-flight win at Old Trafford since 1962, secured by Chris Wood's 39th minute opener and a Jay Rodriguez thunderbolt after the break, exposed the flaws in a lacklustre United side who have made their worst start to a season since 1989-90.

The majority of Old Trafford was on its feet when chants of "stand up if you hate Glazers" echoed around the ground in reference to United's owners.

Executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward was also subjected to many other abusive chants, while those few fans who remained in the stadium booed Solskjaer and his players at full-time.

Former United defender Rio Ferdinand, a Premier League and Champions League winner with the club, slammed the performance and called for the US-based Glazer family to take action to stop the rot.

"I can't defend this," Ferdinand told BT Sport. "These young kids now in schools around the country, they are not going to be wearing Manchester United shirts."



Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and his players were booed off against Burnley (AFP Photo)

"Fans are walking out after 84 minutes! It's an embarrassment. People at the top need to look and see this and make changes, put a plan in place that people can sit there and see where we are going now. I don't see it."

Fifth placed United are six points behind fourth placed Chelsea as they battle to qualify for next season's Champions League via a top four finish.

Solskjaer admitted United had only themselves to blame, but he claimed the youngsters in his side deserved some patience.

"The boys have given everything they've got. They are experiencing this period for the first time in their lives, some of them," he said.

"It's very difficult for them. The

expectations of this club as well are high, and some of them have played 10, 12 or 15 games and it's not easy for them.

"Of course I'm going to back them. I'm going to be here to help them get through this. When you're at Man United there's always going to be criticism."

"We can't do anything but hold our hands up and say 'this isn't good enough for this club'. Of course we're disappointed in the points tally and performances, we're still fifth in the table."

Tottenham needed a late winner from Son Heung-min to snap a four-game winless streak in the league and breathe new life into their push for a top-four spot.

- Alli ends Spurs drought -

AFP

At Barca it's Messi, Pique and the players who hold the power, not the manager

BY SIMON KUPER, ESPN.COM WRITER

"NOT in my wildest dreams could I have imagined being coach of Barcelona," Quique Setien said after the club appointed him last week, ending a turbulent chapter under the previous boss, Ernesto Valverde. "I never thought Barcelona would choose me."

Nor did most people. Betis' 61-year-old former coach is a committed follower of Johan Cruyff, father of Barcelona's football, but he was jobless with an unremarkable coaching career when the club tapped him to replace the sacked Valverde. Yet it's precisely Setien's modest coaching career that appeals to Barca, and the same applied to the club's first choice, Xavi, who turned them down.

Xavi was a great player whose coaching experience to date amounts to a few months with Al Sadd in Qatar. I realized recently while reporting a book I'm writing about how Barcelona works: The last thing this club wants is a big-name coach. Almost everywhere in football, the role of the coach is shrinking - and nowhere more so than at the Camp Nou.

The last time Barca chose someone who was an A-list coach at the moment of his appointment was in 2002, when Louis van Gaal briefly returned to the club. After his failure, Barcelona decided to reverse its decision-making. Instead of hiring a coach and letting him decide what kind of football to play, the club would decide what kind of football to play and find a coach to go with it.

What kind of football to play was obvious: the fast-passing, attacking, pressing Dutch style introduced by Cruyff in his years as club coach from 1988 to '96. In 2003, Barca's new president, Joan Oliver, asked Cruyff which coach could bring that football back. Cruyff recommended his fellow Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, freshly relegated from the Dutch Eredivisie with Sparta Rotterdam. Rijkaard came to Barcelona and won the Champions League in 2006.

When Rijkaard left in 2008, Barca newly appointed a big-name coach, as club officials flew to Lisbon to interview Jose Mourinho. Hiring him seemed the obvious choice, but Barca didn't. Mourinho's defensive game was the opposite of Cruyffian, and his abrasive public persona was the opposite of the "respect" the club wanted to project. Instead, Barca appointed a no-name coach in 37-year-



Valverde, left, and Messi had a complicated relationship, but ultimately, player power won the day. (Agencies)

old Josep Guardiola, who, although a former A-list player for the club, at that point had managed only one team, Barca B.

Guardiola quickly became the biggest-name coach in football, but after he left in 2012, he was succeeded by a string of "lesser" names. First was Guardiola's assistant, Tito Vilanova, and after he resigned, the obscure Argentine Gerardo Daniel "Tata" Martino came in, followed by the inexperienced Luis Enrique, Valverde and, finally, Setien.

In short, Barcelona recruits no-name coaches. At this club, the coach isn't the boss. He doesn't determine how the team plays. Rather, now that the Cruyffian house style is fading out inside Barca, the team's style of play is largely determined by the players, in particular by Lionel Messi.

Messi's low charisma and habitual public silence are deceptive. Inside the changing room, he's a tough, de-

manding leader with strong views on how football should be played. Barca have managed to keep him at the club, playing brilliantly week in, week out, for 15 years. To do that, successive presidents have more or less handed him the keys. Although Barca won't admit it, Messi has unspoken veto power over most player transfers, coach appointments or major tactical decision. I concluded this based on dozens of conversations with club officials and extensive reading on Barcelona's Messi era.

Sometimes Messi will even try to initiate decisions, though in those situations, he doesn't always get his way. Last summer, for instance, he summoned president Josep Bartomeu and let him know that Barca should bring Neymar back to the Camp Nou. The club took a look at the injury-prone 27-year-old and decided he wasn't worth the approximately 200 million euros Paris

Saint-Germain wanted. Barca then spent much of the summer more or less pretending publicly to sign Neymar so they could eventually return to Messi and say, "Sorry, we did our best, but we couldn't get him."

Barca's playing style is determined by Messi, as well as senior teammates such as Sergio Busquets and Gerard Pique, in collaboration with the coach of the moment and his staff. In recent years, Messi has decided that he no longer has the stamina to press opponents and wants to spend most of the game at inside-right rather than further wide. Whoever happens to be Barca coach has to adapt accordingly. The club signed Arturo Vidal to be Messi's legs, the pressing game has been largely abandoned, and the basic strategy has become "just give Messi the ball." It mostly works.

Around Messi's influence, every Barca coach understands his modest role. When I visited Valverde last year at the first team's training ground, the Camp Tito Vilanova, his white office walls were almost bare except for the first-team's schedule. There was barely a personal touch in the room. He knew that in this club run by long-term local staffers, where players often stay their whole careers, the head coach is a mere passer-by. He can bring only one or two assistants with him. Mostly, he works with what he finds in place.

Valverde, a little man with a self-effacing grin, told me: "This is a continuous sport in which the coach has barely any influence, or at least much less than in basketball. We only have three substitutions. The game never stops [for timeouts]. So football belongs to the players."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Embarrassing' Man United suffer fresh woe, Spurs boost top four bid

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Bowlers, openers headline Sydney Sixers' clinical win



Sydney Sixers' batsman, Josh Philippe.

BRISBANE

BRISBANE Heat fell into another fearful heap, this time to the Sydney Sixers, to all but surrender a Big Bash League match at the Gabba inside the first 10 overs.

Following on from their loss of 10 for 36 to lose to the Melbourne Renegades, the Heat slid to 5 for 57 in the opening exchanges of their follow-up match to leave AB de Villiers and the tail scrambling for any sort of score. The return of Marnus Labuschagne and Steven Smith to the Heat and the Sixers attracted much comment before the game, but neither played much more than a peripheral role.

Instead the plaudits went to the Sixers bowlers Steve O'Keefe, Jackson Bird, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Lyon and Tom Curran, before Josh Philippe and James Vince enjoyed the minimal stresses of an undemanding chase on a pitch that did not encourage much in the way of Twenty20 hitting. It was the Heat's sixth consecutive loss at the Gabba.

Heat cooled by spin and speed

A widely hyped meeting between Smith and Labuschagne, after their batting "bromance" during the Test summer, was reduced to side-show status as the Heat maintained their horrid recent run of performances. It was a slide Labuschagne was unable to arrest in only his eighth game in four seasons with the Heat, a matter of days after his return from India and the ODI team's short tour. Slow, low Indian pitches were less than ideal preparation for the new ball at the Gabba, albeit on a mottled surface that offered both spin and bounce.

Chris Lynn's indifferent record against spin was continued when he tried to force a quicker ball from O'Keefe through point and was bowled, Matt Renshaw scooped straight to short fine leg, and Sam Heazlett was surprised by the steep bounce conjured by Nathan Lyon to pop back a low return catch, before Labuschagne miscued an attempted pull shot off Bird straight into the waiting hands of Smith at mid on. The Heat's viewing area was by this stage a venue for plenty of thousand yard stares, with AB de Villiers left to do what he could with the wreckage.

AB, Pattinson do what they can

A somewhat stupefied Gabba crowd was then subjected to the "spectacle" of de Villiers, Jimmy Peirson and Ben Cutting trying to rebuild by running singles. Seldom can de Villiers have played a T20 innings as long as 26 balls without a single boundary, while a tally of just 12 boundaries in total for the innings cannot have been what the broadcasters Seven and Fox had in mind. Peirson was bowled by a cracking off-cutter from Dwarshuis, which straightened out the pitch for around the wicket to confirm the pitch's capricious nature.

In the end, the only fireworks were provided by James Pattinson, who also bided his time before connecting with a couple of solid blows off Dwarshuis and Curran. A 15-ball innings worth 27 provided some belated cheer for the home crowd, while also inching the Heat up close to the total of 130 that their coach Darren Lehmann thought might be defensible. Might be.

Sixers rattle home

Only early wickets would bring the Heat into the game, but they were to be sorely disappointed as James Vince and Josh Philippe kept their heads. Just nine runs came from the first two overs before Vince tucked into Mujeeb ur Rahman to the tune of 14 runs, and the rate grew steadily from there. The final over of the Powerplay reaped another bounty, this time 13, to lift the Sixers to 0 for 48 from six overs, more or less settling the result already.

All that remained was for Vince to waltz to his first 50 of the tournament, and then exit the stage for Smith to spend some time in the middle opposite Philippe. Both batsmen helped themselves to sweetly timed boundaries off the bowling of Labuschagne, though Smith touched Pattinson behind before the Sixers enhanced their standing in the competition and the Heat stumbled closer to elimination.

AGENCIES

National U-17 women side in pursuit of victory over Burundi in 2020 World Cup qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

NATIONAL U-17 women team has oozed confidence over the team's ability to post victory over Burundi's U-17 women squad in the return leg of the preliminary round of African Qualifiers for U-17 Women World Cup 2020, to be played in Burundi tomorrow.

The stage's first leg match, which was played in Dar es Salaam last week, ended with national U-17 women squad walloping Burundi 5-1.

The Tanzania girls will need to either notch victory over their opponents or settle for draw with the latter in tomorrow's match to make certain of their qualification for the following stage of the qualifiers.

The national U-17 women squad, which had taken part in training session in Dar es Salaam in the previous few days to shape up for the return leg, headed for Bujumbura yesterday.

Bakari Shime, national U-17 women squad's head coach, disclosed his players had better preparations for the Saturday duel, insisting they will go for different approach in the

clash. "We have to opt for different approach, given our opponents will be playing at their home ground and we do not know their style of play they will put to use," he affirmed.

"Grabbing an away goal is all we need, given it will help us settle in the duel. We also need to see to it we avoid wasting the comprehensive victory we got in the previous clash."

All of the squad's players, Shime said, are in good shape and he is optimistic they will be in good health after they had reached Bujumbura.

He noted the national U-17 women squad's coaching panel has spotted the players' weaknesses and have worked on the flaws.

"Committing mistakes in a soccer game is quite normal. We have seen our mistakes, we are still improving the squad, there are a lot of mistakes we had shown and we have worked on them, I believe there will be mistakes in the next clash in Bujumbura," he disclosed.

He noted the squad's coaching panel has overseen better drills for the players to make sure the latter work on their weaknesses and post victory in the clash.

Forward Joyce Meshack noted the squad will take the coming qualifiers' clash seriously despite coming out with a resounding win in the last week duel.

"We will certainly not underestimate our opponents' in the duel, given it is obvious the latter have had good preparations for the clash. I assure Tanzanians we will come out victorious in the clash," she disclosed.

Joyce had found her way into the score sheet in the first leg clash held at National Stadium, in which she netted the third goal.

Should the national U-17 women team book a place in the first round, they will take on aggregate winners of the preliminary stage game between Ethiopia and Uganda.

The first leg of the Ethiopia clash with Uganda saw the latter notch 2-0 victory.

The first stage of the continental qualifiers has been penned for the end of next month to early in March.

Three teams qualify from the continental qualifiers for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, which will be hosted by India, as the CAF representatives.



National U-17 women football team. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Babar hopes Hafeez, Malik bring back 2018 feeling

LAHORE

PAKISTAN are the world's No. 1 T20I team, but they are just a defeat away from being dislodged from the top of the rankings. They presently have 270 points, just one more than Australia at No. 2.

Anything other than a 3-0 win in the upcoming T20I series over Bangladesh - even a 2-1 win - will see Pakistan slip below Australia. Bangladesh, meanwhile, are at No. 9 with 227 rating points.

"We are focused on continuing our world No. 1 ranking and that can happen only if we ultimately win the series," Babar Azam, Pakistan's T20I captain, said during a pre-series press conference. "When you think that you have to retain your position and it comes to a do-or-die match then we have to plan accordingly. Our aim is to win the series. No team can be taken lightly nowadays, but we are positive and will try to play good cricket. Overall we have made very good preparations - we played four [practice] matches and the team has gelled and we hope we will give you good results."

Pakistan have held on to the top spot since January 2018, but they haven't won a T20I for nearly a year, with their last win coming in February 2019 against South Africa. They lost eight of their nine completed games in the format last year.

They still hold the No. 1 ranking because of their remarkable record in the time before this recent string of poor results: between January and November 2018, they won 17 out of their 18 T20Is. Veterans Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik were both part of Pakistan's team when they went on that winning run, and they are both back in the side now, on the insistence of Babar and Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan's coach-cum-selector, even if there was no consensus among the six regional selectors on the issue.

"If you look back to when we became number one, they were part of the squad throughout, so I am happy my opinion was considered," Babar said. "As a captain it will be a great help with seniors around me and I get to learn a lot."

Babar hinted that the prospects of Hafeez and Malik beyond the Bangladesh series would depend solely on their performance. "We will give them a proper chance," he said. "We expect them to perform. We will give them all three games and there will be the PSL after that, so with time the picture will be clear and then we will see. We made changes in the team because we had to, since players who were not in form had to be replaced."

All three matches of the T20I series will be day games. The previous nine T20Is at the Gaddafi Stadium were all night games, with Pakistan winning five and losing four. The highest total at the venue is 197, while the lowest is 101.

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

