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TANZANIA

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## More airlines grounding Boeing 737 Max 8 planes

BEIJING

AVIATION authorities in China, Indonesia and Ethiopia ordered airlines to ground their Boeing 737 Max 8 planes after one crashed in Ethiopia, killing all 157 people on board.

The crash of the Ethiopian Airlines jet shortly after it took off from Addis Ababa on Sunday is drawing renewed scrutiny of the plane just four months after a similar crash of the same model that killed 189 people in Indonesia.

Chicago-based Boeing aircraft company said it did not intend to issue any new guidance to its customers. It intends to send a technical team to the crash site to help Ethiopian and US investigators.

The 737 is the best-selling airliner in history, and the Max, the newest version of it with more fuel-efficient engines, is a central part of Boeing's strategy to compete with European rival Airbus.



**Safety is our number one priority and we are taking every measure to fully understand all aspects of this accident, working closely with the investigating team and all regulatory authorities involved**

"Safety is our number one priority and we are taking every measure to fully understand all aspects of this accident, working closely with the investigating team and all regulatory authorities involved," the company said in a statement.

A spokesman for Ethiopian Airlines, Asrat Begashaw, said the carrier had grounded its remaining four 737 Max 8 planes until further notice as an "extra safety precaution."

The airline had been using five new 737 Max 8s and awaiting delivery of 25 more. Asrat said the search for body parts and debris from the crash was continuing.

China's Civil Aviation Administration said that it ordered airlines to ground all 737 Max 8 aircraft, in line with the principle of "zero tolerance for security risks."

It said it would issue further notices after

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# Govt destroys 11 tonnes of imported toxic tilapia



Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina (L) has a word at the Pugu dump in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday with Nchama Marwa (next to him), an assistant director for Fisheries Resources Protection, shortly before destroying an 11-tonne consignment of fish seized after being imported illegally from China. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

If the fish entered the market and consumed, it would have been impossible to link the possible health consequences to the food since the effects take time to emerge, the minister noted

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE government yesterday destroyed 11 tonnes of toxic tilapia fish worth 66m/- that were smuggled into the country from China.

Speaking at Pugu in Dar es Salaam, where the consignment was set ablaze, Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina said the fish were stacked in a 40-foot container and were sneaked into the country through illegal means.

He said the importers of the container used unofficial routes to ship the fish into the country but abandoned after being pursued by authorities for and the same was to be auctioned.

But before auctioning the normally delicious and nutritious fish, relevant authorities conducted toxicology tests which revealed above normal amounts of poisons.

## Global Compact (T) readies SDGs roadshows

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Chapter of the United Nations Global Compact has launched a nationwide review of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

The Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT) has also launched countrywide road shows to sensitize the population on this evaluation exercise.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch which brought together stakeholders from the private sector and civil society organisations (CSOs), GCNT Board Chairman Simon Shayo said that the road shows will involve peer-to-peer dialogue platforms with stakeholders to



**In the next few weeks we will be conducting SDGs consultation meetings with private sector stakeholders in Mwanza and Arusha before moving to other regions**

review how SDGs are implemented towards its culmination in 2030.

GCNT is the local network chapter of the UN Global Compact, which supports Tanzanian signatories (both businesses

and non-businesses) in implementing the 10 Principles, while facilitating and creating opportunities for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Tanzania is in July this year set to submit its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the country's progress in implementing the SDGs to the UN High-level political forum in New York.

"In the next few weeks we will be conducting SDGs consultation meetings with private sector stakeholders in Mwanza and Arusha before moving to other regions," he said

"It is clear that with a puzzle (environmental, social and governance challenges) this large,

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## Govt unveils 1.4trn/- livestock master plan

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

The government has launched a new five-year Tanzania Livestock Master Plan (TLMP) that is expected to cost a total of 1.4trn/-.

The TLMP is geared to address all challenges facing the sector and hence achieve the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025. One among key TDV goals is that by year 2015 there should be a

livestock sector, which to a large extent shall be commercially run,

modern and sustainable using improved and highly productive livestock to ensure food security, improved income for households and the nation while conserving the environment.

Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina launched the plan yesterday when launching the new five year programme for the sector in Dar es Salaam.

About 64 percent of the 1.4 trillion/- will come from the private sector while the



government contribution is about 36 percent, he said, noting

that the plan is an integral part of Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP II).

Minister Mpina said that TLMP sets out livestock sector investment interventions on improved genetics, feed and water resources, health services, along with large investments in manufacturing industry and processing plants.

Other interventions promote private sector investments and

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**We cannot realise our aspiration to become an industrial economy if parents take charge of safety and security of children -including taking and picking them from school-instead of working**

"The tests found 690 PPB (parts per billion) of mercury which is above the authorised measurement of 500 PPB," Mpina said.

He added that another toxin found in the fish that almost entered the market was 2.4 DDT whose concentration in the stock was measured at 19.4, far above the allowed below 10.

Above normal mercury is known to produce harmful effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, lungs and kidneys, and may be fatal. On the other hand, oral exposure to high levels of DDT in humans results in central nervous system effects such as headaches, nausea and convulsions.

If the fish entered the market and consumed, it would have been impossible to link the possible health consequences to the food since the effects take time to emerge, the minister noted.

The fish smuggling took place in contravention of the Fisheries Act of 2003 which governs protection, conservation, regulation and control of fish, fish products, aquatic flora and its products.

The Principal Fisheries Officer for protection of fish resources, Nchama Marwa said illegal fishing has led to the dwindling

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## More airline firms grounding Boeing 737 Max 8 planes

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consulting with the US Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing.

Chinese carriers and leasing companies operate 96 Boeing 737 8 MAXs, according to the government, with dozens more believed to be on order. China Southern Airlines is one of Boeing's biggest customers for the aircraft.

Indonesia also grounded 11 737 Max 8s for inspections to ensure flight safety and that the planes are airworthy, said director general of air transportation Polana B. Pramesti.

Wayman Airways also said it was temporarily grounding two Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft.

Real time flight radar apps showed dozens of the aircraft still operating around the world.

The head of Indonesia's national transport safety agency, Soerjanto Thahjono, offered to aid the Ethiopian investigation into Sunday's crash.

The US National Transportation Safety Board likewise said it was sending a team to help Ethiopian authorities. Boeing and the US investigative agency are also involved in the probe into the Lion Air crash in Indonesia in October.

Like the Ethiopian Airlines crash, which happened minutes after the jet's takeoff from Addis Ababa, the Lion Air jet that crashed off Indonesia had erratic speed during the few minutes it was in the air.

Safety experts cautioned, however, against drawing too many parallels between the two disasters.

"I do hope though that people will wait for the first results of the investigation instead of jumping to conclusions based on the very little facts that we know so far," said Harro Ranter, founder of the Aviation Safety Network, which compiles information about accidents worldwide.

The situation will be better understood after investigators analyse the Ethiopian plane's black boxes, said William Waldock, an aviation-safety professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

An airline official said that the black box and cockpit voice recorder had been found, but the box was partially damaged.

Waldock said the way the planes both crashed - a fatal nosedive - was likely to raise suspicion. Boeing will likely look more closely at the flight-management system and automation on the Max, he said.

"Investigators are not big believers in coincidence," he said. Boeing has delivered about 350 737 Max planes to scores of airlines and has orders for more than 5,000. Shares in the company fell more than 9 per cent Monday in pre-market trading.

Alan Diehl, a former National Transportation Safety Board investigator, said reports of large variations in vertical speed during the Ethiopian jetliner's ascent were "clearly suggesting a potential controllability problem."

Other possible causes include engine problems, pilot error, weight load, sabotage or bird strikes, he said.

Ethiopia has a good reputation and the company's CEO told reporters no problems were spotted before Sunday's flight. But investigators also will look into the plane's maintenance, which may have been an issue in the Lion Air crash.

Days after the Indonesian accident, Boeing notified airlines that faulty information from a sensor could cause the plane to automatically point the nose down. The automated system kicks in if sensors indicate that a plane is about to lose lift, or go into an aerodynamic stall. Gaining speed by diving can prevent a stall.

The notice reminded pilots of the procedure for handling such a situation, which is to disable the system causing the automatic nose-down movements.

Indonesian investigators are examining whether faulty readings from a sensor might have triggered the automatic nose-down command to the plane, which the Lion Air pilots fought unsuccessfully to overcome.

The Lion Air plane's flight data recorder showed problems with an airspeed indicator on at least four previous flights, although the airline initially said the problem was fixed.

Boeing Chairman and CEO Dennis Muilenburg said in December that the Max is a safe plane.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges is welcomed by Uganda's Foreign Affairs deputy minister Philemon Mateke upon her arrival at Entebbe International Airport yesterday to participate in two-day Africa Now Summit 2019, scheduled to open in Kampala today. Photo: VPO

## Govt unveils 1.4trn/- livestock master plan

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the business environment and hence complementary policy support which will help to meet the sector wide approach programme.

Also the plan sets to develop and improve red and white meat production, milk and other priority livestock products, he stated.

"I would like to urge the development partners and private sector to join hands with the ministry to ensure that this plan is effectively and efficiently implemented for the betterment of the livestock sector and the country as a whole," he said, pointing out that this programme also touches on wider issues like climate change which have a worldwide impact.

William Lukuvi, the minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement emphasized on the need to have land use plans saying that pastoralists and the government should work together to address this challenge.

"Don't expect the government to do each and everything for you. It is impossible. For example, to conduct land use plan for one village demands not less than 30m/-, one village in a place like Mvomero in Morogoro region has 10,000 cattle. If you set aside land for 100 cattle you can facilitate land use plan and live peacefully," he said.

The Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) commended the government initiative saying it has come at the right time to open different opportunities such as

employment.

ANSAF Executive Director Audax Lukonge said that this is an important opportunity for the government to continue creating a conducive environment for important stakeholders, including the private sector.

He advised the government to review the livestock policy saying the current policy is outdated and need to be reviewed.

"The policy should be reviewed. It should focus on livestock, their owners and the value chain, increase efficiency, link production and industries, link the private sector and industries and open up employment opportunities," he told the gathering.

Mpina said that Tanzania accounts

for about 1.4 percent of the global cattle population and 11 percent of the African cattle population.

Tanzania has about 30.5 million cattle, 18.8 million goats, and 5.3 million sheep. Other livestock include 1.9 million pigs, 38.2 million local chickens and 36.6 million improved chickens. The livestock sector employs about 50 percent of the population which is equivalent to 4.6 million households whose incomes depend on livestock.

The Tanzania Livestock Master Plan was prepared by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

## UN conference opens in Nairobi day after Ethiopian Airlines crash

NAIROBI

AN assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has opened in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, under a dark cloud cast by the Sunday's plane crash that killed 157 people, including 22 UN staff, many heading for the annual event.

Yesterday, delegates arrived at the event with the UN flag flying at half-mast, and the flags of the

UN members that usually adorn the UNEP headquarters having been taken down.

As they wondered aloud who among their colleagues may have been on board the ill-fated Nairobi-bound flight, the delegates hugged and comforted one another, and observed a minute's silence at the meeting's start.

According to Maimunah Sharif, the head of UN-Habitat, at least 22 UN employees were among

the 157 killed when the Ethiopian Airlines' Boeing jet crashed early on Sunday, just six minutes after the takeoff from Addis Ababa, the capital of neighbouring Ethiopia.

"I stand before you on the first day of the UN Environment Assembly, which has officially commenced today in the wake of this tragedy," Sharif told delegates.

"We will not forget this tragedy, nor those who perished. Let us reflect that our colleagues were

willing to travel and to work far from their homes and loved ones to make the world a better place to live."

Nairobi hosts the global headquarters of the UNEP and is the regional seat for many UN agencies. The annual UNEP assembly gathers heads of state, ministers, business leaders and civil society representatives to work on ways to slash pollution and build a greener global economy.

In a statement before the conference, the UN said it was "deeply saddened" by the news of the Ethiopian Airlines' plane crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those affected. We are following developments closely," it said.

A member of the UNEP secretariat told the AFP news agency yesterday that they were "still trying to consolidate" the number of staffers killed.



CCM Youth Wing national chairman Heri James addresses journalists in Dodoma yesterday, flanked by vice chairperson Tabia Mwita (L) and secretary general Raymond Mwangala. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Govt destroys 11 tonnes of imported toxic Chinese fish

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of fish resources, forcing investors in fish processing to import fish from abroad.

In 2017, the government reported a sharp decline of fish stocks in the country's Indian Ocean economic zone, blamed on the use of dynamite fishing and overfishing.

Ministerial reports have in recent months highlighted that pirates were fishing illegally in Tanzanian deep waters using dynamite.

Fish catches declined to 360,000 tonnes in 2016 from an average 390,000 tonnes in previous years, while the country's total demand is 730,000 tonnes of fish per year.

Local companies had resorted to importing fish from China, with data showing that 2,000 tonnes of mackerel fish enter Tanzania every month from that source, the report indicated.

# Young female porter Fatma gets free education sponsorship

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE youngest female porter, Fatma Halfan has been granted full education sponsorship by The Netherlands national Frank Vitaal (80) after escorting him while climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to celebrate his birthday.

Vitaal who was accompanied by 20 tourists from The Netherlands, promised to support the youngest porter to pursue a life career of her choice to improve her welfare.

A 35 year-old Fatma is among other many porters who works to assist tourists visiting the

Kilimanjaro National Park and other 15 parks under the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA).

The tourists were interested with the way Fatma works, being the only female in a group of 78 porters. "I will sponsor her education at any of the local collages. I am impressed

with her, she is courageous to fight for her welfare and meet her children requirements", said Vitaal acknowledging her employer-Chagga Tours for giving her opportunity to work with the company.

He said what Fatma was doing is being done by men, but she

only needs to be educated to get another decent job as a woman. A mother of three expressed gratitude to the Netherlands tourists insisting to go for language studies. She said learning a number of languages will help her improve communication skills which is vital for her job.

Earlier, Chief Guide from Chagga Tours Company, Michael Nelson said his company coordinated the tourists' trip to Tanzania. He said some of them reached Mt Kilimanjaro' Uhuru Peak which is one of Africa's magnificent sights.

Nelson noted that only seven

out of the 20 The Netherlands tourists managed to reach the Uhuru Peak.

There are several routes used to reach Kibo, or Uhuru Peak, the highest summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, namely, Marangu, Rongai, Lemosho, Shira, Umbwe and Machame.



A Dar es Salaam resident finds no option at the weekend but to demonstrate his long jump prowess in crossing a newly built bridge on the road linking Dar es Salaam's Tandale and Mwananyamala kwa Manjunju suburbs which has already been damaged by rain and calls for urgent rehabilitation. Photo: Halima Kambi

## AICC, Kikwete institute to roll out free diagnosis with cardiac diseases seen becoming daunting challenge

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

MORE than 600 residents of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions will this week benefit from free diagnosis of heart related diseases as cardiology experts set to conduct such tests in Arusha for seven days consecutively.

The Arusha International Conference Center through its AICC hospital and the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute are behind the mission, aimed at helping local residents from the three northern zone regions know their health status, but especially in regard to heart related maladies, that are becoming common nowadays.

The board chairman of Arusha International Conference Centre, ambassador Ladislaus Komba said that the decision to offer free cardiac diagnostic tests came from the fact that, many Tanzanians found out that the health tests were expensive and therefore avoided such diagnoses.

Dr Komba was speaking during the official opening of the health testing in Arusha yesterday. The exercise is being conducted in make-shift tents erected at the AICC hospital grounds along Nyerere Road in Kijenge area, across the road from Kibo Palace Hotel.

"Without taking initial steps to determine health status, these cardio related diseases become malignant and prove to be difficult

to treat later on," said the AICC board chairman, adding that his organisation, as government institution has decided to take this corporate social responsibility to assist Tanzanians in this front.

He explained that those found to be needing medical attention will be referred to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute for further treatment. Heart surgeries may sometimes cost up to 6 million/-, which is big burden to many families.

A cardiologist from the JKCI, Dr Samuel Jacob Rweyemamu said already the exercise proved to be helpful when it was launched in the southern regions where it reached out to more than 800 people in Ruvuma.

Dr Rweyemamu pointed out that from the initial tests, they discovered that, majority of Tanzanians who turn up for the diagnosis usually suffer from hypertension; "At least 80 per cent of them were found to have high blood pressure," said the cardiologist.

The Acting Managing Director of the Arusha International Conference Centre, Mkunde Senyangwa Mushi said in response to increasing demand of health services among Arusha residents, her organisation has started the construction of a large, modern out-patient department wing at the AICC hospital.

# Tanzania records milestone in safe use of nuclear energy

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

DEPUTY Minister of Education, Science and Technology, William ole Nasha has said that Tanzania has recorded a milestone in safe use of nuclear energy in various projects such as education, water and agriculture.

According to him, since Tanzania joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) many years ago, it has been benefiting from a number of funds to support nuclear-related projects.

Speaking during the opening of the five-day conference of the nuclear project officers from 46 IAEA African member countries Ole Nasha said

that Tanzania has got 9bn/- from the agency to be used to implement various projects including purchasing equipment from the Ocean Road Cancer Institute.

According to him, the purpose of the event is to discuss and agree on measures and actions to further enhance the contribution of the peaceful use of nuclear science and

technology for socio-economic development of African Member States.

"Medical radiations for cancer treatment in our hospitals are fruits from IAEA where Tanzania is also a member, we have also benefited by getting a state of art atomic power laboratory in Njiro...our local experts also benefits from training on how to deal with

radiations and their impacts," he said.

For his part, The Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) director general Prof Lazaro Busagala said that through the conference will also provide a platform to review and approve decisions in the implementation of various projects in the sectors of health, agriculture and other

areas. "We have been working and closely monitoring the use of nuclear technology in various areas, recently we banned use of the energy in 102 hospitals in the country after being found violating safety rules," he said.

Shaukat Abdulrazak, IAEA technical director (Africa division) said Tanzania will benefit more from the confer-

ence as a number of agenda will be shared and discussed on the safe use of atomic energy.

Over ten years ago Tanzania enacted the law permitting the use of uranium to produce energy making it the first country in East and Central Africa to use nuclear technology to generate electricity.

## AfDB and Japan varsity sign MoU for education development boosting

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and Sophia University of Japan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote capacity development within the two institutions for their mutual benefit and the entire African Continent.

A statement released yesterday by AfDB said the agreement was signed on Friday at the Bank's headquarters in Abidjan.

"It is our sincere wish that this day will be an opening of bright future possibilities for all of us. We strongly hope our coming together today is not for a mere signing of an agreement, but a step towards shaping the future world," said Prof Yoshiaki Terumichi President of the university, who signed for his institution.

Sophia University, a leading private Jesuit university with a student population of 14,000(2018), is one of many in the country that host the Japan-Africa Scholarship, which provides two-year scholarships to high achieving African graduate students to enable them undertake post-graduate studies in priority development areas on the continent and abroad.

The bank group's office in Japan

and the Human Capital Development Department will continue working closely with Sophia University, to support the Bank's engagement with Japanese academic institutions and to broaden the university's knowledge base about Africa, Terumichi said.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, AfDB Senior Vice-President, Charles Boamah, recognised the importance of the new partnership with the university and lauded Terumichi's gesture in traveling to Abidjan to sign the agreement in person.

"The MoU also supports Sophia University's capacity to educate Japanese young people to be ready to work for the Bank. This will be a win-win strategy to improve both organizations' activities," he said. "By doing this, we at the African Development Bank would like to give positive impact to the Light up and Power Africa initiative, one of our important strategies to create sustainable development in the continent," Boamah added.

Cooperation between the two organisations dates back to 2015, when the bank's Asia External Representation Office and Sophia University signed an education partnership agreement.

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# Shell Tanzania offers shot in the arm for young scientists

By Guardian Reporter

SHELL Tanzania and Young Scientist Tanzania (YST) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the weekend that will see the former footing a \$100,000 (about 235m/-) financing aid in support of the latter's activities.

With a mission of encourag-

ing secondary school students to develop the love for science subjects, YST undertakes two programmes that seek to deliver integrated and complimentary events in the Tanzanian secondary school academic year.

They include: a comprehensive Science Outreach Programme - covering all regions in Tanzania - and an Annual YST Exhibition

and competition in which secondary students showcase their research.

According to the Shell Tanzania managing director, Marc den Hartog, the firm's support goes towards aiding students' mastery of academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

This, he said, was because the

company operates in an area that requires a lot of technical expertise to undertake its projects.

The company, he said, also believes that industrialisation and economic development of a country is anchored in science and technology.

"Supporting YST is the best thing that I have seen. It has really made a difference. In the long

term, it is increasing the number of people who are really educated," he said.

Speaking during the signing of the agreement in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, the director and co-founder for YST, Dr Gozibert Kamugisha said during the years, the organisation's activities have had a profound impact in boosting scientific innovations in Tan-

zania.

"This is why we as YST do commend Shell Tanzania for the help and hope that they proceed because the investment they make in young scientists is for the general good of Tanzania," he said.

Shell's support to young scientists in Tanzania goes back to 2012 when the company was operating as BG Tanzania.

According to Dr Kamugisha, YST seeks to ensure that secondary school students are able to use the knowledge that they gained in class to undertake researches that are meant to find solutions to their communities' pressing challenges in areas of agriculture, health, environment and energy among others.

# TanESCO out to supply power in southern, northern zones

By Guardian Correspondent, Makambako

TANZANIA Electric Supply Company (TanESCO) board chairman Alexander Kyaruzi said efforts are made to improve power availability and supply in the country's southern and northern zones.

Dr Kyaruzi said the government also aims to purchase and sell power to neighbouring countries. He said the improvements supports realisation of the government's industrialisation strategy.

"There are various benefits to be connected with our neighbours because when we can sell electricity to them after we have generated enough for ourselves, but we can also purchase from them in case of deficit", he noted.

Dr Kyaruzi was speaking to journalists over the weekend shortly after visiting TanESCO's power generators at its sub-stations located at Tangamenda in Iringa and Makambako in Njombe region.

He said the visit was meant to inspect electricity projects implemented by TanESCO in southern highland regions. He said completion of the projects will enable the state power firm to connect its grid to neighbouring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

"We will be selling electricity to the above named countries because they have a power system which can receive electricity from

external sources", he said.

The board chairman said that Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Lesotho and Swaziland had a similar power system and they can sell and purchase from each other.

He said before Iringa and Njombe regions, they had visited several electricity projects in Arusha, Singida, Babati and Dodoma.

He said that TanESCO is now implementing a mega project that connects Iringa, Mbeya, Tunduma and Zambia.

TanESCO senior project engineer, Emmanuel Manilabona said the Iringa and Njombe projects will boost power availability. He said the firm is also implementing another project at Nyololo area at the cost of US \$ 585 million.

He said the project includes construction of a KV 400 line measuring 624 kilometers that passes through Iringa-Nyololo-Sumbawanga-Tunduma.

Manilabona said that funds for the project have been sourced from the World Bank US \$ 455 million, French Development Agency (AFD) provided US \$ 100 million, European Union (EU) contributed US \$ 30 million and the government US \$ 10 million.

According to Dr Kyaruzi, Tanzania produces 1,600MW while the country demand is 1,100MW.



Small-time traders prepare cowpeas for retail sale at Kariakoo market in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# English reading sessions improve literacy levels in Zambian communities

LUSAKA

"I used to be very shy and had difficulties in reading and understanding things. I am now assertive because I can read and write," said Bisha Mwale, a sixth grader at Mutambe Primary School in the Zambian capital city of Lusaka.

She owed her improvement to a literacy enrichment program called LitClubs, which is provided by GoYe Therefore (GYT) Zambia in partner-

ship with non-profit literacy organization LitWorld.

LitClubs are weekly sessions held after class for joyful learning, creative play and social interaction. The project started in Zambia in January 2017 and has been serving hundreds of children and adults in Lusaka and Zambia's southern city of Livingstone.

Whenever the club members meet, they read aloud stories from children's storybooks, recite poems or act out sketches.

Some parents pointed out that their children's reading and writing skills had made big headway.

"Community reading sessions has helped my daughter to be more assertive and interested in school and her academic performance has improved tremendously," Emelda Banda, a mother of one club member in Lusaka, told Xinhua Saturday.

"She is even able to understand news items and explain them to me," the mother said.

Banda also mentioned that the reading sessions had helped reduce illiteracy levels in communities where they are carried out.

Some adults have even been encouraged to go back to school because they have realized the importance of being able to read and write, she added.

But what makes community reading sessions successful? Sanyambe Mutambezi Mweemba, a coordinator of GYT Zambia, has an idea.

**FARM AFRICA**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as Non- Governmental Organization (NGO) under NGO Act with certificate of registration no. I-NGO/0008750. Its long - term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

The vision of Farm Africa is a prosperous rural Africa while the mission is to reduce poverty permanently by unleashing African farmers' abilities to grow their incomes and manage their natural resources sustainably. Farm Africa works with a range of different types of farmers - smallholders, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, forest dwellers and fish farmers - in a range of different agro-environmental regions, particularly arid and semi-arid regions. During 2016 Farm Africa was operating under its global Strategy for the period 2016-2020.

On 04th March 2019, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with World Food Program (WFP) to implement a Seven (7) months project which will focus on sorghum value chain in Dodoma. The project will increase the access to agricultural markets by 2030, improving food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes the total funding from WFP over seven (7) months is TZS 455,948,142.

**The project will aim to achieve the following results:**

1. Targeted smallholder farmers benefit from WFP value chain support in order to have improved access to profitable markets and increase their incomes.
2. Targeted smallholder farmers benefit from improved availability of climate-smart agricultural services and products in order to increase productivity and incomes and mitigate the negative effects of climate-change.
3. Targeted smallholder farmers benefit from increased access to household and community storage infrastructure in order to reduce post-harvest losses and improve quality of crops harvested.

**The project will be implemented in Dodoma region (Kongwa, Kondoa, Bahi, Chamwino and Mpwapwa districts). In case of further information please email: infotanzania@farmfrica.org**

Form 281d

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY

**Advertisement of Winding-up Petition**

Pursuant to section 281 of the Companies Act 2002

IN THE MATTER OF: **FASTJET AIRLINES LIMITED**

A Petition to wind up the above named Company, of:

Address: **P.O. BOX No. 38639, DAR ES SAALAM**

presented on: **19<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2018**

by: (name and address of petitioner) **SWISSPORT TANZANIA PLC, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR SWISSPORT FREIGHT TERMINAL JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, P.O.BOX 18043 DSM**

claiming to be a [creditor] [contributory] of the Company,

will be heard at: **HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) AT DAR ES SALAAM**

on (date): **25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

at (time): **12:00PM**

(or as soon thereafter as the petition can be heard)

Any person intending to appear on the hearing of the Petition (whether to support it or to oppose it) must give notice of his intention to do so to the petitioner or his / its Advocate in accordance with Rule 104 of the Companies (Insolvency Rules) 2004 by 16:00 hours on the business day before the date of the hearing given above.

The Petitioner's Advocate is: **PETER AMOS MWELELO OF KW KAPINGA & PARTNERS, PLOT 1, JITEGEMEE ROAD, MSASANI, P.O. BOX 75886, DAR ES SALAAM.**

Dated.....

**Lions Club resolves to provide sanitary pads to schools in Dar**

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Lions Club of Dar es Salaam has launched an initiative to provide sanitary pads to secondary and primary schools in Dar es Salaam on a three month basis in a move aimed at eradicating stigma and empowering girls to be confident when in school.

Speaking when handing over boxes of sanitary pads to Msimbasi secondary school and Buguruni primary school in the city, Zainab Parpia the Charter President for Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Uhuru said the move is aimed at controlling absenteeism due to monthly menstrual periods.

"We want to ensure that if a girl child misses classes the reason should be genuine reasons like sickness and others but not because of monthly periods," she said.

She said that the pads will be given to women teachers who will be giving them to the girls in a very private way when in need.

She said the also offers support to people with cancer, diabetes and children in unfriendly conditions.

Dr Fatema Meghji a member of the lions club said monthly period was a normal thing in a life of a woman but can have some impact on health if there is no care during early years between 10 to 19 years as stated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

She added that poor care during the early years of monthly period could lead to infertility because of infections.

The headteacher for Msimbasi secondary Adeladus Mumwe said monthly periods have been a main cause of absenteeism saying the support came at the right time.

Available data shows that girls miss three to five school days to challenges associated with menstrual periods. One girl also drops out of school due to teen-pregnancy.

Tanzania most girls in rural primary schools who have reached puberty do not use appropriate sanitary wear during their monthly menstrual periods. They use local pads, i.e. rags, raw cotton and maize cobs. Due to lack of water in most rural schools, washing of re-usable pads poses a serious challenge.

There are rural school girls who have not even seen a sanitary pad. Girl pupils either use inappropriate materials to manage menstrual flow or opt to stay at home and not attend school during the 3-4 days of their menstruation.

If they attend school without proper sanitary wear, many girls soil their uniforms and may suffer psychologically due to shame and embarrassment.

It is believed that poor menstrual hygiene management (MHM) can contribute to poor performance and completion rates among girl pupils and exposes them to health risks.

**“We want to ensure that if a girl child misses classes the reason should be genuine reasons like sickness and others but not because of monthly periods”**

# Meteorological agency to enhance the quality of its weather forecast

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) has said it is on a foot to increase the number of weather forecasts radars to enhance efficiency and boost accurate weather reports in three regions across the country.

TMA director general, Dr Agnes Kijazi announced over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking to weather stakeholders in the marine transport sector.

She said that the weather forecasts radars will be installed in Mtwara, Mbeya and Kigoma regions.

The official said until now the agency had installed two weather forecasts radars in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza regions.

She said: "This will help strengthen and provide quality services that will help with weather forecasts and various sectors, including the blue sectors of the economy such as oceans and great lakes like Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyasa."

Dr Kijazi added that TMA was providing its services to users of the Indian Ocean including research on weather forecasts for fishermen, marine transporters and giving precautions on strong winds and rough sea waves to minimise

effects that might occur.

Kijazi said natural disasters were unavoidable, but, she added, information was important to reach the targeted group before a disaster occurred.

"Such information helped the relevant users, disaster management institutions and the government to get prepared for the effects that could occur," she said.

Last week the East African Community (EAC) issued an alert to partner states about an increased risk for disease outbreaks due to above normal rainfalls.

In a statement it said that there will be an

above normal rainfall is expected in the East African region over the next few months, a scenario that could expose the region to increased risks of disease outbreaks.

This forecast is based on the regional climate outlook for the March to May 2019 long rainfall season provided by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum held in Entebbe, Uganda.

James Kivuva, the Senior Meteorologist, who represented the East African Community Secretariat at Forum warned that the higher than normal rainfall would increase the risk for outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Kivuva urged EAC Partner States to be on the alert, inform the public, and put preparedness and mitigation measures in place while closely monitoring the rainfalls.

Between October and December 2018 parts of the region experienced a late start and early end of rains. However, above to near normal rainfalls were experienced in parts of Tanzania and in the Western parts of the region. Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda even reported flooding with landslides that impacted on some communities in the Eastern region where some lives were lost.



Jabir Kigoda (3rd-R), UAP Old Mutual Insurance Tanzania's head of business development and marketing, symbolically hands over 400 school bags to Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training ministry deputy permanent secretary Dr Ave Maria Semakafu (4th-L) in Muheza town at the weekend. The items were a donation by the firm at a fundraiser in support of children with special needs. Behind the DPS is Muheza district commissioner Mwanasha Tumbo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NBI, AFD sign 400,000 Euros grant agreement

By Guardian Reporter

THE Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and French of Development Agency (AFD) have signed a grant agreement of 400,000 Euros aimed at capacity development of NBI's activities.

According to a statement issued yesterday, NBI was represented by the Secretariat Executive Director, Eng. Innocent Ntabana and AFD was represented by Christian Yoka, Regional Director for Eastern Africa.

It further said that the grant is provided through a River Basin organisation in France, The Rhone Mediterranean Corsica Agency (AERMC), which has taken the initiative to support other like-minded river basin organisations technically and financially and share their knowledge

through this platform. AERMC is a public establishment with the Ministry for Environment in France dedicated to water protection.

Speaking during the signing at the Secretariat in Entebbe, Yoka emphasised the need for cooperation and technical know-how in water resource management.

"The Nile waters are a powerful lever for the socio-economic development of more than 300 million people today and the risk of climate change and population growth continues to present challenges to the sustainable use and management of these waters. In order to respond to rising challenges and demands, there is a need for greater cooperation and enhanced capacities in the field of water resource management," he said.

The 400,000 Euros grant is in addition to an initial one million Euro grant in May 2015, which provided technical assistance for capacity building for both the Secretariat and its technical arm, the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP).

Through this grant, NELSAP has been able to develop its Strategic Plan for 2017-2022 focusing on organisation development, investment finance mobilisation and financial autonomy, water resource management and dam safety regulation.

Yoka added: "This additional financing bears witness that France is committed to support a sustainable management of water resources of the Nile Basin Initiative and its Member States, especially within the Nile Equatorial Lakes

## Mechanism marks International Women's Day in Arusha, Hague

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism) marked this year's International Women's Day, with events at both its Arusha and The Hague offices.

The Mechanism joined in the global theme of "Balance for Better", celebrating the achievements of women and efforts to promote women's rights with events aimed at raising awareness of the importance of gender equality, gender balance, and gender justice, as well as fighting impunity for conflict-related sexual violence against women.

In celebrating this year's global theme, the Mechanism's Arusha branch welcomed over 60 students from Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus Secondary School, Saint Joseph Nagarenar Girls' Secondary School, Peace House Secondary School, and the Faculty of Law of the Tumaini University in Arusha, as well as representatives of three local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Following opening remarks made by Mechanism Legal Officer, Tully Mwaipopo on behalf of the Chief of Registry (Arusha branch), Sera Attika, presentations were made by Thembele Segoe, Mechanism Focal Point for Gender and Acting Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Prosecutor (Arusha branch); Ndinini Sikar, representative of the Masaai Women Development Organization; Eliakunda Kaaya, representative of Africaid Kisa Project; Reuben A.

Brown, representative of Arusha Women Legal Aid and Human Rights Organization; Gloria Otieno on behalf of the Mechanism Staff Union; and Mechanism Judge Vagn Joensen.

The speakers focused on the his-

tory of the International Women's day and its purpose, their own personal experiences with regard to their struggles for equality, and the role of the Mechanism, as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, in fighting for the rights of women through their jurisprudence on sexual and gender based crimes.

As part of the day's events, representatives of the NGOs also displayed crafts produced by the women they support and participants were given the opportunity to tour the Mechanism's Arusha premises and share their opinions by way of recorded interviews on the significance of a day to celebrate women.

At the event in The Hague, entitled: Efforts to End Impunity: National and International Prosecution of Sexual and Gender Based Crimes, the Mechanism welcomed over 80 representatives of the diplomatic community, other international courts and tribunals, the NGO sector, and international organizations based in The Hague.

The event was jointly organized by the Mechanism's Focal Points for Gender together with Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ), an NGO active in the field of conflict-related gender justice.

The event was opened by Melinda Reed, Executive Director of WIGJ, after which Leslie Thomas introduced The Prosecutors, a documentary that she directed and produced. Guests were shown an excerpt of the documentary, which tells the story of three dedicated lawyers fighting impunity through the prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence.

Two of these lawyers, Amani Kahatwa from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Jasmin Mesic from

Bosnia and Herzegovina, joined Ms Sarah Bafadhel, a criminal defence lawyer practicing before national and international courts, for a panel discussion on the challenges and successes of prosecuting sexual and gender based crimes.

The discussion was moderated by Ms Gabrielle McIntyre, Mechanism Focal Point for Gender (The Hague branch) and Chief Judicial Advisor.

Laurel Baig, Senior Appeals Counsel in the Office of the Prosecutor, closed the event by discussing the work that the Mechanism's Office of the Prosecutor has done through capacity building in other criminal justice sectors.

These International Women's Day events took place with the full support of the three Mechanism Principals, in line with their pledges undertaken as International Gender Champions for the Gender Champions Initiative, and were made possible thanks to generous contributions including from the Mechanism's Staff Union, the governments of Switzerland and Canada, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom.

### LOSS OF CERTIFICATE



SOPHIA MWIGA do hereby announce the loss of her O-Level Certificate with index number S.0316-112 which was issued on 1992 by Kibasila Secondary School. Whoever finds it, kindly report to the nearest Police Station.  
REF NO: CHA/B./201VOL/CLXX/300.



### ADVERTISEMENT

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

**TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY FOR ICT SECURITY ASSESSMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) UGANDA**

**TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20180651**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) – Uganda with the support of TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking Consultancy Services for ICT Security Assessment in The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Uganda.

Terms of reference for this assignment and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com). The closing date for submissions is **8 April 2019**.

Applications are open only to firms/consortiums. Interested firms/consortium MUST submit their proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com).

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



# Minister challenges leaders develop programmes for increasing tourists

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE government has challenged heads of national parks to develop mechanisms for increasing tourists in the country to help parks operate on its own rather than depending on government subsidies.

Deputy Minister for Tourism and Natural Resources Constantine Kanyasu said Tanzania is currently having 21 national parks after upgrading five others recently.

He explained that out of 21 national parks in

the country, only five of them are able to operate with their own resources and to pay for salaries of its staffs.

Kanyasu made the statement over the weekend during the 26th ministry staff meeting held in Mwanza Region.

He mentioned the national parks which include Serengeti, Mount Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Tarangire and Arusha.

According to Kanyasu the parks have been supporting the operation of other 16 national parks by providing operational costs including

salaries of staff members due to low turn up of collections.

The Minister urged heads of the said national parks to embark on measures that will help to end dependence from the central government by exploring better means of encouraging investors in the parks.

He also tasked them to think and to develop better mechanisms of publicising the national parks to tourists who visited the sites and use them as ambassadors for encouraging and attracting investors of country's resources.

"Despite the fact that you have a lot of responsibilities for conserving the resources, we want to see the initiatives carried out going commercially and contribute to the national economy, contrary to that the initiative will mean nothing," he said.

The minister ordered every park to employ marketing officers instead of depending on the officers from headquarters.

He said the officers will have special assignment of developing innovative mechanisms for increasing tourist visits in their parks.

For his part, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry Prof Adolf Mkenda told heads of the national parks to continue creating conducive environment for the staff in order to stimulate and motivate the spirit of hard work that will enhance innovations.

He said their creativity will help to boost the flow of tourists in the country who will help to raise incomes and enable parks to operate on their own instead of depending on government funding.

## Kigwangalla urges best practices for beekeepers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla has called on the board of Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) to come up with new strategies aimed at scaling up beekeeping ventures along the national parks and game reserves.

The idea would help to reduce human-wildlife conflicts as wild animals will not go outside their sanctuaries.

Dr Kigwangalla made the call yesterday in Mwanza at the launching of the new TFS board that among other matters the move would create employment hence bolster individual incomes.

"Bee keeping venturing will help the government to conserve forests without using too much force for those invading in the protected areas because they will be harvesting honey and sell it at international markets," he said.

The minister explained that if there would be massive harvesting of honey, investors from abroad will come to advise them about harvesting strategies to enable the communities to participate in the bee keeping ventures and

on so doing increase their incomes.

He highlighted the need for TFS to see the importance of bee keeping so that the societies living near protected areas can benefit from similar projects.

The ministry boss urged the board to ensure that it supervises the forest management and bee keeping using modern technologies to implement their duties in order to cope with fifth phase government efforts.

Furthermore, he urged the TFS to use laws and other procedures so that all forest managed by the villages should be retaken and become under the TFS.

In Tanzania beekeeping is still a promising industry for rewarding investments. It has the potential of providing exports of more than 5,000 tonnes of honey and all of its beeswax produced.

However, it is currently being handled by individual beekeepers who lack both adequate financing and appropriate beekeeping skills.

Also, there was no organised marketing systems for both local and foreign markets to encourage development and expansion of the industry.



Motorists caught up in a traffic jam at a Mbezi Mwisho section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road at the weekend, the problem chiefly attributed to the ongoing rehabilitation and expansion of the highway. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Appreciate and honour the value of women busy with unpaid labour - call

By Beatrice Philemon

A call has been made to the communities to change their mind-sets to recognise and value women who are doing unpaid works such as agricultural activities.

"We must help women who are doing unpaid works such as agricultural activities, they deserve to be valued and recognised for what they are doing", said ActionAid head of programme and policy, Jovina Nawenzake when speaking in Dar es Salaam recently during the International Women's Day.

She noted that there should be a strategy to help women benefit from what they do since they are the major producers of food.

"Women engage in agricultural activities and spent more time in farming but they don't benefit from what they are doing. The profits they get from their farming activities are considerably lower compared to what men earn", she said calling upon men to respect what their mothers and sisters do.

"In some cases women cultivate crops but they are sidelined during harvesting and selling points as men were controlling everything. They are also not involved in the budgeting process at family levels", she noted.

Nawenzake challenged the government through responsible ministries to ensure the rights of women employees are protected.

She said that women employed in the informal sector have the right to get maternity leave and enough time for breastfeeding, employment security, healthy and safety as well as employment contracts that meet the standard criteria.

"Breastfeeding is an unequalled way of providing ideal food and care for the healthy growth and physical and psychological development of infants and it is also an integral part of their productive process with important implications for the health of mothers", she noted.

She however challenged the government to improve social services in rural areas to give relief to women and girls.

"Water, infrastructure, health and education should be given first priority to help women in rural areas," she noted.

In May this year the Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) in collaboration with the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Oxfam, TUCTA and Action Aid Tanzania introduced a comprehensive campaign dubbed 'Ajira, Kazi za staha na Upatikanaji wa Huduma za kijamii kwa mwanamke' that focuses on gender based violence at work places.



**In some cases women cultivate crops but they are sidelined during harvesting and selling points as men were controlling everything.**



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

LABOUR, YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT AND THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AUTHORITY (OSHA)



### Awards for Occupational Safety and Health (AOSH) 2019

Theme of the year: *Safety and health and the future of work: towards industrial economy*

#### Introduction

In commemorating World day for Safety and Health at Work and as a part of National OSH promotion and awareness creation activities, Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) is inviting all owners of workplaces or employers to compete for the Awards for Occupational safety and Health (AOSH).

#### Aim

To encourage private and public workplaces throughout Tanzania to develop, implement and evaluate strategies that help achieve a healthier and safer work environment.

#### Entry Eligibility

Applications are open only for workplaces which are registered and operated in Tanzania Mainland, and having OSHA Registration Certificate. All workplaces in both public and private sectors and from all sizes, economic sectors and categories as shown in the Application Form are encouraged to participate. If your workplace has planned or implemented any innovative idea or program which contributed in the promotion of safety and health at your workplace you are encouraged to apply. All applications selected for the awards will be visited for verifications. Safety and health information to be verified are shown in the Application Form.

#### Rules for Participation

- Download the Application Form from the website [www.osha.go.tz](http://www.osha.go.tz), or collect it from the nearest OSHA office.
- Complete the Form Field in Permanent Ink or Electronically. Note that incomplete Forms may not be considered.
- Applicant should pay entry fee of **TZS 50,000/=** non-refundable. Payments will be done electronically through GePG. Please visit the nearest OSHA office or contact through email or phone to get your Control Number ([zakaria.sumunijohn@osha.go.tz](mailto:zakaria.sumunijohn@osha.go.tz), 0754789752, 0715914628).
- Print Application Form and have it signed by the authorized person, complete with Company Stamp. The completed Application Form must be submitted by **15th April 2019, 15:30 Hrs.** Do not attach any document during submission except for proof of payment.
- The Form may be submitted in any of the following ways:-
  - To the **Chief Executive, OSHA, P.O Box 519 Dar es Salaam**; or submit the hard copy to the nearest OSHA Offices located in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Dodoma, Arusha, Mbeya, Mtwara, Tanga, Njombe, Morogoro and Bukoba
  - Email to: [info@osha.go.tz](mailto:info@osha.go.tz) or [zakaria.sumunijohn@osha.go.tz](mailto:zakaria.sumunijohn@osha.go.tz)
- Competitors for AOSH must participate on the Exhibition to show their competency
- All participants and winners of Awards are invited to attend the award giving ceremony to be held on the **28th April 2019** in Mbeya Region, and they may be asked to be available for media interviews or other publicity.
- All written information will be verified by the Award Team. Participants are subject to OSH audits including site audit.



## Senior Accountant

A leading hospitality company, Ker & Downey Safaris (Tanzania) Ltd, who is part of the Friedkin Tanzanian Companies (FTC) and based in Arusha, are looking for a Senior Accountant to be part of Accounting Team providing financial services to all group companies.

The position is to be part of our diverse and changing organisation.

#### Position Profile

- Be a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) or Accountant (NBAA) or equivalent
- Commercial experience within a large complex organisation
- Bright, ambitious and tenacity to help a business move to the next level.
- Position demands energy, enthusiasm, and the willingness to go the extra mile.
- Good interpersonal and leadership skills.

#### Function and Responsibilities:

- Manage and be part of the overall accounting & control functions of an organization
- Ensure timeliness and accuracy of the management reports, and oversee the evaluation and analysis by Department Heads
- Manage operational data and maintain data accuracy and integrity
- Review financial data periodically to ensure fairness and completeness
- Maintain a documented system of accounting policies, internal control systems and standard operating procedures
- Lead and direct the work of subordinate staff

A market related salary will be reward for this challenging but rewarding position.

Send your CV to [Recruitment@tgts.com](mailto:Recruitment@tgts.com) before 17February 2019.

# Border districts call for Uganda-Rwanda talks

KIGALI

LOCAL leaders in districts neighbouring Rwanda have called for dialogue between President Museveni and his counterpart to avert any loss of lives and property.

"We don't want war. Uganda and Rwanda opting for [war] is the deadliest option that will destroy our economy. The only best option is dialogue," Mr Abel Bizimana, the Kisoro District chairperson, said at the week-

end.

Mr Bizimana also appealed to the inter-governmental organisations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad) and East African Community (EAC), among others, to intervene.

"The inter-governmental agencies should break the silence and engage our leaders in dialogue. They kept quiet in 1990/1994 Rwandan civil war

and they only intervened after hundreds of people were killed in a genocide. Remember when two elephants fight, the grass suffers," he said.

His remarks come after Rwandan authorities closed their borders with Uganda at Gatuna and Cyanika in Kabale and Kisoro districts, respectively denying all cargo trucks entry and restricted their nationals from crossing into Uganda.

Rwanda advised that all cargo trucks should access their coun-

try through Mirama hills border in Ntungamo District, a directive that has left many businessmen counting losses while others incurred extra costs.

Mr Patrick Besigye Keihwa, the Kabale District chairperson, said once the two leaders commit to dialogue, they will consolidate all the developments they have achieved.

He called for mutual understanding and co-existence to permanently resolve conflicts because Rwandans and Ugan-

dans need each other for both social and economic benefits.

Mr Erasmus Sanyu, the chairperson of Chahi Sub-county in Kisoro, said: "I witnessed the Rwandan civil war of the early 1990s and bad memories still linger in mind. I do not want to see such a thing happening when I am still living on earth."

"In my sub-county, people have relatives on either sides of the two countries because of intermarriages. The current standoff has led to the Rwandan

authorities to deny their nationals from crossing to Uganda to visit their relatives or attend social functions such as parties and burials. Our people have been crossing to Rwanda for business in their local daily and weekly markets and the same to the Rwandans," he added.

The Butanda Sub-county chairperson in Kabale, Mr John Kabengeye, said ever since the stand-off, the social and economic trend was interfered with and locals on either sides are

stuck.

Meanwhile, Ron Weiss, the Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Energy Group (REG), has called all stakeholders to double effort to put more women engineers on the labour market, more specifically in the energy sector.

According to Weiss, women are capable, just like their male counterparts, to not only compete for jobs in the energy sector but also strive for high positions in the sector.

## Musoma residents contribute 147m/- to support construction of district hospital

By Guardian Correspondent

RESIDENTS in Musoma Rural constituency, Mara Region have contributed 147m/- to support construction of a district hospital.

Musoma District Commissioner, Dr Vincent Anney said the hospital is being built at the Kwikonero division in Suguti village.

Speaking to the Guardian yesterday, the DC said the contractor started to implement the project in the past two weeks. He said the contractor is expected to complete construction of seven separate buildings in June this year. "We had earlier agreed with our ward councillors that residents from each of the wards should contribute 7m/- . Almost all the residents in our 21 wards supported the idea since it is geared at improving the health sector", said Anney.

He said the residents have started to contribute and they are expected to realise 147m/- to support the government efforts in improving health care services in Musoma District.

The DC asserted that the government had already disbursed 1.5bn/- for the project.

"We do not have a district hospital. It is now the responsibility of ward

councillors to encourage wananchi to contribute for their own development", said Anney.

Musoma Rural constituency Member of Parliament, Prof Sospeter Muhongo said the area has a total of 24 dispensaries and four privately owned hospitals. Prof Muhongo said the constituency has only two state owned health centres namely Murangi and Mugango and five ambulances which were donated by his office.

The MP noted that the government is currently constructing another health centre at Nyambono village as part of implementation of the ruling party's (CCM) election manifesto 2015/2020.

He called upon the residents to continue contributing for the purchase of medical equipment.

"We are going to erect the buildings, but we also need medical equipment for the hospital to function properly. We must join hands for successful implementation of this project", said the legislator.

He commended the government's efforts in improving the country's health care system through construction of health centres, hospitals as well as the purchase of modern medical equipment.



Watermelons, for quite some time now in abundance in Dar es Salaam, on sale at the intersection of the city's Uhuru Road and Nelson Mandela Highway yesterday. Photo: John Badi



National Blood Transfusion Services nursing officer Rosemary Bulemo (L) attends to Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania staff as they donated blood donation as part of celebrations to mark International Women's Day in Dar es Salaam late last week. Photo courtesy of DTB

## Minister appeal to call upon NFRA to increase its purchasing power

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

AGRICULTURE Minister Japhet Hasunga has underscored the need for the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to expand its purchasing capacity and look into modalities of buying more crops for commercial purpose so as to give farmers a reliable market of their produce.

Hasunga who is also the Vwawa MP, said this here when addressing rallies in Wasa and Ibebwa villages in his tour he conducted to oversee the implementation of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) manifesto in the constituency.

Hasunga wanted NFRA to transform its mindset which stick in buying crops only for national reserve but rather embark on purchasing them for commercial purposes as well.

"NFRA should work together with the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB) to ensure that more crops are purchased from local farmers," he said.

Minister Hasunga further direct-

ed Mbozi district executive director to ensure that all honey keeping groups in the area are registered to enable the members conduct the activities formally and be able to penetrate to the local and international market opportunities.

He contributed 1m/- to support various honey keeping groups in the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania (FPCT) where he attended a special holly mass.

He encouraged Tanzanians to embrace hardworking and engage themselves in income generating activities to improve their lives and contribute in the country's development.

The minister also assured the public that the fifth phase government is committed to address all challenges facing Tanzanians in all sectors ranging from education, water, health, business and agriculture among others.

During his tour also Hasunga contributed 1m/- to support renovation of a road at Nyanyi village.

## Pan African science body seeks to explore research areas

NAIROBI

A PAN African science body said Saturday it has embarked on exploring needy research areas that could attract funding.

Nelson Torto, executive director African Academy of Science, has revealed that the project will run for three years and will generate data

to be used by the countries in many years to come.

"We have noted that research crisis differs in all countries hence the need to conduct a study in all the countries and develop isolated needs," Torto said in Nairobi on a side event ahead of the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly to be held in Nairobi from March

11 to 15.

Torto said at the event on science shaping green policies and market responses that even though some countries like South Africa has invested heavily in research, some countries like Central African Republic is below expectation hence the need for country by country study.

Torto noted that the findings of the study will be launched to the African Union and regional economic blocs as a form of policy brief to help inform countries national development plans. He said that the findings will enable the continental body to incorporate them in its agenda 2063 development programs.

The official called for an adoption

of a cluster approach to conducting research so that scientists, local universities and local political leadership are involved.

He said that through this approach the projects will be sustainable even in the absence of the implementing science institution.

According to Nicholas Ozor, executive director of African Technology

Policy Studies Network, African governments should start funding other institutions of learning as opposed to the old system where funding has only been channeled to universities.

In addition, delegates at the meeting noted the growing scientific capability of African academic institutions and the need for innovations in the entrepreneurial sector.

## More efforts needed to make Kiswahili serve Africa better

THE launch of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) and Namibia's International University of Management (IUM) recently in Namibia is an effort to foster the internationalisation of tertiary education and promotion of international collaboration.

The event also emphasised the power of language in international diplomacy. Africa should now be campaigning for the introduction of Swahili at the United Nations. We should also reflect on the ongoing campaign to have Africa gain a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, a campaign that seems to have no coordination as African leaders are unable to convince the world and they do not exuberate confidence in their pursuit of this noble objective.

The reason for this lackluster performance is perhaps the stereotyped image of Africa that results from our leaders' own failures to govern the continent. The stereotype is that Africa cannot govern the world at that stage if charity is denied at home.

Therefore, this political target, noble as it is, appears unattainable under the current conditions in which the cradle of humanity finds herself dehumanised, despoiled, war-torn and poverty-stricken. The gloomy TV pictures of a continent that cannot feed its own people, panic-stricken women fleeing from endless wars in the DRC, Sudan, Central African Republic and elsewhere with hungry babies clutched on their backs; a continent suffering from the scourge of malaria, Ebola, cholera and HIV and Aids epidemics; a continent whose leaders keep running to the West to beg for donations.

This is despite African leaders, academics and diplomats - dining, winning, shining and smartly dressed at the AU head office in Addis Ababa and at international conferences. Mostly men in their splendid suits. Visions after visions are crafted and re-casted to provide the impression that development is taking place on the continent. But as soon as the deadlines are approaching without tangible results, these visions

are re-casted without explanation.

In retrospect, these myriads of problems that confront Africa at home weaken our campaign to be accorded a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, at the same level with the five permanent members of the Security Council, referred to as the super powers.

Very recently several presidents made this passionate call at the UN for the continent to be accorded a Permanent Representation in the UN Security Council. We could recast our own vision to the most tangible target of introducing an African language, particularly Swahili as a tool of power and self-respect for Africa at the UN.

A campaign of that nature will put nations on the map of continental politics. Our country is in that unique position to sell this idea to Africa because our freedom was partly achieved through African solidarity. It is one of the ways that we can reward Africa.

African academics and researchers could join hands with our leaders and diplomats to have Swahili find its way to the doorsteps of the United Nations, at par with other UN officially recognised languages.

Although this may be perceived as a low-key strategy compared to the hardcore demand for a permanent seat, this approach holds several benefits.

Firstly, language as a manifestation of culture would be accepted as a personification of the African continent in the UN structures. To reject the call for the recognition of an African language would be tantamount to rejecting the personality of Africa because of race, language, creed, culture and ethnicity.

Secondly, to arrive at which state in Africa will represent the continent permanently will lead to sub-regional rivalries. Swahili is spoken in many African countries and may not be contested.

Finally, looking at the current status of Africa as already alluded to in this article, it may prove more strategic to start a fresh campaign against cultural hegemony. Despite the utility of foreign language as a tool of commerce and knowledge, it was initially introduced in Africa as a tool of cultural hegemony.

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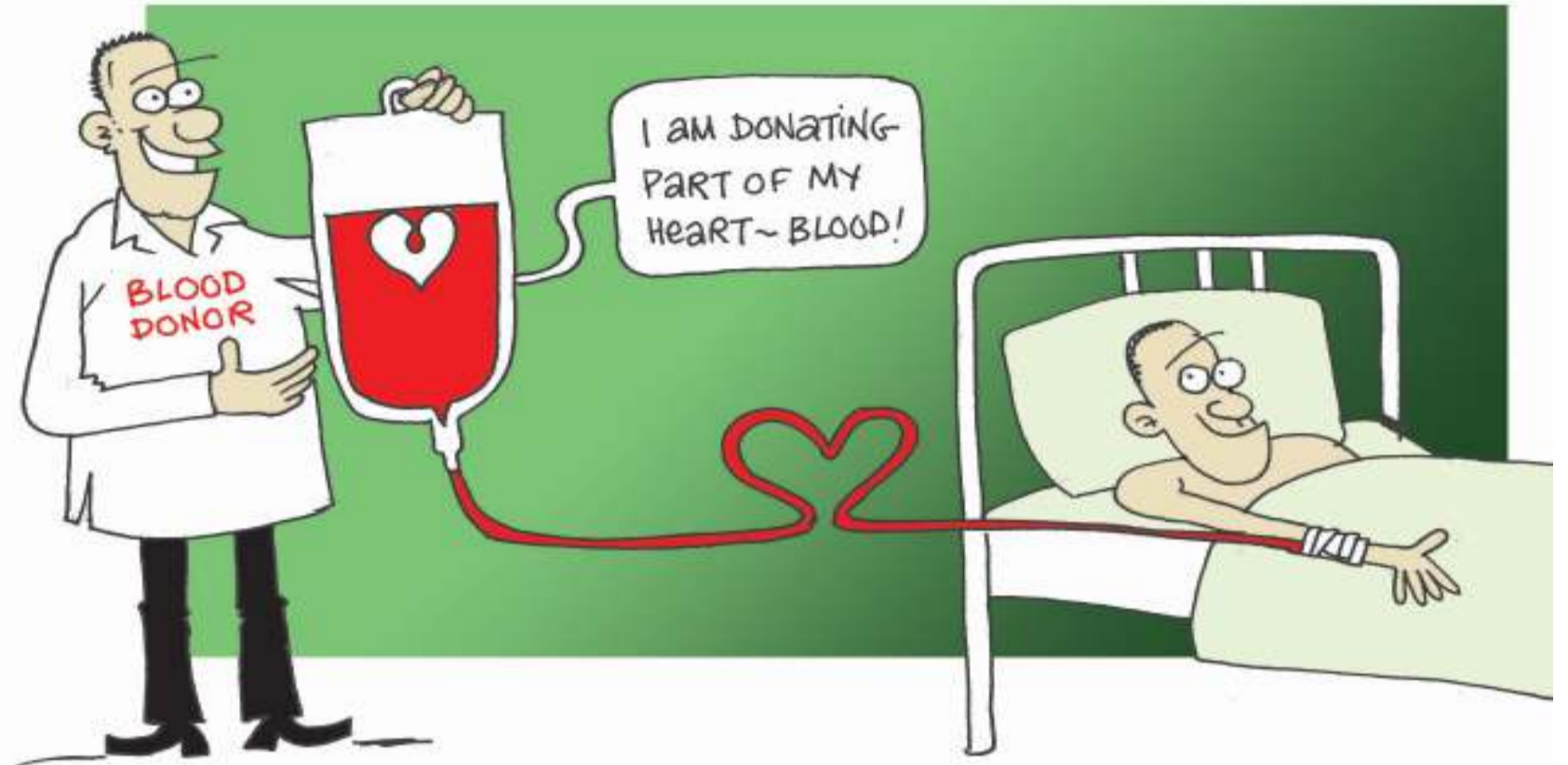
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## Third One Planet Summit set to make history on climate change

By A Special Correspondent

KENYA'S capital, Nairobi, will be the venue of the Third One Planet Summit - the first time such an event will be held in Africa. The first was in Paris, and the second in New York.

This will underline humankind's planetary interconnectedness in a way the two previous summits arguably could not.

Africa is responsible for only four per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but 65 per cent of its population is thought to be directly affected by climate change.

So, in Nairobi, the One Planet Summit will illustrate the core truth at the heart of the climate change debate: that global warming has an impact on everyone on the planet, whether or not they contribute substantially to it.

The Nairobi summit will showcase Africa's strengths as a vibrant place for climate innovation and investments with advances in sustainable business models, climate smart agriculture, green bonds, and renewable energy.

"We have all the means to act to fight against climate change. But one country or one business alone can't save everyone," says French Republic President Macron. "That's why we need the international meetings and coalitions to coordinate our efforts and strike hard. We need to act now to achieve our main goal: reduce our production of carbon which destabilises the climate balance and causes impacts on our security and health," he notes, adding: "The next months will be full of opportunities to strengthen our joint effort and to create new partnerships."

This is a response to Africa's disproportionate burden as the result of climate change - the complex shifts that affect our planet's weather and climate systems. Climate change encompasses not only rising average temperatures but also extreme weather events, rising seas, and shifting wildlife populations and habitats.

Africa's vast ecological wealth and unique natural ecosystems are especially susceptible, which is why Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta will launch a call to action at the Summit "to prevent, halt and reverse the loss of Africa's forests".

The summit, which is scheduled to get underway in Nairobi on March 14, is widely expected to make history while also making a crucial point about climate change.

Already the hottest continent,



When President Trump announced that the United States would drop out of the Paris climate agreement, French President Emmanuel Macron launched a campaign called "Make Our Planet Great Again," a riff on Trump's campaign slogan.

Africa is expected to warm up to 1.5 times faster than the global average, causing longer and more severe droughts as well as raging storms and floods and unpredictable rainfall.

This will make it harder for African farmers to grow key crops such as wheat, rice and maize, thereby endangering food security. Add to that the expected population spurt in Africa, the youngest continent, and the challenges are daunting.

According to a UN report, Africa will have an additional 1.3 billion people by 2050. Most of the growth will happen in the cities, posing a challenge for African governments to ensure smart and sustainable urban planning.

This is the context within which Kenya's decision to co-host the third One Planet Summit and actively fight climate change becomes significant.

In the run-up to the summit, Monica Juma, cabinet secretary in Kenya's Foreign Affairs ministry, has said: "We've begun to frame Nairobi as the world global environmental capital."

She has indicated that Kenya was determined to upscale discussions on the sustainable use of natural resources in line with the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A lot of jargon has been thrown around - better land management, biodiversity protection, the promotion of renewable energy and the need to foster resilience and adaptation among populations vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

These are not merely symbolic for Africa. They are substantial. The continent is uniquely placed in the climate change debate. It has both immense challenges and extraordinary opportunities. Preservation of biodiversity is a key issue for the African continent. Experts say that climate change, alongside land degradation and habitat loss, could cause some African animal species to decline by as much as 50 per cent by the end of the century.

The threat to Africa's forests is dire. Nearly 20 per cent of the African continent is covered by

forests, including the world's second-largest tropical rainforest, the Congo Basin Forest - known as the "green lung of Africa."

As President Kenyatta will say in his call to action at the upcoming Nairobi Summit, "forests constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, spiritual and scientific value whose disappearance would be irreversible".

In November 2018, UN Climate Change executive secretary Patricia Espinosa said: "Few other places on earth suffer the devastating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss like the continent of Africa."

Some African entrepreneurs are already investing in innovation and green energy. Malian Samba Bathily, CEO of Africa Development Solutions, recently said that as he crossed the continent, he felt proud to have been "involved in the production of more than 1,000 MW of hydroelectric power... and the creation of data centres and solar installations in more than 1,600 localities, benefiting between nine and 10m people".

Bathily incidentally supports the two-year-old Ghana-headquartered AfroChampions Initiative, which seeks to build up homegrown multi-national companies across the continent. In itself, AfroChampions is a powerful indicator of African optimism and opportunity, despite the challenges.

Accordingly, the Nairobi summit could usefully signal to the wider world both an urgent need to act as well as deliberative intent. How?

The One Planet Summit seems to be built for innovation. Unlike other, more crusty United Nations climate change conferences, this summit is young. It was born on a whim and a prayer in December 2017, when President Macron hosted more than 50 world leaders in Paris to celebrate the anniversary of the UN climate compact agreed in the French capital in 2015.

United States' newly elected President Donald Trump had announced the withdrawal by his country, the world's second big-

gest polluter after China, from the Paris pact of the United States.

The painfully forged international consensus on climate action seemed to be unravelling. There seemed little certainty about the fate of the pledges produced in Paris, under the aegis of the UN, to hold the increase in the global average temperature to "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels". President Macron's One Planet Summit might well have been a one-off, an ambitious irrelevance. It was not - as the next One Planet Summit in New York was to reveal with greater adeptness.

All the talk in New York was about green finance, collaboration and investing in the transition to de-carbonised economies. Disparate countries reported on actual progress as well as their very real problems. There was mention of two pan-African science skills courses, which were launched in July 2018 in Nairobi and Dakar.

This will be important in building an African scientific community to prepare for climate change and agricultural adaptation. Reported accomplishments included the incubation of seven programmes to support trans-boundary river basin organisations by the Agence Française de Développement, and the World Bank is supporting the Niger Basin Authority.

The 2018 One Planet Summit said 1.5 million euros had been committed to 30 countries in Africa, where 20 adaptation projects had already been identified.

This could be the right way to invest in the future. Joyce Msuya, a Tanzanian microbiologist who serves as Acting Executive Director of UN Environment, recently pointed to an example of African "ingenuity" when faced with climate change. "On February 7 a boat made entirely of recycled plastic - the world's first - cruised into a quiet harbour in Zanzibar after two weeks at sea," she said.

It was, Msuya added, a remarkable example of human ingenuity and offered the possibility of Africa being able to affect "systemic change".

But will the continent have the resources for it? Strategic assistance will be essential. After 2018, it became clear that the One Planet Summit was actively engaging and recruiting public and private actors in the fight against climate change. This will be of crucial importance for Africa.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the continent will need \$20 to 30 billion every year for the next two decades to help fund climate change adaptation and resilience and accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

When the Paris pact was being signed four years ago, AfDB president Akinwumi Adesina declared: "Africa has been short-changed by climate change. Africa must not be short-changed by climate finance."

The Nairobi summit, which will bring together key world figures, CEOs and civil society leaders, must respond to the call to action.

## Gender equality demands more than women having a better deal

THERE have been huge changes for women in terms of employment in the past decades, with women moving into paid employment outside the home in ways that their grandmothers and even their mothers could only dream of. In the US, for the first time, in 2011, women made up slightly more than half the workforce. There are (some) high-profile women chief executives. There is a small but increasing number of female presidents. Women are moving into jobs that used to be done by men. Even those women working in factories or sweatshops have more choice and independence than if they remained at home.

Although more women are working, they are often still worse paid than men, in part-time jobs or in the huge informal employment sector with little protection and few rights. In many places, the increase in women working is simply driven by the necessity of having two wages to make ends meet.

And at the top of industry and government, the faces remain stubbornly male. In fact, there is some evidence that the numbers of women are actually decreasing. As Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, said: "Women are not making it to the top of any profession in the world."

It is true that progress in terms of gender equality is uneven, but the proponents of the argument that women are taking over the world at work need only look at statistics on employment, equal pay and political representation of men and women to see just how wrong they are. Gender analyses of la-

bour markets tend to look at women's participation in paid employment compared with men's - and not the huge informal sector in which so many women work; selling a handful of tomatoes that they have grown in their gardens, picking cotton or sewing at night long after their children have gone to bed. The number of women owning small and medium-sized businesses is estimated to be between 8 million and 10 million, and although this is still far fewer than that for men owning similar enterprises, numbers are slowly growing. In most countries, the informal sector is far larger than the formal one. For example, in south Asia more than 80 per cent of men and women work in the informal sector, and in sub-Saharan Africa it is 74 per cent of women and 61 per cent of men. In the private sector, women are on most boards of directors of large companies but their number remains low compared to that for men. Furthermore, the "glass ceiling" has hindered women's access to leadership positions in private companies. This is especially notable in the largest corporations, which remain male dominated. Of the 500 largest corporations in the US, only 23 have a female chief executive officer.

Even in the 27 member countries of the EU, in April 2013 women accounted for only 16.6 per cent of board members of large publicly listed companies. This is up by 5 per cent since October 2010, when the European commission announced that it was considering "targeted initiatives to get more women into decision-making positions".



# Streamlining the AU's rapid response capabilities

BY GUSTAVO DE CARVALHO AND ANNETTE LEIJENNAAR

OVER the past five years, there has been a great deal of debate about the African Union's (AU) ability to rapidly deploy a combat force in crisis situations. Neither of the two bodies intended for this purpose - the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC) and the African Standby Force (ASF) - have ever been deployed. This raises major questions about their relevance and viability in Africa's fast-changing peace and security environment.

On 9 January, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) adopted a matrix to 'harmonise' ACIRC and the ASF. This long-awaited integration is a step forward but could add to existing misunderstanding and uncertainty.

As two distinct, but in many ways overlapping, tools for peace support operations, ACIRC and the ASF have competed for resources, capacity and attention. Bringing them together into an effective force will take time and skillful political negotiations.

One of the main stumbling blocks at this stage is getting buy-in from the 14 states that signed up to participate in ACIRC. There is a strong sense that members will not let go of the initiative without proper consultation.

Three influential member states (Angola, Egypt and Rwanda) are currently on the PSC which is scheduled to address the matter again on 26 March. They have an important role of linking discussions in the PSC to those among other ACIRC members. The biggest challenge the three PSC members will face is Nigeria, which has been outspokenly negative about ACIRC from the very start.

Established by the AU in 2003, the ASF was designed as a continental force composed of standby contingents. These were to be multi-disciplinary, with civilian, police and military components ready for rapid deploy-

ment at short notice.

Ten years later the AU set up ACIRC, partly due to frustration around the delays in getting the ASF off the ground. It was also seen as a reaction to France being called in when the West African regional force failed to stabilise Mali in early 2013.

ACIRC was initially led by South Africa and later joined by countries such as Senegal, Rwanda and Angola. It was designed as a voluntary stopgap solution until the ASF became fully operational. But rather than remaining an interim measure, ACIRC developed a life of its own, diverting attention away from debates about how the AU ought to implement peace support operations. At a time when strong and swift decision making was required, ACIRC muddled the waters.

According to the PSC's new matrix, the completion date for integrating ACIRC within the ASF framework is February 2020. The model sets out the logistical, legal, operational and tactical steps required, but doesn't spell out what exactly is meant by 'harmonisation'.

For example, according to the matrix, 'the ASF structure in the PSD needs to be revitalised with the appropriate staffing and job descriptions 31 May 2019'. Does this mean ACIRC headquarter staff will be transferred to fill vacant staff positions in the AU's Peace and Security Department (PSD)?

The financing and sustainability of an integrated ASF and ACIRC also needs to be clarified. Like other AU entities, both have depended on external donors for their development and implementation.

Most ACIRC headquarter staff are funded by the European Union (EU) African Peace Facility. The EU has also paid for several ASF continental exercises. ACIRC has been rightly criticised for drawing EU funding away from the more permanent ASF, as well as the unnecessary duplication of functions and efforts.

In the process of bringing the two forces together, the AU also needs to



Merging the two entities designed for deployment to Africa's crisis situations is a necessary, though complex, task. File photo

ask why African states have on several occasions opted to deploy their own coalitions rather than call on the ASF or ACIRC. The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram is a good example.

'In the case of the MNJTF, Nigeria was unwilling to cede operational command and control to anyone but its own army,' says Stephanie Wolters, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). 'Even today, the MNJTF remains mostly Nigerian-led, with the other countries having significantly less influence and control over the force.'

ISS senior researcher Liesl Louw-Vaudran told DefenceWeb

in 2016 that ACIRC was not even considered for deployment when the MNJTF or the African regional protection force for South Sudan were set up. Nor for that matter has the ASF been called on in similar circumstances, despite being declared operational in 2015. The AU must reflect critically on the ASF's intended role and the circumstances in which it should be used.

The MNJTF case shows how important regional dynamics and capabilities are to the AU's plans for peace operations. The ASF was always intended to operate through its regional standby forces. It has become clear though that while certain regions such as the Eco-

nommic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) can effectively deploy, others such as the North African Regional Capability have lagged behind.

Whether or not ACIRC and ASF are successfully harmonised, the AU needs to relook at its approach to peace operations more broadly. More than 15 years have passed since the ASF was established, and the environment in which it is expected to operate has changed considerably. Current conditions demand the rapid deployment of civilian, police and military components. Specialised skills and equipment are needed to deal with transnational crime, terrorism and counter-insurgency tasks.

Globally, peace operations are being reshaped to better match current threats and risks. This is a golden opportunity for the AU to fine-tune its approach to peace operations. If ACIRC is to be incorporated into the ASF, the AU will need to deal with two considerably different structures. Nevertheless, it's a challenge that needs to be confronted. Merging these existing capabilities is necessary for the AU to respond effectively and quickly to Africa's conflicts.

*Gustavo de Carvalho, Senior Researcher and Annette Leijenaar, Head, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, ISS*

## Responses to Zimbabwe highlight gulf between the region and the west

By Brian Raftopoulos

THE post-Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe continues to struggle to establish its legitimacy. While this is the case the terms of its future international re-engagement will continue to occupy the Zanu-PF government.

The government's problems are compounded by the international outcry over its brutal response to the protests against massive fuel price hikes in January. At least 16 people died and hundreds were wounded from 'gunshots, dog bites, assaults and torture'.

The events of January once again underscored the fault lines in Zimbabwe's foreign relations. On the one hand the Southern African Development Community came out in support of a member state in the face of clear evidence of state brutality against its citizens. It even went so far as to condemn the continuing "illegal sanctions" against Zimbabwe.

In contrast, the UK, EU and the US all condemned the human rights abuses of the Zimbabwean state. They called for a return to the commitment to political and economic reforms. And they renewed their calls for as inclusive, credible national dialogue to map the way forward.

These responses once again show how polarised regional and western government policies are on the Zimbabwe crisis. This has had another consequence - the sidelining of efforts to reach a consensus on economic and political reforms. There have been at least three efforts at some sort of reconciliation over the past decade. The first was during the Global Political Agreement (2009-2013), again in the aftermath of the November 2017 coup, and then again in the run up to the 2018 elections.

Another consequence of the fallout from January is that Mnangagwa's government has reached out further to its authoritarian economic and political partners in Eurasia. The problem with this is that linkages with other autocratic regimes provide some protection against forces pushing for democratic



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa's regime has yet to show it differs from that of Robert Mugabe. File photo

change. In addition, these relationships tend to consolidate those in the military and business sectors who see any prospect of serious economic and political reform as a threat.

### Responses

A statement issued by the current head of the Southern African Development Community repeated the official position of the Zimbabwe government. It criticised "some internal players, in particular NGOs, supported by external players (who have) continued to destabilise the country."

Early signs of this position were clear in South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's speech at the International Labour Organisation in January. He claimed that sanctions against the country were no longer necessary because the government had "embarked on democracy".

Once again the regional body has conflated genuine concerns over imperial interventions in the developing world with the fight for democratic and human rights by national forces. Like Zanu PF - both under former President Robert Mugabe and

Mnangagwa - Southern African Development Community has affirmed its support for a selective anti-imperialist narrative by an authoritarian nationalist regime that conflates the fight for democratic rights with outside intervention.

The response from the EU couldn't have been more different. A resolution of the European Parliament in mid-February strongly condemned the violence and excessive force used in January. It reminded the government of Zimbabwe that long term support for it is dependent on "comprehensive reforms rather than mere promises".

The resolution also called on the European Parliament to:

(review restrictive measures against) individuals and entities in Zimbabwe, including those measures currently suspended, in the light of accountability for recent state violence.

This position in effect put on hold any new restrictive measures against the Zanu-PF government. It also left open the option for renewed dialogue.

### Going forward

The debate on sanctions on Zimbabwe has been lost in the region and on the continent. And this solidarity with the Mnangagwa regime is likely to persist for the foreseeable future.

Change, if any, might come from the EU and US. It's possible that they could change their positions again if the Mnangagwa government made another attempt at minimalist reforms.

The current US policy in Africa is targeted against what it considers to be the "rapidly expanding" financial and political influence of China and Russia on the continent. Trump is also looking to make the US the major player in the new battle for metal resources in Africa. This new struggle for technology metals is taking place in countries such as Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Tanzania and Sierra Leone.

The White House announced this week

that it has extended sanctions against Zimbabwe for another year. Nevertheless, at some stage the politics of US strategic interests in Africa could lead to a more accommodating relationship with an authoritarian regime such as the Mnangagwa administration. This has happened on many occasions in its foreign policy interventions.

The EU is in a "wait and see" mode. It will need evidence of some notable movement by the Zimbabwean state on the political and economic reform front before it pushes the re-engagement process forward.

Mnangagwa's regime has yet to show that it is any different from Mugabe's. Given the continuing factional battles in the ruling party - and its inability to imagine itself out of power - it is difficult to view the current government as anything other than a continuation of the authoritarian Zanu-PF's legacy.

Agencies

# Millions of Venezuelans in need of protection

## UNITED NATIONS

**T**HE international community must extend protections for Venezuelans in light of a growing humanitarian crisis with no end in sight.

Human Rights Watch has urged governments in the Americas to provide temporary protection to the millions of Venezuelans fleeing a severe humanitarian crisis.

"The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is a classic case of the need for blanket temporary protection," said Human Rights Watch's refugee rights director Bill Frelick.

"This is not the time to be deporting Venezuelans," he added.

According to the United Nations, more than three million people have fled Venezuela in recent years, representing 10 percent of the population.

The exodus is largely due to the severe shortages of medicine and food, leaving millions of Venezuelans in distressing and worsening living conditions.

According to the Pharmaceutical Federation of Venezuela, the country is experiencing an 85 percent shortage of medicine.

The ongoing economic crisis has also impacted access.

In 2018, inflation in the South American nation was at a staggering 1,698,488 percent. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that the rate will reach 10,000,000 percent in 2019.

As the official minimum wage in Venezuela is 6 dollars per month, many are unable to afford basic goods.

"During Nicolas Maduro's presidency, the government has failed to address the crisis while making heavy-handed efforts to deny and conceal its severity," Human Rights Watch said.

Among those efforts is Maduro's government imposed aid blockade. The government even ordered to close its borders with Brazil, noting that Venezuelans are "not beggars" and do not

need aid.

As a result of the escalating situation, the number of asylum applications by Venezuelans has increased significantly.

According to the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR), over 414,000 asylum claims were made by Venezuelans around the world, nearly 60 percent of them during 2018 alone.

Between July and September 2018, Venezuelans were the leading nationality seeking asylum in the United States as they represented 30 of all asylum applications in the three month period.

However, despite the crippling humanitarian situation, the United States continues to deport people back to South American nation.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement reportedly deported 336 people to Venezuela in 2018, a 35 percent increase from the previous year. Meanwhile, the U.S. has not resettled a single Venezuelan refugee.

Human Rights Watch urged the U.S. to provide Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Venezuelans due to the deteriorating conditions in their home country.

TPS allows foreign-born individuals to remain in the U.S. until conditions, caused by natural disasters or war, improve back home. Approximately 300,000 people have received those protections.

Though the current administration has made several attempts to end TPS, a buck has blocked the most recent efforts and extended TPS for people from Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador.

"Some Venezuelans will qualify for asylum based on a well-founded fear of being persecuted if returned," Frelick said.

"Temporary Protected Status is the best available way to offer protection for people who do not qualify as refugees or are not seeking asylum but who nevertheless should not be sent back to their country because of generally un-



"Humanitarian aid now. We need it," read a banner during a massive demonstration in Caracas on Feb. 12, demanding that international aid blocked at the border of neighboring countries be allowed into the country. The demonstrations were held in 50 towns and cities around the country, in support of Juan Guaidó as acting president and demanding that President Nicolás Maduro step down. File photo

safe conditions there," he added.

A group of 24 senators including Chuck Schumer and Marco Rubio also asked President Donald Trump to designate Venezuela for TPS.

"Venezuela clearly meets the standard for TPS as it is obviously too dangerous for Venezuelan nationals to return...granting TPS to Venezuela is a concrete measure your Administration can immediately take to alleviate the suffering of innocent Venezuelan civilians and to demonstrate our nation's commitment

to supporting a safe democratic transition in Venezuela so that individuals can safely return home soon," they wrote in a letter.

Human Rights Watch also urged Venezuela's neighbours to grant region-wide temporary protection, providing Venezuelans legal status for a fixed period.

Colombia is among those who have opened their doors, now hosting over 1 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants, the highest proportion in the region.

The Colombian government has developed programmes to support fleeing migrants, such as a border mobility card which allows people to move between the two countries as well as a special work permit which provides Venezuelans temporary residence and work for two years.

The response has been starkly different in Brazil where tensions have escalated, leading to riots against refugee camps. In one case, riots forced over 1,000 Venezuelans to flee back over

the border.

In 2015, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro called refugees "scum of the earth."

Though the country is continuing to accept arrivals at the border, it is uncertain for how much longer.

UNHCR stressed the urgency of international support, appealing for 738 million dollars to support 2.2 million Venezuelans and 500,000 people in host communities across 16 countries.

Agencies

## President worried about drug trade as Guinea-Bissau votes

### Bissau, Guinea-Bissau

**I**N an interview with Al Jazeera ahead of key legislative elections, the president of Guinea-Bissau appealed to the international community to help stop drug traffickers using his country's shores to land cocaine.

President Jose Mario Vaz's comments came after a meeting with UN Security Council ambassadors who were visiting ahead of the twice-delayed legislative elections, now scheduled for Sunday, March 10.

"I would like to ask for help to fight these people because they are strong," said Vaz, adding he was "afraid".

Once labelled "Africa's first narcostate", Guinea-Bissau lacks the resources to tackle traffickers, according to Vaz.

"We don't have aeroplanes, we don't have boats, we lack the radars that would give us control over our ... economic zone," he said.

His plea in the interview, which took place mid-February, came as fighting among political rivals intensified in the run-up to the bitterly-contested poll.

Since independence in 1974, the country of nearly two million has been blighted by successive coups and attempted coups, with Latin American drug lords exploiting the instability to use its complex coastline as a

Weak institutions and corrupt officials made the country easy prey.

Vaz's election in 2014 was supposed to herald a new dawn. But while he may become the country's first president to complete a full mandate this June, his time in office has been marred by internecine fighting within the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), to which he belongs.

The feud pitted Vaz against party president Domingos Simoes Pereira, whom he sacked as prime minister on corruption charges in 2015. Since then, there have been six prime ministers.

The situation is complicated further by Vaz's fraught relationship with former party allies, who were kicked out of the PAIGC in 2016.

Last year, the so-called "Grupo dos quinze" (group of fifteen) were hit with sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, by regional bloc ECOWAS for blocking attempts to find a consensus



prime minister.

Exasperated by Vaz's inability to win back influence in the PAIGC, they have formed a new political party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MADEM GIS).

Amadu Djamanka, executive secretary of think-tank the Observatory of Democracy and Governance, believes the squabbling ultimately comes down to a battle for control of the PAIGC, the country's dominant party, which enjoys quasi-mythical status as the movement that overthrew the Portuguese in one of Africa's most fiercely fought independence wars.

"This fight is not about an election. It is a fight between these men," he said.

Egos aside, there are also other, more material concerns.

"It's an existential fight," said one dip-

lomatic source, who requested anonymity. "It's people with kids, houses and expensive lovers in Europe who don't know how to do anything else but to steal from the state, that are fighting for their survival."

The political battle of wills has paralysed the impoverished country, whose main official export is cashew nuts, for over three years. But, as the source noted, politicians have at least refrained from violence. Vaz himself holds up the relative peace as his main legacy.

"Nobody has been beaten, nobody has been killed, there have been no coups, there is peace, there is stability, there are no arbitrary imprisonments, freedom is total," he said. "It has been very difficult to achieve this peace and stability.

And I don't play with this."

It is a moot point; the past three years have seen successive waves of teacher strikes over pay and conditions, with teacher's union SINDEPROF claiming that over CFA500 million is now owed to staff. Last month, Bissau descended into chaos after a student protest in support of teachers ended in confrontations with security forces. Since then, the country has swirled with rumours of agents provocateurs infiltrating the protests.

Can the election end deadlock? Diplomats in the capital who spoke to Al Jazeera suspected that top officials may have engineered conflict in a bid to delay elections and preserve the economic benefits of being in power.

Questioned on the allegations, which have placed him under scrutiny, Vaz agreed that the protests had been instrumentalised.

"There are some citizens who are not ready to go to the elections, so the protests might help them," he said. "Their goal was to ruin the image of the country." For the first time since independence, the military has remained in barracks throughout the turmoil.

Vaz, who has a strong relationship with the current army chief, said military reform had been his highest priority.

"There were problems of tribalism and religion in the armed forces. The main way to fight this problem is to respect the chain of command. It's important to respect

and give strength to the head of the army. When other people come to me, I send them back," he said. "Today we can say the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau are calm."

Djamanka agreed that the president deserved credit for reining the military in. But, with the army out of the picture, people were becoming increasingly aware that the country's main problem was its politicians, he said.

"This political class we have right now doesn't know what it means to rule in the public [interest]," he said. "They just care about themselves and their families. They don't have money to pay teachers, but they have money to buy expensive cars."

While there are hopes Sunday's legislative election could settle current disputes once and for all, it could just as well end in another stalemate. Observers think it unlikely that the poll will hand a majority to a single party, meaning that rivalries could deepen.

"The political issues will get more intensive because now the parties know that they can arrange friendships, bring down a government and raise another one," said Djamanka. In truth, all eyes are on the presidential election, which is slated for November or December. For now, Vaz says he is focused on being the first president to reach the hitherto-elusive finishing line.

Nobody can say for sure to what extent drug lords still wield influence here.

But everyone knows how much havoc they can wreak. Ten years ago, almost to the day, sitting president João Bernardo "Nino" Vieira and army commander General Batista Tagme Na Waie were assassinated in what was thought to be a tit-for-tat double murder, the former attacked with a machete hours after the latter was bombed at military HQ. The pair were thought to be competing for stakes in the drugs trade.

"It is prohibited to beat [prisoners]," said Vaz. "But if I catch these people, I will order them beaten."

Agencies

# Business training graduate helps Tanzanian girls to stay in school

By Guardian Reporter

SCHOOLGIRLS in rural Tanzania are getting a chance at an uninterrupted education and better reproductive health thanks to the initiative of a 30-year old graduate of the UNCTAD entrepreneurship programme.

Jennifer Shigoli, founder of Tanzanian cleaning and haircare products company Malkia Investments, started the reusable sanitary pads business in Dar es Salaam when she realised that many girls couldn't afford conventional disposable sanitary pads and were improvising unhealthy ways to cope with menstrual cycle - and missing school because of it.

"You listen to the excuses they give - 'I had toothache, I had a headache' - and ask yourself, why is it that everybody has toothache, or has a headache everywhere I go?" Jennifer says.

About one in 10 girls in sub-Saharan Africa misses school during their menstrual cycle, according to UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

"The teachers confirmed that there was a very big issue: these young girls could not afford proper menstrual products, so they resort to staying at home during their periods and resume school after. They lose from two to five days every month!"

## Shocking information

Jennifer, who credits UNCTAD's Empretec programme with helping her plan for the future of her business, was horrified when she found out what some girls were using instead of sanitary pads.

"Most of them were using rags," she says. "Other girls were using cow dung. Some were even using chicken feathers - all unhygienic. This has a huge effect on their health and their reproductive systems."

Jennifer says that such poor menstrual hygiene has a ripple effect that can cause infectious diseases and other health problems.

Using rags isn't comfortable, she realised - they're not absorbent enough and they don't allow girls to live freely. So, she set about developing an affordable product that would provide the same protection as leading disposable menstrual pads on the market.

Jennifer first became aware of the problem after starting a charity to promote hygienic behaviour in rural schools.

## Missing girls

"I started the Choo Salama pro-

gramme first, where we go into schools and form these wash clubs," Jennifer says. "Within the wash clubs, I always wanted a balance between the number of boys and girls who participated, but I realised that there were frequently a number of girls missing.

"I started doing research and even consulted the teachers. They said 'Ha! This is normal. The girls miss the class because they are having their period, and they can't come to school.' This was shocking information for me."

Jennifer adds: "I had one case, I was actually there, with a girl called Halima - she's now our champion - she missed her Grade 7 national exams because she was late. She had to walk from miles away and was using a sponge, she was bruised, she couldn't walk any faster, and when she got there she was [refused permission to sit for the exams for being late] ...There are so many such cases."

Jennifer discovered that many agencies raised money to buy and distribute one-use-only, disposable sanitary products.

"This is not sustainable," Jennifer says. "I asked myself 'Do I have to fundraise every month? Who, what, where, when, how?' It is not possible, and it is not realistic. Periods come and then next month they come again...I was looking for sustainability."

## Finding success

Jennifer found a way to manufacture a cotton-based sanitary pad that could be used more than once.

"They can be used, washed and used again," she says, adding that this means the pads are environmentally friendly as well as affordable.

The lifespan of the product means that families can save and plan to buy the sanitary pads in the knowledge they will last a year, Jennifer says. This is important for families with limited means and girls planning for school semesters and exam preparation.

"Another advantage is that they are locally made, using local raw materials. They are made from cotton. This lowers the cost. If the products were made elsewhere they would have to be imported, and the cost would automatically rise because of taxes and whatnot," Jennifer says.

Jennifer's entrepreneurialism taps into the much broader and increasingly understood the global problem of "period poverty" and her success has brought her much recognition - from an African Entrepreneurship Award worth \$150,000 to being named one of Forbes Magazine's 30 Most Promising



Young African Entrepreneurs.

And in 2017 Jennifer came first among young entrepreneurs from around the world invited to pitch business ideas contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals during Global Entrepreneurship Week in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Creating jobs

The event, organised by UNCTAD, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the Politecnico di Milano, Youth Business International and Impact Hub Geneva, was judged by business leaders and attended by Roman Busch, a senior diplomat representing Switzerland at the United Nations in Geneva.

"It becomes increasingly clear, thanks to events such as this one, that solving social and environmental problems can generate revenue and be turned into financially sustainable businesses," Busch said at the awards ceremony.

Jennifer's business won over the judges not only because Elea pads are helping keep Tanzanian girls in school but also because they create jobs for local women.

"I'm very proud to say that every pad is made by women in Tanzania," she says.

"For those local women that are making the pads for the girls, there is more than just the product - there is a connection!" Jennifer says. "They are mak-

ing them in the knowledge that we are doing this for a cause."

Jennifer's business helps achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by contributing to, among others, goal 3 on good health and well-being, goal 4 on quality education, particularly target 5 on eliminating gender disparities in schools, goal 5 on gender equality, and goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, particularly target 3 on job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.

## Thinking big

Jennifer was inspired by UNCTAD's Empretec entrepreneurship programme, which was launched in Argentina in 1988 and has since expanded to 40 developing countries. In cooperation with local counterparts, the programme has assisted 420,000 entrepreneurs through local market-driven Empretec centres, including in Tanzania where Jennifer enrolled.

"In June 2016, I took the Empretec course and the first big thing that I learned was entrepreneurship," Jennifer says, modestly. "There's a big myth about entrepreneurs - but who is an entrepreneur? I got the real meaning from the training we had at Empretec. And the 10 Personal Entrepreneurial Competencies - I follow them like my 10 Commandments."

Jennifer adds that meeting other businesswomen

during the training truly helped her grow as an entrepreneur.

"Some were very ahead, and some were just start-ups like me, so being under one roof you get to learn from them so much," Jennifer says. "I've got my mentor from my Empretec class; she's called Maida. She's way ahead of me, but we had a great time learning together. You learn from the course, but you also learn from your peers."

Empretec also encouraged Jennifer to think big. "Another thing I've learned is that I can grow my business to wherever I want to take it," she says. "I had this vision, but it was just so limited."

After presenting her idea as part of the course, an Empretec instructor told Jennifer she had the potential to aim higher.

"I restructured my business plan, and now it is working! It was a turning point for me - it was a great course, and I always recommend it to other people. There is even 'post-training': when the course is finished the same group meets once a month, so there is follow-up, and you can still get help."

Dedicated to spreading her message around the globe, Jennifer was among the speakers who shared their lessons at the December 2018 edition of TEDx PlaceDesNationsWomen, organized at the Palais des Nations, UN's European headquarters.

## Direct selling gains impetus with youth seeking new entrepreneurial ventures

By Guardian Reporter

DIRECT Selling (also commonly referred to as network marketing) is rapidly gaining momentum in sub-Saharan Africa and especially in East Africa, mainly driven by the region's growing population and a vibrant youth which, according to Youth Demographics Analysis-African Institute for Development-currently comprises of over 45 per cent of the 150 million people in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda.

Most of these youth are educated, generally tech-savvy, quick to adapt to new trends, eager to put in the effort and have an entrepreneurial mindset - factors that are a prerequisite for sustainable success in the direct selling business.

For starters, direct selling is an international business concept and is defined as 'the sale of a consumer product or service, person-to-person, away from a fixed retail location'. This model of sales is more than 100 years old and originated initially in the USA.

Today, there are nearly 117 million people involved in it. According to the World Federation of Direct Selling Association (WFDSA) 2018 annual report, direct selling generated US\$190 billion with nearly half of the sales recorded in emerging markets.

Suffice it to say, Africa accounts for less than 1 per cent of the total WFDSA sales but experts posit that the East African market offers potential growth opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs and even to those with a regular job and keen to earn supple-

mentary income through direct selling.

In a region where formal employment requirements are becoming increasingly competitive and full-time jobs equally scarce, direct selling offers an alternative to traditional employment for those wanting supplementary household income or whose circumstances don't allow employment.

Speaking recently at a media briefing, Biram Fall, QNET's regional general manager for sub-Saharan Africa said the company has helped empower thousands of people in Africa, mainly youth, during the last decade.

"We are seeing a growing acceptance for Direct Selling, and with a population of over 200 million in East Africa, this model is a life-changer for many," he added.

The company offers a wide range of health, wellness and lifestyle products through its proprietary e-commerce platform to millions of customers in over 100 countries, enabling people to lead better lives, and provides an alternative source of income for anyone interested to take up the opportunity.

It has offices and agency partners in 25 countries worldwide, and more than 50 stokists, localized operations and franchisees in a number of countries globally. Now with a firm footing in East Africa, it is committed to developing the Direct Selling model across this region.

"We are also committed to giving back to communities," said Fall.

Some of the beneficiaries of the company's corporate social responsibilities have

Orphans Home which have received substantial support in the form of donation of food supplies and provisions in recent years.

"That is why we have also invested heavily in sustainable corporate social responsibility projects across different parts of Africa through our Corporate Social Responsibility arm, RYTHM Foundation," he added.

In Ghana, through RYTHM Foundation, the firm provided 50 Kindle e-readers which were pre-loaded with 100 culturally-relevant books each for students in Nima, a large slum within the city of Accra, Ghana.

It was a project in partnership with Worldreader, a global literacy non-profit organisation and Achievers Ghana, an educational social enterprise.

It is also active in sports sponsorships around the world. Some of the more recent prominent partnerships include being the Direct Selling Partners of Manchester City Football Club and Manchester City Wom-

en's African Football (CAF) for Total CAF Champions League, Total CAF Confederation Cup and Total CAF Super Cup for 2018 and 2019.

Previous major partnerships have included Formula One, badminton and more, due to the company's strong belief that the drive, passion and teamwork of sports mirror that of QNET.

## Benefits

As a firm, the company believes that there is nothing more empowering to individuals than the financial freedom that a career in the direct selling industry provides, and believes that the people of East Africa, with their ambition and strong sense of entrepreneurship, will appreciate the quality consumer products that the company offers and the business opportunities for self-development.

Direct selling can be a fulfilling career for those who choose to pursue this opportunity full-time or even part-time as it provides

financial rewards commensurate with the time and effort one puts into developing this business.

In addition, unlike other conventional businesses that require significant start-up capital, resources and even experience, Direct Selling offers this low-cost business opportunity to anyone interested in taking it up, irrespective of their education or experience.

Moreover, the training and mentorship that start-up entrepreneurs undergo (Independent Representatives or IRs) provide them with unique skill-sets leading to self-confidence, self-esteem and eventual personal growth that hone one's expertise as an accomplished entrepreneur.

The crucial benefit of direct selling in the emerging markets such as East Africa is that the model is proportionately more impactful here than in the developed markets because of the financial impact it can make in people's lives - providing entrepreneurship opportunities to all, irrespective of qualifications or experience, thus ultimately contributing to the reduction of poverty in the society.

At the root of the firm is its philosophy of RYTHM - Raise Yourself To Help Mankind - which guides all their initiatives, and drives the company to not only change the lives of people around the world, but also partner with them in taking this impact wider.

The company's CEO, Trevor Kuna, said that they believe that financial success alone is not enough.

"In order for us to make an impact, we need to develop people to be better human beings so that they can use their success to contribute to their local communities," he said.

## Challenges

As with any other business, the Direct Selling industry too encounters some challenges. The most serious among these is the proliferation of illegal, pyramid schemes that masquerade as genuine direct marketing companies, promising potential investors extraordinary profits if they enrol other people.

The fact is these 'scams' create a negative perception of the Direct Selling industry, thereby creating hurdles for genuine companies to recruit sales consultants and run their genuine and legal businesses.



# #Tasqut Bas: Just fall, that is all

JUBA

FOR over two months, wide-scale protests in Sudan have continued unabated calling for President Omar al-Bashir to step down and pave the way for a transition period ushering in multi-party democracy. Not surprisingly, as with similar protests in the past, the Bashir regime has sought a military solution to quell the protests, deploying the police and paramilitary security forces against peaceful protesters in Khartoum and throughout the country.

At the time of writing, over sixty people have been killed, many as a result of torture in the government's "ghost houses." More than two thousand anti-government activists are still held in detention despite the regime's repeated insistence that they are intent on releasing political detainees.

The government has frequently pronounced that the protests are relatively small and are having little impact on the regime, or that the demonstrations are essentially sponsored by saboteurs, thugs, or "foreign elements." Despite such claims, the popular *intifada* has not only produced significant policy changes on the part of the regime, it has clearly undermined the rule of Omar Bashir in ways that have threatened to topple his thirty-year authoritarian rule.

Over the last week, in the wake of continued and sustained demonstrations, strikes, and sit-ins across Sudanese civil society, Bashir has been forced to postpone a constitutional amendment that would have allowed him to run for a third term in office. He also declared a state of emergency in Khartoum, disbanding the federal government, and replacing local governors with senior army officers in a desperate attempt to maintain his power. However, these policies of both appeasement and repression appear to have emboldened anti-government protesters further.

The state of emergency is clearly designed to give carte blanche to the security forces to use greater violence against the protesters, to further restrict political and civil liberties, and to crack-down even more on activists and opposition political parties. Immediately following Bashir's announcement of a state of emergency, protesters went back on the streets in over fifty neighborhoods throughout the country, and particularly in Khartoum and Omdurman.

They called once again for Bashir's removal. They chanted, among other slogans, one of the most uncompromising and popular refrains of the current uprising: *Tasqut Bas* (fall, that is all).

## The "Periphery" as Catalyst of the *Intifada*

The recent protests erupted on 19 December 2018 in the working class city of Atbara in River Nile state, approximately two hundred miles north of Khartoum. They were sparked by a three-fold increase in the price of bread. They began with protests led by

secondary school students.

They were very quickly joined by thousands of residents in the city of Atbara. Within days, antigovernment demonstrations expanded across a wide range of cities and towns throughout the northern region and in the capital city of Khartoum.

Chanting slogans such as "the people want the fall of the regime" (inspired by the Arab uprisings of late 2010 and 2011 in Tunisia and Egypt, respectively), the demonstrators quickly expanded their demands in ways that reflect deep-seated and wide-ranging political as well as economic grievances with the thirty-year authoritarian rule of Omer al-Bashir and his ruling party, the National Congress Party (NCP).

However, despite the fact that political grievances and demands are now at the forefront of the uprising, there is little question that these particularly protests were first sparked by economic grievances that date back to the consequences of the secession of South Sudan in 2011.

As is by now widely noted, this led to the loss of seventy-five percent of oil revenue for Khartoum since two-thirds of the oil resources are in the south, and consequently approximately sixty percent of its foreign currency earnings.

As a result, the Bashir regime implemented austerity measures beginning in 2012 which resulted in similar anti-austerity protests at the time, although these were mostly centered in Khartoum and hence more centralized than the current protests. Similarly, one of the main factors for the current demonstrations is the implementation of IMF-backed austerity measures which led to lifting of bread and fuel subsidies and quickly sparked the first of the demonstrations on 19 December 2018.

What is important to emphasize, however, is that these protests are not only rooted in opposition to economic austerity measures.

They are crucially a result of a widely understood opposition to decades of rampant corruption, including "privatization" policies that transferred assets and wealth to the regime's supporters, and the theft of gold as well as billions of dollars of profits from the period of the oil boom in the country.

## A New Pattern of Mobilisation and Protest

Following the lead of cities in the periphery, in Khartoum, the protests also began in opposition to a deep economic crisis associated with the rise in bread fuel prices as well as a severe liquidity crisis.

But these demands quickly evolved into calls for the ouster of Bashir from power. Importantly, the Sudanese Professional Association (SPA), which has taken the lead in organizing and scheduling the protests, initially marched to the parliament in Khartoum in late December demanding wages increases for public sector workers and the legalization of professional and trade unions.



Anti-regime demonstrators in Omdurman, Sudan, January 2019. File photo

However, after security forces used violence against the peaceful protests, these demands quickly escalated into the call for the removal of the ruling National Congress Party, the structural transformation of governance in Sudan, and a transition to democracy.

These demands are similar to those associated with previous popular protests against the regime, including those of 2011, 2012, and 2013.

However, what is most important to note with respect to these protests is that they are unprecedented in terms of their duration and sustainability (now ongoing in their third month), their geographical spread throughout the entire country, and the remarkable coalition of youth groups, civil society organizations, and opposition political parties that have joined.

Equally important, is that the coordination of these demonstrations has followed a remarkably new, innovative, and sustained process.

This is important to highlight because it clearly shows that, just as the dictatorial regime of Omer Bashir has prided itself in weakening the opposition in order to prevent any threat to their regime by dismantling labor and trade unions, establishing a wide range of paramilitary militias linked to the state, and putting down armed opposition as well as antigovernment activists in civil society, these demonstrators have also learned from the unsuccessful anti-regime protests of the past.

Led by the newly established Sudanese Professional Association, the ongoing demonstrations have been coordinated, scheduled, and strategically designed to emphasize: sustainability over time rather than sheer numbers; spread throughout middle, working class, and poor neighborhoods; and coordination with protesters in regions far afield from Khartoum, including the Eastern State on the Red Sea, and Darfur to the far west of the country.

In addition, the slogans promoted and utilized by the protesters also have been purposefully framed to incorporate the grievances of the wider spectrum of Sudanese and not

just those of the middle class and ethnic and political elites centered in Khartoum and the northern regions of the country.

These slogans are essentially framed in ways designed to mobilize support across ethnic and racial categories, emphasizing that the only way forward is to oust Omar Bashir and the ruling regime from power.

In doing so, they highlight the endemic and unprecedented level of corruption of the regime and its allies, the decades of human rights violations against civilians in the country by a wide range of security forces, and the brutal wars waged by the regime in Darfur, the Blue Nile state on the border of South Sudan, and the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan.

Indeed, perhaps one of the most notable aspect of these protests, which distinguish them greatly from previous uprisings, is not only the sheer regional scale of the demonstrations but the hitherto unprecedented high level of solidarity across class lines in the country.

Youth activists and members of the professional associations have not only challenged the political discourse of the state; they have played a significant role in engineering cross-class alliances in the context of these demonstrations.

Over the last week strikes, work stoppages, and sit-ins have been held not only on university campuses and secondary schools, but also among private sector and public sector employees and workers.

Among the most important examples are the ongoing strikes by workers of Port Sudan on the Red Sea demanding the nullification of the sale of the southern Port to a foreign company, and several work stoppages and protests led by employees of some of the most important telecom providers and other private firms in the country.

## Scenarios: The Prospects for a Peaceful Transition to Multi-Party Democracy

Equally important with respect to evaluating the prospects of the uprising leading to a transition to democracy has to do with the evolving and increasingly sophisticated na-

ture of the demands of the demonstrators as the protests have continued unabated.

The initial aims of the protesters were to simply oust Omar Bashir and his regime from power.

The level of grievance and anger among the population made this the most important priority at the very beginning of the protest.

However, as the coordination of these protests became exceedingly more sophisticated, particular under the leadership of the Sudanese Professional Associations, the objectives of the majority of the protester is now not only to end Omar Bashir's dictatorial regime, which remains a priority, but to also prepare and pave the way for a transitional period consisting of four years that would usher in a multi-party democracy in the country.

At the moment Sudanese activists, the political party opposition, and a broad swath of civil society organizations are engaged in discussing a variety of possible scenarios including the prospects of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) taking the side of the protests and overseeing democratic transition as in the past, an internal coup within the armed forces that would essentially consolidate authoritarian rule under a new leadership, or the falling apart of the center and state disintegration as in, for example Libya and Somalia.

Ultimately, the outcome of these protests will, not surprisingly, depend on the continued unity and sustainability of the protesters and demonstrators, the power and force of the National Intelligence and Security Services and the para-military militias, and the extent to which external regional powers, especially in the region, support the regime in Khartoum out of fear that their regional interests may be undermined following the removal of Bashir from power.

This balance between domestic anti-government activists and civil society organizations, the state's security apparatus, and external patronage is, of course, critical in devising any scenarios in the future and is well known.

# China in an ambitious 'toilet revolution' to modernise rural areas

BEIJING

IN addition to education and healthcare, the Chinese government is also turning its attention to something equally important to rural areas: toilets.

The world's second-largest economy is in the midst of a "toilet revolution," launched in 2015 to improve restrooms across the country.

In rural areas, some toilets were little more than makeshift shelters surrounded by corn stalks, and some were open pits next to pigsties.

Toilets might not be glamorous to think about, but for villagers, they provide a cleaner and healthier environment, for sightseers a better holiday experience, and for businesses, big opportunities.

China has announced plans to install or renovate toilets for 10 million rural households in 30,000 villages this year. The fund allocation by the central government is expected to be 7 billion yuan (about 1.04 billion U.S. dollars).

Besides toilet upgrades, China is also upgrading garbage and sewage treatment facilities to build a more beautiful countryside.

China has more than 550,000 villages and companies are eager to seize the massive business opportunities. "Reinvented Toilet Expo," a forum hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation held



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 19, 2018 shows the new look of the ancient town of Heqiao in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province. (Xinhua)

in Beijing last year, showcased various cutting edge toilet technologies in lieu of sewers, making them easier and cheaper to install.

Toilet revolution is just part of a much grander rural revitalization strategy, first put forward during the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2017 and repeatedly stressed by the

Chinese leadership since then.

The strategy aims at achieving the basic modernization of agriculture and rural areas by 2035, and the grand goal of a strong agriculture, a beautiful countryside and well-off farmers by 2050.

To guarantee its national food security and improve its agricul-

tural competitiveness, China will have more high-standard farmland, install more efficient water conservation facilities, and use more advanced agricultural equipment.

China is also promoting the supply-side structural reform to increase supply of farm produce in high demand. Farms in China are

becoming larger in land sizes.

Their operations are being mechanized and transformed by information technology. Rural infrastructure and basic services are being improved.

The government has announced plans to provide safe water to all rural population within two years. A new round of rural power grid upgrading will be completed.

Policy makers are stepping up efforts to direct more funds to agriculture, farmers and rural areas. Private companies are also encouraged to join the endeavor.

All these efforts are creating opportunities in related industries such as green farming, e-commerce, tourism, renewable energy, and construction.

The rural revitalization strategy also includes the prosperity of culture and effective rural governance to make sure rural society is vigorous and stable.

China's modernization drive will not be complete without the modernization of its agricultural and rural areas. Its 600 million rural residents will one day enjoy the same quality service in education, health care and environment management as their urban counterparts.

This is a massive project that

will inevitably take a long time, but China is working hard and learning from other countries.

China is confident that one day, villagers across the country will enjoy thriving businesses, pleasant living environments, social etiquette and civility, effective governance, and prosperity; tourists will spend their holidays in the countryside enjoying traditional Chinese culture and beautiful sceneries; and international investors will take advantage of the rising business opportunities in the vast rural areas and cooperate with millions of diligent and open-minded farmers.

Such success will not only belong to China, but also to the world, where a number of countries are also finding solutions to revitalize their rural areas. Xinhua

Besides toilet upgrades, China is also upgrading garbage and sewage treatment facilities to build a more beautiful countryside.



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## Barclays Tanzania CEO basks in Absa Group's impressive results for 2018

By Smart Money Reporter

ABS Group's impressive performance last year which saw headline earnings surge by 3 percent; revenue increase by 4 percent with shareholders dividend growing by a similar amount, has Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited Managing Director, Abdi Mohamed basking in glory.

The Johannesburg based lender which is one of Africa's largest banks, said in its latest annual report that with its R16.1 billion headline earnings and R75.7 billion revenue, defied odds in a market characterised by turmoil to make profit.

"As we join in reflecting on our parent company's full year results for 2018, we are excited about our own future as we make progress on our journey to the new Absa brand in Tanzania," Mohamed said in a statement accompanying the 2018 results.

"Our transition to a new brand in the near future presents us with a unique and exciting opportunity to leverage our rich African heritage and deep understanding of the local market to drive relevant initiatives that can unlock Tanzania's potential and support its growth," the BBT Managing Director, added.

The local subsidiary which is in the process of rebranding to Absa, has contributed significantly in the good 2018 results despite a challenging local banking market characterised by



Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited Managing Director, Abdi Mohamed.

liquidity crunch caused by government's decision to move its revenue accounts to Bank of Tanzania single account.

In its annual report, Absa Group said normalised earnings are considered the best measure of underlying group performance as it strips out the distorting effect of items related to the separation from Barclays Plc.

"Despite a challenging backdrop, we are particularly pleased with our improved momentum as we embark on our new growth strategy. This was evident in our gross loans to customers which increased by 13 percent,"

said Jason Quinn, Absa Group Financial Director.

In our largest business, retail in South Africa, lending momentum outpaced the market showing good new business growth across home loans, vehicle and asset finance and personal loans. Absa also gained market share in deposits which grew by 11% with strong growth in fixed and notice deposits.

**Business review**

"Last year was a year of almost unprecedented activity for Absa Group as the business was re-set as an in-

dependent bank after Barclays Plc reduced its shareholding to a minority stake in 2017," said René van Wyk, Absa Group CEO said.

Absa Group announced a new strategy in March as it repositioned itself as an independent African banking group focused on growth. In April, a new operating model was implemented to structure the business for delivery against the new strategy.

In June, Absa Group achieved regulatory deconsolidation from Barclays PLC, which meant that regulators no longer regarded the two businesses as a consolidated entity. In July, the group started trading as Absa Group and launched refreshed brand in South Africa.

Absa opened an office in London in September, strengthening its ability to serve European and global corporates. In 2018, the group also stepped up its digital customer offerings: ChatBanking on WhatsApp was launched, enabling customers to conduct basic banking on one of the world's most-used chat platforms; a mobile app called Timiza was launched in Kenya, allowing customers to save and borrow money without having to visit a branch and Absa was first in South Africa to launch Samsung Pay.

"With major changes bedded down in 2018, the framework for the business has been re-set," said Van Wyk. "The strong leadership team and structure that was put in place over the past year can now deepen the efforts within their business units to deliver against our ambitious growth strategy."

Commenting on the Group results, Absa Regional Operations Chief Executive, Peter Madlare said: "We are pleased with the contribution of our African operations to Absa Group's overall per-

formance and we remain focused on contributing to the Group's ambition of growing revenue market share on the continent over the coming years." He added: "As Absa Group, we are optimistic about the outlook for the continent and we stand ready to partner with stakeholders across the continent to develop strong, digitally led financial systems while supporting the growth of economies for the long term."

**Social promise**

In recognition of the increasingly important role that corporates play in shaping society, Absa made a significant contribution to the communities in which it operates.

In 2018, Absa Group: Invested R266 million in education disbursements, of which R181 million was invested in scholarships for 4,142 students across over 100 universities in African countries where we have a presence; trained 2,107 school governing body members from 656 schools in financial management and governance; facilitated consumer financial education for 100 746 South African beneficiaries and supported 9 298 young people in South Africa and 4 233 in Absa regional markets to gain work exposure, internships or placement opportunities through ReadytoWork partnership programmes.

Absa Group Limited is a listed company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and is one of Africa's largest diversified financial services groups. It offers an integrated set of products and services across personal and business banking, corporate and investment banking, wealth and investment management and insurance. Absa Group has a presence in 12 countries in Africa, with approximately 42,000 employees.



Dr. Tumubweine Twinemanzi, the Executive Director Supervision, at Bank of Uganda (BoU) (L) and Oracle's Byron Osiro, the Oracle Senior Cloud Platform Manager, East Africa (R) during the first Oracle-Raxio executive roundtable in Kampala.

## BoU roots for sharing for ICT infrastructure for financial services

KAMPALA

Dr. Tumubweine Twinemanzi, the Executive Director Supervision, at Bank of Uganda (BoU), has challenged the financial services sector to adopt a shared technology services delivery model. Thereby cutting down the cost of doing business and pass on those benefits to customers in form of reduced cost of lending.

Twinemanzi, was speaking during the first executive round-table for business and ICT leaders as well as regulators organised by Raxio Data Centre and Oracle – to discuss how enterprises can manage operational costs by leveraging cloud technologies.

"We have reached a stage where financial institutions should compete based on the quality of services and the appropriateness of their products and not on how beautiful or how brandy-new their infrastructure or systems are, said Twinemanzi.

He applauded Raxio for their effort on this, saying, "What Raxio is trying to do (shared services) is something that we've been trying to do in the financial services sector. Financial institutions should focus on their core business which is intermediation – mobilizing deposits and extending credit."

The financial services industry in Uganda has over the last 10 years has seen average cost to income ratios rise to 74.6%, compared to 66.7% in 2008. As a result, average lending rates increased to a 10 year average of 22.16% from 20.39% in the same period.

Twinemanzi challenged Raxio and Oracle to explore especially introducing shared software as a service – not just for Oracle but also for other software solutions, such as accounting, core banking solutions and credit analysis modules.

Raxio is developing a state of the art collocation, enterprise grade and carrier neutral data centre at Namanve Industrial Park. The data centre is being developed to tier III grade and is expected to be completed in Q2 of 2019.

Oracle on the other hand, has developed, Cloud at Customer – a cloud based solution that allows Ugandan based organisations to enjoy cloud services either in a collocation data centre such as Raxio's or customers' owned data centres.

Speaking at the event, Joachim Steuerwald, the Oracle Cloud Platform Sales Director, said with increased reliability on digital mobile solutions for virtually everything, it was a critical mission that service providers invest significantly in reliable systems.

"We're increasingly becoming a digital economy. Customers can't event tolerate our digital services being down for even an hour. This requires the ICT behind those businesses to be available 24/365. Building these highly reliable systems requires that we've the right environment," he said.

He further said that the Oracle is interested in a partnership with Raxio to solve the significant constraint to achieve the kind of uptimes that a digital economy demands.

"Many of the data centres in the region are fairly old. Before Raxio decided to enter the market, we did not have any single Tier III data centre in the region. And therefore out interest in a partnership with Raxio," he said.

James Byaruhanga, Raxio General Manager, said that with shared infrastructure and software solutions, the kind that will be ushered in by a Raxio and Oracle partnership most stakeholder fears will be addressed.

"The whole idea about shared infrastructure is to reduce the cost of cost of ownership, reduce operational expenses, allowing you to be more efficient and provide a better service to customers," Byaruhanga said in his final remarks.

## Women to hold \$72 trillion of global wealth by 2020 as their influence over markets rises

TOKYO

Women will control up to \$72 trillion of the world's wealth by 2020, double the level of 2010, signalling that their influence over global financial markets and economies will continue to increase.

Women are more likely than men to consider a company's environmental and social impact when making investment or purchasing decisions, according to an S&P Global report titled The (Financial) Future is Female, which was released last Thursday. This means the increased focus by fund and asset managers' on environmental, social and governance issues will remain a priority.

"Women's influence as investors in global financial markets - and, by extension, national economies - has grown substantially and will continue to do so," the report said. "In this light, it's critically important to consider the approach women take to their finances and the issues they care most about."

Narrowing the economic gap and advancing gender equality would boost global growth by almost a third, Bank of America Merrill Lynch said on Thursday in a separate study about the impact of women on



Women holding parasols, look at an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan.

financial markets. A UBS survey of female investors showed they had control of day-to-day expenses, but deferred long-term financial decisions to their spouses, a trend that spanned from millennials to Baby Boomers.

S&P Global found that in all but one of the 11 countries it studied, women said they are less prepared than men to weather a financial setback, such as losing their job. Higher numbers of women than men said they were in "fair" or "poor" financial

shape. A higher proportion of women also said they lagged behind where they would like to be in terms of retirement planning.

"These differences cast light on the ways in which women often feel less financially secure and less optimistic about their economic futures," said Martina Cheung, president of S&P Global Market Intelligence.

"Paradoxically, women feel a greater sense of conviction when it comes to betting on themselves and using their economic

strength to exercise their values." Understanding these differences and their causes can help countries and companies take practical steps towards the inclusive economic growth that will benefit everyone, Ms Cheung said.

S&P Global polled women and men in 11 countries with the largest stock markets, to gauge aspects of financial preparedness, investment behaviours and financial market sentiment. While women's participation in each of those

markets varied, the report highlighted insights on cultural and economic factors representing women's realities.

In the US, where women hold an estimated 42 per cent of wealth, the picture is bleak as two-thirds of millennial women said they are in "poor or fair" shape financially. This helps explain why only about a quarter of American women invest directly in the financial markets or through mutual funds, despite 41 per cent saying now would be a good time to do so.

Within Europe's wealthiest nations, including the UK, Germany, France and Switzerland, a higher percentage of women are worried about their financial future, including 88 per cent of women in France.

Among the Asian countries surveyed, women in South Korea and Japan proved the most pessimistic about their personal finances. However, about half of the women surveyed in China are financially stable enough to sustain themselves without their income for more than six months.

In all the markets surveyed, Asian women are most likely to keep their finances separate from their partners, indicating the growing autonomy and power they hold in the economy, the report said.

## UBA donates bed sheets to Temeke Hospital to commemorate IWD 2019



UBA Bank Tanzania Chief Operating Officer Flavia Kiyanga (R) hands over bed sheets to Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki (C) while Temeke Member of Parliament Abdallah Mtolea (L) and Temeke Referral Hospital's Senior Consultant, Dr Amaan Malima (2nd L) looks on. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

By Smart Money Reporter

TO commemorate this year's International Women's Day, United Bank for Africa employees donated 100 bed sheets to Temeke Referral Hospital as part of giving back to the community.

Speaking after handing over the sheets to Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investment, Angela Kairuki, UBA Tanzania's Chief Operating Officer, Flavia Kiyanga said giving back to the community has been one of the bank's long time initiatives.

Kiyanga said the bank recognises the importance of the surrounding community hence the decision to extend support to the less privileged groups in the country. "This time we have decided to support Temeke

Referral Hospital putting in mind that some of the patients admitted to this hospital have no close relatives to support them," the COO said.

Kiyanga said that the donation of the bed sheets has been as result of UBA Tanzania women who have decided to contribute their own funds to assist the hospital on an International Women's Day commemoration.

"We are happy that we have managed to fulfill one of our long-term commitments and most importantly we thank the hospital's staff for a good reception accorded to us," said Kiyanga.

Speaking after receiving the sheets, Minister Kariuki thanked UBA Bank Tanzania's female staff members for the generous contribution. She said the International Women's

Day is a special occasion aimed to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women globally.

"For that matter, I am very happy to learn that the United Bank for Africa Tanzania women staff have contributed their own funds that they have used to purchase the bed sheets we are receiving today," she noted.

"You could have used the money to celebrate by enjoying yourself but fortunately you decided to cheer the less privileged who are in this hospital. That is something that must be emulated by others and to me you have set a very good example," the Investment Minister added.

She urged women to continue working hard because they are an important group in the community both at family and national

level. "I call upon UBA Tanzania and other stakeholders to continue supporting our communities and especially in the health sector so that we have a healthy nation," Kairuki urged.

The Temeke Referral Hospital's Senior Consultant, Dr Amaan Malima paid tribute to the bank saying the donation will play a big role in improving services at the largest regional hospital. "Your donation has come at very right time because our hospital has been going through a difficult time due to shortage of many things including bed sheets," Dr Malima said.

"We receive large numbers of patients and so the number cannot match availability of bed sheets that we have. We cherish your donation and wish you good luck on your activities," Dr Malima added.

## Rwandan entrepreneurs benefit from Alibaba training programme

HANGZHOU

Alibaba Business School, Alibaba Group's university, last week hosted 30 Rwanda-based entrepreneurs at the company's global headquarter in Hangzhou to learn from Alibaba's experience and the tools needed to run successful business in the digital era.

This was the first cohort of the Alibaba "Netpreneur Training Programme" whose aim is to help entrepreneurs transform their businesses for the digital era and overcome country-specific challenges.

The programme is a result of a partnership between Alibaba Rwanda Development Board (RDB), tailored to help solve for problems and issues that entrepreneurs face within their local ecosystem.

It is set to benefit both digital entrepreneurs and leaders of traditional businesses, spanning from tea growers and shoe manufacturing to financial technology and logistics, to seize the opportunities offered by the digital economy.

According to a joint statement by RDB and Alibaba, the training programme aims to establish digital success cases that can serve as role models for other entrepreneurs and business owners across the country, and even the entire continent.

"We are thrilled to be launching a programme that will impact businesses that can benefit most from the adoption of digital technology. We believe by sharing our lessons and experiences with local entrepreneurs, we can



Rwandan entrepreneurs in Hangzhou for Alibaba Netpreneur Training Programme.

enable multiple segments of the local value chain and strengthen Rwanda's overall capabilities to utilise e-commerce for local and international trade" said Brian Wong, Alibaba Group's Vice President who also heads the Global Initiatives programme.

"Our hope is that programmes like the Alibaba Netpreneur Training program will help to build a digital economy that allows everyone to participate fully and benefit equally," he added.

The Alibaba Netpreneur Training Program follows the launch of the first African eWTP (electronic world trade platform) hub in Rwanda last October.

Under the eWTP agreement, the Government and Alibaba

committed to work together to promote policy innovation and provide capacity building to empower the growth of Rwanda's digital economy.

Meanwhile, through the Netpreneur Programme, Wong highlighted that they are offering a curriculum specifically designed for Rwanda by providing targeted training that zeroes in on the unique needs of the local economy.

This, they say, enables participants to easily put into practice the skills and knowledge they learned from the programme and become role models for other entrepreneurs back home.

During the ten-day programme in Hangzhou, participants met with business leaders from Alibaba

Group as well as merchants on Alibaba's platforms to learn about their own experience building up the e-commerce ecosystem in China.

The programme included numerous site visits to see firsthand how the internet has completely transformed daily life in China. In a nutshell, the big idea is to inspire and support Rwandan entrepreneurs to return home to build companies that can serve as the foundation for a digital economy.

With the partnership, Clare Akamanzi, RDB's Chief Executive Officer stated that they are committed to leveraging the digital economy to support local exporters, producers and artisans.

## The type of Boeing that crashed in Ethiopia and Indonesia is still flying in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Comair - which operates kulula and British Airways in Southern Africa - has ordered eight of the Boeing 737 Max planes for delivery, and the first of the planes was delivered two weeks ago.

The plane, in British Airways colours, started flying South African routes last week, and was still in the air late last night on a Cape Town flight, according to the flight tracking platform Flightradar24.com.

On Monday morning, China's Aviation Authority grounded all Boeing 737 Max 8 planes used by domestic airlines after an Ethiopian Airline crash six minutes after takeoff on Sunday. All 157 people aboard the Boeing 737 Max 8 plane were killed.

This is the second crash involving a Boeing 737 Max 8 plane in recent months - in October, Lion Air flight 610 crashed into the Java Sea 12 minutes after takeoff, killing 187 people.

According to a statement posted to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC)'s website, the Ethiopian Airlines crash and the Lion Air crash have certain similarities that have caused concern over the Boeing aircraft.

The statement added that both incidents involved newly delivered Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft and both occurred in the takeoff phase of the flight. Ethiopia also banned the airplanes from flying. But Comair will continue to fly its 737 MAX plane.

"Our highly trained and experienced flight crew and engineers remain vigilant," Comair said. "If we receive information that requires us to reassess the situation, please be assured we will take appropriate action in the interests

of the safety of our staff and customers."

Other airlines, including SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, also said it will continue to fly the new planes. With 4,700 orders for the planes, the 737 MAX series is the fastest-selling aircraft in Boeing's history, according to CNN.

Comair ordered eight planes five years ago, with the company's CEO Erik Venter telling Boeing in 2016 that the company owed much of its success to the 737.

"We try to get about 11 and one-half hours out of the airplanes each day," said Venter. "The 737 is up to the job and we find that it's tougher than your competitors." Comair celebrated its 70th anniversary with a 90 kg cake shaped like a Next-Generation 737-800.



**Our highly trained and experienced flight crew and engineers remain vigilant," Comair said. "If we receive information that requires us to reassess the situation, please be assured we will take appropriate action in the interests of the safety of our staff and customers."**

## MTN smart feature phone stuck at port

JOHANNESBURG

MTN's smart feature phone, the MTN Smart S, is sitting at South African customs but will be available in stores as soon as it gets through the customs process.

MTN SA CEO Godfrey Motsa confirmed this at a media briefing after the group's full year results presentation in Johannesburg. "The phone is basically stuck at customs at the moment but should be launching in a couple of weeks," Motsa said.

In November 2018, MTN announced the partnership with operating system maker, KaiOS, as well as China Mobile and chipmaker Unisoc to bring affordable 3G 'smart feature phones' to the African market.

MTN group CEO Rob Shuter told ITWeb in an interview after last week's results announcement that the phone has already launched in Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda.

"The South African shipment is at customs so it's here but didn't come in time [for the results announcement]. Most of the markets will launch in the first quarter of the year so that means in the next three weeks or so."

Journalists were given a sample phone to test, but these had to be brought in from Rwanda because of the customs issue. The MTN Smart S is a 3G phone and will cost around \$22 (R318) to buy and is launching across a number of markets at the same time.

"They were a very important part of the Reliance Jio strategy in India. Reliance Jio really pioneered the smart feature phone as an entry-level data-capable device and it worked very well there and we think it can work [in Africa]," Shuter told ITWeb.

Shuter previously said the telco aims to sell 10 million devices over the next three years. He told ITWeb that MTN hopes to sell between two million and three million devices this year across the group operations.

"Bear in mind that last year, we

increased our active data customers by almost 10 million so we are at just under 80 million. There are about 94 million smartphones on the [group] network. So to put it into context, if in one year we added 9.8 million data users, deploying two million or three million [smart feature phones] across the group would make a big difference in the group numbers.

"But it's an experimental category, so we really just want to get them on the network and see what they do," Shuter added.

The phone is Internet-capable and comes with a number of social media apps installed, including Facebook and Twitter, as well as the KaiOS app store. It has a front and back camera, dual SIM, MicroSD slot (up to 32GB) and its battery promises to last for three to five days. It is Bluetooth, WiFi and GPS capable and has FM Radio.

It also comes with the key Google applications including search, Google Maps, Google Assistance and YouTube.

KaiOS' lightweight operating system already has more than 80 million active users in over 100 countries. As of the end of December 2018, MTN had 233 million subscribers in 21 countries across Africa and the Middle East.



**The South African shipment is at customs so it's here but didn't come in time [for the results announcement]. Most of the markets will launch in the first quarter of the year so that means in the next three weeks or so.**

# Financial inclusion is better way of ensuring gender equality in economy

By Smart Money Reporter

FINANCIAL inclusion is an important tool for women to be at par with their male counterparts in the country's decision making position.

Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT)'s Director of Operations responsible for programmes, Irene Mlola said in Dar es Salaam last week during a panel discussion to mark International Women's Day, that while giving women political and managerial positions is important, financial inclusions is by far an important tool.

Speaking at an NMB Bank Plc organised panel discussion, Mlola said financial inclusion will empower women and give them confidence to compete with peers at all levels from family level to boardroom.

"We believe that through financial inclusion, people would be able to balance their lives and shocks and eventually live a better life," she noted.

Mlola was quick to comment that despite diversities, a stubborn gap still exist between men and women in terms of accessing financial services. "Today, there is some evidence that suggests and proves that by bringing more women in the position where men are, the whole world economy in terms of GDP would increase," the FSDT Director argued.

Supporting Irene's observations, another panellist who is NMB's Strategy and Investor Relations Specialist,



FSDT Director of Operations, Irene Mlola speaking during a panel discussion organised by NMB Bank Plc to commemorate International Women's Day in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Centre is Trademark East Africa Country Director, John Ulanga and NMB's Strategy and Investor Relations Specialist, Caroline Yambesi. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

Caroline Yambesi said that creating a sustainable culture that supports inclusive work balance should be the main focus.

"In this millennial environment, companies should move away from the gross misconception that hiring more men is equal to more productivity," Yambesi argued while noting that managers should not only to look at human resources ratio that a company has but also consider what women bring to the table.

Trademark East Africa Country Director, John Ulanga seconded both Mlola and Yambesi's observations saying on one hand, the whole society should be happy with progress that has been achieved so far in gender equality at all levels.

Ulanga said however that there is still a lot more to be done saying as a nation, "We are not yet quite there in terms of having a comprehensive look on how we are performing in terms of creating an equitable society."

He argued that in principle, as advocates and champions of change, men have been recognized as key players in advancing women's rights.

Under this year's theme, 'BalanceforBetter,' the panellists were in consensus that there is need to continue raising awareness against gender bias in the society.

In his opening remarks, NMB's

acting Head of Human Resource, Emmanuel Akonaay stroke a chord when he challenged the gathering to perceive a gender equality beyond the numbers.

In his opinion, Akonaay said a gender balanced society cannot be only achieved in terms of numbers. "Is it enough?" he queried, adding: "We are doing very well in some levels, but is this enough?"

"What should we do to get where probably we should have been?" he challenged the gathering, citing an example of the number of women who occupy top leadership positions.

He argued that based on the assumption that by appointing more women in leadership position the society could attain the balanced numbers in terms of gender, the notion is not all that true.

The acting NMB Head of Human Resources further noted that the right approach should be based on merits and competence of particular individuals if they are worth occupying such leadership position.

"It needs a creation of a level playing field where everyone would feel safe and secured," he added while pointing out that cases of a female interviewee facing a male dominated panel for a top job, is in itself biased.

## Keystone habits for business success

### CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

A Duke University study showed that on average, 40% of our actions throughout the day are habit. In other words, our actions are hardwired in our brains, so we do not have to think of each step in each action. The challenge is that our brain can't tell if a habit is good or bad for us.

We all want to change our habits from time to time. The mistake we make is to attempt to change too many habits at once. For example, we decide to get to work early, exercise, cut out sugar and spend more time with family and friends. All are valuable habits to adopt yet attempting to do all at once is a definite path to failure.

In the book, *The Power of Habit*, author Charles Duhigg explains that changing just one habit, which he calls a "Keystone Habit" leads to a chain reaction of other positive changes over time.

The potential of a keystone habit is that it can encourage other related behavior pattern changes that will combine to establish a more complete, productive performance. Regular exercise is a good example - once a person established a core, consistent exercise pattern, and it produces positive results - e.g. loss of weight, increased energy, satisfaction from achievement, etc, it will trigger other healthy choices and behaviors such as more nutritional eating, procrastinating less, sleeping more soundly and more attention to other healthy habits. It builds like a chain reaction.

The culture of a company revolves around its values, established and demonstrated by its top leaders. The importance of clearly defining and showing off these values is more critical than ever in today's world. According to Charles Duhigg, success is based not so much on strategic decisions, but on the habits and values within the organization.

There is three-element habit loop

that we all experience daily. We have a 1) Cue, 2) Routine habit, and 3) Reward.

For example John's cue was interacting with someone he wanted to impress. His routine habit was then to talk solely about himself and his accomplishments. His perceived award was to gain admiration, and thus in his mind, building relationships.

Our cues and rewards will typically remain the same. So our key to changing habits is to change response to the cue. For example, John changed his routine response (habit) to the cue of interacting with someone new to asking more questions and listening more deeply. While his reward remained the same, he built relationships and gained admiration.

Let us start with our daily tasks. A person, a team or even the whole company can adopt really solid and positive habits. Duhigg expresses that the "The biggest opportunity for a company to grow and improve overall is by implementing or re-adjusting habits." The one habit that can have a huge impact on your company is called a keystone habit, most commonly

known as the company's culture.

The keystone habit should have a chain reaction benefit. This means by being consistent, the habit solves indirectly other issues inside the company. An example of a powerful keystone habit is Employee Well-Being Program - when done right, it can influence the overall culture of your company with a significant impact on performance and productivity.

When employees are healthier, they are more productive. When the culture of the workplace promotes healthy choices, the environment has more positive energy. When employees begin to reach goals they set in their own wellness as part of the overall well-being program, the pattern of working to achieve a goal can translate into productivity goals being reached. Success breeds success. A business with an effective wellness program can see increased profitability across the board, including lower health coverage costs, as the culture of the workplace becomes one of teamwork and high morale.



Reply back to [bhakti@impactafya.com](mailto:bhakti@impactafya.com) call +255 754 694 643 with your feedback. We welcome your suggestions for corporate wellness tips you'd like to see covered in our future columns.

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## Egypt launches licensing round for Red Sea oil and gas exploration

CAIRO

Egypt has tendered 10 blocks offshore the Red Sea as it looks to duplicate its successes in the Eastern Mediterranean, which led to a gas bonanza ending the country's imports for the fuel.

The South Valley Egyptian Petroleum Holding Company (Ganope) invited companies on Sunday to review and purchase technical data, with August 1 set as the closing date for bids.

The announcement follows Egypt's successful closing of one of its largest ever bid rounds, which saw the award of 12 licences and marked the entry of US major Exxon in the search for the country's hydrocarbons.

Egypt, the Arab world's most populous state struck gold in recent years thanks to the discovery of the massive Zohr field by Italian energy major

Eni in 2016 in the Eastern Mediterranean. The find sparked search for more hydrocarbon resources along the Nile Delta and western desert as the North African state looked to leverage these discoveries to become a net exporter of gas, particularly to markets in Europe.

Following the award of exploration licenses to concessions in the western and eastern desert regions, the Nile Delta as well as the Gulf of Suez, Egypt had announced intention to launch a new round that included blocks in the Red Sea.

"Red Sea exploration will be part of a new bid round, which will be launched very soon. This year, definitely. It's ready but we'll launch after we announce award winners for the 2018 bid round," Abed Ezz El Regal told The National in an interview in Cairo.

Egypt will look to incentivise exploration in the Red Sea area, which is expected to include unconventional resources.

The North African country will this year see production from its Zohr resource increase to more than 3 billion cubic feet per day. The country will also ramp up output from the North Alexandria West Nile Delta concessions operated by BP in April. Production is expected to reach 700 million cubic feet per day with the coming on stream of 400 million cubic feet per day, he said.

Saudi Arabia announced last week that it had discovered large quantities of gas in the Red Sea. The kingdom will conduct an investment feasibility study on the scheme and intensify exploration over the next two years, according to Saudi energy minister Khaled Al Falih.

## Workplace gender equality 'could add \$8 trillion' to global GDP

DUBAI

Gender equality in the workplace has the power to increase global gross domestic product by up to \$8 trillion over the next decade by boosting employee innovation and company output, according to a report by technology firm Accenture.

In companies with a robust culture of gender equality, employees' willingness and ability to innovate is six times higher than in companies with less equal treatment and representation of male and female staff, the report published on Sunday said.

A culture of equality is therefore a "powerful multiplier of workplace innovation", with a positive impact on company performance and, in turn, economic growth.

"In our increasingly competitive world, companies must create an environment

that encourages and harnesses their employees' innovative capabilities," said Alexis Lecanuet, regional managing director for Accenture in the Middle East and Turkey, in a statement.

"Our research has shown that an empowering environment can have a more positive impact on employees' innovation mindset than even pay rises or advanced degrees."

The company's Getting to Equal study is based on the findings of an employee survey of more than 18,000 professionals in 27 countries, an executive survey of more than 150 C-suite executives in eight countries, and a model that combines employee survey results with published labour force data.

Respondents were asked questions to determine how successful their company was in creating an "innovation

mindset", including factors like purpose, autonomy, resources, inspiration, collaboration and experimentation.

The more empowering the workplace, the higher the innovation mindset score. For instance, Saudi Arabian employees in robust cultures of equality are three times more likely to say that nothing holds them back from innovating (31 per cent in most equal cultures versus 3 per cent in the least equal cultures), the report found.

Almost all executives (95 per cent) surveyed globally agreed that innovation was vital to business competitiveness, and that a culture of equality is a powerful driver of innovation - more so than other factors that differentiate organisations, such as industry, country or workforce demographics, Accenture said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP





## WORLD

## Trump to ask for 8.6 bn dollars for border wall in new budget

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to request 8.6 billion U.S. dollars for border wall construction in his upcoming budget proposal, multiple U.S. media reported on Sunday.

The White House was expected to release its budget proposal for fiscal year 2020 yesterday, multiple reports cited unnamed government sources as saying Trump plans to double down on his bid to construct a barrier on the U.S. border with Mexico, requesting more money than the 5.7 billion he asked for last year. According to the government source, the money will be

used to build or replace roughly 700 miles (1127 Km) of barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Fiscal Year 2020 will begin on Oct. 1, 2019, the U.S. Congress must pass the budget prior to that date to ensure that the federal government can operate after fiscal year 2020 begins.

Speaking with media Sunday, White House Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow said building the wall is of "paramount importance" and that he expected Trump to "stay with the wall."

The reports triggered a swift rebuke from top Congressional Democrats. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer



said in a joint statement that they would block the budget proposal containing the 8.6-billion-dollar wall money.

"President Trump hurt millions of Americans and caused widespread chaos when he recklessly shutdown the government to try to get his expensive and ineffective wall," the joint statement said, "Congress refused to fund his wall and he was forced to admit defeat and reopen the government."

The same thing will repeat itself if he tries this again." In December 2018, when the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives refused to pass a spending bill allowing 5.7 billion dollars

for the border wall as asked by Trump, the U.S. federal government went into partial shutdown.

Trump later agreed to sign off on a spending bill with 1.375 billion dollars for border fencing projects to reopen the government, but tried to circumvent Congress by declaring a national emergency that would allow him to tap into other funds to build the wall.

The U.S. Congress is expected to block the national emergency in the near future, as multiple Republican lawmakers anxious to preserve Congress' power of the purse voiced their opposition to the national emergency.

Agencies

## Algerian president returns home after 'routine medical checks' in Geneva

ALGIERS

ALGERIAN President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has returned home after two weeks of stay in Switzerland's Geneva for "routine medical checks," confirmed a statement by the President Office.

The presidential aircraft carrying Bouteflika landed on Boufarik Military Airport, some 45 km southwest of the capital Algiers, at 5:48 p.m. local time (1648 GMT) on Sunday.

Bouteflika was immediately escorted to the State Residence in western Algiers un-



der strict security after the landing.

He had been admitted in Geneva's University Hospital on Feb. 24 for "routine medical checks." Bouteflika is likely to hold urgent meetings with senior officials to discuss the developments in the country, including recent popular protest movement.

Millions of Algerians have been staging continuous rallies across the country since Feb. 22, after 82-year-old Bouteflika announced his intention to run for presidential election on April 18.

On Sunday, retailers and merchants

closed their stores, while workers at several state-run companies and institutions staged sit-ins in response to general strike call.

Opposition parties, for their part, have been holding continuous consultations to reach consensus over the steps to take, in a bid to force the government to take into consideration the claims of this wide-scale protest movement.

Bouteflika suffered a stroke in 2013, and he was re-elected in 2014 for a fourth term until 2019.

Xinhua

## UNEP official says China's role crucial to reshaping global environment agenda

NAIROBI

CHINA will be an influential player in future efforts to reshape the global environmental agenda thanks to its focused leadership coupled with enactment of policies that have reinvigorated green growth, a senior official at the UN Environment has said.

Joyce Msuya, acting executive director of the UN Environment, said that China's home-grown interventions that have transformed management of natural resources amid rapid economic growth is an inspiration to the rest of the world.

"China has a lot to offer in terms of lessons, for example on how the government set up policies to address the issue of pollution, the PM 2.5... These are the kinds of lessons and experiences we are looking to share with other countries that are undergoing similar challenges," Msuya said in a recent interview with Xinhua ahead of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA4). The assembly is slated for March 11-15 in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

More than 2,000 delegates, including environment ministers, scientists, industry leaders and green campaigners, will attend the five-day forum whose theme will be "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production." Msuya said UNEA4 will provide a platform for the international community to chart a new path characterized by low-carbon development and efficient use of natural resources.

"It is exciting times. Climate change, biodiversity, issues



Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Joyce Msuya addresses the opening ceremony of the second global session of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment in Nairobi, Kenya, on Sunday. (Xinhua)

around sustainable production and consumption will be discussed at the highest political level in Nairobi," she said.

The Tanzanian diplomat said climate change has taken a heavy toll on the African continent, where it is decimating vital ecosystems and strategic sectors of the economy. "Impact of climate change in Africa varies from one place to another, but it is being

felt in tourism, agriculture, biodiversity and wildlife corridors," Msuya said. The international community has partnered with African countries to enhance their resilience to negative impacts of climate change, she said.

Msuya said China's robust engagement in the multilateral environmental regime, coupled with its economic muscle, will be key to addressing pressing

challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and waste that have disproportionately affected developing countries.

"China is a key global economic powerhouse right now, the second largest in the world," she said.

"The population of China, 1.3 billion people, is absolutely central to address any environmental challenges in the globe."

"We look to working with all member states including China on environmental challenges," Msuya said. "We continue to engage and look forward to learning from what China will do in both pollution, biodiversity but also waste management and chemical use," she said.

China's rapid transition from hydrocarbons to renewable energy sources has provided inspiration to developing countries grappling with negative impacts of climate change, Msuya said.

"The direction China is taking in reassessing sources of energy is positive," she said, adding that engagement of local communities to clean up rivers in different Chinese provinces is an initiative worth replicating in other parts of the world.

Xinhua

## Global solar body urges Africa to tap solar energy to green their economies

NAIROBI

INTERNATIONAL Solar Alliance (ISA) has urged African states to tap solar energy to green their economies.

ISA Program Ambassador Mohua Mukherjee on Sunday told a media briefing in Nairobi that the bulk of African states are located along the sunshine belt with abundant solar energy resources.

"African countries should take advantage of declining cost of solar technology to achieve clean energy targets," Mukherjee said during the second global session of the United Nations Science, Policy and Business Forum on the environment.

The majority of the continent's residents are not connected to their national electricity grids, he said.

"This provides a great opportunity for Africans to use solar technology to power their electric appliances," she added.

The ISA will leverage on South-South cooperation to enable Africa benefit and borrow critical experiences from their peers in other developing countries so that they embrace solar technologies, Mukherjee said.

However, according to the global solar body, the high up-front cost remains a key barrier to driving uptake of solar technology among African households.

Mukherjee called for innovative technologies such as pay-as-you-go systems to ensure that the continent has access to solar equipment. She said that by adopting solar technology, Africa can play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mukherjee said strong economic growth in Africa in the past decade has fueled demand for energy in the continent. "It will be prudent for the region to choose green energy sources that will accelerate the drive towards low carbon development pathways," she said.

## A landmark law in China's opening up

BEIJING

TRADE and investment are considered the main engines for growth and development, especially for developing countries.

While trade, mainly refers to the trade of goods, makes merchandise to flow between countries, foreign investment enables capital, technology and expertise to move across borders.

China's economic development over the past four decades is largely credited to the reform and opening up featuring substantive inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI). According to data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FDI inflow to China has ranked first among developing countries for 27 consecutive years.

There can be no economic prosperity without opening up, and there can be no high-level opening up without sound rule of law. To draw more foreign investors, a fair and complete legal system is crucial.

The draft Foreign Investment Law, being reviewed by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature, is a fundamental law for China's foreign investment and innovative improvement of its foreign investment legal system. It will promote and protect foreign investment in China by creating a stable, transparent and predictable market environment for fair competition.

First proposed several years ago, China is close to passing the law. At the on-

going NPC annual session, deliberation on the draft law is a major task for nearly 3,000 lawmakers from across the country.

It demonstrates China's commitment to further deepening reform and pursuing high-level opening up.

Many people have described the process and methodology of China's decades of reform and opening up as "crossing the river by feeling the stones." The same is true for China's legislation on foreign investment.

Three older statutes regarding foreign investment were passed by the National People's Congress between 1979 and late 1980s. These laws were enormously important then, but failed to keep up with today's modernization and globalization. They need to be updated to fit for the new era.

The draft law stipulates that China will manage foreign investment according to the system of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list.

This means that foreign investors and their investments shall enjoy treatment no less favorable than that afforded to Chinese investors and their investments at the stage of investment access.

If passed by the NPC, the new law will take China's opening up to an unprecedented high level.

The draft law showcases China's resolve to make its investment climate more equitable for domestic and foreign capital and let them compete on a level playing field.

Xinhua

## Russia won't be the first to deploy new missiles to Europe, senior MP says

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is not planning to be the first to deploy intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles to the regions not hosting similar US weapons, including to Europe, Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) Defense Committee Chairman Vladimir Shamanov told a briefing for military attaches yesterday.

Russia reserves the right to respond in kind in terms of development, production and deployment of intermediate-range and shorter-range ground-

based missiles and Russian President Vladimir Putin had signed a decree on suspending Russia's participation in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, Shamanov recalled.

"But we are not planning to be the first to deploy these advanced weapons to the regions, including Europe, where there are no similar US systems," he said.

Shamanov also said that the breakdown of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty could signify the risk of returning to the Cold War for Europe.

"Anyway, the collapse of the treaty on medium and shorter-range missiles could deal a severe blow to the international security and stability system. For Europe, that would mean the risk of returning to the worst times of the Cold War, while the Americans themselves will remain out of reach," Shamanov said.

According to Shamanov, the United States may deploy about 1,200 warheads excluded from the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty).

"Last year, the United States unilaterally excluded about 100 allegedly

converted Trident II SLBM launchers on submarines, 41 B-52H bombers and four so-called training mines from the Treaty," he said.

"They [the Americans] claimed to have converted them for non-nuclear use," Shamanov noted, adding that Russia was unable to verify that information.

"It is about no less than 1,200 warheads, this is serious," the senior Russian lawmaker pointed out.

The INF Treaty, signed by the Soviet Union and the United States on December 8, 1987, took effect on June 1, 1988. It

applies to deployed and non-deployed ground-based missiles of intermediate range (1,000-5,000 kilometers) and shorter range (500-1,000 kilometers).

Washington on many occasions had accused Russia of violating the accord, but Moscow vehemently dismissed all accusations and, in its turn, expressed grievances over Washington's non-compliance.

On February 1, US President Donald Trump and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo announced the suspension of Washington's obligations under the INF starting February 2. Washing-

ton is determined to withdraw from the treaty in six months unless Russia returns to "real and verifiable" compliance.

On February 2, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow was also suspending the agreement. He handed down instructions to refrain from initiating talks with Washington on the issue and stressed that the US needed to show willingness for an equal and substantive dialogue.

Putin signed a decree suspending Moscow's compliance with the Treaty on March 4.

Agencies



LeBron James

## All about LeBron: Where does the Lakers star go from here?

LOS ANGELES

The year was 2005. No one had an iPhone. No one had tweeted. Facebook wasn't part of the mainstream.

And it was the last time the NBA playoffs didn't have LeBron James.

The Los Angeles Lakers aren't mathematically eliminated from postseason consideration yet, but it's only a matter of time. For the first time in 14 years, the postseason will begin without James – and for the first time in nine years, the NBA Finals will be played without him.

It will be a very long offseason for James.

It is not what he envisioned, either.

"It's challenging," James said of the current state of the Lakers. "But I kind of knew what I was getting myself into."

That's not entirely true. He knew it would be difficult but he couldn't have foreseen anything like this, since the only other losing season of his life came when he was a rookie in 2003-04.

Thing is, he doesn't possibly know what comes next. No one does. The offseason will see roster change, top free agents to play alongside James will be pursued hard by Rob Pelinka and Magic Johnson, and it will not be a surprise if the Lakers decide Luke Walton isn't the right coach anymore.

But the key for the 2019-20 Lakers – obviously – is going to be James. The grind of eight straight runs to the NBA Finals is over. He's about to get six months off to rest, recover, reset, heal, think, plot, prepare. It's been a long time since that happened, and at this point in his career it might be precisely what he needs.

"Rest is going to help," said Miami guard Dwyane Wade, one of James' closest friends. "I think the biggest thing with him is probably mental, the mental break from it. Physically, obviously, he's getting older but he's still very good at this game. Look at his numbers. They're still very good. But he's been going at it for a long time, so to get away from it and kind of look at it from a different lens, it'll definitely help."

It has been proven that setbacks inspire James. Miami lost the 2011 NBA Finals in his first season with the Heat. Fueled by that, he came back the next year better than ever, and his fingerprints smudged the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the first time in 2012. Cleveland lost the 2015 finals in his first year back there, and he carried that all the way to winning the 2016 title.

Of course, he was younger then.

He'll turn 35 in December. Next season is his 17th in the NBA. Does he have the ability to engineer the sort of turnaround that LA needs?

Kevin Love, his former Cleveland teammate, has no doubt.

"Just having that break, being able to reassess and come back really, really highly motivated, I think it's going to be big for him," Love said. "If you get Bron highly motivated, anything can happen."

James is still putting up amazing numbers. At 34, he's on pace to become the oldest person in NBA history to average 27 points, eight assists and eight rebounds. If it happens, he'll break the record set by 33-year-old LeBron James last sea-

son. No other 30-something has finished a season with stats like that.

Still, this Lakers' season is lost. But Wade warns against expecting the same next season.

"This is definitely going to make him hungrier for what he's trying to accomplish next year," Wade said.

### MORE JAMES

James passed Michael Jordan for No. 4 on the NBA's all-time regular season scoring list last week.

This week, he'll pass Kobe Bryant on another scoring list.

Including playoff games, James now has 39,252 points. That leaves him 31 shy of matching Bryant for No. 3 on the all-time total points list, when including the postseason. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has 44,154 points including playoffs, Karl Malone has 41,689 and Bryant scored 39,283.

Bryant will remain No. 3 on the regular-season list, though James is on pace to pass him in that department next season.

### AND MORE JAMES

One thing to think about as James enters potentially six months without any basketball: It might not be six months without any basketball. USA Basketball certainly is hoping that's the case.

With the FIBA World Cup looming in China this summer, and with the Americans – set to be coached by Gregg Popovich – not convening for camp until more than three months after the end of the Lakers' season, it would seem like James would have plenty of time to feel refreshed and ready for a return to game action by then.

There are pros and cons that he'll consider.

Pros: He's enormously popular in China, he's greatly enjoyed playing for USA Basketball before and the chance to be coached by Popovich is going to be a major selling point.

Cons: The tournament goes until Sept. 15, which is not long before the start of NBA training camps, and the Lakers have to go to China for preseason games next fall. Even from Los Angeles, that's a long flight and it remains to be seen if James would want to make it twice in a relatively short amount of time.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

A game to watch each day this week, as the playoff races continue getting hotter:

– Tuesday, San Antonio at Dallas: Spurs are 2-0 against the Mavericks this season, winning those games by a total of nine points.

– Wednesday, Golden State at Houston: The Rockets are simply rolling right now, and are 3-0 against the Warriors this season.

– Thursday, Cleveland at Orlando: The Magic will not go away in the East playoff chase, and are 6-1 since Jan. 31 in home games.

– Friday, Charlotte at Washington: They played a down-to-the-wire game last week, and both teams are fighting for their playoff lives.

– Saturday, Golden State at Oklahoma City: National TV game, and Kevin Durant's only trip this season back to his old home court.

– Sunday, Philadelphia at Milwaukee: These teams haven't played since Oct. 24, when Giannis Antetokounmpo did whatever he wanted.

AP

## Box Office - 'Captain Marvel' soars to \$153 million launch



Cast member Brie Larson poses at the premiere for the movie "Captain Marvel" in Los Angeles, California, U.S., March 4, 2019. (Agencies)

LOS ANGELES

BRIE Larson's "Captain Marvel" is soaring to a heroic opening weekend of \$153 million (117.56 million pounds) in North America at 4,310 sites, reviving what had been a slumbering 2019 box office.

"Captain Marvel" took in \$302 million internationally, giving it an estimated global opening weekend of \$455 million – the sixth highest global debut of all time.

The 21st instalment of Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe propelled total domestic moviegoing to \$210 million – nearly \$70 million above the same frame last year. It was the first weekend of 2019 to outperform the same frame of 2018.

"Captain Marvel" will wind up

with the 18th biggest domestic opening weekend of all time.

Disney's "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" has the 17th-highest launch frame with \$155.1 million in 2016.

It will be the biggest opening title since "Incredibles 2" launched with \$182 million in June and should post the best start for a standalone superhero film since Marvel's "Black Panther" launched with \$202 million in 2018.

Larson stars as Carol Danvers, the pilot who becomes the vastly powerful Captain Marvel after the Earth is caught at the centre of a galactic conflict in 1995. The cast includes Samuel L. Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn, Djimon Hounsou, Lee Pace, Lashana Lynch, Gemma Chan, Annette Bening, Clark Gregg, and Jude Law. The movie is written and directed by Anna Boden and

Ryan Fleck.

"Captain Marvel" performed well above studio projections, which had pegged the film at \$125 million. It took in nearly triple what had been the biggest opener of the year with "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" at \$55 million on Feb. 22-24.

Total domestic box office for 2019, which had plunged by 27 percent before the weekend, is now down 21 percent at \$1.79 billion, according to Comscore's Paul Der-garabedian, senior media analyst.

"Thankfully 'Captain Marvel's' superpowers extend to the box office realm and as expected provided a much-needed box office boost that the 2019 box office has been waiting for with a positively out of this world debut," he said. "The allure and power of the super-

hero genre is as powerful as ever and just what blockbuster starved audiences have been waiting for in the form of a perfectly cast Brie Larson in this most powerful role."

"Captain Marvel" landed an A CinemaScore. Comscore/Screen Engine's PostTrak survey of audiences resulted in an 81 percent total positive score with a strong 66 percent of audiences saying they would "definitely recommend" the film. Universal's third weekend of "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" led the rest of the pack with \$14.7 million at 4,402 locations for a 17-day domestic total of \$119.7 million.

The second weekend of "Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral" followed with \$12.1 million at 2,442 venues.

REUTERS



Yalitza Aparicio

## 'Roma' actress brings star power to support of domestic workers

GENEVA

SHE was nominated for an Oscar playing a maid in "Roma" and now Yalitza Aparicio is using her fame to campaign for the rights of domestic workers and indigenous women around the world.

The Mexican actress got a standing ovation as she joined an International Women's Day discussion in Geneva on the position of women who earn on average about 20 percent less than men for work

of equal value around the world, according to the U.N.'s International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"My mother is a domestic worker, I know many domestic workers, so I did have a concept of how that work shapes up, how that person participates in the family," Aparicio told the audience.

In the Netflix film she plays a maid named Cleo struggling with her own problems as she looks after a middle-class family deserted by their father. It won the Golden

Lion at the Venice Film Festival, two Oscars and the British Academy award, or BAFTA, for best film.

Now 25, Aparicio, the first indigenous woman to be nominated for a best actress Oscar, had completed teacher training when cast in director Alfonso Cuarón's autobiographical film named after the Mexico City neighbourhood where he grew up.

"My passion has always been to educate people, to teach them," Aparicio said.

"Throughout my career people

have told me I haven't stopped teaching, I opted for acting but constantly try to teach the community.

"It is possible to demonstrate that one can achieve many things though society might say no. If you are a woman and are told 'no', try again ... continue insisting because at some point in time you will be a success," she said.

The ILO says there are at least 67 million domestic workers worldwide, 80 percent of them women.

REUTERS

## Allegri in his element as he plots Juventus comeback

TURIN

JUVENTUS supporters hope coach Massimiliano Allegri can pull one of his surprises out of the hat as their team attempt to overturn a 2-0 deficit at home to Atletico Madrid in the Champions League last 16 today.

Although he was outsmarted by his opposite number Diego Simeone in the first leg, when three quickfire substitutions knocked Juve off balance, Allegri has often been in his element when he is apparently on the back foot.

"The more complicated it is, the more I enjoy it," he said after Friday's 4-1 win over Udinese by his Serie A leaders. "If I have to think up something new, I prefer it that way."

Only nine teams have ever overcome a two-goal deficit in the Champions League knockout stages, with Manchester United becoming the first to do it away from home when they won 3-1 against Paris St Germain on Wednesday.

On the eight occasions it has been achieved by a home team, only three have managed it without an away goal in the bag.

Juve will also be up against one of the competition's best-organised defences and Allegri will be without two full backs because Mattia De Sciglio is injured and Alex Sandro suspended.

He also needs to make sure Cristiano Ronaldo is not starved of service as he has been in some recent games.

One possibility, Allegri said after the Udinese game, would be to switch to a three-man defence. That would probably include Martin Cacciarini, Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini.

Joao Cancelo and Federico Bernardeschi would likely play on the flanks, with Miralem Pjanic organising the midfield and Blaise Matuidi and Emre Can offering a more physical presence while Mario Mandzukic would partner Ronaldo in attack.

"A three-man backline is a possible solution," said Allegri. "But we will need to read the game because it could take 120 minutes."

Another formation, according to Italian media, would feature Caceres and Cancelo as full backs in a four-man defence with Bonucci and Chiellini in the centre.

Can, Pjanic and Matuidi would form a three-man midfield with Mandzukic, Ronaldo and Bernardeschi in attack.

As with the previous option, that would mean no place for playmaker Paulo Dybala. The Argentine would only likely be used in the 4-2-3-1 option which could see Pjanic on the bench.

Can and Matuidi would play in front of the defence, with Dybala as the playmaker, Mandzukic and Bernardeschi on either side of the Argentine and Ronaldo in attack.

Whatever the outcome, Allegri has been keen to play down the importance of the tie amid suggestions that, having signed Ronaldo from Real Madrid, anything less than the Champions League title this season would be considered a failure.

"The Champions League has always been an objective but it is wrong to say that it's a failure if Juventus go out," he said.

"I find that laughable... it's just a football match. If we go through then that's great, if not then we'll try again next year."

REUTERS

## Liverpool's Lallana repays Klopp on rare starting appearance

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

WHEN Jurgen Klopp's team selection was announced before Sunday's 4-2 Premier League win over Burnley, Liverpool fans could have been forgiven for feeling a little puzzled.

The team had failed to score in three of their last four matches, including the goalless draw with Everton in last week's Merseyside derby where Klopp's decision to bring on Adam Lallana in the final stages was criticised by pundits and supporters.

A change to the midfield was expected but many might have expected Swiss international Xherdan Shaqiri to be included rather than the 30-year-old Lallana, whose career has been hampered by injuries. Klopp's choice, though, was amply justified by Lallana's lively performance on Sunday in just his eighth start since May, 2017.

The Liverpool boss said he had made it clear to his players that a good showing in training could earn them a place in the starting line-up and that Lallana had responded.

## Spurs must win trophies to keep Kane, says Sheringham

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur must start winning trophies if they are to convince their key player Harry Kane that his future lies at the north London club, former England striker Teddy Sheringham said on Sunday.

Sheringham, who spent seven seasons at Tottenham in two spells without winning a trophy, went on to win six following a switch to Manchester United which included the famous treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in 1999.

"There is going to come a time in Harry's career when he is going to say, 'I can't be a nearly man any more, we have to go one step further for me to win things in my football career,'" Sheringham told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"You don't get any younger in football and it's amazing how quickly it flies by. Harry will want to win stuff, he will be wanting to play at the very

"It's important that the boys know it and Adam used that. Not only Adam, but him especially, so in the end it was clear that if he could play like he trained then he would help us a lot and that's exactly how it happened today," he said.

Lallana, a Brendan Rodgers signing, played a key role in establishing Klopp's pressing and counter-pressing style at the club and the German was delighted to see the attacking midfielder's block contribute to the team's second goal.

"It was a game-changer. It was a brilliant thing in that moment -- it didn't look really promising until Adam jumped in that situation. So well done, he deserves all the praise for today. I'm really happy for him," Klopp said.

A series of injuries have limited Lallana's involvement but there is no doubt that his cultured left-foot and ability to deliver an incisive pass to the front three can be a factor in a tight run-in.

"It has been a difficult 18 months to two years for me with injuries but hopefully that's behind me now," Lallana said. **REUTERS**

top."

The 25-year-old England captain Kane, who scored the 200th goal of his career in Spurs' 2-1 defeat at Southampton on Saturday, has a contract until 2024 with the club, who have not won a trophy since their League Cup triumph in 2008.

They have reached the quarter-finals of this season's Champions League and are currently third in the Premier League, although they have lost ground to title rivals Manchester City and Liverpool in recent weeks.

Spurs, who did not sign a single player in the close season, are looking to compete with their big-spending rivals when they return to a new 62,000-seater White Hart Lane stadium after a temporary spell at Wembley Stadium.

"It's going to be a big factor with Harry that Tottenham are moving into a new stadium, but they have to win something," Sheringham added **REUTERS**

## Arsenal end Solskjaer run with 2-0 win over Man U

LONDON

ARSENAL beat Manchester United 2-0 on Sunday, lifting the Londoners above their opponents into fourth place in the Premier League and ending Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's unbeaten domestic run as United's caretaker manager.

A swerving strike from Granit Xhaka and a Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang penalty earned the Gunners a victory that sent them into the Champions League places while pushing United back down to fifth.

The win lifted Arsenal to 60 points, just one point behind their north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who are third, and two points above United.

Earlier on Sunday, second-placed Liverpool beat Burnley 4-2 to move on to 73 points, one behind leaders and champions Manchester City, with the battle for the title now looking to be a two-team race.

It was United's first league defeat since Dec. 16, Jose Mourinho's last game in charge, and ended Solskjaer's remarkable three-month, 12-match unbeaten league start as his interim replacement.

"It has been fantastic so far but today is the lowest we have been because we lost and we missed the chance to put pressure on Spurs," said Solskjaer, who was brought down to earth after United's astonishing midweek Champions League triumph at Paris St Germain.

"We have won games we have not deserved to win and today we lost a game we did not deserve to lose."

In a keenly-fought 200th league edition of one of English football's great fixtures, Arsenal went ahead in the 13th minute when Xhaka belted a shot from 30 metres out, with United keeper David de Gea seemingly



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scores their second goal from a penalty kick during their Premier League match against Manchester United at Emirates Stadium in London, Britain on Sunday. (Agencies)

wrong-footed by the curve of the ball. "He must be Brazilian the way he struck the ball, the way it swerves," Solskjaer said.

United hit the woodwork either side of the goal, with Romelu Lukaku heading against the crossbar first and Fred striking the post minutes later.

Lukaku had a golden opportunity to score from close range early in the second half but his first touch was heavy and, as he lunged to shoot, goalkeeper Bernd Leno blocked the shot with his body to send the ball spinning up and over the bar.

Marcus Rashford was then at the centre of the action as United tried to pull themselves level. The England striker smashed a freekick wide after Aubameyang bundled Paul Pogba to the ground 25 metres out.

Rashford was through on goal

again moments later but could not get his shot away as Leno rushed forward and got down to collect the ball.

Arsenal won a very soft-looking penalty in the 67th minute when Fred was judged to have brought down Alexandre Lacazette, with the replay showing that the Brazilian barely brushed the Frenchman's side as they ran for the ball.

Aubameyang converted the penalty, making up for his missed spot kick at Tottenham Hotspur a week earlier.

"I made a mistake against Tottenham, looking down at the last moment, not watching (Spurs keeper Hugo) Lloris, but today I watched until the end, and being focused you score a penalty," the Gabonese striker told Sky Sports.

Even Arsenal manager Unai Emery said the decision looked generous to

his side but he added that it made up for the one that went against them, and that Tottenham's Harry Kane scored from, when Arsenal visited Spurs.

In the second pitch invasion incident in one day in English football, a man ran on after Aubameyang's goal and shoved United defender Chris Smalling.

He then approached Arsenal players with his arms aloft before stewards took him off the pitch and he was arrested, according to Arsenal communications director Mark Gonnella.

Earlier in the day in the second-tier Championship, Aston Villa midfielder Jack Grealish was punched by a pitch invader during a derby match at Birmingham City.

REUTERS

## Arsenal steal march in top four race as tactics pay off

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Unai Emery praised his team after finding the winning formula against visitors Manchester United on Sunday, boosting the Gunners' Premier League top four chances and hopes of catching third-placed rivals Tottenham Hotspur.

For most games this season when Arsenal forwards Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang have started together the latter has been played out of position on the flank.

Such a ploy has been successful, with Aubameyang's 17 league goals bettered only by Liverpool's Mohamed Salah this term, but usually it has been one or the other playing as a lone striker.

The last time both forwards started a league game together Arsenal slipped to a 1-0 defeat at West Ham United in mid-January, with Aubameyang deployed out wide once more.

Against United, though, with Aubameyang and Lacazette both central, the former scored and the latter got an assist in a 2-0 win, while causing a normally resolute United lots of problems.

Along with playmaker Mesut Ozil, who is back in favour and creating chances – five against United, more than anyone else on the pitch – Emery may have found the recipe to maintain Arsenal's push for a Champions League qualifying spot.

"It is important to play a different system, different players and keep the same performance," he told reporters. "I think we're improving, we're feeling better with big confidence."

"I don't know if it is the best performance this season, we are improving. We are being competitive in different matches."

"We are being consistent and that is very important."

On another day, United would have extended their fine record against Arsenal – three defeats in their previous 17 games in all competitions – having hit the bar and post in the first half, while having more shots on target than the hosts.

Nonetheless, Arsenal ensured a defence that has conceded just three goals in their last eight away games in all competitions had an uncomfort-



Laurent Koscielny of Arsenal stretches for the ball during the Premier League match against Manchester United at Emirates Stadium on Sunday. (Agencies)

able afternoon and they can start to aim higher after leapfrogging United in the table.

The celebrating Arsenal fans were keen at fulltime to warn Tottenham, "We are coming for you", given their team now trail Spurs by one point, having been 10 points adrift last month.

Since Arsenal have none of the top six left to play this season, while two of Tottenham's next four league opponents are second-placed Liverpool

and leaders Manchester City, both away from home, the supporters' confidence is not without foundation.

Meanwhile, Manchester United's Ashley Young has called for greater protection for players after his team's 2-0 Premier League defeat at Arsenal was disrupted by a fan running on to the pitch and shoving his team mate Chris Smalling.

The incident was one of several involving rogue fans over the weekend,

with pitch invasions occurring in the Scottish Premiership, the English Championship (second-tier) as well as the Premier League.

A fan confronted Rangers captain James Tavernier in their 1-1 draw with Hibernian in Scotland on Friday, while Aston Villa captain Jack Grealish was punched in the face by a fan during Sunday's 1-0 win at derby rivals Birmingham City.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# National Chess League starts in Dar

## SPORT

Arsenal end Solskjaer run with 2-0 win over Man U

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Chess players take part in a competition, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Chess League, which involves 10 teams, started on a high note in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

The league, which is the first of its kind in the country, is recognized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and will come to an end in June.

The tournament's organizing committee secretary, Hemed Mlawa, said each of the teams, which are participating in the event, has played two games.

Kamal Steel team and Ahead

Africa teams, he disclosed, are leading with four points apiece.

He said Don Bosco, placed third, has three points from one win and a draw while Lake Group, New Africa, Flashnet and Specialized Engineer, who recorded a single win and one loss each, have been positioned

fourth to seventh.

The official noted Bakertilly occupies the eighth spot after recording two points from one draw and one loss whereas HS Computers and My World Pre-School squads, which have lost two matches apiece, have been positioned ninth and 10th re-

spectively.

"We are happy with the performance of the teams, the competition is very good and I am happy that, by the end of this tournament in June, we will have many players who can play for the national team," he said. He noted the league aims at

providing mutually beneficial structure for chess players, apart from giving the latter opportunity to share the ideas and experience of the game.

Teams, which will excel in the event, he disclosed, will be awarded trophies, medals and cash prize.

**5 EATV** **TONIGHT @21:00**

**NIRVANA**

**TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ (live)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELKAT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewZ  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA I  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 Nirvana  
21:30 Wakilisha  
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu  
22:30 Bongo Hits

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05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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**DAR ES SALAAM**

## Coke Studio Africa announces all-women finale to commemorate International Women's Day

By Guardian Reporter

IN the marking and celebration of 2019 International Women's Day, the 2019 season of Coke Studio Africa has announced its upcoming all-women finale episode in a powerful statement and a trail-blazing move.

This will be the first time in the history of the Pan African music property to feature an all-women episode, which will include female singers, rappers, music producers, studio engineers, a full band, as well as such key behind the scenes crew like content directors, scriptwriters, editors, camera operators and floor managers.

Over the last six seasons of Coke Studio Africa, the show continues to highlight Africa's great talent and the opportunities for women in the arts and entertainment industry.

Currently, approximately 60% of all of the professionals that work on Coke Studio Africa comprise women. Coke Studio Africa as noted by organizers will continue to give more meaningful and competitive opportunities to women in the field of arts and music, through the platform.

Top female instrumentalists from Kenya, who will be part of Coke Studio Africa All-Women Band in the finale episode, will include Kasiva Mutua (percussions), Wendy Kemunto (vocals), Ivy Alexander (guitar), Naomi Ziro (bass guitar) and Mutindi Tindi Muasa (keyboard).

Top female artists drawn from across the continent will include Nazizi (Kenya), Lioness (Namibia), Boity (South Africa), Sheebah (Uganda), Nandy (Tanzania), Mahlet (Ethiopia) Lourena Nhate (Mozambique), Tamy (Zimbabwe) and music producer Viola Karuri (Kenya), among others.

Monali Shah, Head of Content Excellence for Coca-Cola Southern and East African Business Unit, says: "We are very excited to announce an all women finale episode of the 2019 edition of Coke Studio Africa."

"It's the first time the production is taking such a bold move in the history of Coke Studio Africa to spotlight the amazing talent we have in entertainment."

"The kind of talent and artists we met and discovered during the process was mind blowing and we can't wait till music fans of the show can watch this powerful episode that will be airing across over 40 countries starting March 29."

## MIS team excel in Moro basketball tourney

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO International School (MIS) basketball team held sway in a competition, which was held at the Muslim University of Morogoro (MUM) court last weekend.

Wooter Apparel Company organized the event, which brought together basketball teams from several secondary schools in the region.

The MIS squad produced the best defender in Marvin Wanzagi, who excelled in an encounter with Kizuka Secondary School team, which though, ended with the latter cruising to a win over the former.

Kizuka Secondary School team's player, Dominick Hwaya, was presented with the best scorer prize, as he slotted in 30 points and steered his outfit to the victory.

The MIS team, which was mostly made up of young players, put spirited displays throughout the four quarters of the game, much as the outfit lost the match.

Wanzagi saw to it his team blocked shots by Kizuka Secondary School team, who could have otherwise come out with a bigger win.

Joseph Assey, the MIS team's coach, disclosed his team had been taking part in games against outfits made up of more experienced players in a bid to improve their performance.

"My team's guard, Alaqmar Abizar, is, for instance, targeting to turn into professional player, that's why he managed to play against experienced opponents," he said.

Kizuka Secondary School team's coach McDonald Mwagu, disclosed his player, Dominick Hwaya, excelled in the event thanks to intensive training he has been participating in



Morogoro International School (MIS)'s basketball team's player, Marvin Wanzagi (2nd L), poses for picture with his counterpart from Kizuka Secondary School team, Dominick Hwaya (2nd R), after the completion of a competition organized by Wooter Apparel Company in the region last weekend. Others are MIS team's coach, Joseph Assey (L), and Kizuka Secondary School team's coach, McDonald Mwagu. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

with his team mates.

The squad, as noted by Mwagu, has been attending morning and evening training sessions.

"Hwaya started training when he was in Form One, he has as well been having fitness training on his own," the coach noted.

Mwagu disclosed the training regime

helped his team put solid showing throughout the four quarters and score with ease.

"MIS team is blessed with young, talented players but they lack strengths to last all quarters, the situation was an advantage to my team that attended morning and evening drills," he said.

The coach, moreover, said young basketball players need to take a leaf from Hwaya's book in an effort to boost their performance.

"Most of young players presently ignore their team's coach's instructions, they consequently fail to achieve success," he disclosed.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

