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Economic hardship, alcohol, drugs touch off surge in mental health

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE number of people with mental illness in the country is on the increase, as Dar es Salaam region leads by accounting for 20 per cent of all cases.

Records of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children show that the number of patients with mental health problems increased from 301,000 in 2016 and 356,000 in 2018 countrywide.

This figure is however seen as conservative as it excludes current data from the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in Dar es Salaam, Mirembe Hospital in Dodoma and various

“**Too much intake of alcohol as well as smoking bhang, even cigarettes strongly reduces the capacity of the brain to perform its tasks**

specialized centres.

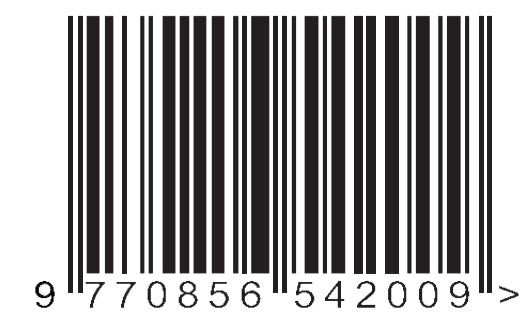
Out of this figure, Dar es Salaam region has 20 per cent of the cases followed by Kilimanjaro (9 per cent), Tanga (7), Morogoro (5), Mwanza (4 per cent) and other regions with much fewer cases such as Katavi with the least cases at 0.1 per cent of the national number.

The observation comes as Tanzania joins the rest of the world in marking the World Mental Health Day today. Speaking during an exclusive interview with The Guardian yesterday, the Head of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Unit at the ministry, Dr Omary Ububuyu, said the increase is caused mainly by economic hardship and excessive use of drugs.

“Environmental factors and excessive use of alcohol and other drugs is the highest cause of mental illnesses and not biological factors among urban residents and rural dwellers,” he said.

Dr Ububuyu noted that other causes of mental illnesses include hereditary factors, biological disposition, disasters, injuries that affect the brain and some diseases like malaria and HIV/Aids that also have side effects on the brain.

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Treasury wants complete taxpayers roll by Dec 31



CRDB Bank Plc Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela receives a call from a bank customer and attends him and others at a CRDB call centre in Dar es Salaam at the ongoing World Customer Service Week yesterday. Left is call centre officer Maria Nyabitwano. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Though TRA did well in tax collection for the past month whereby 1.8trn/- was collected, the amount is still small keeping in mind current awareness among the people on paying taxes

By Guardian Reporter

ADMINISTRATORS at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) have been given two and half months to prepare and submit to the Treasury the country's roll of taxpayers, the number of buildings and billboards especially in Dar es Salaam region.

Dr Ashatu Kijaji, the Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning issued the directive in Dar es Salaam early this week during an inspection visit at the TRA Temeke regional tax offices, to hear from TRA staff the challenges they face in collecting taxes.

She said that the government expects that a complete tax collection profile of the city of Dar es Salaam shall have been completed by the end of the year.

“**In order to increase revenue from property tax the TRA must do the work day and night to ensure the database is completed**

Though TRA did well in tax collection for the past month whereby 1.8trn/- was collected, the amount is still small keeping in mind current awareness among the people on paying taxes, she declared.

She reiterated the requirement on TRA to submit data on the increase of taxpayers following the distribution of Identity Cards (IDs) for small traders.

She said earlier that President John Magufuli's aim on the IDs was to widen the tax base to include small traders still raising their business capital.

On the tax on buildings, Dr Kijaji called on TRA to ensure it gets a list of eligible buildings countrywide along with their owners in order to prepare the database to simplify property tax collection.

“In order to increase revenue from property tax the TRA must do the work day and night to ensure the database is completed. It will be used to remind taxpayers thereof through SMS messages on their obligation to pay - just as it is for land rent payers,” she elaborated.

She also directed TRA to inspect users of Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) in Temeke tax region to ensure all sellers issue EFD receipts and all buyers demand to be given one, as only by doing so will revenue collection increase.

Earlier, welcoming the deputy minister, the

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City sustainability a headache for 2030 as Dar gears for 10m people

By Felister Peter

RAPID population growth in the city of Dar es Salaam is now a major challenge for authorities as new projections show that the key metropolis in the country will have over 10 million inhabitants in the next 10 years.

George Simbachawene, the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), made this observation when opening the Tanzania-French

“**The project is also expected to alleviate congestion hotspots, support public transit, mobility and connectivity for residents**

Sustainable Cities Day in the city yesterday.

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Thousands attempt to hack into HESLB loan allocation database

By Henry Mwangonde

THERE have been around 2700 attempts to hack the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) online loans application and allocation database as the new academic year starts, with intent to irregularly release money to applicants.

HESLB director general Abdul-Razaq Badru told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the attempts were however blocked thanks to improved data and systems security.

Badru was giving key updates on loans allocation for the Deputy Minister for

“**The board is contemplating making the application window open throughout the year**

Education, Science and Technology, William ole Nasha who toured the HESLB head

offices.

He said a back-up site has been established at the National Data Centre at Mikochei and four Information Communication Technology (ICT) staff recruited, boosting its ICT strength.

In addition to overcoming the sabotage efforts, the board has also developed an online Student Individual Permanent Account (SIPA), while also developing a Students Online Correction facility and an online appeal facility. These have been

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Correction

On Tuesday, 08 October 2019, The Guardian issue number 7713 published an article on page one under the headline: 'JPM shocked by school girls' pregnancy rates'. The story erroneously referred to the Acting Head of the European Union delegation to Tanzania as Charles Stuart. In fact the current acting EU Head of Delegation who delivered the remarks at the event was Emilio Rossetti. Sincere apologies.

Managing Editor.

City sustainability headache for the 2030 as Dar gears for 10m people

FROM PAGE 1

west France. The minister outlined various interventions and projects the government is implementing to ensure Dar es Salaam and other major cities across the country have adequate infrastructure as well as reliable and affordable energy, water and food.

The government is implementing the \$ 300 million Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMPD) to specifically facilitate transport services for low-income communities through construction of feeder roads.

The project is also expected to alleviate congestion hotspots, support public transit, mobility and connectivity for residents, he said.

Similarly, the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project (TSCP) being implemented in eight strategic sites of Tanga, Arusha, Mwanza, Kigoma, Dodoma, Illemela, Mbeya and Mtwara is meant to enable urban centres to keep up with the pace of rapid urbanization. It involves construction of urban roads, bus stations and solid waste collection points.

The need for strategically arranged cities is important since African cities including Dar es Salaam are growing faster than other regions of the world, the minister noted.

African cities expected to become megapolis include Dar es Salaam, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Kampala, Addis Ababa and Luanda to join Lagos and Cairo which have long since crossed that mark.

Since the government is geared at making Tanzania an industrialized nation, sustainable development of cities would help increase the size of the market for domestically manufactured goods and boost the capacity of the economy to contribute to tax revenues, he pointed out.

Angelina Mabula, the Deputy Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, said the challenge of sustainable cities arises from poor land use planning, as 70 percent of urban construction in the country did not follow a master plan.

"We now insist on authorities to develop master plans even at village level where we assist them to demarcate residential,

investment, agriculture and grazing lands," she said.

"So far they have issued 146,082 customary land certificates of right of occupancy," the deputy minister noted.

The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier said Africa needs cheaper, better served and more livable cities as per the SDGII—'Sustainable Cities and Communities' which calls for the development of sustainable and inclusive cities where everyone can live decently.

He pointed out that East Africa's urban population growth rates will be among the highest in the world by 2050. Over the next 15 years, African cities will grow faster than other regions of the world, he asserted.

He said French President Emmanuel Macron announced in November 2017 that France is committed to contribute to the development of sustainable cities in Africa, thus moving to make 'sustainable cities' the theme of the 2020 Africa-France Summit.

The summit will identify solutions and opportunities to develop sustainable cities across Africa by giving the floor to African leaders and experts.

UN data shows that more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, while the proportion could rise to two-thirds by 2050.

World Bank data indicates that in Africa, the urban population is estimated at 472 million inhabitants today and could double by 2040.

REPOA Executive Director Dr Donald Mmari pledged to support government efforts towards sustainable development of cities through research and facilitation of dialogues.

Dr Mmari emphasized that it was important for governments to start investing in the development of sustainable cities in Sub-Saharan Africa as they are among the fastest growing in the world.

The Tanzania-French Sustainable Cities Day saw delegates discussing various topics including an integrated approach to sustainable cities, water, sanitation and treatment of solid waste, mobility, transport and infrastructure, peri-urban agriculture and energy access and efficiency.



President Dr. John Magufuli shakes hands with Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank managing director, Japhet Justine. The president emphasised about the development of value-adding industries including cotton and coffee. He applauded TADB's efforts in investments that will make Tanzania shift from selling raw materials to processing goods

Thousands attempt to hack into HESLB loan allocation database

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completed and tested, he affirmed.

"We are working on connecting our systems with the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE), the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and other key stakeholders to simplify all these issues," he declared.

The board is contemplating making the application window open throughout the

year, he further noted. Charles Stefano, the secretary general of the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organization (TAHLISO) said many students fail to get loans by failing to properly fill in the forms due to various challenges such as using technology.

"Students who studied in private schools are denied loans because they studied in private schools. At times the issue is that

the students are sponsored and the sponsor stops upon completion of secondary education," he stated.

Other bottlenecks to accessing loans include the timing of loan application as the system allows only those who have been admitted to universities to apply, he said.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is delays in disbursement of loan money to the respective universities and then to stu-

dents, he said.

So far the board has 82,043 complete loan applications and 5,593 incomplete applications, in view of which the board has extended its applications deadline from October 10 to 15, he said.

Deputy Minister ole Nasha hailed the board for the various initiatives it is taking to improve its systems and ensure efficient performance of its tasks.



Deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega (2nd L) cuts a ribbon to launch national strategies for prevention and control of anthrax and brucellosis in humans and animals that were developed by the ministry with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Looking on is FAO representative Fred Kafeero (L), director for veterinary services in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Hezron Nonga (2nd R) and director for preventive services in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr. Leonard Subi (R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Economic hardship, alcohol, drugs touch off surge in mental illnesses

FROM PAGE 1

Too much intake of alcohol as well as smoking bhang, even cigarettes strongly reduces the capacity of the brain to perform its tasks.

On the other hand, a hazardous environment with hostility, violence and at times big tragedies like the recent fire accident in Morogoro affects people, leading to traumatic hangovers and mental instability problems.

The mental health expert observed that children are the most affected by hostile environments, as those who live with relatives who have suffered from long illnesses are inclined to go the same route.

Such mental illnesses entail related diseases like epilepsy, with up to 50 percent of the patients being outpatient, he said.

The two key illnesses are related, on the basis of data from the

ministry as well as PO-RALG (President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments) in like manner as data from district hospitals, health centres and various regional hospitals, he stated.

A World Health Organization (WHO) report from a study conducted a few years back indicated that at least one percent of the Tanzanian population suffers from mental illnesses, he added.

Treasury wants complete taxpayers roll by Dec 31

FROM PAGE 1

manager for the TRA tax region Paul Walalaze said the region currently has 437,539 taxpayers and for the past financial year the region targeted to collect 395b/- but the collection totaled 328.5bn/-, around 85 percent of the target.

"During the same period we also collected property tax of 1.4bn/-

compared to the targeted 1.6bn/- and tax on billboards 2.2bn/- from the 2.3bn/- target, representing 87 per cent and 95 per cent of the set targets respectively," said Walalaze.

A senior TRA official, Hamisi Lupenja assured the deputy minister that TRA will implement the directives to the letter so as to improve tax collection, along with educating taxpayers.

VP registers to vote in Dodoma

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan has called members of the public to come out in big numbers and register for the forthcoming November 24th civic elections.

Speaking after registering as a voter for the coming polls at the Kilimani primary school in the city, she urged people to vote in people who have high level of integrity and can serve in line with the fifth phase government's initiatives.

"The only way you can show support to the government is by registering as voters and vote for ethical leaders who can serve as expected by the government," she said.

She reminded people to elect leaders who abide by leadership ethics, able to serve tirelessly at this time of the fifth government leadership and who are willing to preserve natural resources.

"Let me also urge you to vote for leaders who have the ability to assist national leaders move on with development agenda," she added.

Earlier, Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Binilith Mahenge said the region in 2017 had a population of 2.3 million while eligible registered numbers of voters stood at 900,000.

He said there 3,979 poll stations in Dodoma, adding that by yesterday about 156,334 people, 82,118 being men and 74,220 women had registered.

The RC said the region is likely to surpass the registration estimates following the campaign spearheaded by district commissioners and executive district directors.

"There are no challenges except of the land conflict in Chemba district over border dispute where by residents are from Chemba but conduct their farming activities in Kiteto," said the RC.



Finance and Planning Deputy Minister Dr. Ashatu Kijaji (C) looks at tax payers data base at the Tanzania Revenue Authority in Temke regional office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is assistant tax supervisor Hellen Gibbe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DIT reviews curriculum to produce experts

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) has embarked on a process to review segments of its curriculum to produce experts who will fit in the industrialisation era.

According to DIT principal Prof Prekedis Ndomba the aim is to make students use 60-per cent of their stay at the institution doing

research, innovation and practical studies. Speaking at the monthly research seminar which was held at the institution on Tuesday, Prof Ndomba said the review process started in 2016 saying it also included staff attachment to industries.

"We have already started this and we believe we will have the best curriculum towards the country's agenda," he said.

The key speaker at the seminar Prof Burton Mwamila who is also the former Vice Chancellor of the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) said technology institutions such as DIT ought to understand the role of applied research in industrialization.

"Applied research brings solutions to existing industrial challenges facing the country because

we need these institutions to bring us fit for purpose graduates to work in these industries," he said.

Prof Mwamila who was the first principal of the College of Engineering of the University of Dar es Salaam (COET) said the main challenge facing industries is the lack of collaboration between researchers and industrial owners especially on topics to be researched and the challenges on



the ground.

"Researchers sit on their offices and choose a topic to be researched on without consulting industrialists on what exactly is affecting their operations hence end up bringing research that is of little solution to the challenges," he added. Prof Mwamila proposed that there should be collaboration from the very beginning of topic selection between researchers


and industrialists so that when a study is conducted becomes of great help.

In his remarks, DIT lecturer Dr Ramadhan Kivugo said the institution is now working towards achieving its mission of solving society needs by producing competent graduates to facilitate achievement of the industrialisation agenda and a middle income economy by 2025.

He said DIT believes that in the next few years it will become one of the best institutions in the country to produce industrial experts who will contribute immensely to the country's economic development. "We want to ensure that as academicians we work together with industry owners and discuss what should be done on the challenges facing industries in the country," he said.

RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (REDESO)



TENDER NO: ITB/RDS/KB/UNHCR/02/2019

For

SUPPLY OF 134.468 METRIC TONS OF BIOMASS CHARCOAL BRIQUETTE AT NDUTA REFUGEE CAMP IN KIBONDO DISTRICT, KIGOMA REGION

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 09/10/2019

1. Relief to Development Society (REDESO) is a National Non - Governmental Organization (NGO) with registration number S.O. 9459 with its Headquarters in Dar-es Salaam and field offices in Kibondo District located in Kigoma region and Kishapu District in Shinyanga Region. REDESO in partnership with UNHCR is implementing the project titled "Tanzania Alternative Cooking Fuels and Training Programme" 2019 in Nduta Refugee Camp Kibondo District. Part of the funds allocated to this project is intended to be spent in procurement of Biomass Charcoal Briquette for Persons of Concern (PoC) in Nduta Refugee Camp.
2. Procurement will be conducted through the Competitive Tendering procedures specified in REDESO's Procurement Manual, 2019, Chapter 2.2 this is open to all potential Tenderers.
3. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from the Tender documents upon submission of written application letter and bank pay in slip for the cost of tender document purchase at REDESO Headquarters in Dar es Salaam, P.O. Box 2621. The Office is located at Kinondoni B, Urambo Street, Plot No. 40, House Number KIN/KNM/96 near Open University of Tanzania also tender documents will be available at the Project Coordinator- REDESO Kibondo Offices (P.O Box 142 Kibondo near DRC Offices). Submissions should be made from 09.30 a.m. to 4.30pm Monday to Friday except for Public Holidays.
4. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 3 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS.50,000/= (Fifty Thousand Shillings Only). Payment should be made through NMB Bank A/c No. 51503500128 (REDESO EDUCATION ACCOUNT) NMB KIBONDO.
5. All tenders in one original plus one copy for each envelope of Financial and Technical offer (two envelope system), properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address REDESO Kibondo Field Offices, P. O. Box 142 Kibondo near DRC Offices not later than 16: 00 pm of 07th of November, 2019. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at REDESO Kibondo Field Offices.
6. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
7. The bids submitted through Post office MUST be registered at REDESO Kibondo Office before the deadline.
8. Queries may be directed to Project Coordinator, REDESO Kibondo & Kakonko Field Office, Mobile No. +255713 251533 or at kibondo@redeso.or.tz alternatively, email through redeso-hq@redeso.or.tz

IMPORTANT: All bids must be addressed to the following address below and must state the tender number clearly on the outer cover and envelope. Technical offer and Financial Offer must be submitted in two separate envelopes as expressed in the ITB document.

**Bid Opening Committee
REDESO KIBONDO
P.O. BOX 142, KIBONDO**

215455101



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

VSO CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

VSO is the world's leading independent international development organization that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries. Our high-impact approach involves bringing people together to share skills, build capabilities, promote international understanding and action, and change lives.

We will be running a tender with an intention of awarding Consultancy work for a participatory context analysis to strengthen youth engagement and participation in governance processes in Tanzania. We are seeking expressions of interest from reputable firms or individuals who have successfully undertaken similar consultancy. Preferred firms or individuals would have significant experience in participatory action research tools and methods as well as a good understanding of youth and citizen engagement in development processes. Knowledge of political economy and good governance would be a huge asset.

Firms or individuals wishing to express their interest should do so in writing to Tender.Tanzania@vsoint.org by **October 10, 2019** at 10:00am and provide a contact name, organisation name, phone number and email address.

www.vsoint.org

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Tigo managing director Simon Karikari responding to the customers queries at the Tigo Call centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of the ongoing customer service week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Cooperative unions to open coffee plants in three regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

In efforts to fuel efforts by the fifth phase government under the industrialisation agenda, agricultural marketing cooperative societies (AMCOS) in three regions of Shinyanga, Simiyu and Geita are expecting to open three coffee processing industries earlier next year.

The envisaged three pilot plants are set to be opened by the Kahama Cooperative Union (KCU) in Shinyanga, Chato Cooperative Union (CKU) in Geita and Simiyu Cooperative Union (SCU) in Simiyu.

Speaking in an interview to The Guardian yesterday, Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies and head of marketing and investment section at Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Edward Massawe said the key development was attributed by efforts by President John Magufuli to revive performance of cooperative societies within the country.

The fifth phase government has so far demonstrated high political will, as well as implementing diverse initiatives to revive performance of cooperative societies in the country, saying the efforts have started to bear fruits.

Massawe explained that cooperative unions are components to help push for different economic sectors, especially the agriculture sector in which the national economy hinges on. "Currently, farmers in different parts of the country are busy forming their cooperatives societies, and this, is after realising that the system is more friendly in assisting them to benefit accordingly from their initiatives, more than working as individuals," he noted.

He said that cooperative societies were of prudent in solving numerous setbacks that often curtailing farmers efforts, especially when it comes to availability of capital, procurement of necessary inputs for markets and better prices.

"For instance, through cooperative unions, the members (farmers) are procuring in-puts through bulk procurement, and the system made them to stand at better stance and position to lobby for better prices for their produced," he observed.

However, apart from attained successes in the whole exercise of revamping the performance of the said unions, he said the key private sector was however stiff facing some challenges. "Currently some of the challenges haunting cooperative societies include poor awareness among the public as well as inadequate in the number of cooperative officers from regional to districts levels.

Guided by the Tanzania Cooperative Act, No of 2013 and supervised by the government through the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), performance of cooperative societies within the country is said to keep on gaining momentum on daily basis.



For instance, through cooperative unions, the members (farmers) are procuring in-puts through bulk procurement, and the system made them to stand at better stance and position

'Govt committed to support initiatives geared at promoting and boosting emerging technologies'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has reiterated its commitment to support all initiatives geared at promoting and boosting emerging technologies in the country.

Speaking during a leadership workshop on the fourth industrial

revolution, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Joyce Ndalichako said that emerging technologies for artificial intelligence, blockchain, robotics, data sciences and 3-D printing, among others, had gained popularity as the most important innovations in the 21st century.

"As such, we have begun to see their wide applications in a number of industries such as finance, education and healthcare. It is therefore important for us to understand how these emerging technologies can be used to provide innovative solutions relevant for our local contexts," she said.

The workshop was held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday and had been organised by Sahara Ventures and the embassy of Switzerland as part of the ongoing Sahara Sparks week focusing on the role of Africa in the fourth industrial revolution.

She said that the fourth industrial revolution is another milestone

in human development, which is expected to bring about changes in both the way we live and transact our businesses.

"Certainly, technological transformation is occurring at a faster speed than one would imagine, and this speed is expected to increase with time. We, as policy

makers, and other stakeholders should reflect on, and ask ourselves as to what extent we are prepared to take advantage of, and fully benefit from technological transformation for socioeconomic development," she added.

The minister also noted that changes in technology will im-

pact lives of our people in villages, towns and cities.

"Since the impact could be either positive or negative, our preparedness and a clear understanding of the envisaged technological transformation are very important," she said.

Botswana and Namibia to buy 40 tonnes of honey

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbulu

TANZANIA has entered into agreement with Botswana and Namibia for sale of 40 tonnes of honey per year. The two countries are members of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Deputy Minister for natural resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu said during the SADC meeting held in the country in August delegates from the two countries urged Tanzania to involve them in the honey markets. Tanzania has also secured markets for the commodity in EU countries, in particular Germany.

The minister said at the weekend when launching 2019 Youths Festival that coincided with the international festival for the protection and developing of cultural activities of four African languages organized by Four Corners Cultural Programme (4CCP).

He said up to now Tanzania has not yet attained in producing 100,000 tons of honey per year as domestic consumption plus the honey that is exported, particularly to China, USA and South Africa is over 200,000 tons.

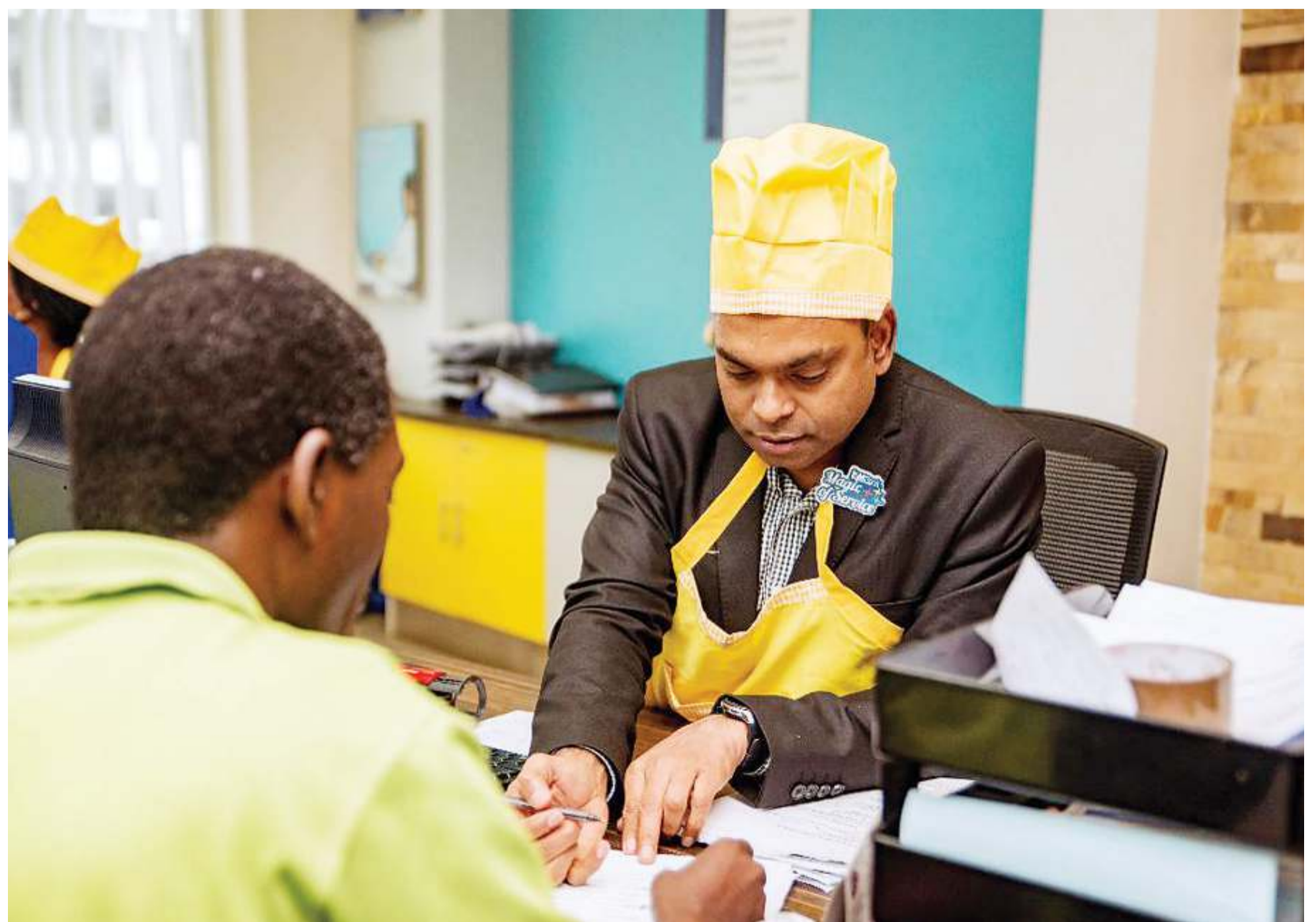
He added: "When exported one litre of honey costs more than two goats, what is needed is proper packing and must be well strained and here at 4CCP I have seen a very modern straining machinery imported from Norway."

He said due to growing export needs; the Ministry through Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) has a special unit that will be looking foreign markets for the honey.

Aside from honey being of great commercial value, products from bees can be used as a nutrient and medicine for humans, as 80 per cent of consumers believe honey to have curing effects for various ailments.



When exported one litre of honey costs more than two goats, what is needed is proper packing and must be well strained and here at 4CCP I have seen a very modern straining machinery imported from Norway



I&M Bank Tanzania chief executive officer, Baseer Mohammed services customers at Maktaba branch as part of customer service week celebrations. Every the first week of October, I&M Bank joins other service providers around the world to celebrate customers service week whereby for 2019 the customers service week the theme is 'magic of service'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PCCB recovers 33.5m/- from cooperative in Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Kilimanjaro region has recovered 33.57m/- from Mwika Kinyamvuo Amcos that had been pocketed by

a handful of unethical business people. PCCB director for Kilimanjaro region, Holle Makungu said in a statement on the bureau's performance from July to September this year.

He said PCCB managed to recover the money through collaboration from the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies for Kilimanjaro region, John Henjewe.

According to Makungu, the sus-

pects are three officials of Mwika Kinyamvuo Amcos who have been removed from office due to embezzlement of funds.

He said PCCB has mobilized itself well to ensure no more embezzle-

ment of funds in cooperative societies and called on their members to continue reporting for any such instances so that those involved must be held accountable.

He said in three-months period

PCCB in Kilimanjaro received tips of embezzlement of funds in various institutions with the number in brackets: education (5), police (4), councils (13), cooperatives (7), private (7), judiciary (2), political parties (1), parastatals (4), prisons (1) and health (1). Makungu said in para 12 of CCM manifesto - the party called for quick and stern measures for all those who will be involved in corrupt practices.

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National women empowerment forum kicks off in Unguja Island

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

A NATIONAL women empowerment forum kicked-off in Unguja, Zanzibar, providing space for legal aid stakeholders to broadly digest strategies that address women empowerment issues, gender inequality and protection of women and child rights in Zanzibar.

The forum organised by the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children (MLEEWC) and sponsored by Legal Services Facility (LSF) attracted 200 delegates from government and non-governmental organisations, donor agencies and other human rights and development stakeholders.

Key issues lined-up for discussion at the forum include representation and women participation in leadership roles, equal pay for work of equal value, increasing support for women-owned businesses and companies of all sizes, advancing gender equality and women empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and the wider community.

Speaking at the official opening of one-day forum, Zanzibar's Minister for Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children, Maudline Cyrus Castico, commended LSF for their collaboration towards supporting women initiatives in Zanzibar which aims at women's economic empowerment and ending violence against women and girls, eliminating harmful practices.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment in ensuring that women, widely viewed as key pillars in the social and economic development, are given opportunities in education, leadership roles, capaci-

tated to be able to unlock their potentials".

He underscored the importance of women participation in politics with the view to ensure that women are involved in decision-making processes, considering that under normal conditions women have few chances to get involved fully in political decision-making processes in Zanzibar.

The constitutional amendments of 2010 raised the percentage of special seats in the House of Representative up to 40 per cent of the total number of constituency seats in Zanzibar.

"According to latest independent studies, women in Zanzibar constitute 72 per cent of the entire population, but most of them lack legal knowledge on matters related to social justice, thus end up being denied their rights, losing their property, dignity, a tendency that affects the wellbeing of women, children and community at large."

Among other things, the forum would serve as a platform for participants to voice their grievances and ask the responsible government authorities (including the judiciary, the police, DDP and social welfare officers etc) to ensure access to justice and the rights of all women, children and other vulnerable groups in Zanzibar and across Tanzania are respected, according to LSF Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala.

Participants would utilize the forum to raise their concerns and call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children by raising awareness, strengthening activism and providing a forum for dialogue and strategy making to end violence against women and children (VAWC).



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa receives Uhuru Torch from one of the racing leaders at Nkwimba Madirisha Nyangogo in Ruangwa district, Lindi region yesterday. Photo: PMO

Violence to children still rampant in Kinondoni district, official says

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

PARENTS and guardians have been urged to openly talk to their children about all forms of violence so as to make them understand the risks within it for their development.

Save the Children coordinator for child protection and child right governance (CPCRG) Haika

Harrison made the call yesterday when speaking to pupils at Changanyikeni primary school in Dar es Salaam.

Harrison said that it was high time now for the parents to change and start putting their children closer; talking to them about various things including violence cases so as to enable them fight violent actions whenever they face them

thus create a violence free nation.

She also counseled the school children on how to protect themselves from 'strange' people by making sure that they don't associate with them in any means.

The awareness event at the school was organised by Save the Children organisation ahead of the international day of girl child scheduled to be marked tomorrow.

row.

She added that incidences of violence to children including raping, kidnapping, torture and others are still rampant especially in Kinondoni district, calling for parents and teachers to strengthen their parenting in order to protect their children.

"Every parent is supposed to make sure that his or her child is

safe from people who lure children by offering them food, bus fair and mobile phones to communicate with them," she explained.

For her part, adult education officer for Kinondoni district Grace Mtesigwa urged the children to respect rules and regulations at school or home so as to grow well and achieve their dreams.

The official urged adults to

refrain from disturbing the children and to abuse them, saying the young generation has a lot to achieve and they need space for that.

Representative from the gender desk and children at Oyster Bay Police Force in Kinondoni said incidents of violence to children are still at alarming rate calling for parents and entire society to react

immediately.

The Police officer said it is the right time to let the children understand the real situation existing in the world in order to know how to protect themselves.

She challenged the pupils to only spend the money given by their parents and avoid receiving gifts from 'strange' people.

Press Clubs' founder, William Lobulu, to be laid to rest today

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

VETERAN journalist and media consultant, William Nicholas Lobulu expects to be laid to rest today at his farm in Sanawari area, within the Arusha City suburbs.

The founder of Press Clubs in Tanzania, William Lobulu, and former tutor at the Tanzania School of Journalism, Lobulu also founded and managed the Arusha Times weekly newspaper between 1995 and 2017.

Lobulu passed away at his home in the 'Boma Kubwa,' parts of Sanawari Ward in the early morning of Sunday, the 6th of October 2019 after experiencing constricted breathing due to asthma.

Born on the 20th of December 1951, the late Lobulu, who previously also worked for the state-owned Tanzania Information Services, then known as Shirika la Habari Tanzania (SHIHATA) would have been 68 next December. The media expert is survived by wife, Elizabeth Marealle Lobulu and three children.

Together with fellow seasoned journalist, Danford Mpumilwa, Lobulu initiated the first 'Press Clubs' movement in the country when the two established the first such organisation, now known as the Arusha Press Club in 1992 with him serving as its maiden chairman.

Borrowing a leaf from the Arusha Press Club, journalists in other regions followed suit in forming own local media clubs.

Until his death, early this week, the veteran journalist has been working as consultant in a number of media and research related programmes, edited a number of scholar documents and continued to offer advice and guidance to practising scribes.

At the turn of the new millennium circa 1998-2000 Lobulu also served as media consultant for The East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) the Arusha-based, inter-governmental health organisation that fosters and promotes regional cooperation in health among member states.

Last Saturday the seemingly health William Lobulu spent his final day on earth socialising with friends in the city.



Former COSTECH managing director Dr Hassan Mshinda talks to Prof James Mdoe (R) and the Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Stella Alex Ikupa at the opening of Sahara Sparks, a series of events on the role of Africa in the fourth industrial revolution event in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

China former students in bid to promote investments in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE China Alumni Association of Tanzania (CAAT) will use its annual general meeting to be held on Friday in Dar es Salaam to promote private and public-private ventures in Tanzania.

CAAT Chairman, Dr Ligyle Vumilia told journalists in Dar es Salaam that the meeting will be held at the Hyatt Kilimanjaro Hotel and will be opened by the Zanzibar Second Vice-President, Ambassador Seif Ali Idd, the CAAT patron and former Tanzania's Ambassador to

China who will be accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke. Other dignitaries include retired Premier Mizengo Pinda, Minister of State in the Prime Ministers Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki, Dr Maua Daftari and former Ambassador to China, Lt General Abra-

hamu Shimbo. Dr Vumilia said the meeting will draw delegates from the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the Tanzania Chamber of Industries (CTI), China Chamber of Commerce, CRDB Bank, the National Microfinance Bank (NMB) and representatives of big Chinese

companies operating in Tanzania.

He said some presentations will be made for discussion with the view of enhancing the national goal of making Tanzania a middle-income industrial nation by 2025.

The CAAT will use the occasion to launch its own Savings and Credit

Cooperative Society (SACOS), the chairman said, adding that the CAAT also plans to launch a women's wing of the association. A women's wing would promote women's explicit interests, including economic empowerment, he said. We have very good experts in different fields of

the economy who have lived and studied in China. We plan to use this meeting to exchange ideas, and enable people to create contacts and maintain them by constant networking. Tanzania and China have enjoyed fraternal relations since 1961.

Pastoralists community to benefit from health centre

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MORE than 6,000 people from four villages in Oldonyoas Ward in Arusha district are to benefit from health centre project thereby doing away with the need to walk long distances with expectant mothers giving birth on the way.

The villagers from Losinon, Engutukoit, Kisimiri Juu, and Wiro will benefit from a modern health centre built with funding from Germany through Help for Maasai Children (HMC).

Speaking during the function to lay the cornerstone and handing over the building to Arusha District Council that took place at Losinon Juu village in Oldonyoas Ward, the HMC Director Joseph Kivuyo said the construction of the health centre began on June 26 this year and it has been completed by 85 percent.

Kivuyo said up to now the project has cost 108m/- and upon completion it will have cost 140m/-.

Kivuyo said the wananchi in the said villages have been walking 8 to 12 kms for health services and due to these distances expectant mothers have been giving birth on the way while others in their homes which has increased maternity deaths.

"We have partnered with the Arusha District Council in building of this health centre who provided us with centre's plan, after which our donors from Ger-

many, who had earlier visited Oldonyoas Ward to see for themselves the situation facing the pastoralists community, decided to offer financial assistance," Kivuyo said.

The Arumeru District Commissioner Jerry Muro, speaking at the function, congratulated the donors for their financial assistance to various projects in the ward, including education and health.

Muro promised a Landcruiser ambulance for the health centre including renovation of the roads leading to the health centre.

On his part the project's financier who is HMC Director in Germany, Harald Pfeiffer said the construction of the health centre was among his long time dreams that came true in assisting the pastoralists' community in education and health.

He wanted the people in the Ward to put the health centre to good use as intended, to safeguard the infrastructure for future generations.

Two residents from Lasinon Juu village Lightnes Gabriel and Anna John thanked the donors for the health project as it came at the right time as they were facing huge challenges from lack of health services, especially to the women and expectant mothers.

They also pleaded with the government to speed up the remaining work of the project including provision of medical equipment, and personnel.



Chief Justice Prof. Ibrahim Juma (R) talks to Misa Tan chairperson Salome Kitomari (L) in his office about judicial information services in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is judicial information manager Nurdin Ndimbe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Eye health project to ease access to quality eye care services

By Beatrice Philemon

SIGHTSAVERS Tanzania yesterday launched 'Boresha Macho' Inclusive Eye Health project to help vulnerable people access quality eye care services, prevent blindness, treat avoidable blindness and restore sight for people.

Country Director of Sightsav-

ers Tanzania, Gosbert Katunzi revealed this when speaking during the launching ceremony of the three-year project, which is being funded by the Department for International Development (DFID)'s UK Aid. DFID has donated 2 million Pounds to Sightsavers Tanzania for the implementation of Boresha Macho Project in Moro-

goro and Singida regions. He said Boresha Macho project will be implemented in five district councils in Morogoro region and seven district councils in Singida region starting in October 1st this year.

Through Sightsavers' Boresha Macho Inclusive eye health project, a total of 150,000 people es-

pecially marginalised and disabled people will get free eye screening or examination, 13,500 patients will get free cataract surgery and restore their sight while 6000 people will get spectacles.

The main goal was to deliver improved eye health to address the leading cause of blindness across the region.

Sightsavers is an international organisation that works in more than 30 developing countries to prevent blindness, restore sight and advocate for social inclusion and equal rights for people with disabilities.

He said the project will ensure that eye health services are accessible to everyone, he said not-

ing that information and services must be made more accessible so that everyone can get treatment for eye conditions equally including women, elderly people and people with disabilities.

"We know that eye health services are not reaching many of the most marginalised people in Morogoro and Singida region,

cataract surgeries will restore the sight of thousands and more people with non-surgical treatment," he noted.

According to him, blindness and poor vision have a tremendous impact on quality of life for people living in Morogoro and Singida regions, it often leads to social isolation and financial.



QUOTATION No: Amref/2019/DSM/NC/08 FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE SERVICES FOR AMREF HEALTH AFRICA TANZANIA

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS

Amref health Africa Tanzania has set aside funds for the procurement of various good, works and services to support its day to day operations and project activities. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for Provision of Insurance Services for various categories.

1. Tendering will be conducted through Open Competitive bidding to Qualified and registered Insurance Brokers operating in Tanzania, and under the procedures specified in Amref Procurement Manual of 1st November, 2016.

2. The scope of Insurance cover (services) involves the following:-

SN	Description
1.	Property Fire: Assets all Risks on Buildings including but not limited to the furniture, fixtures, fittings, contents, plant & machinery, electronic equipment (include portable and those kept in the office).
2.	Employers liability to all staff
3.	Fire and allied perils cover for Office Buildings and Residence
4.	Group Personal accident on employees death & permanent total disability
5.	Business all risks
6.	Burglary insurance

3. A complete set of the Quotation document(s) in English and additional sets are issued upon written application and payment of a non-refundable fee of Tsh.100, 000.00 (Tanzania shillings: One Hundred Thousand Only). Payment should either be by Cash, Bankers Draft or bankers Cheque, payable to our Account name: Amref Health Africa Tanzania, Account number: 011103000446 Bank Name- National Bank of Commerce (NBC).

4. All quotations in one original plus a copy (hard & soft), properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes marked "Quotation No. Amref/2019/DSM/NC/08 for Provision of Insurance services for Amref Health Africa Tanzania", must be delivered to the Secretary, Amref Health Africa Tanzania Tender Committee, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, and Box 2773, Dar es Salaam.

5. Deadline for submission will be on Wednesday 16th October, 2019 at 12.00 hrs local time. Quotations will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Amref Health Africa Tanzania conference room.

6. Late, partial and electronic quotations, and quotations not opened at the quotation opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**The Country Director,
Amref Health Africa- Tanzania,
P.O.Box 2773, Dar es Salaam
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) is an independent, World-Class Regulatory Authority responsible for licensing, tariff setting and quality of service regulation of the Electricity, Petroleum, Natural Gas and Water sectors. EWURA has the following vacancies for which suitably qualified Tanzanians are invited to apply. All electronic applications should be channelled through jobs@ewura.go.tz while hardcopies should be physically submitted to the Director General, EWURA Headquarters in Dodoma.

1. LEGAL AFFAIRS

Post Title: Senior Customer Service Officer
Duty Station: EWURA Central Zone -Dodoma
Reports to: Zonal Manager

Senior Customer Service Officer will be primarily responsible for handling complaints from customers in the Zonal Office in accordance with the established guidelines and procedures.

Duties and responsibilities:

- To receive record and manage complaints received in a zone.
- To follow up and ensure that all received complaints are attended.
- To follow up and ensure that all complainants receive feedbacks on their concerns within the prescribed time.
- To undertake field visits to follow up on complaints.
- To manage and store all received complaints.
- To assist in facilitating public awareness campaigns on the Authority's complaint handling facility.
- To participate and provide inputs to consumer complaints hearing sessions.
- To assist in providing customer service related inputs to drafting of various legal instruments.
- To undertake any other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Academic Qualifications and Experience:

The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience:

- University Degree in Law, Business Administration, General Management, Economics or Engineering.
- Possession of Master degree qualifications in relevant field mentioned above will be an added advantage.
- Knowledge and Competence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) application
- Knowledge and familiarity in Regulated Sectors will be an added advantage
- Possession of at least five (5) years' experience in relevant fields.

2. CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIVISION

Post Title: Senior Records Management Officer
Duty Station: EWURA Head Office - Dodoma
Reports to: Human Resource & Administration Manager

Senior Records Management Officer will be responsible for monitoring records by ensuring its proper maintenance and retrieval.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- To assist in managing all aspects of the registry functions, which includes.
- Management of both electronic and physical public registers, open and confidential registry and library.

- To supervise receipt, recording and filling of incoming and outgoing mails.
- To keep public register, registry and library records in various forms.
- To prepare and ensuring proper record management of files and other documents.
- To establish and maintain appropriate information systems for keeping track of file movements.
- To ensure information required by other officers is delivered in time.
- To establish and maintaining library information system which shall include public and staff catalogue and archive materials.
- To effectively supervise and guide staff member(s) reporting to the job position.
- To undertake any other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Academic Qualifications and Experience

The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience.

- Bachelor's degree in records management, archive or library management.
- Master's degree in relevant field will be an added advantage.
- Registration with a recognized professional body will be an added advantage.
- Knowledge and Competence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) application.
- Possession of at least five (5) years' work experience in the field.

Tenure and Remuneration

- A competitive salary will be offered to the right candidates for the posts.
- EWURA is an equal opportunity employer.
- Staff will be employed on permanent and pensionable terms.

Mode of Application

Application letter with Curriculum Vitae (CV) including e-mail address or day time contact telephone number, together with photocopies of certificates and transcripts (certificates from Foreign Universities should be verified by The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU), Birth certificate, one passport size photo and names and contacts of three referees should be addressed to reach the under-mentioned by 25th October, 2019.

Only short-listed candidates meeting the above criteria will be invited for interview. Lobbying and canvassing for employment will not be entertained and may work to the candidate's disadvantage. Application letter should be addressed to:

**The Director General,
Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA)
4th Floor, LAPP House Makole Road,
P O Box 2857
DODOMA**

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Countries and families worldwide ought to end forced child marriage

INTERNATIONAL Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of Girls and the International Day of the Girl. October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl Child. The observation supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender.

This inequality includes areas such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage. The celebration of the day also "reflects the successful emergence of girls and young women as a distinct cohort in development policy, programming, campaigning and research."

International Day of the Girl increases awareness of issues faced by girls around the world. Many global development plans do not include or consider girls, and their issues become "invisible."

More than 62 million girls around the world had no access to education, as of c. 2014, according to USAID. Worldwide and collectively, girls ages 5 to 14 spend more than 160 million hours more on household chores than boys of the same age do. Globally, one in four girls are married before age 18.

On October 11, 2016, Emma Watson, a United Nations Women's Goodwill Ambassador, urged countries and families worldwide to end forced child marriage. Many girls around the world are vulnerable to acts of sexual violence and the perpetrators often go unpunished.

The Day of Girls helps raise awareness not only of the issues that girls face, but also of what is likely to happen when those problems are solved. For example, educating girls helps reduce the rate of child marriage, disease and helps strengthen the economy by helping girls have access to higher paying jobs.

The International Day of Girls initiative began as a project of Plan International, a non-governmental organization that operates worldwide.

The idea for an international day of observance and celebration grew out of Plan International's Because I Am a Girl campaign, which raises awareness of the importance of nurturing girls globally and in developing countries in particular.

Each year's Day of Girls has a theme; the first was "ending child marriage", the second, in 2013, was "innovating for girls' education", the third, in 2014, was "Empowering Adolescent Girls: Ending the Cycle of Violence," and the fourth, in 2015, was "The Power of Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030."

The 2016 theme was "Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls," the 2017 theme was "EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises," and the theme for 2018 was "With Her: A Skilled Girl Force."

Various events to promote the Day of Girls are planned in several countries.

In 2016, London held a Women of the World (WOW) festival where 250 London school-aged girls were paired with women mentors. Also in 2016, President of the United States, Barack Obama, issued a proclamation supporting an end to gender disparity.

Amended public procurement law bears fruit for economic growth

PROCUREMENT is the process of finding and agreeing to terms, and acquiring goods, services, or works from an external source, often via a tendering or competitive bidding process.

Procurement generally involves making buying decisions under conditions of scarcity. If sound data is available, it is good practice to make use of economic analysis methods such as cost-benefit analysis or cost-utility analysis.

Procurement is used to ensure the buyer receives goods, services, or works at the best possible price when aspects such as quality, quantity, time, and location are compared. Corporations and public bodies often define processes intended to promote fair and open competition for their business while minimising risks such as exposure to fraud and collusion.

Almost all purchasing decisions include factors such as delivery and handling, marginal benefit, and price fluctuations. The government Procurement Services Agency (GPSA) had started recording a number of successes since the public procurement law was amended three years ago.

The law is meant to enable efficiency in regulating procurement processes, to ensure value for money in public procurement and to provide for other related matters.

GPSA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Geraldine Rasheli said that the reviewed law had improved public procurement services as well as better service delivery environment, the situation that made public institutions to work in tandem with the law.

Dr Rasheli unveiled that in the area of procurement of common use items and services (CUIIS) by 2018/2019 fiscal year, the government saved around 63bn/-, due to reducing costs in tendering processes. The costs, according to GPSA boss

include tender announcements, board meetings and tender assessments, and instead, institutions are required to use tenders who had been listed by GPSA.

Citing examples, Dr Rasheli said in 2018/2019, tenders who qualified and given contracts were 9,740.

She also said that in the same year the government saved 4.7bn/- through Vehicle bulky procurement. "This is due to reduction of costs embedded in tendering process as well as providing special discount for bulky procurement.

In 2018/19, the government saved 798m/- through Clearing and Forwarding Services, the official said, revealing that the agency has plugged all loopholes that fuels corruption.

All the saved money has been spent in public development projects such as improvement of road infrastructure, health and education sectors," she said, adding that GPSA has been also working closely with entrepreneurs and private companies in building the nation by offering competitive services.

Dr Rasheli cited dilapidated of infrastructures as some of the challenges facing the agency, "but we're determined to work on those challenges to ensure that customers get better services.

The agency is responsible for procurement, storage and distribution of stock items for re-sale to Government and Non-government institutions, provision of clearing and forwarding and consultancy services, and warehousing facilities, arranging for procurement of common use items and services by Ministries, Independent Department and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) using framework contracts.

GPSA was established under the Executive Agency Act and came into effect through Government Notice of 7th December 2007 and its amendments through Government Notice of 13th, April, 2012.

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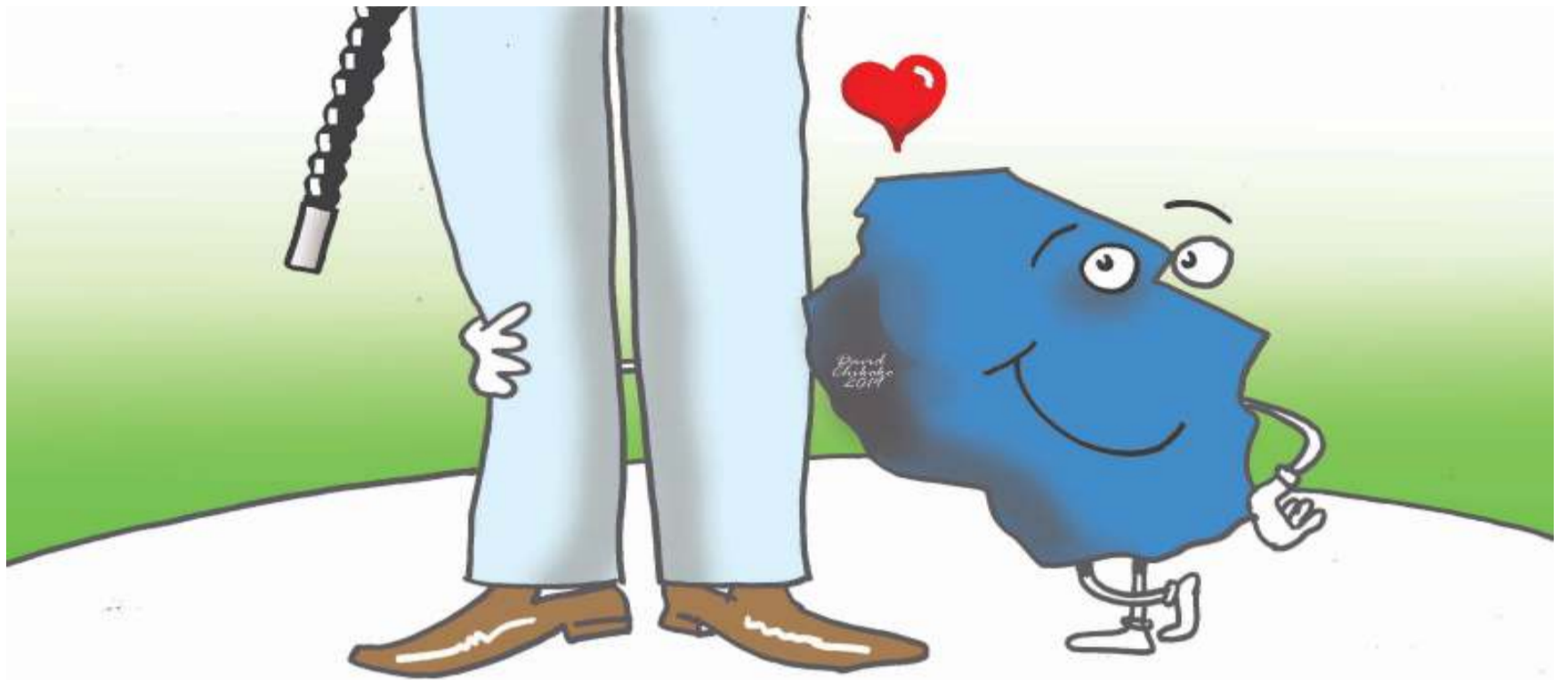
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Tapping into mobile phones to advance Africa's intelligence on global health and food security

By Esther Ngumbi and Ifeanyi M. Nsofor

IT is official: With 9.3 billion mobile connections, the number of mobile devices on earth now surpasses the 7.6 billion people population. This creates huge opportunities to advance global health and food security through mobile phones. It may surprise people to learn that this can be done without apps. Here are three main ways to effectively use mobile phones to address issues like infectious diseases, particularly on the African continent.

First, mobile messaging presents the perfect platform to address global problems like infectious diseases. Already 22 billion text messages are sent daily by mobile phone users. Mobile messaging can be used to inform remote communities across Africa about immunisation, one of the most cost-effective public health interventions for prevention of infectious diseases. Mobile messaging should also be used for risk communication - informing individuals about changes they can make to prevent infectious diseases. For example, informing individuals about the benefits of hand washing, stoppage of open defecation and benefits of taking the right vaccines/drugs before embarking on international travels.

This is sorely needed as globally, more than 50 per cent of all countries are not prepared for an epidemic, according to preventepidemics.org, the world's first website to provide an overall score for a country's ability to find, stop and prevent diseases. In Africa, based on preventepidemics.org rankings, no country is fully prepared for an epidemic. For instance, Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa score 39%, 50% and 62%, respectively.

In terms of agriculture and food security, messaging via cellphones has already been leveraged with much success. Tigo Kilimo, in Tanzania, for example, helps farmers stay ahead of weather by sending crucial weather data via cellphones. In Malawi and Western African Countries, Self Help Africa is using text messaging to warn thousands of citizens about impending weather events that might threaten their crops, or their



homes. In addition, by combining mobile cell phone technology and artificial intelligence, cell phones can detect crop plant diseases, several days before full symptoms are evident. Once plant diseases have been detected, farmers can be messaged via cellphones, allowing them to take the necessary preventative actions.

Second, the talk feature of mobile phones can be useful for the exchange of ideas. When community dwellers come across illnesses that they do not know, how do they report such cases? Who do they report such cases to? This is where talk features of mobile phones could be harnessed. The use of toll-free lines for reporting suspected infectious disease would help health workers nip it in the bud before outbreaks occur.

This is timely as lately, we've seen many infectious disease outbreaks including Lassa fever in Nigeria, cholera in Kenya, African swine flu in South Africa and measles in the U.S. The latest Ebola out-

break in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has killed more than two thousand people so far. The risk of spreading infectious diseases is heightened by the ease of international travel. Within 36 hours, an outbreak that began in a remote village can reach major world capitals. Quickly communicating with health workers about these illnesses could keep them from spreading.

Similarly, in terms of food security and agriculture, mobile phones can be tapped into to prevent invasive pests that have significant impacts on food security. Take the case of the invasive fall armyworm, a crop pest that invaded Africa in 2016, and significantly affected food security in over 46 African countries. If farmers across Africa had adequately been trained on how to use their cell phones to report unusual pests to their respective departments of agriculture, a lot of the early damage caused by this invasive pest would have been prevented.

With recent research pre-

dicting that threat from invasive pests will continue to increase within African countries, African governments and other stakeholders in the African agriculture sector must tap into mobile phones to help African farmers to anticipate and prepare for future invasive insect pests. It is encouraging to see that researchers are already implementing this. Farmers in Kenya, Ghana and Zambia can get early alerts courtesy of the Pest Risk Information Service. This should continue.

Third, data functionality of mobile phones provide good platforms for providing continuing professional development for agricultural extension and health workers and updates on new and emerging infectious diseases as well as plant diseases and insect pests. A well-educated agricultural extension and health workforce that is capable of detecting and responding to infectious diseases, invasive pests, and other epidemics and disasters linked to a changing climate can save lives. High speed internet such as the free Google Wi-Fi Hot Spots being rolled out across Africa can be a gamechanger if national public health and agriculture institutes are connected to it. The Google hotspots speed is 30Mbps, which is more speed than most African countries offer.

We must take advantage of this widespread penetration of mobile cellphone technology to advance global health security and food security on the African continent.

Dr. Esther Ngumbi is an Assistant Professor at the Entomology Department, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. She is a Senior Food security fellow with the Aspen Institute and has written opinion pieces for various outlets including NPR, CNN, Los Angeles Times, Aljazeera and New York Times. You can follow her on Twitter @EstherNgumbi

The unemployment nightmare

UNEMPLOYMENT. That's hell of a monster that has taken the country decades to defeat, but still growing stronger each day. It's something that can consume and lead you astray if you are not that careful. The process of life is systematic, you are born and when you become of age you go to school. You put all your efforts and concentration towards studying and passing exams. Hell, they will tell you, "... education is the key to your future. All you need to do is to cut that key into the right shape", "Cut it well", they will say, "... it will take time, energy, creativity and efforts but remember the padlock is before you." They will assure you that education is the only hope you have, and without it you are just a hopeless wondering maniac.

You have no choice, you will listen, and they will give you the tools and send you to battle. Like a mindless sheep you will fight, and fight you will. Eventually you will succeed, pass your exams, graduate with good grades. Then they will cast you into the world, and proclaim you mature enough to fend for yourself. That is when reality strikes in.

You are now 26 years or above already. Three years or more have passed since you danced in jubilation on your graduation day. You have sent your CV to every prospective employer with no reply. The world is looking at you with bare eyes. You have walked miles and miles to submit your applications and attend interviews, if luck shines on you. Those sharp shooters of yours have hit the road hard, until they have taken the shape of wedges. The collars torn out, the food of rats. Your beautiful brown



baby face is now dark poking. The only friend left, is dust. You will be told, "... you are doing this wrong, what you need to do is to create connections and broad networks. Don't just apply for jobs, who does that? Attend events, contribute at forums; that is how people will come to know you."

"Maybe I chose the wrong career path, I think I should have done education instead of finance, law instead of engineering, computer science instead of procurement..." the list goes on and on, thoughts like these will bombard you. Then the advocates of education will approach you, sympathize with your situation, their mouths full of advice; call it experience. They have been through the same predicament, you have to give them that. "My dear, education is not everything, what you need is to think beyond it, think broadly. Look

at your father, he never went to school, does not know how to read and write, but he has never begged or lacked anything in his life. Sit down my son, my daughter, and bring your thoughts together, you don't have to be employed in order to succeed in life.

You don't have to wait till end month for a five figure salary in order to know that you have made it, to know that your education has paid off. No, why not think about self-employment?" Then the vocabulary of being an entrepreneur poops up. "Come up with an idea that resonates with your focus area and do thorough research about it." Entrepreneurship. Here you will pay yourself. Your resilience, effort, struggle, commitment and dedication will determine the amount of money you walk away with. They will not support you, naah, because no one easily believes in a startup. "My son, my daughter, go out there and start something new, think of what the world needs and ignite ideas that will fill that gap. You have our blessings and unwavering support".

Then the man or woman you are, you will sit down, in your bed-sitter, if you are lucky enough not to be living in your parent's house. With a piece of paper and your smartphone at the palm of your hand. You will google and google about ideas, your pen will scribble down the few that you can manage. You will beat your brain until you narrow down the one that you are passionate about.

"Tomorrow I will start on this one". If hungry, noodles will call it a day. You watch a movie and lay down on your bed. The next day you wake up at the 10.00 am, time is of little essence now. Lazily from your bed, you remember about the idea that you had. "I will deal with it later", you procrastinate. Time goes on. Your folks from the village will be kind enough to remind you, "... what happened to that idea that you were talking about?" "Oh that one!" You have already forgotten about it. Then you will peg your excuse on lack of capital. Again time goes on. They will keep calling, "... find a purpose for your life", they will say.

You resort back to applying for jobs. Every day you flock to the internet to check out new postings. You will apply for every damn job that meets your eyes. Applying for jobs becomes you daily job. If there is anything you have learnt in your experience of applying for jobs is, to never restrict yourself to jobs related to your degree. You will apply for anything and everything, from cashier to content writer to sales person to bartender. You won't mind even being employed by a dog as long as you get paid at the end of the day. It doesn't matter if you are paid peanuts without benefits, what matters now is at least you get in. From there it will be easier to climb the ladder.

Then one day you get lucky, this Indian guy needs a shop attendant. After a short interview he settles for you. You close your eyes and say, "Thank you God". He of



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fers you a peanut basic salary and you gladly accept it. You come up with plans on what to do with the money, the kind of investments about it. Then you will peg your excuse on lack of capital. Again time goes on. They will keep calling, "... find a purpose for your life", they will say.

You resort back to applying for jobs. Every day you flock to the internet to check out new postings. You will apply for every damn job that meets your eyes. Applying for jobs becomes you daily job. If there is anything you have learnt in your experience of applying for jobs is, to never restrict yourself to jobs related to your degree. You will apply for anything and everything, from cashier to content writer to sales person to bartender. You won't mind even being employed by a dog as long as you get paid at the end of the day. It doesn't matter if you are paid peanuts without benefits, what matters now is at least you get in. From there it will be easier to climb the ladder.

down the line. Your Indian employer, shocks you with the worst news. He will be closing down the business to go back home. As if you were sleeping, you wake up from the dream of your life. What was I doing all along? The monster laughs at you. It's time to be unemployed. You start the process of applying for jobs again.

You forgot to advance your education. The degree you got 7 years ago is the only weapon you have to compete for a job in a deteriorating economy. Your child is two years now, soon school fees will be demanded from you. This year you will be turning 32. You can't even inform your folks of your current situation. Your bills and expenses push you to the wall. Time is not on your side. You start selling items from your house. Poverty kicks in. You have no moves left on your chessboard.

You are ready to try anything the world has to offer. The only way you can see this out, is construction. Taking home so little money a day. You take a look back at your life, what is left of your education is casual works. But what matters now is survival. You are back where you started_unemployed.

Study reveals need for intervention to respond to climate change threats in Chalinze

By Gerald Kitabu

A RECENT study on Vulnerability Impact Assessment to climate change conducted in Chalinze district, Coastal region has revealed significant impacts related to extreme weather and climate events. Among the revealed impacts includes prolonged droughts, floods and strong wind, which are projected to increase in frequency and magnitude.

The nine (9) months study conducted by E-Link Consult Ltd, supported by SERVIR project through USAID, has revealed increased temperature and decreased rainfall in the district. Communities in this area are highly vulnerable because they depend on agriculture and livestock keeping as their main economic activities. Climate change has significantly impact on food production; infrastructure maintenance such as roads and bridges; pose health risks hence, posing a big risk to poverty reduction efforts in various parts of the district. This may undo decades of development efforts of the government and the local government authorities in particular.

The Director of E-Link Consult, Shukuru Nyagawa said that vulnerability impact assessment is an important process to reveal the impacts of climate change, and identifying hotspot areas, which leads to more thoughtful and informed decision-making process in formulating area specific appropriate adaptation measures.

The project coordinator Abdallah Henku explained that this study applied both primary and secondary data, including quantitative and qualitative respectively. Quantitative secondary data were gathered from various sources including NBS and TMA at the national level, and UNEP, RCMRD, FEWSNET, UNFCCC, JRC and Landsat or Sentinel at international level, while the qualitative data were gathered during stakeholder's meeting held in the district level.

Data collection was strategically done to ensure that the three main Vulnerability Impacts Assessment components of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity were properly determined, as per the Inter governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodology. Each vulnerability component has a number of specific data layers. Programming language was used to assign indicator codes to specific data layers. The analysis involved converting all the original (raw) spatial data layers into grids, inverting indicators, assigning weights to various indicators, rescaling of indicators and development of vulnerability map.



Chalinze district officers' climate change capacity building and awareness raising study visit at Kaloleni Village, Chalinze district recently.

In respect to the three assessment components of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity the results showed that; the central parts of Chalinze District Council had highest exposure to the associated climate change impacts. Specifically Kimange, Msata, Talawanda and Miono wards fell under this category. The findings indicates that, the most sensitive areas are Msata and Ubenazomzi wards and some villages in Talawanda, Pera, Vigwaza and Mkwane wards and finally two wards of Bwilingu and Mendera had high adaptive capacity compared to the rest.

The overall vulnerability was determined through averaging of the rescaled values from exposure, sensitivity, and lack of adaptive capacity indicators. The Overall vulnerability assessment indicates that Talawanda and Kimange wards were the most vulnerable wards. This vulnerability assessment and hotspot mapping is an essential exercise for implementation of informed project interventions such as climate change adaptation intervention, and can be used as a resources mobilization tool when engaging various development partner across scales and levels in Chalinze District Council.

District Officers Capacity building site visits

The Vulnerability Impact Assessment (VIA) project provided opportunity for the Chalinze District Officers to be capacitated with climate change adaptation knowledge and concepts. Among them was the natural resource officer, land officer, agricultural officer, environmental officer just to name a few. This opportunity was to link the findings of the VIA report prepared under this pro-

ject and the climate change concepts. This capacity building and awareness raising study visits were done at the end of August this year at Kaloleni village, Ubenazomzi village, Lugoba village, Ruvu river and Wami river. The main sectors looked at were Livestock keeping, Water resources, Settlement, Sand and gravel mining, Agriculture, and Livelihood activities.

Agriculture:

The study revealed that, Chalinze district council depends mainly on rain-fed agriculture with very small percentage of farmers engaged in irrigation. According to the district agriculture officer, the district has been experiencing decrease in rainfall and increased drought. It was added that the district has been experiencing variability in rainfall distribution, such that the onset and ending of rainfall are unpredictable. Moreover, this sector has been invaded with crop diseases, which are difficult to cure with the regular agricultural herbicides. On the other hand, on the low lands of Wami and Ruvu river basins, frequent flooding have caused destruction of agricultural crops and related infrastructures. These have impacted crop growth and productivity, leading into shortage of food and hunger among the communities. It was further mentioned that, Miono Ward was among the areas experiencing shortage of food due to prolonged drought and unpredictable rainfall.

Forests

During the visit, it was noted that most of the forests in Chalinze district are degraded due to human activities such as charcoal burning, encroachment for agriculture (farming and livestock keeping) and settlement. The district natural resource officer Mr. Revocatus Samwel explained that the district has been facing with decreased rainfall and increased droughts due to decreased vegetation cover such as forests. Most of the areas that were covered by forests in the past have been converted to other land uses. It was acknowledged that failure to conserve forests would lead to more climate change related challenges in the future.

Water

Regarding the water sector, climate change impacts affected water sector in different angles. It was noted that most of the water sources that existed in the past has disappeared, while some of those that still exist are faced with decreased water flow. The main reasons to these challenges were increased drought, decreased rainfall, increased invasive species in water catchments, unplanned settlement, lack of land use plans and poor adherence to enforcement of legal frameworks such as water and environmental laws and policies.

Livestock

The villagers reported that increased drought and decreased rainfall have impacted negatively the livestock sector. The quality of pasture and animal productivity have decreased, contributing to increased conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers; decreased household income, abandonment of families especially leaving behind women and children; increased land destruction due to overgrazing and general decrease of district economy.

Land

Land is both a source and a sink of greenhouse gases (GHS) and plays a key role in the exchange of energy and water between the land surface and atmosphere. Land ecosystems and biodiversity are vulnerable to the ongoing climate change impacts. Multiple stressors on land such as agricultural activities, unplanned

settlements, poor livestock keeping, deforestation, mining, floods and droughts contribute to land degradation. Furthermore, it has been noted that most of the areas in the district are now experiencing increased gully erosion, which threatens existence of infrastructures such as roads and bridges. With many being attributed to unpredictable rainfall as a result of climate change.

Mining:

Sand and gravel mining in Chalinze district council are some of the major economic activities. Gravel and sand, which are used for construction projects in various levels, are reported to be the major source of income in the district. The study visit revealed that mining activities in the area contributes to degradation of the environment which may hamper adaptation strategies and be source of emission. Mining activities, which include sand and gravel quarries involves use of machinery, which uses fossil fuels, attracts population increase, resulting into unplanned settlements. Such a scenario makes the community around the mining areas to be at risk of accessing safe water, reliable energy and food security. Increased impacts of climate change exacerbate the vulnerability of these communities. Participants further noted that increased floods impact the mining activities as the open pits (the quarry) are filled with water, restricting operations.

Flooding on the abandoned quarries poses health risks by percolation of unsafe water to underground sources and be source accidents.

This risk of contaminating underground water is caused by lack of proper water treatment procedures at the mining sites. Dirty and contaminated water ponds where observed in areas where land reclamation has not yet been done and sand mining operations have stopped.

Participants recommended that proper environmental and land management strategies need to be developed and operationalized in areas where mining activities are done, so as to restore the natural vegetation which increases CO2 sinks, thus contributing to national mitigation efforts. There are a lot of land degradation and air pollution going on, which poses health

risks to communities living around the mines

"Changes in the climate have direct effect to our operations because we depend on the functional and liable supply systems such as water, energy, food and human resource. Recently we have been facing with prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainfall which affected our operations and increase costs for maintaining our machinery and other resources," According to the site manager of the Highland estate Ltd, Nasir Nurdin

The district Officers said most of the mining companies operating in the district have limited awareness and capacity to respond to challenges related to climate change. It was reported that there has never been any forum or meeting organized by or with the investors (private sectors) to discuss any issues related to climate change to what they are doing. It is important that forum is formulated and encourages investors to support adaptation activities within the district.

The study further revealed that, there a lot of land degradation and air pollution related activities going on around the district, which poses health risks to communities living around the mines. There is also a risk of contaminating underground water due to lack of proper water treatment procedures at the mining sites. It was observed that there dirty and contaminated water ponds in areas where land reclamation has not yet been done and sand mining operations have stopped.

Unfortunately, the linkage between local government and central government agencies such as the National Environmental Management Council - NEMC was a challenge. It was pointed out that, most of the companies report directly to the central government designated bodies rather than the district council. This being the case, the district officers face challenges in monitoring the mining sites.

It was therefore recommended that, there is need to develop and operationalize proper environmental and land management strategies in areas where mining activities are done, to help restore the natural vegetation as Carbon dioxide (CO2) sinks, thus contributing to national mitigation efforts and adaptation efforts.

Education is a basic right and the foundation for a more just society

By C. M. Rubin

MORE than 40 per cent of the 57 million children worldwide estimated to still be missing out on school are thought to have disabilities. However, all youth have the right to learn together regardless of any disabilities or differences they may have.

While progress has been made on achieving this global goal over the last 25 years, there is still more work to be done.

Prof Mel Ainscow is Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Manchester and was a keynote at UNESCO's recent International Forum on Inclusion and Equity in Education.

The event commemorated the 25th anniversary of the World Conference on Special Needs Education that led to the UNESCO Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education, arguably the most significant international document that has ever appeared in the field of special education.

Mel has been a consultant to UNESCO on a series of global initiatives aimed at findings ways of including all children in schools. The Global Search for Education asked him to reflect on what has happened over that 25-year period and what lessons could be learned from his experiences in different parts of the world.

Mel, it's been 25 years since the publication of the Salamanca Statement. What progress has been made? What still needs to be done?

I attended the conference in 1994 and recall the enthusiasm that was generated by the discussions that took place. I also remember the splendid social programme organised for the delegates, with banquets, receptions and lots of Spanish wine.

The wonderfully inclusive atmosphere that this created led me to think that by the end of the week those involved would 'sign anything'. That said, I could not have imagined the impact that all of this was to have over the following 25 years.

Although the immediate focus of the Salamanca conference

was on what was termed special needs education, its conclusion was that the aim must be to develop inclusive education systems. It was argued that this can only happen if mainstream schools become capable of educating all children in their local communities.

The years following Salamanca led to many developments in relation to this theme. For example, Italy has closed its special provision; New Brunswick in Canada pioneered the concept of inclusive education; India saw a significant push towards increased enrolment in schools; and Portugal enacted an explicit legal framework for the inclusion of all students.

Significant developments have also occurred in the Pacific region, where inclusive education has been identified as a regional priority by all countries.

Despite these encouraging developments, progress has slowed in recent years. And, significantly, it is estimated that more than 40 per cent of the 57 million children worldwide missing out on school are thought to be disabled.

What achievements are you most proud of that have addressed the inclusion agenda? Can you suggest any relevant resources?

I suppose my greatest pride is my success in bringing people together to address the inclusion agenda. This has involved a series of initiatives to develop practical resources. Recently, one of these led to the publication of the UNESCO Guide for Ensuring Inclusion and Equity in Education. This offers practical support to member states as to what actions need to be taken to promote inclusion.

Drawing on international research, the Guide was developed with the advice and support of a group of international experts. It allows readers to learn from the progress made by other countries towards more inclusive education systems. Examples include how Ghana assesses the inclusiveness of its mainstream schools, how Denmark is developing a sense of community by listening to the views of children,



C.M. Rubin (L) and Mel Ainscow. File photos

and how students in Portugal help teachers to innovate. These examples advance the right of every learner to be included in schools.

Those involved in taking this challenging agenda forward may also find it useful to use the related resource pack, 'Reaching Out to All Learners', which I developed with colleagues at the International Bureau of Education-UNESCO.

Drawing on international research evidence, these materials are intended to support inclusive thinking and practices at all levels of an education system. Consequently, they are designed to be relevant to teachers, school leaders, district level administrators, teacher educators and national policy makers.

What actions are needed to move education systems in an inclusive direction?

My recommendations are guided by the idea that inclusion should not be seen as a separate policy. Rather, it should be viewed as a principle that informs all policies, guided by six related actions.



Action 1: Establish a clear definition of what is meant by inclusion in education. In some countries, inclusive education is still thought of as an approach to serving children with disabilities within general education settings. Internationally, however, it is increasingly seen more broadly as a principle that supports and welcomes diversity amongst all learners.

The aim is to eliminate exclusion that is a consequence of attitudes and responses to diversity in race, social class, ethnicity, religion, gender, and ability. It starts from the belief that education is a basic human right and the foundation for a more just society.

Action 2: Use evidence to identify contextual barriers. It is important to know who is included, who is segregated and who is excluded from schooling. Without an engagement with evidence in relation to all of these forms of exclusion, there can be no accountability.

In particular, the views of young people must be sought and valued, particularly those from at-risk groups. Their voices can challenge policy makers and practitioners to find more effective ways of ensuring that all children are included.

Action 3: Support teachers in promoting inclusion. Countries where teachers believe their profession is valued show

higher levels of equity in learning outcomes. Therefore, schools need to be reformed and practices need to be improved in ways that lead teachers to feel supported in responding positively to student diversity - seeing individual differences not as problems to be fixed, but as opportunities for enriching learning.

Action 4: Design the curriculum with all learners in mind. In an education system based on the principle of inclusion, all students are assessed on an ongoing basis in relation to their progress through the curriculum.

This allows teachers to respond to a wide range of individual learners, bearing in mind that each learner is unique. It means that teachers and other professionals must be well informed about their students' characteristics and attainments, while also assessing broader qualities, such as their capacity for co-operation.

Action 5: Manage education systems in ways that will engage all learners. Movement towards inclusion is likely to require some restructuring of education provision. Such changes may be resisted by some of those involved, not least parents who understandably want to do the best for their own children. It is therefore essential to have a shared commitment amongst senior staff at the national, district and school levels

to value differences, invest in collaboration, and commit to providing educational opportunities that are inclusive.

Action 6: Involve communities in promoting inclusion. Governments need to mobilise human and financial resources, some of which may not be under their direct control. Forming partnerships among key stakeholders who can support the process of change is therefore essential.

The engagement of families is particularly crucial. In some countries, parents and education authorities cooperate closely in developing community-based programmes for certain groups of learners, such as those who are excluded because of their gender, social status or impairments.

What does this mean for future developments?

These six actions mean that governments must make a clear and genuine commitment to inclusion, emphasizing the benefits for parents and children, and for the community at large.

Here, it is useful to distinguish between needs, rights and opportunities. While all learners have needs (e.g. for appropriate teaching), they also have the right to participate fully in a common social institution (that is, a local mainstream school) that offers them a varied range of relevant opportunities.

Too often, parents are forced to choose between ensuring that their child's needs are met (which sometimes implies placement in a special school or separate classroom) and ensuring that they have the same rights and opportunities as other learners (which means placement in a mainstream school).

Just to add, like all major policy changes, progress in relation to inclusion requires an effective strategy for implementation. In particular, it requires new thinking that focuses attention on the barriers experienced by some children.

Overcoming such barriers is the most important means of development forms of education that are effective for all children. Inclusion becomes a way of achieving the overall improvement of education systems.

Thank you to our 800-plus global contributors, teachers, entrepreneurs, researchers, business leaders, students and thought leaders from every domain for sharing your perspectives on the future of learning with The Global Search for Education each month.

Award-winning C. M. Rubin (Cathy) is the Founder of CM-RubinWorld, an online publishing company focused on the future of global learning and the co-founder of Planet Classroom. She is the author of three best-selling books and two widely read online series. The series was launched in 2010 and brings together distinguished thought leaders from around the world to explore the key education issues faced by nations around the globe.

By Special Correspondent in Ikoyi, Nigeria

SMILING can be an expensive venture in Africa as the continent continues to grapple with several challenges. Access to energy is dismal, a situation that stifles social and economic growth on the continent.

But the continent will likely ultimately have something to smile about, given the formal operationalisation of the partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and leading energy conglomerate Sahara Group.

The collaboration, which was sealed during one of the side events at the recently concluded 74th United Nations General Assembly, portends a brighter future for access to reliable, safe and affordable energy in Africa.

The partnership's overarching goal is to create access to clean and affordable energy in Africa, with a commitment to providing access to clean and affordable energy for 10 million households on the continent.

This is hinged on the fact that sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest energy access rates and, paradoxically, the highest percentage of untapped hydropower potential in the world - at a meagre 11 per cent utilisation capacity.

The global electrification rate reached 89 per cent last year, with 153 million people having

gained access to electricity, according to World Bank statistics for May 2019. However, the biggest challenge remains in the most remote areas globally and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular, where an estimated 573 million people are not connected to grid power.

With only about ten years left for the world to achieve the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), vastly enhanced investment in clean and affordable energy sources is important if sub-Saharan Africa is to meet the deadline.

This is because access to clean energy sources has the potential to accelerate growth by creating new jobs, bolstering healthcare, ensuring that more children and youth have additional hours to study especially at night, and access to new skills and information that will allow the young people to create technology-driven innovations to power the economy.

It is against this backdrop that Sahara Group and UNDP have formed this partnership. The overall objective is to build a roadmap and provide catalytic support so that public-private alliances can provide large-scale solutions towards achieving the SDGs, with a focus on SDG 7 - that is, Access to Energy.

With its focus on the productive use of energy, the project is meant to highlight the correla-

Even the smallest of smiles requires sustainable energy

tion between access to energy on the one hand and economic growth on the other.

In doing so, emphasis will be on how economic develop-

ment can be triggered by enhancing the income-generating capabilities of local populations.

This economic development plays a critical role in improving societal well-

being by creating opportunities for the entrepreneurial development for youth and women to develop skills, thereby generating employment and improving livelihoods.

The partnership will kick off with a regional energy forum that will serve as a platform for policy discussions, multi-stakeholder collaboration and funding towards the implementation of tailored renewable energy solutions across the continent.

Ultimately, it is hoped, the platform will galvanise the political momentum needed to record significant progress through strong partnerships, effective regulation and mutual accountability. This will, in turn, lead to the implementation of country-specific energy projects in selected countries.

Over 600 million people in Africa have no access to electricity. This is one indicator the UNDP-Sahara Group partnership hopes to address. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Regional Director and Assistant Secretary General for the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, has aptly said that the continent urgently needs to embrace renewable energy sources to sustainably connect the poorest and hardest to reach as many households as possible.

"Access to energy will enhance the cause of poverty alleviation and also yield huge benefits for education, healthcare, production, and socio-economic development," Eziakonwa has noted.

Indeed, the UNDP-Sahara partnership is of fundamental importance as it will provide a model for engaging a

wide range of stakeholders in addressing the continent's energy-related challenges in line with the SDG framework. This couldn't be truer.

It is noteworthy that the partnership involves Sahara Group whose affiliate, Sahara Power Group, operates the largest privately owned power business in sub-Saharan Africa.

To quote Sahara Power Group's own Group Managing Director Kola Adesina, "the company is delighted and privileged to be playing such a strategic role in lighting up Africa".

Adesina says the partnership with UNDP has the potential to create over one million jobs in Africa as the continent continues its march towards achieving the 2030 SDGs Agenda, adding: "Renewable energy is still in its infancy as far as Africa is concerned."

"We need unrelenting awareness initiatives to inspire a mindset shift to renewable energy in Africa with the various governments, private sector and development agencies leading the charge," says the SPG executive, adding: "At Sahara Group, we believe that interventions like the UNDP-Sahara partnership will enhance productivity and shared prosperity in Africa."

Following the findings of a scientific study confirming that an average of ten facial muscles are required for a small smile, six muscles for a small frown, 12 muscles for a big smile and 11 for a frown, it is clear that even the smallest of smiles requires energy. Hopefully, the UNDP-Sahara Group partnership will provide the energy required to put smiles on people's faces in Africa.



L-R: Sahara Foundation private sector engagement specialist Babatomiwa Adesida, Group Managing Director, Sahara Power Group GMD Kola Adesina, United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed, Sahara Group Governance and Sustainability director Pearl Uzokwe, and SG head of corporate communications Bethel Obioma at the recent launch of the Africa Renewable Energy Forum in New York. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mvomero district farmers revives coffee growing

By Guardian Correspondent, Mvomero

FARMERS in Mgeta Division, Mvomero District, Morogoro Region have resolved to revive coffee growing as a cash crop, the activity they used to do in the 1970s.

Coffee farming in Mgeta Division was famous four decades ago but stopped in the early 2000s after many farmers opted for crops that brought in quick monetary returns as compared to coffee.

Speaking at an entrepreneurship training in various businesses including coffee growing to 35 groups in Bunduki Ward in the district, the Ward's Councilor Prosper Mkunule said they have already planted 30,000 coffee seedlings.

He said in the past coffee farming helped in environment preservation and water sources protection, and due to ensuing environment destruction and climate change they have decided to revert to coffee growing.

He said the crop lost its lustre in the 2000s when people started growing tomatoes, cabbages and fruits whereby many youths uprooted the coffee trees and planted fruits and vegetables instead.

The Director of Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) Henry Ngingi said they have decided to revert to coffee in Mgeta so as to make it sustainable

and reduce the incidences of forest fires that cause environmental pollution.

Mgingi said to start with they set aside 6m/- for training the 35 groups in Mgeta and Bunduki wards on entrepreneurship skills conducted by various experts as well as for preparation of seed beds which have already been planted.

He said CDTF in partnership with Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TacRi) supplied the seeds and other equipment to the said groups.

"Here in Mgeta the climate is the same as that of Kilimanjaro hence the main cash crop was coffee, people were educated by incomes from coffee but in 2000s when tomatoes came in, local people started to uproot coffee trees to give way to tomatoes, hence we are helping in bringing coffee back," said CDTF Director.

On his part the chairman of Tugendele Group Stephen Msimbe said after they were supplied with seeds and other equipment TacRi and CDTF, the seedlings they had grown would be distributed to growers in Mgeta for planting.

Speaking to members of the 35 groups the Chairman of CDTF Board of Directors Eng Leon Msimbe, who is also chairman of Tugendele Group said they have decided to support the government's efforts in assisting them in coffee production.



A cross section of Equinor representatives following the proceedings of the recent oil and gas congress held in Dar Es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Vehicle fires are usually caused by more often by problems with electrical wiring and fuel system'

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE some vehicle fires are usually caused by collisions, they are more often caused by problems with a vehicle's electrical wiring, fuel system or even cigarettes left in the car, leaving the engine to catch fire. The best line of defence is to have these systems checked out at every service call.

Tanzania's Fire and Rescue Force has clarified on the causes

of vehicles catching fire while travelling on the roads and how to prevent such disasters.

Speaking at the weekend in an interview, the Force's Assistant Inspector Elnimo Shang'a explained that the main causes of vehicles catching fire are faults of electrical and fuel systems that are not thoroughly inspected before the journey.

These, he mentioned, are the engine, battery, and fuel injection systems. He called on drivers to

ensure that the systems are working properly as well as having fire extinguishers in their vehicles that have been certified to be in working order including having the knowledge to use them.

"The fire extinguishers in vehicles must be serviced at least once per year. We usually inspect them, but many motorists carry them just to avoid being fined by the traffic police," Shang'a said.

He said as of now the Police Force, Road Traffic Division is col-

laborating with Fire and Rescue Force, hence traffic police can also do inspection of fire extinguishers to determine their workability's.

Bruno Ndege who is an instructor and owner of Bruno Vocational Training Centre (Bruno VTC) in Buguruni, Dar es Salaam who was present during the interview clarified on the causes of vehicles catching fire while on transit.

On huge trucks especially fuel tankers that have been involved

in tragic accidents, he said the vehicles face grave fire hazards because they use two high voltage batteries.

Hence, he added, since the main source of electrical fault in the vehicle is the battery, this must be fixed at secure places to avoid fire hazards while on transit. He said: "Ensure you inspect your battery's terminals, whether their polarity is correct and is securely tightened and covered."

He said a fuel tanker may catch

fire while moving, and not necessarily after it overturns. It can catch fire due to loose battery connections; hence drivers should always inspect such connections.

He added: "When you start the vehicle, the alternator begins to produce electricity. Also the alternator gets its power from the battery. So if there are loose connections, sparks can occur at the battery terminals and if the fuel tanker has even the smallest leak-

age, a fire can occur, even without the vehicle overturning."

Both Shang'a and Ndege pleaded with drivers and vehicle owners not to buy spare parts and accessories that are substandard as they can be causes of vehicles catching fire while on transit.

They said they should not subscribe to the popular notion that a vehicle that travels for long hours during sunny weather get heated up and could catch fire than a vehicle that travel at night time.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan shows her identity card to local government elections voters' book registrar Asha Musa (R) moments after she had registered at Kilimani primary school in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

StanChart marks customer week with Visa QR Code introduction

By Guardian Reporter

A new feature has been added to Standard Chartered Tanzania digital platform called Visa QR Code that allows customers have improved payment capability.

In a statement yesterday, Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited said as it marks the annual customer service week, it has added the new feature to enhance full digital bank on its mobile platform.

The statement said this year's 'Customer service week' which has 'Magic of service, as its theme has provoked the bank to continue looking at ways and means to improve its clients' digital banking experience. "As we mark the customer service week this year we continue to look at how we can further enrich the aspect of banking for our clients and make it not only transaction based but much more than that," said the bank's Head of Retail Banking, Ajmair Riaz.

"We want our clients to enjoy full convenience as they do their banking with us. It is in this regard that we are announcing a new feature on our Digital Bank on Mobile called the Visa QR Code Payments capability," Riaz said.

With this capability, making payments for any purchases made at QR code enabled outlets has been made simpler and seamless. StanChart Tan-

zania's clients will only have to do a simple step of scanning the QR codes from the Standard Chartered Mobile Application on their phones to make their payments. "This new capability eliminates the need to remember multiple passwords thus making our clients' banking experience more convenient," Riaz added while highlighting that the capability works worldwide at all Visa QR Code enabled outlets.

He further noted that as the bank marks the customer service week, various customers have been visited at their premises to further create awareness about its digital banking capabilities among other solutions. "The customer service week marks an opportunity for us to further educate our clients on our various products and services and how we are making banking more convenient for them. We confirm that digitization of services has proven to be more fruitful and we have managed to more than double the number of new accounts from the time we launched the Full Digital Bank on Mobile in February this year," the Head of Retail Banking noted.

In July this year the bank launched the country's first Social Banking Solution called SC Keyboard which is also part of the bank's Full Digital Bank on Mobile and allows customers to access a variety of financial services from within any social or messaging platform without having to open the banking application.

EAC youth ambassadors to undertake multi-stakeholder outreach programme

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community Youth ambassadors will undertake a multi-stakeholder outreach programme targeting the border districts and communities at Horohoro (Tanzania) and Lunga Lunga (Kenya).

According to a statement issued yesterday by EAC secretar-

iat, the sensitisation programme will take place from October 9 - 10, this year.

The major goal of the programme is to sensitise the youth within the border communities, local leaders and actors as well as border agencies on issues hindering regular cross border movements and threats linked to irregular movements such as

smuggling or trafficking.

The two-day sensitization programme aims at establishing partnerships with relevant actors at the local level to maximise on the mitigation possibilities to simultaneously increase access to opportunities presented in the EAC Common Market for young people through better management and secured cross border

movements.

The sensitization program will, among other things, seek to understand the limiting factors for border management officials in curbing migrant smuggling and trafficking challenges at the borders; build joint stakeholder approaches towards legal cross border trade and sharing of best practices in transfer of border

management technologies; and sensitize border communities (including vulnerable groups such as young people) and border agencies on threats and other risks related to cross border smuggling and trafficking.

It also meant to share and exchange information about opportunities available in the EAC for young East Africans to legally

benefit from the region and vice versa. This aims to reduce negative effects of migration of young people to access available livelihood opportunities, and increase collaboration between border stakeholder, actors and EAC Secretariat on border management

The sensitization programme will be attended by Representatives of Border Security and law

enforcement agencies; Members of the immigration border control; representative of the Ministry of EAC Affairs from each Partner State; the District Youth leadership; the current EAC Youth Ambassadors, Alumni, youth Representatives and; the border communities with emphasis given to youth.

Trump allies sought Ukraine gas deal

KYIV

AS Rudy Giuliani was pushing Ukrainian officials last spring to investigate one of Donald Trump's main political rivals, a group of individuals with ties to the president and his personal lawyer were also active in the former Soviet republic.

Their aims were profit, not politics. This circle of businessmen and Republican donors touted connections to Giuliani and Trump while trying to install new management at the top of Ukraine's massive state gas company. Their plan was to then steer lucrative contracts to companies controlled by Trump allies, according to two people with knowledge of their plans.

Their plan hit a snag after Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko lost his reelection bid to Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose conversation with Trump about former Vice President Joe Biden is now at the center of the House impeachment inquiry of Trump.

But the effort to install a friendlier management team at the helm of the gas company, Naftogaz, would soon be taken up with Ukraine's new president by US Energy Secretary Rick Perry, whose slate of candidates included a fellow Texan who is one of Perry's past political donors.

It's unclear if Perry's attempts to replace board members at Naftogaz were coordinated with the Giuliani allies pushing for a similar outcome, and no one has alleged that there is criminal activity in any of these efforts. And it's unclear what role, if any, Giuliani had in helping his clients push to get gas sales agreements with the state-owned company.

But the affair shows how those with ties to Trump and his administration were pursuing business deals in Ukraine that went far beyond advancing the president's personal political interests. It also raises questions about whether Trump allies were mixing business and politics just as Republicans were calling for a probe of Biden and his son Hunter, who served five years on the board of another Ukrainian energy company, Burisma.

On Friday, Trump told a group of Republican lawmakers that it had been Perry who had prompted the phone call in which Trump asked Zelenskyy for a "favor" regarding Biden, according to a person familiar with Trump's remarks.

The person, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to describe a closed conversation among GOP officials, recounted that Trump said it was Perry who asked him to make the July call to discuss "something about an LNG (liquefied natural gas) plant."



Rudy Giuliani, an attorney for President Donald Trump

Trump's remarks were first reported Saturday by the news site Axios.

While it's unclear whether Trump's remark Friday referred specifically to the behind-the-scenes maneuvers this spring involving the multibillion-dollar state gas company, The Associated Press has interviewed four people with direct knowledge of the attempts to influence Naftogaz, and their accounts show Perry playing a key role in the effort. Three of the four spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. The fourth is an American businessman with close ties to the Ukrainian energy sector.

A spokeswoman for the US Energy Department said Perry, a former Texas governor and Republican presidential candidate, was not advancing anyone's personal interests. She said his conversations with Ukrainian officials about Naftogaz were part of his efforts to reform the country's energy sector and create an environment in which Western companies can do business.

Perry was asked about the AP's reporting on Monday while in Lithuania, where he was meeting with officials from Ukraine and other eastern European countries to discuss energy security and cooperation. He said any suggestion that he tried to force a management change at Naftogaz was a "totally dreamed up story."

"We get asked for our recommendations about people who are experts in areas, various areas," Perry said. "Folks who have expertise in particular areas. Obviously having been the governor of the state of Texas, I know a lot of people in the energy industry."

Perry also confirmed he had urged Trump to call Zelenskyy, but said the subject was the potential growth of Ukraine's energy sector.

"Absolutely, I asked the president multiple times, 'Mr. President, we think it is in the United States' and in Ukraine's best interest that you and the president of Ukraine have conver-

sations, that you discuss the options that are there," Perry said, recounting his conversations with Trump.

The Trump and Giuliani allies driving the attempt to change the senior management at Naftogaz, however, appear to have had inside knowledge of the US government's plans in Ukraine. For example, they told people that Trump would replace the US ambassador there months before she was actually recalled to Washington, according to three of the individuals interviewed by the AP. One of the individuals said he was so concerned by the whole affair that he reported it to a US Embassy official in Ukraine months ago.

THE BUSINESSMEN

Ukraine, a resource-rich nation that sits on the geographic and symbolic border between Russia and the West, has long been plagued by corruption and government dysfunction, making it a magnet for foreign profiteers.

At the center of the Naftogaz plan, according to three individuals familiar with the details, were three such businessmen: two Soviet-born Florida real estate entrepreneurs, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, and an oil magnate from Boca Raton, Florida, named Harry Sargeant III.

Parnas and Fruman have made hundreds of thousands of dollars in political donations to Republicans, including US\$325,000 to a Trump-allied political action committee in 2018. This helped the relatively unknown entrepreneurs gain access to top levels of the Republican Party – including meetings with Trump at the White House and Mar-a-Lago.

The two have also faced lawsuits from disgruntled investors over unpaid debts. During the same period they were pursuing the Naftogaz deal, the two were coordinating with Giuliani to set up meetings with Ukrainian government officials and push for an investigation of the Bidens.

Sargeant, his wife and corporate entities tied to the family have donated at least US\$1.2 million to Republican campaigns and PACs over the last 20 years, including US\$100,000 in June to the Trump Victory Fund, according to federal and state campaign finance records. He has also served as finance chair of the Florida state GOP, and gave nearly US\$14,000 to Giuliani's failed 2008 presidential campaign.



Energy Secretary Rick Perry

In early March, Fruman, Parnas and Sargeant were touting a plan to replace Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolyev with another senior executive at the company, Andrew Favorov, according to two individuals who spoke to the AP as well as a memorandum about the meeting that was later submitted to the US Embassy in Kyiv, formerly known as Kiev.

Going back to the Obama administration, the US Energy Department and the State Department have long supported efforts to import American natural gas into Ukraine to reduce the country's dependence on Russia.

The three approached Favorov with the idea while the Ukrainian executive was attending an energy industry conference in Texas. Parnas and Fruman told him they had flown in from Florida on a private jet to recruit him to be their partner in a new venture to export up to 100 tanker ship-ments a year of US liquefied gas into Ukraine, where Naftogaz is the largest distributor, according to two people briefed on the details.

Sargeant told Favorov that he regularly meets with Trump at Mar-a-Lago and that the gas-sales plan had the president's full support, according to the two people who said Favorov recounted the discussion to them.

These conversations were recounted to AP by Dale W. Perry, an American who is a former business partner of Favorov. He told AP in an interview that Favorov described the meeting to him soon after it happened and that Favorov perceived it to be a shakedown. Perry, who is no relation to the energy secretary, is the managing partner of Energy

Resources of Ukraine, which currently has business agreements to import natural gas and electricity to Ukraine.

A second person who spoke on condition of anonymity also confirmed to the AP that Favorov had recounted details of the Houston meeting to him.

According to Dale Perry and the other person, Favorov said Parnas told him Trump planned to remove US Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch and replace her with someone more open to aiding their business interests.

Dale Perry told the AP he was so concerned about the efforts to change the management at Naftogaz and to get rid of Yovanovitch that he reported what he had heard to Suriya Jayanti, a State Department foreign service officer stationed at the US Embassy in Kyiv who focuses on the energy industry.

He also wrote a detailed memo about Favorov's account, dated April 12, which was shared with another current State Department official. Perry recently provided a copy of the April memo to AP.

Jayanti declined to provide comment. Favorov also declined to comment.

A Florida lawyer representing Sargeant, Christopher Kise, issued a statement Monday confirming that his client was at the Houston dinner with Parnas, Fruman and Favorov, but insisted he was there only to offer "broad industry guidance and his expert view on the challenges presented by operating in foreign markets."

"Attending a single, informal dinner in Houston does not place Mr. Sargeant at the center of any

Naftogaz or Ukrainian business plan," Kise said. "Mr. Sargeant never discussed any role or participation in any Ukraine venture, nor any specifics regarding the potential business ventures of the other dinner participants."

The statement did not address whether Yovanovitch's fate was discussed at the dinner. Kise also said Sargeant has not met at Mar-a-Lago with Trump since he became president.

On March 24, Giuliani and Parnas gathered at the Trump International Hotel in Washington with Healy E. Baumgardner, a former Trump campaign adviser who once served as deputy communications director for Giuliani's presidential campaign and as a communications official during the George W. Bush administration.

She is now listed as the CEO of 45 Energy Group, a Houston-based energy company whose website describes it as a "government relations, public affairs and business development practice group." The company's name is an apparent nod to Trump, the 45th president.

This was a couple of weeks after the Houston meeting with Favorov, the Naftogaz executive. Giuliani, Parnas and Baumgardner were there to make a business pitch involving gas deals in the former Soviet bloc to a potential investor.

This time, according to Giuliani, the deals that were discussed involved Uzbekistan, not Ukraine.

"I have not pursued a deal in the Ukraine. I don't know about a deal in the Ukraine now, obviously," said Giuliani, reached while attending a playoff baseball game between the New York Yankees and Minnesota Twins. "There is absolutely no proof that I did it, because I didn't do it."

During this meeting, Parnas again repeated that Yovanovitch, the US ambassador in Kyiv, would soon be replaced, according to a person with direct knowledge of the gathering. She was removed two months later.

Giuliani, who serves as Trump's personal lawyer and has no official role in government, acknowledged Friday that he was among those pushing the president to replace the ambassador, a career diplomat with a history of fighting corruption.

Agencies

US experts identify main drivers behind China's historic transformation

NEW YORK

HOW did the People's Republic of China (PRC) transform itself from an impoverished country on the brink of economic collapse into the world's second largest economy in merely seven decades?

Many were asking themselves this question when the PRC celebrated its 70th founding anniversary on Oct. 1.

Hardworking people, political stability, reform and opening-up are among the top factors that enabled the "China miracle," said a group of veteran US experts on the Asian country in recent interviews with Xinhua.

DRIVING PRINCIPLES

China has made two "equally important historic transformations" in the past 70 years alongside its remarkable economic development – China's "pro-active engagement" with the world community and its "remarkable success in poverty alleviation," said Robert Kuhn, 75, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation.

As regards the remarkable economic development undergirding the two historic transformations, Kuhn said it can be attributed to a set of "driving principles."

Among them, he observed, are a people working long and hard to improve the lives of their families and the destiny of their country, and a system that enforces

political stability and encourages economic freedom.

Also on Kuhn's list are a vision that sets long-term goals, mid-term objectives and short-term policies that are monitored and modified continuously, a way of thinking that emphasizes experimentation before implementation, and a willingness to admit and correct errors.

"The free trade zone in Shanghai was operated for three years before the free trade zones were opened in other cities, now more than a dozen, including all of Hainan Province," he said.

"Not just foreigners, I guess for most Chinese people themselves, they had never imagined their country could develop so fast," said Ezra Vogel, 89, a professor emeritus at Harvard University. "I see Chinese people's livelihood get better year after year," said Vogel, who has been traveling to China "at least once a year" since the 1980s.

During his latest trip in November 2018, he took a bullet train from Beijing to eastern China's Shandong Province, and found the experience "very good."

In Vogel's opinion, China's economic take-off was a direct result of its reform and opening-up policy – a "terrific decision" made by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1978, as the country has since been growing by leaps and bounds.



James Hsiung, a professor of politics and international law at New York University, speaks in an interview with Xinhua in New York, the United States, Sept. 4, 2019. (Xinhua)

Vogel spent 10 years studying Deng and turned this effort into a book titled "Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China." Published in 2011, the over 900-page tome has provided a window for Westerners to gain a better understanding of modern China.

Vogel believes education has played a vital part in China's success. "The students (who) got enrolled into college (in China) after 1978 were very brilliant," he said. "Their modern way of thinking has brought great changes to the country."

Unlike the former Soviet Union, Vogel said, China has never been afraid of sending tens of thousands of young people to study abroad, which is part of the capacity-building strategy spear-

headed by Deng.

"The Communist Party of China (CPC) has done the right thing," said Henry Lee, 81, a forensic expert and professor at the University of New Haven.

"Uniting all the forces that can be united, concentrating on major tasks, pursuing economic development and leading the people to common prosperity is the only correct path for China," he said.

Praising the "flexibility amongst China's leaders," Sarwar Kashmeri, an adjunct professor of political science at Norwich University, said: "I cannot even imagine how difficult it must have been for a leader of China to (reform and open up) a completely inward looking economy."

"That must have taken so much

courage and so much flexibility ... and to put all of that together into a strategy, which perhaps didn't all come together at one time. But block by block it came together," he said.

CHINESE PHILOSOPHY AND UNIFIED LEADERSHIP

Looking back at the PRC's history, two major events had changed the country's destiny, said James Hsiung, 84, a professor of politics and international law at New York University.

The successful test of its first atomic bomb in 1964 had made countries including the United States begin to "treat China differently," while the reform and opening-up in 1978 has enabled China's economy to develop "at an unprecedented speed," said Hsiung, who just came back from China in August.

"Much of China's success has been due to its ability to combine two 'opposing' systems – socialism and market economy and make them mutually reinforcing. To put it simple, 'one plus one is more than two,'" he said.

"This original idea is originated from the Chinese culture and philosophy," he said. From a Western point of view, he said it was hard to believe that socialism and a market economy could be combined.

As "a fundamental concept in Chinese philosophy and culture,"

the two opposites of yin and yang "attract and complement each other," said the professor, who was born in China's central province of Henan. "The success of the socialist market economy is precisely a result of the wisdom of Chinese philosophy."

"It is undeniable that China's splendid success proves Western capitalism is by no means the only option for a country's development," he said.

Another important factor that led to the success of China's reform and opening-up is "the unified leadership" of the ruling CPC, Hsiung said.

The CPC is "both China's 'mind' and 'heart,'" and "its unified leadership" guarantees an effective implementation of national policies from the central government on local levels. "This is something totally different from how divided and weak China was before 1949," he said.

Apparently, China's remarkable achievements in the past 70 years also "made it clear" that Chinese culture and philosophy "got many advantages in national political and economic governance and the Chinese people have every reason to be confident and proud about their history and culture," Hsiung said.

"Without a strong economic foundation, China would not have an important position on the world stage today," said Lee.

"China has its own national conditions and must have a political system suitable for China's development."

"Weak countries have no diplomacy, and there must be a strong backing for diplomacy. Therefore, China needs not to be afraid of being criticized by others and does its own things earnestly," he said. "Only by doing so can a strong China have a say in the world."

Kashmeri, also a Foreign Policy Association fellow, attributed China's unprecedented rapid development to its "own way of governing – socialism with Chinese characteristics."

"I believe a lot of the (Western) theories that have been used to analyze China have been very self-serving," Kashmeri said.

"It should be understandable that China has its own way of governing," he said. "As far as I know, it (China) is not interested in taking its way and changing every country in the world."

"China now is a place that has gleaming infrastructure – that's the envy of the world. It's a place that is dynamic. It's a place that's energetic," said James Heimowitz, president of the New York City-based China Institute, who has lived 45 years in China.

"It's a place that knows how to respect its history. But it's not trapped in living in the past. And it's still looking to the future," he said.

Xinhua



Thursday 10 October 2019



UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

UN in the red and staff salaries at risk

NEW YORK

The United Nations has an overall annual operating budget of several billion dollars, covering everything from humanitarian work to disarmament, but right now, it's just trying to make sure its employees get paid after this month.

How did the world body end up more than \$200 million in the red?

The answer: member states who have not paid their expected contributions, including the United States. On Tuesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of the "worst cash crisis facing the United Nations in nearly a decade."

He cautioned the UN "runs the risk of depleting its liquidity reserves by the end of the month and defaulting on payments to staff and vendors."

Not paying up

Several member states are behind in their dues payments. The UN will not publicly identify those countries, but sources told AFP the main culprits are the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Iran.

In all, 64 countries owe money to the UN. Also on the list of budget delinquents are Venezuela, North Korea, South Korea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Israel and Saudi Arabia. The last country to have paid up is war-wracked Syria, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday at his daily press conference.

In a letter sent on Monday to the 37,000 employees at the UN secretariat, which was obtained by AFP, Guterres said the UN had a deficit of \$230m as of the end of September. On Tuesday, he indicated that if the world body had not taken the initiative to cut spending since the start of the year, the hole would have been even bigger in October - possibly \$600m and could have affected last month's General Assembly attended by world leaders.

Travel cuts

In his statement on Tuesday, Guterres thanked the 129 member states who have paid up "and urged those who have not paid to do so urgently and in full." To limit expenditures from now until year's end, the UN chief has raised the possibility of postponing conferences and meetings, limiting all but essential official travel, and reducing services.

A UN official speaking on condition of anonymity said Guterres had raised the budget issues with member states as early as this past spring, asking them to pay up, but they refused. Not including what it pays for peacekeeping operations, the UN's operating budget for 2018-2019 is close to \$5.4 billion (R84bn), with the United States contributing 22%. The portion still owed? Nearly \$1.4 billion.

Washington is also the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping tab. President Donald Trump's administration has taken a hard line on UN funding, cutting contributions and pushing for cost-saving reforms.

CRDB, Mkapa Foundation in five year deal to improve access to quality health services

By The Banker Reporter

ACCESS to quality health care services by the majority of the people especially women and children is focus on a new five years agreement signed between CRDB Bank Plc and Benjamin Mkapa Foundation.

Unveiling the agreement in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, CRDB's Director of Research and Corporate Affairs, Tully Mwampamba and Mkapa Foundation's Executive Director, Dr Hellen Senkoro reaffirmed their commitment to back government efforts in improving health services to the public.

Mwampamba said CRDB Bank is the fore front in advocating for better healthcare in the country hence found it suitable to join hands with Mkapa Foundation which recently unveiled its new five year strategic development plan.

"CRDB Bank recognizes the crucial role being played by Benjamin Mkapa Foundation in advocating positive changes in the health sector of our country. As a local bank with Tanzanian's interests at heart, we are dedicated to supporting the community-based health initiative projects as they trickle down to the bottom of the pyramid," Mwampamba said.



CRDB Bank Plc's Director of Research and Corporate Communications, Tully Mwampamba when he spoke to journalists in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: courtesy of CRDB.

She pointed out that the country's largest bank by net asset value and deposits has a policy which seeks to work with reputable organizations such as Mkapa Foundation mobilizing resources that will ensure quality, efficient and sustainable health service provision to all.

"We believe in putting all our

efforts together in making a difference to the community. We cannot wait for our government alone to do each and everything. Our corporate social responsibility policy places a huge emphasis on supporting health improvement initiatives, and we will continue to support all viable courses in this regard," the CRDB

Director added. The Dar es Salaam based lender has so far this year donated 280m/- worth of health-related products and services countrywide.

The Mkapa Foundation's five years strategic plan which will cover the period between 2019 and 2024 aims at mobilizing collective efforts in community-based health care systems by strengthening to achieve Sustainable Development Goals which includes Universal Health Coverage at country level.

Responding to Mwampamba's observation, Mkapa Foundation's Executive Director, Dr Senkoro said in the next five years, the foundation will continue mobilizing resources to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all in Tanzania and the rest of Africa.

She said the Foundation will continue to complement and supporting government's efforts to deliver quality health care through strategic partnerships. "Our mission is contributing towards the attainment of better health outcomes through innovative health and related system solutions through collaboration with strategic partners," Dr Senkoro noted.

She further unveiled that among the many achievements made during the previous five year plan, include combating communicable

diseases at country level although, "We are still lagging behind with few indicators on HIV, TB and Malaria, and the rapid emerging crisis on non-communicable diseases."

She said CRDB's support has come at an opportune period and that BMF will ensure effective integration of quality health services in a gendered and right-based approach, for maximum impact.

"This shall be coupled with reinforcement of leadership and governance pillar of the health systems, to deliver quality health services," the BMF chief executive added while paying tribute to CRDB Bank's management for the decision to back the charitable organization.

With its three million customers who include those served by its subsidiary in Burundi, CRDB Bank a large footprint of 234 branches, over 12,000 CRDB Wakalas, 537 ATMs backed by over 2,000 merchants countrywide.

The BMF which is a not-for-profit institution established as an initiative by the former President Benjamin William Mkapa with the aim of addressing health challenges including diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, maternal issues and shortage of skilled health professionals in underserved rural settings.

Equity gets Sh13bn discount in deal to buy four African banks

NAIROBI

Equity Bank Group is set to get a Sh13 billion discount on its purchase of four banks in Rwanda, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania from a London-listed investment group.

Atlas Mara Limited says through its trading report to the London Stock Exchange (NSE) that it marked down the value of the four banks after the Equity Bank deal prompted a due diligence on their financial health.

Equity Bank will offer 6.72 percent of its shares worth Sh10.9 billion to Atlas Mara, meaning that the valuation of the four banks dropped by more than half. This is a reflection that Atlas had weak earnings.

The Kenya lender is set to acquire Atlas via a share swap. It will get 62 percent of the share capital of Rwanda's Banque Populaire du Rwanda and 100 percent of African Banking Corporation of Zambia, African Banking Corporation Tanzania and African Banking Corporation Mozambique.

The lower valuation was big enough to drag Atlas Mara into a net loss of nearly the same amount (Sh13.1 billion) in the half year ended June, according to a trading update by the multinational. Atlas Mara says the deal with Equity triggered a re-measurement of the value of the four banks "to the lower of cost or fair value less cost to sell, resulting in a loss of \$125.6 million (Sh13 billion)."

As a result of this re-measurement, the group reported a net loss after tax for the first half of 2019 of \$126.4 mil-



Equity Group CEO James Mwangi.

lion (Sh13.1 billion) compared to \$28.6 million (Sh2.9 billion) profit for the prior year period.

Intangible assets

Atlas Mara says the valuation drop is mainly due to writing

off intangible assets and the premium it had paid when acquiring the four banks. Some of the subsidiaries are in losses and, in aggregate, the four lenders reported a low return on equity of

two percent in 2018, according to previous disclosures by Atlas Mara.

The London-listed firm sees the transaction as an opportunity to take a stake (6.27 percent)

in Equity, which is one of the most profitable banks in the region, and which celebrated 35 years last week.

"Confirmatory due diligence has been substantially concluded and the group expects to announce the final terms of the transaction in due course," Atlas Mara said of the deal with Equity. The multinational could further raise its ownership in Equity by buying more shares for cash, according to the deal terms.

Atlas Mara, whose offices are in the British Virgin Islands, could receive further unspecified compensation from Equity in the future conditional on improved performance of the subsidiaries it is offloading.

For Equity, the deal gives it a piece of the Zambia and Mozambique market, adding to its current presence in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Kenyan bank will merge its subsidiaries in Rwanda and Tanzania with those of Atlas Mara, a move that will help it reduce costs and enhance scale. The four banks to be acquired by Equity had a total of 2,641 employees in 2018 while their customer base and loan book in the same period stood at 822,000 and Sh51.8 billion respectively. They also had deposits of Sh96 billion in the review period.

The proposed deal marks the Kenyan bank's increased acquisition appetite in recent years. Equity is also simultaneously seeking to acquire a controlling stake in Banque Commerciale du Congo (BCDC) in a cash transaction.

Moody's retains PTA Bank rating on weak capital base

NAIROBI

International credit rating agency Moody's has upheld the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TTDB) credit rating of Baa3, citing the firm's "weak capitalisation levels and

liquidity."

A ratings update report said the pan-African lender formerly known as PTA Bank has a stable outlook. "The affirmation of the Baa3 rating reflects the bank's relatively weak but stable capital adequacy, driven by higher leverage than for

many other Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)," said Moody's.

The agency said weak development asset credit quality and significant concentration risk, is partly mitigated by sustained profits accumulation that supports the bank's capital buffers.

"The rating also captures adequate liquidity underpinned by the short-term nature of the portfolio and diversified funding sources; and weak shareholders' credit quality notwithstanding willingness to support TDB enhanced by a mid-term credit risk mitigation

instrument," said Moody's.

Moody's warned that the bank's weak development asset quality at "b", according to its assessment, weighs on the lender's capital adequacy. "It reflects weak credit quality of its assets and high concentration risk despite

mitigating measures taken by TDB," said Moody's. "A significant portion of assets is of very low credit quality (typically equivalent to a low B or Caa rating).

Moreover, concentration risk is high with the top 10 obligors representing more than 70 percent on

a gross basis as of end-2018." The stable outlook, Moody's said, is backed by its expectation that the bank would maintain its capital buffer, asset performance and liquidity.

"The stable outlook balances Moody's view that the bank will pursue

its growth strategy while preserving its capital buffer, asset performance and adequate liquidity, while risks to capital adequacy and liquidity related to the highly challenging operating environment and concentrated exposure will remain," it said.



NBC Managing Director, Theobald Sabi.

NBC, Sanlam partnership to offer life, education cover

By Francis Kajubi

CLIENTS of National Bank of Commerce will now be able to obtain life assurance and education insurance cover with South African based Sanlam Insurance.

Addressing guests at the bank's organized get together gathering in Dar es Salaam last weekend, NBC's Relations Manager, Kuruthum Mwaluwinga said they have been providing life and education insurance cover in partnership with Sanlam

since 2015.

"NBC is among the top three banks that covers the whole country. We have thousands of customers who we would like to encourage use the insurance services offered by our branches across the country," Mwaluwinga said.

She said the products assures customers with their children's school fees cover plus money to save their families for a period of minimum seven years after they pass away," she noted saying contributions are done monthly through NBC accounts.

She said as the bank is turning itself into a digital platform, customers should expect world class banking and insurance services that can be accessed at the tip of one's fingers.

"Customers who are interested in insurance products need to sign a contract with us that among other things will declare the amount that will be deducted as monthly contribution from their salaries," she added.

Explaining about the products, Sanlam General Manager for Individual life Insurance, Wilson Mnzava

said for the life assurance, the minimum contract duration is seven years. Mnzava said benefits of the life cover will be paid to the person the policy owner has identified as beneficiary. Life cover ceases at age 70 or expiry of the policy term if earlier.

"There is no waiting period for death resulting from an accident. In terms of death due to natural causes, a six month waiting period is applied. However there is no waiting period for disability resulting from an accident. Disability due to natural causes shall be subjected to

a six month waiting period," Mnzava noted.

On school fees insurance cover, the Sanlam General Manager said the minimum amount to be saved monthly is 7,500/- with an interest rate of between 8 and 12 percent per year.

"The beneficiary is allowed to start withdrawing the money deposited plus the interest during the five last years of the contract. For example if one enters a seven year contract, he will start withdrawing in the third year of the contract," he stated.

DCB Skonga Account guaranteeing students' smooth education launched

By The Banker Reporter

PARENTS can now guarantee their children smooth education up to university level if they open a DCB Skonga Account which is meant to cover them when they get disabled or die prematurely.

DCB Bank Plc's Managing Director, Godfrey Ndalawha said in Dar es Salaam this week during the launch of the product that

parents or guardians can choose to contribute to the account for between one year and 17 years.

"DCB Skonga is a special account which assures our clients of guaranteed schools fees payment for their children when they become impotent to work due to accidents or die. One needs to open the account and make monthly contributions for it to be active," Ndalawha said.

He further stated that the bank decided to introduce the account after market surveys indicated that there is need for such a product to assure parents and guardians of their children's future education in case of a disaster.

"At DCB Bank we believe in serving our customers with their needs both immediate and for the future," the DCB Commercial Bank Plc chief executive added

while urging Tanzanians to seize the opportunity and invest in the new account which also offers a handsome interest rate.

The bank's Commercial Director, James Ngaluko said clients have several options to choose from when opening the account based on age, amount of coverage and period of education being targeted.

"This is the best way to invest

in your child's future but also your own benefit when it matures because it carries interest payment," Ngaluko said while stressing that when the account holder dies or gets incapacitated to work, the amount saved is paid to them while their children get their education needs covered for the entire period as per contract signed.



DCB bank Plc Managing Director Godfrey Ndalawha talks to journalists in Dar es Salaam this week. Left is DCB Skonga Account Ambassador, Zamaradi Mketema and the bank's Commercial Director, James Nhaluko. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

FNB to open seven more branches

JOHANNESBURG

FNB is adding seven more branches to its existing national footprint of 619 banks in South Africa before the end of its financial year.

FNB plans to open additional branches in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng and the Western Cape, the company said on Tuesday. Last month, the

labour court stopped a mass strike, planned by banking union Sasbo, to protest branch closures and retrenchments.

Earlier this year Standard Bank closed 91 branches, with as many as 1 200 jobs affected, Fin24 previously reported. Absa also warned that hundreds of its jobs may be at risk as part of a restructuring initiative.

But FNB has joined Capitec in expanding

its number of branches. Last month, Capitec said it is opening some 21 new branches in the next few months. FNB also plans to re-vamp 29 of its branches in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State.

"The new branch design integrates self-service and personalised service, also

important is the fact that the branch will heighten customer privacy during consultations with staff and at the self-service areas," chief executive of FNB Points of Presence, Lee-Anne van Zyl, said in a statement. FNB branches service approximately 1.6 million customers per month using digital zones (self-service terminals) and in-branch service consultants.

SA heading for junk downgrade, rating forecaster says

JOHANNESBURG

Renaissance Capital, which has correctly predicted eight out of nine sovereign rating decisions in emerging Europe and the Middle East since May, is calling a downgrade to junk for South Africa next month.

That view is at odds with the majority in

the Bloomberg survey, but Renaissance Global Chief Economist Charles Robertson says South Africa's fundamentals have deteriorated significantly since May, when Moody's Investors Service affirmed its Baa3 rating. The next review is on November 1.

"The macro numbers are not supportive of South

African keeping investment grade," Robertson said. "Poor growth, tough public finances, a subdued commodity outlook, tension on the streets as seen in the anti-Nigerian riots, questions about the president's ability to push through his agenda - all these are worrisome." Cyril

Ramaphosa's ability to implement tough economic reforms is constrained by his tenuous hold on the deeply divided ruling African National Congress and opposition from its labour union and Communist Party allies, who oppose privatisation, fearing job losses. The slow pace of action has frustrated

investors, driven business confidence to the lowest level since 1985 and weighed on the rand.

Since May, Robertson and his team correctly called rating decisions for Turkey, Pakistan, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, the Czech Republic, Russia, Hungary and Poland. Its prediction for Saudi Arabia was incorrect. Still,

a majority of respondents in a Bloomberg survey said they expected South Africa to hold on to its investment-grade rating from Moody's, at least for this year.

Moody's is the only major rating company still to assess South Africa's debt at investment grade. S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings cut their

assessments to junk in 2017. Moody's has South Africa on a stable outlook, meaning it's unlikely to change the rating immediately.

Markets seem to support Robertson's view. The cost of insuring South Africa's debt against default is higher than that for Brazil, which is rated junk by Moody's. And the country's

bond yields are the highest among investment-rated emerging-market sovereigns. "The best argument that the downgrade does not happen this year is that Moody's does not have it on negative watch," Robertson said. "It's unusual to downgrade without having done that first."

Tech savvy youth applaud market debut of NMB Mkononi

By The Banker Reporter

A new generation of smart-phone brandishing tech savvy youth have stormed NMB Mkononi platform which launched in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

"Now it's much easier to open a bank account and transact, we are done with amassing government documents to open an account," said Sudi Ndyanabo, a Mwenge based second hand clothing dealer who had his first bank account opened in less than half an hour when NMB Bank Plc's ambassadors visited his shop.

"I had always wanted to open a bank account but the bureaucracy associated with the process discouraged me," Ndyanabo argued saying several tech savvy youths doing petty businesses opened their accounts in what is becoming a popular product from NMB so far this year.

In order to open an account or simply transact using the new product, clients will need to download an NMB KLiK application which has been merged with NMB Mobile. For the account opening a national identity card with national identity number (NIN) is required to complete the registration process.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during

the product's launch this week, NMB's Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said NMB Mkononi is a game changer in the market as it allows anyone based anywhere at any time transact even if they are not NMB Bank customers.

"With NMB Mkononi, anyone can open an account instantly through a feature or smart phone. They will be able to transfer money to mobile network operators up to 2m/., transfer money from NMB account to other banks, pay bills for free, withdraw cash without an ATM card, and make payment of goods and services at Mastercard QR and Visa on mobile payment points," Mponzi said.

He pointed out that the new brand name for the bank's mobile platform is aimed to ensure that all Tanzanians, from all walks of life can resonate with the mobile banking services and be able to access NMB's banking services easily in the palm of their hands.

Recent findings by FinScope Tanzania indicated that one of the main drivers of access to financial services has been the take-up of digital financial services which require mobile phone ownership with 63 percent of Tanzanians own mobile phones.

"NMB Bank is optimistic on increasing the number of customers from the current 3.5 million, through self-ac-

count opening on mobile phones and reaching the unbanked population," the NMB Chief Retail Banking said.

With the new platform, customers can also be able to effect payment of different taxes through the government's electronic payment system. "The re-launch of the innovative service revitalizes NMB's customer-centric approach to our services, allowing them to have the convenience of accessing banking services anytime, anywhere. NMB Bank is the only bank in the market that allows customers and non-customers to send money from NMB account to other banks without visiting branches," Mponzi added.

The rebrand will elevate NMB's focus on the ability to provide a strong customer experience and financial services offering to well serve existing customers as part of celebrating customer service week.

"Our ability to provide strong customer experience while exhibiting unique brand values and products is a key differentiator in the market," the NMB Chief Retail Banker stated.

The country's largest commercial bank by branch network and net profits, has more than 220 branches, over 6,000 agents and more than 800 ATMs across the country with presence in all administrative districts of the country.



NMB's Chief Finance Officer, Ruth Zaipuna and Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi unveil NMB Mkononi product in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. File photo.

FirstRand chair mystified by S. Africa government

JOHANNESBURG

FirstRand chair Roger Jardine says "government's apparent unwillingness to champion the private sector as a growth engine is mystifying". Writing in the 2019 integrated report of the country's largest banking group by market capitalisation, he insists that "there is no plausible plan for South Africa to prosper without the private sector playing a strong role in creating sustainable growth."

It is "time for government to partner with the private sector to drive the developmental agenda", he says. "The private sector has the incentive, skills and resources to build businesses that employ people and build the wealth of the country. It cannot, however, do it on its own. It needs a government that creates policy certainty, is not distracted by trying to keep failing SOEs [state-owned enterprises] afloat and/or running sectors of the economy that can be done more efficiently by the private sector." Jardine is not one to mince his words.

FirstRand has always allowed its chairs to weigh in on matters of national interest, often with a blunt and honest assessment, in the annual report. Last year, then-new chair Jardine used his letter to comment on land reform, income inequality and "broken" SOEs. In 2017, former chair Laurie Dippenaar debunked the myths that local banks are "too big" and anticompetitive, and that they "refuse" to transform.

Jardine argues that South Africa's skills and expertise are concentrated in the private sector: "It provides 79% of the country's employment and contributes approximately 50% to the fiscal purse through corporate tax [around 19%] and personal income tax paid by its employees [some 31%]."

"FirstRand Bank alone paid R8.5 billion in tax this year. Leveraging private sector balance sheets for infrastructure initiatives can work, as shown by the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement programme, where R210 billion was mobilised from the private sector."

He is however under no illusion that a partnership between government and the private sector on its own will be a panacea for growth. He says a "deep reform in the public service must also be implemented." The ability of any state to deliver on its agenda is directly determined by the strength of the public bureaucracy.

The tendency of government to plant itself into paralysis is also criticised by the banking group's chair. "The list of reforms that are necessary has been debated for too long. It includes: policy certainty, increasing competition, reforming [SOEs], improving education, improving health care,



FirstRand chair Roger Jardine.

stabilising the electricity supply, expanding road networks, allocating spectrum, developing the tourism industry, developing the agriculture sector, and the list goes on.

"We could also add incentives to lift exports and decrease imports, and provide title deeds to more South Africans. More than one plan to deliver on these reforms has been drawn up and debated, only to be replaced by yet another plan."

He says the response to date "by government and policymakers is, to be frank, perplexing - particularly its current allocation of the country's scarce resources. Effective resource allocation matters profoundly to developing countries, especially when there is little to waste. It's obvious that expenditure must be reined in, and each rand spent needs to generate either a social or an economic return (ideally both). Sadly, too much of government's expenditure delivers neither and, if we continue on this road, it will bankrupt the country."

Jardine cites the proposal for national health insurance (NHI) as just the latest evidence of government's "desire for state-led solutions." He says he is "reasonably confident that it will be very hard to find a South African who does not agree on the desirability of universal access to health care."

"It is, however, incomprehensible that government can propose new NHI legislation without a detailed grasp of its full financial impact on the country. This is particularly of great concern given the fragility of the country's finances. Important elements of the new policy remain unknown and this creates risk to further investment in the sector."

"Moreover, the country's public healthcare system is in disarray

and the private healthcare industry can play a major role in achieving universal access. A meaningful dialogue between government and the private healthcare sector is required to agree on the mix of policy, regulation and incentives to provide all who live in South Africa access to necessary care without financial or other impediments."

Prescribed assets

While the introduction of prescribed assets is "gaining increasing political currency", Jardine makes a strong point about pension liabilities. "We seldom talk about pension fund liabilities (particularly with the emergence of defined-contribution funds), but it's the pension liabilities that are the real issue. The average net replacement ratio in SA pension funds stands at 17% - meaning a pensioner can expect to receive only 17% of their final monthly gross salary when they retire."

"On this basis alone it is reckless to contemplate prescribed assets (often with misaligned risk and return) when we are under-saved as a country."

Three ways to drive growth

Despite all these concerns, Jardine acknowledges President Cyril Ramaphosa's "sustained public commitment to rooting out the corruption that has played its part in the country's fiscal and economic decline."

"However, an anti-corruption strategy is not a growth strategy. Notwithstanding the key interventions made to date, government needs to move swiftly with further and substantial reforms to accelerate growth." He offers three obvious examples that would yield meaningful results on the growth front:

Africa's six wealthiest cities - and where to find the continent's billionaires

JOHANNESBURG

Johannesburg is the wealthiest city in Africa, according to the 2019 Africa Wealth Report by New World Wealth and Afrasia Bank.

"Total wealth" for the purposes of the report, refers to the total private wealth held by individuals living in each city. It includes all their assets - property, cash, equities and business interests - less any liabilities. Government funds are not included in the mix.

Most of this wealth in Johannesburg is concentrated in Sandton - home of the JSE and of head offices of most of Africa's largest banks and corporates.

Cape Town comes in second place on the list with its exclusive suburbs such as Clifton, Bishopscourt, Camps Bay and Bantry Bay. It is also popular among wealthy second homeowners from around the world.

Cairo in Egypt is in 3rd place. It is home to more billionaires than

any other African city. For the purposes of the report, billionaires are defined as individuals with net assets of \$1bn or more. Lagos in Nigeria is in 4th position. It is also the largest city in Africa in terms of population and gross domestic product - but not in terms of wealth.

In 5th place is Durban (including Umhlanga). It is one of the fastest growing areas in SA in terms of wealth growth over the past 10 years, according to the report. In 6th place is Nairobi in Kenya. It is the economic hub of East Africa and one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

SA the wealthiest country

According to the report, South Africa remains the wealthiest country in Africa in terms of total wealth. Next up is Egypt, followed by Nigeria, Morocco, Kenya, Angola, Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ivory Coast. The report notes that larger countries obviously have an advantage in this regard

due to their higher populations.

On an individual basis, Mauritius have the wealthiest people in Africa with an average wealth of \$31 000 (about R465 000) per person. They are followed by South Africans, with an average wealth of \$11 500 (about R172 500) per person. Furthermore, there are 23 billionaires living in Africa, each with assets of \$1bn (more than R15bn) or more.

Total wealth in Africa has risen by 14% over the past 10 years, according to the report. Africa's performance was constrained by poor performance in the three largest African markets, namely South Africa, Egypt and Nigeria.

Total wealth held in Africa is expected to rise by 35% over the next 10 years, reaching \$3trn by 2028. Mauritius, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda are expected to have the strongest performing wealth markets in Africa over this period.



Nelson Mandela's stature in Sandton where richest South Africans live and work.

WORLD

Trump escalates impeachment fight, barring envoy's testimony

WASHINGTON

ESCALATING his fight against Congress' impeachment inquiry, President Donald Trump flouted Democratic warnings about impeachable conduct Tuesday in blocking a US diplomat from testifying about Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

House committee chairmen quickly issued a subpoena to force the envoy to appear before the House next week and produce documents recovered from his personal devices.

Gordon Sondland, the US European Union ambassador, was barred by the administration from appearing in a closed-door session with three House panels investigating Trump's entreaties to Ukraine. His attorney said Sondland, who had agreed to the interview without a subpoena, was "profoundly disappointed" to be prevented from testifying.

By preventing us from hearing from this witness and obtaining these documents, the president and secretary of state are taking actions that prevent us from getting the facts needed to protect the nation's security.

Sondland was to have been asked about text messages released last week that show him and two other US diplomats acting as intermediaries as Trump urged Ukraine to investigate the 2016 US election and a gas company linked

to Democrat Joe Biden's son.

Sondland also spoke directly to Trump hours before sending a text message assuring another US envoy that there was nothing untoward about their plans, according to a person familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the conversation.

Rep Adam Schiff, the House Intelligence Committee chairman, said Sondland's no-show was "yet additional strong evidence" of obstruction of Congress by Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Sondland's boss.

"By preventing us from hearing from this witness and obtaining these documents, the president and secretary of state are taking actions that prevent us from getting the facts needed to protect the nation's security," said Schiff, D-Calif. "For this impeachment inquiry we are determined to find answers."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi echoed Schiff's comments at an event in Seattle, saying it was an "abuse of power" for Trump to thwart witness testimony.

Democrats believe that Sondland, who donated US\$1 million to Trump's inaugural committee, could provide valuable information. He spoke to Trump in September as diplomats raised questions about why hundreds of millions in security aid to Ukraine was being withheld. After the call, Sondland assured another diplomat in



Gordon Sondland

a text message that there were "no quid pro quo" of any kind" with Ukraine.

Schiff, House Foreign Affairs Chairman Eliot Engel and House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Elijah Cummings issued a subpoena late Tuesday demanding that Sondland testify Oct. 16 and provide documents, including additional communications on a personal device that he has turned over to the State Department. Schiff said the department is withholding those communications from Congress.

Sondland's absence on Tuesday raised questions about whether other witnesses called by the committee would appear. Marie Yovanovitch, the former US ambassador to Ukraine who was recalled from the post, is scheduled to testify Friday, and the committee has called two other State Department officials.

Trump indicated Tuesday that it was his decision to stop the deposition, tweeting that he would "love to send Ambassador Sondland" to testify, "but unfortunately he would be testifying before a totally compromised kangaroo court."

Democrats have struggled to investigate Trump

and his administration all year as the White House has blocked and ignored subpoenas for documents and testimony. While the Democrats are already in court to force some of that evidence, they are making it clear that they do not intend to wait much longer. Articles of impeachment, including for obstruction, could be drafted by the end of the year.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Schiff laid out four parameters of the committee's investigation. He said the panel is probing whether Trump solicited foreign help from Ukraine for his 2020 reelection; whether a never-realized White House meeting between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Trump was conditioned on Ukraine conducting investigations; whether US military assistance to Ukraine was conditioned on those investigations; and whether the administration has obstructed justice.

Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio said Tuesday that Trump was simply "doing his job" to prevent corruption in Ukraine. He and other Republicans attacked Schiff for leading what they called an unfair, partisan inquiry.

Across the Capitol, Senate Judiciary Committee Lindsey Graham – one of Trump's staunchest defenders – said he would call the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani to testify about corruption in Ukraine. Giuliani was communicating with Zelenskyy about the investigations that Trump wanted.

"Given the House of Representatives' behavior, it is time for the Senate to inquire about corruption and other improprieties involving Ukraine," Graham said in a tweet.

Giuliani said he was "very interested" in the invitation but would need to review matters of executive privilege and attorney-client privilege before committing to appear.

House Democrats have subpoenaed Giuliani for documents, but Giuliani said he would not cooperate with them.

Text messages released by House Democrats last week show Sondland worked with another of Trump's diplomats, former Ukrainian envoy Kurt Volker, to get Ukraine to agree to investigate any potential interference in the 2016 US election and to probe the Ukrainian energy company that appointed Biden's son Hunter to its board.

There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son.

Agencies

Russian MP dismisses NYT report on secret unit aimed at 'destabilising Europe'

MOSCOW

THE New York Times report on an alleged elite unit inside the Russian intelligence system aimed at "destabilizing Europe" has nothing to do with reality and could be a plot of a science fiction film, a member of the State Duma's Committee on Security and Anti-Corruption Andrei Lugovoi said.

"It's hard to invent a more thrilling scenario for a science fiction movie," the MP stated. "This is

absurd and there is no common sense in it," said Lugovoi, who was alleged to have been behind the 2006 murder of former FSB agent Alexander Litvinenko (pictured).

According to the NYT report, a group, known as Unit 29155, "has operated for at least a decade" and is allegedly part of the Main Directorate of the Russian General Staff, widely known as GRU.

It was only recently discovered by Western officials, the paper says. The publication claims that officers from this unit travel to Eu-



ropean countries and are linked to the poisoning attack on former GRU officer Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the United Kingdom, Bulgarian arms dealer Emilian Gebrev as well as an attempted coup d'etat in Montenegro and attempts to destabilize Moldova.

"Western security officials have now concluded that these operations, and potentially many others, are part of a coordinated and ongoing campaign to destabilize Europe," the report reads.

Xinhua

Russia has no reason to act on reports about China's oppression of Muslims – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has no reason to take steps not included in the UN Human Rights Council's procedures in relation to China's alleged oppression of Muslims in the Xinjiang region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters following talks with Kazakh top diplomat Mukhtar Tleuberdi yesterday.

"China has repeatedly provided clarifications concerning the accusations you have mentioned. I don't know who voiced them, it must have been our western colleagues," Lavrov said in response to a question.

"We don't have reasons to take any steps apart from procedures that exist within the UN, which I have mentioned, meaning the Human Rights

Council," he added.

The Russian top diplomat pointed out that UN member states used to inform the Human Rights Council of measures to improve the human rights situation under an annual monitoring mechanism. "The monitoring is conducted on an equal basis for each and every country," Lavrov noted.

Xinjiang situation

China's northwestern Xinjiang autonomous territory is populated by Uighurs, most of whom are Muslims. According to the Chinese authorities, separatist groups affiliated with international terrorist organizations are active in the region.

In August 2018, a co-rapporteur from the Office of the United Nations



High Commissioner for Human Rights "noted reports of mass detention of ethnic Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities, and estimates that upwards of a million people were being held in so-called counter-extremism centers and another two million

had been forced into so-called "re-education camps" for political and cultural indoctrination," the Office said in a statement. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet suggested sending observers to the region.

US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo has recently announced new visa restrictions on Chinese government officials and members of the Chinese Communist Party suspected of being involved in the detention of Uyghur Muslims and human rights violations.

The Chinese embassy in the US, in turn, pointed out that the restrictions ran counter to rules

regulating international relations and amounted to interference in the country's domestic affairs.

Beijing kept on dismissing reports about a network of penal facilities in the Xinjiang region but in late 2018, China's authorities for the first time confirmed that there were educational and training centers in the region where people who had been affected by the ideas of terrorism were taught Chinese, literacy and communication skills, as well as Chinese laws. The authorities did not disclose the number of people residing in those centers.

Agencies

Black terror: The real threat to freedom in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

A SHROUD of blackness is spreading in Hong Kong. Black-clad people chant hateful slogans; black masks hide mobsters' identity as they bludgeon passersby with black umbrellas unfurled to hide from media cameras, all supposedly in the name of democracy and freedom.

For many residents, this blackness is depressing. They are often too intimidated to speak out or take action as they witness the violence that is wreaking havoc across Hong Kong.

Recent outbreaks of riots have undoubtedly unveiled the real threat to democracy and freedom in Hong Kong, once a peaceful and prosperous place in south China.

On Sunday night, black-clad rioters vandalized metro stations, forcing the shutdown of Hong Kong's key transport network, and shattered shops whose owners they assumed were patriotic, depriving others of the basic rights they claimed to be fighting for.

Their exercise of "private settlement," a euphemism for lynching those who disagree with them, or merely uttered different political views, reached new heights on Sunday night, when at least three people were savagely beaten by the rioters.

In one case, a woman was attacked by masked men when taking pictures of rioters damaging ATM machines. Footage from local channel TVB showed her bleeding from the mouth and neck, while some black-clad rioters kept scolding and pushing her and pointing laser beams directly at her face.

Cyberspace has become their "on-line black territory" as well. Toby Gu, a Canadian vlogger who posted a video of black-clad mobs beating a passerby on YouTube, has received death threats.

Having read much news on Hong Kong, he decided to fly here, expecting to see the "peaceful" protesters and "brutal" police. What he saw was just the opposite -- brutal protesters and restrained police.

He captured footage of a man being savagely and relentlessly beaten by rioters. A large mob swarmed on the man, raining a storm of fists and kicks on him.

What did the man do to deserve the savage beating? Video shows his hand brushing over a leaflet protesters had stuck on a wall in a metro station.

Covered in blood and bruises, the man was cornered in the metro station while rioters continuously hit him in the five-minute video. Gu's footage "enraged" protesters. They threatened him with malicious comments and messages. Some even wrote they had "daggers ready."

Freedom of speech? Yes, for protesters and those with identical views only. But the answer is no for anyone else. Radical protesters have plastered numerous pieces of graffiti, posters and leaflets on public buildings and shop fronts.

Some urged school children to walk out of class, others carried signs with slander, curses and degrading insults. In Hong Kong these days, even the simple act of cleaning the graffiti and posters takes considerable courage.

Radicals call them "Lennon Walls" and gangs beat people who dare to remove them. Tolerance, at the very least patience and willingness to listen to other people's opinion, is not in their vocabulary.

Even colors of clothing have political meaning in their eyes. When a large group of black-clad rioters swarms the street, people wearing other colors may be in trouble, especially those in white -- the opposite of black, or blue -- the color of police shirts.

Xinhua



Rioters are pictured hurling petrol bombs at the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government offices in Hong Kong, south China, Sept. 15, 2019. (Xinhua)

African countries urged to promote innovative ways to close identity gap

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has urged African countries to promote innovative ways to close the existing identity gap across the continent as more than 500 million Africans currently have no legal identity.

The call was made by Oliver Chinganya, Director of the ECA's Africa Centre for Statistics, as he emphasized the need to heavily invest on the promotion of innovative ways so as to close the current legal identity gap across the African continent through the provision of all forms of digital identity tools.

"It is important that as a continent we modernize and harmonize civil registration and digital identity systems, which are foundational to legal

identity ecosystems," an ECA statement quoted Chinganya as saying on Tuesday.

"Vital statistics systems that enable member States to monitor progress towards the sustainable development goals and Agenda 2063 should be strengthened," Chinganya (pictured) added.

The ECA, which estimated more than 500 million people across Africa have no legal identity, of which about 120 million are children who do not have birth certificates, also emphasized the need to exert concerted efforts to bridge the gap identity. "We need to make sure that we get everyone in the picture."

The ECA, working with its partners, is fully committed to supporting our member states to ensure we use innovation and technological solutions



to help establish well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems to achieve universal coverage and complete the registration of four vital

events in the life of a person -- birth, death, marriages and even divorce," the ECA director stressed.

The ECA made the call ahead of a high-level conference of African ministers responsible for civil registration, slated from October 14 to 18, which is organized by the African Union (AU) in collaboration with the UN-ECA and the African Development Bank.

The high-level ministerial conference will also bring together various UN agencies such as the UN Population Fund, UN Children's Fund, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as World Health Organization.

According to the ECA, the conference "aims to provide strategic and policy guidance on pathways towards holistic, innovative and integrated civil registration and vital statistics and digital identity management sys-

tems to help close the identity gap in Africa."

African ministers, who are set to gather from all AU member countries, are also expected "to chart the way forward by identifying key challenges" in the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics at the regional and national levels and proposing solutions, it was noted.

The continental gathering is also expected to bring about "strong support and commitment from countries and development partners, including the provision of adequate funding and technical support at the regional and country levels, for the continuous strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems as the foundation for robust and sustainable legal

identity systems."

The ministers are also expected to reach an agreement on the strategic direction for a comprehensive legal framework, adopting technological innovations, improving interoperability and strengthening institutional capacity and coordination across ministries and agencies for the integrated improvement of civil registration and vital statistics and identity management systems.

According to the ECA, during the conference, AU member states are also expected to declare their commitment to ensuring integrated civil registration and vital statistics and digital identity management systems reach their full potential in line with the global Sustainable Development Goals and the AU's continental development Agenda 2063. Xinhua



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

UN chief says UN facing worst cash crisis in nearly 10 years

UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARY-GENERAL Antonio Guterres warned on Tuesday that the United Nations is facing its "worst cash crisis" in nearly a decade because 64 of its 193 members – including the United States, its largest contributor – have not paid their annual dues.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the secretary-general has written to all members saying "the organization runs the risk of depleting its liquidity reserves by the end of the month and defaulting on payments to staff and vendors."

By the end of September, Dujarric said, member states had paid only 70 percent of the total assessment for the regular budget, compared with 78 percent at the same time last year.

According to the UN, 129 countries had paid US\$1.99 billion in dues for the UN's 2019 operating budget by Tuesday. It said US\$1.386 billion is owed for this year.

In addition to the United States, other countries that haven't paid their dues are Brazil, Iran, Israel, Mexico, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.

Because of the US government's budget calendar, Washington usually pays its dues in October.

According to the UN, the US owes US\$674 million for the 2019 regular budget and US\$381 million for previous

regular budgets.

The US is also in arrears in payments for the separate budget for the UN's far-flung peacekeeping operations. It owes US\$255 million for peacekeeping missions that have been closed and US\$2 billion for active peacekeeping missions, according to the UN.

Dujarric said measures the UN Secretariat put in place early in the year to align expenditures with cash inflows have averted "major disruptions" but "are no longer enough."

Since the UN Secretariat could face a default in salaries and payments by the end of November, Dujarric said the secretary-general has requested immediate steps including further reductions in official travel and postponing spending for goods and services.

In addition, Dujarric said, events scheduled outside official meeting hours are being discontinued and conferences and meetings may have to be postponed or their services adjusted.

The secretary-general stressed that cash flow is a recurrent problem and the UN is now driven to prioritize work based on cash availability, thus undermining its mandates and obligations "to the people we serve," Dujarric said.

"The secretary-general therefore looks to member states to resolve the structural issues that underlie this annual crisis without further delay," Dujarric said.

Agencies

UNAIDS lauds Kenya's progress in fight against HIV

NAIROBI

THE United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) on Tuesday lauded Kenya for making good progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country.

Medhin Tsehau, new country director of the UNAIDS, however, urged Kenya to adopt innovative approaches that appeal more to the youth who are a high-risk population.

"I have to congratulate you for your leadership and commitment in our efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. We are so grateful for your support," Tsehau told the Kenyan First Lady Margaret Kenyatta when they held talks in Nairobi.

According to a statement issued after the meeting, Tsehau has commended First Lady Margaret Kenyatta for her leading role in the fight against the disease in the country.

She also brief Kenyatta on the UNAIDS' ambitious plans to slow the spread of the disease by ensuring that by 2020, 90 percent of people living with HIV will know their status, be put on antiretroviral therapy and have their viral loads suppressed.

Tsehau who was appointed in July said the First Lady, through the Beyond Zero Initiative, has contributed significantly to the reduction of new HIV infections especially the mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

"The country is moving on the right track because of the commitment and good leadership. As we approach the last mile, we need to do things differently and in an innovative way," Tsehau said.

During the meeting, Kenyatta assured the country director of her firm commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Xinhua

China outperforms BRICS counterparts in latest global competitiveness ranking - WEF report

GENEVA

CHINA is by far the best performer among the five BRICS economies in terms of competitiveness, said the World Economic Forum (WEF) Wednesday in the latest annual report assessing the productivity and long-term growth of 141 economies.

China ranks 28th among the world economies, 15 places ahead of the Russia, 32 places ahead of South Africa and some 40 places ahead of both India and Brazil, showed the 2019 Global Competitiveness Report by the WEF. China's position in the ranking was unchanged from last year, but its over-

all score increased by 1.3 points, the report showed.

The report measured an economy's performance through 103 indicators in 12 "pillars," showing that China has obvious strengths in various areas such as the sheer size of its market, macroeconomic stability, the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) adoption, and increasing innovation capability.

In the ICT Adoption, China outperformed 25 of the 36 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

As to the healthy life expectancy, China scores better than the United

States and slightly under the OECD average. With a score of 84.8, Singapore took the crown of the world's most competitive economy this year from the United States.

The WEF lowered the U.S. competitiveness to the second place partly due to the country's trade uncertainty, as its trade openness is more than four points lower than that in 2018, according to the report.

China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Netherlands and Switzerland are among the top five, followed by Japan, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Denmark, the report showed.

Xinhua

UK says chances of Brexit deal slim, EU chides 'blame game'

LONDON

BRITAIN and the European Union traded ill-tempered barbs on Tuesday as the UK said a Brexit deal might be impossible, while insisting it was still working for one with just over three weeks until its scheduled departure from the bloc.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said EU intransigence had led to a breakdown in negotiations, prompting a top European leader to warn against playing a "stupid blame game" – and chide Johnson in Latin.

Johnson's office gave a gloomy assessment after his call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday morning.

In a statement to British media, Downing Street said Merkel had told Johnson that "a deal is overwhelmingly unlikely" unless the UK agreed to let Northern Ireland continue to follow EU customs rules in order to maintain an open border with EU member Ireland.

That is something the British government says it can't accept. Downing Street said that "if this represents a new established position, then it means a deal is essentially impossible not just now but ever." How people and goods will move across the Irish border is the main sticking point to a deal.

The German government confirmed that Merkel and Johnson had spoken but declined to comment on the substance of "confidential conversations."

European Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said "the EU position has not changed. We want a deal. We are working for a deal with the UK."

European Council President Donald Tusk tweeted testily that "what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game."

"At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our people," he said, addressing Johnson. "You don't want a deal, you don't want an extension, you don't want to revoke, quo vadis?" – a Latin phrase meaning "where are you going?"

Despite the grim mood music, British



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson leaves 10 Downing Street to welcome the President of the European Parliament David Sassol in London, on Tuesday. AP

officials insisted they still hope to strike a deal before Britain's scheduled Oct 31 departure date – although Johnson has also said the UK will leave even if one is not struck.

"We've moved – it is now time for the EU to move too," said Michael Gove, the minister in charge of Brexit preparations. "If it does, then there is still every chance we can leave with a new deal."

Downing Street said Johnson spoke by phone to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Tuesday afternoon, and "both sides strongly reiterated their desire to reach a Brexit deal." It said the two leaders hoped to meet in person later in the week.

EU leaders have demanded more "realism" from Britain in response to a Brexit plan proposed by Johnson. The bloc says the proposals – which would require customs checks on some goods moving between Northern Ireland and Ireland – don't fulfill the UK's commitment to a frictionless Irish border.

An open border is key to both the regional economy and the peace agreement that ended 30 years of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is part of the UK but shares an island – and a land border – with the Republic of Ireland.

"It's not just about trade, it's about so much more than that, and anybody who

understands Ireland and the politics of this island understands that," said Irish Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney.

French President Emmanuel Macron has said the EU will assess by Friday whether a deal is possible.

Johnson's opponents in Britain accused the government of deliberately undermining the Brexit talks.

"Boris Johnson will never take responsibility for his own failure to put forward a credible deal. His strategy from day one has been for a no-deal Brexit," said Keir Starmer, Brexit spokesman for the main opposition Labour Party.

On Tuesday, Britain published more details of its plans for leaving without a divorce deal. The government says those plans will minimize any resulting economic shock.

Economists and business groups warn that no amount of preparation can eliminate the pain of new barriers with the EU, which accounts for almost half of UK trade.

The government's "no-deal readiness report" shows significant British preparation but also acknowledges its limits. Britain says it will try to keep goods flowing by not immediately imposing border checks on imports from the EU. But the government acknowledges there will be new tariffs on 60% of British exports to the EU, including levies of more than 50% on beef and lamb.

Agencies

US apprehends nearly 1m undocumented migrants in past 12 month - official

WASHINGTON

U.S. border agents arrested or stopped nearly 1 million undocumented migrants at the nation's southern border with Mexico in the past 12 months, an administration official said on Tuesday.

Mark Morgan, acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), told a briefing at the White

House that his agency's enforcement actions at the border in fiscal year 2019, which involved 977,509 undocumented migrants, are "a staggering 88-percent higher" than those in the previous year.

"These numbers are numbers that no immigration system in the world is designed to handle," Morgan said. Fiscal year 2019 in the United States ran from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019.

The acting commissioner also gave an update on the construction of physical barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border, a signature project for President Donald Trump and a source of political wrestling in Washington.

"To date, a total of 71 miles of new wall has already been constructed," Morgan said. "By the end of 2020, CBP expects to have approximately

South Korean protesters call for ouster of justice minister

SEOUL, South Korea

THOUSANDS of protesters rallied yesterday in South Korea's capital for the second consecutive week to call for the ouster of President Moon Jae-in's hand-picked justice minister, whose family is at the center of an investigation into allegations of financial crimes and academic favors.

The protest near the presidential palace in Seoul followed a week-end demonstration in which a huge crowd of pro-government supporters occupied streets in front of the state prosecutors' offices to show their support for Cho Kuk, whose appointment last month has deepened the nation's political divide.

The city's streets are now divided between pro-Cho and anti-Cho protesters, who for weeks have alternated with protests and counter-protests in areas separated by the Han River that flows through the capital.

Yesterday's rally came amid a highly-publicized investigation of Cho's university professor wife and other relatives over allegations of shady financial investments and fraudulent activities related to his daughter's admission to a top university in Seoul and a medical school in Busan.

Cho, who previously served as Moon's senior secretary for civil affairs, has denied any wrongdoing and vowed to push ahead with plans to reform the country's justice system, including curbing the powers of mighty state prosecutors, even as they conduct a criminal probe into his family.

Carrying the South Korean flag and banners and signs that read "Arrest criminal Cho Kuk," the protesters poured onto a major boulevard near Gwanghwamun Gate, the same streets where millions marched for months three years ago in unified anger against Moon's conservative predecessor Park Geun-hye. She was removed from office in March 2017 and is currently serving a decades-long prison term over bribery and abuse of power.

"We need to fight and avenge against a government that has ripped the country in two," Shin Hye-sik, a conservative activist, told the crowd from a stage. "Let's fight! Let's win!"

Chun Gwang-hun, a right-wing Christian pastor and one of the protest organizers, accused the ruling liberals of mobilizing its supporters to defend Cho and called for Moon to step down.

Some of the protesters pushed and shoved with a few Cho supporters who showed up before police broke up the scuffle. There were no immediate reports of major clashes or injuries.

Agencies

Millions face historic power cuts in California amid fire fears

By Bloomberg

IT was a once-unthinkable move: purposely shutting off power to millions of people and plunging a major metropolitan area into darkness.

And yet, yesterday, utility PG&E Corp began cutting electricity to almost 800,000 California homes and businesses – representing roughly 2.4 million people – to prevent wildfires as high winds are forecast to whip through the state. The outages will hit 34 counties, including much of the San Francisco Bay area, triggering a scramble by residents to prepare for what may be days without power.

For PG&E, forced into bankruptcy by devastating fires that its equipment has ignited over the

past two years, there is no alternative.

The shutoff is a key strategy for preventing its power lines from sparking another deadly – and costly – conflagration. It's largely unprecedented. Never before have California utilities intentionally put so many people out of power for their own safety. Nor have they darkened heavily populated cities in addition to rural areas.

"This is unprecedented in terms of what all of us are facing as a community," PG&E Vice President Sumeet Singh said at a media briefing Tuesday night. "We are doing everything we can to minimize the impact on our customers' lives."

The shutoff will occur in three phases, with the first impacting

513,000 customers from midnight Wednesday, the company said in a statement. The second stage will occur around noon and affect 234,000. The last phase is being considered for the southernmost portions of PG&E's service area, impacting 42,000.

As California's climate warms and dries, the massive blackouts could become a new, annual ordeal. The shutoff warning came two years to the day after wildfires tore through Napa and Sonoma counties, and 11 months after one of PG&E's transmission lines triggered the Camp Fire, which leveled the town of Paradise and killed 86 people.

"We have a grid that was built to manage a set of circumstances that don't exist anymore," said Michael Wara, director of the Cli-

mate and Energy Policy Program at Stanford University. "We are having to adapt to new circumstances brought about by climate change."

He estimated PG&E's blackout for two days could have an economic impact of as much as US\$2.6 billion, using a planning tool developed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The Bay Area shutoffs will affect major cities including Oakland, San Jose and Berkeley, which warned residents especially in hillside neighborhoods to prepare for six days without power. California's transportation agency said it was preparing to close two major tunnels in the region due to the loss of power.

San Francisco, which is less prone to wildfires because of its

cool climate and minimal open spaces, will be unaffected. The Silicon Valley campuses of tech giants including Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc. are also expected to be spared.

Meanwhile, Edison International's Southern California Edison utility said it was weighing cutting power to 106,000 homes and businesses, most of them in the mountains east of Los Angeles.

Within the Bay Area blackout zones, residents were rushing Tuesday to buy food, water and electric generators – almost as if a hurricane were approaching. Stores including Rite Aid and Target across Oakland had run out of flashlights and most batteries.

Public officials tried to assure residents that essential services would still be available, while ask-

ing them be prepared regardless. The section of PG&E's website where people can check their home's status was so inundated that it was inaccessible for much of Tuesday afternoon.

PG&E said its website had received eight times the amount of normal traffic and it would work through the night to get it up back online. As an alternative, the company had posted outage maps for the 34 counties on its Twitter page.

'No one is happy'

Governor Gavin Newsom, at a public appearance Tuesday, called PG&E's actions warranted while acknowledging the massive disruption the blackout represented.

"No one is happy about it, no

one is satisfied, but no one should be surprised, because we have been anticipating this moment for a year," Newsom said. The blackout, he said, "shows that PG&E finally woke up to their responsibility to keep people safe."

State Senator Jerry Hill, a frequent PG&E critic, called the blackout an overreaction. "I think they need to spend the billions they've already received to harden the system," he said. "I think they're in crisis and will do anything to prevent another wildfire."

PG&E said the shutoff was necessary to keep communities safe and reduce the fire risk. The cut-offs will begin just after midnight and will come in stages, starting in the northern part of the state when winds are forecast to pick up.

Agencies



Reality TV personality Kim Kardashian speaks at a public discussion during the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT 2019) in Yerevan, Armenia on Tuesday. REUTERS

Kim Kardashian praises climate activist Thunberg and hopes for meeting

YEREVAN

US reality TV star Kim Kardashian heaped praise on Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg on Tuesday, calling her a "brave and amazing young woman" and said she shared her concerns about climate change.

Kardashian, 38, said she would love to have dinner with Thunberg, who told world leaders at the opening of a United Nations conference last month that they had stolen her childhood with "empty words."

"She (Thunberg) is such an amazing young girl, and so brave and courageous to stand up to these grown-ups that can be very scary and for her to be so open and honest is exactly what we need," Kardashian told Reuters in an exclusive interview during a visit to Armenia.

"Climate change is a serious problem," said Kardashian, who was attending the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in the Armenian capital Yerevan.

She said she also wanted to talk to Thunberg's parents and to share her thoughts as a social media entrepreneur.

"Speaking on a big platform invites a lot of different opinions and personalities and how they (parents) manage that," Kardashian said.

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"I still love and value the fact that they bring such attention to such important movements that need to happen and they are really passionate about, because they are still changing the world," she said.

Talking about plans for her businesses, which include beauty products and shapewear, Kardashian said she was considering opening a factory and investing in Armenia, which her ancestors left for the United States at the beginning of the 20th century.

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REUTERS

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Security personnel are seen at the venue that was scheduled to hold fan events ahead of an NBA China game between Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers, at the Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China yesterday. REUTERS

SHANGHAI

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Chinese sponsors and partners have been cutting ties with the NBA after a tweet by Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey last week supporting anti-government protests in the Chinese-ruled city.

The Shanghai Sports Federation said the cancellation of the fan event ahead of Thursday's game between the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers was due to the "inappropriate attitude" of Morey and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

A Wednesday afternoon press conference with both teams was indefinitely delayed, organisers said. Outside the team hotel, workers tore down massive banners advertising the game, according to a Reuters witness.

Silver said on Tuesday the league supported Morey's right to exercise his freedom of expression, further angering authorities and some fans in China and threatening the NBA's business there, said to be worth more than \$4 billion.

Morey deleted the tweet and apologised on Monday, but Chinese broadcasters, sportswear companies and sponsors have said they are reviewing their ties with the NBA, which has had a presence in China since 1992.

The NBA initially described

the anger over Morey's post as "regrettable," drawing criticism from U.S. politicians, who accused the league of putting its China business ahead of free speech.

Silver, speaking on Tuesday in Japan before a preseason game between the Rockets and Toronto Raptors, said it was not up to the league to regulate what players, employees and team owners said.

On Wednesday, an editorial in the official English-language China Daily accused Silver of "brazenly endorsing Morey's secessionist-supporting tweet" and giving "a shot to the arms of the rioters of Hong Kong."

"If Silver thinks endorsing the indiscriminate violence the radical Hong Kong protesters are resorting to ... is supporting freedom of expression, then he should think again," it said.

The protests were "a bid to liberate the city" and "a secessionist pipe-dream" peddled by demonstrators "to justify their summer hooliganism," the newspaper added.

The protests were sparked by opposition to a bill allowing extradition to mainland China, but have since evolved into broader calls for democracy. None of the protesters' five demands is secession or independence.

Some fans expressed dismay at the way the controversy had spread, while voicing their support for Beijing's view.

"I'm patriotic of course. I support that Hong Kong is part of China, but I just don't understand this," said Yu Jie, a fan waiting to see the players in Shanghai.

The basketball furore also comes against the backdrop of

the U.S.-China trade war, which escalated after Washington imposed visa restrictions on Chinese officials on Tuesday.

The Global Times, a Chinese tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper, accused Silver of caving in to political pressure, saying the NBA was treating the Chinese market with arrogant disregard.

"Tweeting something offensive to the Chinese people before a series of NBA promotional activities in China only shows a lack of intellect, respect, and responsibility," it said.

In a separate report, the newspaper also said that some Chinese internet users had made "disrespectful comments" about the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

"(It) should remind Western media that for Chinese people, the Hong Kong riots are just like the 9/11, which is horrible and can't be justified," the Global Times said.

No one has been killed in several months of protests in Hong Kong, although scores - mostly protesters and journalists - have been hurt. The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks killed 2,996 people and led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

FALLOUT

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now worth more than \$4 billion, according to Forbes.

The NBA had planned media events in Shanghai this week ahead of the Nets-Lakers game, but Chinese organisers cancelled an event at a Shanghai school on Tuesday and an open training session with the Nets on Wednesday.

Chinese celebrities had already said they would boycott the "fans' night" before it was cancelled.

State television dropped plans to air the NBA exhibition games in China this week, saying a country's sovereignty and social stability were "not within the scope of freedom of speech." China has accused the West of stirring up anti-Beijing sentiment in Hong Kong.

Some Chinese fans have asked for streaming subscription refunds from exclusive service provider Tencent, which halted broadcast of Rockets games after the Morey tweet.

Tencent isn't the only company distancing itself from business dealings with the NBA.

Online travel agency Ctrip said on Tuesday it had stopped selling tickets to NBA games and NBA-related tour packages. Smartphone maker Vivo and sportswear maker ANTA Sports Products Ltd (2020.HK) have also stopped working with the NBA.

But the escalating row did not seem to bother some waiting outside Shanghai's Ritz Carlton hotel to catch a glimpse of the NBA players.

"Personal opinions belong to them. It doesn't affect us chasing the stars," Xu Ziyang, a university student from Jiangsu, told Reuters.

REUTERS

Column: Freedom of speech has its consequences for NBA

BY TIM DAHLBERG

IF the NBA really wanted to make a statement it should have never issued a statement, much less two.

No need to complicate things when two team owners had already genuflected to the irate citizens of China. Or when James Harden took it upon himself to apologize to an entire nation.

The simple path for the NBA was to do what the creators of the show South Park did this week after finding themselves caught between an authoritarian regime that tolerates no dissent and the pile of cash that doing business in China can bring. Admit what is really important.

"Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts," Trey Parker and Matt Stone said in a statement of their own. "We too love money more than freedom and democracy."

The South Park creators, of course, make their millions by being funny. And there's a lot to chuckle about

in a post that, among other things, declares that the leader of China doesn't really look like Winnie the Pooh after all.

There's nothing funny about this for the NBA.

A league that has painstakingly built a reputation for social awareness for the briefest of moments looked no different than any other corporation chasing money in China. A league that embraces personal freedom seemed unable to understand that freedom means something very different in China.

All this while LeBron James and company were speeding their way toward Shanghai and an exhibition game reception that figures to be very different than they were expecting.

If Commissioner Adam Silver's tortured response to the crisis facing the league is any indication, even LeBron will have a hard time explaining his way out of this one.

Silver's first statement expressed regret that the Friday night tweet by



Adam Silver

Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey supporting protesters in Hong Kong had offended the league's friends and fans in China. That not only didn't mollify China - which offered a more nationalistic translation for the audience at home - but was attacked on social media as failing to stand up for the right of free speech.

Silver tried again and pretty much got it right. But that meant further antagonizing a country where the

NBA has a big investment and is making even bigger profits.

"It is inevitable that people around the world - including from America and China - will have different viewpoints over different issues. It is not the role of the NBA to adjudicate those differences," Silver said. "However, the NBA will not put itself in a position of regulating what players, employees and team owners say or will not say on these issues. We simply could not operate that way."

Give Silver credit for standing up for free speech, albeit a bit late. The commissioner quickly realized how off-tone his first response was and did his best to at least make it sound better.

Unfortunately for the NBA, though, it's in a lose-lose situation in a country that seems to be aching for a fight.

Workers at a Shanghai gym were seen in a video painting over the Houston Rockets logo, and the team's merchandise has disappeared from stores. State broadcaster CCTV

cancelled its planned airing of two games between the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets in China, while the streaming service Tencent - which recently signed a five-year, \$1.5 billion deal for NBA rights - said it would not show Rockets games.

Deals that individual players like James have in China could be in jeopardy, too. And any dream of the NBA one day introducing the Beijing Pandas as its newest expansion team will remain a dream.

All because of a tweet supporting protesters in Hong Kong, who want nothing more than the same personal liberties that every NBA player and employee enjoy. A tweet that may soon end Morey's employment much the way kneeling during the national anthem ended Colin Kaepernick's time in the NFL.

Freedom of speech does have its consequences. There's a price paid for speaking out, as Kaepernick found out and as Muhammad Ali did a half century before him.

But the price paid for backing down on values of a league that has led the way on social issues would be even worse. That's why it was critical that while Silver said Tuesday in Tokyo that he was sympathetic to the outrage, the league will stick by its principles of free speech.

Yes, there's a chance the Chinese money may be gone. The exposure carefully cultivated over three decades, too.

But Silver had to take a stand for a right he'd hear by most Americans. He had no other alternative if he and the league wanted to keep their credibility and self-respect.

At least no alternative as funny as that suggested by South Park's creators after the show seemed to vanish in the Chinese media following an episode in which Pooh and Piglet are jailed in China and mistreated after memes comparing Chinese leader Xi Jinping to Pooh circulated online.

AP



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The NBA had planned media events in Shanghai this week ahead of the Nets-Lakers game, but Chinese organisers cancelled an event at a Shanghai school on Tuesday and an open training session with the Nets on Wednesday.

Chinese celebrities had already said they would boycott the "fans' night" before it was cancelled.

State television dropped plans to air the NBA exhibition games in China this week, saying a country's sovereignty and social stability were "not within the scope of freedom of speech." China has accused the West of stirring up anti-Beijing sentiment in Hong Kong.

Some Chinese fans have asked for streaming subscription refunds from exclusive service provider Tencent, which halted broadcast of Rockets games after the Morey tweet.

Tencent isn't the only company distancing itself from business dealings with the NBA.

Online travel agency Ctrip said on Tuesday it had stopped selling tickets to NBA games and NBA-related tour packages. Smartphone maker Vivo and sportswear maker ANTA Sports Products Ltd (2020.HK) have also stopped working with the NBA.

But the escalating row did not seem to bother some waiting outside Shanghai's Ritz Carlton hotel to catch a glimpse of the NBA players.

"Personal opinions belong to them. It doesn't affect us chasing the stars," Xu Ziyang, a university student from Jiangsu, told Reuters.

REUTERS

Column: Freedom of speech has its consequences for NBA

BY TIM DAHLBERG

IF the NBA really wanted to make a statement it should have never issued a statement, much less two.

No need to complicate things when two team owners had already genuflected to the irate citizens of China. Or when James Harden took it upon himself to apologize to an entire nation.

The simple path for the NBA was to do what the creators of the show South Park did this week after finding themselves caught between an authoritarian regime that tolerates no dissent and the pile of cash that doing business in China can bring.

Admit what is really important. "Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts," Trey Parker and Matt Stone said in a statement of their own. "We too love money more than freedom and democracy."

The South Park creators, of course, make their millions by being funny. And there's a lot to chuckle about

in a post that, among other things, declares that the leader of China doesn't really look like Winnie the Pooh after all.

There's nothing funny about this for the NBA.

A league that has painstakingly built a reputation for social awareness for the briefest of moments looked no different than any other corporation chasing money in China. A league that embraces personal freedom seemed unable to understand that freedom means something very different in China.

All this while LeBron James and company were speeding their way toward Shanghai and an exhibition game reception that figures to be very different than they were expecting.

If Commissioner Adam Silver's tortured response to the crisis facing the league is any indication, even LeBron will have a hard time explaining his way out of this one.

Silver's first statement expressed regret that the Friday night tweet by



Adam Silver

Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey supporting protesters in Hong Kong had offended the league's friends and fans in China. That not only didn't mollify China - which offered a more nationalistic translation for the audience at home - but was attacked on social media as failing to stand up for the right of free speech.

Silver tried again and pretty much got it right. But that meant further antagonizing a country where the

NBA has a big investment and is making even bigger profits.

"It is inevitable that people around the world - including from America and China - will have different viewpoints over different issues. It is not the role of the NBA to adjudicate those differences," Silver said. "However, the NBA will not put itself in a position of regulating what players, employees and team owners say or will not say on these issues. We simply could not operate that way."

Give Silver credit for standing up for free speech, albeit a bit late. The commissioner quickly realized how off-tone his first response was and did his best to at least make it sound better.

Unfortunately for the NBA, though, it's in a lose-lose situation in a country that seems to be aching for a fight.

Workers at a Shanghai gym were seen in a video painting over the Houston Rockets logo, and the team's merchandise has disappeared from stores. State broadcaster CCTV

cancelled its planned airing of two games between the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets in China, while the streaming service Tencent - which recently signed a five-year, \$1.5 billion deal for NBA rights - said it would not show Rockets games.

Deals that individual players like James have in China could be in jeopardy, too. And any dream of the NBA one day introducing the Beijing Pandas as its newest expansion team will remain a dream.

All because of a tweet supporting protesters in Hong Kong, who want nothing more than the same personal liberties that every NBA player and employee enjoy. A tweet that may soon end Morey's employment much the way kneeling during the national anthem ended Colin Kaepernick's time in the NFL.

Freedom of speech does have its consequences. There's a price paid for speaking out, as Kaepernick found out and as Muhammad Ali did a half century before him.

But the price paid for backing down on values of a league that has led the way on social issues would be even worse. That's why it was critical that while Silver said Tuesday in Tokyo that he was sympathetic to the outrage, the league will stick by its principles of free speech.

Yes, there's a chance the Chinese money may be gone. The exposure carefully cultivated over three decades, too.

But Silver had to take a stand for a right he'd hear by most Americans. He had no other alternative if he and the league wanted to keep their credibility and self-respect.

At least no alternative as funny as that suggested by South Park's creators after the show seemed to vanish in the Chinese media following an episode in which Pooh and Piglet are jailed in China and mistreated after memes comparing Chinese leader Xi Jinping to Pooh circulated online.

AP

SPORT

Messi is the best finisher in football. Does anyone else come close?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Moshi Khalsa set to play Black Tigers in Nyerere hockey tourney opener



Dar es Salaam hockey players participate in a match at the Magereza Ukonga venue in the city recently. The match was one of activities that geared towards commemorating the Olympic Day. PHOTO: COURTESY OF THA

By Guardian Reporter

THIS season's Nyerere hockey tournament's defending champions, Moshi Khalsa, are set to come up against Arusha's Black Tigers in the first duel at Sikh Union Complex in Moshi, Kilimanjaro tomorrow.

Sikh Union Club, in cooperation with Tanzania Hockey Association (THA), has organized the tournament, which is held

annually, in an effort to raise the standard of the sport in the country.

The tournament is also part of activities gearing towards commemorating Tanzania's first President and Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

Moshi Khalsa have been put in pool A with Black Tigers and

Tanga Stars. Kili Vijana and army sides, Nyuki from Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam's Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF), are in pool B.

Arusha Twigas, Moshi School squad and Annadil Burhani make the competition's pool C.

The day's second game, as noted by THA secretary general Kaushik Doshi, will pit

Kilimanjaro's other side, Kili Vijana, against Zanzibar's Nyuki.

Four games have been slated for the following day, with the first bringing together Kili Vijana and Dar es Salaam's Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) team.

The second clash will pit Kilimanjaro's Moshi School team against Arusha Twigas.

Moshi School outfit will later on take the pitch to play Tanga's Annadil Burhani, followed by a match between Moshi Khalsa against Tanga Stars.

Doshi pointed out three games have been slated for Sunday. The day's first game will see Tanga Stars come up against Black Tigers, followed by the game between Arusha Twigas and Annadil Burhani.

In the day's last clash TPDF side will lock horns with Nyuki. Participating sides with three points and above, Doshi noted, are required to report for penalty strokes competition to seek qualification for the best losers' spot at 2pm.

The last four will then be played later the same day. In the first of the knockout matches, slated for 3pm, pool B winners will confront the best losers.

In the other knockout match pool A's winners will lock horns with pool C winners.

The competition will climax on Monday, whereby semi-final winners will clash in the final at 9am.

Moshi Khalsa clinched the previous season's tournament trophy, cruising to a 3-1 drubbing of TPDF side in a pulsating final.

EATV

TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
12:00 Mpya
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 Bongo Hits
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 KURUSA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Bongo Hits

eNewz is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Mchenga defend trophy in Sprite Bball Kings tourney

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MCHENGA Bball Stars have successfully defended the trophy in this season's edition of a basketball competition, known as Sprite Bball Kings, after registering 15-109 victory over Tamaduni in the third match of the finals at Don Bosco Oysterbay courts in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Mchenga Bball Stars had earlier won two matches of the finals, played in the best of five matches' system, and victory in the third match saw them lay their hands on the trophy for the third consecutive year.

They had first won the silverware in the competition, which is held annually, in 2017.

Mchenga Bball Stars, as a result, got 10m/-, runners-up Tamaduni walked away with 3m/-.

In the first of the finals' duels, played at the same venue, Mchenga Bball Stars were forced to deploy all skills at their disposal and notched 122-11 victory over their opponents.

Mchenga, later on, stepped up their performance and cruised to 104-89 victory over Tamaduni in the second clash held at the National Indoor Stadium last Sunday.

The competition's information officer, Goza Chuma, noted Tamaduni, on Wednesday, had an opportunity to delay Mchenga's title celebrations.

Tamaduni, though, failed to make the most of the opportunity, losing to their opponents and let the latter make clean sweep of the series.

"Mchenga have laid their hands on the silverware, given they have won three duels," he disclosed.

Chuma pointed out East Africa Television and East Africa Radio hosted the event, which was sponsored by Coca-Cola Company via Sprite brand.

Dar charity walk for next week



Coca-Cola Kwanza's Trade and Marketing Manager, Wahida Mbaraka (L), speaks at a press conference on the Dasani Breast Cancer Charity Walk in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The charity walk will be held in the city on Monday. Seated (R) is Tanzania Breast Cancer Foundation (TBCF) Program Coordinator, Kisa Mwakatobe. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

COCA-COLA Kwanza, a bottling partner of the Coca-Cola Company, through its water brand Dasani, will host a charity walk event, dubbed 'Dasani Tanzania Breast

Cancer Charity Walk for Awareness', in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Wahida Mbaraka, the company's Trade & Marketing Manager, disclosed it has joined hands with Tanzania Breast Cancer Founda-

tion (TBCF) to create awareness and fight against breast cancer in the country.

Speaking at a press conference held in the city yesterday, Wahida called upon other institutions and

well-wishers to join the event.

The charity walk, she pointed out, is expected to feature more than 2500 participants and will be held at The Green grounds, formerly known as 'Viwanja Vya Fara-

si', at Oysterbay, in the city.

"We wanted to be the first supporters of the initiative in order to inspire others. We hope to see many other well-wishers joining the race to raise funds for this event and save lives," she said.

"I believe that the foundation should be able to reach as many people as possible given the fact that the disease can be treated when reported at an early stage of development," she added.

She further said Coca-Cola Kwanza has been fully committed to support TBCF to achieve its desired goals for the past four years and will continue doing so in the years to come.

The TBCF Program Coordinator, Kisa Mwakatobe, said the charity walk is expected to raise more than 100m/- from well-wishers to help the foundation extend services to many more people across the country.

Mwakatobe said part of the funds will be used for a campaign to sensitize the general public on how take precautions against breast cancer.

The foundation also plans to build a hostel to be used by breast cancers patients coming to Dar es Salaam to seek medical attention, Mwakatobe disclosed.

The charity walk will be officiated by TradeMark East Africa Country Director, John Ulanga.

She said breast cancer is still a dreaded disease and nowadays it's not only for women but men too and encouraged men to also go for screening.

Tigo Fiesta 2019 improves business in Sumbawanga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SUMBAWANGA residents have hailed the ongoing music festival, known as 'Tigo Fiesta- Saizi Yako', for bringing business opportunities in the district.

The 'Tigo Fiesta- Saizi Yako', is set to take place at Nelson Mandela Stadium in the area.

Several artistes that are based in the district are set to perform in the event.

One of the residents, Deus Mfaume, a taxi driver, disclosed 'Tigo Fiesta 2019 Saizi Yako' helps him

earn a lot of cash in the day.

He said that he will have opportunity to transport people from one place to another during the event.

"We waiting for 'Tigo Fiesta 2019 Saizi Yako', because we shall doing business during the festival," he said.

Tigo Fiesta is involving many local artistes and is taking place in many regions of the country.

Some of cash raised in the festival is used to fund projects in the society.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

