



## National Pg 2

Establishing centres for selling timber



## National Pg 3

Govt closes down iron bar factory



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Litoa villagers receive CCROs



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## Needed teaching materials rushed to stalled school aided by JPM

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

HEADMASTERS of secondary schools and Ward Education Officers in Mbeya City have made contributions of teaching materials to enable a stalled high-profile government school to open this month.

During his visit here in April last year, President John Magufuli contributed 10m/- to enable completion of Mwansekwa secondary school which was scheduled to admit form one students at the start of this year, catering for pupils from Mwansekwa Ward and nearby areas.

However, after the completion of construction, thanks to the president's contribution and teachers posted, the institution could not open its classrooms to new learners. There were no teaching materials including books for all subjects, laboratory apparatus, some office furniture as well as stationery or cleaning materials, among others.

Some 62 pupils were already posted to the school to start form one this month but there was no way they could start learning due to the shortcomings, compelling education administrators to



**The Ward Education Officer should ensure that all pupils posted to the school report. As there are no contributions, we don't expect any excuse from a parent**

swing into action lest the target is missed. Speaking during the handover of the materials to the school leadership at the weekend, Mbeya City Education Officer (Secondary) Felix Danda said the value of the materials contributed is over 10m/-.

"Parents had already contributed and enabled the construction of classrooms so we found it not wise to go back to them again for another round of contributions. That is why we decided that teachers should fill the gap," he said.

Now that the challenge has been solved, an appeal was issued to parents to ensure that all pupils who were selected to join the school do so immediately without fail.

"Even if they (pupils) have no uniform yet, let them report. We will give parents time to buy them uniforms," he said.

The flexibility is meant to compensate for the delay in the start of learning as some parents may not have been sure that the challenges would be overcome and learning start.

City Mayor Rev David Mwashilindi

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# Prosperity, peace not separable - Dr Shein



Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein waves to the audience attending ceremonies to mark the 56th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution at Amaan Stadium yesterday. Photo: State House

We will work to protect and nurture our unique union for Tanzania to continue being a peace hub with prevailing tranquility. The government will take measures against anyone attempting to instigate chaos

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has vowed do all in his powers to protect the union and peace for the prosperity of both the Isles and the Mainland.

To that end, he has promised to work closely with the President of the United Republic Dr John Magufuli in enhancing democracy in accordance with the country's constitution.

In his address yesterday at the Amaan Stadium to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution and ousting of the Sultan of Zanzibar and his Arab-dominated government on January 12, 1964 Dr Shein insisted that protecting the Union was vital in ensuring the country's peace.

The celebrations were attended by a number of top government officials including Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, former presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Benjamin Mkapa, Jakaya Kikwete and Amani Abeid Karume. Retired prime ministers in attendance were Edward Lowassa, Frederick Sumaye and Mizengo Pinda.



**The Zanzibar government increased monthly pension to retirees from 25,000/- in 2017 to 90,000/- last year, he pointed out**

## JPM dismayed by exam results for Isles schools

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has expressed his dissatisfaction over Forms IV and VI

national examination results for Zanzibar, saying many Isles schools appear last on the performance list.

Speaking on Saturday during the laying

of a cornerstone for the construction of Mwanakwerekwe Secondary School in Zanzibar City, President Magufuli called upon teachers to

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Mzumbe University students listen to CRDB Plc Human Resources director Siaphoro Kishindo at the alumni symposium on personal and professional development and how to use their education to face challenges in the labour market, held in Morogoro over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

"We will work to protect and nurture our unique union for Tanzania to continue being a peace hub with prevailing tranquility. The government will take measures against anyone attempting to instigate chaos," he said.

The president highlighted the many successes recorded by his government in health, education, economic and infrastructure sectors. He said following increased revenue collections as well as enhanced economic growth, the government is considering reviewing salaries for public servants in the Isles.

The Zanzibar government increased monthly pension to retirees from 25,000/- in 2017 to 90,000/- last year, he pointed out.

Zanzibar recorded an economic growth rate of 7.1 percent in 2018 compared to 4.3 percent in 2010, while the gross domestic product (GDP) reached 2,874bn/- in 2018 from 1,768bn/- back in 2010, he further noted.

Per capita income increased from 942,000/- (US \$ 675) in 2010 to 2,323,000/- (US \$ 1,260) in 2018, he said, noting that inflation decreased from 14.7 percent in 2011 to 3.9 percent in 2018.

A total of 304 development projects worth

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# JPM dismayed by exam results for Isles schools

FROM PAGE 1

work hard to ensure better pass marks for students.

"I will say this even though some may not be happy... it's shameful to see Zanzibar schools hold last positions in national examinations," he affirmed.

President Magufuli told the contractors of the school project - CRJ Contractors to complete the work in time, as per the contract agreement signed in March last year and should not come up with unnecessary excuses.

He said he does not accept explanations from the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training that the work was delayed due to long recent rains as well as shortage of sand.

He said: "I am not subscribing to that excuse of rains because in Europe there are rains daily but still they build tall buildings all the time."

He said the money for the construction of the schools was provided by the World Bank as a loan and is required to be repaid from taxpayers' money from the people of the United Republic of Tanzania.

He said the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution spurred achievements in various sectors including the education sector, as before that education was being given discriminately.

He said the achievements came after the government put priority in the education sector and offered education for free from preparatory schools up to

secondary level.

He hailed the Zanzibar Government for implementing the policy of free education as initiated by the first president of Zanzibar, the late Abeid Amani Karume.

The Minister for Education and Vocational training Riziki Pembe Juma praised the World Bank for loan assistance for the construction of schools in the Isles.

The building of the Mwanakerekwe Secondary School was implementation by the World Bank of the project to raise access to education for students in 22 schools.

On his part the Permanent secretary in the ministry Idrissa Muslim Hijja said the total value of the entire World Bank project is 80bn/-.

The project's aim is to develop the education sector to enable students master the English language and science subjects, he said. The schools to be built will cater for all categories of students including those with special needs for the disabled, he added.



**I will say this even though some may not be happy... it's shameful to see Zanzibar schools hold last positions in national examinations**



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) George Simbachawene (R) orders Fujian Hexingwang industry owner to close down production for one month during his official visit at Kitemvule in Mkuranga district, Coast region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Teaching materials rushed to stalled school aided by JPM

FROM PAGE 1

thanked the teachers and education officers for contributions that enabled the school to open and evaded

embarrassment that the city council would have faced if the school did not open this year as intended.

The mayor also appealed to the school's administration to take care

of the learning materials contributed by the teachers, especially the more expensive ones such as laboratory apparatus so that they benefit future learners in the school.

"The Ward Education Officer should ensure that all pupils posted to the school report. As there are no contributions, we don't expect any excuse from a parent," he declared.



Youth marching to commemorate the 56th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution yesterday. Photo: State House

## Prosperity, peace not separable - Dr Shein

FROM PAGE 1

US \$ 3.42 million were implemented between 2010 and 2018, creating 16,866 jobs.

In the education sector, Zanzibar had 299 primary schools with 226,812 pupils in 2010 but the number has increased to 381 schools in 2019 with 290,510 pupils. The number of secondary schools increased to 284 last year with 130,713 students while in 2010 there were only 105 secondary schools with 80,208 students.

The health sector budget has been increased to 104.24bn/- in the 2019/2020 financial year compared to 10.81bn/- allocated in the 2010/2011 fiscal year, he pointed out.

"The government has also educated more doctors as currently one

doctor treats 6,276 patients annually compared to one doctor for 31,838 in 2010," he stated.

Dr Shein urged Tanzanians on both sides of the Union to register for the coming general elections, insisting the voting exercise was important for citizens to practice their constitutional rights of electing leaders.

He said the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) have started improving the permanent voter register and will later announce the date for general elections.

"It is the right of citizens to choose their preferred leaders. You should all register for elections as we wait for electoral bodies to announce the date," he emphasized.

## Establish centres for selling timber, Kanyasu directs TFS

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu has directed Tanzania Forests Services Agency (TFS) to establish special centres for selling timber just as it was for the centres for honey.

He said establishing the centres will be an important step for TFS in attaining industrial economy - by starting selling timber instead of logs.

Speaking yesterday Kanyasu wants TFS to start processing timber from forests that are under its authority that will be reliable income earner.

Apart from the timber selling centres, Kanyasu also called on TFS to start collecting revenues from forest resources by adding value to generate funds for establishing new forest farms.

He said by TFS processing and selling timber will help consumers to buy timber at affordable prices compared

to timber sold by other traders who buy the logs from TFS.

Kanyasu also said the step will assist the government to reap big profits by selling value added products - timber instead of logs.

He said the establishment of the timber processing plants will also help in the control of unfaithful traders who collaborate with forest officials to cut trees that are in danger of extinction.

He explained that the decision by government to ban cutting and transporting hard logs was contributed by TFS for not having its own plants for processing logs.

Kanyasu also hailed TFS for establishing centres for selling honey as of now the society is certain of buying good quality honey.

He also directed TFS to speed up the process of getting certification from the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) so that the honey can be sold at international markets.

DUBLIN

IRISH scientists have discovered a way to improve treatment for tuberculosis.

The disease is an infection caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Although it is one of the oldest known diseases, it remains the world's deadliest infectious disease.

While it is rampant in Africa, the growing problem of antibiotic resistance is posing a significant threat worldwide.

It infects our lung macrophage cells and then manipulates them to its benefit, creating a safe home for it to hide out unperturbed, sometimes for years.

Scientists from Trinity University in the Irish Republic have discovered both how TB puts the brakes on our immune systems and how we can kick-start them back into gear - providing hope that improved treatment options could soon be on the horizon.

They had been examining how lung

## Lung cells new target in TB treating method

immune cells fuel aid the fight against infection. This work has been at the forefront of showing how the simple sugar, glucose, is used to promote macrophages anti-bacterial activities.

Trinity scientists found that persistent infection of these macrophages with TB hampers our glucose-filled engines.

This in effect shuts down the body's natural response to infection, allowing the bacteria to hide undisturbed.

Dr Frederick Sheedy of Trinity Chemistry Department explained the study also offers some hope for the future.

"We found that when TB-infected

cells are treated with a key 'interferon gamma protein signal,' which is normally produced following vaccination, they will remove this microRNA to effectively relieve the brake and restore our normal immune response."

Ribonucleic acid (RNA) is a polymeric molecule essential in various biological roles in coding, decoding, regulation and expression of genes. RNA and DNA are nucleic acids, and along with lipids, proteins and carbohydrates, constitute the four major macromolecules essential for all known forms of life.

Dr Sheedy believes the research could have major implications for the

future treatment of TB.

"What is particularly promising from a societal impact perspective is that as well as increasing our knowledge of how TB corrupts our normal immune response to infection, our identification of the microRNA-21 means that scientists should be able to develop improved immunotherapies or vaccine strategies to help in the fight against TB infection," he said.

The research was funded by grants from Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board, the Royal City of Dublin Hospital Trust, the Irish Research Council and the National Institutes of Health.





Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angeline Mabula hands over a customary land document to Dafrosa Komba at a ceremony held at Litoa village in Songea rural, Ruvuma region yesterday. Left is Songea district commissioner Pololeti Mgeme. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shenweta

# Simbachawene closes down iron bar factory for one month

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkuranga

THE Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) George Simbachawene has closed down an iron bar factor dubbed Fujian Hexingwang located at Kitemvule area in Coast region for violating environmental laws and putting people's health at risk.

Speaking during unscheduled tour of the area over the weekend, minister Simbachawene asked the factory to ensure that environmental issues especially those threatening the wellbeing of human being and other living organisms were addressed.

"NEMC (National Environment Management Council) should make sure that all the necessary measures are taken to make sure that the factory reopens after one month. We really need these factories but the safety of our people shouldn't be jeopardised," he said.

The minister added that the factory owners would in addition pay a fine for violating environmental laws which require them to complete all the environment safety procedures before commissioning.

"I have discovered some peculiar things in this industry, for example, the product is underway but basic infrastructures are not in place, this move violates our laws and therefore they will be required to pay a fine," he said.

People surrounding the facility have hailed the government for the actions taken, saying that the factory's activities were putting their health at risk.

"We welcome government decision

on the matter, this factor was producing massive waste that had polluted the environment and caused epidemic diseases," said Shaban Athuman.

For his part, another resident of the area Daniel Saul said the residents of the area supports government objective of building an industrial and middle income economy by 2025 but added that the implementation of the same should go hand in hand with the environment conservation and people health's protection.

"We thank government for its measure to build industries for economic development but those violating environmental laws should be checked to stop damages to present and future generations," he said.



**I have discovered some peculiar things in this industry, for example, the product is underway but basic infrastructures are not in place, this move violates our laws and therefore they will be required to pay a fine**

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

## Arusha RC directs TANROADS to repair Mto wa Mbu - Loliondo road

ARUSHA Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo has directed Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) in the region to refurbish sections of the roads that become impassable due to heavy rains especially of rivers, and valleys along Mto wa Mbu - Loliondo road in order to relieve the people of travel hardships as they wait for long time solutions.

Speaking during the inspection of the repairs on the road at different sections, he said:

"These areas are virtually impassable during the rains cutting

all communications to residents of Ngorongoro district hence I direct TANROADS and other contractors to find a permanent solution to the challenge."

He also called upon contractors tasked to construct the tarred road in the district to complete the work in time so that it starts serving the people of Loliondo who have never had a

tarred road for many years.

Ngorongoro District Commissioner Rashid Taka thanked the government for the decision for the construction of the road by using internal funds, as the aim is to reduce hardships facing wananchi and called upon the contractors to work hard on the trouble spots.

Arusha Region TANROADS manager

Eng John Kalupale said already they have started surveying all trouble spots along the road on valleys and rivers to see how they can strengthen them.

Arusha Region CCM chairman Zelothe Steven called upon wananchi to cooperate with contractors to accomplish the project and protect it as it was being built out of taxpayers money.

## NHIF unveils mobilisation campaign to woo more members

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mwanza

THE National Health Insurance (NHIF) has unveiled a mobilisation campaign on the citizenry to join various health insurance packages so that it becomes easy for Tanzanians to get treatment without the need to pay cash.

Speaking here yesterday at the launch of the campaign the NHIF board chairman Anne Makinda said there are many hospitals but many people fail to get treatment because they are not insured as new Tanzania is for the wananchi to have health insurance and in many parts of the world health insurance is a must. She said: "When you become ill you get quick treatment as you are certain to get treatment, as becoming ill is not a matter of choice or time, sometimes you become ill when you have no money. This is not a political campaign hence my call to Tanzanians is for them to have health insurance."

She also directed NHIF workers to go from house to house in the streets and business places to educate people on the importance of health insurance.

NHIF director general Bernard Konga said only 34 per cent of Tanzanians are in health insurance system and added that the aim of the Fund is to increase this number hence they have started mobilizing people to join the Fund via its various packages.

He said is pursuing this objective we have put in place various

plans to ensure people get the opportunity to have health insurance through various groups such as public servants, private sector employees, students, children under 18 years of age, entrepreneurs and farmers.

He said the Fund has also plans for other groups

such as motor cycle riders, journalists, and street traders. He said the expected increase of the members will go in tandem with registration of treatment centres by registering more than 7,000 of them countrywide so that a member gets health services wherever he/she may be.

A representative from the Mwanza regional commissioner Dr Phillis Nyimbi and religious leaders - Coordinator of Mwanza Region Peace Council Dr Zenobius Isaya and the region's Chief Sheikh Hassan Kabeke have encouraged the region's residents to join the health fund.

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## UN pushing for renewed talks between Somalia and Somaliland

NEW YORK

The United Nations is pushing for renewed talks between Somalia and Somaliland to improve security and promote economic growth.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Ambassador James Swan visited Somaliland's capital Hargeisa with a special message to the country's President Muse Bihi on its (UN) support towards initiatives aimed at building mutual confidence and fostering dialogue between Hargeisa and Mogadishu.

"The United Nations welcomes initiatives aimed at building mutual confidence and fostering dialogue between Hargeisa and Mogadishu.

"We believe there are many areas in which greater cooperation could improve security, promote economic growth, and improve the lives of the people," said Swan while addressing the media shortly after a meeting with the Somaliland President.

Swan said that while the two countries remain divided politically, there are areas they can work together to benefit their people.

"We believe there are many areas in which greater cooperation could improve security, promote economic growth and improve the lives of the people," he said.

Somaliland broke away from Somali in 1990 after the eruption of the civil war and has since been pushing for international recognition and a seat at the United Nations. Somalia meanwhile maintains Somaliland remains part of its regions.

As a result Somaliland, with its own democratically elected government, with a military and its own currency remains unrecognized internationally and does not get aid from world financial bodies like World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

But Swan said the United Nations

remains a key partner to Somaliland.

"The United Nations maintains a full-time office in Hargeisa and implements a wide range of programmes to benefit the people of Somaliland," Swan said.

Somalia's small and medium companies to benefit from \$10 million fund

UN special representative to Somalia visits Hargeisa, urges for completion of all necessary steps for Somaliland to...

Mystery over the death of ISIL member Mahad Abdi in Jail

He added that they are committed to continuing United Nations engagement with Somaliland and their many programmes in support of its people.

"With 16 United Nations offices, agencies, funds, and programmes active in Somaliland, our support covers a wide range of governance, security, development, and humanitarian programmes.

"As examples, the UN's work includes support to primary schools, equipping teachers with the skills and materials to provide a sound basic education.

"We provide assistance to internally displaced people and refugees in Somaliland, fleeing conflict elsewhere or forced to move by drought.

"We support the rule of law, policing and the justice system. The UN's work is diverse, but the common thread is that it aims to make a practical and positive difference to the people and public services of Somaliland," said Swan.

Somaliland government meanwhile placed some requests to the UN representative during the meeting with President Bihi.

"We have also asked the representative to send a message to the UN Secretary-General, that we are deeply concerned about the benefits, resources and contributions from the international community and the United Nations, in terms of building infrastructure, job creation and the country's needs for education, health and water.

build a healthier and stable economy. Recently, I was privileged to participate in a civil society forum to which several government experts were also invited to deliberate on the management of public finances. There was this young man who claims to belong to a group I will refer to here as "national budget architects" for the past thirteen years. He gave a vivid description of how the budget lines are drawn, citing funds for development and emoluments.

"Emolument is a no-go area" he said, advancing that the government



Some petty traders from Sanya Juu market in Siha district, Kilimanjaro region listen to a coordinator of anti violence campaign against children from Kwico civil society, Peter Mashingia (not in picture) over the weekend. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Police rescue Ugandan kidnapped in S. Sudan

JUBBA

Police in Aswa region have rescued a Ugandan national who was kidnapped last Monday in South Sudan.

Information obtained by police indicate that Issa Likambo Aziz illegally entered South Sudan capital, Juba on January 6, 2020 through Elegu international border post to smuggle cigarettes and was kidnapped by unknown assailants who detained him for three days.

Likambo's kidnap was reported by his wife, Ms Rahima Ariye whom the kidnapers had called for a ransom of 50,000 Sudanese Pound, an equivalent of Shs4 million.

Likambo, a resident of Lorikowo West Village in Elegu Town Council, Atiak Sub County in Amuru District was allegedly accompanied by some accomplices that police are yet identify.

Patrick Jimmy Okema, the Aswa River Region Police spokesperson said that upon receiving the report of the victim's sudden disappearance, they liaised with their South Sudanese counterparts who traced Likambo's whereabouts consequently leading to his unconditional release on Thursday.

"We commenced a fresh investigations under case file SD ref. 41/06/01/2020 to ascertain what exactly Likambo and his accomplices who are still at large had gone to do in South Sudan," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has imposed sanctions on South Sudan's First Vice President Taban Deng Gai, accusing him of serious human rights abuses and trying to derail the country's peace process.

In a statement Wednesday, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) said Deng has worked to divide and sow distrust in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO), the rival group to President Salva Kiir's party. It says his actions have extended the conflict in South Sudan and hurt peace and reconciliation efforts after a five-year civil war.

It says he also reportedly arranged and directed the killings of human rights lawyer Samuel Dong Luak and SPLM-IO member Aggrey Idry, in an effort to solidify his position in Kiir's government and to intimidate members of the SPLM-IO.

"Taban Deng Gai's attempt to silence the opposition party is derailing the country's ability to implement a peace agreement," Deputy Secretary Justin Muzinich said in the statement. "The United States calls on all nations to exclude from the international financial system those who jeopardize South Sudan's future."

Last month, the Treasury imposed sanctions on five other South Sudanese officials also thought to be involved in the disappearance and deaths of Dong and Aggrey.

By Michael Davies

Loss of valuable development funds occurs because too much of the national scarce resources are being used in a way that is not effective and at worse not necessary.

I want to express my thoughts to powers that be in the country for the simple reason that wasting valuable public resources by a government system that is already on its knees needs serious attention if The Gambia wants to achieve its national development objectives, reduce national stress and

build a healthier and stable economy.

conducts virement of funds from development component of the budget to pay for emoluments component each time there is budgetary shortage. He insisted that public servants had to be paid. That is correct you-work-you-get-paid as the saying goes and you go home to take care of your family with your earnings (emphasis mine).

I was befuddled by such expression that I took for meaning that personal emoluments have precedent over development and that individual well-

## Risk to national fiscal policies

being is greater than the collective wellness of the nation. Not only that but I was inclined by my own calculations to understand the motives that motivate public servants to keep doing virement here and there each time to avert budgetary shortages.

Yes, it is a scandal. I could not figure out the head or tail because I could not understand how group of experts should fail year-after-year-after-year to effectively let ends meet and ensure proper disbursement of public funds as it was designed, approved but when it comes to implementation, trouble starts. I am still wondering.

Then I awoke one morning to realize that, there is something fundamentally wrong with the manner in which the public sector disburses and uses funds in the course of implementing fiscal policies.

Was the budget not properly planned, properly managed and/or properly implemented or "maa tey" syndrome is in control.

The other day, a local newspaper carried an advert calling for vendors to supply foodstuff to the Office of the President. The amount to spend was in excess of 11 million dalasi, just to feed the President. The advert referred to, started to make rounds on social media and of course it was talk of town.

I quickly found out that the office of the President has employed over 129 house cleaners and that all of these employees are fed breakfast, lunch and provided with transportation in addition to their monthly emoluments.

Eleven million dalasi is spent feeding over 129 employees in addition to their pay and other benefits, brings to question: how much in total is the whole government machinery unnecessarily spending annually on feeding staff that are on the pay roll.

The Government agencies annual expenditure for purchases of "ndewoo" is definitely on-the-high-side. From ethical perspective something is wrong. This type of phenomenon that hire services, pay monthly emoluments,

provide befitting privileges then ignore ethics and provide extra free meals daily is not morally good.

Mind you this is happening in The Gambia public service and not schools. I am referring to adults gainfully employed and being fed like school children.

The Gambia populace want to experience a new year free from extravagancy. Not effective and not necessary government spending at the expense of development is putting stress on the national development agenda. Period.

So is it not time for the government of President Adama Barrow to call a convergence of top economist (plus anti corruption campaigners as observers), in the country to conduct simple arithmetic to access the cost of providing free meals to public servants who are supposed to be on salary, wages, privileges, per diem, soft loans, and many more benefits and are permitted by the Head of the Gambia Civil Service to improperly over stretch the "national fiscalcircuit".



Msia river bridge connecting people of Songwe region, Rukwa region and Katavi has been washed away by floodwater as captured over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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Tanzania Breweries Ltd Arusha plant manager, Joseph Mwaikasu briefs members from Tanzania People Defence Force on beer production at the plant over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Dr Shein pardons 19 inmates to mark Revolution Day

By Guardian Reporter Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has pardoned 19 inmates who were serving in the Isles' correctional facilities (prisons) in both Zanzibar and Pemba as a gesture to mark 56 years of Zanzibar Revolution.

A statement issued by the secretary of the Revolutionary Council who doubles as Chief Secretary Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee said from the powers conferred to the Zanzibar President under Section 59 of the 1984 Zanzibar Constitution, President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has ordered the pardon in respect of the remaining jail term for the inmates who have benefited by the pardon, and who are still in correctional facilities in Zanzibar and Pemba and are to be freed as from December 11, 2020.

Those who benefitted from the pardon for Zanzibar are Salum Kombo Juma, Rashid Abdalla Salum, Shaame

Mussa Suleiman, Rajab Juma Suleiman, Mwyni Abdalla Rajab, Faki Ramadhan Juma, Abdalla Said Khamis, Omar Khalfan Said, Abdulbaki Abdulaziz Muhammad, Mwyni Maulid Haji, Said Ali Seif and Abdalla Ame Khamis.

Those from Pemba include Fauzi Abdalla Said, Is-haka Saleh Ali, Hashim Mohamed Khamis, Ussi Juma Khamis, Juma Salum Mohamed, Mohamed Khamis Ali and Maulid Abdalla Seif.

The pardon that is given every year during the Zanzibar Revolution celebrations is in respect of prisoners who are very old. Those with illness or those jailed for minor offences and whose remaining jail time is small and have shown good conduct while in the facility.

Those jailed for murder, armed robbery, theft of public funds and assets, or those jailed for child abuse or gender based violence (GBV), for illicit drugs offences do not normally get pardoned.

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Morogoro

## Parakuyo students fail to join Form One

DESPITE the government's directive that require all selected students to join the school on time, Parakuyo secondary school administration in Kilosa, Morogoro region has said only eleven students out of 119 selected to join Form One at the school have reported.

Speaking to the Guardian over the weekend, the second master of the school which was established in 2007 said it serves among other communities, the pastoralists. Bahati Ramadhani has appealed to the parents and guardians whose children have been selected to join the school to do so before it is too late.

He said that it is discouraging to see that the 5th phase government of President John Magufuli uses a lot

of resources to provide free primary and secondary education but there are still some parents and guardians who refuse to honour the opportunity by refusing to take their children to school.

"We as teachers we can attest that the students from pastoralists communities are very intelligent when at school but the problem is that many of them have low awareness and they are affected by traditional norms and customs," he said.

Commenting on academic performance, the second master said that the school teachers have improved the performance. Citing an example

he said in 2018, 46 students sat for the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) where 82 per cent of the students passed their examination. In 2019, 48 students who sat for the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA), 26 passed their examination which is equivalent to 54 per cent.

However, despite the academic achievements, the second Master said that the school faced many challenges. For example, the school has shortage of teachers and non teacher staff.

"The school has shortage of science teachers specifically there is no physics teachers. The school has no other non

teachers staff such as security guards and cook," he explained.

He also equated the government to building the school fence saying absence of the fence is causing some Maasai Moran warriors sneak in the girls dormitory for the purpose of doing sex. Also absence of the fence has attracted cattle to roam around in the school compound especially during school hours and in the dormitories in search for food remains.

"We have also the problem of shortage of water. We have no water well. So, when the tap water gone dry, we can stay up to one week without water. So, when this happen, teachers

usually take the students to the nearby rivers to wash their bodies," he said.

He further explained that the school has shortage of school classrooms and toilets. The toilets are full and always flooded with filth materials such as faeces.

"The school girls suffer a lot during menstruation circles because they have nowhere to dispose their pads, he added.

The school head girl Betha Kinyala and Steto Oloishuro admitted that the students are learning in a very difficult condition, requesting the government to renovate the school and ensure adequate teachers, learning and

teaching facilities.

Contacted for comments, Morogoro regional Commissioner Loata Sanare directed all the parents to make sure that they take their children to school or else face stern measures.

He also directed the village and ward executive officers to get the names of the students who have not reported to school and ensure that they report.

"I thank for this information. I am planning to visit the school on 16th of this month. I direct all parents to take their children to school or face the arm of law," he said.

He instructed the Morogoro regional Education officer and Morogoro regional Medical Officer to make sure that they also visit the school to assess the magnitude of the problems facing students and see how they could help to address them.

### CHUO CHA KUMBUKUMBU YA MWALIMU NYERERE



### TANGAZO LA KUJIUNGA NA MASOMO YA UZAMILI

Mkuu wa Chuo cha Kumbukumbu ya Mwalimu Nyerere anawatangazia nafasi za masomo kwa mwaka wa masomo 2019/2020, ngazi ya Shahada ya Umahiri katika Usimamizi wa Rasilimaliwatu yaani "Master's Degree in Human Resource Management" Kampasi ya Kivukoni - Dar es Salaam. Programu hii itatolewa kwa muda wa miaka miwili, ambapo mwaka wa kwanza utakuwa wa masomo darasani (coursework) na mwaka wa pili utakuwa wa kuandika tasnifu (dissertation).

#### Sifa za Mwombaji na Namna ya Kujiunga

Awe amehitimu shahada ya kwanza na awe na ufaulu wa angalau daraja la pili kwa shahada husika kutoka katika Chuo kinachotambulika. Kwa maelezo zaidi kuhusu sifa za waombaji na namna ya kujiunga:

1. Tembelea tovuti ya chuo – [www.mnma.ac.tz](http://www.mnma.ac.tz), au
2. Fika Ofisi ya Udahili Chuo cha Kumbukumbu ya Mwalimu Nyerere Kampasi ya Kivukoni, Dar es Salaam.

#### MAWASILIANO

Kwa maelezo zaidi piga simu namba:  
(022) 2820041/2820047; 0625550853; 0655085024 au 0755093135.  
Nukushi (Fax): (022) 2820816

Mwisho wa kupokea maombi ni tarehe 31/01/2020.  
Masomo yataanza tarehe 10/2/2020.

**"KARIBU CHUO CHA KUMBUKUMBU YA MWALIMU NYERERE UPATE ELIMU YENYE KUZINGATIA MAADILI"**

**IMETOLEWA NA MKUU WA CHUO CHA KUMBUKUMBU YA MWALIMU NYERERE**



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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

#### CONSULTANCY:

### PREPARATION OF A STRATEGIC TOURISM PLAN FOR THE RUVUMA REGION

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWFTCO) is a Non-Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity; ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
2. WWF Tanzania in corroboration with Ruvuma region Office intends to support the Ruvuma Region prepares a Tourism Strategic plan. The main objective is to develop the Ruvuma regional tourism strategic plan that will outline the key opportunities and recommendations to attract new investors into the region in order to develop a diverse tourism sector. An ambitious and innovative strategic plan is required to identify and connect the various tourism types and attractions and opportunities in order to transform the tourism sector in the region and develop a strategy that allows the Ruvuma region to develop on a strong and diverse tourism sector. All types of tourism need to be considered, including conference, sport, and adventure, cultural and with a strong emphasis on eco-tourism and nature-based tourism.
3. Scope of the Work. The purpose of this work is to achieve the objectives of transforming and presenting Ruvuma region as a tourism destination, both locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. Conduct an extensive feasibility study so as to clearly document the tourist attractions as well as potential areas that are not documented and develop ideas of connections and packages that would allow visitors to enjoy different attractions and experiences. The work is expected to cover all five districts within the Ruvuma region namely, Songea (urban and rural), Tunduru, Namtumbo, Mbinga and Nyasa. The following are expected outputs namely:
  - a. Demonstrable experience and evidence of developing and carrying out strategic tourism plans,
  - b. At least 5 years' experience in natural resource conservation and management, socio policy and civil society organizations.
  - c. At least a degree level education in relevant subjects – Natural Resource Management and Research, policy and planning. A masters or PhD will be given priority.
  - d. Knowledge on technical procedures for conducting empirical studies; good technical, organizational, presentation and interpersonal skills; excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Kiswahili.
  - e. Ability to translate technical information for a non-technical audience and approach effectively the local context with diplomatic and multi-cultural skills.
4. Applicant Requirement and qualifications: The desired applicant to undertake this assignment *with other key qualities*, must meet the following minimum qualifications:
  - a. Demonstrable experience and evidence of developing and carrying out strategic tourism plans,
  - b. At least 5 years' experience in natural resource conservation and management, socio policy and civil society organizations.
  - c. At least a degree level education in relevant subjects – Natural Resource Management and Research, policy and planning. A masters or PhD will be given priority.
  - d. Knowledge on technical procedures for conducting empirical studies; good technical, organizational, presentation and interpersonal skills; excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Kiswahili.
  - e. Ability to translate technical information for a non-technical audience and approach effectively the local context with diplomatic and multi-cultural skills.
5. Deadline for submission: kindly submit your applications as instructed by Friday, 24th January 2020 at 17.00hrs Tanzania local time. Only successful applicants will be contacted for further discussions.
6. If you think you meet the necessary requirements for this assignment, please send a request for ToR and all enquiries to [tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org) and or visit us at: Kiko Street, Mikochei – Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, P.O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Tel:+255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax:+255 22 277 5535; website, [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)



## Minister commends SOS Children's Villages Tanzania

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania has been commended for implementing the project of improving the primary school learning environment for the past two years in Iringa region.

Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements, William Lukuvi made the remarks here over the weekend when launching library building at Chamndindi primary school in Nyang'oro Ward, Iringa region which will be used by both pupils and the surrounding community.

He also urged that the pupils, local people at Chamndindi village and surrounding areas should utilize the library facilities properly and also reading the books to gain knowledge.

Lukuvi who is also a Member of Parliament for Isimani Constituency observed that the basic aim of establishing libraries and other information organizations in modern societies is to be able to respond to the information needs of communities.

The project, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has equipped children with issues of rights and responsibilities, life skills as well as education for the protection and safety of child and woman.

The project is funded by donors from Denmark through the Hempel Foundation and implemented in Iringa District Council in three (3) wards of Nyang'oro, Malengamakali and Ulanda.

Earlier on, acting SOS project coordinator Francis Mwakitiga said the schools benefiting from the project are eight primary schools where 7 schools (Holo, Mawindi, Ikengeza, Chamndindi Isaka Makadupa na Iguluba) are located in Isimani constituency and one school is in Kalenga Constituency (Ulanda primary school).

He stated that the beneficiaries of this project are vulnerable children comin from poor backgrounds and the goal of the project was to reach 3,051 children, but until September last year the project has reached 3,265 children,

with an increase of 214 children," said Mwakitiga.

"These children are accessed through the register of vulnerable children and through the local authorities," he added.

This project is funded by donors from Denmark through the Hempel Foundation at a cost of 1,636,194,384 / -equivalent to DKK 4,798,224.

The funds was used to provide assistance to vulnerable children, improve school infrastructure, equip teachers with best teaching practices, mobilize and empower communities to recognize children's rights and child protection and safety issues, to build household capacity issues of entrepreneurship and SOS office management.

Mwakitiga said also that the project has three main objectives; Improving learning infrastructure in eight project schools by 2019, ensuring that vulnerable and orphaned children have equal access to education by 2019 and communities and stakeholders prioritize education, children's rights, protection and safety of children by 2019.

The activities carried out by the project in conjunction with the Iringa District Council are as follows improving school infrastructure Involving construction of latrines in partnership with the village council, the project has built five latrines with 35 vents at five schools (Isaka, Makadupa, Iguluba, Chamndindi and Ikengeza) at the tune 12m/-.

In collaboration with the village council, the project has undertaken renovations of thirteen classrooms and four offices in five project schools—Isaac, Makadupa, Iguluba, Chamndindi and Mawindi at the tune of more than 40m/-.

The project has provided desktop computers to four schools—Mawindi, Ikengeza, Chamndindi and Iguluba worth 7m/-. The project also provided 944 text books and reference books to the library.



Mirerani B.W. Mkapa secondary school teacher in Simanjoro district Godluck Nnko supervising rehabilitation of three classrooms and office financed by Tanzanite stakeholders over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Indian experts conduct knee surgery in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM-based Regency Medical Centre in partnership with HCG Multi-Specialty Hospital in Ahmedabad of India are expected to conduct HIP and Knee Replacement Surgical Camp at Regency.

The camp will start on January 23, 24

and 25 in Dar es Salaam.

According to the statement from Regency Medical Centre, this is done in a bid to reduce referrals abroad, save the Foreign Exchange of the Country and train Local Experts in the latest Cutting Edge Surgical Technology.

The statement said the camp will be done by Indian experts in collaboration

with Local Experts, and conduct surgeries, Screening of follow up and New Patients.

"This is a good opportunity for Fellow Tanzanians to avail this Latest Cut Edge Small Incision Surgery with early Mobilization at the door steps in Tanzania at Regency Medical Centre" the statement said.

"If you are living with joint pain visit replacement camp at Regency Medical Center in Dar es Salaam for knee and Hip problems starting from 23 January," the statement said

It stated that this will also save the expenses of Airfares of the patient and the escort and their upkeep and prolonged stay abroad.



Bulige ward livestock officer in Msalala-Shinyanga region, Dr David Sospiter vaccinating a donkey. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Dr Mabula hands over 100 CCROs to Litoa villagers in Songea

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula has handed over 100 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to small scale farmers of Litoa Village in Peramiho Constituency, Songea District in Ruvuma Region and called upon owners thereof to keep them safely and use them for their own development.

Speaking yesterday during the event to hand over the certificates at the village whilst on inspection tour of land related issues and housing projects undertaken by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) Dr Mabula told the farmers not to sell their land for quick money, and added that they may find themselves shortchanged or even conned by the buyers.

She also called upon all Councils countrywide to prepare plans for better land use in villages to ensure the villagers with the certificates to enjoy security with their land.

She also wanted the Councils to allocate areas for investment to make it easy for prospective investors in various sectors and stressed that in order to develop people economically, the land must be surveyed for better

use. The Songea Rural District Commissioner Pololeti Mgema hailed the organizations of small farmers (MVIWATA) for great efforts that enabled small farmers acquire Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy.

MVIWATA coordinator in Ruvuma Region Laila Haji said her institution saw the need for small farmers to have ownership security for their land and that is why they made the efforts in collaboration with Songea District Council to issue the certificates to farmers in Litoa village.

She however said the great challenge facing the farmers and villagers in general on land ownership is the low level of education on title deeds, patriarchal system for women to own land and land conflicts pitting farmers and herders.

Meanwhile Deputy lands minister Dr Mabula inspected the project for the building of the headquarters and houses for Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) at Mpepo in Nyasa District, Ruvuma region.

The project, including other projects for TFS offices and staff housing in various areas in the country, is being undertaken by NHC.

By Michael Ssali

## Africa urged to increase fertiliser use

THE Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (Agra) has called for increased use of inorganic fertiliser in sub-Saharan Africa to overcome chronic food insecurity.

In its message, on December 5, 2019, the anti-hunger body observed, "For all of the signs of progress, the African continent is largely food insecure with

current yields of cereals and legumes at only 15-30 per cent of the potential."

AGRA sees a worsening food crisis with about 250 million people going to bed hungry and the continent spending more than \$35b on food imports annually. "Many African soils

are unable to supply crops with the nutrients they need due to infertility and degradation that has stemmed from inappropriate land-use practices over several centuries.

A changing climate and booming populations have increased demands

on Africa's already overworked soils. For example, the intensively cultivated highlands in East Africa lose an estimated 36kg of nitrogen, 5kg of phosphorus, and 25kg of potassium per hectare every year."

On the same day in Nairobi, Agra also

launched a book titled: Feeding Africa's Soils: Fertilisers to Support Africa's Agricultural Transformation in which it argued that increasing targeted fertiliser application by 20 per cent could, for example, raise yields of rice by 5.1 per cent, wheat by 11 per cent,

and maize by 9.9 per cent. At the book launch, Agra President, Dr Agnes Kalibata is quoted as saying, "Technologies now exist that enable us to produce and apply fertilisers judiciously and that address specific needs of soil and crops. These include fertiliser blending and micro-dosing that ensures the production of soil specific nutrients and application to meet particular crop needs."



By Correspondent James Lanka, Hai

# Newly elected local leaders in Kilimanjaro trained on public resources tracking skills

NEWLY elected local government leaders from different villages in Kilimanjaro Region have been trained on Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) for them to ably monitor and stimulate action concerning various development projects implemented in their localities.

Organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND), the training was held under the sponsorship of Norwegian Church Aid in the country (NCA-Tanzania).

Held at Bomang'ombe in Hai District the PETS training involved village, ward executive Officers as well as ward and village chairpersons from Siha, Hai, and Moshi Municipality in Kilimanjaro Region.

Some of the beneficiaries described the

training as vital to ensure that public resources are wisely spent.

"I see this training as an eye-opener and is an important tool towards monitoring public funds allocated in different projects," says Emmanuel Molle, chairperson of Sanya Stesheni village.

He cited some of the village projects as water and school toilets which were poorly executed and weren't value to money. "But, we after making a close follow up, the weaknesses were resolved and the project implemented as

agreed."

For their part, Josephat Kimaro from Manio village, in Kashashi ward, Siha district acknowledged the PETS project, saying it has helped ensure quality in project implementation in accordance with contractual agreements.

Rev. Andrew Munisi, Project Officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Northern Diocese where NCA is implanting its various projects through the diocese,

said number of projects that have been implemented in the context of the PETS monitoring system and had proved to be of quality standard.

"Villagers were now aware of various techniques to be used in tracking projects in their respective areas, which speeds up

development in many villages," he said.

He further said that PETS training is implemented to the local leaders from various areas of Babati district in Manyara region, Karatu in Arusha district, Rombo, Moshi Municipal, Siha, and Moshi Rural in Kilimanjaro region.



National Health Insurance Fund board chairperson former Speaker Anna Makinda hands over NHIF card to Mwanza resident over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

OSLO

## Norway welcomes 600 African refugees 'to send a strong message'

NORWAY has agreed to take 600 asylum seekers to help stop the often deadly trafficking of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea.

Reports have it that up to 11 of them have already left for the European Union (EU). Most of the 600 asylum seekers are those who had been evacuated to Rwanda from detention centers in Libya.

The 600 people are part of a group of 800 migrants who had been moved to Rwanda from Libya under a September agreement between Rwanda, the African Union (AU) and the United

Nations refugee agency (UNHCR).

Many are from Horn of Africa nations and have been given temporary asylum-seeker status until the UNHCR determines their refugee status.

Norway wants to stop the deadly smuggling of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea, said Joaran Kallmyr, the country's immigration minister.

"For me it is important to send a signal that

we will not back smuggling routes and cynical backers, but instead bring in people with protection needs in organized form."

"It's a relief to them," said Alex Ngarambe, DW's correspondent in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

"The first time I spoke to some of them, there were not happy. They said Rwanda is not their final destination. They did not want to stay here any longer."

An upcoming Insurance Company is looking to fill the open positions for Internal Auditor and Actuarial Analyst. Applications are invited from candidates who fulfil the following criteria:

| Position: Internal Auditor   | Position: Actuarial Analyst   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Key Work Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide leadership in the development of controls, policies, procedures and guidelines.</li> <li>Developing of an annual &amp; periodic audit plan</li> <li>Continuous review and evaluation of systems of internal control using the COSO framework.</li> <li>Verification of all transaction.</li> <li>Review of the budget, monitoring and control process.</li> <li>Risk Management &amp; Regulatory compliance.</li> <li>Ensure compliance of Anti-Money Laundering guidelines and various statutes like the Insurance Act, Income tax, VAT and other statutory levies.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Key Work Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing actuarial analysis for pricing, reserving, business decisions.</li> <li>Drafting rate filing exhibits or other bid templates to comply with requirements.</li> <li>Maintaining and improving rating tools to support the creation of quote and renewal information.</li> <li>Gathering data to prepare and interpret regular and ad hoc reports to aid management in their understanding of the business.</li> <li>Producing quotes, creating financially viable underwritten proposals and working closely with sales to meet clients' needs by making underwriting decisions, enforcing rules and standards and investigating to resolve issues or concerns.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Candidate Profile:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This position is open to Tanzanian Nationals only.</li> <li>Completed CPA or ACCA.</li> <li>Must have minimum five years' experience in internal audit. Internal audit experience in an insurance company would be an added advantage.</li> <li>Self-motivated and self-starter.</li> <li>Excellent oral and written communication skills with internal and external counterparts.</li> <li>Attention to detail and ability to multi-task.</li> <li>Successful and proven track record.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Candidate Profile:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This position is open to Tanzanian Nationals only.</li> <li>2+ years of actuarial experience in an insurance setting.</li> <li>Bachelor's Degree in Actuarial Science.</li> <li>Progress towards Associate of the Society of Actuaries.</li> <li>Experience developing analytical tools, models and financial presentation formats.</li> <li>Excellent oral and written communication skills with internal and external counterparts.</li> <li>Ability to manage multiple tasks to ensure timely and accurate delivery of financially impactful work and other required analysis.</li> </ul>  |

Remuneration: Salary offered will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above criteria may send their CV, copies of academic & professional certificates and References to [hdrecruitment2020@gmail.com](mailto:hdrecruitment2020@gmail.com) on or before **20th January 2020**.

Please mention the position applied for.

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted**

## Protests erupt again in Iran after admission of plane strike

DUBAI

PROTESTERS piled pressure on Iran's leadership on Sunday with demands for top authorities to quit after the Iranian military admitted it had mistakenly shot down a Ukrainian airliner at a time when it had feared U.S. strikes.

"They are lying that our enemy is America, our enemy is right here," dozens of protesters outside a university in Tehran chanted, according to video clips posted on Twitter. Scores of demonstrators were also shown gathered in other cities.

The social media posts could not be verified by Reuters. But state-affiliated media had reported protests on Saturday shortly after the Iranian military apologized for mistakenly bringing down the Ukrainian plane on Wednesday, killing all 176 aboard.

Tehran residents told Reuters police were out in force in the capital on Sunday, as public anger boiled up following days of denials by the military that it was to blame, even as Canada and the United States said a missile had brought the plane down.

Riot police fired teargas at thousands of protesters in the capital on Saturday, where many had chanted "Death to the dictator", directing their anger at the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Apologize and resign," Iran's moderate Etemad daily wrote in a banner headline on Sunday, saying the "people's demand" was for those responsible for mishandling the plane crisis to quit.

The latest upsurge in anger adds to challenges facing the authorities, which launched a bloody crackdown in November to quell protests. The leadership is also struggling to keep the crippled economy afloat under rigorous U.S. sanctions.

The Ukraine International Airlines plane was shot down minutes after taking off from Tehran on Wednesday, when Iranian forces were on alert for U.S. reprisals following tit-for-tat strikes. Many of those on board were Iranians with dual citizenship, while 57 were holders of Canadian passports.

Miaka 56 ya Mapinduzi

Menejimenti na Watumishi wa TPDC tunawatakia Watanzania wenzetu Maadhimisho mema ya Miaka 56 ya Mapinduzi ya Zanzibar

"Umoja wetu, Nguvu yetu"

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MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Good idea for ships to become new source of tourist visitations

A NEW element in the country's drive to enhance tourism has apparently been added by improved facilities at the port of Dar es Salaam, including the start of services at berth number 7. The berth appears to have taken off with a bang as a ship with 600 ocean faring tourists visit Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo, with their key interests being historical places. These usually refer to visitors who came to East Africa in the past, where the coastal areas are more frequented.

While the new port berth was more or less being unveiled to many readers of this newspaper, there was another novel element, 'Ocean tourism.' This is what the visitors and the sheep crew said the docking ship was all about, namely that it collects people in various countries who have time to spare and aren't allergic to ocean-based travel, and in many instances relish that situation of being out in the deep sea. With periodic scares in the airline industry, such visitations may rise in the future, but then not many people have all that time.

The docking ship of 600 new visitations appeared to be lending a hand to the goal of reaching two million tourist visitations per year, not firstly because of their number but rather as this batch of tourists had the hallmark of being a new source. The tourists embarked from the Far East, and in another tour they may bring even more passengers when those visiting now wish to repeat that experience or they impress upon others that it is worth it. It all depends on the time they dispose, the sort of experiences they take home, and other affinities.

Speaking about new means of travel,

the real challenge is the frequency of those trips, for instance there is the tourism train from South Africa that comes northwards up to Dar es Salaam from Johannesburg.

It often arrives once per year and it is uncertain if it has clocked in Dar es Salaam each year or there have been some lapses from time to time, but conceivably it could dock in a bit more periodically. It is a question of organization, at times the need for discounts and even special lodges for budget tourists, as well as creativity in the range of events they will be through, for instance elements of cultural tourism, etc.

What was also a morale booster in the ship's visit was that it is an indicator that the southern and say coastal circuit may receive greater attention. Even then plenty of work has to be done to bring the level of visitations to the southern circuit anywhere near the more familiar northern circuit attractions. There may be things that require real specialization so that the right markets are sourced.

Managers at the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) are making efforts to diversify visitations and products to be offered, so that Tanzania can rank up much higher in visitations compared to the sort of attractions it has, as in that regard it is among the top potential destinations in the world. As the Far East visitors were reported to have remarked, they were also interested in sampling the social environment. Perhaps it is needful to have liaison agents, even by paying some consultancy fees instead of advertisements and featuring in exhibitions, as it may still lack direct contacts.

## Turkish-African partnership extremely commendable

TURKISH diplomats and organisations in Africa say 2019 was a positive year for Turkish-African relations as they held bilateral talks leading to more visits of delegations between their countries.

Turkish embassy in Dar es Salaam was first opened in 1979. However it was closed down in 1984 due to budgetary constraints. The embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Dar es Salaam was re-opened on 18 May 2009.

Relations between Turkey and Tanzania entered a new era in 2009. Bilateral relations gained a momentum with the first State Visit of the President of the Republic of Turkey, Abdullah Gül to the United Republic of Tanzania in February 2009 and the re-opening of the Turkish embassy in Dar es Salaam in 2009.

Former Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete paid a state visit to Turkey between 17 and 21 February 2010 upon the invitation of the President of the Republic of Turkey. Kikwete's visit to Turkey was an important step since it was the first-presidential level visit from Tanzania to Turkey and reflected the momentum gained in bilateral relations.

Additionally, in 2010, former Chief of Tanzania Peoples' Defence Force (TPDF) Davis Mwanunyangye, Speaker of the Tanzanian National Parliament the late Samuel Sitta and members of Tanzania-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Group, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Bernard Membe paid visits to Turkey.

The President of Zanzibar Ali Mohamed Shein paid an official visit to Turkey between 28 April and 2 May 2011 upon the invitation of the President of the Republic of Turkey.

The 1st meeting of the Turkey-Tanzania Joint Economic Commission took place on 26-30 November 2012 in Dar es Salaam. On the occasion of the meeting, two countries reviewed bilateral economic relations and evaluated additional possibilities of cooperation.

The trade volume between the two countries was 151 million USD in 2015. The establishment of the embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Tanzania and the launching of Turkish Airlines' direct flights between Istanbul-Dar es Salaam on 14 June 2010 and Istanbul-Kilimanjaro on 4 December 2012 provided significant contributions to the trade volume between the two countries.

In the same vein, bilateral relationship between South Africa and Turkey has been swiftly developed, particularly since the 2018 visit of President [Recep Tayyip] Erdogan to South Africa.

Some of the official delegations that visited Turkey from South Africa last year included technical and high-level political delegations.

This year, Turkey and Uganda also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Uganda's speaker of parliament and prime minister along with several ministers also visited Turkey last year.

The Maarif Foundation, an educational arm of the Turkish government, and the Yunus Emre Cultural Center opened offices in the East African nation.

On the humanitarian front, Turkish non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continued to provide humanitarian aid to disaster-affected people in various countries on the continent, including victims of the cyclone in Mozambique and floods in Somalia.

Turkish NGOs also distributed food packages and meat to Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) continued to refurbish mosques, equip hospitals and provide vocational training to hundreds of youth across the continent.

The Yunus Emre Institute in Johannesburg meanwhile continued to teach people the Turkish language and other courses including calligraphy which introduced them to Turkish culture. They also took South African students for summer school in Turkey.

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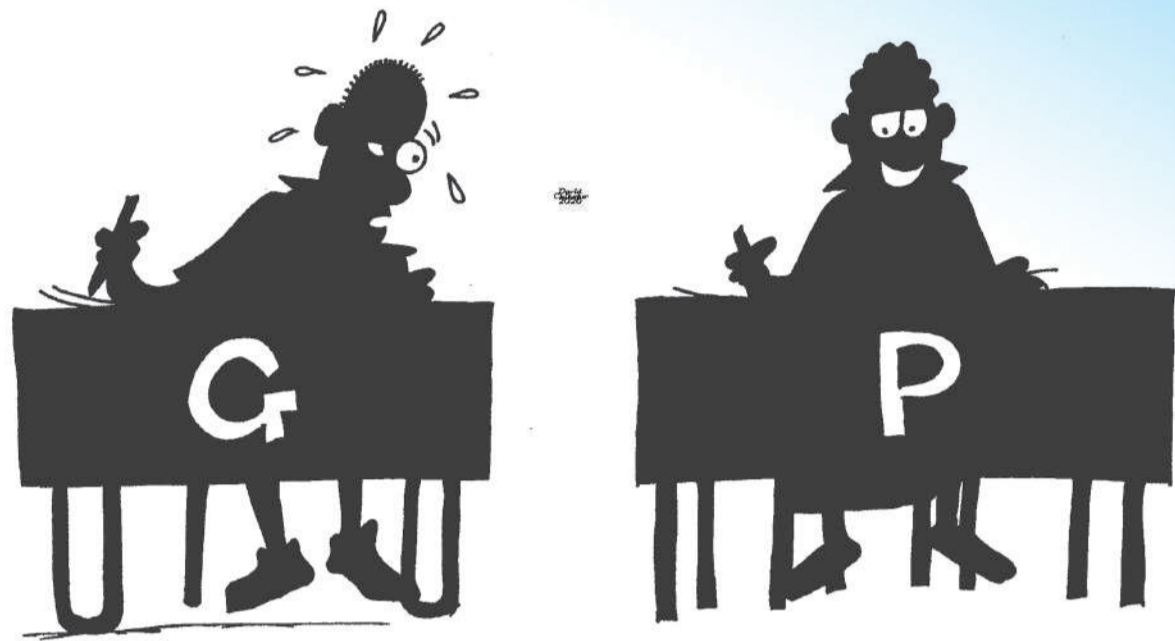
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## Schools' Performance



By Jibrin Ibrahim

WEST Africa is undergoing a very difficult phase in its evolution. A report just published by the International Crisis Group draws attention to the spectre of jihadism haunting the whole region.

Islamist militancy has been growing dramatically in Burkina Faso, which is emerging as a terrorist corridor linking the Sahel to the coastal states of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The terrorists, it would be recalled, struck Côte d'Ivoire in March 2016.

The ICG report points out that the jihadist groups are advancing toward the south and east of Burkina Faso, and approaching the Gulf of Guinea states. On November 7, 2019, an attack on a convoy of workers from the Boungou gold mine, which killed at least 38 people, confirmed their presence in the east of the country, bordering Benin and Togo.

The most important element of the on-going West African crisis is that Nigeria has essentially abdicated its leadership role built on the lives of our soldiers that fought to defend Liberia and Sierra Leone. Nigeria needs to reinvent its leadership role in West Africa on both the security and economic fronts.

Burkinabé security forces also recently intervened in the region of Pô, a town bordering Ghana in the south east of the country, killing six individuals suspected of terrorism.

In 2012, terrorist groups took over Northern Mali and would have marched to and taken over the capital, Bamako, but for the intervention of French troops. There have been a number of attacks on the border between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. The jihadist group, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), appears to be trying to open a corridor from northern Mali to north-western Nigeria and northern Benin, passing through the Nigerian town of Dogondoutchi. Meanwhile, there are reports that the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), a group that emerged out of Boko Haram, is poised to move into the security conundrum that has emerged out of the growth of rural banditry in Zamfara, creating the possibility of building bridges with the increasingly active groups operating in Niger.

In a video dated November 8, 2018, three leaders of a terrorist coalition affiliated with al-Qaeda - the Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM) - Iyad Ag Ghali, Djamel Okacha and Amadou Koufa, called on the Fulani people who are found all over the Sahel and West Africa to "pursue jihad". They specifically called for action in Senegal, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon.

## 2020, Nigeria and the West Africa challenge

Meanwhile, Jihadi groups have been regularly attacking army formations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The same is happening further to the east, with Boko Haram and ISWAP attacking the military in the Lake Chad Basin countries of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad. What is happening is that the attacks are increasing over a wide area, suggesting that the core strategy of the terrorists is that of decentralisation, making it difficult for national security agencies and international forces to cope with their activities. They have moved into deprived rural areas which have virtually no state presence.

Meanwhile, the basic strategy within West Africa appears to be to prevent coordination in tackling the menace of terrorism. There is an assumption that everyone knows has no basis - that Islamic terrorism will remain a Sahelian phenomenon. It was on this basis that the G5 Sahel Joint Force (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad) was conceived. This assumes that the jihadist threat would expand horizontally, crossing the western Sahel from east to west, and remain there. Meanwhile, what is emerging is also a vertical march towards the south and a teaming up with Boko Haram in North-East Nigeria. The G5 has not even taken off in its operations and it is clearly too narrow an approach to contain the situation. What is clear is that France insists on this narrow definition of the terrorist threat.

A new front of discord has emerged in the region on the economic level. Nigeria has closed its borders with its neighbours since August last year to control smuggling. This has caused serious concerns in Cameroon, Niger, Benin, Togo and Ghana. The establishment of the West African currency, which is programmed to be launched this year, has become another divisive issue.

From the very beginning, efforts should have been coordinated at the level of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). However, the problem is that ECOWAS has neither the vision nor the leadership to play an effective role. The deep Francophone/Anglophone divide within the organisation remains an important constraint. This has blocked the development of greater coordination; better intelligence gathering and sharing; and more effective border controls, which will require tackling the corruption that

is rife in many customs services and police forces.

A new front of discord has emerged in the region on the economic level. Nigeria has closed its borders with its neighbours since August last year to control smuggling. This has caused serious concerns in Cameroon, Niger, Benin, Togo and Ghana. The establishment of the West African currency, which is programmed to be launched this year, has become another divisive issue. This year, the 30-year struggle for a West African currency might not have happened as planned.

On December 21, 2019, President Alasane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire, together with his French counterpart, President Macron, announced that the eight West African countries using the CFA Franc currency would adopt the Eco as their new currency this year. The announcement was done on the same day ECOWAS met and took the momentous decision to adopt the Eco this year.

Clearly, the involvement of France poses the risk of breaking up the Eco. France is very keen to take over the responsibility of establishing and even printing the new currency and presents the other countries in the region with a fait accompli. Although France has said it would relinquish its position on the board of the CFA Central Bank and the requirement of depositing 50 per cent of a member country's foreign reserve with the French treasury, it is clear that they are seeking to establish a controlling influence over the Eco.

The adoption of the Eco provides Nigeria a golden opportunity to lead the subregion. Nigeria should break out of its silence and immediately make it clear to ECOWAS members that third parties from outside the region cannot play a leadership role in establishing the Eco.

It is true that the long delay in establishing the Eco has been caused by the inability of the 15 ECOWAS countries to meet the convergence criteria they set for themselves, notably: that the inflation rate of less than 5 per cent is maintained, a budget deficit of not more than 3 per cent of GDP and that each country has enough foreign reserves to cover at least three months of imports.

We note that after failing to meet these conditions over the past two decades, the eight countries have now adopted the currency without meeting them. This means sound economic

principles have been set aside for political reasons. On December 28, 2019, Ghana announced that it was considering joining the eight countries but would prefer a flexible exchange rate regime, implying it was not keen on pegging the Eco to the Euro. There was silence on the Nigerian end until December 30 when the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning issued a press release informing Nigerians that government was studying the situation and would soon issue its position.

The most important element of the on-going West African crisis is that Nigeria has essentially abdicated its leadership role built on the lives of our soldiers that fought to defend Liberia and Sierra Leone. Nigeria needs to reinvent its leadership role in West Africa on both the security and economic fronts. On the new currency, the eight CFA countries cannot be a vanguard for monetary integration in West Africa when they account for only 21 per cent of West Africa's GDP and 32 per cent of the region's population. Nigeria alone accounts for about 66 per cent of ECOWAS's GDP and 55 per cent of its population. Nigeria therefore has to play a leadership role in the establishment of Eco, just as Germany played the anchor role in establishing the Euro.

The adoption of the Eco provides Nigeria a golden opportunity to lead the subregion. This would require greater coordination between the different arms of government, particularly the Presidency; the Central Bank; Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning; the academia; the business community; the press and civil society organisations. The Eco can only be built on the basis of strict adherence to the convergence criteria laid down by ECOWAS's West African Monetary Institute. Starting the Eco system without adherence to the convergence criteria poses enormous risk of the Eco's sustainability and international credibility. Nigeria should break out of its silence and immediately make it clear to ECOWAS members that third parties from outside the region cannot play a leadership role in establishing the Eco.

A professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, Jibrin Ibrahim is a Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development, and Chair of the Editorial Board of PREMIUM TIMES.



By Mohamed A El-Erian

An economy is an area of the production, distribution and trade, as well as consumption of goods and services by different agents. Understood in its broadest sense, "The economy is defined as a social domain that emphasises the practices, discourses, and material expressions associated with the production, use, and management of resources". Economic agents can be individuals, businesses, organizations, or governments. Economic transactions occur when two groups or parties agree to the value or price of the transacted good or service, commonly expressed in a certain currency. However, monetary transactions only account for a small part of the economic domain. Economic activity is spurred by production which uses natural resources, labor and capital. It has changed over time due to technology (automation, accelerator of process, reduction of cost functions), innovation (new products, services, processes, expanding markets, diversification of markets, niche markets, increases revenue functions) such as, that which produces intellectual property and changes in industrial relations (most notably child labor being replaced in some parts of the world with universal access to education). A given economy is the result of a set of processes that involves its culture, values, education, technological evolution, history, social organization, political structure and legal systems, as well as its geography, natural resource endowment, and ecology, as main factors. These factors give context, content, and set the conditions and parameters in which an economy functions. In other words, the economic domain is a social domain of human practices and transactions. It does not stand alone.

# The global economy's luck may run out



A market-based economy is one where goods and services are produced and exchanged according to demand and supply between participants (economic agents) by barter or a medium of exchange with a credit or debit value accepted within the network, such as a unit of currency. A command-based economy is one where political agents directly control what is produced and how it is sold and distributed. A green economy is low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. A gig economy is one in which short-term jobs are assigned or chosen via online platforms. New economy is a term referred to the whole

emerging ecosystem where new standards and practices were introduced, usually as a result of technological innovations.

There is a curious contrast between the relative clarity of expectations for the near term and the murkiness and uncertainty that comes when one extends the horizon further.

This being December, my natural inclination is to review the past year's economic and financial developments to help policymakers and investors anticipate what might be coming in 2020. This year is ending on a relatively positive note, especially when compared to the same time last year.

There is hope of a global growth pickup, trade tensions have lessened, and central banks have reaffirmed that they will maintain ultra-low interest rates and continue to provide ample liquidity. Financial volatility

is subdued, and there are reasonable expectations of solid investor returns across many asset classes.

As tempting as it is to dwell on current financial and macroeconomic conditions, doing so risks obfuscating a key element in the outlook for the future. There is a curious contrast between the relative clarity of expectations for the near term and the murkiness and uncertainty that comes when one extends the horizon further - say, to the next five years.

Many countries are facing structural uncertainties that could have far-reaching, systemic implications for markets and the global economy. For example, over the next five years, the European Union will seek to establish a new working relationship with the United Kingdom, while also dealing with the harmful social and political effects of slow, insufficiently inclusive growth. The EU will

have to navigate the perils of a prolonged period of negative interest rates, while also shoring up its economic and financial core. As long as the eurozone's architecture is incomplete, consistent risks of instability will remain.

Moreover, in the years ahead, the US, having notably outperformed many other economies, will decide whether to continue disengaging from the rest of the world - a process that is at odds with its historic position at the centre of the global economy.

Or consider China's development process. With the global economy acting more as a drag on growth than a boon to it, China may confront the risk that it has overplayed its hand. Heavy reliance on short-term stimulus measures is increasingly inconsistent with pursuing the longer-term reforms that it needs, and its geopolitical ambitions and region-

al economic and financial commitments (including the Belt and Road Initiative) are becoming costlier. Most important, in the next five years, China and the US, the world's two largest national economies, will have to navigate an increasingly narrow path as they try to secure their own interests while avoiding an outright confrontation.

Such fluidity clouds the economic, financial, institutional, political, and/or social outlook for other countries. Today's macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties will amplify those fuelled by technological disruptions, climate change, and demographics. And they will raise questions about the functioning and resilience of the global economy and markets.

This degree of uncertainty is particularly notable in the multi-decade context of globalisation. In recent years, the stability that comes with broad-based adherence to the rules-based international order has been considerably weakened, as has the power of central banks to repress financial volatility and buy time for the real economy.

Left unmanaged, these medium-term structural trends would set the stage for greater political and social fragmentation, and raise the spectre of secular de-globalisation. If there is one thing that neither the global economy nor markets are wired for, it is a prolonged and deepening rupture in cross-border economic and financial relations. Were such a new paradigm to materialise, today's trade, investment, and currency tensions would intensify and spill over to the realm of national security and geopolitics.

Bad outcomes are not inevitable (at least not yet). They could still be averted

through the sustained implementation of policies to promote stronger, more inclusive growth; restore genuine financial stability; and usher in a fairer, more credible (while still free) system of international trade, investment, and policy coordination.

But much will depend on the functioning of politics in the near term. Going into 2020, politicians have a favourable runway from which to launch the policies needed to extend the positive short-term outlook into the medium and long term. Worries about global recession have receded, financial conditions are ultra-accommodating, and US-China trade tensions have de-escalated. But these auspicious circumstances will not last forever.

Unfortunately, a policy push that could improve and clarify the medium-term outlook is unlikely. The US is entering a tense and divisive election year. Germany, Italy, and Spain are in the midst of difficult political transitions. The EU is dealing with Brexit and other regional divisions. And China's government is trying to consolidate power in the face of slowing growth and continuing protests in Hong Kong. The main worry - one that too few market participants have spotted - is that over the next five years, global economic and market conditions may need to deteriorate nearer to crisis levels before national, regional, and multilateral political systems muster an adequate response.

Fortunately, we are now in a period when action could be taken to prevent the worst-case scenario from becoming a binding reality. Let us hope that I'm wrong about today's political paralysis. As long as there is still time, there is a chance that policymakers will follow the advice offered by then-IMF managing director Christine Lagarde in October 2017: "Fix the roof while the sun is shining."

## Global recognition 'opens doors' for peasant groups, right to land

By Carey L. Biron

Across the globe, rural workers and rights groups are testing an international agreement they say could help hundreds of millions of people protect their right to own and use land.

In Ukraine this month, land rights advocates sought to use the legal tool, known as the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, to push back on a major planned liberalisation of farmland they say would leave millions vulnerable.

In Colombia, activists say it could be used to nurture the country's continued transition from half a century of civil war.

And as the European Union discusses its Common Agricultural Policy, some say the agreement could help bend governments' priorities away from market forces and toward those whose livelihoods are linked to land.

On Tuesday, rights groups marked the one-year anniversary of the agreement's adoption at the United Nations, which for the first time recognised the rights of rural groups at the international level and acknowledging them as needing special protections.

"That recognition is very important - it's the start of everything," said Ramona Dumnicioiu, a Romanian farmer and



regional coordinator for La Via Campesina, a movement representing about 200 million farmers and others, and a key backer of the declaration.

The declaration seeks to protect rural populations from potential rights violations such as forcible evictions, land degradation and displacement. It also covers issues like land discrimination and the legal recognition of customary land tenure rights.

The agreement has given traditionally marginalised smallholders, fishing communities and other rural workers a powerful new way to force conversations with officials, Dumnicioiu said.

"It opens doors," she said

by phone from her farm in Transylvania, Romania.

"Now we have something to talk about with governments that was achieved at the highest levels in the U.N. and (that) we want to bring home."

The declaration, which was adopted in December last year by 121 countries - a majority of U.N. members - is voluntary and needs to be translated into numerous national laws to be formally implemented.

No country has done that so far, but backers say the agreement is a key step in the emergence of a new idea: a human right to land.

The agreement makes an explicit reference to a "right to land", making it the first

major U.N. declaration to do so, said Kaitlin Y. Cordes, head of the land and agriculture programme at Columbia University's Center on Sustainable Investment.

"There has been growing momentum to recognise a human right to land within the international human rights sphere," she said, describing the declaration's inclusion as "groundbreaking".

To take the idea further and formally establish such a right universally would create legal obligations for governments as well as new opportunities for justice for those whose land rights have been violated, she said.

While land and property

rights exist in all countries to some degree, the agreement's supporters say a human right to land would supersede those national laws and create new forms of accountability - eventually guiding national legislation, too.

The idea of a human right to land also would require governments and other authorities to shift how they see the purpose of land, moving it away from a purely economic model, said Annette Schramm at the University of Tubingen in Germany.

"To see land as a right means it's something that local communities use for their own livelihood, and not just ... a commodity that needs to be used in the most efficient way," said Schramm, a peace and conflict expert.

She said the idea gained traction a decade ago amid a global land rush when multinational corporations were buying up or leasing large tracts for agricultural production, often with devastating effects on local populations.

Nearly 50 million hectares (about 123 million acres) of land have been transacted in large-scale deals since that time, according to the Land Matrix database, a project established in 2009 by the International Land Coalition.

Schramm has studied the issue in several countries including Sierra Leone, where she said a 2011 deal saw almost an entire chiefdom

converted into a palm oil plantation stretching more than 12,000 hectares (30,000 acres).

The acquired land included dozens of villages that were home to 25,000 people - with locals saying they never agreed to the deal, Schramm noted.

The company behind the land purchase, international agro-investor Socfin, said in April that it had gone through "a lengthy process of consultation with the communities, resulting in an overall acceptance and support to the project".

The company added that some in the community "decided not to adhere to the project and kept their land".

Schramm said a human right to land could have helped empower those communities to fight the deal.

The creation of a formal right, she said, "could play a role in that only the investments that are good for locals could go through."

"WALK THE WALK" Establishing a formal human right to land would require the far more stringent process of creating a treaty that would then need to be ratified by each government, explained Cordes of the Center on Sustainable Investment.

But even without being codified in law the declaration is already being used to interpret other existing, enforceable international agreements, said Olivier de Schutter, co-chair of the In-

ternational Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems.

In a November online video message, he noted that this summer the U.N. Human Rights Committee had used the declaration to provide an interpretation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

This example showed how "human rights bodies could in the future seek inspiration in the declaration to give more weight to peasant rights," De Schutter said.

That is Elizabeth Mpofu's goal, too.

Mpofu is a small-scale farmer in Zimbabwe who said she benefited from a land reform programme launched in 2000 that redistributed about 8 million hectares (more than 19 million acres) from large-scale commercial farms.

But there is more to do to complete the process of agrarian reform, said Mpofu, who chairs the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum and is general coordinator for La Via Campesina.

She is now working with local groups to see whether the U.N. declaration can be used to convince the government to provide smallholders with access to finance, help with marketing their crops and other resources.

"Our government supported the declaration," Mpofu said in emailed comments, "so, it is time for them to walk the (walk) and provide a path forward for rural families".



# The real reason some people become addicted to drugs

By Mike Robinson

Why do they do it? This is a question that friends and families often ask of those who are addicted.

It's difficult to explain how drug addiction develops over time. To many, it looks like the constant search for pleasure. But the pleasure derived from opioids like heroin or stimulants like cocaine declines with repeated use. What's more, some addictive drugs, like nicotine, fail to produce any noticeable euphoria in regular users.

So what does explain the persistence of addiction? As an addiction researcher for the past 15 years, I look to the brain to understand how recreational use becomes compulsive, prompting people like you and me to make bad choices.

## Myths about addiction

There are two popular explanations for addiction, neither of which holds up to scrutiny.

The first is that compulsive drug taking is a bad habit - one that addicts just need to "kick."

However, to the brain, a habit is nothing more than our ability to carry out repetitive tasks - like tying our shoelaces or brushing our teeth - more and more efficiently. People don't typically get caught up in an endless and compulsive cycle of shoelace tying.

Another theory claims that overcoming withdrawal is too tough for many addicts. Withdrawal, the

highly unpleasant feeling that occurs when the drug leaves your body, can include sweats, chills, anxiety and heart palpitations. For certain drugs, such as alcohol, withdrawal comes with a risk of death if not properly managed.

The painful symptoms of withdrawal are frequently cited as the reason addiction seems inescapable. However, even for heroin, withdrawal symptoms mostly subside after about two weeks. Plus, many addictive drugs produce varying and sometimes only mild withdrawal symptoms.

This is not to say that pleasure, habits or withdrawal are not involved in addiction. But we must ask whether they are necessary components of addiction - or whether addiction

would persist even in their absence.

## Pleasure versus desire

In the 1980s, researchers made a surprising discovery. Food, sex and drugs all appeared to cause dopamine to be released in certain areas of the brain, such as the nucleus accumbens.

This suggested to many in the scientific community that these areas were the brain's pleasure centers and that dopamine was our own internal pleasure neurotransmitter. However, this idea has since been debunked. The brain does have pleasure centers, but they are not modulated by dopamine.

So what's going on? It turns out that, in the brain, "liking" something and "wanting"

something are two separate psychological experiences. "Liking" refers to the spontaneous delight one might experience eating a chocolate chip cookie. "Wanting" is our grumbling desire when we eye the plate of cookies in the center of the table during a meeting.

Dopamine is responsible for "wanting" - not for "liking." For example, in one study, researchers observed rats that could not produce dopamine in their brains. These rats lost the urge to eat but still had pleasurable facial reactions when food was placed in their mouths.

All drugs of abuse trigger a surge of dopamine - a rush of "wanting" - in the brain. This makes us crave more drugs. With repeated drug use, the

"wanting" grows, while our "liking" of the drug appears to stagnate or even decrease, a phenomenon known as tolerance.

In my own research, we looked at a small subregion of the amygdala, an almond-shaped brain structure best known for its role in fear and emotion. We found that activating this area makes rats more likely to show addictive-like behaviors: narrowing their focus, rapidly escalating their cocaine intake and even compulsively nibbling at a cocaine port. This subregion may be involved in excessive "wanting," in humans, too, influencing us to make risky choices.

## Involuntary addicts

The recent opioid epidem-

ic has produced what we might call "involuntary" addicts. Opioids - such as oxycodone, percocet, vicodin or fentanyl - are very effective at managing otherwise intractable pain. Yet they also produce surges in dopamine release.

Most individuals begin taking prescription opioids not for pleasure but rather from a need to manage their pain, often on the recommendation of a doctor. Any pleasure they may experience is rooted in the relief from pain.

However, over time, users tend to develop a tolerance. The drug becomes less and less effective, and they need larger doses of the drug to control pain. This exposes people to large surges of dopamine in the brain. As the pain subsides, they find themselves inexplicably hooked on a drug and compelled to take more.

The result of this regular intake of large amounts of drug is a hyperreactive "wanting" system. A sensitized "wanting" system triggers intense bouts of craving whenever in the presence of the drug or exposed to drug cues. These cues can include drug paraphernalia, negative emotions such as stress or even specific people and places. Drug cues are one of an addict's biggest challenges.

These changes in the brain can be long-lasting, if not permanent. Some individuals seem to be more likely to undergo these changes. Research suggests that genetic factors may predispose certain individuals, which explains why a family history of addiction leads to increased risk.

Early life stressors, such as childhood adversity or physical abuse, also seem to put people at more risk.

## Addiction and choice

Many of us regularly indulge in drugs of abuse, such as alcohol or nicotine. We may even occasionally overindulge. But, in most cases, this doesn't qualify as addiction. This is, in part, because we manage to regain balance and choose alternative rewards like spending time with family or enjoyable drug-free hobbies.

However, for those susceptible to excessive "wanting," it may be difficult to maintain that balance. Once researchers figure out what makes an individual susceptible to developing a hyperreactive "wanting" system, we can help doctors better manage the risk of exposing a patient to drugs with such potent addictive potential.

In the meantime, many of us should reframe how we think about addiction. Our lack of understanding of what predicts the risk of addiction means that it could just as easily have affected you or me. In many cases, the individual suffering from addiction doesn't lack the willpower to quit drugs. They know and see the pain and suffering that it creates around them. Addiction simply creates a craving that's often stronger than any one person could overcome alone.

That's why people battling addiction deserve our support and compassion, rather than the distrust and exclusion that our society too often provides.

By Roberto Savio

In a world shaken by so many problems, it is difficult to look at 2020 and not make some kind of holistic analysis. While enormous progress has been made on many fronts, it is clear that the tide has turned, and we are now entering - or have already entered - a new low point in the history of humankind.

Today, we face an unprecedented existential threat brought about by the climate crisis. According to scientists, we have until 2030 to stop climate change, after which human conditions will be under several threats. Yet, we have just had a world conference in Madrid on climate change, which ended in nothing. Not only that, but since the beginning of the last decade, there has been a singular change of the relations of politicians with climate. Climate has become not a scientific but a political issue, with a number of politicians of not minor weight, like Donald Trump, Jair Bolsonaro, Viktor Orban, Matteo Salvini and Vladimir Putin arguing that there is no climate crisis. Some of them, like Australia prime minister Scott Morrison, take holidays in Hawaii even as fires have destroyed an area large as Belgium.

Since the end of the last decade, we have seen also another change in a vital environment: democracy. With the fall of Berlin Wall in 1989, everybody was told that the threat of communism had now gone. As Francis Fukuyama famously wrote, it was the end of history. Capitalism and market would unify the world, and lift all boats, it was said at the time.



## Reflections for a New Year



Then came the big financial crisis of 2008-2009 which cost governments (and therefore people) 12 trillion dollars and it became clear that only some boats were being lifted. Budget trimmings affected especially welfare, education and health, while at the same time some people were becoming fabulously rich. World debt doubled, (it now stands at 325 trillion dollars), and suddenly nationalistic, xenophobic and right-wing parties sprouted everywhere. Before the crisis of 2009, there was only one, in France. Even Nordic countries, long-time symbol of civism and tolerance saw the arrival of extreme right-wing governments.

The thirty years between the fall of Berlin Wall and the financial crisis, left a culture of competition, individualism and loss of values - a culture of greed. And the ten years between that crisis of and our incoming decade saw the rise of a culture of fear. Immigration became the catalyst we were being invaded, Islam was not compatible with our society, our jobs were being

stolen, crime and drugs were coming in and the same leaders who do not believe in climate change became the guardians of Christianity, enacting restrictive laws to the applause of citizens, regardless of human rights. In the last two decades, trade unions have become irrelevant, and laws have been introduced that support the making of jobs precarious and reductions in social protection. People started having fear, looking at the uncertain future of their children.

Historians affirm that the two main engines of change in history are greed and fear. We enter the decade of the 2020s with both. Worse, many analysts believe we do so with hate.

The fact is that two flags that were thought had been discarded by history are making a comeback.

One is the flag 'in the name of God'. We think of ISIS and Al Qaeda, but this is the basis of the image of Putin, Orban, Trump, Bolsonaro and Salvini. The use of religion by the right wing has been able to rally the poor.

Theologian Juan José Tamayo has called politicians with bible in hand the Christo-neo-fascist alliance. In the last elections in Costa Rica, evangelical pastor Fabricio Alvarado won with a campaign based on the defence of Christian values and neoliberalism, against abortion and the paganism coming from Europe. This is precisely the electoral theme of Orban in Hungary, Kacynsky in Poland and Putin in Russia.

In Brazil, the evangelical church was vital in getting Bolsonaro elected. In El Salvador, the new president Nayib Bukele asked an extreme right-wing evangelical pastor to offer a prayer during his inaugural ceremony, and there is a draft law that would make the Bible compulsory reading in all schools. You will all remember how, after the overthrow of Eva Morales by the army, the new president of Bolivia Jeanine Áñez and her supporters went around with a bible in their hands at all ceremonies.

And let us not forget that

Trump was elected because of the support of the evangelical church, which has 40 million faithful. He moved the US embassy to Jerusalem to get their support. Evangelicals believe that when Israel will recover all the territory of the biblical time, Christ will come to earth for a second time, and they will be the only ones that will be rewarded. The other country which moved its embassy to Jerusalem, Guatemala, was also the result of the move of an evangelical president.

Theologian Tamayo speaks of an international of hate: hate against gender equality, against LGTBs, against abortion, against immigrants. Those who propagate hate defend reinforcement of the patriarchal family, the submission of women, they despise what is not traditional, they mistrust science and statistics, they deny climate change, and they hate Muslims, Jews and blacks. What is being totally ignored in all this is the problem of social inequalities, the growing economic gap for reasons of ethnicity, culture, gender, social class, sexual identity, and so on.

Tamayo observes that this is becoming a new international movement, which is now coming to Europe, as the recent Spanish elections show. Vox, the extreme right-wing party, created just four years ago, now has 52 seats in the Parliament, and is the third largest party, like AfD in Germany. The party of Italy's Salvini, with his rosary beads, has become the number one party, and he could become prime minister at any moment. And we know well of the very large conservative front against the Pope in the Catholic Church which also wants to save

traditions, is against LGTBs, is for a patriarchal family, etc., etc. All this is about using religion, fear and hate for political gains.

And what about the flag 'in the name of the nation'? Well, the best example is Benjamin Netanyahu who has passed a law which makes being a Jew the requisite for Israeli citizenship. This is how Narendra Modi in India is trying to deprive Muslims (170 million) of Indian citizenship; it is how the government in Myanmar is treating over one million Rohingyas. Those cases join religion with the fight against minorities and different religions in the name of the nation. China has now launched a campaign for a Chinese dream (also persecuting Uighur Muslim minorities). This is exactly the same strategy as that of Trump, who calls for the American dream. The United States has no allies, and anybody who makes money in trade with the United States is an adversary, be it Canada or Germany. "America First", which in fact means "America Alone".

So, the flags "in the name of God" and "in the name of the Nation" frequently overlap. Italian political scientist and economist Riccardo Petrella observes that in recent decades, a third flag has appeared with a large audience: 'in the name of money', and also that in the last two decades corruption has become another universal countervalue.

In its last report, Transparency International, the organisation which fights and denounces corruption, analyses how corruption is weakening democracy. Freedom House, a conservative US foundation, found that since 2006, 113 coun-

tries have seen a net decline in their freedom score, while only 62 have seen some improvement. The Economist says that democracy was stagnating in 2018, after three consecutive years of deterioration. Of the 62 countries which transitioned from authoritarian rule to some form of democracy, in the last quarter of the 20th century, half of them have seen their level of democracy stagnate or even falter. Transparency international highlights that while fight against corruption is high on the populists' platform, when in power they tend to weaken democratic institutions, and engage into corruption like their predecessors. It cites the cases of various countries, from Guatemala to Turkey, from the United States to Poland and Hungary. When corruption seeps into the democratic system it corrupts leaders. Economic corruption has increased in the last forty years, after the "greed is good" campaign, as the market has substituted man as the centre of society. It reaches the entire public sector, besides obviously the private sector.

Two-thirds of humankind now have no trust in police and other public services, because they are considered corrupt, and they believe that corruption is so diffuse that it cannot be eliminated.

We have become accustomed to hearing about corruption in the last two decades, because it is in the news every day. We have slowly become trained to look at natural things that are at all no natural: a good sign of the extent to which we have lost a moral compass.

If you ask children today if wars and poverty are natural, they will probably answer yes. And, as adolescents, they will also probably consider corruption as natural.



# Cross-continent networking to improve African climate models

By Leonie Joubert

**T**HE computer models which scientists use to project future shifts in climate have mainly been developed by scientists outside of Africa.

Scientists therefore have limited understanding of how these tools represent the conditions that are unique to different regions on the African continent.

A new network of climate scientists in Africa and the United Kingdom hopes to address this, by fast-tracking model development which will improve the understanding of how these tools represent climate processes in African regions. These researchers will collaborate through the Climate Model Evaluation Hub for Africa.

The ultimate goal of this work is to give policy makers in Africa improved climate information, which can better support them in their regions in order to respond to changing climatic conditions resulting from human-driven carbon emissions and rising global temperatures.

According to Dr Rachel James, researcher at Oxford University's School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE), the Climate Model Evaluation Hub for Africa is 'people-centred' and aims to connect African experts in weather and climate, with climate modelling centres internationally. The collaboration will allow them to work together to test how the digital simulation models represent African climate.

The first phase of the initiative, called LaunchPAD (Priority on African Diagnostics), is underway. This will allow scientists to develop climate model evaluation tools, which can be automated across the newest generation of climate models, quickly providing more information about how models represent African regions.



The evaluation analysis is being done by ten early-career researchers, and all regarded as emerging leaders in climate science. They are based at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, the University of Cape Town in South Africa, the University of Nairobi in Kenya, and the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon. These researchers are working with a leadership team across these four African universities, SoGE, and the Met Of-

ice in the United Kingdom, as well as a researcher and software engineer in Oxford.

The idea of creating this network to help improve climate model analysis for Africa was led by Dr Cath Senior at the Met Office, and emerged after a few years of conceptualising the initiative, explains Dr Rachel James, who is the Co-Investigator and coordination lead for LaunchPAD. This evolved from collaborative work under the IMPALA research consortium that is part of Future

Climate for Africa (FCFA).

Part of the FCFA work has allowed researchers in African universities and in the UK to improve understanding of how these models represent the forces driving climate over Africa. For instance, by comparing observed data from weather stations and satellites in East Africa with existing climate models, Dr Joseph Mutemi at the University of Nairobi has showed that during East African short rain season, the

modelled winds over the Indian Ocean were flowing in the wrong direction. This provides a clue for those working to improve the model.

LaunchPAD is funding further work in this area. This process of model evaluation is based on climate model experiments which have been run by climate modelling centres worldwide to represent present day conditions. Data from these experiments are available online, researchers compare the different grid outputs from the models with what is happening in the 'real world', using observations from weather stations and satellites.

Another example of model evaluation that is already underway is the work of Malagasy oceanographer Dr Rondro Barimalala. Barimalala is one of the hub's early career researchers, who is also part of the FCFA team based at the University of Cape Town. She is helping refine the models by testing them to see how much the profile of Madagascar impacts on cloud and storm formation over the subcontinent, linked with air movement from the Indian Ocean.

Barimalala's skills in model refinement have opened up the opportunity for her to join the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as part of its panel of scientists who are compiling the next global summary on the state of climate science. This will be published in 2022 in the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report. She is a lead author on the section of the report, which uses climate modelling processes to better understand the human causes of climate change.

In LaunchPAD, Barimalala will develop her analysis of the Mozambique Channel Trough into an evaluation tool, which is automated to run across many different climate models. This will give more information about how different models represent this part of the world. The results will be available online, including on the LaunchPAD website.

The Climate Model Evaluation Hub is designed to be a longer-term initiative. As this short first phase of funding approaches its end in August 2020, the team will host a workshop with the wider African climate science community to create a strategy for the next phase of the hub.

## Child surgery deaths in Kenya '100 times higher' than US

By Stephanie Achieng'

**T**HE death rate of children within 24 hours of undergoing surgery is about 100 times higher in Kenya compared to those in high-income countries, a study says.

Researchers say that in many low- and middle-income countries, about 85 per cent of children will need surgery before reaching their 15th birthday but there is limited data on deaths resulting from surgery in hospitals prior to their discharge.

According to the study published in the December 2019 issue of *Anesthesiology*, researchers collected information on the deaths of children admitted to 24 Kenyan hospitals for operations, and followed them for up to seven days while the children remained in hospital.

"The study shows that perioperative mortality rate [deaths from surgeries that occur prior to hospital discharge] for children is around one per cent [in 24 hours] which is 100-200 times higher than in high-resourced countries such as in the United States," says Mark W. Newton, the study's lead author and a paediatric anaesthesiologist at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in the United States. "A surgeon wears gloves to avoid infection. We now need to say that to save lives, the surgical team must use the checklist."

Susane Nabalindo Masakhwe, Kenyatta National Referral Hospital

He said mortality rates were higher in primary hospitals compared to secondary and tertiary hospitals, which tend to treat people with more severe medical problems that require specialised knowledge.

From January 2014 to December 2016, researchers collected data on 6,005 surgery cases involving children from birth up to 18 years old. Researchers looked at surgery-related deaths within 24 hours, 48 hours and seven days of the children undergoing surgery.

Around one per cent died within 48 hours and almost two per cent died within seven days, the study says. Failing to perform a safe surgery checklist was linked to increased seven-day periop-

erative death rates.

Newton tells *SciDev.Net*: "Using the WHO safe surgery checklist will directly save lives of children who have surgery."

The checklist has information on how the surgical team should interact with patients prior to and immediately after surgery. For example, it includes a need for the surgical team to confirm patients' identities, review surgical plans, record the procedures and discuss recovery plans.

Susane Nabalindo Masakhwe, a co-author and a consultant anaesthesiologist at the Kenyatta National Referral Hospital in Kenya, says: "Most hospitals in Africa do not use the checklist. We must advocate and even demand that the checklist is used before each case."

"A surgeon wears gloves to avoid infection. We now need to say that to save lives, the surgical team must use the checklist," she says.

checklist

The researchers say that the study may be helpful in establishing paediatric surgical care systems in low-middle income countries and develop research pathways addressing interventions that will assist in decreasing mortality rate.

Zipporah Wangui Ngumi, another co-author of the study, an anaesthetist and an associate professor at the University of Nairobi's College of Health Science in Kenya, says: "In Africa we do not have enough trained paediatric anaesthesiologists, consultants specialising in caring for children during surgery. There is a need for baseline data so that we can now have targets to improve over the next ten years."

Joel Lesan, a Kenya-based consultant paediatric surgeon, tells *SciDev.Net* that the study raises a fundamental problem in the region that needs to be looked into urgently. "Perioperative mortality in paediatrics in low-income countries is high and reasons for the high mortality include [lack of] finances, facilities and awareness at society level, and limitation of skills," he explains. "The way forward is to continuously aim at improving on the available services... and awareness at society level."



Kathleen Alexander, professor of fish and wildlife conservation and founder of the Centre for Conservation of African Resources: Animals, Communities, and Land Use, and College of Natural Resources and Environment graduate student Carol Anne Nichols are seen conducting a water quality study on the Chobe River in Botswana.

## Researchers develop predictive tools to tackle childhood diarrheal disease outbreaks

By Kendall Daniels

**I**N 2006, more than 400 children under the age of 5 died during an outbreak of diarrheal disease in Botswana. In what was a 25-fold increase in diarrheal disease mortality for this age group, citizens of the country were devastated.

For 10 years, Kathy Alexander, a professor of fish and wildlife conservation in the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech and the founder of Conservation of African Resources: Animals, Communities, and Land Use (CARACAL), has been researching similar diarrheal disease outbreaks at a national level to determine if there are correlations between certain atmospheric conditions, local environmental variables, and diarrhea rates in the Chobe District of Botswana.

With the help of Jeffrey Shaman, of Columbia University, and Alexandra Heaney, of the University of California Berkeley, Alexander discovered an astonishing and robust link between environmental change and environmental dynamics, which ties human health to the health of the ecosystem. With this knowl-

edge, researchers will be able to predict when diarrheal disease will reoccur.

Their findings were recently published in *Nature Communications*.

When observing previous studies in Botswana, Alexander learned that certain weather conditions coincided with diarrheal disease rates in Africa, but results were only limited to cholera, an infectious disease caused by *Vibrio cholerae*. And in Botswana, under-5 diarrheal disease is caused by a host of pathogens—Shigella, Salmonella, Cryptosporidium, Giardia lamblia, rotavirus, and norovirus. Accordingly, Alexander's research focused on the environmental linkages between diarrheal disease and these pathogens that are pertinent to the region.

For their study, Alexander and her collaborators looked to the Chobe District, which is home to the Chobe River, the only permanent surface water that can be found in 12,000 square kilometers. Notably, it is also the only source of drinking water for eight villages, making it a vital location for diarrheal studies.

Over 10 years, there were around 11,000 cases of diarrheal

in children under 5-years-old in the Chobe District. With case reports peaking annually in the wet season and again in the dry season, researchers were able to determine that certain hydro-meteorological conditions were directly responsible for these outbreaks.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is an ocean-atmosphere system that causes temperature and precipitation fluctuations across the world. El Niño and La Niña are the two extremes of ENSO conditions, which alternate every three to seven years.

During La Niña, researchers found that the combination of cooler conditions and above-average rainfall contributed to increased flooding, which, in turn, increased the concentrations of organic material and diarrheal-causing pathogens within the Chobe River.

El Niño conditions had the opposite effect on the climate and precipitation of the region. With warmer conditions and lower river levels, researchers noticed that there was a unique connection to be made with sediment and the dominant animals of the region—elephants.

In a previous paper, Alexan-

der had concluded that Chobe's elephant populations, which happen to be the highest in the world, compress along river fronts to access the only surface water within 12,000 square kilometers, the Chobe River. With such a large density of wildlife, sediment and fecal matter are carried downstream, toward the district's water treatment plants.

"If you have dirt in your water, you can't kill your bacteria. It hides in the dirt. In one day, you can have a flux of over 50 percent change in sediment levels. Couple that with poor water infrastructure and unreliable electricity going to the water pumps, and the water sits in the water pipes. And then bacteria grow in those water pipes. So, you can see, it's not usually just one thing. It's like a whole house of cards," said Alexander.

Overall, Alexander sees a long journey ahead. With its many facets, conquering childhood diarrheal disease is not an easy task. Although Botswana has the necessary infrastructure, advanced technology, and knowledge about water-borne pathogens, the country is still hit hard by diarrheal disease biannually. One of the first steps of disease eradi-

cation involves spreading awareness and realigning cultural and social perceptions, which can turn the tide significantly.

"Diarrhea is not a big, complicated issue," Alexander explained. "But it is, in so many ways, when you're trying to integrate cultural limitations and people's perceptions of what they need to do and what they should do, with infrastructure and what you have and what you don't have. If you've got five doctors and 20,000 people, how much can you do? What are the tools that you can use in those environments? That's what we are really working toward trying to figure out."

Alexander is an advocate of "One Health," a concept that recognizes that human health is directly proportional to the health of the environment and its creatures. One Health takes a bottom-up approach and puts education at the forefront. In fact, 12 schools within the Chobe District are taking part in a program that teaches them to take care of their environment and, ultimately, themselves.



# Corruption could undermine the integrity of SA's legal profession

By Omphemetse S Sibanda

If perpetrators of corruption are not held accountable and they continue to act with impunity, South Africa will soon be joining the ranks of countries like Somalia and Syria, which have the worst human rights records. It was pleasing to me as an ordinary citizen to read in November 2019 the writing by Peter Hain, who said, "While the NPA begins rolling out prosecutions over State Capture, it is worth looking at ways to recover stolen loot to help plug the huge gap in public finances created by corruption".

The UN General Assembly's Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of 2015 requires states to "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms" by 2030. Let me state from the outset that the UN here espouses what may be regarded as a human rights-based approach to corruption, which as noted by Cecily Rose has its limitations [See Rose, The Limitations of a Human Rights Approach to Corruption, 65 International and Comparative Law Quarterly (2016) 405, at 417].

South Africa is a classic example of how corruption and other corrupt activities impede the achievement of human development and the promotion of human rights in general. Such corrupt activities are at the centre of the consistent lower ranking of South Africa on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. If perpetrators of corruption are not held accountable and continue to act with impunity, South Africa will soon be joining the ranks of countries like Somalia and Syria with the worst human rights record.

In addition to the view by Hain, legal practitioners must also be held accountable for their corruption and corrupt activities in the same way we need to have global banks, and corporates being held accountable. First, just like the judiciary, which must be held accountable, legal practitioners play a major role in society. Second, as a society, we expect legal practitioners to be immune to corruption. Third, reports over the years, including revelations relating to State Capture, suggests that legal practice corruption and money-laundering may be a significant problem in South Africa. Legal practice may wittingly or unwittingly have contributed to State Capture. Fourth, corruption

takes many forms and nuances within a legal practice. Client-lawyer privilege can be abused by legal practitioners as a cloak to perpetrate corruption. So too are trust accounts used by legal practitioners to launder corruptly received money.

As noted by Hamman and Koen [Cave Pecuniam: Lawyers as Launderers 2012 Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal 69], "the attorney's trust account, which was conceived as the beacon of unblemished lawyering integrity, becomes the vehicle of squalid criminality". Legal practitioners acting as intermediaries in government business provide a fertile ground for corruption. Outsourcing of legal briefs makes it easy for corrupt practices to fester. Generally, the receiving of gifts, palm greasing, the granting of favours, and other actions by or involving legal practitioners can create the appearance of corruption.

The need for accountability, a commitment to fighting corruption and integrity of the legal practise in South Africa can never be over-emphasised. The four core principles that guide legal practice and accountability are: professional integrity, independence, client-lawyer confidentiality and avoidance of conflicts of interest. Legal practitioners should know and/or ought to know that corruption and related activities risk undermining the integrity of the legal profession.

Yet there is no shortage of reports and many instances of corruption and/or related acts of criminality and misconduct by legal practitioners. Consider, for example, media headlines such as: "State Capture: Top law firm linked to Transnet 'bribery' scandal". Some legal practitioners and legal scholars may want to insist that criminal wrongdoings in their profession are not rare. The irrefutable reality is that what was once called a noble profession is no longer as innocent and noble as we would like it to be known for.

Indications are that the legal profession has lost some parts of its ethical and moral compass. The thinking is now prominently about financial gain and wealth. Law and justice are no longer a key consideration for some legal practitioners. Put simply, the articulation by legal practitioners of law, justice, due process, social justice, ethics, accountability and integrity of the legal practice is steadily diminishing.

A typical example is a case heard in the High Court in



Grahamstown, that involved a claim by one Zama Mfengwana against the Road Accident Fund [See Mfengwana v Road Accident Fund (1753/2015) [2016] ZAECGHC 159; 2017 (5) SA 445 (ECG) (15 December 2016)]. In this case, the contingency fee agreement between Mfengwana and the attorney was found to be unconscionable and abusive; an over-reaching agreement by the attorney. Reading the judgment and the learned judge's observations on the agreement I was reminded of a quotation attributed to Henry Peter Brougham, an English politician who said that, "A lawyer is a learned gentleman who rescues your estate from your enemies and keeps it himself."

In the Mfengwana v Road Accident Fund case, Judge Clive Plasket said: "[27] This is yet another case in which an attorney - an officer of the court who is supposed to act with integrity and comply with the highest ethical standards - is guilty of an attempt to grossly overreach his client or rapacious and unconscionable conduct. Unfortunately, in this jurisdiction, this is a problem that is all too common. That said, however, it seems to me that the problems in relation to contingency fee agreements that come to the attention of the courts are, in all likelihood, but the tip of the iceberg."

Also important to note is that Plasket noted with concern the prevalence of corruption in the legal practice, and implored the Legal Practice Council (hereinafter LPC) to act accordingly. Having perused the contingency fee agreement, the judge said: "[29] This is all cause for grave concern and, if I am correct, a manifestation of endemic corruption embedded in the attorneys' pro-

fession. For this reason, I intend requesting the Registrar of this court to deliver a copy of this judgment to the Cape Law Society so that it, as custodian of the ethical standards of the profession in the public interest, may consider ways and means of stopping the rot.

"It is the duty of the LPC in terms of section 5(b) of the Legal Practice Act, for instance, to 'ensure that fees charged by legal practitioners for legal services rendered are reasonable and promote access to legal services, thereby enhancing access to justice.' The LPC also has a duty in terms of section 5(g) of the Act to 'determine, enhance and maintain appropriate standards of professional practice and ethical conduct of all legal practitioners and all candidate legal practitioners.'"

In her acceptance speech on 4 February 2018 as the new National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), Shamila Batohi committed the NPA to ensuring accountability for corruption activities. She famously stated: "We in the NPA have important work to do, which includes devoting our efforts to holding accountable those who have corrupted our institutions, who have betrayed the public good and the values of our Constitution for private gain, especially those in the most privileged positions of government and corporate power."

Noteworthy is that Batohi reminded members of the NPA that they are lawyers and that society has lost trust in lawyers, which needs to be restored. The speech was preceded by her media presentation on 1 February 2018 where she proclaimed the following famous warning:

"Perpetrators of corruption and crime within the state and private sector - regardless of who you are, how rich you are and what position you hold - your days of acting with impunity are numbered."

The same hardline message against corruption was carried by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 7 February 2019 State of the Nation Address. The president expressed excitement at the appointment of Batohi as the person who will, "lead the revival of the NPA and to strengthen our fight against crime and corruption".

One hopes that 2020 will be the start of us seeing the fruits of having revived the NPA and having initiated the many commissions on cor-

ruption, maladministration and mismanagement. Institutions like the NPA must shift their gears from less talk and promises to action and consequences. A clear example must be set that we are a society and country committed to zero tolerance of corruption. Law firms and individual legal practitioners who are suspected of corruption must be investigated and prosecuted.

So far, the question relating to what point the revelations at the Zondo Commission should be followed by the NPA has not been fully addressed. But there is no such need because the institution of the commission did not suspend the mandate of the NPA. Furthermore, the prosecutorial activities of those appearing before the commission are not contingent on the outcomes and report of the NPA. The NPA still has its exclusive authority and prosecutorial independence. The paucity of the clear and loud voice of our LPC and law societies against alleged corruption by law firms and legal practitioners is deafening. In my view, the LPC and the different law societies must play a visible role as the primary enforcers of integrity in the legal provision. These institutions must publicly condemn corruption by legal practitioners as an unforgivable act of misconduct that legal practitioners must be held accountable for.

The Legal Practice Act 14 of 2014 seeks among other things to, "ensure the accountability of the legal profession to the public". Relating to processes of both the NPA and the LPC respectively, the allegations of corruption that lead to negative findings against law firms and legal practitioners must be met with appropriate sanctions, and remedies. For example, not only should a law firm be blacklisted for doing work with the government; individuals involved should carry the blacklisting no matter where they go. This would mean that a lawyer who leaves firm A for firm B under the cloud of corruption allegations will extend the blacklisting to firm B. The benefit of this approach is that individuals will not be able to cleanse their corruption shadow by joining new firms or opening new firms.

These two sentences from the preamble of the Code of Professional Ethics adopted by the American Bar Association in 1808, which I regard as resonating with our

legal profession, should be restated by the LPC at every opportunity available: "The future of our republic, to a great extent, depends upon our maintenance of justice pure and unsullied. It cannot be so maintained unless the conduct and motives of the members of our profession are such as to merit the approval of all just men."

Professor Dr Omphemetse S Sibanda is a Professor of Law at the Faculty of Management and Law at the University of Limpopo. He is a former employee of Unisa and worked for Unisa College of Law for 16 years since 2002. He holds a Doctor of Laws (in International Economic Law), studied at the North West University, a Master of Laws from Georgetown University Law Centre, United States; LLB (Hon) and B Juris from the then Vista University, Soweto Campus.

Corruption is a form of dishonesty or criminal offense undertaken by a person or organisation entrusted with a position of authority, to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one's private gain. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. Political corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain. Corruption is most commonplace in kleptocracies, oligarchies, narco-states and mafia states.

Corruption can occur on different scales. Corruption ranges from small favours between a small number of people (petty corruption), to corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption), and corruption that is so prevalent that it is part of the everyday structure of society, including organized crime. Corruption and crime are endemic occurrences which appear with regular frequency in virtually all countries on a global scale in varying degree and proportion. Individual nations each allocate domestic resources for the control and regulation of corruption and crime. Strategies to counter corruption are often summarized under the umbrella term anti-corruption.

Stephen D. Morris,[3] a professor of politics, wrote that political corruption is the illegitimate use of public power to benefit a private

interest. Economist Ian Senior defined corruption as an action to (a) secretly provide (b) a good or a service to a third party (c) so that he or she can influence certain actions which (d) benefit the corrupt, a third party, or both (e) in which the corrupt agent has authority. World Bank economist Daniel Kaufmann, extended the concept to include "legal corruption" in which power is abused within the confines of the law—as those with power often have the ability to make laws for their protection. The effect of corruption in infrastructure is to increase costs and construction time, lower the quality and decrease the benefit.

Corruption can occur on different scales. Corruption ranges from small favours between a small number of people (petty corruption), to corruption that affects the government on a large scale (grand corruption), and corruption that is so prevalent that it is part of the everyday structure of society, including corruption as one of the symptoms of organized crime.

A number of indicators and tools have been developed which can measure different forms of corruption with increasing accuracy.

**Petty corruption**  
Petty corruption occurs at a smaller scale and takes place at the implementation end of public services when public officials meet the public. For example, in many small places such as registration offices, police stations, state licensing boards, and many other private and government sectors.

**Grand corruption**  
Grand corruption is defined as corruption occurring at the highest levels of government in a way that requires significant subversion of the political, legal and economic systems. Such corruption is commonly found in countries with authoritarian or dictatorial governments but also in those without adequate policing of corruption.

The government system in many countries is divided into the legislative, executive and judicial branches in an attempt to provide independent services that are less subject to grand corruption due to their independence from one another. Systemic corruption (or endemic corruption) is corruption which is primarily due to the weaknesses of an organization or process. It can be contrasted with individual officials or agents who act corruptly within the system.

Factors which encourage systemic corruption include conflicting incentives, discretionary powers; monopolistic powers; lack of transparency; low pay; and a culture of impunity. Specific acts of corruption include "bribery, extortion, and embezzlement" in a system where "corruption becomes the rule rather than the exception." Scholars distinguish between centralized and decentralized systemic corruption, depending on which level of state or government corruption takes place; in countries such as the Post-Soviet states both types occur.[16] Some scholars argue that there is a negative duty[clarification needed] of western governments to protect against systemic corruption of underdeveloped governments. [17][18]

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =036=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

WORD FIT

C L A S S   S   N   Y   A

3 letter word: DOR, EWE  
4 letter word: ARTS, SEEK, NEEP, IDEA, LEFT, AERO, ANON, SASH, TYRE  
5 letter word: DREAM, WHEAT, ARENA, SPEED, KENYA, CLASS, OARED, EVADE, CLEAN  
6 letter word: MIDDLE, LITTLE, CLOAKS, STENCH, COWARD  
7 letter word: MAWENZU, ARRIVED  
8 letter word: NAMELESS

CROSSWORD

Clues: Across  
1. Prime minister who resigned in Tanzania (7)  
4. Zambian President who passed away recently (4)  
6. Possession (9)  
10. Founder of Tanzania (7)  
12. Ditches (5)  
13. Founded in Belgrade in 1961 (3)  
14. Sway while moving (6)

Down:  
1. Wilhelmstal during the German colonial rule (7)  
2. Scant (6)  
3. DRC President (6)  
5. Deep lake in Africa (10)  
8. "Geneva of Africa" (6)  
9. Largest country in W. Europe (6)  
11. Prophetic sign (4)  
12. Barrier controlling flow of water (3)

Last issue's Solutions



## BUSINESS

## SUCCESS

## Lindi exceeds revenue collection targets in 2018/19 financial year

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

LINDI Region has exceeded the target of collecting 4.774bn/- from land tax, plots and farms sales in 2018/19 financial year.

This was stated by the Regional Executive Secretary, Rehema Madenge as she presented the revenue collection report for the 2018/19 to Deputy Minister for Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Angeline Mabula, during her visit to the region.

Madenge whose speech was read by Majid Myao, the regional economist said the revenue collections came from Lindi Municipal, Kilwa and Nachingwea councils that exceeded the set targets.

She said during the period, the region was set to collect 2.870bn/- but for the period from July 2018 to June 2019, it was able to collect 4.7bn/- which is equivalent to 166 per cent, while the Ruangwa, Liwale Lindi and Mtama fails to meet the target.

She further noted that Lindi Municipality lead by collecting 2.982bn/- equivalent to 189 per cent,

while the target was collecting 1.580/-, followed by Kilwa which collected 1bn/-.

Nachingwea was set to collect 1bn/- but afforded minimum of 181m/- equivalent to 181 per cent, Liwale collected 95.36m/- when they were supposed to collect 100m/-.

Speaking of land disputes, the Deputy Minister in the ministry of lands, Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Angeline Mabula, said already the region has formed a regional committees to hear and resolve disputes and grievances and compensation claims.

Mabula has called on all councils in the country to make sure that they pay the Central Government taxes.

She said council leads in evasion of central government taxes, despite being owners of various revenue sources, they have had problems with taxation from central government, while citing some of those sources including markets and bus stops.

"They all collect taxes but they have been difficult to submit to the central government its taxes", said Mabula.

## KCB pumps 5bn/- capital into National Bank

NAIROBI

KENYA Commercial Bank KCB Group has made a Sh5 billion capital injection into National Bank of Kenya (NBK), representing the largest such recapitalisation in Kenya's banking history.

The fresh funding for the newly-acquired subsidiary is expected to improve the liquidity of the struggling lender and allow it to mobilise deposits and extend more loans.

The money will also shore up NBK's hitherto inadequate capitalisation and fund its growth during the

first two years when it will operate independently before merging with the country's biggest bank by assets.

Last year, NBK's capital slipped below the statutory 1 billion/- and remained so throughout quarter three of 2019 but the bank will now be compliant with central bank regulations after the injection of the new money.

Previous large industry deals have involved purchases of stakes with the most notable one being the recent 5.1 billion/- Africinvest and Catalyst Principal Partners' payment for a 24 percent stake in Prime Bank.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## Govt to offer free certification services for 3 years for SMEs

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has retaliated to provide free certification services for three years for the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) who have been granted with a mark of quality license under special programme.

This was said over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, by the Director General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Dr Athuman Ngenya, during a ceremony to grant license, tested products, system certification and license extension of 96 manufacturers including 27 SMEs.

Ngenya said the decision was taken to support SMEs so that they become big business men who can help in

industrialization drive initiated by the government few years ago.

"All SMEs who have got their licenses today and other through a programme established by Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) will receive free certification services for three years, he said.

Dr Ngenya, informed stakeholders on opportunities that are available after met standards requirements during production.

He said the organization certify quality of their products for three years without any payment to enable them access local and foreign market.

He noted the government has established the programme to enable SMEs to produce quality goods and expand market of their products.

He urged SMEs and other interested persons to make use of the opportunity especially during this time when the government has been insisting on industrial economy.

"TBS as facilitating institution it helps SMEs to certify their goods free of charge, it is better they do that in order to avoid unnecessary block to access local and abroad markets", said Dr Ngenya.

He said once they certify their goods it would help to produce sustainable products which would be sold any where including Zonal markets such as SADC.

Dr Ngenya explained that TBS aimed at supporting traders to conduct their activities for benefits of Tanzania, without interfering legal affairs.

He also informed manufacturers on the changes of finan-

cial services act of 2019 which has added roles of TBS. The added roles are that of food safety and cosmetics which was earlier conducted by the former TFDA.

Speaking Awumsuri Mongi whose company Vision Control & Superintendence Limited was granted with System Certificate, thanked the TBS for their cooperation.

"It has taken us a year to get this certificate, it would increase trust to our clients and enable us to conduct our business with required standards," he said.

A manufacturer identified as Salem Kaman urged the bureau to conduct extensive education on its functions.

He said many entrepreneurs do not have enough information regarding functions of the certification agencies.

"Most of us feared costs involved in obtaining quality mark license, we do not understand it is provided free of charge by TBS, we urge you to continue educating us on your roles," he said.

He urged officials from TBS to help them in order to reach different markets.

"I urge you to abandon bureaucracy, we need you to serve us for a short time, he said.

The government embarked on harmonization of the roles played by regulatory bodies aimed at addressing the challenges impeding business in the country.

Tanzania's parliament has approved Finance Bill of 2019 which will see harmonization of regulatory bodies' roles which were overlapping or more less the same.

## ASSISTANCE

## AMCOS in Kigoma Region appeal for loans to boost oil palm production

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

A COALITION of 13 Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) in Kigoma Region have asked the government to help them get loans from financial institutions to enable them engage in cultivation of the oil palm at large scale.

The request came after the AMCOS failed to secure loans from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) despite fulfilling the required conditions including opening accounts and depositing money.

Speaking over the weekend here, AMCMOS chairman Hussein Ally said when the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa visited the region last year to promote palm farming he wanted the AMCOS to unite with the farmers and asked the Bank to give them a loan to run their activities but so far no loan was disbursed.

"One of the conditions requested by TADB was to open an account and deposit the money as collateral and we contributed and deposited 10 per cent of the loan we requested, but so far nothing has been done" said Ally. Another challenge, Ally said that



was the availability of the improved oil palm seeds, which is known as

Responding to the challenge of seed shortage, Director General of the Tanzania

Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Dr. Goefrey Mkamillo, praised the AMCOS in response to the Prime Minister's directive and that farmers from the AMCOS will be given

free seedlings since they are well-developed at the institute.

Dr Mkamillo, who is also the Country Coordinator for oil palm crop said the farmers would be given free seedlings that were already produced in the local Councils and from military forces camps were already produced.

He said the first strategy set was to produce improved seeds that were to be given for free to farmers.

"The government's intention is to increase production of the crop hence meet the country's edible oil demands."

Agriculture Officer in Kigoma Regional Secretariat, Joseph Rubuye, said that the order to disburse oil palm seedlings for free has been issued to all councils and urged farmers not to worry about their availability.

Kigoma Regional Administrative Secretary, Rashid Mchatta, in response to the loan crisis, said he would call on AMCOS leaders and the bank to resolve the problem and link them with other financial institutions.

## More women now cushioning families from financial hardships

NAIROBI

WOMEN are contributing more in households due to increased exposure to economic empowerment, cushioning their families from financial hardships.

The findings, in the latest report by a UN agency, indicates women globally are increasingly gaining access to resources earned through income, social protection and asset ownership.

The report by UN Women dubbed Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020 says this has triggered some shifts in the balance of power in homes, giving women greater economic security and weight in decision-making processes.

The report says the increased economic might by women is also helping them cushion their families from financial hardship.

However, the report observes that despite this progress, married women still contribute less in support of family duties.

"Even in developed countries where women's gains have been more sweeping and sustained, those who live with a male partner still generally contribute less than half of the family income and accumulate an even smaller share of its wealth," reads the report.

'Motherhood penalties' in the form of reduced employment rates and a pay-gap between women with and without children are a persistent problem.

Further, single mothers who lack income protection from a second earner, for example, face a much higher risk of poverty compared to two-parent families.

The report, however, also recognises that while overall women's access to economic resources has improved, the distribution of unpaid care work remains largely unequal.

Compared to men, women do three times as much unpaid care and domestic work within families, with particularly stark inequalities in developing-country contexts, where access to time-saving infrastructure and public services is more limited.

On family size, the report notes that more women are voicing their concerns in reproductive matters such as childbearing.

"Women are exercising greater agency and voice in decisions regarding whether and when to have children, and how many. In practical terms, smaller families can be less costly to maintain, and women's care and domestic work burden within them may be smaller."

The findings reveal that in some regions couples may be limiting the number of children they have in response to economic conditions that make childrearing financially challenging or because in the absence of quality long-term care services, they also have older parents to care for.

Women, the report says, may also be

choosing to have fewer children because men still do not do their fair share of unpaid care and domestic work.

All over the world, birth rates are declining, the report notes, although the pace of change varies across regions.

In the past three decades, significant changes have occurred in whether, when and with whom women and men form intimate partnerships.

Delaying marriage, the report observes, has enabled women to complete their education, gain a stronger foothold in the labour market and support themselves financially.

Cohabitation has also been on the rise with some regions registering an increasing number of women opting out of marriage altogether.

"These decisions can arise out of necessity as much as choice when the cost of setting up a family for some couples is too high. It can also reflect women's growing reluctance to enter into partnerships in which they are expected to take on a subordinate role," the report says.

Rising divorce rates, the report notes, has been one of the most visible features of family change in most regions since the 1980s. The liberalisation of divorce laws in some developed countries has led to lower rates of suicide by women, a lower incidence of reported domestic violence and fewer instances of women being murdered by their spouses.



UN report says women globally are increasingly gaining access to resources earned through income, social protection and asset ownership. File photo.



# Alphabet legal head Drummond exits, giving its new CEO chance to shake up team

MADRID

Alphabet's new Chief Executive Sundar Pichai on Friday gained the opportunity to reshape the leadership of Google's parent with the exit of Chief Legal Officer David Drummond, whose outsized strategic role was overshadowed by employee concerns about his personal relationship with a subordinate.

Drummond, also senior vice president of corporate development, had been with Google since its start in 1998. He incorporated the company as outside counsel, winning the business of co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin. He later spent nearly 18 years as the company's top lawyer and one of its few black executives.

Scrutiny centered on Drummond as the board last year investigated the company's handling of sexual misconduct complaints throughout its workforce, and he became a lightning rod for criticism about what some employees viewed as tolerance for poor behavior.

Pichai now has his first big chance to make his mark on Alphabet leadership since Page and Brin left him day-to-day reins of the company last month.

Drummond's last day is Jan. 31, and a replacement has not been decided yet, Alphabet said.

"With Larry and Sergey now leaving their executive roles at Alphabet, the company is entering an exciting new phase, and I believe that it's also the right time

for me to make way for the next generation of leaders," Drummond said in an email to employees shared by Google.

Some employees had questioned Drummond's role at the company after the New York Times in 2018 reported on an extramarital affair he had with subordinate, Jennifer Blakely, starting in 2004. She told the paper that she was effectively forced to transfer teams to comply with Google's workplace dating policy.

Blakely had a son with Drummond, but in August 2019 she publicly criticized him for not providing support. Drummond responded in a statement calling himself "far from perfect." Blakely did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday.

Some shareholders have urged Alphabet to make changes that had been within Drummond's purview, including greater financial transparency, bigger share buybacks and a management shakeup. Alphabet shares have risen 6.5% this month as analysts expressed optimism about possible changes.

In a departure from company norm, Drummond is not receiving an exit pay package. In recent weeks, Drummond sold more than \$200 million worth of his Alphabet shares, leaving him with about \$90 million in company stock.

He remains a defendant, alongside other executives, in a lawsuit shareholders brought last year accusing Alphabet leadership of covering up sexual harassment scandals within the com-



Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt (L) and David Drummond, Google's Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, react before a meeting about the "right to be forgotten" in Madrid. File photo.

pany including by awarding lavish exit packages to two top executives found responsible for misconduct.

"While we are glad to see Mr. Drummond is no longer with Alphabet, we still intend to hold him accountable for fiduciary breaches through our litigation," said Julie Goldsmith Reiser, attorney for the lead plaintiffs.

The board completed an internal investigation last month, but has not publicized findings. The litigation is in mediation, and the board's findings and resulting actions may become known as it goes on.

Pichai in 2018 said Google made mistakes in some cases and introduced new procedures aimed at creating equity and transparency in harassment investigations.

"I am fully committed to

making progress on an issue that has persisted for far too long in our society...and, yes, here at Google, too," said Pichai, who at the time was Google CEO and had not yet gained the additional title of Alphabet CEO.

The #MeToo movement has forced major shake-ups in management and harassment policy across corporate America.

Through blog posts, congressional appearances and media interviews, Drummond's presence was felt in nearly every public battle the company fought as it crippled traditional businesses in media and telecoms on its way to online dominance.

Drummond has described himself as a diversity advocate, telling Fortune in 2017 that he "pushed" the company to do more on the issue.

He encouraged Google to publish data about the demographics of its workforce, and in 2014 he marched into a companywide meeting and spoke alongside colleagues frustrated by police violence against young black men.

When Google re-organized under the Alphabet umbrella in 2015, Page elevated Drummond's role beyond managing the company's legal and regulatory problems to overseeing its investment funds and far-off ventures.

Earlier in his tenure, he beat a lawsuit lodged by insurer Geico that would have undermined the company's now-massive search ads business. He settled with Viacom a copyright infringement lawsuit that could have crushed YouTube on its way to becoming the top online video destination. And he

fended off five major book publishers to enable Google to make their copyrighted works searchable online.

Drummond tussled on behalf of Google with rival Microsoft Corp for a decade on executive poaching, anticompetitive conduct and patents, with each company taking its share of licks.

As Google's lead dealmaker, Drummond oversaw billions of dollars' worth of acquisitions including of YouTube, DoubleClick and Motorola.

Drummond for a time served as the public face of strong stands against governments around the world. He has regularly advocated for freedoms of speech, and in 2010, he called for trade sanctions on countries that censor the internet, such as China and Turkey.

# Amazon boss Bezos to face protests from traders during India trip

NEW DELHI

THOUSANDS of small-scale traders in India are planning to organize protests against Amazon.com Inc founder Jeff Bezos, who will visit the country next week for a company event and potential meetings with government officials.

Bezos will participate in an Amazon event in capital New Delhi aimed at connecting with small and medium-sized enterprises, three sources have said.

He has also sought meetings with the prime minister and other government officials, with conversations expected to center around e-commerce, one of the sources familiar with the matter said.

Details of Bezos' visit, including his arrival date and the duration of his stay are not known.

Amazon did not respond to a request to confirm the visit. The prime minister's office also did not respond to requests for comment.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), a group representing roughly 70 million brick-and-mortar retailers, said it will protest across 300 cities during Bezos' stay in the country.

CAIT has since 2015 waged a battle against online retailers Amazon and Walmart controlled Flipkart, accusing them of deep discounts and flouting India's foreign investment rules.

Both e-tailers have denied the allegations. Amazon has previously said its platform provides business opportunities to thousands of small sellers, artisans, weavers and women entrepreneurs. But CAIT is not convinced.

"We plan to organize peaceful rallies against Jeff Bezos in all major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata as well as smaller towns and cities," Praveen Khandelwal, the group's secretary general said in an interview.

"We expect to mobilize at least 100,000 traders in the protests."

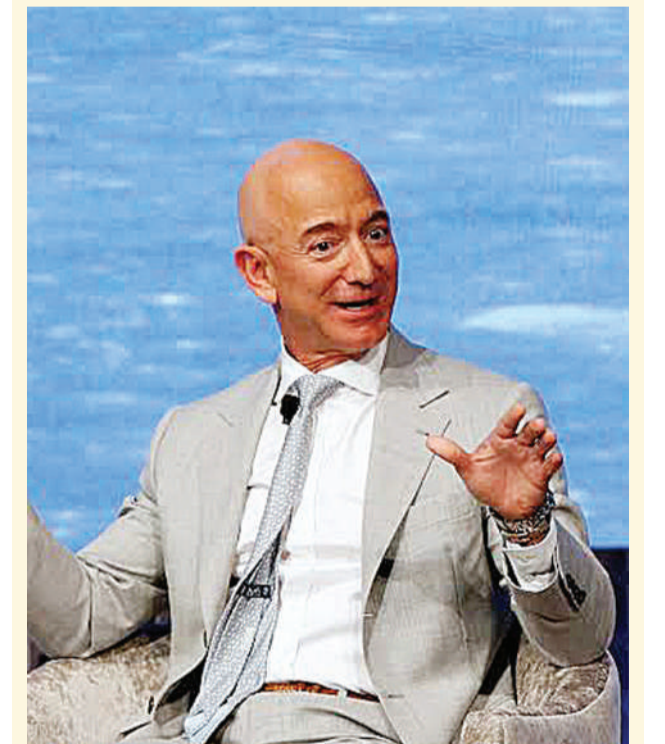
With its 1.3 billion population and the world's second-biggest smartphone user base that relies on cheap data for social media and online shopping, India is a key market for U.S. retailers Amazon and Walmart to grow their business.

Discounts on their platforms have helped lure Indians to shop online for everything from groceries to large electronic devices, a phenomenon which traders say has unfairly hurt their business.

New Delhi introduced rules last year to protect nearly 130 million people dependent on small-scale retail a key voter base by deterring large online discounts.

The rules forced e-commerce firms to change their business structures, drawing criticism from the United States and straining the two countries' trade ties.

The federal commerce ministry is reviewing complaints and evidence filed by CAIT against Flipkart and Amazon, Reuters reported previously.



Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and Blue Origin speaks during the JFK Space Summit, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.

# Embattled Edcon shuts down massive Rosebank Edgars store

JOHANNESBERG

Struggling retailer Edcon has shut the doors of one of its underperforming Edgars stores in Rosebank Mall as a cost cutting measure.

The closure of the Rosebank Edgars outlet a store almost as big as a rugby field follows last year's closure of 150 other underperforming stores under the group, including various Jet, Edgars and CNA stores.

According to the group, the closure of these stores is largely in line with a cost reduction strategy to ensure profitability.

"The impact of this initiative is a reduction of our trading space, right sizing of our store portfolio, nodal store consolidation and re-positioning of our key products."

"This involves the closure of some of our underperforming stores including Edgars Rosebank, with the lease for this store expiring on 30 September 2019," said Mike Elliott, Chief Executive Edgars.



Edgars stores in Rosebank Mall as captured recently. File photo.

Last year, Edcon received a lifeline of R2.7bn from the Public Investment Corporation and lenders and rent reduction from landlords in return for equity to aid in restructuring its business model to restore competitiveness.

The group has faced a heavy debt burden amid an environment of weak consumer spending and slow economic growth. In 2016, Bain Capital Private Equity handed Edcon over to creditors after a 2007 buyout turned sour, it was reported earlier.

Despite the store closures, Edcon said it had no plans to let go of its Rosebank Edgars employees, even in tough retail environment.

"As an organisation we are committed to saving jobs and we can confirm that all non-management

employees in the Rosebank store have been accommodated and have opted to move to stores within the Edgars Division," said Elliot.

Edcon CEO Grant Pattison said the group does not plan on implementing any more cost cutting measures.

# Tongaat shareholders approve its loan plan, but there's a long battle ahead

JOHANNESBERG

SHAREHOLDERS of embattled sugar producer Tongaat Hulett have given it the greenlight to access new credit lines, which will help keep the company afloat for now.

Tongaat said shareholders representing more than 91%

of shares voted in favour of its proposal to change the company's memorandum of incorporation (MOI), the document that sets out the rules governing the conduct of each company in line with the Companies Act.

Tongaat announced in November that it was in talks with its debt providers in SA

who had agreed in principle to make new loan, credit and overdraft facilities available to the company. It then asked its shareholders in November, 27 to vote on the proposal of changing its MOI, which is required to access the new credit facilities.

Jean Pierre Verster, CEO at

Protea Capital Management, said the change in Tongaat's MOI was necessary so that the company's operations can continue in some shape or form, otherwise it would have been forced into liquidation. While shareholders' approval means Tongaat can now go ahead and access new debt

facilities, Verster said its challenges remain.

In June last year, the 127-year old company and biggest sugar producer in SA asked that its listings be suspended on the JSE and in London after accounting irregularities emerged.

It also has a massive debt burden, which according

to restated financials amounted to more than R11bn last year.

The company said finance costs were placing it under severe liquidity constraints. The new facilities should help Tongaat execute a plan that will see it reduce its debt level by at least R8.1bn by September next year.

But Verster says the shareholder approval of the new facilities does not solve Tongaat's issues. "It just gives it a bit more breathing room to restructure but with negative equity shown in its last results, the company is still in a very precarious position. It needs to secure additional equity financing

through a capital raise and change the situation to a positive equity position before it can consider lifting the suspension in the trading of its shares," said Verster.

Tongaat had to restate its 2018 financials after the company uncovered dodgy accounting practices which



# Boeing's ousted CEO departs with \$62 million, even without severance pay

BERLIN

Boeing Co's ousted chief executive officer, Dennis Muilenburg, is leaving the company with \$62 million in compensation and pension benefits but will receive no severance pay in the wake of the 737 MAX crisis.

Muilenburg was fired from the job in December as Boeing failed to contain the fallout from a pair of fatal crashes that halted output of the company's bestselling 737 MAX jetliner and tarnished its reputation with airlines and regulators.

The compensation figures were disclosed in a regulatory filing late on Friday during a difficult week for Boeing when it also released hundreds of internal messages – two major issues hanging over the company before new CEO David Calhoun starts on Monday.

The messages contained harshly critical comments about the development of the 737 MAX, including one that said the plane was "designed by clowns who in turn are supervised by monkeys."

The 737 MAX has been grounded since March following the second of two crashes that together killed 346 people within a span of five months.



Boeing 737 Max complete as captured recently in Berlin. File photo.

"It is incredibly heart wrenching to see the man at the heart of our loss walk away with a reward," said Zipporah Kuria, whose 55-year-

old father from Kenya died in the second crash. Lawmakers also blasted Boeing. "346 people died. And yet, Dennis

Muilenburg pressured regulators and put profits ahead of the safety of passengers, pilots, and flight attendants. He'll walk away with

an additional \$62.2 million. This is corruption, plain and simple," U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren said on Twitter.

U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, who chairs the House Transportation Committee, said minutes of a June 2013 meeting showed that Boeing sought to avoid expensive training and simulator requirements by misleading regulators about an anti-stall system called MCAS that was later tied to the two crashes that killed 346 people.

The MAX has been grounded since the second crash in March.

Speculation that Muilenburg would be fired had been circulating in the industry for months, intensifying in October when the board stripped him of his chairman's title – although he had also twice won expressions of confidence from Calhoun, Boeing's board chairman.

A turnaround veteran

and former General Electric Co executive who has led several companies in crisis, Calhoun will receive a base salary at an annual rate of \$1.4 million and is eligible for \$26.5 million in long-term incentive compensation, Boeing said in a filing.

Boeing said in November Muilenburg had volunteered to give up his 2019 bonus and stock awards. For 2018, his bonus and equity awards amounted to some \$20 million, according to filings.

In addition to the \$62 million in compensation and pension benefits, Muilenburg holds stock options that vested in 2013, Boeing said. They would be worth \$18.5 million at the closing price on Friday.

"Upon his departure, Dennis received the benefits to which he was contractually entitled and he did not receive any severance pay or a 2019 annual bonus," Boeing said in a statement.

# SAfrican needs more visa-free deals if it wants to stop losing 'passport power' - expert

CAPE TOWN

ALTHOUGH the South African passport has lost 10 positions over the last decade on the latest Henley Passport Index, the country could play catch-up if a concerted effort is made to secure mutual visa waivers with so-called "high quality nations".

This is the view of Amanda Smit, managing partner and head of South, Central and East Africa at the UK-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners.

South Africa ranks 56th on the latest index, which ranks passports in the world according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. It is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The UAE, for example, managed to increase its passport's position on the index by 47 places over the last 10 years to 18th place, Smit told Fin24 on Wednesday.

Looking specifically at the BRICS countries, of which SA forms part, Smit said that, while Brazil and China improved their positions on the index over the past 10 years by nine and sixteen places respectively, India and Russia have also seen the power of their passports decline during that time, dropping by seven and two places respectively.

Smit says one might think the SA passport's visa free or visa on arrival access to 100 destinations is a lot, but compare that to the Japanese passport (ranked in first place on the index) which offers 191 visa-free destinations.

On top of that, none of the 100 visa free destinations for an SA passport are in what Smit describes as the "most popular" destinations. In her view, that makes it more difficult to be "mobile" for business or leisure purposes.

She also argues that, while other African countries' passports mainly remained static on the index, the SA passport lost ground.

Among African countries, the Seychelles remains the regional lead, ranking 29th globally with a visa-free or visa-on-arrival score of 151, while Mauritius retains second place with a visa-free or visa-on-arrival score of 146.

"My advice is that, if SA wants to improve the strength of our passport, we must be more proactive to obtain mutual visa agreements with other countries - preferably 'high quality' nations," Smit says.

While both countries remain in the top 10, their shared 8th-place position is a significant decline from the number one spot they jointly held in 2015. Finland and Italy share



**ISIDINGO** MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

| ITV  | WEDNESDAY 15 Jan   | FRIDAY 17 Jan  | CAPITAL   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>MONDAY 13 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 Habari<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:30 HABARI<br/>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo<br/>8:55 Habari za saa<br/>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo<br/>9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need<br/>09:55 Habari za saa<br/>10:00 Watoto wetu<br/>10:55 Habari za saa<br/>11:00 Jagina rpt<br/>11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego<br/>11:55 Habari za saa<br/>12:00 Al Jazeera<br/>12:30 Jungu kuu rpt<br/>12:55 Habari za saa<br/>13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi<br/>13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt<br/>13:55 Habari za saa<br/>14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt<br/>14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost<br/>14:55 Habari za saa<br/>15:00 Meza huru<br/>16:30 Watoto Wetu<br/>17:00 The Base<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:10 Aibu yako rpt<br/>18:15 Mapishi<br/>18:45 Kesho leo<br/>19:00 Aya ya Jamii<br/>19:30 Isidingo<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:05 Dakika 45<br/>22:00 Insta Moja<br/>22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost<br/>23:00 Habari<br/>23:30 The Base<br/>00:30 Al Jazeera<br/>02:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>TUESDAY 14 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 Habari<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:30 HABARI<br/>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo<br/>8:55 Habari za saa<br/>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo<br/>9:30 Isidingo<br/>09:55 Habari za saa<br/>10:00 Watoto wetu<br/>10:30 Shamsam za pwani<br/>10:55 Habari za saa<br/>11:00 Shamsam za pwani<br/>11:20 Shangweka rpt<br/>11:55 Habari za saa<br/>12:00 Al Jazeera<br/>12:30 Aya ya jamii rpt<br/>12:55 Habari za saa<br/>13:00 Uchumi na biashara<br/>13:30 Shamba lulu rpt<br/>13:55 Habari za saa<br/>14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost<br/>14:55 Habari za saa<br/>15:00 Meza Huru<br/>16:30 Watoto wetu<br/>17:00 The Base<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:10 Yu wapi<br/>18:15 Mapishi rpt<br/>18:30 Uchumi Wetu<br/>19:00 Jarida la wanawake<br/>19:30 Isidingo<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:05 Tanzania yetu</p> | <p>21:35 Chetu ni chetu<br/>22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost<br/>23:00 Habari<br/>23:30 The Base<br/>00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY 15 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 HABARI<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:30 HABARI<br/>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo<br/>8:55 Habari za saa<br/>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo<br/>9:30 Isidingo<br/>09:55 Habari za saa<br/>10:00 Watoto wetu<br/>10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok<br/>10:55 Habari za saa<br/>11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok<br/>11:20 Uchumi wetu rpt<br/>11:55 Habari za saa<br/>12:00 Al Jazeera<br/>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt<br/>12:55 Habari za saa<br/>13:00 Dakika 45<br/>13:55 Habari za saa<br/>14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost<br/>14:55 Habari za saa<br/>15:00 Meza huru<br/>16:30 Watoto Wetu<br/>17:00 The Base<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:10 Aibu yako rpt<br/>18:15 Mapishi<br/>18:45 Kesho leo<br/>19:00 Aya ya Jamii<br/>19:30 Isidingo<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:05 Dakika 45<br/>22:00 Insta Moja<br/>22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost<br/>23:00 Habari<br/>23:30 The Base<br/>00:30 Al Jazeera<br/>2:00 DWTV</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 16 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 HABARI<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:30 HABARI<br/>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo<br/>8:55 Habari za saa<br/>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo<br/>9:30 Isidingo<br/>9:55 Habari za saa<br/>10:00 Watoto<br/>10:30 Igizo: Mkaguzi<br/>10:55 Habari za saa<br/>11:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi<br/>11:15 Kesho Leo rpt<br/>11:55 Habari za saa<br/>12:00 Al Jazeera<br/>12:30 Ijuzi Sheria<br/>12:55 Habari za saa<br/>13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Kipanya chooni<br/>13:30 Tanzania yetu<br/>13:55 Habari za saa<br/>14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost<br/>14:55 Habari za saa<br/>15:00 Meza huru<br/>16:30 Watoto Wetu<br/>17:00 The Base<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:15 Mapishi<br/>18:30 Uchumi wetu<br/>19:00 Jarida la wanawake<br/>19:30 Isidingo<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:05 Tanzania yetu</p> | <p>19:00 Usafiri wako<br/>19:30 Isidingo<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja<br/>23:00 Habari<br/>23:30 The Base<br/>00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>FRIDAY 17 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 HABARI<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:30 HABARI<br/>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo<br/>8:55 Habari za saa<br/>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo<br/>9:30 Isidingo<br/>9:55 Habari za saa<br/>10:00 Watoto wetu<br/>10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo<br/>10:55 Habari za saa<br/>11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo<br/>11:30 Usafiri wako<br/>11:55 Habari za saa<br/>12:00 Al Jazeera<br/>12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco<br/>12:55 Habari za saa<br/>13:00 Jagina rpt<br/>13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt<br/>13:55 Habari za saa<br/>14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt<br/>14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost<br/>14:55 Habari za saa<br/>15:00 Meza huru<br/>16:30 Watoto Wetu<br/>17:00 The Base<br/>17:30 Ibadat ya kiislamu<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:15 Mizengwe rpt<br/>18:30 Shamba lulu<br/>19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA<br/>19:30 Isidingo<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:05 Kipima Joto<br/>23:00 Habari<br/>23:30 The Base<br/>00:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 18 Jan</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 HABARI<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:00 Habari<br/>8:00 Al Jazeera<br/>9:00 Watoto wetu<br/>10:00 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt<br/>10:45 Usafiri wako rpt<br/>11:15 Shamba lulu rpt<br/>11:45 Mapishi rpt<br/>12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt<br/>12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost<br/>14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba<br/>15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi<br/>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe<br/>16:20 Igizo: Mtego<br/>17:00 Shamsam za Pwani<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:15 Mapishi<br/>18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba<br/>19:00 Art and Style<br/>19:25 Jungu Kuu<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:00 Shangweka<br/>21:30 Kesho leo rpt<br/>22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja<br/>22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo<br/>23:00 Isidingo rpt<br/>01:30 DWTV</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 19 Jan</b></p> | <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi<br/>6:00 HABARI<br/>6:40 Kumekucha<br/>7:00 Habari<br/>8:00 Al Jazeera<br/>09:00 Watoto Wetu<br/>10:00 Isidingo<br/>11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt<br/>12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: The Second Wife<br/>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo<br/>15:00 Mwangaza<br/>16:00 The Great queen Seondok<br/>16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkaguzi<br/>17:30 Kipindi cha kikiristo<br/>18:00 Jiji Letu<br/>18:15 Mapishi<br/>18:30 Matukio ya wiki<br/>19:30 Igizo: Mtego<br/>20:00 Habari<br/>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko<br/>21:10 Mizengwe<br/>21:30 Mjuzi Zaidi<br/>22:15 Bongo Movie:<br/>00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p><b>MON 13 Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera<br/>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)<br/>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)<br/>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?<br/>16:30 Business edition rpt<br/>17:00 In good shape<br/>17:30 Meza huru<br/>19:00 Turning the spotlight<br/>19:30 Tanzania yetu<br/>20:00 Series: The Other Side<br/>20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?<br/>21:30 Capital Prime News<br/>22:00 Capchat rpt<br/>23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Frid 17Jan</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera<br/>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)<br/>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)<br/>12:00 Turning The Spotlight Rpt<br/>12:30 Lete Raha ( Via Capital Radio)<br/>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?<br/>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)<br/>16:00 Series rpt: The Other Side<br/>16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt<br/>17:30 Meza Huru<br/>19:00 Drive it<br/>19:30 Eco@Africa<br/>20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition<br/>20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?<br/>21:30 Capital Prime News<br/>22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt<br/>23:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Sat 18 Jan</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International<br/>09:00 Drive It rpt<br/>09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt<br/>10:00 Culinary delight rpt<br/>10:30 Innovation rpt<br/>11:00 Out n'about rpt<br/>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt<br/>12:00 Usafiri wako rpt<br/>12:30 Eco@Africa rpt<br/>13:00 Business edition rpt<br/>13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Iljima</p> |



A South African passport. File photo



## WORLD

## Protests pile pressure on Iran after admission of plane strike

DUBAI

IRANIAN protesters and newspapers piled pressure on the country's leadership and riot police stepped up their presence in Tehran yesterday after Iran's military admitted that it had mistakenly shot down a Ukrainian airliner.

Riot police fired teargas at thousands of Iranians who had taken to the streets late on Saturday in the capital and other cities, many chanting "Death to the dictator", directing their anger at Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Reports of the protests were carried by state-affiliated news agencies, while video clips circulated on social media.

Tehran residents told Reuters that police had stepped up their presence in the capital on Sunday morning.

"Apologize and resign," Iran's moderate Etemad daily wrote in a banner headline on Sunday, saying the "people's demand" was for those responsible for mishandling the plane crisis to quit.

All 176 people aboard the flight, many of them Iranians with dual citizenship, were killed.

Protests erupted after Saturday's admission that the military accidentally shot down the Ukraine International Airlines plane minutes after take off on Wednesday, when Iranian forces were alert for U.S. reprisals after tit-for-tat strikes.

For days, Iranian officials had vigorously denied it was to blame, even as Canada, which had 57 citizens on the flight, and the United States said their

intelligence indicated an Iranian missile was to blame, albeit probably fired in error.

Iran's president said it was a "disastrous mistake" and apologized. But a top Revolutionary Guards commander added to public anger about the delayed admission, when he said he had told the authorities a missile hit the plane the day it crashed.

## CHALLENGES

Another moderate daily Jomhuri-ye Eslami, or Islamic Republic, wrote in an editorial: "Those who delayed publishing the reason behind the plane crash and damaged people's trust in the establishment should be dismissed or should resign."

Criticism of the authorities in Iran is not unusual, but it tends to stay in narrow boundaries.

The press attacks and protests add to challenges facing the establishment, which in November faced the country's bloodiest unrest since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

As Saturday's protests spread across Iran, including major cities such as Shiraz, Isfahan, Hamedan and Orumiyyeh, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Twitter: "We are following your protests closely, and are inspired by your courage."

"There can not be another massacre of peaceful protesters, nor an internet shutdown. The world is watching," he said, posting his tweets in both Farsi and English.

Britain said its ambassador in Iran had been briefly detained on Saturday



Flowers and candles are placed in front of the portraits of the flight crew members of the Ukraine International Airlines Boeing 737-800 plane that crashed in Iran, at a memorial at the Boryspil International airport outside Kiev, Ukraine on Saturday. REUTERS

by the authorities in Tehran. A news agency said he was detained outside a university for inciting protests.

Condemning the arrest, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Iran "can continue its march toward pariah status ... or take steps to de-escalate tensions and engage in a diplomatic path forwards."

Protests inside Iran followed a build up of tension between Iran and the United States, which withdrew from Tehran's nuclear pact with world powers in 2018 and then re-imposed sanctions that have steadily crippled the Iranian economy.

## 'HORRIFIC'

On Jan. 3, a U.S. drone strike in Iraq killed prominent Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani, responsible for building up Iran's network of regional proxy armies in Iraq and beyond, and Tehran responded with missile strikes on U.S. targets in Iraq.

No U.S. soldiers were killed, but in the tense hours after that, the Ukrainian Boeing 737 was cleared to take off from Tehran airport and then brought down by a missile fired in error by an operator who mistook the plane for an attacker.

"Shooting down a civilian aircraft is horrific.

Iran must take full responsibility," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

Trudeau said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had committed to collaborating with Canadian investigators, working to de-escalate tensions in the region and continuing a dialogue.

Rallying to the establishment, Iranian lawmakers praised the elite force's commanders for courage in admitting the error, according to Fars, a news agency seen as close to the Guards, a parallel military set up to protect the theocratic system.

Iranian officials sought to portray the plane disaster as a second blow to a mourning nation after Soleimani's death in a U.S. drone strike.

Soleimani's funeral had prompted huge public gatherings, which the authorities described a show of national unity. But the displays of emotion have been swiftly overshadowed and protesters on Saturday tore up pictures of the slain general.

Public fury at Iran's authorities had grown as questions about the plane crash mounted. Iranians on social media asked why officials were busy fending off criticism from abroad rather than sympathizing with grieving families. Others asked why the plane was allowed to take off at a time of high tension.

Agencies

## Cuba slams US extension of ban on flights to the island

WASHINGTON/HAVANA

CUBAN Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez condemned on Friday the US government's decision to ban charter flights from the United States to all Cuban destinations except Havana.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the new sanction on Friday, saying the move is designed to prevent the Cuban government from making profits from US air travel, which could be

used to repress the Cuban people and support Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

"I strongly reject new US government ban on charter flights to Cuba, except for Havana, and restrictions on their number," Rodriguez wrote on Twitter in English and Spanish. He added that it was a "serious violation of human rights and freedom of travel of US citizens and hinders family reunification."

The flight caps would punish Cu-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

bans "on both sides of the Florida Strait," Cuban foreign ministry's General Director for US Affairs Carlos Fernandez de Cossio tweeted.

This new sanction is an extension of last December's ban on US commercial flights to all Cuban destinations except Havana.

Havana's ambassador in Washington, on Twitter, wrote that the restrictions would push more visitors to "use Cubana Airlines domestic flights or other Cuban companies for local transportation." He also the United States was seeking to "limit the amount of people that see CUBA reality by themselves."

Nearly 624,000 Cubans living abroad visited their homeland in 2019, of which a record 552,800 were from the United States, Cuba has said.

Republican US President Donald Trump has clamped down on Havana following the historic move by his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama to reopen US-Cuba ties. His administration has imposed sanctions over Cuba's support for Maduro.

Agencies

## Erdogan meets European Council chief over regional developments, bilateral relations

ISTANBUL

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday met with European Council President Charles Michel in Istanbul to discuss the latest developments in the region as well as bilateral relations.

The relation between Turkey and the European Union has been stalled over a series of issues topped by Turkey's sending troops to Libya and the drilling activities in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Earlier, Erdogan had announced that his country "gradually" started to send its troops to Libya in line with the deal inked by Ankara and Libya's UN-recognized Gov-

ernment of National Accord (GNA). Rejecting Turkey's decision on the deployment of Turkish troops, the EU's top diplomats and the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany and Italy said at a meeting on Tuesday in Brussel, Belgium, that "continuing outside interference is fueling the crisis" in the country.

Meanwhile, following a meeting in Istanbul on Wednesday, Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin called on all parties in the North African country for the establishment of an immediate cease-fire, which was later refused by Libya's eastern-based army led by the commander Khalifa Haftar.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Saturday said Ankara expects Moscow to convince Haftar



to comply with the cease-fire call issued by Erdogan and Putin.

Libya has been torn by a raging civil war between the GNA based in the capital Tripoli and the Libyan National Army and its allies based in the east.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Istanbul with Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Cavusoglu also accused some regional nations and France of opposing a cease-fire. Cavusoglu

blamed France of causing chaos in Libya, by giving "all kinds of support to a non-legitimate administration, including arms."

"France is looking for any means to sabotage any initiative of which is not part of," he said.

Turkey's agreement with Libya is further expected to protect Turkey's rights in the face of unilateral drilling activities by Greece and Cyprus in the Mediterranean, a move supported by the EU since the gas to be released from the region will be sent to Europe.

Turkey, meanwhile, has been insisting that it "has the right to speak of any project in the region" as it has the longest coastline in the Mediterranean.

Xinhua

## Chinese, Burundian FMs hold talks, vowing to strengthen cooperation

BUJUMBURA

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Burundian Foreign Minister Ezechiel Nibigira here on Saturday.

Wang said Burundi is an "all-weather friend" of China in Africa, stressing that high level of political mutual trust is the salient feature of the bilateral relations which have also been demonstrated by firmly mutual support.

China is willing to continue to strengthen exchanges at all levels with Burundi so as to elevate bilateral relations to a new stage, Wang said.

Wang said China thanks Burundi for its support on issues involving China's core interests and major concerns, and it will support Burundi in defending its sovereignty, independence and legitimate rights.

Wang said the two countries should further dovetail their development ideas and deepen pragmatic cooperation.

He said China is willing to carry out mutually beneficial cooperation with Burundi under the framework of jointly building the Belt and Road and implementing the eight major initiatives proposed at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with a focus on infrastructure construction and agriculture.

Wang said China encourages and supports qualified and credible Chinese enterprises to invest in Burundi, and will continue to provide help for Burundi's economic and social development within its capacity.

Wang said the two countries share the same stance on major international issues, adding that they should continue to carry out their international coordination and jointly safeguard multilateralism and the legitimate interests of Africa and developing countries.

Wang said China attaches importance to Burundi's concern in the Great Lakes region and is willing to play a constructive role for the region's peace and stability.

Nibigira welcomed Wang to Burundi, which is one of Wang's destinations on his first visit in the new year, saying the move shows that China attaches great importance to Burundi-China relations.

Nibigira said Burundi sincerely thanks China for its selfless help to Burundi and highly appreciates China's important role in international and African affairs.

Nibigira said, no matter how its internal situation may evolve, Burundi is firmly committed to a friendly policy toward China and will continue to give firm support to China on all issues involving China's core interests and major concerns. Burundi is willing to speed up the joint building of the Belt and Road with China and implement related projects under the framework of the Beijing Summit of the FOCAC, Nibigira said.

Nibigira said Burundi welcomes Chinese enterprises and their investments and is willing to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with China in various sectors.

Xinhua



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) meets with Burundian Foreign Minister Ezechiel Nibigira in Bujumbura, Burundi, on Saturday. Xinhua

## Russia, Germany support further implementation of Iran nuclear deal

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed Iran nuclear deal, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in Moscow on Saturday, saying its further implementation is supported by the two countries, according to a transcript released by the Kremlin.

"Russia and Germany resolutely stand for the continued implementation of the joint plan," Putin said at a press conference after talks with Merkel.

"We certainly could not ignore the issue of preserving the JCPOA on Iran's nuclear programme, which is vitally important not only for the region but also for the whole world," he said.

Putin recalled that after the United States withdrew from this fundamental agreement, the Iranian side declared that they suspended some of their voluntary commitments under the JCPOA.

"Let me underscore this: they only suspended their voluntary commitments while they stress their readiness to go back to full compliance with the nuclear deal," the president added.

Xinhua

## Powering the ship of national renewal to reach the destination

A COMPILATION of Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has been published by the Foreign Languages Press.

The book, which has Chinese and English versions, collects three speeches of Xi, namely the speeches at a grand rally and a reception to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC, and the speech at a presentation ceremony of the national medals and honorary titles of the PRC.

With a historical perspective on China's past, present and future, Xi's speeches have greatly ignited patriotism among the Chinese people, boost-

ed the morale of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the military and the people, and enhanced the confidence and sense of pride of the Chinese people at home and abroad.

Xi's speeches fully indicated that China's tremendous changes in the past 70 years are fundamentally attributed to the leadership of the CPC.

The leadership of the CPC constitutes the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the greatest strength of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Over the past 70 years, under the strong leadership of the CPC, China's miserable fate born from poverty and

weakness and being bullied and humiliated over more than 100 years since the advent of modern times has been completely reversed and the country has embarked on the path of realizing national rejuvenation.

The Chinese nation has realized a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich and is becoming stronger.

It is necessary to uphold the leadership of the CPC on the journey forward, making sure that the CPC always remains the backbone of the Chinese nation and people as well as a powerful leadership core of national rejuvenation.

Xi's speeches fully indicated that

China's remarkable achievements in the past 70 years derive from the ambitions and endeavors of the Chinese nation.

The people are the creators of history; they are the fundamental force that determines the country's future.

Over the past 70 years, the Chinese people, with perseverance, strenuous efforts, and selfless contributions, have made development achievements that are the marvel of the world and a great miracle in human history.

To move history forward and write a more brilliant chapter in the new journey requires the CPC to rely on the Chinese people.

Xi's speeches fully indicated that the

secret of China's development in the past 70 years lies in staying on path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

In the past 70 years of continuous exploration, especially the great practice of reform and opening up for over 40 years, China has developed socialism with Chinese characteristics, which has fundamentally changed the destiny of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation.

The system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and national governance system have shown great vitality and strengths.

The entire CPC must remain confident in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese char-

acteristics and continue to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Xi's speeches fully indicated China has made steady progress towards national rejuvenation because it has kept firmly to the path of peaceful development.

Peace and development remain the underlying trend of our times. Over the past 70 years, China has upheld an independent foreign policy of peace, forged ahead along the path of peaceful development, and followed a win-win strategy of opening up, making a positive contribution to the common development for humanity.

People's Daily





Chinese President Xi Jinping

## Scholars make remarks on compilation of President Xi's speeches marking 70th anniversary of PRC founding

A COMPILATION of Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) was recently published by the Foreign Languages Press in both Chinese and English, and distributed at home and abroad.

The book collects three speeches of Xi, namely the speeches at a grand rally and a reception to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC, and the speech at a presentation ceremony of the national medals and honorary titles of the PRC.

"In his speeches, President Xi expounded China's 'marvel-of-the-world' development achievements made under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC)," said Song Shiming, professor with the Party School of the Central Committee of CPC (China National School of Administration).

"On the one hand, China is eliminating absolute poverty, and the ultimate reason for such achievement is that China's state power belongs to the people; on the other hand, China has greatly improved its comprehensive national strength, like what President Xi has put forward: no force can ever shake the status of China, or stop the Chinese people and nation from marching forward.

Reviewing history is for expecting a better future, while summarizing past achievements is for accumulating power to march forward. Xin Ming, professor with the Party School of the Central Committee of CPC believes that Xi's speeches offer fundamental rules for China to consolidate and further its development achievements as his remarks are a multi-level and multi-perspective summary of China's successful experiences.

"All of the three speeches have one focus - how to make the great China greater. Standing at a newer and higher starting point as China celebrates the 70th anniversary of its founding, we need to summarize experiences and keep moving forward toward the two centenary goals," Xin said.

The reasons for China's historic achievements and transformation in the past 70 years lie in the Party leadership and its adherence to the socialist path.

After the founding of the PRC, the CPC united the people and led them in com-

pleting socialist revolution, establishing socialism as China's basic system, and advancing socialist construction, said Luo Pinghan, professor with the Party School of the Central Committee of CPC.

This completed the broadest and most profound social transformation in the history of the Chinese nation and created the fundamental political conditions and the institutional foundation for achieving all development and progress in China today, Luo noted, thus was made a great transition: The Chinese nation reversed its fate from the continuous decline in modern times to steady progress toward prosperity and strength.

"Peace" is a high-frequency word in Xi's three speeches. Song believes that China, having always safeguarded world peace, will unwaveringly follow the path of peaceful development.

China's development was achieved in a peaceful environment, and has in return greatly strengthened the peace-loving power across the world, Song remarked.

People are China's solid foundation and its main source of confidence to govern. Xi's request to ensure that the people maintain their principal position in the country reflected the people-oriented governance philosophy.

"Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has focused on people's livelihood and steadfastly promoted poverty alleviation. Such efforts to eradicate the root causes for poverty are the best example of the people-oriented philosophy," Luo said.

China has never been so close to the center of the world stage with increasingly improving international influence. It is participating in, contributing to and leading the promotion of world peace.

Peace is embedded in China's adherence to the principle of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", as well as its following of a path of peaceful development.

Scholars agree that China's development in the past 70 years is a hard-won achievement, and the Chinese people will surely love and cherish the current peaceful environment and work with other countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind and a better world.

People's Daily

## Biden most preferred Democratic presidential candidate among African American voters - poll

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. Vice President Joe Biden is the most preferred Democratic presidential candidate among African American voters, according to a Washington Post/Ipsos national poll released on Saturday.

Forty-eight percent of African American voters who are likely to vote for a Democrat picked Biden as their top candidate, the poll showed. U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts are a distant second and third, with 20 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

The online poll was conducted on Jan. 2-8 and surveyed a random national sample of 1,088 non-Hispanic African American adults over the age of 18.

Overall, the poll has a margin of



error of plus-minus 3.5 percentage points, and a four-point margin of error for the sample of 769 Democratic-leaning voters.

Biden, who served as U.S. vice president from 2009 to 2017 to then

President Barack Obama, formally announced his bid for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. presidency in April 2019 and has campaigned on his political experiences and electability.

The latest Des Moines Register/CNN poll put Biden fourth in Iowa behind former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg in third, Warren in second place and Sanders, who is at the top.

However, just five points separate Biden and Sanders.

The polls came days before the seventh Democratic presidential primary debate and weeks before the 2020 Iowa Caucuses next month, which will kick off the presidential nominating calendar.

There are currently 13 Democrats contending for the party's nomination to take on President Donald Trump in November. **Xinhua**



## Ramaphosa promises to create more jobs

CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa on Saturday pledged to create more jobs, saying job creation remains at the center of the economic agenda of the African National Congress (ANC).

Delivering the ruling party's statement in Kimberley, Free State Province, the president said the creation of jobs is a top priority for 2020.

"The most direct and effective way to reduce inequality is to create employment and economic opportunities, particularly for young people and women," the president said.

To achieve a rate of employment that exceeds the growth in the number of people seeking jobs means that the South African economy needs to grow at a far greater pace, he said.

This can be achieved through a substantial increase in investment, a massive infrastructure program, steps to improve the ease of doing business and expand pathways for young people into the world of work, said Ramaphosa.

Significant investment commitments - totalling more than 600 billion rand (about 42 billion U.S. dollars) - have been realized through the first two Investment Conferences hosted by Ramaphosa in 2018 and 2019, according to the president. But More is still required to be done, he said.

Ramaphosa stressed the need to tailor curricula and equip educators to respond to an increasingly digitalized world with constant technological advances.

The country needs to undergo a skills revolution to break the cycle of poverty and grow an inclusive economy, said Ramaphosa.

This requires the upskilling of educators and school management to prepare learners for the 4th Industrial Revolution, increase resources for TVET (technical and vocational education and training) colleges, and expand access to early childhood development, Ramaphosa said.

The private sector and other partners are also encouraged to work with training authorities to develop the skills that the economy needs, he added.

"We must speed up the implementation of the three-stream curriculum model of basic education," the president said.

The government, he said, will also build on the progress made in enhancing industrial strategy, financing and implementing master plans in sectors with great potential for growth and unlocking the potential of small business, cooperatives and the township economy.

He identified sectors like manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and the oceans economy as major areas for employment growth. **Xinhua**

Agencies

Xinhua

## International community calls for de-escalation of US-Iran tensions

BEIJING

THE international community has called for restraint and a de-escalation in the Middle East and the Gulf region amid rising U.S.-Iran tensions following the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general and ensuing Iranian attacks on U.S. military bases.

The situation was further complicated when Iran's state TV on Saturday quoted the Iranian military as saying that it "unintentionally" shot down the Ukrainian jetliner on Wednesday, in which all the 176 passengers and crew members on board were killed.

"This tragic accident only reinforces the importance of de-escalating tensions in the region. We can all see very clearly that further conflict will only lead to more loss and tragedy," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Saturday.

"It is vital that all leaders now pursue a diplomatic way forward." "Iran's admission that Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was shot down by mistake by its own armed forces is an important first step," Johnson said.

"This will be an incredibly difficult time for all those families who lost loved ones in such tragic circumstances," said the British prime minister. "We will do everything we can to support the families of the four British victims and ensure they get the answers and closure they deserve."

"We now need a comprehensive, transparent and independent international investigation and the repatriation of those who died," Johnson said.

"The Britain will work closely with Canada, Ukraine and our other international partners affected by this accident to ensure this happens."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that the country welcomes any international cooperation concerning the plane crash, the official Islamic Republic News Agency



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

reported.

"Iran welcomes any international cooperation within the framework of international regulations which is aimed at clarifying dimensions of the incident," Rouhani said in a telephone conversation with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

At a news conference on Saturday, Trudeau said that "a full and complete investigation must be conducted," adding that "we need full clarity on how such a horrific tragedy could have occurred."

In another phone talk with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky, Rouhani said that "all those involved in the air disaster will be brought to justice."

He said that the joint investigations between the Iranian and Ukrainian experts over the incident will continue and the judicial measures will "soon" start.

At an open debate on upholding the United Nations (UN) Charter, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres lamented that this year began with fresh turmoil and long-standing suffering and geopolitical tensions reached "dangerous levels," most recently in the Gulf.

China's Permanent Representative to the UN Zhang Jun said that as

a cornerstone of multilateralism, the charter establishes the basic norms governing international relations in the present day, develops generally recognized principles of international law, and charts the way forward for society.

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, called on Wednesday for dialogue instead of war in the Middle East, saying that "the use of weapons must stop now."

Von der Leyen, head of the European Union's executive arm, also said that "we are called upon to do everything possible to rekindle talks," adding that "there cannot be enough of that."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called for restraint and diplomacy to avoid "a new cycle of instability" in the Middle East.

In a joint statement issued following their meeting, the two leaders urged both the United States and Iran to act with restraint and prioritize diplomacy.

"The use of force does not contribute to finding solutions to complex problems in the Middle East, but would lead to a new cycle of instability," the statement said. **Xinhua**

## New US envoy to Russia looks forward to enhancing bilateral relations, says embassy

MOSCOW

THE newly appointed US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan, who is arriving in Moscow on January 16, looks forward to enhancing the relationship between the two countries and strengthening cooperation between Moscow and Washington, US Embassy in Russia said in a statement on Saturday.

"Ambassador Sullivan (pictured) plans to arrive in Moscow on January 16 and present his credentials to the Russian government soon thereafter.

Ambassador Sullivan looks forward to enhancing the overall bilateral relationship and strengthening US-Russian cooperation on several global and regional issues of mutual interest," the statement said



Sullivan will lead the US embassy in Moscow and its consulates in Yekaterinburg and Vladivostok "as they further US foreign policy goals, protect American citizens, and expand trade and business opportunities between the United States and Russia," the diplomatic mission noted.

Sullivan will succeed Jon Huntsman who tendered his resignation

in early August 2019. Huntsman's tenure expired on October 3. Two weeks later, US President Donald Trump nominated Sullivan who earlier served as Deputy Secretary of State, for confirmation by the Senate.

On November 20, the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations approved his candidacy. **Xinhua**

Agencies

Xinhua

## To usher in better future for technological cooperation, sharing

TO summarize the scientific innovation of 2019 is a way for many to embrace 2020, as scientific innovation always heralds development, which makes people contemplate more the development of history and the progress of time, and feel that science is a power that drives and shapes history.

During the past year, exciting messages about scientific achievements that might benefit the entire human came out one after another. The clinical test results of gene scissors are expected to be released soon; the brand new Ironman-like exoskeleton is also about to be delivered; and the synthetic yeast genome project - the first attempt of human beings to artificially synthesize a eukaryotic cell genome - will be completed.

The initial test result of universal flu vaccine was thrilling, and the systematic transition toward renewable energy will better help us cope with climate change. Besides, a number of countries have declared to launch Mars rover for investigation.

From exploring the space and sea to spotting the fundamental particles of materials, and from tackling health problems of individuals to improving the living environment of the entire human being, the new technological breakthroughs and the new applications that come along are constantly turning people's dreams into reality.

To have scientific technology benefit the people, cooperation is vital. For instance, the world's first image of a black hole was ac-

complished last year by a team of more than 200 researchers across the world with a planet-scale array of eight ground-based radio telescopes forged through international collaboration.

This image was ranked the largest scientific feat by both Nature and Science when the two magazines reviewed major scientific breakthroughs made in 2019.

The image manifested the power of cooperation. The Science magazine remarked that the success of teamwork was even more amazing than the black hole image itself. This proves that when faced with the unknown, human beings must cooperate with each other to make breakthroughs.

A future featuring scientific cooperation and sharing is also where

global technological development moves toward. Economic globalization promotes the free flow of innovation factors in the world, and science and technology are updating constantly in open cooperation.

According to the World Intellectual Property Report (WIPR) 2019 released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in the early 2000s, teams of scientists produced 64 percent of all scientific papers and teams of inventors were behind 54 percent of all patents. By the second half of the 2010s, these figures had grown to almost 88 and 68 percent, respectively.

At present, protectionism is casting a shadow which has triggered people's concerns that countries might build walls to prevent technological exchanges. However, it

shall never be a lasting problem for human beings to choose between win-win cooperation and isolated stagnation.

"It is imperative that economies remain open in the pursuit of innovation," said WIPO Director General Francis Gurry.

By participating in international technological cooperation in an inclusive and open manner, China is making its own contribution to making technologies serve the common values and interests of human beings while creating more development space for itself.

With scientific loads from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Saudi Arabia, China's Change-4 lunar probe explored the mysteries on the backside of the moon. China also selected 9 projects from 17

countries to board its space station expected to be built in 2022.

Besides, Chinese and German researchers jointly spotted the existence of ancient hominin group Denisovans.

China also launched a remote-sensing microsatellite for Ethiopia, which was considered by the Ethiopians a national pride and a dream come true.

China, by following an innovation path of openness and cooperation, has made remarkable achievements, receiving numerous applauds from both home and abroad. It all demonstrates the charm of open cooperation.

In 2020, China is about to establish the world's first E-class super computer; launch its first Mars rover; launch the Change-5 probe to

bring moon samples back to Earth, and embrace rapid industrial development and application of BeiDou satellites.

The country will continue conforming to the trend of cooperation, work with other countries to expand the limits of technological innovation, pull wisdom that goes beyond technology, march toward the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and create a better future for global sharing of technologies.

As a new round of technological revolution and industrial reform is accelerating the restructuring of global innovation pattern, scientific and technological cooperation represents a general trend that drives unlimited progress. **People's Daily**





Serena Williams from the United States with daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. and the ASB trophy after winning her singles finals match against United States Jessica Pegula at the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand, Sunday, Jan 12, 2020. (AP)

## Serena Williams breaks 3-year title drought at ASB Classic

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

SERENA Williams broke a three-year title drought when she beat fellow American Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to win the singles final at the ASB Classic.

Williams hadn't won a title since the Australian Open singles in January, 2017, and not since she became a mother to her daughter Olympia, who was court-side to see the victory.

The 23-time major winner donated her \$43,000 winner's check to the fundraising appeal for victims of Australian wildfires, joining many other tennis stars, such as Ash Barty, Nick Kyrgios, Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova, who have pledged money to the already months-long fire emergency there.

Williams was under pressure at first against the 25-year-old Pegula, playing in her third WTA final, but asserted herself more as the match went on to claim her 73rd win in 98 finals and to add her name to a trophy won by her sister, Venus, in 2015.

"It feels good. It's been a long time," Williams said. "I think you can see the relief on my face."

"I played an incredible opponent today in Jessica and, honestly, it was a great match and I couldn't have played anyone better in the final."

The last three years have been challenging for Williams as she juggled competing demands of tennis and motherhood. But she seemed to turn a corner during a demanding

week in which she played both doubles and singles, turning out on all seven days of the tournament.

She was frequently behind in her matches but showed typical determination to fight her way to the final and overcome Pegula, who ousted former World No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki in the semifinals.

Pegula has been on a steady climb up the rankings since overcoming a serious knee injury two years ago. The daughter of Buffalo Bills owners Terry and Kim Pegula, she won her maiden WTA title in 2019 and appeared to be a star on the rise in all her matches in Auckland.

Pegula broke Williams in the opening game and was dominant for the first half of the first set, moving Williams around to open up the court for her punishing passing shots. She also chased down everything, making returns that Williams thought out of her reach.

But Williams visibly called on herself to level near the middle of the set, breaking to lift at 3-3. She then held serve to love and broke Pegula for 5-3, serving out the first set in 51 minutes.

Williams broke Pegula to love in the third game of the second set as she steadily began to dominate. She had three match points on Pegula's serve before clinching the match on serve in just over 90 minutes.

"It definitely feels good," Williams said. "It feels that I was definitely improving as the week went on."

AP

## New year, new headache for queen with Harry and Meghan rift

LONDON

QUEEN Elizabeth II ended 2019 with a public plea for global harmony after a rocky year. She's starting 2020 trying to heal disharmony within her own family after Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, decided to "step back" as senior royals -- and announced the news without consulting the monarch.

As the British media went into meltdown, the royal matriarch moved quickly to take back control, summoning her son and heir Prince Charles and grandsons Prince William and Harry to a crisis meeting to sort things out. Elizabeth, who assumed the throne in 1952, has weathered family crises before, and is determined not to let her restless grandson and granddaughter-in-law weaken the House of Windsor or undermine the monarchy.

After initial talks between courtiers to the senior royals over the couple's unorthodox declaration of independence, Buckingham Palace said Saturday that the queen would meet Monday at her Sandringham estate in eastern England with Charles, William and Harry to agree on "next steps."

The palace said "a range of possibilities" was on the table, but the queen was determined to resolve the situation within "days not weeks."

Harry's next scheduled public appearance is a rugby event at Buckingham Palace on Thursday. Meghan, meanwhile, has flown to Canada, where the couple and their 8-month-old son, Archie, spent a six-week Christmas break. They announced this week they plan to "balance" their time between the U.K. and North America, with Canada their likely base. Meghan is American but lived in Toronto for several years while filming the TV show "Suits."

The prince and the former actress married in 2018, and broadcasts of their Windsor Castle wedding were watched around the world. Harry, 35, is sixth in line to the British throne, a former British army officer and one of the royal family's most popular members.

He has spent his entire life in the public eye, but has not always been happy with scrutiny by a media he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She died in a car crash in Paris in 1997 while being pursued by photogra-

phers.

British tabloids have a voracious appetite for stories about the royal family, who are treated as an engrossing national soap opera. While much royal media coverage is positive, it is also relentless. At times, news outlets have crossed the line from invasive to illegal, as when the News of the World hacked the voicemails of Prince William and royal staff in search of scoops during the early 2000s.

Some columnists have been critical of Meghan, depicting her as a meddling American interloper into the royal family; others highlighted her biracial heritage with words like "exotic." In 2017, Harry accused the media of directing "a wave of abuse and harassment" at his then-girlfriend that included articles with negative "racial undertones."

Harry and Meghan's shock decision to become part-time royals who earn their own money came after a rough year for the queen. In September she was drawn into the U.K.'s political discord over Brexit when Prime Minister Boris Johnson asked her to suspend Parliament as lawmakers tried to thwart

## Lakers top Thunder 125-110 without LeBron, Anthony Davis

OKLAHOMA CITY

THE Los Angeles Lakers fully expected victory, even without LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

Kyle Kuzma was among those who took advantage. He scored a season-high 36 points and the Lakers rolled past the Oklahoma City Thunder, 125-110 on Saturday night.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said James had a chest cold. James is averaging 25.4 points, a league-leading 10.7 assists and 8.7 rebounds and has helped the Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference.

Davis, who leads the Lakers with 27.1 points per game, sat out for his second straight game with a gluteus maximus contusion.

Still, the Lakers felt they had enough to win, even against a Thunder team that had won 11 of 13. "That's why you have a great team," said Quinn Cook, who led the Lakers' reserves with 13 points.

"We want to have guys who contribute one through 15. That's the goal of anybody putting a team together. Obviously, this team is talented. Everybody is selfless and everybody is ready. We all put the work in."

Kuzma, in just his third start of the season, made 15 of 24 shots.

"I just got an opportunity to get scoring opportunities, having the ball in my hands," Kuzma said.

Rajon Rondo added 21 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers. Los Angeles shot 51.5% to win its eighth in a row.

"Rondo set the tone for us," Kuzma said. "Going right after CP (Chris Paul) right out of the gate, being aggressive with his scoring. A lot of times, everybody knows him as a pass-first guy. He came out today in attack mode."

James played on Friday night and had 35 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists in a win over the Dallas Mavericks.

Without him, the Lakers raced to a 73-49 halftime lead over the Thunder behind 58% shooting. Kuzma scored 23 points before the break. It was Oklahoma City's largest halftime deficit of the season.

The Lakers extended the lead to 32 in the third quarter before Oklahoma City rallied and trimmed its



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) goes to the basket between Los Angeles Lakers center JaVale McGee (7) forward Kyle Kuzma, right, in the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, in Oklahoma City. (AP Photo)

deficit to 102-82 at the end of the period.

The Thunder got as close as 11 points with 2:37 to go before a short jumper and a 3-pointer by Kuzma ended the rally.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Danilo Gallinari each scored 24 points for Oklahoma City. The Thunder came out flat after an emotional win over the Houston Rockets in Russell Westbrook's return on Thursday.

It was a tough lesson for the Thunder, who have been surprisingly good this season.

"I thought that they brought the energy and the intensity, and we didn't match it from the first minute," Gallinari said.

Meanwhile, in Portland, Oregon, the Milwaukee Bucks have bigger goals than a 70-win season, though their star player isn't taking their phenomenal start for granted.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 17 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 30 points and the Bucks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 122-101 on Saturday night.

Eric Bledsoe added 29 points for the Bucks, who made 14 3-pointers led by Middleton's

4-for-4 performance.

Antetokounmpo was asked afterward if the Bucks have changed their mindset from the hunters to the hunted.

"We're still hunting," the reigning MVP said. "Obviously teams are going to come and play hard against us. But at the end of the day we have to be the hunters. We have to have that mentality. That's what we've been doing. We've won 35 games and played 41. That's crazy."

But Middleton downplayed it.

"You can't win a championship in the regular season," Middleton said.

Antetokounmpo had 13 points and seven rebounds in the first quarter alone and Milwaukee went on to its third straight win. That matched his entire point total from Friday night's win over Sacramento.

"Usually when I'm not aggressive the previous game, I come out the next game more aggressive," Antetokounmpo said. "I can remember since I started playing basketball and that's what we did tonight."

Antetokounmpo also hit multiple 3-pointers for the 18th

time this season, something he did only 13 times all of last season.

"I'm comfortable, but I have to keep getting better," he said.

The Bucks led 32-24 after the first quarter as Damian Lillard did his best to keep Portland within range, scoring 12 points in the first quarter.

Lillard finished with 26 points while CJ McCollum scored 20 and Carmelo Anthony had 19 points and 11 rebounds, but Portland lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

"Yeah, it was a good effort but we don't show up to have a good effort," Lillard said. "We show up to win."

The Blazers shot just 10 for 36 from the 3-point line.

The Bucks pushed their lead to as high as 17 multiple times in the third quarter and held a 97-80 lead after the period thanks to a tip-in by Pat Connaughton before the buzzer.

A three-point play by Bledsoe pushed the Bucks lead to 116-94, their biggest of the game. A couple of possessions later, coach Terry Stotts removed the Blazers starters from the game.

AP



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018 file photo Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, and Meghan the Duchess of Sussex and Prince Harry watch a flypast of Royal Air Force aircraft pass over Buckingham Palace in London. As part of a surprise announcement distancing themselves from the British royal family, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan declared they will "work to become financially independent" - a move that has not been clearly spelled out and could be fraught with obstacles. (AP Photo)

his plans to take Britain out of the European Union. The Supreme Court ruled that the suspension was illegal and Johnson had misled the monarch about his reasons for it.

In November, her son Prince Andrew gave a disastrous television interview about his friendship with the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. His awkward performance failed to silence questions about the queen's second son, who has relinquished royal duties and patronages after being accused by a woman who says she was an Epstein trafficking victim and claims to have slept with the prince.

In her annual televised message to the nation on Christmas

Day, the queen appeared to allude to both national and family divisions when she said that the path to harmony and understanding "is not always smooth, and may at times this year have felt quite bumpy."

She urged people to "set aside past differences and come together in the spirit of friendship and reconciliation."

Ironically, some of Meghan and Harry's unhappiness may stem from the queen's efforts to strengthen the monarchy by making it more lean and slimmed down. An image released by Buckingham Palace last week of the queen and the three heirs next in line to the throne - Charles, William and William's son George -

appeared to underscore who the Windsors see as their core members.

"From Harry and Meghan's point of view, they're just being driven out," Tom Bradby, an ITV television anchor who is close to the couple, said.

The discord comes at a delicate time for Britain's monarchy. The queen remains robust, but she at age 93 has handed over a growing number of public duties to Charles and William. Her husband of 72 years, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, has retired from public life and was recently hospitalized.

"It's hard not to think that if the Duke of Edinburgh had been around and in circulation more,

that perhaps this particular situation wouldn't have got out of control," Majesty magazine Managing Editor Joe Little said. "The queen may be head of state, but the duke is still very much head of the family, although inevitably at 98 and a half, he's much less hands-on than he used to be."

The queen values stability and has personal experience of the tumult that can be caused by affairs of the heart.

She was not born to reign, but became heir to the throne at age 10, when her uncle King Edward VIII abdicated so he could marry divorced American Wallis Simpson, making Elizabeth's father King George VI.

The current rift is not a crisis on that scale, but royal historian Hugo Vickers said Harry's "quest for personal happiness" ahead of duty was reminiscent of Edward VIII and represented a similar anomaly within the royal family.

"The queen has always done her duty first," Vickers told broadcaster ITV. "And people like Prince Philip and Princess Anne and obviously (Charles) the Prince of Wales have all been tremendously good at being there to support the queen whenever she needs them."

While Harry and Meghan's plans have drawn a mixed response in Britain, there has been near-universal sympathy for the queen. That extended to U.S. President Donald Trump, who said Friday that the family situation she's dealing with was "sad."

"I just have such respect for the queen," Trump told Fox News. "I don't think this should be happening to her."

AP



## Mazembe, Sundowns qualify and Esperance unbeaten in 18 matches

JOHANNESBURG

TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa survived scares on Saturday to become the first qualifiers for the CAF Champions League quarter-finals.

Five-time champions Mazembe fell behind after eight minutes against Primeiro Agosto of Angola in Lubumbashi and did not take the lead until midway through the second half in a 2-1 win.

Former trophy-holders Sundowns also won 2-1 after USM Alger of Algeria wasted a late chance to level in Pretoria when a Mohamed Meftah penalty struck the woodwork.

Defending champions Esperance of Tunisia are close to a last-eight place after stretching an unbeaten Champions League run to 18 matches by beating V Club of DR Congo 2-0 in Kinshasa.

Fellow Tunisian club Etoile Sahel came from behind to overcome Al Hilal of Sudan 2-1 in Omdurman and Petro Luanda of Angola and Wydad Casablanca drew 2-2 in Luanda.

Platinum of Zimbabwe, the only club without a point going into matchday four, held record eight-time champions Al Ahly of Egypt 1-1 in Bulawayo.

On Friday, JS Kabylie of Algeria and Raja Casablanca of Morocco drew 0-0 in Tizi Ouzou and Zamalek of Egypt triumphed 2-0 against Zesco United of Zambia in Cairo.

The weekend results mean the eight seeded clubs are well placed to reach the quarter-finals with two matchdays to come in the elite Afri-

can club competition.

Just hours after Mazembe named Serb Dragan Cvetkovic technical director, they were stunned when Cristovao Mabalulu scored his sixth CAF goal this season for Primeiro.

- Turn the tide -

Stubborn Angolan resistance then kept the Congolese side at bay until Chico Ushindi and star forward Jackson Muleka netted within nine minutes during the second half to turn the tide.

Mazembe top Group A with 10 points, Zamalek have seven and Zesco and Primeiro two each ahead of a top-of-the-table clash in Cairo on January 25.

All the goals in Pretoria came late in the opening half with Thapelo Morena putting the South Africans ahead, Aymen Mahious equalising and Sibusiso Vilakazi scoring the winner.

Meftah sent Uganda goalkeeper Denis Onyango the wrong way with his spot-kick, but the ball hit the crossbar and flew over to leave 2015 runners-up USM winless after four group matches.

Sundowns head Group D on 10 points followed by twice champions Wydad on six and USM and Petro with two apiece.

Etoile avenged a shock home loss to Hilal thanks to a 71st-minute Iheb Msakni goal.

Hilal led through Waleed Bakhet, but Omer Hassan conceded an own-goal before half-time and they were reduced to 10 men when Nasr Eldin Sheighel was red-carded soon after Msakni scored.

AFP

## Xavi: 'I can't deny that my dream is to coach Barcelona'

DOHA

BARCELONA legend and current Al-Sadd coach Xavi Hernandez confessed that his dream is to coach his former club, amid reports of current talks between the 39-year-old and the La Liga champions.

"I can't deny that my dream is to coach Barcelona," Xavi said on Saturday after leading his side to the Qatari cup final. "I've said it so many times, in a lot of interviews. Everyone knows that I'm a Barcelona fan, the club are in my heart and my dreams. But for now I'm focused on Al-Sadd."

Current manager Ernesto Valverde is facing pressure at the Blaugrana after a late collapse against Atletico Madrid in the semifinals of the Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia on Thursday. It's the 55-year-old's second consecutive poor result, with Barcelona dropping points against rivals and league-worst Espanyol in their last La Liga bout.

Barcelona's Director of Football

- and former teammate of Xavi - Eric Abidal and CEO Oscar Grau traveled to Doha, Qatar to meet with Xavi on Friday and watched Al-Sadd's semi-final win on Saturday, which booked the club a spot in the final. Xavi, however, was tight-lipped about discussing what was said during their meeting.

"Abidal is my friend," Xavi added, "I've met with him a lot of times. I respect Barcelona, I respect Valverde and I respect my contract. I'm doing my job here. I've been focussing on the semi-final and now I'm thinking about the final. I'm very happy to be coaching Al-Sadd and I respect this club a lot. I can't say anything else."

On Saturday, Al-Sadd confirmed that negotiations between Xavi and Barcelona for the former midfielder to return to Spain are ongoing. The Qatari club has dismissed the reports in the past, but Al-Sadd sporting director, Ghulam Al Balushi, confirmed otherwise following the game.

(Agencies)

## Guardiola faces up to huge task of Man City renewal

MANCHESTER UNITED KINGDOM

PEP Guardiola knows replacing Manchester City's "golden generation" is a tough task but it is one he must accomplish to keep the team at the pinnacle of English football.

Talismanic captain Vincent Kompany has already left the Etihad, midfield maestro David Silva is going at the end of this season and all-time leading goalscorer Sergio Aguero is expected to depart when his contract runs out in 2021.

The three players were pivotal to City's rise and have been part of all four of the club's Premier League triumphs between 2012 and last season.

The task for Guardiola, whose side look unlikely to defend their Premier League title, is to find players who are good enough to repeat those achievements.

"We cannot deny how important these names have been for the club," said the Catalan ahead of Sunday's Premier League match at Aston Villa.

"Vinny is unique, Sergio is unique, David too. These kinds of players are incredible.

"But this club has the duty and obligation to find the best replacements for all of them and as quickly as possible and to anticipate it.

"You have to move on and it has to happen. But knowing how important they were, they helped us to be the club we are now."

- New City stars -

Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling have emerged as Premier League stars since Guardiola's arrival but the presence of the old guard, who have been successful under three managers at City, provided a solid foundation.

"I live nearly the last four years with these guys and I will always be grateful for what they have done for me and the club, in our period and in the past," said the City boss.

"They were with Roberto (Mancini) and Manuel (Pellegri) and they were incredibly consistent for many, many years."

AFP

## Peerless Liverpool roll on as Leicester stumble

LONDON

RECORD-breaking Liverpool beat Tottenham 1-0 to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League table to a yawning 16 points on Saturday as Southampton gained sweet revenge over high-flying Leicester.

Chelsea and Manchester United secured comfortable wins in the race for the top four but 10-man Arsenal fell further off the pace after a limp draw at Crystal Palace.

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool secured their 20th win in 21 Premier League matches thanks to Roberto Firmino's 37th-minute goal at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Spurs had their chances to take at least a point as Son Heung-min and Giovanni Lo Celso missed the target with the goal gaping in the final 15 minutes.

The European champions have won 61 points in the Premier League - the most any side has ever registered after 21 games in a single season across Europe's big five leagues, assuming three points for a win.

Their scarcely credible lead over second-placed Leicester means they are almost certain to claim their first English top-flight title for 30 years barring a calamitous collapse.

"We played super football in their box, but for 90-95 minutes you have to be ready," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told Sky Sports. "We were, but we still have to do better."

Speaking about Liverpool's record he said: "It's special. To win the number of games, to always be ready to fight, that's what the boys do."

"The only thing is that you don't get anything for best starts. The only thing we're interested in is what we can get in the summer. This league is so strong. We have to be ready."

- Leicester lose -

Earlier, Southampton claimed their fifth win in their past six games in all competitions as they came from behind at the King Power Stadium to beat Leicester 2-1.

Dennis Praet fired the hosts into an



200 not out: Marcus Rashford scored twice on his 200th Manchester United appearance (AFP Photo)

early lead, but Stuart Armstrong's deflected effort quickly pulled Hasenhuettl's men level.

Danny Ings then scored his 10th goal in 11 games eight minutes from time and the visitors survived a late scare when Jonny Evans's header was ruled out by VAR for offside.

Chelsea put their struggles at Stamford Bridge behind them with a 3-0 win over Burnley, who slid ever closer to the bottom three.

Jorginho opened the scoring from the penalty spot and Tammy Abraham gave Frank Lampard's men breathing space before half-time.

Callum Hudson-Odoi then scored his first Premier League goal by converting Cesar Azpilicueta's cross at the back post.

United ended a three-game winless run in style with Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial once again leading the way for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men in a 4-0 demolition of bottom-of-the-table Norwich.

Rashford marked his 200th appearance for the club with two goals

and Martial and substitute Mason Greenwood were also on target.

Solskjaer was delighted with this team's performance, which leaves them in fifth spot in the table, five points behind fourth-placed Chelsea.

But after the match he took fans at Old Trafford to task after angry protests aimed at unpopular owners the Glazer family and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

"As a club we've got to stick together, we've got to be united, we are a family," said the United boss.

"I can only say from when I've been here I've been backed by the owners, I've been backed by Ed and they're supporting me, so for me, make sure they stick together."

Woodward has become a particular target for supporters in recent months, given the club's on-field problems and his record in the transfer market.

- Aubameyang sees red -

Arsenal are now 11 points off the Champions League places as their revival under Mikel Arteta was halt-

ed by a red card for captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in a 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace.

Aubameyang gave the Gunners a deserved first-half lead but the Eagles levelled thanks to Jordan Ayew's deflected effort before a VAR review turned a yellow card for Aubameyang into a red for a reckless challenge on Max Meyer.

Wolves were held 1-1 at home by Newcastle while Everton bounced back from an embarrassing FA Cup exit to a youthful Liverpool side thanks to a moment of magic from Richarlison to beat Brighton 1-0.

During Spurs' match against Liverpool, injured Tottenham forward Harry Kane tweeted an image of himself in his hospital bed following successful surgery on his damaged hamstring. He wrote: "First day of recovery starts now!"

Defending champions Manchester City travel to Aston Villa on Sunday, 17 points behind Liverpool.

AFP

## Ibrahimovic waiting for 'God' celebration as Atalanta stall leaders Inter

MILAN

VETERAN Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored on his first AC Milan start since his return to the club in a 2-0 win over Cagliari on Saturday but city rivals Inter's position on top of Serie A is at risk after a 1-1 draw against Atalanta.

Lautaro Martinez put Inter ahead after four minutes in the San Siro only for Robin Gosens to pull Atalanta level on 76 minutes.

Inter are just one-point clear of champions Juventus who play Roma in the Stadio Olimpico on Sunday.

Lazio consolidated third position, four points behind Inter, with the league's top scorer Ciro Immobile grabbing the only goal against Napoli to stretch his side's winning streak to ten games.

Atalanta striker Duvan Zapata got his first start after a long injury lay-off but Inter were struggling without suspended Nicolo Barella and injured duo Matias Vecino and Alexis Sanchez.

"We gave everything in a difficult situation," said Inter coach Antonio Conte. "We were down to the bare bones, without four big players."

"Looking at our position in the table, seeing us up there, we might turn a blind eye to some issues."

"But I hope we don't have any more missing players or the situation becomes problematic."

Good work by in-form Inter strike duo Martinez and Romelu Lukaku paved the way for the first goal minutes into the game.

But Gosens volleyed in with quarter of an hour to go and Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic saved a Luis Muriel penalty two minutes from time to hold onto a point.

Atalanta are fifth, equal on points with Roma, who occupy the final Champions League berth.

In Sardinia, Ibrahimovic was named in the starting 11 for Milan against Cagliari, having come on as a substitute in their goalless draw against Sampdoria last weekend.

The 38-year-old played the entire match scoring after 64 minutes for his first Milan goal since leaving the club for Paris Saint-Germain eight



Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's second goal during an Italian Serie A soccer match between Cagliari and Milan in Cagliari, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020. (AP)

years ago.

"I'll celebrate like a God at San Siro, not here," said Ibrahimovic, who last scored in the Milan jersey in May 2012. "I celebrate God every time I score, that way I feel alive!"

- 'The real Ibra' -

Portuguese forward Rafael Leao, 20, had struck the opener just after the break as Milan got their first win since a 3-2 victory over Bologna on December 8.

Since then Stefano Pioli's side have settled for two goalless draws and suffered a humiliating 5-0 defeat by

Atalanta.

Milan move up to eighth in the table, 10 points off the Champions League berths.

"I feel good, the coach just wanted to think about my age and see if I needed a rest, but there's no problem," continued Ibrahimovic, who did not want to be substituted.

"My brain is always the same and the body has to follow."

It was his 57th goal for the club and 123rd in Serie A, having also played for Inter Milan and Juventus.

He was denied a second with eight

minutes to go by the linesman's flag.

"Ibra is an important point of reference, but it will still take time to perfect," said Pioli.

"He's not yet the real Ibra, which we will see in a few games."

Ibrahimovic has a six-month contract with an option for another season. He helped the club win their 18th and most recent Serie A title in 2011.

Cagliari fell to their fourth consecutive defeat, but remain sixth.

- Perfect 10 -

Lazio extended their winning streak to a club record of ten games as they inflicted a second consecutive defeat on Serie A runners-up Napoli thanks to a blunder from goalkeeper David Ospina with eight minutes to go.

Colombian international Ospina was caught in possession inside his own box allowing Immobile to tap in his 20th goal in 19 games to the delight of the home crowd as the club marked their 120th anniversary.

Lazio are chasing their first Scudetto since 2000.

"What is missing for the Scudetto? To be honest, we're not missing much," said coach Simone Inzaghi.

"We keep conceding crazy goals," said Napoli coach Gennaro Gattuso whose side drop to tenth place.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Peerless Liverpool roll on as Leicester stumble

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Kagera Sugar players take part in drills in Bukoba recently to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League matches. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

## Simba SC, Mtibwa Sugar battle for 2020 Mapinduzi Cup glory

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA Sports Club and Mtibwa Sugar will battle for the right to be crowned 2020 Mapinduzi Cup champions when they meet in the final at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar tonight, kick-off at 20h15. Simba booked their place in the final thanks to a 3-2 penalty shootout win over Azam FC in the semis, having overcome Zimamoto 3-1 in the quarterfinals.

They are looking to win a fourth Mapinduzi Cup title, and their first since 2015 when they beat Mtibwa

Sugar in the final.

They have appeared in six previous finals, the most recent was a 2-1 loss to Azam FC in the 2019 edition. That match also took place at Amaan Stadium.

At the beginning of the campaign, Simba won the Community Shield under Belgian head coach, Patrick Aussems, who has since been succeeded by a fellow Belgian, Sven Vandebroek.

Despite being only in charge of the squad in six matches, Vandebroek knows he has to deliver after two stalemates in his first two opening big games.

Mtibwa Sugar, meanwhile, claimed their place in the final thanks to a penalty shootout win over Young Africans (Yang) in the semis.

Mtibwa Sugar had beaten Chipukizi in a similar fashion in the previous round of the competition. Mtibwa Sugar who are underdogs in this clash, will be hoping to cause an upset by lifting the Mapinduzi Cup for only the second time.

They won the trophy in 2010 by beating Ocean View of Zanzibar but the Morogoro side have been losing finalists in three occasions.

Four of the six 2020

Mapinduzi Cup matches have been decided by penalty shootout, suggesting that any match in this tournament can go either way.

However, one quirk within the Mapinduzi Cup record of the two teams will spark fear for Mtibwa Sugar, in two previous cup finals between the teams, Simba have emerged victorious on each and every occasion.

Will Mtibwa Sugar either rewrite the tournament's history book and stun Simba or will the latter, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', prove too strong for the sugarcane millers from Manungu?



Simba SC defender, Pashal Wawa (R), shoots past Azam FC forward, Iddi Selemani, when the two outfits met in the last four of the 2020 Mapinduzi Cup, which took place in Zanzibar last weekend. Simba SC won 3-2 in penalty shootout to cruise to the final, slated for today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## VPL offers excitement despite Simba, Yanga absence

By Guardian Correspondent

THE big boys, Azam FC, Young Africans (Yanga) and Simba SC were out of Vodacom Premier League (VPL) action last weekend but there were still more than enough matches to provide talking points.

Here we look at the VPL match day 17 talking points in five matches played on Saturday in different venues across the country.

Ndanda FC lost again over the weekend. This time by a solitary goal to Mbeya City FC.

Ndanda FC have lost nine of their last 10 league. If they were not worried before, this may be the right time to fret.

The appointment of head coach Abdul Mingange has so far failed to yield results. Mingange has picked one point from a possible 15 points.

They are now bottom of the VPL table with nine points, the latest defeat leaving them a point behind Singida United. The Mtwara squad are the only team yet to register an away victory in this season's campaign.

With 21 games to play it is still possible for them to salvage their season, but time is running out and with four teams directly relegated, a few more losses could prove disastrous.

Biashara United hired Kenyan coach Francis Baraza on November 18 last year in the hopes that he could plug the holes of their sinking ship.

Biashara United began the season in relegation type form. They lost four of their opening five matches.

The Mara outfit's irate fans could not take it and forced the exit of head coach Amri Said who had helped them escape relegation last season.

On Saturday they ended high flying Coastal Union's six-match winning streak with a hard fought 1-1 away draw that prompted angry reactions from the home team fans who thought three points were in the bag before the last whistle.

Baraza has picked up nine points from possible 18 points from his first six games in charge, his only loss came in the top flight competition's game against Yanga.

They are only three points safe from a direct relegation spot but Baraza may have steered the ship around.

Kagera Sugar last won a league match on November 22 last year, defeating Lipuli FC 2-1.

Since then they have registered five losses and one draw, and are now eighth in the log.

On Saturday, Kagera suffered another loss, this time at the hands of Police Tanzania.

That was the third consecutive loss. Head coach Mecky Mexime has a lot of work on his hands or else he will soon be looking over his shoulder from the hovering relegation axe like last season.

Kagera Sugar's next league assignment is against Yanga who are on an unbeaten run in their last 11 matches.

Yanga will also have the luxury of playing at home under their new head coach, Belgian Luc Eymael.

While Coastal Union are hogging the headlines for winning five league games in a row, there is another team quietly going about their business, raking in points. Namungo have only lost one in their last five games.

They are well placed for a top eight finish in their top flight debut season, but may even want to challenge for a top five place, considering it is only one point away from them.

And with their experienced forward, Reliant Lusajo, having found his goal scoring boots, anything is possible.

## Ndanda FC coach bemoans team's inexperience

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NDANDA FC head coach, Abdul Mingange, has admitted lack of experience counted against his side as they suffered a 1-0 defeat to fellow relegation strugglers Mbeya City FC in a Vodacom Premier League Match played at the Samora Stadium in Iringa on Saturday.

Mingange watched helplessly on as his charges conceded a second half goal following a lapse in defense concentration that allowed Kelvin Kayongo to head home the all-important goal to condemn Ndanda FC to their tenth loss of the season.

Ndanda have one win in their opening 17 league matches and Mingange, former Azam FC and Mbeya City FC coach, sensed a lack of confidence and maturity among his players.

"As I have said previously, this team has many youngsters who are not used to pressure especially in a must-win game like this one. The officiating is questionable, it can lead to some a not so smart player

making stupid decision," Mingange told reporters after the match.

"We have lost and we now have to plan for future games, we will sign new players and hopefully we will do well."

Defeat to Mbeya City has heaped pressure on coach Mingange, who is yet to deliver a league victory since his appointment in late November. Ndanda are now rock bottom of the 20-team league's log.

On the other hand, Mbeya City head coach Amri Said believes a tactical tweak in the second half got them maximum points.

"Ndanda parked the bus, they had seven players in their own half, we had to run them down. We made substitutions by introducing a second striker who secured us the winning goal," he said.

Four teams get relegated automatically at the end of the season, while the two teams just above them goes into a two-leg playoff against the teams that finished second in each of the two First Division League groups.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

