



National Pg 2 Plan to distribute natural gas



National Pg 3 Smugglers of fishing nets in soup



National Pg 4 Transfer of agriculture officers



TAWIRI relocating 36 Serengeti lions

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE government has decided to relocate a pride of 36 lions from the Serengeti National Park after repeated attacks on humans in nearby villages and feeding on livestock.

The lions, reputed to be an increasingly endangered species, live on the edge of the safari hub of East Africa but have been affected by encroaching human activity.

Eleven of the group have already been captured and will be taken to the Burigi Chato national park, affirmed Simon Mduma, director general of the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

"We used to kill when one lion attacked people but this is a huge group with which we cannot do the same," he said.

"Lions are becoming vulnerable and we want to take action that will sustain them."

About 20 of those lions will be shifted to Burigi Chato while another venue has yet to be found for the other 16.

"More areas have been taken for human activities and that has really affected the life of lions," said institute researcher Dennis Ikanda.



Lions are becoming vulnerable and we want to take action that will sustain them

Last September the government annulled the special status of 12 protected zones and of seven wildlife and forest reserves, allocating more than 700,000 hectares (1.8 million acres) of land to settlements, farming and livestock following an assessment of land disputes.

That move came as the global lion population continues to dwindle. Numbers have slumped by 43 per cent over the past two decades to around 20,000 lions worldwide, on the basis of estimates by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which classes the predator as a vulnerable species amid habitat loss and increased land provision for agriculture.

Speaking in July last year, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla, said moving wildlife from different national parks to others was a normal scientific procedure carried out all over the world.

Dr Kigwangalla made the statement as the Burigi-Chato National Park was being inaugurated, graced by President John Magufuli.

The process of transferring animals from one place to another wasn't new as it had taken place in various national parks in the past, hence Burigi-Chato National Park was no exception, he stated.

The statement came after critics in social media had at the time questioned the ministry's decision to transfer wildlife from other national parks to the Burigi-Chato National Park.

TCRA: 29m phones lined up for switching off today



Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), and Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (2nd-L) have a first-hand account at the weekend of the implementation of Dar es Salaam's National Social Security Fund's (NSSF) Mtoni Kijichi real estate project shortly after the Fund handed over the buildings (in the background) to the government for use by students in institutions of higher learning. Others are NSSF Board of Trustees chairman Ali Siwa (2nd-R) and vice chairperson Jane Nyimbo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NSSF hands over 2 apartment blocks for college students' use

By Guardian Correspondent

STUDENTS of higher learning institutions in the city of Dar es Salaam have something to smile about after 32 apartment buildings were handed over to several institutions by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) management.

NSSF Director General William Erio (pictured)



said at the handing over event that students of several universities in city shall use those apartments as halls of residence to the sector minister, Prof Joyce Ndalichako.

Erio thanked President Dr John Magufuli for extending to NSSF the guidance that enabled the fund to focus solidly on completing the first

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DC expels hunting firm for over 350m/- in local levies

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government has once again ordered the hunting company, Green Miles Safaris to vacate its Lake Natron East hunting block in Longido District following long-term disagreements over levies payable to nearby villages.

Longido District Commissioner Frank Mwaisumbe told hundreds of residents who gathered at Mundarara village over the weekend, that the firm closes its operations today.

"Green Miles Safaris was supposed to vacate the block since last year as ordered, but the



The time is now up and we expect them to officially hand back the block this Monday January 20

management requested for extension of block occupation to allow them complete some unfinished business and wind up company operations," the DC stated.

"The time is now up and we expect them to officially hand back the block this Monday January 20," he declared.

The firm was given a grace period of up to December 16, 2019 but until early this month it showed no sign of leaving the site. This prompted the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Adolf

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Some mobile phone owners who had not yet registered their SIM cards biometrically and had no hope of doing so yesterday made desperate calls for authorities to extend the registration period as millions of lines are expected to go off the air

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) yesterday ruled out possibility of extending today's deadline for biometric registration of mobile phone numbers, saying over 20 million lines will be switched off.

The Principal Communications Officer for TCRA, Semu Mwakyanjala, told The Guardian yesterday that 27,287,091 lines had been registered biometrically by Wednesday last week which is equivalent to 56 per cent of 48,717,967 subscribed mobile phones.

This means 21,430,876 lines (44 per cent) were yet to be registered biometrically, hence face the button as TCRA proceeds to switch off biometrically unregistered numbers today.

"There is no change of plan; mobile phone lines that have not been registered biometrically will be switched off," he said.

This came as thousands of mobile phone owners yesterday thronged biometric registration centres in various parts of the country in last ditch efforts to save their lines from switch off.

In Dar es Salaam, major mobile telephone operators pitched tent at Mbagala Zakhem grounds in Temeke District, at offices of the National Identification Authority (NIDA).



There is no change of plan; mobile phone lines that have not been registered biometrically will be switched off today

A sea of people gathered at an expansive open space from early morning until late in the evening as more people came than those who left, making the long queues perpetual.

Some mobile phone owners who had not yet registered their SIM cards biometrically and had no hope of doing so yesterday made desperate calls for authorities to extend the registration period as millions of lines are expected to go off the air.

A spot check by this newspaper in various parts of the country found gloom on the faces of owners facing the prospect of not having crucial communications beginning today and whose only hope is announcement of yet another extension period which TCRA ruled out.

Speaking to this paper in Morogoro, Jackson Mchanjali, Mary Lambaigwa, Mohamed Mbegu and Patricia Simon—all of whom failed to register yesterday—called on President John Magufuli to intervene and extend the registration period.

"As you can see all these people cannot be registered today and more keep coming; the only way out is to extend the deadline," said Mbegu.

The same appeal came from Kahama District in Shinyanga Region where thousands of people reported to registration centres

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NSSF hands over 32 apartment blocks for college students' use

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phase of the project.

He similarly expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa for having visited the project site and issued directives on how to complete it.

The visit also facilitated close supervision by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled), Jenista Mhagama.

Erio said instructions of these top officials enabled students from higher learning institutions to be initial customers for the buildings.

He commended heads of the higher learning institutions for their preparedness during the implementation of the project, as they started working on the matter at the initial stage of negotiation and later signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

NSSF houses are suitable for lecturers and other staff, he stated, urging heads of higher learning institutions to take advantage of the opportunity to secure better housing.

The president of the students' government at the Centre for Foreign Relations, Vavery Matembo, praised the government for relentlessly addressing challenges facing students in higher learning institutions.

He asked NSSF employees to do the most they could to help the corporation ensure proper use of the buildings it has released for use by higher learning institutions.

Theodora Marata, who heads the NSSF zonal office for Mbagala, said that the buildings were a key NSSF project as it is a solution for many university students experiencing serious challenges in obtaining space in hostels or halls of residence.

"This handover is going to solve this challenge and help our students to live in a decent learning environment," she said.

NSSF Board of Trustees chairman, Ambassador Ali Siwa, said the Mtoni Kijichi project which is now intended to be used as halls of residence has 64 buildings with a total of 720 apartments.

The number of buildings assigned to higher learning institutions was 32 buildings with 356 apartments, likely to accommodate up to 4,317

students, he said.

The Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) will take five buildings for 696 students, the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) taking six apartments for 815 students, and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) one building for 144 students.

The Tanzania Institute of Accountancy will take 10 buildings for the use of 1,165 students, the Center for Foreign Relations one building for 96 students, the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy taking nine buildings to accommodate 1,398 students, the NSSF board chairperson noted.

Minister Jenista Mhagama, who handles the social security docket in the Prime Minister's Office, stated that the fifth phase government under President Dr. John Magufuli will ensure that the student housing problem is resolved and reduced to history countrywide.

She said the government had made the right decision to make sure the project solves a major accommodation challenge for students.

"Through this project, the NSSF has been the right answer to eliminate the problem of housing and accommodation for students," she stated, noting that the fund has created space for allocating residential space for 4,317 students.

He warned the houses should not be turned over to be the university project, and instead the rental costs should be fair to students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

She said they would not close eyes to those who would prevent children of all conditions from living in those homes.

The minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako expressed the government's appreciation to NSSF for providing the facilities as they would solve problems facing students at higher learning institutions.

What the fund has done is a good example for other public organisations to emulate, she said.

Prof Ndalichako said the shortage of residential space for students in institutions of higher learning was massive, with a large percentage of students living off campus.

"The provision of these buildings for higher education students is a clear indication that the government is caring for students," the minister added.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, makes remarks at a Chinese New Year ceremony in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

DC expels hunting firm over 350m/- in local levies

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Mkenda, to order their departure by today.

The Mundarara ward councillor, Alais Mushao lauded the government's move to evict the investor, saying villages in the area were all not happy with the company's activities in their location.

"The firm has been refusing to settle village levies since 2013 and as of now the debt has accumulated to over 350mn/-," the councillor asserted.

In August last year, the Minister for

Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla issued a statement ordering Green Miles out of Longido block following controversies between the hunting firm and 23 villages in the block's precincts.

Whether Green Miles will comply with the latest order and vacate the Lake Natron Block today remains to be seen.

This reporter attempted to contact the Director of Green Miles Safaris, Abdallah Awadhi, but without success. People close to him but who are not authorized to comment said that he was currently out of

the country.

The management of Green Miles had earlier on refuted complaints of defaulting on levies, saying many of the village cash claims were fabricated as they have been paying all their dues to local leaders.

A total of 47 firms have been granted hunting licences on tracking blocks found in various parts of the country and they are required to settle annual fees amounting to USD 5,000 to each of the surrounding villages. This money is supposed to be invested into community development projects.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa plants a tree at Zanzibar's Kizimbani Agriculture College at the weekend. Photo: PMO

Investors in Z'bar urged to observe laws

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

INVESTORS have been urged to abide by the country's laws and play their part for the country and society around them so as strengthen the sector.

Opening an investor's meeting for various sectors in Zanzibar South Region at weekend at State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) Conference Hall, the Regional Commissioner Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud said doing so will increase the pace of the country's economic and social development

He said investors have given a big contribution in economic growth, community development and

strengthening knowledge from their activities, hence the region's aim is to make them hence their contribution.

He also asked the investors to make use the offices of district commissioners and other government institutions to simplify service delivery for their businesses especially on the issue of land ownership.

"On the land issue I ask you not to use middlemen or agents as we have discovered they are the cause of conflicts in some areas in our region. It is better you use our offices, but also institutions concerned with land issues for service delivery," he cautioned.

On issue of security raised by the

investors as among the challenges they face, he said there is the need of having a joint cooperation plan that will enhance the security situation for visitors and the wananchi using the service given by the investors.

"In our region there are tourists and other institutions that serve more than 200 visitors. A big effort is needed to enhance security, not necessarily by increasing the number of police stations, but also to establish a good security system," he said.

On their part the investors said apart from the achievements they realized, they are still faced by various challenges including security, unclean environment especially on the

beaches and threats from officials of government institutions who go to get information on their businesses

They said there are some officials from government institutions who visit their premises use bad language or follow procedures causing unnecessary frictions between them and hotel officials.

"Officials, especially those from Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) when they come and find us dealing with our customers have been forcing us to serve them and when you ask them to wait a little they give threats or even prosecute you for obstructing them to do their duties," said Innocent Chuma from Sultan Palace Hotel.

TCRA: 29m phones lined for switching off today

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even before they were opened but the numbers kept increasing instead of decreasing.

Zubery Mohamed and Ipela Juma who had no hope of registering by end of business hours blamed technical hitches for the delay, calling on authorities to extend the deadline.

"There is a problem of network which keeps going off; this means some of us at the tail of the queue will not be able to register," said Juma.

In a statement released last week, TCRA said that victims of the imminent mass switch off of SIM cards will have an opportunity to retrieve their numbers after getting a national identity card or just ID number from NIDA.

The notice did not however state a time limit in which a number

previously used by a subscriber can be conserved before being declared vacant and assigned to another user by the respective service provider.

The regulator reminded all those who have registered their lines biometrically to confirm the same by dialing "106#" upon which they will receive a message stating the number and name of the subscriber.

Earlier last month President Magufuli announced an extension of the registration deadline to January 20. Earlier, the president had set out until the end of the year for the biometric registration exercise which was instructed to take place from May 1 to September 30 and proved a failure, so the president pushed it to the end of the year before adding another 20 days, but crowds still simmer in registration offices.

Ready: Plan to distribute natural gas to five regions

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has finalised its original plan for distributing natural gas to five regions so as to ensure Tanzania uses its own natural resources for development of industrial economy.

The Deputy minister for Energy Subira Mgalu revealed this in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when speaking at an investors' meeting that discussed the mobilisation plan on the use of natural gas in the country.

Mgalu stressed the plan is a result of a three-year research conducted by the government under the sponsorship of Japan International development Agency (JICA).

She mentioned the regions as Arusha, Dodoma, Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Morogoro, and added that the government's goal is to ensure all the Mainland regions gets the natural gas for various uses.

"Tanzania has discovered 57 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and we are now putting up strategies for its use. According to available statistics the gas that is being drilled out produced 892.72 MW of electricity or 57 percent of all the power produced in the country," she said.

She said natural gas is also used in vehicles and "we have started that in Dar es Salaam where about 200 vehicles use gas and the infrastructures for its distribution are being developed to take the energy closer to consumers."

She added: "The natural gas is also aiding in environmental protection especially in cooking as up to now the Tanzania Petroleum development Corporation (TPDC) has installed infrastructures for transmitting gas to homes in Lindi, Mtwara, Dar es Salaam and Coast regions."

On industrial use Mgalu said more than 50 factories have been connected to natural gas network. "This is a very big and long time project - up to 2046 since its inception in 2017," she added.

The Commissioner for Petroleum and Gas in the energy Ministry Adam Zuberi said Tanzania is in the right time hence deliberate efforts are being made to take natural gas to all regions in the country.

An advisor from Japan's energy and economy commission Kensuke Kanekinyo said the first phase of the project has cost USD 2 million in three years. He said the cost of the entire project is USD 250 million to take natural gas to all regions of the country.



Exim Bank Iringa branch manager Michael Richard (C) presents sanitary pads to Ruaha Secondary School matron Fatuma Tembo for use by students as part of a campaign to discourage stigmatisation related to menstrual. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday inspected the restoration of the tourist hotel in Pemba South Region to boost tourism and creating job opportunities in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The 4bn/- project is being executed by the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF).

Majaliwa tasked Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Isles, Khamis Mussa Omar to ensure that the project is

Pemba tourist hotel project in top gear

completed within the scheduled time.

The premier described the project as key in reinforcing tourism and hospitality industry as well as creating direct and indirect employment opportunities in the exotic island and the country at large.

"This hotel will also complement government's effort to increasing the number of tourists visiting the country as well as increasing revenues."

ZSSF's investment manager, Abdulaziz Ibrahim Idd said the hotel restoration started in July last year and is expected to be completed by March this year.

He said that the former one-story building is being revamped to three-storey building with the move that increasing rooms from eight to 16 including two VIP rooms. The revamped facility will have a modern conference hall with the capacity of accommodating 100 people

at once, with modern restaurant and laundry.

"The construction has reached 80 percent and upon completion the hotel will create 50 permanent job opportunities," he said.

The Zanzibar-owned facility was established in September 1974 with the aim to serve tourists.

The hotel was closed down for the past 12 years. It is being handed over to ZSSF for revamping and running it.

Smugglers of illegal fishing nets in soup

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has announced a crackdown to nab smugglers of illegal fishing nets following complaints from local manufacturers.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina made the announcement over the weekend shortly after touring Nyota Venture Company Ltd—a local fish net manufacturer based in Dar es Salaam.

He was concerned that local producers of fish nets have been complaining on presence of illegal imported fishing gears, hence introduction of a special operation along all the shores countrywide.

He said the government is determined to end illegal fishing by controlling importation of illegal fishing nets as well as taking legal measures against individuals importing the banned fish nets.

Mpina said during his recent visits to Mbamba Bay at Lake Nyasa, Kibirizi along Lake Tanganyika, Sengerema, Kivinje and Mafia Islands along the Indian Ocean Coast, fishermen complained on the presence of illegal fishing nets in most of the shops.

He said fishermen in the above mentioned areas have been purchasing fish nets from legalized shops, but when inspected by fisheries officers the nets are said to be prohibited.

"Most fishermen incur losses by unknowingly purchasing banned fish nets. We will conduct a crackdown to nab all the smugglers", said the Minister adding some fish net manufacturing companies are said to produce poor quality nets that lasts for between 6 and 9 months only.

Mpina noted the government has been spending 20bn/- to import fish nets annually due to poor quality nets manufactured by local industries. He said fish nets should be manufactured in accordance with the Fisheries Act, No. 22 of 2003 and its 2009 regulations. He said the nets must also be inspected by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards

(TBS) and officials from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

According to him, fishermen also complained over lack of coordinated market and presence of few fish processing factories that operates below capacity.

There are only six functioning fish processing factories along the Indian Ocean measuring 1,424 kilometers, said Mpina.

He directed officials in the ministry to organize a stakeholders meeting which will include fish processors and fish net manufacturers. He said the meeting should be held tomorrow in Dodoma to give chances to manufacturers of fishing gears and fish processors to suggest ways to end illegal importation of nets as well as to chart ways to end challenges in the fishing sub-sector.

Meanwhile, Nyota Venture Fish Net Company Ltd Manager, Patrick Nduaguba said they are planning to increase production of the fishing gears by three folds due to increased demand. He said the government's efforts in controlling illegal fishing have largely boosted the factory as more fishermen seek to purchase legalized fish nets.

Manager at Alpha Krust Fishnet Ltd, Geneshan Vedagiri appealed to the government to reduce export levies on sea foods to increase fish exports and boost revenues.

Fisheries Director from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Magees Bulayi promised to properly supervise implementation of the operation that gears to control smuggling of fish nets. He said government measures are meant to improve the country's investment environment and ensure conducive business climate for both, local manufacturers and importers of fishing nets.

"Most fishermen incur losses by unknowingly purchasing banned fish nets. We will conduct a crackdown to nab all the smugglers"

Dar es Salaam launches campaign to flush out substandard non-woven carrier bags

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has launched a nationwide campaign to nab manufacturers, distributors and importers of non woven carrier bags that do not meet required standards.

Speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at Tandika market the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) inspector Lucas Gwila said that the campaign has been launched at Temeke and Kigamboni districts in the city.

He said the campaign which also aims to educate non woven traders on specific requirements would later on be conducted in other regions.

Gwila urged all traders who are dealing with non woven carrier bags to make sure that they meet standards requirements otherwise stern measures would be taken against culprits. "They have to follow all required procedures particularly those

related to standards, otherwise we will not hesitate to take tough measures including prosecution to the court of law," he added.

Last year, the government issued production prerequisite for the said non-woven carrier bags that would enable traders to conduct their business without any problem.

One of the requirements was gram per square meter (GSM70) bags should be recyclable, must show trade mark or address of manufacturer, carrying capacity and certified by TBS.

According to him no any non-woven carrier bags would be imported or produced in the country without sticking to the stipulated requirements.

The organization has already convened a meeting with manufacturers of the sand bags to inform on the new requirement.

Last year TBS introduced new standards for alternative plastic carrier

bags urging all manufacturers to adhere to new regulation.

The newly standards which re TZS 2292: 2018 and TZS 2130: 2018 were introduced earlier in 2019.

The standards which fall on compulsory requirement were introduced before the government decision to ban plastic carrier bags.

Already TBS has suspended licenses for plastic materials used in packaging.

Statistics show the Watchdog had a list of more than 1,700 manufacturers who had been licensed to manufacture plastic carrier bags before it was banned by the government mid last year.

The government announced the ban on the plastic carrier bags on June 1, 2019, citing biodegradability of plastic bags, which can last 10 to 20 years in marine environment or more on the ground, leading to deadly pollution of the atmosphere.



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 - ❖ **Where:** Official Residence of Canada, 286 Toure Drive
 - ❖ **For who:** students, parents and guardians, schools
- REGISTER TO ATTEND: <https://forms.gle/uyr1ojrnbDLjd8FW9>

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Mwanza gets facility for measurement of transit oil in tankers

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE ministry of Industry and Trade has established a calibration bay along Mwanza-Musoma highway in Mwanza city, enabling dealers and filling station owners to measure the quantity of oil ferried by tanker.

Manager of Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) in Mwanza Region, Albogast Kajungu told owners of petrol stations here at the weekend to make use of the facility which will also serve tankers headed to nearby Mara Region.

Kajungu noted that establishment of the bay located at Nyamhongolo area is meant to extend calibration services to petroleum dealers in the region as in the past service was only available Dar es Salaam.

"In the past operators of petrol stations in Mwanza region were forced to transport their tankers to Dar es Salaam for calibration but now with the establishment of the facility here they will get services near their stations and therefore save money as well as time they could use for transport", he noted.

He pointed out that sometime also the aluminium bar commonly known as dipstick may undergo erosion in the course of time in that regard calibration has to be done at most once a year so that if there is a problem of that kind can be noticed and rectified.

Making a point at the occasion, the Region's Administrative Secretary (RAS), Christopher Kadio appealed to WMA to make sure that petrol station operators have regulations by the agency.

He underscored that move will much help the operators to easily comply with the regulations governed by that agency and therefore simply its

management in the area.

However, Kadio urged the service providers to lodge their complaints against the agency in writing if there are any so that they can be dealt with accordingly.

That will be the normal procedure to attend complaints raised by people against government institutions in order to find solution on them, he said

He explained that even when they arrange for their regular meetings they should invite representatives Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and WMA to help clarify some issues to them with regard to their operations.



In the past operators of petrol stations in Mwanza region were forced to transport their tankers to Dar es Salaam for calibration but now with the establishment of the facility here they will get services near their stations and therefore save money as well as time they could use for transport



Angellah Kairuki (C, foreground), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), with Coast Region officials during a tour of Tan Choice factory in Kibaha District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM orders transfer of agriculture officers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed Development Directors for the Zanzibar urban councils to remove agriculture officers who are glued onto their office chairs and send them to villages to listen to complaints from

farmers and livestock keepers.

He called upon the officials to do their duty physically and stop staying indoors while farmers and livestock keepers are faced with many challenges that need resolving.

Speaking at the weekend after inspecting modern farming at Jozani

Zanzibar South Region, he said farmers need expertise to develop their farming activities hence it is imperative for agricultural officers to go to them to offer the expertise. The Prime Minister hailed Jozani villagers for starting an association for modern farming as communal farming ensures quick

achievements than individual farming. Meanwhile the Prime Minister inspected a School Hub project at Bwejuu in Zanzibar South Region where he directed contractors of the project to complete the work which, he said was supposed to be completed last December.

Leonard Cheshire

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Tanzania Cheshire Foundation

International consultants and suppliers

We're regularly looking for consultancy roles in our regional offices.

Expression of interest

We're seeking to procure services of an independent consultant to conduct a lighter touch mid-term review with a greater focus on learning.

Our project, in partnership with Tanzania Cheshire Foundation, aims to increase the enrolment and retention of children with disabilities in primary schools, to increase their learning and improve their life chances.

Children with disabilities face multiple barriers to education including stigma around disability, isolation and abuse from family and community members, inaccessible environments and lack of rehabilitative support.

This project addresses the barriers to education to ensure that more children with disabilities access education and improve their learning, ultimately receiving a full, quality and inclusive education.

Key aims and objectives

The consultant will deliver 5 items:

- **Inception Plan:** Submitted in electronic form together The Inception plan shall include: Consultant's understanding of the TOR and comments, proposed methodology, detailed evaluation framework and implementation plan, data collection instruments, field visit plan, workshop agenda, and final report outline
- **Draft Report:** The draft report shall have the following contents: introduction and Background/context, Methodology, Findings (structured around the project outcome areas), conclusions (key lesson learnt), recommendations and an action plan for the remainder of the project for the way forward for TCF and Leonard Cheshire among others. The consultant shall submit the draft report in soft copy for feedback from TCF and Leonard Cheshire.
- **Final Report:** A final report, in addition to the above contents, shall incorporate comments from the key TCF and Leonard Cheshire stakeholders who will be consulted for validating the draft report. The consultant shall submit a soft copy in PDF and Word format together with 1 bound colour hard copies.
- **Powerpoint presentation** summarizing the findings of the report and actions.
- Completed and accurate data sets.

Application process

Interested consultants are invited to submit a proposal on **24 January 2020 by 5pm** (Tanzania time) to menance.mhombwe@outlook.com and copy to rachel.gondwe@leonardcheshire.org.

TANAPA assistance set to help district get 400 desks

By Guardian Correspondent,

Ikungi

TANZANIA National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has given Ikungi District Council in Singida Region 24m/-

for making 400 desks to alleviate the shortage of the furniture in the district.

Presenting his report on the distribution of 330 desks in seven out of 30 schools, the Ikungi District Development Director (DED)

Justice Kijazi said there is a total of 4,517 students selected to join Form 1 this year in the district.

He said the district has increased the number of students who passed their Std 7 National Examinations

from 1,483 in 2018 to 4,787 last year, and emerged No. 1 in Singida region.

He said due to acute shortage of desks in the district's secondary schools, and due the increased number of students, there won't be any students who will be unable to start lessons because there are enough classrooms for all students and are currently new desks as well as repairing old ones.

He said his Council needs 13,076 sets of desks and chairs to alleviate the shortage in the 30 secondary schools and as of now it has 9,557 chairs and 9,509 desks for all public schools.

He said up to now the Council has made 330 desks and repaired more than 800 chairs and desks.

Presenting the desks to seven secondary schools, Ikungi District Commissioner Edward Mpororo stressed that the district received 4bn/- for the construction of four court houses and a Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) college.

He called upon teachers and students to ensure the school furniture is taken care of as well as the government built infrastructures.

The District Secondary Education Officer Ngwano J. Ngwano said the Council had asked from TANAPA 24m/- and expect to make more than 588 desks.

He said up to now the Council has made 330 desks and repaired more than 800 chairs and desks.

HTT INFRACO LIMITED DAR ES SALAAM

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE (Auctioneer) under instructions received from **HTT Infraco Limited** shall sell 15 Vehicles by public auction on Saturday January 25, 2020 commencing from 10.00 am. The auction will take place at HTT Infraco's warehouse located at Ubungo, Morogoro Roads opposite UDART bus stand Shekilango / Ubungo National Housing.

VEHICLES TO BE SOLD:

Units	Make	Model	Year	Duty
6	Nissan Hard Body P/Up Single Cabin	QD32 Diesel	2013	Not Paid
5	Nissan Hard Body P/Up Double Cabin	QD32 Diesel	2013	Paid
2	Nissan Almera Saloon	Petrol Engine	2013	Paid
2	Suzuki Jimmy Station Wagon	Petrol Engine	2011	Paid

All Vehicles may be inspected at HTT Infraco's warehouse as indicated above from 21 to 24 January from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

1. The winning bidder must pay 25% of bid amount to the Auctioneer immediately and the final payment in full within 5 working days on HTT Infraco's Bank account as will be directed. All payments not made within 5 days after close of the bid shall be re-auctioned and the advance payments will be forfeited.
2. Payments via **CRDB Bank VISA & Master Cards** will be accepted.
3. All used vehicle are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
4. Bidder will remove the vehicle after all payments.
5. All persons entering the premises **Must obtain a Bid Number** at the entrance.
6. All persons entering HTT's warehouse must wear safety boots, helmet and reflector jacket

For further information contact:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
Attn: Mwana Manaseh
SIMU NA: +255 754 284 926,

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Email: universalauction@hotmail.com



Hai District Commissioner Lengai Ole Sabaya (C, in black cap) inspects a Rundugai section of the Moshi-Arusha railway yesterday following reports of sabotage on the line. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Avoid donor dependence, regional and district business councils told

By Guardian Reporter

A study report on best practices and lessons from conducting regional and district business councils made public on Thursday in Dar es Salaam by the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) has called on regions and districts to avoid dependence on huge donor support to run their meetings.

The report, entitled "Best Practices and Lessons from Regional and District Level Public Private Dialogues, calls on the private sector, regional and district government leaderships to cherish self-reliance. "Avoid huge donor support dependence that is not sustainable. Donor supports need to have in-built sustainability to avoid donor dependence syndrome," it counsels.

The report gives the example of Kilimanjaro Region saying when there was donor support for public private dialogues in that region; Kilimanjaro Regional Business Council was active, "when the funding ended the PPDs suffered."

The report highlights the importance of the councils saying where there have been active councils, respective regions and districts have enjoyed improved relations and trust between public and private sectors. Improved relations and trust, it reports, resulted in increased government revenue and have stimulated development agenda and initiatives. In Morogoro Region, for example, "PPD managed to resolve service levy issues between Morogoro Municipal Council and the private sector.

In that vein it also gives the example of Kigoma

and Dodoma Regions, saying cooperation between the two sectors has resulted in establishing one-stop business centres in all districts of the two regions.

"... strong leadership, political will, vibrant and dynamic private sector plays a critical role in making regional and district business councils active," it says, giving the example of Tanga Region where the RC and the private sector are keen on having vibrant councils.

The report underscores the importance of monitoring, evaluation and learning, so that implementation remains on track and learning is appreciated for the purpose of improving future implementation in similar environment.

The report calls for enhancing of leadership and political will, adherence to meeting calendar, accountability and implementation of resolutions, developing device mechanism for capturing inputs/issues from unstructured dialogues and trust building among the two sectors.

Detected deficiencies include heavy reliance on personalities, capacity and willingness of individuals rather than institutions. "Not all big private sector players are willing to join regional and district council as they can find their way directly to regional and district commissioners." Lack of financial resources.

It was also realised that there was lack of proper knowledge on the role of TNBC in regional and district councils.

The study was funded by the Local Investment Climate (LIC) and the Enabling Growth through Investment and Enterprise Project (ENGINE).

By Guardian Reporter, Songwe

PEOPLE who were trained in combating Ebola disease in Songwe region are required to issue accurate information on the disease due to the disease's symptoms resembling other diseases so as to get away with any misunderstandings among the public.

Speaking at a training seminar on how to detect the disease and its prevention a public health education official in the Ministry of Health, Community Development Gender, Elders and Children Dr Tumaini Haonga said the main aim is to assure

Give accurate information on Ebola disease symptoms - health ministry

members of the public to get correct information as well as education on how to protect themselves from the scourge in case it erupts.

He said Songwe region is in danger of Ebola due to its bordering southern African countries where there is great border interaction especially business transactions from people from Congo

DRC.

Dr Tumaini said Ebola symptoms resemble some other diseases hence in order to verify and differentiate the symptoms, the patient must have come from Congo DRC where there is the disease, and 21 days have to pass after making contact with an Ebola victim.

He explained that the disease spreads through physical contact with the patient such as through sweat, saliva, blood, excretion, human milk, clothes or even touching the body of the person who died of Ebola.

Songwe Region al Medical Officer George Mgallah said since the Region has been found to be the danger

zone for Ebola eruption, they have started examining visitors who come in through Tunduma border post where there a special machine for the purpose.

He said they have already mobilized region's leaders from village level upwards to follow up visitors who don't pass through the official border post

for the purpose of examining them.

The chairman of Chilulumo Roman Catholic Parish, Ernest Masanja from Chilulumo Ward, in Momba district said through the training he has learned on how to combat the disease and promised to pass on the knowledge to his congregation.

Current statistics show that in Congo DRC 3,398 people were proven to have contacted Ebola out of whom 2,235 people had died equivalent to 66 per cent.

The areas that have been severely affected by the disease are Kivu and Ituri North provinces, the areas ravaged by a long civil war.

Internal Audit and Tax Manager

Employment Opportunity

Our client is a locally registered company dealing with the exploration and production of oil and gas, with operations in Tanzania. In line with its strategy to expand its operations in Tanzania, Our client is looking to recruit a dynamic and competent Internal Audit and Tax Manager. The qualified candidate is an individual with outstanding integrity and good record of enforcing accountability, governance, internal controls and risk management in order to ensure compliance as well as the sustainability of the company.

Job Purpose

Reporting to the Head of Finance, the key objective of the Internal Audit and Tax Manager is to provide a high quality, efficient and optimal function for the processing of transactional activities within the internal audit and tax department. Have a deep understanding of transactional processes, application of good governance, identify, and execute of controls in the business of the company and conduct frequent compliance audits.

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- Ensure effective and appropriate recording of the company's tax liabilities within the GL;
- Prepare and review computations for relevant tax liabilities including: income, deferred and transfer pricing, and ensure prompt tax remittances;
- Prepare financial information and periodic financial reports as per business requirements and management's request; and
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- Master's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, economics and or any other equivalent qualification from a recognized university is an added advantage;
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- Strong analytical skills; and
- Demonstrated experience effectively engaging with multiple stakeholders.

If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV, photocopies of academic certificate, and names of three referees with their contacts, quoting the reference number **DER/ATM/01-20**. To apply, kindly log onto our e-recruitment platform via <https://www2.deloitte.com/ke/en/careers/executive-search-recruitment.html>. Applications deadline is **24 January 2020**. All applications MUST be submitted through the e-recruitment portal. Email or hard copy applications will not be accepted.

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INADES Formation Tanzania

Serving the common good

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Position - Driver

Location - Kondoa Field Office

Application Deadline: Friday 31st January 2020

Contract period: 1 Year renewable upon successful performance and funds' availability

Position Description:

IFTz is a training institution at the service of rural communities. It is one of institutions providing action-training support for socio-economic empowerment of smallholder farmers and rural communities, aimed at building their capacities to bring about their socio-economic advancement and transform the societies in which they live. Currently, INADES Formation Tanzania is seeking a Driver who will be engaged in supporting project activities implemented in Kondoa and Chemba Districts. The incumbent will be responsible for the following.

Key Qualifications and Requirements:

- A Tanzanian citizen;
- Holder of a Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) with a pass of at least Division IV;
- Certificate of driving from a recognized college e.g. VETA, NIT, etc.;
- Possession of class C driving license is a must;
- At least 5 years of experience in driving at NGOs or public institutions
- Experience in driving for long distances is a must;
- Ability to identify malfunctioning of the vehicle and report to The Chief of Administration and Finance.

Application letter should include a detailed CV and copies of academic certificates indicating daytime phone number, e-mail address, employment and academic history, names and contact information, including phone numbers of three references should be sent via e-mail to inadestz@gmail.com to;

**Managing Director,
Inades Formation Tanzania,
P.O. Box 203,
Dodoma.**

Applicants who do not hear from us two weeks after the closure of the application should consider themselves unsuccessfully.

Sugar board tours miller in efforts to reduce importation

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

THE directors of the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) are in a three-day working tour in Missenyi district to assess efforts made by Kagera Sugar Limited (KSL) to increase sugar production as part of national drive to end importation of the sweetener.

On their arrival, they held talks with Missenyi District Executive Director, Innocent Mukandala and District Administrative Secretary, Abdallah Mayomba.

"We have come to witness the ongoing sugar production expansion programme at Kagera sugar and to see their challenges and advise them on way forward as we have decided to end sugar shortage in the country and Kagera sugar is potentially good enough to expand productivity because of its massive land for agriculture and availability of water," said Prof. Kenneth Bengesi, Director General of SBT, adding that Kagera river which passes through the plantations,

is worth for irrigation and if used accordingly, there will be efficiency in productivity.

However, Prof Bengesi said though there is sugar growth production in the country from 320,000 tonnes to current approximate 360,000, an increase of 40,000 tonnes, but still there is high demand for sugar and that is why they are motivating the local factories to increase the production, as well as foreign investors, to come and fill the gap.

The ordinary sugar (table sugar) demand is 450,000 to 470,000 tonnes, while industrial sugar is approximately 165,000 tonnes

SBT Vice chairman Jonathan Mukandala argued Kagera regional administration to create conducive environment for sugarcane farmers so that they contribute 'heavily' for production increase, and they scheduled to meet them for consultation.

Kagera Sugar Limited targeted to increase sugar production from 85,000t in 2019 to 100,000t this year by opening new farms of about 16,000 hectares at Kitengule Area in Karagwe District.



Musoma district commissioner Dr Vincent Anney addresses Nyamurandira residents at the weekend on the importance of building more secondary schools in the ward as a way of easing overcrowding in Kasoma Secondary School classrooms. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA City Council has launched three books on development guidelines that will be used as focus in the implementation of various plans including revenue collection and investment.

The books have been prepared by the City Council experts in collaboration with the project for development in business and investment (Engene) under United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsorship whose launching was held last week at Mkapa Conference Hall.

The Acting Mbeya City Development Director Saad Mtambule mentioned the three books as 'Investment Promotion

Mbeya City Council launches three books on development guidelines

Strategy', 'Revenue Enhancement plan' and 'Strategic Plan'.

Mtambule said some of the books are already in use in various issues of development such as revenue collection and that their results have started to be seen through increased revenue collection.

He said the 'Strategic Plan' for Mbeya City will be used for five years from 2019 to 2024.

"The last strategic plan for our city ended 2008 and plan revenue collection plan ended 2012, now some of the things we were doing from experience only, we thank our colleagues in Engene for helping us in preparing the books these books that will certainly help us," Mtambule said.

He said the books will help them because there are some City experts

who have already been educated and will have the ability to prepare new books after the periods for the current books come to an end.

Engene project director, Rod Karvajal said apart from helping the City Council to prepare the books, it has also been collaborating with it to improve business and investment environment.

He said from 2017 to present they

have conducted 19 debates that discussed various issues affecting business and investment in Mbeya City including issues of policy and administration.

He said from the debated some issues have started to change including increase in cooperation between the public and private sectors on issues of development, which he said in the past this cooperation was little.

"Some of the issues that were discussed in the debates include service levy, Business licenses and registration, strategies in increasing investments as well improvement of City Bylaws that were seen to hinder these issues," he said.

USAID resident director in Tanzania Andrew Karas who was chief guest at the books launch hailed the government for its efforts in improving the business environment.

He said one among the improvements which now investors are happy with is the establishment of a special ministry in the Office of the Prime Minister that deals with Investments and that the current minister thereof does the job well.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja pictured at the weekend having an audience with employees of what used to be Chalinze Water Supply and Sanitation Authority but which has since become part of Dawasa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania and China agree to strengthen bilateral relations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA has reassured the Chinese government the cooperation in strengthening bilateral relations through policy continuity and consistency on all issues of mutual interests.

The Minister of State, in the Vice President's Office (Environment and Union Affairs) George Simbachawene made the reassurance over the week end in Dar es Salaam on the Occasion of Celebrating the Chinese New Year dubbed the Rat.

China has a very old custom of naming the years by one of twelve (12) animals in their zodiac cycle. While 2019 was the year of the Pig, 2020 is a year of the Rat!

He said the Chinese New Year was one of the most important festivals to them adding that it was a time for family reunion no matter how far away from home one may be.

Simbachawene added that the exchange of experience between the two governments has to great extent deepened and led to the fruitful results.

He said the frequent high profile working visits by the Chinese Leaders from the Government, the Communist Party of China, and the National People's Congress, did not only serve to enhance the diplomatic relations but also to support industrialization in Tanzania

"As we say goodbye to the Year of the Pig and usher in the Year of the Rat, let's join hands and seize the moment to strive to be good partners for mutual benefit and win-win progress that will achieve a better future for mankind," he said.

For her part, the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke said since the founding of the People's Republic of China 70 years ago, China has successfully lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty and taken the position of the world's second largest economy.

Ke noted that the Chinese New year was yet another opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to continue working closely together in enhancing our bilateral relations.

She said in the seven days from yesterday, the Year of the Rat will begin where according to Chinese tradition, this smart little creature (rat) brings a new beginning and good fortune to everyone in the world.

She said the exchange of experience between Tanzania and China on governance issues has deepened and led to fruitful results

The envoy cited the recent exhibition saying her embassy in collaboration with Tanzania culture departments attended in the 6th culture exhibition held in China.

She said the cooperation in education has been deepened by China providing about a hundred government scholarships to Tanzania annually. The envoy said up to now China has provided about more than 2000 government scholarships and vocational training programme for over 6,100 Tanzanians to study in China.

The envoy added that along with the deepening cooperation of mutual benefit between China and Tanzania, more and more Tanzania students choose to study in China.



As we say goodbye to the Year of the Pig and usher in the Year of the Rat, let's join hands and seize the moment to strive to be good partners for mutual benefit and win-win progress that will achieve a better future for mankind

Fishermen in Kalambo start operations in Lake Tanganyika

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

FISHERMEN in Kalambo District in Rukwa Region have acquired a reliable market for their fish following the decision by District Council to allow them sell their products at the international fish market built at Kasanga on the southern shores of Lake Tanganyika.

The Kasanga market is among the

two international fish markets in Kalambo district, the other one is at Matai town, built 2009 - 2011 through the association of small farmers (MVIWATA), sponsored by 80 percent from the European Union (EU), while the Sumbawanga District Council, before it was split into two, contributed 20 percent.

The aim of the project is to unite farmers to speak in one voice in fighting

for their economic, social, cultural and political interests

The international market is 73 kms from Matai, the district headquarters and aims to serve a population of 35,205 along the Lake Tanganyika shores and 238,000 from other areas of the district, as well as people from Mbeya Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Ruvuma, including neighbouring countries of Zambia, Congo DRC,

Rwanda and Burundi.

The Council has called upon business people in fish both local and foreign to visit the Kasanga Fish Market for their needs.

A fisherman from Kasanga Skeva Sinyangwe thanked the government through the Council to allow them to use the fish market as it will alleviate challenges they were facing in selling their product.

Youth's interest in joining technical institutions is on the rise - minister

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MORE young people in the country are currently rushing to join technical training colleges, unlike in the past, signaling a massive shift of interest among the youth enrolling into local higher institutions of learning.

Deputy minister for Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha pointed out here that, latest records show that there are over 152,000 new students enrolling for technical training, a major stride from the previous number of 30,000 listed in 2015.

"The figure has multiplied five times. Even some of students graduating from universities are currently re-enrolling for technical institutions to supplement their theories with actual practical training having realized that this is the only way of guaranteeing themselves jobs," stated Ole Nasha.

He said that was why the state was establishing 43 new technical training institutions at the cost of 92 billion/-, including the proposed Dodoma Technical College (DTC) which once completed, is going to be a state-of-the-art facility.

The deputy minister of education was speaking during the 11th graduation ceremony for the Arusha Technical College held at the ATC premises over the weekend, where 436 students graduated with various honours.

According to Ole Nasha, the government has also topped the budget for disbursement of Higher Education Students' loans from 425 billion/- issued during the fiscal year 2018/19 to over 450 billion/- disbursed in 2019/-

2020 financial year ending next June.

"As of now, 49,500 first year students have already received their money from the Higher Education Students Loan Board," said the deputy minister, adding that between 2015 and 2019 the government has released over 1.62 trillion/- for students' loans.

The acting rector for Arusha Technical College (ATC), Dr Masudi Senzia said the number of graduands has increased by over 6 percent compared to last year, with more female students joining the fold.

Dr Senzia said the ATC has been performing so well to an extent of attracting sister institutions from overseas as well as development partners to assist in its academic endeavors.

He mentioned some of the foreign institutions working with Arusha Technical College as Netherlands Senior Experts (PUM), the Biomedical Engineering Technology Aid International (BETA) from the United States, the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and Clemson and Cornell Universities of America.

Norwegian envoy in Tanzania, Ambassador Elizabeth Jacobsen reinforced the importance of technical training in propelling the country towards realizing the 'Middle income' state by 2025.

On his part, the acting chairperson for the ATC board of management, Chacha Makamba Wambura, appealed to the government to assist the college's infrastructural improvements projects through development fund.



Mnene James, Urban Local Government Strengthening Programme manager for Morogoro, remarks on the ongoing construction of the municipality's modern commuter bus stands construction at Mafiga. The work began on May 10, 2019 and is lined up for completion this May, with Nandahra Engineering and construction Co. Ltd as the contractor. The first phase, which is expected to cost 14bn/-, will enable the accommodation of 40 taxis, 32 tricycles and 23 motorcycles as well as provide parking lots for 150 vehicles at a go. Photo: Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa

Continued growth expected for African poultry industry

By Guardian Reporter

A report by Rabobank has pointed to continued growth for the African poultry industry, following on from a steady rise in the sector over the last decade.

Following on from the 2016 'Time for Africa' report, Rabobank has revealed that the sub-Saharan African

poultry and egg industry has steadily developed over the last decade, making the growing market increasingly attractive for investors.

Rabobank is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company dealing in food and agriculture industry.

The report links the demand for African poultry to a 'growing urban

population' with an 'expanding middle class shifting from a vegetable based to a protein-based consumption pattern.'

Africa's poultry market has been consistently increasing, with the amount of poultry meat produced on the continent doubling between 1997 and 2017. This figure is again expected to double by 2027, according to the report.

Nan-Dirk Mulder, a senior animal protein analyst, said: "The middle class in Africa is expected to continue growing, as the population doubles and more people move to big cities. These core fundamentals, together with the untapped potential of local feed grain production, offer an attractive investment opportunity.

"This will all lead to ongoing market

growth and modernisation at all stages of the value chain, creating an increasingly interesting platform for international investors. The growing demand and modernisation of the supply chain will create additional demand for all input manufacturers, like equipment, animal nutrition, genetics, and animal health. Companies in these sectors also need to position

themselves to serve Africa's rising demand better.

"Investors need to realise that conditions in Africa can be challenging and require a very strategic investment assessment that takes all major factors (i.e. business climate, market growth, supply, and infrastructure) into consideration. If this is done well, the potential upside is big."



Mama Alaska Jamii Institute instructor Richard Jackson has a word with food vendors at a two-day seminar on business techniques held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Joy as Missenyi villagers enjoy clean tap water

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbagast, Bukoba

SOME 2,897 residents of Kashaba village, Kyaka ward in Missenyi District Council are a happy lot following the inauguration of a clean water project.

Speaking while opening the Kashaba water project at the weekend, Missenyi District Executive Director (DED) Innocent Mukandala urged the villagers to protect the facility donated

by World Vision Tanzania, Missenyi ADP, at the cost of 92mn/-

Mukandala applauded the efforts made by the organisation in water, education and other sectors, saying he is eagerly waiting for its pledge of building a dispensary in Mabale ward.

Kashaba village is one of villages in Missenyi, which have been facing shortages of water, and according to Renatus Rugakingira, World Vision

Tanzania, Missenyi ADP coordinator, said the project is 'giving room' to Kashaba villagers especially women, indulge fully in economic development, and children engage themselves into their studies, instead of being restless going far away for water.

"The villagers will now be safe from bilharzia and other diseases contaminated from water ponds," said Rugakingira.

Water users committee secretary, Elikana Willison said there will be no any water shortage complaints as the tank capacity is 4,116 litres an hour which is sufficient for all residents, and that its operated by 10.56 kW solar power panel while Esther Emanuel said women and children are now set free from water chores which hampered their efforts towards productivity and education.

Ambassador's wife calls on Tanzanian parents to invest more in child development

By Guardian Reporter

THE wife of Turkey's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yeim Davutolu, has urged parents in the country to put more focus on children care and development while protecting them from abuse and exploitation for them to enjoy their future.

Yesim who is also the founder of Turkey-Tanzania Aid Foundation made the call during the weekend when she visited and donated sewing machines at Upanga juvenile remand centre, Dar es Salaam.

She said that most of parents have abandoned their responsibility of raising their children, leading to the increase in number of street children who end-up living a vulnerable life.

"We must ensure that we plan well the number of children to have and which will be ready to take well care of them, children have all the rights live, education and basic needs, so parents have to think on their capability before looking for another child," she said.

The envoy's wife donated 15 sewing machines worth 4m/- to support children at the juvenile detention centre.

"I hope these machines will enable the children learn tailoring and be able to practice after being freed, the skills and knowledge which the children will acquire will not only help them while here but also in their life time," she noted.

She further stressed that the Turkey-Tanzania Aid Foundation was established to help people with albinism and other needy groups in Tanzania.

For his part, manager of the centre Darivus Damas commended the Yesim for her generous support saying that the machines are going to help the centre impart the children with more knowledge and skills that will

help them change their behavior and attitude to become ethical children.

Damas said has children who have committed crimes theft, armed robbery, drug abuse and rape whereby the major role is to build them change their behavior and become good children.

"This centre was established in 1962, and it has been hosting a number of children in conflict with the law, currently we have 19 children who have been committed various crimes... while here they engage in various hand activities like gardening, tailoring, they also engage in sports, counseling sessions and spiritual services," he said.

He also urged Tanzanians to invest in children by making sure that they live well in safe places for their development.

"Most of the children here have committed crimes due to family problems, so this shows how our family systems have huge gaps in children's care, this should be emphasized," he added.



I hope these machines will enable the children learn tailoring and be able to practice after being freed, the skills and knowledge which the children will acquire will not only help them while here but also in their life time

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Locusts defying pesticides prove deadly new menace

AUTHORITIES in a number of counties in neighbouring Kenya are asking for a wide declaration of a state of emergency either countrywide or in the north and north eastern part due to a locust invasion that appears to be uncontrollable. The reason is that the perennial medicine for that kind of situation is aerial spraying, but this time it appears to be ineffective, which spells total disaster. The counties are appealing for more resources to be directed at the situation, in whatever way.

Obviously the first casualty of such a situation is a steep decline in food security as locusts eat up crops in a monumental way, with each locust taking up twice its weight in its daily food needs despite that it has a rather short life. By the time the seasonal phenomenon is out of sight, swathes of farmland have been devastated and many people are threatened with famine. With the chasm in routine application of aerial spraying, chances of battling locusts dwindle aplenty.

Reports from Nairobi say that more swarms of locusts had been spotted in parts of Wajir South on late Thursday even after the government had carried out aerial spraying. Declaring a state of national disaster would pave way for more resources to be mobilized, while the top agricultural official in Wajir County would not hazard a specific direction in which resources ought to be directed. Nor were other authorities rushing to offer ideas, hence making the situation tantalizing.

The desert locusts invaded Kenya from neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, and they were continuing their advance into other parts of Kenya mid last week. The Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture admitted the same thing, noting that pesticides being used in

aerial spraying had proved ineffective, thus dulling efforts to get rid of the flying pests. The situation was truly veering towards disaster as Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties were first hit by the invasion before the insects "munched their way into Marsabit, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu and Laikipia counties even as the government continues to step up its efforts to end the menace."

Nor were observations from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) any more relieving. In a recent update the agency warned that more swarms will invade these areas, while others will move north of Mt Kenya westwards to Baringo County and continue northwest to Turkana County. If aerial spraying efforts get stuck, who can say if other areas won't be invaded as well?

So far about 15 swarms of locusts had been reported to have invaded Wajir from Somalia and Ethiopia, with seven swarms repelled through aerial spraying while eight swarms were pushed away by combined efforts of residents and other stakeholders, including security agencies. Wajir county officials were adamant on intensifying aerial spraying as it has no actual replacement as the most effective method. His appeal was more chemicals should be sent to the northern region to prevent another invasion, while some environmentalists kept their fingers crossed by fear of chemicals contaminating the soil. They treat locusts in a benign fashion.

With a repeat invasion feared as new swarms of locusts were building in their nestling grounds in lawless Somalia, new colonies are building at the border zone, including Mandera County. Given intense efforts by civil servants to leave the zone whenever possible, we see a guerrilla ravaged land gripped by a locust invasion.

Scaling up essential interventions to prevent and treat diarrhoea is extremely important

DIARRHEA, also spelled diarrhoea, is the condition of having at least three loose, liquid, or watery bowel movements each day. It often lasts for a few days and can result in dehydration due to fluid loss. Signs of dehydration often begin with loss of the normal stretchiness of the skin and irritable behavior.

This can progress to decreased urination, loss of skin color, a fast heart rate, and a decrease in responsiveness as it becomes more severe. Loose but non-watery stools in babies who are exclusively breastfed, however, are normal.

The most common cause is an infection of the intestines due to either a virus, bacteria, or parasite—a condition also known as gastroenteritis. These infections are often acquired from food or water that has been contaminated by feces, or directly from another person who is infected. The three types of diarrhea are: short duration watery diarrhea, short duration bloody diarrhea, and persistent diarrhea (lasting more than two weeks, which can be either watery or bloody). The short duration watery diarrhea may be due to cholera, although this is rare in the developed world. If blood is present, it is also known as dysentery.

A number of non-infectious causes can result in diarrhea. These include lactose intolerance, irritable bowel syndrome, non-celiac gluten sensitivity, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease such as ulcerative colitis, hyperthyroidism, bile acid diarrhea, and a number of medications. In most

cases, stool cultures to confirm the exact cause are not required.

Diarrhea can be prevented by improved sanitation, clean drinking water, and hand washing with soap. Breastfeeding for at least six months and vaccination against rotavirus is also recommended. Oral rehydration solution (ORS)—clean water with modest amounts of salts and sugar—is the treatment of choice. Zinc tablets are also recommended.

These treatments have been estimated to have saved 50 million children in the past 25 years. When people have diarrhea it is recommended that they continue to eat healthy food and babies continue to be breastfed. If commercial ORS are not available, homemade solutions may be used.

In those with severe dehydration, intravenous fluids may be required. Most cases; however, can be managed well with fluids by mouth. Antibiotics, while rarely used, may be recommended in a few cases such as those who have bloody diarrhea and a high fever, those with severe diarrhea following travelling, and those who grow specific bacteria or parasites in their stool. Loperamide may help decrease the number of bowel movements but is not recommended in those with severe disease.

About 1.7 to 5 billion cases of diarrhea occur per year. It is most common in developing countries, where young children get diarrhea on average three times a year. Total deaths from diarrhea are estimated at 1.26 million in 2013—down from 2.58 million in 1990.



Prioritising action on air pollution will benefit health, climate and the economy

By Aschalew Worku and Neil W. Schluger

EVERYONE around the world shares the same right to a healthy environment. Indeed, during the United Nations General Assembly and the Climate Action Summit, leaders from governments and civil society, most notably youth leaders, reminded the world that the founding UN principle of justice applies to climate as much as any other issue facing humanity. Yet as physicians who specialize in treating people with lung disease, we were disappointed to see that principle was not honored through meaningful and decisive action at those meetings or at COP 25 in Madrid - this will have devastating consequences for the health and lives of billions of vulnerable people.

Preserving the environment and combating climate change is an imperative in its own right, but the pollutants that are causing climate change also cause death and disease. Poor air quality poses a threat across the life course, beginning in-utero and continuing as a significant cause of lung and heart disease in children and adults. We have seen firsthand the effects of poor air quality on our patients, young and old. In too many parts of the world, breath that should symbolize life and health brings harm instead.

People in Africa are already among the most vulnerable. According to the Global State of the Air report from the Health Effects Institute, nearly every person in Africa breathes air that exceeds health standards set by the World Health Organization. Between one quarter and one half of all deaths from heart disease, chronic lung disease, lung cancer and pneumonia in Africa are attributable to air pollution. And as air quality continues to decline, the resulting health impacts are offsetting the gains achieved by better control of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV.

The UN's commitments to gender equality and women's health also demand attention to this issue. Women experience the highest exposures to household air pollution caused by cooking with polluting fuels such as wood, dung, charcoal or kerosene, often with their young children nearby. As a result, it's not surprising that in Africa's most populous countries, such as Nigeria and Ethiopia, 40-50% of the burden of chronic lung disease in women is caused by poor air quality, and more lung cancers are from



breathing than from tobacco use.

By 2050, when 1.3 billion more people will be living in Africa, the scale of the problem - in the absence of targeted strategies to address continued increases in pollution and vulnerable populations - will get worse.

One myth promoted by many governments and self-interested industries is that air pollution is an inevitable consequence of development. Rapid economic development aided by access to cheap labor and subsidized fuels will certainly result in increased air pollution, but this is not the only pathway available and certainly isn't the most desirable from a health or economic perspective. In fact, addressing air pollution by developing and enforcing policies to tackle leading sources of pollution, including household energy as well as industrial and vehicular emissions, will have a significant return on investment, with benefits to the public, lower costs to health and social systems, and measurable improvements to air quality and climate.

In contrast, failing to act urgently on climate-changing emissions will not just result in long-term risk to the planet; it will affect the health of millions, condemning generations to illness and lower life expectancy while hindering the sustainability of their environments.

The good news is that scalable, proven solutions to these problems are available. We've seen health improve in parts of the world where the air has been made cleaner through effective regulations on industrial pollution and vehicle emissions. For example, Nigeria has adopted standards for vehicles that other countries should follow to prevent much of Africa from becoming a dumping ground for old and dirty diesel-fueled cars and trucks. Access to clean household energy is also becoming more widespread in urban areas across the continent.

But significant gaps remain. There is an urgent and yet unmet need in Africa and elsewhere for better and more transparent air quality monitoring and reporting, increased engagement of civil society to demand safe healthy air, and accountability of governments and political leaders to exercise one of their most important responsibilities: preventing harm to their citizens.

Members of INSPIRE, a global coalition of health advocates and an initiative of Vital Strategies, are working to bring attention to this issue through our role as physicians charged with safeguarding human life. In our opinion, climate action commitments should aim first at reducing the world's dependence on dirty solid fuels and the elimination of coal burning so that we can realize the near-term goal

of improving air quality and health. Cleaning the air also makes good economic sense - lives are saved as soon as air quality improves.

Though the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters - China, India and the United States - failed to commit to more aggressive climate plans at the Climate Action Summit, all hope is not lost. Approximately 70 countries did outline more aggressive plans and several wealthier nations announced more money for programs like the UN's Green Climate Fund. We urge countries and governments to follow their lead and prioritize actions to promote clean air to achieve health and climate co-benefits within their national plans to combat climate change. And, we want clinicians and civil society to hold them accountable.

In Africa and around the world, the issue is urgent, the need for action is great, and the stakes are high: nothing less than life and death.

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A harvest of paradoxes: Missed lessons from Nigeria civil war

By Professor Pat Utomi

I WANT to crave your indulgence to begin with a seemingly unrelated issue.

War is a horrible experience. I have experienced it, watched it in movies and read about it in books. But not all wars involve guns and bombs. Some deploy only words, yet they can be as devastating. Our country is embroiled in one right now. It is on account of that I will crave your indulgence, to begin with a seemingly unrelated caveat.

Nigeria is losing whole generation to unemployment

I often get coopted into assignments, as I know the Co-chairs will know from meetings they have been part of, some of which I have hosted. For me these things are duty and I take some as honorary because of the punishing schedule that I, unfortunately, impose on myself. So when the leadership of NzukoUmunna asked that I be part of the committee to organize activities around 50 years of the end of the Nigerian civil war I did not anticipate that I would end up being drafted into a co-keynote role. When that turned out being alongside Professor Wole Soyinka, the first thing that struck me was the two biggest victims of Fake news in our part of the world being asked to engage a highly nuanced subject.

Yes, we are at war on public conversation. The theft of the identity of others whose names then get used to say things others want said, is so pervasive, and a few people, so unfortunately targets of this, that it requires an aprior disclaimer.

In recent months I have seen conjectures credited to me, then generating ad hominem tirades from agents of those who think those created stories affect their interests.

Sometimes, it is something written by some other person whose name is deleted and mine attached. At other times it's more sophisticated in that they say you have said what you could say but have not said, so when you deny that you said it, it seems you hold to contrary position. I have even come to believe that it is those who begin attacking the person, who created the original fake news, so they can abuse the person who they have been waiting for an opportunity to insult, just so they can prevent that person's voice in public space when they do what they want to do later.

You get so angry at these things you

ON THE SOUVENIR UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
OONI ADEYEBE ENITAN BARATUNDE OGUNWUSI,
OJAJA II, THE OONI OF IFE

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FRIDAY 1ST MAY, 2020
 VENUE: ILE O'DUA, PALACE OF THE OONI OF IFE, ENJAJA, ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE. TIME: 11:30AM

feel like supporting one of these bills seeking to criminalize fake news. But you realize a greater evil lurks in such a law. Sometimes, you really feel trapped. Not long ago I issued a statement that anything not from two or three Newspapers of record reported to be from me were probably 90 percent of dubious authenticity.

When Prof. Soyinka expresses similar frustration, I feel a certain kindred spirit. Fortunately for me I long ago made a point of ignoring conversation on persons rather than issues.

For an experience like the civil war from which we can learn much so that this experience never occurs again it is even more important that we speak in greater candor but that the nuances be heard write so good rather than obfuscation, and further seeds of discord, be the outcome.

With that said I would like therefore to pay tribute to the human spirit which allows broken men and women to overcome the anguish of war and construct new lives, after. With the Nigerian civil war there were saints and sinners, and there were heroes and traitors. It is not possible to talk about the war without talking about the kind of emotion in *Kakadu* - the musical. I remember cries of pain and gratitude in *surulere*, Lagos where I was when the war ended as I got ready to return to school in Ibadan. People returning from war after fleeing Lagos nearly four years earlier realizing that their Yoruba neighbour had rented out their house and dutifully saved

the rent paid so that instead of £20 that was exchanged for what value they had in Biafra they had four years rent to begin again with.

Gratitude in all things to the creator and human solidarity which allowed foreigners from far, French Doctors like Bernard Kouchner, Global charities like CARITAS and neighbours near and far who helped ameliorate miseries almost unprecedented in modern human experience.

Why does it matter to reflect on that experience and 50 years since?

I think this initiative has value because war is horrible and anything that enables people learn enough from its experience to make them seek not to repeat it, does humanity a great favour. Allied to this is that managing the cessation of hostility will determine how people heal and whether it is easy to capitalize on old wounds. Few doubt that the nature of the peace treaty that ended World War I paved the way for a Hitler to emerge and made a more terrible War II to happen.

War creates its psychosis and that can affect culture in a way that people may not become immediately aware of but this may affect fundamentally a people's way. Why, for example, were Ndigo typically considered modest, even stereotyped as stingy, before the war, and in the post-war era have become more voluble, extravagant and showy, with significant consequences for Emotional Intelligence. I have a host of theories on that but those will not be

for today.

We also need to reflect determine why war has brought scientific and allied material (commercial) progress to many societies but our scientific gains and innovation capacities remain stunted after a war in which giant scientific strides were made in the more challenged, in Biafra.

I am also very keen to reflect on the build-up to the war and factors that need to be managed differently drawing from the lessons embedded. One of great interest is emotive propaganda a worse variant of which seems increasingly to gain currency in these times.

I say frequently that the most primitive Public Sphere is one in which instead of focusing on issues and how approaching an issue differently can advance the course of society and instead, get consumed in ad hominem response that simply hopes to strip the person who has expressed a view different from the way we see the world, of their dignity.

The media of 1966/67 was dominated by such. I have faced such many times. Asked once how I deal with it I laughed. It comes from a deep down inside sense of who I am. Philosophically I see myself just a little more than nothing except for the gift of the creator's breath in me if anything gives me measure it is my purpose. So once if I can focus on availability for the purpose I have embraced for my time of being, and there is rectitude of intention regarding my purpose, which has always been how people can cooperate to advance a just common welfare, I hardly notice the abuser. I had also long learnt to see the person who leaves the point I am and focuses on what he thinks are my imperfections as fit only for being ignored. He has rushed to the last refuge of the scoundrel.

But not many can ignore scoundrels with the spirit I have been gifted to. So a situation where public conversation is like the Goebbels pitch in World War II can be a quick path to destruction of the most precious gift of all human life with numbers that are numbing.

Revisiting Wars, such as this one can also help us find heroes that inspire to do yesterday's impossible. Like the pilots that flew in and out of Uli-Ihiala Air Strip with literally seconds of light at night, or the Missionary Doctors, citizens that hid friends or strangers in their roofs to save their lives. These visits to a place of memory can also tell us who we are that we may know who we can become.



Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He and US President Donald Trump display the signed phase one US-China trade agreement at the White House in Washington on Wednesday. (Photo: AFP)

China, US take further steps toward solution to trade issue

By Zhong Sheng

CHINA and the U.S. officially signed the phase-one economic and trade agreement in the White House on Jan. 15, 2020 local time.

The high-level signing ceremony was witnessed by over 200 executives and accompanied by lasting applause, which signaled the aspiration for a truce of the trade war.

It is recognized that this result is a step forward to a solution that conforms to the common interests of both China and the U.S., and benefits the world peace and prosperity.

The active responses given by the international market on Dec. 13, 2019, when the two countries declared they have agreed on the text of a phase one economic and trade agreement, are still remembered today. It demonstrated the excitement of the enterprises and markets of both countries. A U.S. official even described that the agreement amounts to "probably the most momentous day in trade history ever."

In contrast, before the message was released, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva of International Monetary Fund (IMF) cited Russian poet, Alexander Pushkin to describe the global economy in last October, saying "The breath of autumn begins to ice the roadway". That's why she hailed that China and the U.S. have reached a strong trade deal at the signing ceremony of the phase-one trade deal.

China-U.S. trade relations had an unusual experience in the recent two years. The two countries went through confrontations and signs of reconciliation, which worried the international society and created uncertainties for the global economy.

The public, from both China and the U.S., as well as the rest of the world, are in urgent demands of a global supply chain and a global value chain that run virtuously. They anticipate the general trend of economic globalization to bring prosperity.

How to conform to and lead this trend has become the most important responsibility of the largest two economies of the world.

To stop the trade war, both parties must meet each other halfway and manage disputes. Great philosopher Mencius in ancient China said, "Things are born to be different." China and the U.S. differ in history, culture, tradition, social system, and development path and phase.

To treat the differences in an objective and rational manner, to explore the significance of mutual learning and common progress dialectically, and to profoundly comprehend the importance of cooperation remain the only right choice for the two countries.

To blaze a trail of win-win results and seek common ground while shelving differences calls for remarkable strategic vision and political

wisdom.

Since 2018, the heads of state of both China and the U.S. have held two meetings and had seven phone calls, building consensus, setting principles and guiding the direction for solving the China-U.S. economic and trade issue.

Under the guidance of the consensus reached between the two heads of state, the two countries held 13 rounds of high-level economic and trade consultations. The chief of the Chinese side of the China-U.S. comprehensive economic dialogue had over 20 phone calls with U.S. Trade Representative and Treasury Secretary.

It was an arduous progress, during which China had always stayed rational and calm and responded from the perspective of the common interests of both parties as well as the world trade order despite rains and storms. China has observed the principle of resolving disputes through dialogue and consultation, and answered the U.S. concerns with the greatest level of patience and good faith. The Chinese side has been dealing with these differences with an attitude of seeking common ground while shelving divergence. It has overcome many difficulties and proposed practical solutions.

The trade deal is a hard-won result coming from alternative fights and talks, as well as setbacks - a process during which China and the U.S. have seen each other's resolutions and capabilities. Only by guiding practices with correct philosophy can the two countries be worthy of the efforts they have made.

To be objective, the phase-one economic and trade deal manifests the concerns of both China and the U.S., and is reached based on the principle of equality and mutual respect.

The trade deal proves that win-win cooperation is a mainstream that China and the U.S. must stick to during economic and trade cooperation. As long as they always respect each other's national dignity, sovereignty and core interests, they can overcome the difficulties as they march forward.

To obey the agreement helps China and the U.S. expand trade cooperation, especially the optimization of resources and the restructuring of economy. It will also project a more stable expectation for both Chinese and U.S. enterprises, as well as global investors. This represents the common interests of global producers, consumers and investors.

China-U.S. economic and trade relations went from the historic handshake between late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and late U.S. President Richard Nixon to the "cooperation across the Pacific Ocean", and both countries should maintain sound momentum for development of this relationship.

People's Daily

An educated legislature: A catalyst for qualitative decision making - a case of the Liberian legislature

By Amara Quardu Mohammed Kamara

I have argued that the quality of Legislators set the country for progress which automatically places the Liberian Legislature in a position to deliberate on various issues ranging from the public to executive, and formulation of the necessary policies. In a democratic form of government, the legislature has the prime policy-making responsibility since it represents the people directly and seeks to harness and harmonize their demands and problems into policy actions for legislative legitimization. Unfortunately, the Liberian legislature has declined in power and lost the people's confidence due to the fact that they have delegated their constitutional responsibilities intentionally to the executive due to collusion, dishonesty, and wanton dereliction as well as corruption allegations to pass laws which are influenced by the executive.

It is reported in recent times that, in a bid to print about 34 billion Liberian dollars, the Legislature through the influence of the executive and members of the ruling party in both houses have overwhelmingly endorsed the decision of the Executive to print the proposed amount.

Bogus Legislations

The writer seeks to point out the most imminent bogus legislations that did not meet best practices due to the natures of the Liberian legislators both past and present. Fraudulent voting and subsequent legislation of concessions by the Liberian legislature are deeply rooted in the Firestone Concession agreement of 1926 and the recent sixty-six (66) bogus concessions of the past Liberian leader

Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf under the ambience of the Fifty-third (53rd) National Legislature.

The Firestone agreement had acquired virtually unlimited rights over an area equal to 4 percent of the country's territory and nearly 10 percent of what was considered the arable land in the country. This agreement ignored the interests of the succeeding generations and how the proceeds of the country's wealth can be distributed.

According to February 24, 2018 publication of the Perspective, Moses Y. Yahmia opined that it is a commonplace fact that the regime of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf enacted into laws concession agreements that are not only in violation of Liberian laws and further inequality but also at the disadvantage of the majority poor mass of Liberians.

Consequently, the state has failed to adequately mobilize capital to improve or develop other aspects of social development in the West African republic. Amidst this sad reality, concessionaires earned tens of millions from the illegal concession agreements, while education, health, infrastructure and etc. in Liberia remained deplorable under the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf-led government.

According to the British based newspaper, the Guardian (May 8, 2013, Edition), "In 2013, the London-based accounting firm Moore Stephens, after an audit, concluded that out of US\$ 8billion worth of sixty-eight (68) concessions granted in the agriculture, forestry, mining, and oil sectors, only two were in accordance with Liberian laws while sixty-six (66) were flawed."

In 2012, surging news about corruption and fraud in Liberia's US\$ 100million timber sector led the Liberian government under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to



suspend large logging operations in the country for a short period of time.

Furthermore, the Guardian also carried a news story in its May 8, 2013 edition, that in 2012, "A deal with ExxonMobil and its partner Canadian Overseas Petroleum Limited over an oil field known as Block 13 did not conform to the dictates of Liberian law, which requires 10% in royalties for the republic.

The deal only generated 5% in royalties for Liberia." So, it has been the fervent hope of not only this writer but also many Liberians who are the victims of these bad agreements that mortgaged the country's mineral and natural resources to predominantly multinational foreign monopoly capital, to have a government, driven by national consciousness, which will overhaul these agreements and ensure they reflect the socio-economic interest of the republic and its people. These multiple bogus concessions were passed based on the systemic malfeasances, bribery and the lack of intellectual depth to analyze, review and evaluate legislations from the Executive for ratification by the national legislature. This is as a result of the quality of people we have continued to elect as members of our bicameral legislature.

Why has the Executive Branch Influenced Policy Decisions of the Legislature?

Based on historical antecedents there are compounding factors why the Liberian legislature has been completely influenced by the executive in policymaking which undermines the independence of the supposedly first branch of the Liberian government. In Liberia, most of our problems in terms of governance are attributed to the gross ineptitude of our policymakers largely the National Legislature. This has exposed not just the dismal failures but the performance of the Liberian legislature has inspired zero confidence of the people.

Pundits believe that the National Legislature shares a greater responsibility of the country's challenges in terms of governance due to their gross incompetence in cross-examining nominees of the Executive who are expected to be properly vetted before confirmation. One would argue that the Senate's decision to wrongly impeach an associate Justice of the Supreme Court bench, Justice Kabineh J'anneh was marked by constitutional errors and alleged inducement of the two-third majority of both houses and the rudimental influence of the executive.

UK royal family has big plans for Africa, and Prince Harry was tapped for the task

By Anil Kija

APPARENT shifts of loyalties and roles for members of the royal family in the United Kingdom are likely to have caused anxieties and a few ripples at high places in the African continent, owing to an evolving relationship with the Commonwealth. It is a sort of convergence between UK charity work that underlined the life of the late Princess Diana, mother of the royal heir Prince William now the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry, now the Duke of Sussex. Prince Harry has in particular been stepping into the shoes of her mother, who became famous for a visit to Angola in war-ravaged, desperate regions.

Within the wider European theatre, highly leveraged charity work was continuing apace in the decade after the death of Princess Diana though separately and independently of her work, until some of the work converged later. It was in the context of Swiss-based charity, the International Federation of the Blue Cross, such convergences were produced as it works as a denominationally independent Christian organization consisting of about 40 member organizations. It is chiefly engaged in the prevention, treatment and after care of problems related to alcohol and other drugs. It has 19th century roots in that country but started its international work in Africa during the past 30 years.



There is a facebook photograph of the late Sister Jacinta and Princess Diana, meeting in one of her tours as the princess was deeply interested in mental health assistance, more or less what her son has been doing for a while. What happened later is quite interesting as the late Sister Jacinta, who cuts a figure similar to St Theresa of Calcutta with the proviso that she did not live as continuously among the poor but had a comparable devotion, devel-

A portion of the British royal family, from left is Meghan Markle who is the Princess of Sussex, Prince Harry who is Duke of Sussex and Queen Elisabeth II

oped what was rapidly becoming a global youth network for the control of substance abuse and assisting in rehabilitation. The effort was first organized via Blue Cross Africa and for that matter Blue Cross Tanzania but as the Swiss partners did not have staff on the ground, relations became complicated with their local partners, thus branched out on her own with an equally versatile

colleague, Geir Gundersen, to set up the Sister Jacinta & Geir Gundersen Africa Foundation (Sr. J&GGAF) or Global Youth Network (GYN). It was registered as a non-profit organization network devoted to the improvement of public health via control of alcohol, tobacco and several other intoxicating drugs.

The work of Sister Jacinta was so highly regarded among NGOs

in Europe that the Benedictine Sisters to which she belonged reached a point of getting the Vatican, the church headquarters, to publicly recognize her work by instituting within the Vatican stricter rules about smoking in public. A sort of global consensus was developing with regard to the work of the foundation, in a way being tasked with taking over the older infrastructure of Blue Cross International but the change wasn't smooth as in NGO parlance it was like 'privatisation' of a broad-based organization into a narrow focus, organizationally. Sister Jacinta worked closely with Akilimali A. Shukuru, a former top official of Blue Cross Tanzania to set up the new structure, as a person who has worked in nearly all fields of NGO activism, in sourcing goods, delivery, campaigns, setting up camps and learning centres. His work was impeccable in funds accountability, unlike the usual scenario without strict controls, so the foundation teamed up with him. Still the older structure had means to communicate and influence layouts and decisions, and thus making up the new arrangement took time, as the late Sister Jacinta was closer to the ground than her colleague.

What makes the royal family changes interesting in this context is that the royal household, through their friends in the Vatican and among the Benedictine Sisters, and on account of their personal ties with Sister Jacinta while she lived and Princess Diana as well, increasingly converged with that foundation to

put together their work. It was also helpful on the part of Geir Gundersen to have a working partnership with an associate with the means and goodwill to make things happen, instead of working with often shifting members of a country's bureaucracy where commitment comes hard. It was Prince Harry who was now turning this work into an aspect of Commonwealth work, not just with alcohol and drugs but education as a whole, namely starting a range of schools from primary to college with the same curriculum and values.

It is a sort of reinventing the Commonwealth as there isn't in the Commonwealth something that is quite common in Francophone, countries using the French language, of studying in the mother country in large numbers. Culturally the United States long overtook Britain and its 'British Commonwealth' remnant states of Canada, Australia and New Zealand as the key point of reference for the English language and culture., in which case a new drive helped by the roots that 53 Commonwealth member states have in relation to curriculum, including literature and a more equitable pluralism than in the case of the United States, is a plausible project. As Prince Harry shall now devote himself to charitable causes in a more direct manner, it is entirely possible that it is this kind of institutionalization he is pursuing, not just being adrift as some of the UK tabloids have been hypothesizing. That evidently is still a moot point right now.

Lack of economic freedom holds South Africa back

By Ivo Vegter

SOUTH Africa's ranking in the top half of 2019's Human Freedom Index conceals the fact that its score is dominated by personal freedom, while economic freedom lags behind. Besides corruption and the electricity crisis, this is the main reason our economic indicators remain so bleak.

The World Bank recently cut South Africa's economic growth forecast for 2020 to below 1%, on the back of electricity supply concerns. This is significantly lower than both Treasury and the SA Reserve Bank officially anticipate, and would extend sub-1% growth for the third year running. It hasn't been above 2% since early in 2015 and hasn't seen 3% since late 2013. The low growth since 2015 is unprecedented since 1994, with the exception of two short-lived blips in 1998 and 2008/9.

Although the global growth outlook is subdued, South Africa cannot blame it on global economic conditions. Its GDP growth rate is far lower than the 2019 average of 1.4% for emerging markets and developing economies, as estimated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is lower even than the IMF's 2019 growth rate estimate for advanced economies, which, led by robust growth in the US, stands at 1.9%.

GDP per capita, which in 2008 was 54% higher than the average for developing countries, and in 2014 was still 27% higher than average, looks set to fall below average in 2021.

External debt as a percentage of gross national income was the second-lowest of the BRICS countries at below 20% in 2000 and remained below 30% until 2011. By 2016, it was the highest of all the BRICS countries, at more than 50%.

Unemployment, exceeding 29% by the narrow definition, has reached highs last seen in 2003, as population growth continues to outpace job growth. Manufacturing output growth has been negative for six months leading up to November 2019, has been stagnant since 2013 and has yet to recover to pre-2008 levels. Investment growth in the economy has been largely flat, or declining since 2013.

South Africa has plummeted down the rankings in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report, from 28th in 2006 to 82nd in 2019. President Cyril Ramaphosa has promised to return South Africa to 50th place, although that hardly seems ambitious given that we only dropped below 50th in 2016.

Ramaphosa this month applauded the country for improving its ranking in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2019, from 67th



in 2018 to 60th in 2019. It's better than a punch in the face, but 60th is still lower than SA's ranking for every year up to and including 2016. In 2007, South Africa was in a different league at 35th.

There are some obvious headline reasons for the economic crisis in which South Africa finds itself. The catastrophic collapse of Eskom and stage four cancer of corruption are key among them.

A broader underlying reason, however, and one that will not resolve itself by fixing Eskom and reining in corruption, is South Africa's lack of economic freedom.

Its ranking in the Human Freedom Index 2019 (HFI), co-published by the Cato Institute, the Fraser Institute and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Analysis and the Visio Institut (sic), demonstrates the problem.

The report combines measures of economic freedom with measures of personal freedom, to construct an overall freedom index. Each is made up of many indicators, grouped into larger categories.

Personal freedom reflects the rule of law as well as safety and security. In addition, it measures specific freedoms such as freedom of movement, freedom of religion, freedom of association, assembly and civil society, freedom of

expression and information, and freedom of identity and relationships.

Economic freedom reflects in equal measures the size of government, legal system and secure property rights, sound money, freedom to trade internationally, and regulation.

Overall, South Africa ranks 64th out of 162 countries. There's a large gap between the personal freedom and economic freedom of South Africans, however.

In terms of personal freedom, the country ranks 58th, while its economic freedom rank is a rather more lowly 101st.

Notably, all of the improvement in South Africa's ranking since 2008, from 88th to 64th, can be attributed to increased personal freedoms.

The country's economic freedom score has been largely stagnant, varying within a narrow range.

Among personal freedoms, the only measure that significantly declined over the period was political pressure on and control over the media, which went from a score of seven out of 10 in 2008 to five out of 10 in 2017.

Read together with the WEF's Competitiveness Index, we can easily identify key areas in which South Africa can and should do better.

The two reports agree that safety and security significantly hamper the country's economy. In terms of security, South Africa ranks 135th out of 141 countries in the WEF's report, and its scores have been declining. The business cost of crime is also the indicator with the lowest score in the HFI report, closely by the weakness of the legal system in addressing crime, the unreliability of police and the difficulty of enforcing contracts.

Other areas in which South Africa comes up short in the HFI report include government consumption, government enterprises, the top marginal tax rate, the freedom to own foreign currency, regulatory trade barriers, movement of capital and people, and business regulations.

The Competitiveness Index ranks South Africa 101st out of 141 on the burden of government regulation and it's getting worse. The WEF also ranks South Africa very low in terms of government

ensuring policy stability (108th), and the government's responsiveness to change (110th). It notes that the country is declining in terms of its infrastructure, with the biggest problems involving train services, electricity and drinking water.

South Africa is one of the cheapest places in the world to start a business (4th out of 141), but it also takes incredibly long (129th out of 141). Its labour market flexibility ranks among the worst in the world (111th), and it's getting worse.

Conditions in the South African product market also comes in for WEF criticism. It highlights, in particular, the distortive effect of taxes and subsidies on competition (80th), the extent of market dominance (74th), the prevalence of non-tariff trade barriers (88th), trade tariffs (90th) and complexity of tariffs (94%).

The skills situation in South Africa is dire. Almost all the indicators, except the extent of staff training and the size of the future workforce, are declining.

This includes mean years of schooling (60th), critical thinking in teaching (95th), the pupil to teacher ratio in primary education (109th), quality of vocational training (119th), skillset of graduates (102nd), digital skills among the economically active population (126th), and the ease of finding skilled employees (98th).

The WEF competitiveness indicators in which South Africa performs well are almost all located in the private sector, such as the banking system, entrepreneurial culture, innovation, research and development, and corporate governance.

The HFI report found that income is correlated with a high degree of human freedom. The top quartile of most-free countries had an average per capita income of more than \$40,000, much higher than incomes in the bottom three-quarters of between \$9,000 and \$16,000.

Surprisingly, the degree of overall freedom in less free countries did not correlate well with income. The lowest quartile had a higher income than the second and third quartiles.

This stands in stark contrast to the strong correlation between income and economic freedom alone, as demonstrated in the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World: 2019 Annual

Report.

This suggests that economic freedom is more important for prosperity than personal freedom and that personal freedom only really makes a difference once a high degree of economic freedom has been achieved. Of course, personal freedom has implications beyond just prosperity and is a desirable goal in and of itself.

To arrest South Africa's economic stagnation and decline, government policy needs to change on many levels. Not content with having destroyed almost every state-owned enterprise from Eskom on down, the government now wants to take over the healthcare industry, and most recently, all sports, clubs and gyms in the country. This idea that government can run things better than the private sector lies at the core of its economic malaise.

Instead of expanding the scope of government, it should focus on doing less, but being better at what it does do.

Fixing education by holding teachers accountable for their outcomes, against world-class educational standards, would be a great start.

It can easily draw on market forces to help, by allowing parents to choose where their children go to school, and subsidising poor parents by means of a voucher system.

Instead of just mouthing pleasantries about cutting red tape, which it has been doing for decades, the government should make real work of reducing the regulatory burden, taxes and barriers to trade.

Perhaps institute a new rule: for every new regulation published, two must be repealed. Simplify the tax code so mere mortals can actually understand it. Slash tariffs and subsidies to make both imports and exports less expensive.

Make work of bringing the government bureaucracy into the 21st century.

People want to interact with their government online, instead of queuing multiple times at physical offices during work hours, just to obtain a silly document giving them permission to do this, that or the other.

Half the time, they shouldn't need permission in the first place, but when they do, make it quick and painless to obtain it.

Big pharma failing to invest in new antibiotics, says WHO

By Guardian Reporter

BIG pharma continues to walk away from investment in new antibiotics and there are alarmingly few useful new drugs in the pipeline to deal with the worsening crisis of antibiotic resistance, according to the World Health Organization.

Two reports paint a bleak picture. Efforts to discover new antibiotics are "insufficient to tackle the challenge of increasing emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance", says a review of clinical development.

Most antibiotics being developed are hardly any improvement on existing drugs.

The limited research that is being undertaken is generally by small or medium-sized companies, "with large pharmaceutical companies continuing to exit the field".

There have been only eight new antibacterial agents approved since 1 July 2017, but overall, says the report, "they have limited clinical benefits". There has been one important success story - pretomanid has been approved for patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis. But it was developed not by a pharmaceutical company but by the not-for-profit TB Alliance.

It is particularly worrying, says WHO, that there are no new drugs imminent against gram-negative bacteria, which can cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, wound or surgical site infections and meningitis.

Of the 50 antibiotics in the pipeline, 32 target pathogens listed by the WHO in 2017 as a global priority. But most of the drugs have only limited benefits when compared with existing antibiotics. Only two are active against the multi-drug resistant, gram-negative bacteria, which, says the WHO, are spreading rapidly and require urgent

solutions.

Of the 50 antibiotics in the pipeline, 32 target pathogens listed by the WHO in 2017 as a global priority. But most of the drugs have only limited benefits when compared with existing antibiotics. Only two are active against the multi-drug resistant, gram-negative bacteria, which, says the WHO, are spreading rapidly and require urgent solutions.

Gram-negative bacteria, such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli*, can cause severe and often deadly infections. They are a particular threat for people with weak or underdeveloped immune systems, including newborn babies, ageing populations, and people undergoing surgery and cancer treatment.

The director general of the WHO called on pharmaceutical companies to do more. "Never has the threat of antimicrobial resistance been more immediate and the need for solutions more urgent," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Numerous initiatives are under way to reduce resistance, but we also need countries and the pharmaceutical industry to step up and contribute with sustainable funding and innovative new medicines."

Only three antibiotics in the pipeline target the highly resistant NDM-1 (New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1), which is causing alarm among experts. NDM-1 makes bacteria resistant to a broad range of antibiotics. That includes those from the carbapenem family, which are the last line of defence against antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.

Hanan Balkhy, the assistant director-general for antimicrobial resistance at the WHO, said: "It's important to focus public and private investment on the development of treatments that are



effective against the highly resistant bacteria because we are running out of options. And we need to ensure that once we have these new treatments, they will be available to all who need them."

The second report, a review of potential drugs still in the lab, shows more innova-

tion, with 252 agents under investigation that could possibly target the pathogens on WHO's list causing the greatest concern. But the agents have not yet been through safety or efficacy tests and will take at least 10 years to reach the market, if they prove to be viable.

The big pharmaceutical companies are not

investing in antibiotic research because there is not a lucrative market for them. A novel drug needs to be kept for cases of dire necessity, not sold widely. Overuse will mean resistance to it inevitably develops and although the world badly needs the drugs, new classes of antibiotic are difficult to find.

Doctors perform bloodless bone marrow transplant on four-year-old Tanzanian

BENGALURU, India

A 4-year-old Tanzanian boy suffering from Stage IV neuroblastoma cancer was admitted to Narayana Hospital. As the child's family were followers of Jehovah's Witnesses, they were not open to a blood transfusion - a crucial aspect in bone marrow transplant.

Respecting the child and his family's beliefs, the doctors decided to conduct autologous bone marrow transplant, where the healthy blood stem cells from one's own body are taken out and given back after very high doses of chemotherapy.

"Suffering from Stage IV cancer itself minimizes one's chance of recovery. Further, if your beliefs do not approve of certain medical practices, then your chances of recovery become even more difficult," read a statement issued by Narayan Health City Hospital.

This cancer starts from one of the adrenal glands in the abdomen areas. Bone marrow transplant on an average requires the patient to undergo at least 5-6 blood transfusions and

platelet transfusions each, but the procedure was performed without any transfusion.

"The doctors decided to work on the child three weeks in advance and put him on medications that helped in increasing his blood levels. Once this happened, they removed the cancerous tumour surgically, after which the bone marrow transplant was performed," the release added.

Dr Sunil Bhat, Director & Clinical Lead - Paediatric Oncology, Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant at Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre, said, "In fact, despite medications, many times the blood products may not be optimal. Further, owing to the low production of platelets, there is a high chance of bleeding which can affect the survival of the child. The success rate of bone marrow transplant without the support of blood transfusion is very low and many would not even attempt it. However, we managed to successfully perform it."

Within 4-6 weeks, the boy recovered and was discharged.



Philips partners with UNPFA to reduce maternal and newborn mortality in DRC

AMSTERDAM

ROYAL Philips - a global leader in health technology, has announced a major partnership with the Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Health & Population and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) to reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates by fifty (50) percent in the country's health facilities over the next five years, especially in remote areas.

The three partners are working together to develop a large-scale 'Emergency obstetric and newborn care' (EmONC) program that will reach more than 500,000 women and 70,000 newborns, improving access to high quality and affordable maternal, neonatal and child healthcare. The first phase of the program will target five districts: Talangai, Ouessou-Mokeko-Pikounda-Kabo, Sembe-Souanke, Zanaga-Bambama and Sibiti-Komono.

The main objective of the program is to manage high-risk pregnancies and complications in healthcare facilities better by training midwives, enabling timely prevention of - and intervention during - complications related to pregnancy and childbirth.

As part of the program, health facilities in remote parts of the Congo will be fitted with solar power systems and ultra-portable ultrasound and monitoring devices so

that midwives and doctors in these district health centers can identify and manage high-risk pregnancies onsite and provide emergency obstetric and newborn care. Community health workers serving remote communities will be equipped with backpack outreach kits containing key equipment to assist in childbirth, together with a mobile phone they can use to get remote technical support.

Despite falling by almost half between 2005 and 2015, maternal mortality rates in the Republic of the Congo are still similar to those of other less-developed countries. Women in the country's rural areas face ongoing difficulties, especially the indigenous communities. Further investment in healthcare infrastructures, services, technology and innovation are therefore needed to ensure that maternal and newborn mortality rates continue to fall.

"The Government of the Republic of the Congo is committed to accelerating progress towards reducing maternal and newborn mortality," said Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo, Minister of Health & Population of the Republic of the Congo. "We are open to fostering collaborations that are dynamic and mutually beneficial, and we foresee great potential in this partnership with Philips and UNPFA."

"You cannot achieve prosperity without

quality healthcare, particularly for mothers and children, so we are excited to come on board and contribute effectively to this partnership," said Henk de Jong, Chief of International Markets, Philips. "Philips is passionate about maternal and child healthcare, because more than in any other sector, we can make a direct and dramatic positive impact on the quality of people's lives."

"This innovative partnership will help get us closer to achieving our goal of zero maternal deaths in the Republic of the Congo by improving the emergency obstetric and neonatal care that people in rural and hard-to-reach communities receive," said Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNPFA Executive Director. "We are committed to leaving no one behind and hope this model will inspire others who share our goal of making pregnancy and childbirth safe everywhere."

The Ministry of Health and Population will pay the salaries of the civil officials involved in the program. UNPFA will support the health districts in strengthening the capacities of midwives to provide EmONC services to increase the number of safe births and Philips will provide the technological know-how for this program.

During the second phase, the project will be rolled out to another 47 health districts in semi-urbanized and rural areas, includ-

ing Pool, Likouala, Cuvette, Cuvette-Ouest, Plateaux, Bouenza, Niari, Kouilou, Pointe Noire and the other district of Brazzaville.

The partnership will help to transform healthcare in the Republic of the Congo, ensuring that the quality of its services is enhanced, its facilities meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards, and its ability to reduce maternal and newborn mortality is significantly improved. At the recent Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, the government committed to ensuring that all pregnant women have an antenatal consultation, and that all women deliver their babies with a skilled birth attendant by 2022.



This innovative partnership will help get us closer to achieving our goal of zero maternal deaths in the Republic of the Congo by improving the emergency obstetric and neonatal care that people in rural and hard-to-reach communities receive

Accurately diagnosing typhoid requires enhancement of testing

By Guardian Reporter

A new study focused on typhoid and paratyphoid fevers indicate cases can be missed when patients don't seek medical care, or seek medical care and don't have a blood culture test. This means that the true burden of typhoid-related disease could be underestimated.

So far, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates about 22 million cases of typhoid fever and 5 million cases of paratyphoid fever occur worldwide each year, causing about 200,000 fatalities.

Typhoid and paratyphoid fever are infections caused by the bacteria *Salmonella enterica* Typhi and *S. Paratyphi*.

Researchers writing in *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* on January 16, 2020, have now calculated inflation factors that can be used to adjust these typhoid incidence rates to account for under-detection.

Merryn Voysey, the Lead Statistician at the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford, UK, and colleagues used data from an ongoing Typhoid Vaccine Acceleration Consortium (TyVAC) clinical trial of a typhoid vaccine in Nepal.

During the first year of passive surveillance, data was collected on 2,393 fever presentations. Overall, 1615 (68%) of patients had blood cultures.

The models used in this study revealed that patients who had blood taken were 1.87 times more likely to be positive for *Salmonella* than those without blood cultures.

"Crude typhoid incidence estimates should be adjusted for both the proportion of cases that go undetected due to missing blood cultures as well as the lower likelihood of culture-positivity in the group with missing data," the researchers say.

In the UK, the NHS says a diagnosis of typhoid fever can usually be confirmed by analyzing samples of blood, stools, or urine. These will be examined for the *Salmonella typhi* bacteria that cause the condition.

In countries with a high incidence rate of typhoid-related diseases, vaccine programs are used to control typhoid fever. To address this need, the WHO issued a revised policy on typhoid vaccines in 2018. This policy follows evidence-based recommendations that prevention through vaccination is one of the most effective solutions to reduce the burden of typhoid in endemic areas.

In a previous, related study of the typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) December 5, 2019, showed a single vaccination to be 81 percent safe and effective in reducing typhoid in children between the ages of 9 months and less than 16 years.

The researchers noted that these were preliminary results and that the study will continue to follow the participants for the next 2 years.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends 2 typhoid fever vaccines, an oral vaccine, Vivotif, and an injectable vaccine, Typhim VI.

Neither vaccine is 100 percent effective, so travelers to endemic countries should also practice safe eating and drinking habits while traveling abroad, says the CDC.

Travelers to Asia, Africa, and Latin America are especially at risk, and the highest risk for typhoid is in south Asia.

If you get sick after returning to the United States, seek medical care and tell your healthcare provider where and when you traveled, says the CDC.

In the USA, approximately 350 culture-confirmed cases of typhoid fever and 90 cases of paratyphoid fever caused by *Paratyphi A* are confirmed annually.

Study funding: The authors thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (OPP151153) for funding TyVAC, including the Nepal trial; the Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for funding of The Strategic Typhoid Alliance across Africa and Asia, which supported the surveillance that underpins this trial; and the National Institute for Health Research Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

Angola aspires to become third largest diamond producer

The world's largest producer of diamonds, producing as much as 50 pc of global production

By Special Correspondent

ANGOLA is tapping into its potential and aspiring to become the third largest diamond producer and cutter in the world, the CEO of its national diamond company Endiama said recently. "We have been working with major diamond companies around the world to add more value to the sector," Jose Manuel Ganga Junior told the media while reviewing the company's performance in 2019.

Semi-industrial diamond exploration will be discarded and full industrial operations be installed to improve competitiveness, transparency and efficiency, said Ganga Junior. He hoped that relevant measures will help create more jobs and cut down on imports while increasing exports.

Angola is the world's fourth largest rough diamond producer trailing after Russia, Botswana and Canada, according to Geology.com.

Diamond is a solid form of the element carbon with its atoms arranged in a crystal structure called diamond cubic. At room temperature and pressure, another solid form of carbon known as graphite is the chemically stable form, but diamond almost never converts to it.

Diamond has the highest hardness and thermal conductivity of any natural material, properties that are utilized in major industrial applications such as cutting and polishing tools. They are also the reason that diamond anvil cells can subject materials to pressures found deep in the Earth.

Because the arrangement of atoms in diamond is extremely rigid, few types of impurity can contaminate it (two exceptions being boron and nitrogen). Small numbers of defects or impurities (about one per million of lattice atoms) color diamond blue (boron), yellow (nitrogen), brown (defects), green (radiation exposure), purple, pink, orange or red. Diamond also has relatively high optical dispersion (ability to disperse light of different colors).

Most natural diamonds have ages between 1 billion and 3.5 billion years. Most were formed at depths between 150 and 250 kilometres (93 and

155 mi) in the Earth's mantle, although a few have come from as deep as 800 kilometres (500 mi). Under high pressure and temperature, carbon-containing fluids dissolved minerals and replaced them with diamonds. Much more recently (tens to hundreds of million years ago), they were carried to the surface in volcanic eruptions and deposited in igneous rocks known as kimberlites and lamproites.

Synthetic diamonds can be grown from high-purity carbon under high pressures and temperatures or from hydrocarbon gas by chemical vapor deposition (CVD). Imitation diamonds can also be made out of materials such as cubic zirconia and silicon carbide. Natural, synthetic and imitation diamonds are most commonly distinguished using optical techniques or thermal conductivity measurements.

Material properties

Diamond is a solid form of pure carbon with its atoms arranged in a crystal. Solid carbon comes in different forms known as allotropes depending on the type of chemical bond. The two most common allotropes of pure carbon are diamond and graphite. In graphite the bonds are sp² orbital hybrids and the atoms form in planes with each bound to three nearest neighbors 120 degrees apart.

In diamond they are sp³ and the atoms form tetrahedra with each bound to four nearest neighbors. Tetrahedra are rigid, the bonds are strong, and of all known substances diamond has the greatest number of atoms per unit volume, which is why it is both the hardest and the least compressible. It also has a high density, ranging from 3150 to 3530 kilograms per cubic metre (over three times the density of water) in natural diamonds and 3520 kg/m³ in pure diamond.^[1] In graphite, the bonds between nearest neighbors are even stronger but the bonds between planes are weak, so the planes can easily slip past each other. Thus, graphite is much softer than diamond. However, the stronger bonds make graphite less flammable.

Diamonds have been adapted for many uses because of the material's exceptional physical characteristics. Of all known substances, it is the hardest and least compressible. It has the highest thermal conductivity and the highest sound velocity.

It has low adhesion and friction, and its coefficient of thermal expansion is extremely low. Its optical transparency extends from the far infrared to the deep



ultraviolet and it has high optical dispersion. It also has high electrical resistance. It is chemically inert, not reacting with most corrosive substances, and has excellent biological compatibility.

Thermodynamics

The equilibrium pressure and temperature conditions for a transition between graphite and diamond is well established theoretically and experimentally. The pressure changes linearly between 1.7 GPa at 0 K and 12 GPa at 5000 K (the diamond/graphite/liquid triple point).

However, the phases have a wide region about this line where they can coexist. At normal temperature and pressure, 20 °C (293 K) and 1 standard atmosphere (0.10 MPa), the stable phase of carbon is graphite, but diamond is metastable and its rate of conversion to graphite is negligible. However, at temperatures above about 4500 K, diamond rapidly converts to graphite. Rapid conversion of graphite to diamond requires pressures well above the equilibrium line: at 2000 K, a pressure of 35 GPa is needed.

Above the triple point, the

melting point of diamond increases slowly with increasing pressure; but at pressures of hundreds of GPa, it decreases. At high pressures, silicon and germanium have a BCS body-centered cubic crystal structure, and a similar structure is predicted for carbon at high pressures. At 0 K, the transition is predicted to occur at 1100 GPa.

Crystal structure

The most common crystal structure of diamond is called diamond cubic. It is formed of unit cells (see the figure) stacked together. Although there are 18 atoms in the figure, each corner atom is shared by eight unit cells and each atom in the center of a face is shared by two, so there are a total of eight atoms per unit cell. Each side of the unit cell is 3.57 angstroms in length.

A diamond cubic lattice can be thought of as two interpenetrating face-centered cubic lattices with one displaced by 1/4 of the diagonal along a cubic cell, or as one lattice with two atoms associated with each lattice point. Looked at from a <111> crystallographic direction, it is formed of layers stacked in a repeating ABCABC ... pattern. Diamonds can also form an ABAB ... structure, which is known as hexagonal diamond or lonsdaleite, but this is far less common and is formed under different conditions from cubic carbon.

Crystal habit

Diamonds occur most often as euhedral or rounded octahedra and twinned octahedra known as macles. As diamond's crystal structure has a cubic arrangement of the atoms, they have many facets that belong to a cube, octahedron, rhombicuboctahedron, tetrakis hexahedron or disdyakis dodecahedron. The crystals can have rounded off and unexpressive edges and can be elongated. Diamonds (especially those with rounded crystal faces) are commonly found coated in nyl, an opaque gum-like skin.

Some diamonds have opaque fibers. They are referred to as opaque if the fibers grow from a clear substrate or fibrous if they occupy the entire crystal. Their colors range from yellow to green or gray, sometimes with cloud-like white to gray impurities. Their most common shape is cuboidal, but they can also form octahedra, dodecahedra, macles or combined shapes. The structure is the result of numerous impurities with sizes between 1 and 5 microns. These diamonds probably formed in kimberlite magma and sampled the volatiles.

Diamonds can also form polycrystalline aggregates. There have been attempts to classify them into groups with names such as boart, ballas, stewartite and framesite, but there is no widely accepted set of criteria.

Carbonado, a type in which the diamond grains were sintered (fused without melting) by the application of heat and pressure, is black in color and

tougher than single crystal diamond.^[18] It has never been observed in a volcanic rock. There are many theories for its origin, including formation in a star, but no consensus.

Mechanical properties

Hardness

Diamond is the hardest known natural material on both the Vickers scale and the Mohs scale. Diamond's great hardness relative to other materials has been known since antiquity, and is the source of its name.

Diamond hardness depends on its purity, crystalline perfection and orientation: hardness is higher for flawless, pure crystals oriented to the <111> direction (along the longest diagonal of the cubic diamond lattice). Therefore, whereas it might be possible to scratch some diamonds with other materials, such as boron nitride, the hardest diamonds can only be scratched by other diamonds and nanocrystalline diamond aggregates.

The hardness of diamond contributes to its suitability as a gemstone. Because it can only be scratched by other diamonds, it maintains its polish extremely well. Unlike many other gems, it is well-suited to daily wear because of its resistance to scratching—perhaps contributing to its popularity as the preferred gem in engagement or wedding rings, which are often worn every day.

The hardest natural diamonds mostly originate from the Copeton and Bingara fields located in the New England area in New South Wales, Australia. These diamonds are generally small, perfect to semiperfect octahedra, and are used to polish other diamonds. Their hardness is associated with the crystal growth form, which is single-stage crystal growth. Most other diamonds show more evidence of multiple growth stages, which produce inclusions, flaws, and defect planes in the crystal lattice, all of which affect their hardness. It is possible to treat regular diamonds under a combination of high pressure and high temperature to produce diamonds that are harder than the diamonds used in hardness gauges.

Toughness

Somewhat related to hardness is another mechanical property toughness, which is a material's ability to resist breakage from forceful impact. The toughness of natural diamond has been measured as 7.5-10 MPa·m^{1/2}. This value is good compared to other ceramic materials, but poor compared to most engineering materials such as engineering alloys, which typically exhibit toughnesses over 100 MPa·m^{1/2}. As with any material, the macroscopic geometry of a diamond contributes to its resistance to breakage. Diamond has a cleavage plane and is therefore more fragile in some orientations than others. Diamond cutters use this attribute to cleave some stones, prior to faceting. "Impact toughness" is one of the main indexes to measure the quality of synthetic industrial diamonds.

Yield strength

Diamond has compressive yield strength of 130-140 GPa. This exceptionally high value, along with the hardness and transparency of diamond, are the reasons that diamond anvil cells are the main tool for high pressure experiments. These anvils have reached pressures of 600 GPa. Much higher pressures may be possible with nanocrystalline diamonds.

Elasticity and tensile strength

Usually, attempting to deform bulk diamond crystal by tension or bending results in brittle fracture. However, when single crystalline diamond is in the form of nanometer-sized wires or needles (~100-300 nanometers in diameter), they can be elastically stretched by as much as 9 percent tensile strain without failure, with a maximum local tensile stress of 89 to 98 GPa, very close to the theoretical limit for this material.

Electrical conductivity

Other specialized applications also exist or are being developed, including use as semiconductors: some blue diamonds are natural semiconductors, in contrast to most diamonds, which are excellent electrical insulators.

The conductivity and blue color originate from boron impurity. Boron substitutes for carbon atoms in the diamond lattice, donating a hole into the valence band.

with hydrogen-related species adsorbed at the surface, and it can be removed by annealing or other surface treatments.[[]

Surface property

Diamonds are naturally lipophilic and hydrophobic, which means the diamonds' surface cannot be wet by water, but can be easily wet and stuck by oil. This property can be utilized to extract diamonds using oil when making synthetic diamonds. However, when diamond surfaces are chemically modified with certain ions, they are expected to become so hydrophilic that they can stabilize multiple layers of water ice at human body temperature.

The surface of diamonds is partially oxidized. The oxidized surface can be reduced by heat treatment under hydrogen flow. That is to say, this heat treatment partially removes oxygen-containing functional groups. But diamonds (sp³C) are unstable against high temperature (above about 400 °C (752 °F)) under atmospheric pressure. The structure gradually changes into sp²C above this temperature. Thus, diamonds should be reduced under this temperature.

Chemical stability

At room temperature, diamonds do not react with any chemical reagents including strong acids and bases.

In an atmosphere of pure oxygen, diamond has an ignition point that ranges from 690 °C (1,274 °F) to 840 °C (1,540 °F); smaller crystals tend to burn more easily. It increases in temperature from red to white heat and burns with a pale blue flame, and continues to burn after the source of heat is removed. By contrast, in air the combustion will cease as soon as the heat is removed because the oxygen is diluted with nitrogen. A clear, flawless, transparent diamond is completely converted to carbon dioxide; any impurities will be left as ash. Heat generated from cutting a diamond will not start a fire, and neither will a cigarette lighter, but house fires and blow torches are hot enough. Jewelers must be careful when molding the metal in a diamond ring.

Diamond powder of an appropriate grain size (around 50 microns) burns with a shower of sparks after ignition from a flame. Consequently, pyrotechnic compositions based on synthetic diamond powder can be prepared. The resulting sparks are of the usual red-orange color, comparable to charcoal, but show a very linear trajectory which is explained by their high density.^[4] Diamond also reacts with fluorine gas above about 700 °C (1,292 °F).

Colour

Diamond has a wide bandgap of 5.5 eV corresponding to the deep ultraviolet wavelength of 225 nanometers. This means that pure diamond should transmit visible light and appear as a clear colorless crystal. Colors in diamond originate from lattice defects and impurities. The diamond crystal lattice is exceptionally strong, and only atoms of nitrogen, boron and hydrogen can be introduced into diamond during the growth at significant concentrations (up to atomic percents).

Transition metals nickel and cobalt, which are commonly used for growth of synthetic diamond by high-pressure high-temperature techniques, have been detected in diamond as individual atoms; the maximum concentration is 0.01 per cent for nickel and even less for cobalt. Virtually any element can be introduced to diamond by ion implantation.

Nitrogen is by far the most common impurity found in gem diamonds and is responsible for the yellow and brown color in diamonds. Boron is responsible for the blue color. Color in diamond has two additional sources: irradiation (usually by alpha particles), that causes the color in green diamonds, and plastic deformation of the diamond crystal lattice. Plastic deformation is the cause of color in some brown and perhaps pink and red diamonds. In order of increasing rarity, yellow diamond is followed by brown, colorless, then by blue, green, black, pink, orange, purple, and red. "Black", or Carbonado, diamonds are not truly black, but rather contain numerous dark inclusions that give the gems their dark appearance.

Colored diamonds contain impurities or structural defects that cause the coloration, while pure or nearly pure diamonds are transparent and colorless. Most diamond impurities replace a carbon atom in the crystal lattice, known as a carbon flaw. The most common impurity, nitrogen, causes a slight to intense yellow coloration depending upon the type and concentration of nitrogen present.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =041=

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

- 3 letter word: PEG, ORB, IVY, YET, HER, ORE, RAI, IFE
 4 letter word: ROBE, READ, EASE, SALT, OMEN, PEER
 EVEN, PANT, LION, LOAF, RELY
 5 letter word: CHEST, TOKEN, AEGIS, PRICE, SHARK
 6 letter word: INTAKE, SALIVA, ON SALE, RECORD
 7 letter word: ENTEBBE, BANDAGE, VEER OFF
 8 letter word: CRITERIA, EGESTION

WORD FIT CROSSWORD

CLIMATOLOGY CREATION DS
 AMUNEMENTS RAGLEVE CROW
 NUNUNLCHS ELAEOLEVE
 ADMAGLOIS OESAGEVEVE
 AVEVIANORS OFOOTAGEVE
 HCEAGONS SEANBANGE
 HOIBANICAFEAROCCUR
 NODSBEVEAFEAATHEER
 RLEADSRLIYADH EAR

- Clues: Across
 1 Make something seem larger (10)
 7 Large bird living near the sea (9)
 9 Not good or well (2-2)
 11 Unsound mind (8)
 13 Prefix meaning before (3)
 15 Change (5)
 16 Extremely surprising (7)
 19 Table where salads are served (5,3)
 23 On the other hand, abbrev. (4)
 24 Former high priest in Shiloh (3)
 25 Pole used for rowing a boat (3)
 26 Used on signs to warn people (6)
 28 Dark hood of a tropical tree (5)
 29 Used to close the entrance (4)
- Down:
 1 Analysing and evaluating (11)
 2 Official in a foreign country (10)
 3 Enter (3,2)
 4 Place where birds rest (5)
 5 Throw (4) 6 Job (6)
 8 Beans from Mbeya (4)
 10 Make a choice (3)
 12 Having a natural ability (6)
 14 Very special and suitable for a king
 16 A boy (3) 17 map - making (6)
 18 To look very angry (6)
 20 Hebrew prophet (4)
 21 Past participle of be (4) 22 Bone (3)
 27 Steal (3)

BUSINESS

TASAA: Shipping agents still needed in exclusive mandate

Rwanda: Event focuses on Africa's creative industry

KIGALI, Rwanda

More than 1,500 people from across the world have gathered in Rwanda's capital Kigali for a two-day event dedicated to promoting growth and exchange within the creative and cultural industry.

The Creative Africa Exchange, set to conclude Saturday, features creative talents from the music, arts, design, fashion, literature, publishing, film, and TV sectors as well as senior government officials responsible for culture and the creative economy from 68 countries around the world.

Co-organized by Times Multimedia (TMM) and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), the event features about 250 exhibitors, including some of Africa's leading talents.

The event also features notable African and global actors, musicians, and entrepreneurs including Idris Elba, Steve Harvey, Djimon Hounsou, D'Banj, and ZeeTM.

They are set to share the stage with top African stars such as Flavour N'bania and D'Banj.

The event is expected to give exhibitors and participants the opportunity to network, create business opportunities, consider investment proposals, and boost their customer bases.

Speaking at the event, Rwandan Trade Minister Soraya Hakuziyaremye stressed the need to change people's views on the issues of piracy and intellectual property rights by taking bold action for their protection.

On the need to support the growth and development of creative and cultural industries in Africa, Benedict Oramah, the head of Afreximbank, said the time is ripe for the creative industry to take advantage of Africa's single market launched last year to reach a wider market.

The bank believes creative industry products are critical for driving down youth unemployment and promoting innovation.

According to technology entrepreneur Brame Sock, creative industry stakeholders will use the event to seek solutions to challenges facing the creative industry in Africa, from funding to getting final products to market.

The event is expected to attract over \$2 billion in trade and investment deals, according to organizers.

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Shipping Agents Association (TASAA) has underscored the need for shipping agents' participation in exclusive mandate since the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) represents the government and not ship owners.

Speaking to this paper over the weekend, TASAA Executive Secretary, Abel Uronu suggested the law to define TASAC in its exclusive mandate as a government agency rather than shipping agent.

He however advised for the government to appoint a company which will qualify to the terms and conditions of the law of agency to perform as shipping agent.

"In various platforms TASAC has been presenting itself as a government agency meaning they represent the government and not ship owners (Principals), but agents create contracts between the principal and third parties, they represent the principal", said Uronu expressing worries that ship owners are likely to lack representation.

He explained that, practically, TASAC represent the government and not ship owners whereas the principal to TASAC is the government, the act of which could be relevant if the government could have its own ships.

According to Uronu, TASAC employees are not professionals in shipping business hence the need to be trained by professionals in the industry to avoid misleading of terms

and conditions in the application of the knowledge.

"The language, terminologies or explanations of a certain issues when explained by non-professional people may spoil the image of the shipping industry and practice", he noted.

The government amended the Shipping Agencies Act to allow TASAC to perform shipping agency services along with freight clearing and forwarding services in its exclusive mandate, he said.

"Our proposal and profitable advice to the government and the parliament is to remove the miscellaneous amendment of Shipping Agencies Act, 2019 Cap 415 section 7 (d) to enable TASAC to effectively perform his duties as regulator", asserted Uronu.

Meanwhile, TASAA has appealed to the government to reinstate Delivery Order (DO) fee which shipping agents used for recovery of administrative cost which they incur when carrying out various checks and controls before issuing the delivery order.

Delivery order fees are charges raised for administrative services which cover the creation, submission and processing of all standard transport documents (DO).

Uronu said shipping agents in Tanzania charges a DO fee of US \$ 38 per document regardless of a container being 20 feet or 40 feet and a number of containers in a document.

He said DO charges in other African countries are Kenya (US \$ 70), Mozambique (US \$ 105), South Africa (US \$ 43), Ivory Coast (US \$ 75), Sudan (US \$ 75), Djibouti (US \$ 39.33), Mauritius

(US \$ 78) and Gabon US \$ 45.

He added: "Delivery order fee in Tanzania is almost lowest in sub-Saharan countries and justified administrative cost".

According to him, delivery order has a number of benefits which include to transfer the legal liability from the shipping line to the rightful owner of the goods and to safeguard the interest of the financial institutions.

Others are to minimize the risk to the terminal and identify the legal consignee for the delivery as well as to confirm that all charges of the shipper and shipping lines are fully paid.

"With all the above responsibilities, can delivery order be issued for free? TASAC does not offer any service for free, why delivery order should be for free?" questioned Uronu.



Bank CEO pledges to bankroll state's priority projects towards industrialisation

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

IN a bid to ensure that the government's major development projects which are targeting to facilitate industrialization, NMB Bank Plc has pledged to back such efforts financially.

Briefing the Parliamentary Public Investments Committee over the weekend, NMB's acting managing director, Ruth Zaipuna said so far, the bank

has been active in supporting projects like ongoing construction of the Standard Gauge Railway, Kinyerezi gas-powered electricity generation and some projects under the Rural Energy Agency.

"We have provided guarantees worth 140bn/- for works related to the SGR project and we will continue to support other strategic government projects," Zaipuna said.

She said the bank has also provided a letter of credit

transaction facilitation for the 550bn/- Tabora, Igunga and Nzega Water Pipeline and another LC transaction facilitation for the 35bn/- rehabilitation of water treatment plant for Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority.

Dar es Salaam's Bus Rapid Transit, contractors building roads under the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency, the Medical Stores Department and Tanzania Ports Authority are some of the strategic public

entities that have benefitted in various financing models, worth billions of shillings, from NMB Bank.

Responding to Zaipuna's presentation and that of NMB's board chairman, Professor Joseph Semboja, PIC chairman, Raphael Chegeni commended the bank for supporting government's strategic projects saying it helps speed up such projects.

"As Parliament, we are happy that you are investing in the

government's strategic projects and we remain confident that the bank's management will do more," Chegeni said.

He commended the bank's management for continuing to perform well while strengthening its stability and market domination as a bank of choice for the majority Tanzanians.

On the bank's stability, the acting managing director said NMB remains rock solid saying the 2019 annual report will

show a better picture than those of 2018.

"Being an entity that is trading on the stock market, we are currently on the closed period so we cannot reveal the numbers until the end of this month but we remain confident that they will be better than those of 2018," Zaipuna assured.

Since 2014, the country's largest lender made net profits of 156bn/- which roped to 98bn/- in

'Financial support to research institutions key in scaling up industrialisation drive'



Industry and Trade Deputy Minister, Stella Manyanya checks wine made by WENDECHE grape processing factory at Hombolo-Bwawai in Dodoma Region at the weekend. The factory has been innovated by the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organization (TEMDO) and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRY and Trade Deputy Minister, Eng Stella Manyanya has underscored the need for financial support to research institutions to enable them invent simple industrial technologies for the country to attain its targeted industrialization drive by 2025.

Eng Manyanya made the remarks in Dodoma over the weekend during the launch of WENDECHE grapes processing factory at Hombolo-Bwawai ward. The factory has been innovated by the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organization (TEMDO) and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

She said achieve the industrialization strategy as well as being able to transform the country into a middle income nation, there is a need to financially capacitate the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO), SIDO, TEMDO and CAR-MATEC.

The Deputy Minister noted that such institutions have existed for

long but have not been able to come up with technologies that will benefit Tanzanians. She said since the government started empowering the institutions financially, the institutions are now inventing new technologies.

"Empowering such institutions financially will boost economic growth as well as the industrialization drive. We are today witnessing the two institutions coming up with a simple technology for processing of grapes", she noted.

The small industries, she said, are important in creating jobs to young Tanzanians. He called upon citizens to love and buy locally made goods to boost the country's economy.

Eng Manyanya challenged SIDO to properly supervise small industries owners and assist them to access loans from Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank Limited (TADB) and TIB Development Bank to expand their operations.

She said there are reasons for not attaining the industrialization drive since all the resources are available. The Deputy Minister directed

the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organization (TEMDO) to make sure they complete construction of grape processing machines as per orders received from various grape processors.

She said the innovated machines are of high quality and works efficiently, the demand is rapidly increasing as many entrepreneurs are venturing into the business.

"Delaying the machines would result into delayed development", she said.

TEMDO Plant and Innovation Eng Alexander Komba said the organization's main role is to invent simple industrial technologies for small and medium scale entrepreneurs across the country. He said TEMDO made machines are taken to SIDO before they are given to entrepreneurs.

Eng Komba added the collaboration between TEMDO and SIDO under the Ministry of Industry and Trade has managed to end the shortage of grapes processing machines in the country.

Cross-border runners brave borders with bribery in Zimbabwe

By Brian Latham

FORAI Mapondera sits at a Shell filling station about 500 yards from the Beitbridge border post that separates South Africa and Zimbabwe. It's 3 p.m. and 40 degrees (104 Fahrenheit) so he's slouched against his battered Mercedes-Benz Sprinter van, waiting for the sun to set before he tackles a crossing plagued by delays, corruption and chaos.

Beitbridge is one of Africa's busiest land border crossings. About 25,000 people and 500 heavy trucks cross every 24 hours and, in summer, the temperatures are searing.

Mapondera is a runner, or malaicha, a slang term meaning "deliverer of goods." Twice a week he transports items between South Africa's commercial hub, Johannesburg, and Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

But delays at the border and breakdowns can reduce his trips to as few as three a month. If it'll fit in his van or on the over-loaded trailer he tows, he'll take it. The trailer towers over the Sprinter and it looks precariously balanced, tied down with bits of rope and netting. The 1,200 kilometer (745 miles) journey takes him about 24 hours – if he's lucky. "If there are delays you can spend whole 24 hours trying to cross" the border, Mapondera said. "The roads in Zimbabwe are terrible, so punctures are common, also breakdowns, so sometimes

it can take much longer." The malaicha exist because Zimbabwe's economic crisis has destroyed much of the normal infrastructure of trade and foreign currency is scarce. That, and a drought, have made it even more difficult to acquire basic consumer goods.

While it's impossible to put a value on the goods runners move across Africa because they avoid duties and taxes, they are organized and efficient. They even have a website and an app. They're used by rich and poor to bring in goods at the lowest possible price and will deliver to your door anything from a freezer to a mobile phone – and even an envelope stuffed with cash.

Three Border Crossings Parked next to Mapondera, Josiah Banda is underneath an old Iveco van, tying the exhaust to the chassis with wire. He's on his way to Blantyre, Malawi's economic capital that's another 1,200 kilometers northeast, and he faces two more border crossings. "It's hard to say who are worse," Banda says, rubbing his soot-covered hands on his trousers. "South African immigration can make you move from one queue to another for no reason. They're very rude." Driving in Zimbabwe isn't too bad, but once you hit Mozambique you're expected to pay bribes at the border and to police along the road, he said.

"In Malawi, people complain that everything is expensive; well, this is why



everything costs so much."

Typically, runners taking goods to Zimbabwe charge between 25% and 30% of the value of the items as their fee. That's considerably less than the import duties they'd normally have to pay, but there are ways to wiggle for profit. The runners have arrangements with the bus drivers who cross the border and officials from the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority. Instead of declaring the goods themselves, they spread it between the 80 passengers on each bus and, with a \$200 duty-free allowance per person, the runners end up paying very little.

A malaicha who says his name is John Madzibaba is heading for Chipinge, a small town on Zimbabwe's frontier with Mozambique. His trailer is sagging under the weight of bags of cornmeal, plastic chairs and suitcases. He's waiting for a shift change on the Zimbabwe side when "my customs guy will be on duty," he said.

Madzibaba does between four and six trips a month, each turning over about 20,000 rand (\$1,384). From that he must pay his loading assistant and bribes, buy fuel and maintain his vehicle, he said.

Endless Forms

Border infrastructure in South Africa and Zimbabwe was built in a time when far fewer people and less freight crossed the Limpopo River between the two nations. The South African side is mainly orderly but slow, with lines of people waiting in the sun. The Zimbabwean side is frenzied, chaotic and without any obvious order, but can often be quicker.

Both sides maintain archaic police and vehicle checks, endless forms and waiting. Sometimes fights break out when someone jumps the line and tempers become frazzled in the heat and im-

patience with corruption.

It's a far cry from the vision of leaders who signed the African Continental Free-Trade Agreement, aiming to lower or eliminate cross-border tariffs on most goods and ease the movement of capital and people across the whole continent. Back at the Shell filling station, Mapondera affirms this.

"When politicians talk about African trade, they're talking for the sake of talking," he said, dismissing chances of governments ever agreeing to open borders. "What we do, we runners, is how most of Africa trades."

Uganda tax body simplifies women involvement in cross-border trade

BY CATHERINE ZALWANGO

WORLD over, women face numerous challenges in various fields and trade is not any different. Previously, women in Cross Border trade had to manoeuvre several challenges making it hard for them to favourably compete with their male counterparts.

These included insufficient capital, absence of storage facilities for their goods (often perishables), inadequate access to trade information and limited market for their products.

Research by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), (2018) notes that informal cross-border trade is still rampant at over 40% of all intra-regional trade. Women compose up to 80% of all informal cross-border traders. Small cross border trade is characterized with a lot of smuggling and dominated by a lot of challenges like harassment and confiscation of products.

Evidence from several surveys conducted by international organizations has corroborated that women are indeed in a vulnerable position while engaging in cross border trade yet they are the key bread winners for their households. However, not all hope is lost.

In July 2018, the Minister of Trade launched the URA Women Traders' Initiative in Busia with an intention to address challenges faced by women traders and to assimilate gender impartiality in the reforms and modernization agenda. This instrument has provided a comprehensive and all-encompassing approach to trade facilitation, with a feminine touch.

Thus far, 34 associations of Women Cross Border Traders have been established with a sounding membership of over 5,032 members.

At the core of the framework is simplification of customs clearance processes and procedures as well as building working relationships with women traders to foster a better business environment.

To further ease their trade processes, desks specifically dedicated to serving women have been set up at five One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) i.e. Malaba, Busia, Elegu, Mutukula and Mirama Hills.

This dedicated service has led to a remarkable reduction in the time women in trade at the border take to receive URA services and to have their goods cleared.

Free storage facilities for the small scale women traders who in the past couldn't meet storage costs have also been available.

Continuous trainings in line with the needs and requests of the members in these associations is also another approach URA implements in this initiative.

With more to be done, there is already an increase in women participation in trade as well as the clearing and forwarding world.

Women now have a stronger voice to air out their concerns and the opportunity to tap into opportunities availed by the East African Community (EAC) integration.

Ms Angela Nafula, the secretary Tukolere Wamu Women's Group located in Mutukula disclosed that the traders within the association can now ably compete on regional and international markets.

There is a notable surge in compliance levels among members; some of whom were formerly perpetual cross border smugglers.

Ms Margaret Auma, the Chairperson Elegu Women's Cross Border Trader's Savings and Credit Society intimated that through their association, the women traders have now formed a SACCO through which financial support can easily be sought. Advance loans are accessible to members for productive purposes as per governing SACCO laws.

There's amplified knowledge, information and skills sharing in trade and trade procedures among the members which is a result of the continuous trainings offered by theWith support from partners, the culture of entrepreneurship and cross border trade among members has been upheld, by providing business extension, marketing services, and other opportunities to start or expand business of members both individuals and groups.

Women in cross border trade now enjoy easy access to trade documents like Certificates of origin, and use of the simplified regime among others.

In the foreseeable future as this Customs Women Traders' Facilitation Initiative gains momentum with support of partners like Trade Mark East Africa, change in compliance behaviour is to be seen and more Revenue will be realised from women's involvement in cross border trade.

IFC launches global health tech challenge to spur innovation

KAMPALA

As part of the World Bank Group (WBG) Global Tech Challenge, IFC, the private sector arm of the WBG, called on health tech innovators from around the world to bring their solutions to the East African market to meet the needs of patients and health care providers in the region.

New technologies and innovative business practices can play a key role in addressing some of the most pressing health care challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, including shortages of skilled doctors and nurses, limited health infrastructure and high cost of care.

At the same time, the region faces longstanding challenges from infectious diseases, and the rapidly growing burden of non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

"We are mobilizing global tech by bringing health care innovations that transform lives to the markets with the greatest need," said William Sonneborn, Senior Director of IFC's Disruptive Technologies and Funds.

"Bringing together tech innovators and health care providers improves access, affordability, quality and efficiency for underserved



William Sonneborn (2nd -R), Senior Director of IFC's Disruptive Technologies and Funds, has called on health tech innovators from around the world to bring their solutions to the East African market. IFC is a private sector arm of the WBG.

populations".

The TechEmerge Health program will match innovators with more than 20 leading private health care systems in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia that have already signed up to the program.

The greatest demand, however, lies in new technologies related to

patient engagement, clinical records and data analytics, point of care diagnostic tools and quality management, among others.

The open application launched recently invites health technology innovators from around the world to apply for the program. Innovators selected through a

competitive process will be invited to meet participating TechEmerge health care providers in East Africa to discuss opportunities to pilot their solutions and commercialize their technology in this market.

According to International Financial Corporation, applications can be submitted at www.techemerge.org/health through February 25, 2020.

IFC will provide support to health tech innovators during the market-entry and tech transfer process-mitigating financial and operational risks associated with market entry and reducing adoption risks for local health care providers. Selected innovators

will receive support and grant funding from the TechEmerge team to pilot their innovations in the East African market, with the ultimate goal of wider commercial deployment of the technology to improve health care delivery.

The TechEmerge Health program is part of IFC's approach to support entrepreneurship and innovation in emerging markets and leverage the private sector to increase and improve access to quality health services.

The program has already been implemented successfully in India where innovators were matched with leading healthcare providers to implement pilot projects reaching more than 18,000 patients.

These initial pilots have led to commercial contracts worth \$1 million for broader deployment of health care innovations in India that are expected to benefit more than 300,000 people each year.

The program is being implemented in partnership with the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry. IFC has a global investment portfolio of more than \$2 billion in the health care sector.

UK to support African women in business with £3.5m boost

LONDON

Britain will commit to fostering a new generation of African women entrepreneurs at the first big international summit hosted by Boris Johnson.

Helping African women become independent and launch

their own businesses will be a key focus at Monday's UK-Africa Investment Summit in London, with the aim of boosting prosperity and women's empowerment.

The summit will bring together African governments, business leaders and dozens of international organisations to generate

new opportunities for investments and trade.

The UK will also throw open the City of London to African firms seeking to secure resources.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma today announced an increase in UK poli-

cies to boost women in business with mentoring and training.

He told the Standard: "When women are economically empowered, their whole community benefits. Experts estimate achieving this will add trillions to the global economy, but we also know it cuts rates of violence and

abuse such as child marriage and FGM, abhorrent practices which we must end."

Some 3,000 women will get coaching to become self-employed entrepreneurs, with a 50 per cent increase in funding from £6.8 million to £10 million.

It will also increase women's

access to healthcare, education and family planning, freeing women to enter the workforce.

It follows Mr Johnson's stint as foreign secretary when he led a drive to increase the education of girls in developing countries.

Women already run a third of Africa's small firms but their eco-

nomical value is modest and many are held back by barriers such as difficulty persuading banks to lend funds.

The DfID estimates that increasing women's income and opportunities could add \$12 trillion (£9.2 trillion) to the global economy by 2025.

Africa struggling to distribute 5G networks across the continent

By Happy Arnold

DESPITE the fact that tech firm Rain already has 5G technology and is ready to use it, the newest development in telecommunications struggles to take off because of patchy network coverage, shortage of electricity and fiber optic cables.

The technology is set to take the entire mobile network to the next level, being almost 100 times faster than its previous counterparts, 4G. 5G means that people will no longer be limited as to what they can do on their phones compared to what they can access through their laptops. The Internet will be fast enough and strong enough to basically complete any task. 5G technology is slowly rolling out here and there. Some places in the U.S, the U.K and now Norway as well have introduced this technology to their citizens.

Some activities that the users are most excited to access are the live streams and live games. 4G is quite limited when it comes to these sorts of online activities but with 5G people can access these games or stream. For those who love online gaming, this is a perfect development since it's no



longer necessary to be connected to a wifi network. If you are in Norway, you can access the popular free spins for Norwegian players only through your 5G as most of the online slots are quite heavy in terms of the traffic consumption and the wi-fi is rarely enough.

5G around the world

Meanwhile, the tensions around Huawei and the 5g continue, now between the U.S and the U.K. While U.K is slowly rolling out

the technology, the country was considering including Huawei products as well, but after the pressure from the U.S, the U.K is now reconsidering.

When it comes to 5G in Africa, Rain, based in Cape Town, is the main provider of 5G and is Africa's first commercial 5G network. Rain wants to provide the whole continent with the access to fast internet but so far it has proven to be a bit difficult. Despite the fact that the company claims to have the best service on the

market with the fasted internet, various people and companies have now come out to say that the Rain's service is patchy and unreliable.

The company itself is focused on improving and claims that every week they work on expanding its network and increasing its coverage area. The main reason why the Internet uptake has been slow on the African continent is that there has always been a lack of access to electricity and technology in general. What Rain is trying to do is to redefine the status of the continent, to introduce a technology that might not be perfect, but still, it belongs to Africa and is suited for Africa. Rain is working constantly to work on the patchiness issue, to establish stronger connections and to give access to this technology to a whole new range of people.

Rain takes pride in being independent and working towards developing programs and technologies that are best suited for Africa instead of being a direct copy of a technology developed somewhere else.

Africa as the tech innovator

Actually Rain has ambitious and to drive to become a technological leader of the world and considering Africa's success with financial technologies it seems quite possible. When Africa first started to pop up as a new fintech capital there was a lot of confusion around the topic because in most people's eyes this is not the place where the technological innovations come from. But Africa managed to prove otherwise and now it is working towards becoming a leader in this field as well.

Africa has been evolving at an impressive speed when it comes to technology. African developers are in tune with the needs of contemporary customers so far they've done an impressive job of creating technology and promoting innovation to elevate the day-to-day experiences of people.

5G technology has become a topic when it comes to international relations, but Africa seems to be doing a good job of having a balanced approach, listening to the customers and

creating products that are designed specifically for the African setup.

Despite some challenges with coverage and access, which are a part of the development process Rain has been very successful at keeping its vision clean and delivering the service to as many people as possible. Rain is determined to continue on improving its products and expanding the coverage area. They see the potential in this technology and the need for this sort of technology in Africa. It definitely has the potential to become a worldwide leader in this field after it overcomes some of the aforementioned challenges and distributes its products across the entire continent. For now, the coverage is focused on Johannesburg, while the technology is not fully developed and all the issues aren't taken care of. This year we will likely see huge progress in this direction across the continent and by the end of it may be the whole continent will have access to 5G technology. Approved! Turkish Troops Deployed

Struggles faced by Africa's new gold refineries in focus

ENTEBBE

IN a refinery just outside Uganda's main airport, workers slip bars of freshly refined gold into clear plastic bags sealed with a sticker of the national flag – black, yellow and red – and the label "Uganda's Treasure."

Uganda produces little gold of its own. Alain Goetz, who set up the refinery, says that by branding gold from abroad as Ugandan, the operation is merely imitating others – for example, the Swiss don't mine the gold they refine in Switzerland.

A pink building guarded by dogs at Entebbe on the shores of Lake Victoria, the refinery, African Gold Refinery (AGR), is part of a trend across Africa. Small-scale mining is booming, and new gold refineries are opening by the dozen, to process metal produced by informal diggers in Africa and beyond.

The refineries, which often win high-level political backing, can be positive because they offer miners and states a way to extract value from their own mineral wealth rather than just exporting raw commodities. But if not properly controlled, they risk adding to problems of smuggling and funding conflict.

Some of Africa's new gold refineries are in South Africa, a major gold producer with an already large refining industry. There, authorities granted 19 refining licenses in the year to March 2019 – as many as in the previous three years combined.

Elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa – where until 2012 there were only a handful of refineries – as many as 26 are now either operating or under construction across 14 countries from Mali to Tanzania, including in states which mine little gold at home, a Reuters survey of public reports found. Officials in at least three more countries including Madagascar and Cote d'Ivoire have publicly said they are interested in hosting a refinery.

Governments of gold-producing countries in Africa have long complained that the precious metal in their rocks is being illegally

produced and smuggled out on a vast scale, sometimes by criminal operations, often at a high human and environmental cost.

By refining gold – in some cases obliging producers and traders to sell their gold to home-grown refineries – states hope to capture value that is being lost. Some new refineries have invested in systems to ensure they process gold from legal and environmentally responsible miners.

"The only way to stop [smuggling] is having multiple refineries in Africa," said Frank Mugenyi, head of the minerals unit at the African Union.

But because informal miners already often operate through smuggling networks to avoid tax and scrutiny, officials and industry sources say some refineries risk inevitably joining these shadowy channels.

With so many refineries competing for gold to process, each has scant incentive to check where its gold comes from.

Just 13 of them – those for which Reuters was able to obtain data – state they can handle more than 1,400 tonnes of gold a year, worth around \$70 billion. That means they could treat around twice Africa's estimated total gold production, and nearly a third of the world's supply.

Of 22 refineries surveyed by Reuters, 14 did not respond to requests for more information about the size and nature of their business.

Two responses to the survey showed a lax approach: One small operator, Bupu Chipando who heads Alinani Precious Metals Ltd. in Kenya, said he does not yet purify gold, but just melts blocks of impure metal together and ships them overseas. Officials said they knew of at least two other African refiners who did the same thing.

Another, Robert Baker, the CEO of Bekora Miners in Cameroon, said most of the gold his refinery processed was not declared to customs, in order to avoid paying tax on metal it exports. Cameroon's government did not respond to requests for comment.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

MONDAY 20 Jan	TUESDAY 21 Jan	WEDNESDAY 22 Jan	THURSDAY 23 Jan	FRIDAY 24 Jan	SATURDAY 25 Jan	SUNDAY 26 Jan
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Jagina rpt 11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 AJ Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afiya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Moja 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 12:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 AJ Jazeera 13:45 Jarida la wanawake rpt 14:00 Habari za saa 14:55 Dakika 45 15:00 Habari za saa 16:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 16:55 Habari za saa 17:00 Meza huru 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 2:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 12:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 14:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 2:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 12:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 14:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 2:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 12:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 14:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 2:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 12:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 14:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 2:00 DWTW	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 12:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 14:00 Uchumi wetu rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:00 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:10 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 AJ Jazeera 2:00 DWTW



WORLD

UK's Harry and Meghan to drop titles and retire as working royals

LONDON

PRINCE Harry and his wife Meghan will no longer be working members of Britain's monarchy and they will pay their own way in life as they embark on an independent future, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday.

They will also no longer use their "Royal Highness" titles, the palace said in an announcement that sought to end turmoil in the monarchy sparked earlier this month when the couple announced they wanted to reduce their official duties and spend more time in North America.

The queen and senior family members met last week to discuss the situation and have been in "constructive and friendly" discussions with officials on how this stepping back would work in practice for Harry, 35, and his American wife, former actress Meghan, 38.

"Harry, Meghan and Archie will always be much loved members of my family," Queen Elizabeth said in a statement issued by the palace, referring to the couple's baby son.

"I recognize the challenges they have experienced as a result of intense scrutiny over the last two years and support their wish for a more independent life."

The queen said she was "particularly proud" of how quickly Meghan had

become one of the family. The couple married in May 2018 in a lavish ceremony at her home in Windsor Castle, west of London in front of a global TV audience of millions.

Harry will remain a prince and the couple will keep their titles of Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they begin a new life split between North America and Britain, but they will not take part in any future ceremonial events or royal tours.

Royal commentators said it amounted to an "abdication" from the royal family and showed that under the warm words, the queen had taken a firm and decisive line.

"It is harder to think of a much clearer break than this. Harry and Meghan are still members of the Royal Family, but they are effectively no longer royal", the BBC's royal correspondent, Jonny Dymond, said.

Meghan is currently in Canada with Archie and Harry is expected to join her soon.

A palace spokeswoman said the couple would no longer receive public money and that they would repay the cost of refurbishing their cottage in Windsor, which official figures show amounted to 2.4 million pounds (\$3.1 million).

It remained unclear what public funds would be spent on their security



Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, leave Canada House in London, Britain (File photo)

ty. Buckingham Palace declined to comment but said there was an independent process to determine public funding for security.

The office of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declined to comment on Saturday's news.

ROYAL PAIN

The couple's plans for independence, announced after a long break over the Christmas period in Canada, caught the rest of the royal family by surprise earlier this month and left the queen and other senior Windsors hurt and disappointed, according to royal sources.

However, in a TV interview aired in October, both had made it clear how they were struggling with the immense media attention. Harry said he felt his wife had faced "bullying" from some tabloids.

A friend of Harry and Meghan also said last week the couple felt they had been driven out by some members of the royal family.

The changes will come into effect in the spring of this year, the palace said, and there will be further royal engagements before the new arrangement is implemented, although it was not clear whether Meghan would be involved.

The situation will be reviewed in a year's time by senior royals - the queen, Harry's father and heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and Harry's elder brother Prince William.

There has been intense media speculation in recent days over what exact roles the couple would have.

"As agreed in this new arrangement they understand they are required to step back from

royal duties," the Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said on Saturday.

"The Sussexes will not use their HRH title as they are no longer working members of the royal family."

'NO HALFWAY HOUSE'

The change means Harry, who served a decade in the British Army, will give up his military patronages and his role as Commonwealth Youth Ambassador.

It was not immediately clear whether the couple could continue to use the "Sussex Royal" title for their website and branding.

While they will no longer receive public funding, Prince Charles will continue to offer private financial support, a royal source said.

The source said the couple will spend the majority of their time in North America, and had not signed any commercial agreements as yet.

"Although they can no longer formally represent the queen, the Sussexes have made clear that everything they do will continue to uphold the values of her majesty," the palace spokeswoman said.

Before their wedding, Harry's spokesman said that Meghan was seeking to become a British citizen, but rules specify that prospective Britons spend the vast majority of their time in the United Kingdom. Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the issue.

"I think the queen has dealt with this crisis because she has absolutely drawn the line: you can be private people, but you cannot be royal at the same time," Alastair Bruce, a commentator on the royals, told Sky News. **Agencies**

Report: DPRK foreign minister replaced

SEOUL

THE foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Ri Yong-ho has been replaced, Seoul-based NK News reported on Saturday.

The usually well-informed outlet, citing multiple unnamed sources in Pyongyang, said Ri would be replaced by Ri Song-gwon, the former chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country (CPRC), who played a prominent role in inter-Korean talks in early 2018.

NK News said the move, of which there has been no mention in official media, was part of a major political reshuffle that could have a significant impact on the country's diplomatic stance. The outlet said it would likely be confirmed on or before Thursday, when an event for resident diplomats is scheduled in Pyongyang.

The Republic of Korea (ROK's) unification ministry, which is in charge of DPRK affairs, has said that any change in Ri's status should be assessed cautiously.

The US State Department, which has been seeking unsuccessfully to revive talks aimed at persuading DPRK to give up its nuclear weapons, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ri Yong-ho, who was born in 1956, did not attend the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations in September. He had attended the high-level meeting in New York for three years from 2016 to 2018.

North Korea News said his absence from a group photo of top ruling party officials at a meeting in January raised speculation that he may have been replaced amid a broader political reshuffle that saw notable promotions and possible demotions of prominent figures in DPRK's military, Cabinet, and more.

A fluent English speaker who studied at Pyongyang's prestigious University of Foreign Languages, Ri Yong-ho has for years held a number of high-level posts dealing with the West.

From 2003 to 2007, he was DPRK's ambassador in London and served as vice-foreign minister, representing DPRK at now-defunct six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programme. **Xinhua**

Russia's new super-heavy carrier rocket to be cheaper than US space launch system

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S new super-heavy carrier rocket Yenisei will be cheaper than the US Space Launch System (SLS), Head of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin wrote on his Twitter on Friday.

"Our super-heavy rocket will cost considerably less than the American SLS but it is necessary to lay groundwork already today for the solutions that will make the Yenisei even more competitive," he said.

The Roscosmos chief said he agreed with SpaceX founder Elon Musk who had earlier stated that the launch cost of an SLS heavy carrier rocket, which Boeing was developing for delivering astronauts to the Moon, was too high. As the Roscosmos chief said, even the United States with its powerful economy would find it difficult to bear such expenses.

In late March 2018, Roscosmos placed an order with the Energia Space Rocket Corporation for developing the conceptual design of a super-heavy carrier rocket. The contract was worth 1.6 billion rubles (\$25 million), according to the price indicated on the government procurement website.

Roscosmos Chief Rogozin earlier said the Yenisei new super-heavy carrier rocket would be assembled using the principle of a technological building kit where each part of the launcher should be an independent flight element. Under the designers' plans, the rocket is intended to deliver more than 70 tonnes of cargo into the low near-Earth orbit at the first stage.

Under Russia's federal target program, the first launch of the Yenisei super-heavy carrier rocket is due to take place in 2028. Russia will build the launch pad for the super-heavy carrier rocket at the Vostochny spaceport in the Russian Far East. NASA Chief Jim Bridenstine said in December that the launch of one SLS rocket would cost \$1.6 billion and the price could drop to \$800 million, if NASA ordered more than one SLS rocket from Boeing.

Russia intends to use the new super-heavy rocket for missions to the Moon, including the landing of Russian cosmonauts on the surface of the Earth's natural satellite. In Roscosmos' estimates, the Yenisei will be able to deliver a 27-tonne payload to the Moon's orbit. **Agencies**

Trump, Abe seek more robust US-Japan security pact

TOKYO

US President Donald Trump marked the 60th anniversary of the signing of the security treaty between the United States and Japan with a call for a stronger and deeper alliance between the two countries, despite criticising the pact six months ago. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday called for making the treaty more robust.

"As the security environment continues to evolve and new challenges arise, it is essential that our alliance further strengthen and deepen," Trump said in a statement dated Jan 18.

"I am confident that in the months and years ahead, Japan's contributions to our mutual security will continue to grow, and the alliance will continue to thrive."

Last June, Trump told a news conference in Japan that the treaty - signed six decades ago on Sunday and the linchpin of Japan's defence policy - was "unfair" and should be changed, echoing his long-held view that Japan is a free-rider on defence.

Trump at the time added he was

not thinking of withdrawing from the pact.

"We have elevated the relationship to one in which each of us, the US and Japan, protects the other, thereby giving further force to the alliance," Abe said at a Tokyo reception to mark the anniversary of the signing.

"Going forward, it is incumbent upon us to make it even more robust, to make it a pillar for safeguarding peace and security in both outer space and cyberspace."

The treaty obligates the United States to defend Japan, which under its US-drafted constitution renounced the right to wage war after World War Two. Japan in return provides military bases used by the United States to project power in Asia.

The treaty was first signed in 1951 and revised in 1960 under Abe's grandfather, then-premier Nobusuke Kishi. Kishi was forced to step down afterwards following a massive public outcry from Japanese critics who feared the pact would pull their country into conflict.

Abe since taking office in 2012 has raised Japan's defence spending by 10 percent after years of decline and his



US President Donald Trump (left) bids farewell to Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (File photo)

government in 2014 reinterpreted the constitution to allow Japanese troops to fight overseas for the first time since World War Two.

Although generally supportive of the alliance, Japanese voters remain concerned about their country getting dragged into US-led conflicts. A recent survey by Kyodo news agency showed 58.4 percent opposed Tokyo's decision to dispatch a warship and patrol planes to the Middle

East to help protect ships bringing goods to Japan.

Trump's administration has also pushed for Japan to pay more for US forces stationed in the country. Under an agreement reached in 2015, Japan pledged to increase its spending for US forces stationed there by 1.4 percent over the following five years to 189.3 billion yen (US\$1.72 billion) per year on average. **Agencies**

Xi's visit a milestone in Myanmar-China relations - ambassador

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's state visit to Myanmar became a milestone in the history of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, said Myanmar Ambassador to China U Myo Thant Pe during a recent interview with People's Daily.

The visit not only marked the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, but also demonstrates their mutual understanding and support on international affairs and issues bearing on each other's core interests and major concerns, the ambassador said.

He pointed out that the "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship serves as a vital foundation for Myanmar-China friendship, in which the close high-level exchanges between the two countries play an important part.

The friendship between the two neighboring countries dates back to over 1,000 years ago, the ambassador noted, adding that the two peoples enjoy close relations and a friendship that is constantly renewing.

He introduced that Myanmar's government responded to and took part in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in a quick and active manner since it was first proposed by President Xi in 2013, and established a steering committee chaired by state counselor Aung San Suu Kyi to implement the tasks related to the initiative.

Last year, Myanmar formed another working committee to facilitate the joint construction of the BRI, and the ambassador himself is a member of it.

He believes that the Belt and Road cooperation not only covers economy,



but also other sectors such as education, culture and people-to-people exchanges. Upholding the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the BRI construction is witnessing improving quality.

Myanmar is the junction of South Asia, Southeast Asia and China, thus

enjoying natural advantages in the BRI cooperation, U Myo Thant Pe (pictured) said.

The country's participation in the BRI construction, as well as the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) is of great importance for not only the bilateral relations between the two countries, but also the prosperity of the region.

As an important BRI country, Myanmar will expand its cooperation with China in agriculture, infrastructure, energy and trade. The two countries will also constantly enhance mutual understanding and consensus-building during the joint construction of the BRI and the CMEC.

Under the frameworks of these two strategies, both parties will accelerate the construction of the China-Myan-

mar Border Economic Cooperation Zone and carry out cooperation to develop Myanmar's Kyaukse Phyu Special Economic Zone.

Besides, interconnectivity projects, such as the Muse-Mandalay railway, are also expected to commence in recent days.

The ambassador told People's Daily that over half of the activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations will focus on cultural and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

Cultural exchanges are of great significance for Myanmar and China as they enjoy a long history in this regard.

In recent years, the two countries have witnessed fruitful results in cultural exchanges. China assisted the upgrading of the Myanmar National

Theater, and contributed to Bagan's application for the UNESCO World Heritage by aiding the restoration of the Thatbyinnyu Pagoda. Besides, Chinese coaches also helped Myanmar's martial art teams achieve constant progress.

At present, around 10,000 students from Myanmar are studying in China, and there are also many Chinese students pursuing education in Myanmar.

Myanmar has beautiful natural sceneries, long history and hospitable people, said U Myo Thant Pe, adding that his country sincerely welcomes its Chinese friends to visit Myanmar to further consolidate the cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. **People's Daily**

8,000 vaccinated against Ebola in western Rwanda

KIGALI

ABOUT 8,000 Rwandans have so far been vaccinated against Ebola in the western districts of Rubavu and Rusizi bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an official said Saturday.

"At least 5,000 people have been vaccinated against Ebola in Rubavu district at two different sites," William Kanyankole, director of the Gisenyi Hospital in Rubavu district, said while briefing reporters about the district's vaccination campaign.

Three more vaccination sites are set to open, he said, adding that

about 3,000 have been vaccinated in Rusizi district.

The Rwandan government launched a voluntary Ebola vaccination campaign last December to prevent the spread of the virus from the DRC.

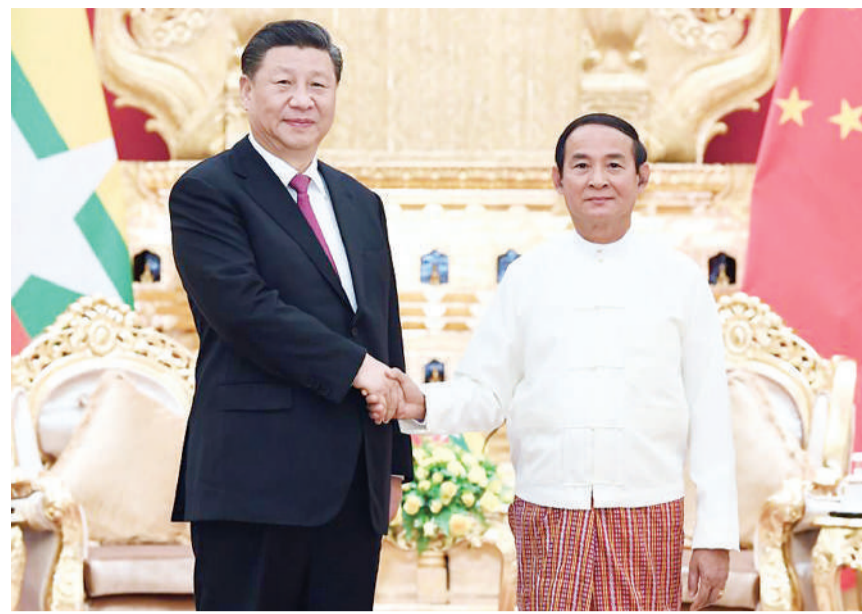
The target is to administer 200,000 Ebola vaccine regimens to people who frequently cross the border and to those living in districts bordering DRC, the ministry said. The vaccine is administered to individuals two years old and above.

According to Rwandan Ministry of Health, 17 million U.S. dollars have been spent on a major national Ebola preparedness and response plan in

the last 18 months.

Efforts to combat Ebola include the establishment of an Ebola treatment center in Rubavu district, Ebola case management training for medical staff, community engagement, and simulation exercises to test the country's readiness in detection and management.

There are no confirmed cases of Ebola in Rwanda so far, according to the ministry. According to the World Health Organization, 3,382 cases of Ebola, including 2,232 deaths, have occurred in DRC's North Kivu and Ituri provinces since the start of the outbreak in August 2018. Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Myanmar President U Win Myint in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on Friday.

China, Myanmar sign agreements

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's state visit to Myanmar deepened the two Asian economies' ties in such sectors as seafood exports, energy, basic infrastructure, finance and other labor-intensive industries, serving as drivers to fuel Myanmar's economic development, business representatives and industry observers said.

The Chinese president arrived in Nay Pyi Taw earlier on Friday for a state visit to Myanmar. It is the first visit to the Asian neighbor by a Chinese president after an interval of 19 years.

During the visit, Xi attended 12 events and witnessed the signing of 29 cooperation documents in various fields, Wang said, adding that the two sides have also issued a joint statement.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the advance of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), "No matter how Myanmar's internal situation changes, Chinese firms remain the top investors in Myanmar in terms of cumulative foreign direct investment," Liu Yin, chairman of the Myanmar-China Entrepreneur Association, told the Global Times.

Chinese landmark projects under the BRI include the China-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline, which allows China to import crude from the Middle East without passing through the Malacca Strait, as well as the Letpadaung Copper Mine, a mutually beneficial project jointly built by companies from China and Myanmar.

As a number of BRI infrastructure projects that boost connectivity are in full swing, trade between China and Myanmar will see a new increase this year, according to Liu.

He said that seafood exports may be the next growth point for bilateral trade.

"With a 2,000-kilometer coastline, Myanmar's aquaculture industry is growing very fast. If its infrastructure improves and transportation times are reduced, more seafood products such as fish and shrimp will be sent to China," Liu said.

In the first nine months of 2019, bilateral trade grew 17.9 percent year-on-year to \$13.54 billion, according to data from China's Ministry of Commerce. China mainly exports industrial products to Myanmar, while Myanmar ships

natural gas, oil, rice, soybeans, meat and fruits to China.

Gu Xiaosong, an expert on Southeast Asian studies at the Guangxi Academy of Social Sciences, suggested that China and Myanmar could also cooperate more in processing industries, such as the processing of agricultural products.

"With vast cheap land, Myanmar is looking to develop its processing industries to boost its economy. At the same time, many Chinese companies are thinking of moving their manufacturing to Southeast Asian countries," Gu told the Global Times on Monday, January 13. "Why not choose Myanmar as a destination along with their past choices like Vietnam?"

Analysts said that a flourishing relationship involving the BRI and CMEC will be a game changer, helping Myanmar fully leverage its geographic advantage and population dividends. "In such a way, the nation could speed up its economic development and improve living standards," Liu noted.

Khin Maung Lynn, joint secretary of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, told the Global Times that the BRI may even pave the way toward peaceful settlements of disputes and help solve internal conflicts in Myanmar.

Myanmar is now one of the poorest countries in Asia. Last year, its GDP stood at \$71.21 billion, which compared with GDP of 1.79 trillion yuan (\$259.35 billion) in bordering Southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Being the most southwestern province in China, Yunnan has an area of 394,100 square kilometers and a population of about 46 million. Myanmar is the largest of the mainland Southeast Asian states by area, with an area of 676,578 square kilometers and a population of about 54 million.

But giving the full picture of the benefits of BRI projects to local people remains a challenge, industry insiders warned.

"Some locals could be easily misled by the so-called debt trap or China Threat created by some Westerners and non-governmental organizations. Facilitating mutual understanding is an urgent task for us," Liu said.

Global Times



With vast cheap land, Myanmar is looking to develop its processing industries to boost its economy. At the same time, many Chinese companies are thinking of moving their manufacturing to Southeast Asian countries

Impeachment: Democrats say Trump endangers security

WASHINGTON/PALM BEACH

DEMOCRATIC US lawmakers leading the impeachment case against Republican President Donald Trump said on Saturday the president must be removed from office to protect national security and preserve the country's system of government.

In a 111-page document filed before Trump's Senate trial begins in earnest on Tuesday, the lawmakers laid out their arguments supporting charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress against the president.

"The Senate should convict and remove President Trump to avoid serious and long term damage to our democratic values and the nation's security," the lawmakers said, for the first time formally calling for the Senate to convict the president and remove him from office.

"The case against the president of the United States is simple, the facts are indisputable, and the evidence is overwhelming," they said.

The document was an appeal directly to the senators to be impartial. "History will judge each senator's willingness to rise above partisan differences, view the facts honestly and defend the Constitution," the managers said in a statement noting "the President is not a king."

Trump's legal team issued a resounding rejection of the impeachment charges, which were read out in the Senate earlier in the week during formalities setting the stage for the trial.

They are expected to release a longer, separate response to the Democrats' pretrial brief on Monday. Rejecting the charges, Trump's lawyers reiterated the president's insistence, echoed by many of his fellow Republicans in Congress, that the charges are nothing more than a partisan attempt to remove him from office, a "dangerous attack on the



President Donald Trump

right of the American people to freely choose their president."

"This is a brazen and unlawful attempt to overturn the results of the 2016 election and interfere with the 2020 election - now just months away," they argued in a six-page document released on Saturday.

It was the first time Trump formally responded to the two articles of impeachment - abuse of power and obstruction of Congress - that the Democratic-led House approved late last year.

Trump and Democratic lawmakers offered dueling arguments about the politically polarizing impeachment case involving Trump's attempt to persuade Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden last year.

"President Trump categorically and unequivocally denies each and every allegation in both articles of impeachment," the Trump lawyers' document reads.

As well as the charge of abuse of office for pressuring Ukraine to investigate Biden and his son Hunter Biden, Trump is also accused of obstructing Congress in its investigation into his conduct by refusing to hand over documents and barring administration officials from testifying, even when sub-

poenaed by House investigators.

The document filed by the Democratic House impeachment managers on Saturday explained why the House passed the two articles of impeachment, and listed evidence supporting the charges.

The evidence included references to information released in the past few days from Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who was involved in Giuliani's contacts with Ukraine's government.

It also included a finding on Thursday by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) that Trump broke the law when he withheld military aid that Congress had designated for Ukraine.

Trump is charged with withholding the US\$391 million in security assistance to put pressure on Kiev to announce an investigation of the Bidens, to boost his 2020 re-election prospects.

"An acquittal would also provide license to President Trump and his successors to use taxpayer dollars for personal political ends," the Democratic lawmakers' brief said. Trump has denied wrongdoing.

The trial in the Republican-led Senate is unlikely to lead to Trump's ouster, as no Republican senators have voiced support for doing so and a two-thirds majority vote is required to convict.

Trump, at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, for the weekend, played a round of golf on Saturday. The Trump lawyers, in their document, argued that the president acted at all times with full constitutional legal authority, said one of three sources close to Trump's legal team who briefed reporters on a conference call on Saturday.

"We will take the facts head-on and we believe that the facts will prove, and have proven, that the president did absolutely nothing wrong," the source said. Agencies

Iran rules out negotiation over new nuke deal

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif ruled out the possibility of any negotiation over a new nuclear deal, Tehran Times daily reported Saturday.

"We will never negotiate a new deal," Zarif said on Friday during his visit to India's Mumbai to attend a meeting organized by All India Association of Industries.

Under the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran agreed to restrict



its nuclear activities in exchange for the termination of Western and UN sanctions.

However, US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the

deal in May 2018 and slapped full sanctions against Iran.

Trump has been urging a new deal with the aim of more limits on Iran's nuclear program.

On Friday, Zarif (pictured) called on the Indian government to persuade the US government to return to the deal. US slaps sanctions on Iran general

The US State Department said Saturday that it had imposed sanctions on a brigadier general of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The department said in a statement that it had blacklisted Brigadier General

Top Russian diplomat draws parallels between investigations of MH17 crash, Skripal case

MOSCOW

FOREIGN colleagues are not presenting evidence in investigations into the Skripal case or the Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 crash, coming up with bizarre reasons behind their absence, Russian acting Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a press conference outlining results of Russian diplomatic efforts in 2019.

Commenting on the MH17 crash investigation, Lavrov noted, "To answer your question where is Ukrainian radar data, the answer is strange - they aren't there."

Then somebody said that all radars just turned off by mistake. All radars that were watching this part of the airspace in Ukraine just switched off at some point."

"Similarly, a CCTV camera turned off for first part of the day when the Skripals were found on a park bench. The camera that was watching their house switched off and then switched on again," he added.

The Boeing 777 passenger plane operated by Malaysian Airlines crashed on July 17, 2014, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur in the east of the Donetsk Region.

As a result, 298 people were killed in the crash, the majority of them were Dutch citizens.

The parties to the armed conflict in Donbass accused each other of being complicit in the tragedy.

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT), consisting of representatives from Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, the Netherlands and Ukraine, was established to investigate the crash.

Russian officials have repeatedly expressed doubts of the JIT investigation, pointed to the groundless nature of arguments presented and used by prosecution to draw up accusations and rejection of Russian conclusions in the probe.

On March 4, 2018, Sergei Skripal, who had been convicted in Russia of spying for Great Britain and later swapped for Russian intelligence officers, and his daughter Yulia suffered the effects of the so-called Novichok nerve agent in the British city of Salisbury.

Claiming that the substance used in the attack had been a nerve agent allegedly developed in Russia, London rushed to accuse Moscow of being involved in the incident. Agencies

Egypt hopes for final, viable deal over Ethiopia's Nile dam in Washington talks - official

CAIRO

EGYPT hopes to reach a final, viable and binding agreement with Ethiopia and Sudan regarding filling and operating the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in the coming talks in Washington on Jan. 28-29, an Egyptian official told Xinhua on Saturday.

"We are working on turning the general frameworks agreed upon in the meetings in Washington on Jan. 13-15 into items of a final and binding agreement between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan in the meetings on Jan. 28-29," said Mohamed al-Sebaie, spokesman of the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

The water and foreign ministers of the three countries have recently started new rounds of talks

joined by representatives from the United States and the World Bank after years of fruitless negotiations.

While upstream Nile Basin country Ethiopia and downstream Sudan eye massive benefits from the GERD construction, downstream Egypt is concerned it might affect its 55.5-billion-cubic-meter annual share of Nile water.

"We seek an agreement that achieves Ethiopia's aspiration for development through power generation from the dam and preserves the water rights of the downstream countries, Egypt and Sudan, at the same time," Sebaie told Xinhua.

Filling the reservoir, whose total capacity is 74 billion cubic meters, may take several years. The longer the better for Egypt to avoid the negative effects of water shortage,



which is a main point of their talks.

Egypt seeks a minimum annual flow of 40 billion cubic meters of water from the river's Blue Nile branch to its lands, while Ethiopia wants to allow an annual passage of 35 billion cubic meters only during the period of filling the dam and the times of drought.

Sebaie said that the ongoing consultations before Washington meetings aim at reaching points of consensus that address and consider the concerns and interests of the three states.

"In the latest meetings in Washington, we initially agreed on general frameworks and outlines that were controversial and we hope to turn them into fixed items in a viable agreement to be signed by the three parties," the Egyptian water ministry's spokesman explained.

He pointed out that the issue is not about specifying a number of years for filling the GERD but it is about reaching an agreement on the mechanisms of filling the dam and its post-filling operation.

"It has to consider the river's hydrological conditions and the amount of rains that differ from year to year," Sebaie said.

"We aspire for a fair, binding agreement that does not much affect the interests of any of the three parties," the Egyptian spokesman told Xinhua.

Ethiopia started building its grand hydropower dam in 2011 on the Blue Nile branch, and it is expected to produce over 6,000 megawatts of electricity and become Africa's largest hydropower dam upon completion. Xinhua

SPORT



Golf player, Amanda Patrick Mlula, tees off at a weekly golf tournament, known as Friday Fiddle, which took place at Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Telecoms company, Zantel, organized the event. The firm also sponsors a competition known as Monthly Mug, played at the club. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

2019 champ Djokovic eyes 5th post-30 Slam title in Australia

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

THE secret to Novak Djokovic's post-30 success? Not his best-in-tennis return. Or his limbo-twisting, body-bending court coverage. Or even his baseline consistency or clutch gene.

No, ask Djokovic to explain how he keeps playing so well at this age, and the Australian Open's defending champion points to a quality he says he shares with rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"Roger has talked about this as well, Rafa as well, that age is just a number. It's not just a cliché, but it's really something that I feel like the three of us have in common. It's really the way we approach career and our everyday life," Djokovic said during a news conference before the year's first Grand Slam tournament begins Monday (Sunday EST).

"I think we found a way, a formula, to balance private (and) professional life, so we are able to kind of excel in tennis and still be able to compete at the highest level after many years, still be motivated, still be mentally fresh and, of course, physically prepared and fit to compete in best-of-five-sets with young players that are coming up."

Djokovic, 32, already owns four major titles since he turned 30, the same number as Federer. Only one man has won more often at that stage of his career in the professional era: Nadal, 33, has five such championships.

They also, of course, occupy the top three spots in history for men's singles trophies at majors. Federer leads with 20, one ahead of Nadal.

Djokovic has quickly risen to 16, including a record seven at Melbourne Park, by grabbing four of the past six overall.

"For me, it seems like my career was going in sequences of several years. I think every sequence had different circumstances in life, in different situations, that have made me the person and the player I am today. I just had to adapt to these newly occurring circumstances and evolve, kind of grow stronger, and

also find purpose and motivation in each of these phases," Djokovic said, speaking in paragraphs, as he often does.

"I mean, I'm a completely different person, have a completely different life today than I had five years ago. I'm a father of two children. Obviously things are not the way they were 5 or 10 years ago. I know that," he said. "But that doesn't necessarily mean it's better or it's worse. It's just different."

Another factor that at first seemed like a burden but Djokovic now calls an inspiration and motivator is the push he's gotten to improve by needing to compete in an era with Federer and Nadal.

Djokovic is seeded second in Australia -- one spot behind Nadal, one spot ahead of Federer -- and is scheduled for the last match in Rod Laver Arena on Day 1, playing 37th-ranked Jan-Lennard Struff at night.

Federer, Serena Williams and 2019 champion Naomi Osaka play in that stadium during the day, while top-ranked Ash Barty -- who will try to become the first Australian woman in 40 years to win the country's major -- precedes Djokovic at night.

The most anticipated contest of the opening day is slated for Margaret Court Arena: seven-time major champion Venus Williams, 39, against Coco Gauff, 15, in a rematch of their first-round matchup at Wimbledon last year won by the teenager.

The tennis world is waiting for a young man to take a step forward and win a major championship; there hasn't been a first-time major winner under 30 since 2014.

"Well, they're coming closer and closer. It's obvious," Djokovic said, mentioning 23-year-old Daniil Medvedev (runner-up to Nadal at the U.S. Open last year), 26-year-old Dominic Thiem (twice the runner-up to Nadal at the French Open) and 21-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas (a semifinalist at the Australian Open a year ago).

AP

Athletes urged to register for 2020 Tigo Kili Half Marathon



Tigo's Acting Northern Zone Director, Aidan Komba speaks to members of the press, Kilimanjaro region leaders, race organizers and stakeholders during the launch of the Kilimanjaro Marathon in Moshi on Friday. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT.

MOSHI

TANZANIA'S leading digital lifestyle company, Tigo, has advised the participants of Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020 to register early for the prestigious race to avoid unnecessary disturbances as the demand of participants is high compared to the limited number set for participants.

Speaking during the launch of the race at Kibo Palace Homes in Moshi, Kilimanjaro on Friday, Tigo's Acting Northern Zone Director, Aidan Komba, explained that his company has sponsored the Tigo Kili Half Marathon for the past five years to promote sports tourism through Mount Kilimanjaro.

The mountain is one of the crucial tourism destinations in Tanzania where government earns foreign currency through tourism.

Komba pointed out that participants should ensure they register early for the race. The race, according to him, is expected to involve 5,500 runners.

"To avoid unnecessary disturbances, I advise the participants of the Tigo Kili Half Marathon to register before February 16, this year and they can use our registration number for the Tigo Kili Half Marathon and other races via service menu number *149*20#, he disclosed.

He disclosed Tigo is commit-

ted to promoting healthy living through the upcoming Tigo Kili Half Marathon 2020.

The Tigo's Acting Northern Zone Director encouraged people from all walks of life to participate in sports and recreation as a way to safeguard health.

Tigo is the main sponsor of the annual Tigo Kili Half Marathon road race that will take place in Moshi on March 1.

"Registration for the Tigo Kili Half Marathon along with the 5km and 42km road race is open to users of Tigo network by dialing *149*20#. To register, dial *149*20#, select the particular race that one wants to run and follow instructions to pay required registration fee for the selected distance. After sending the required registration fee he or she will receive an SMS message confirming their transaction," he noted.

"They should save this SMS message as they will need to show the SMS message as proof of their transaction along with a valid identification (ID) card when collecting their race numbers from physical registration points in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Moshi," Komba explained.

According to him, the number of the participants has increased from 4,500 to 5,500 this year, and each of the first 5,500 finishers in the 21 km race will receive a commemorative medal, with all the participants in the race receiving certificates of participation.

"For the fifth year in a row,

Tigo is thrilled to be part of the iconic Tigo Kili Half Marathon road race that brings together elite athletes, sports lovers, friends and family in a celebration of sports, fitness, fun, culture, tourism, environmental conservation, healthy living and lasting memories," Komba added.

He further assured all guests and participants in the Tigo Kilimanjaro Half Marathon of reliable communications through the Tigo network.

"We encourage them to share their memories with loved ones on Tanzania's largest and fastest internet network - Tigo 4G+ that is available in 24 cities across the country. Additionally the Tigo Kili Half Marathon participants are assured of reliable, safe and secure financial transactions through the Tigo Pesa mobile money network of over 73,000 agents across the country," he said.

Speaking on behalf of organizers, the Race Director, John Bayo explained that, all roads are set to lead to Moshi ahead of the Kilimanjaro Marathon 2020.1.19

He disclosed all preparations are completed by 90%, and over 11,000 runners expected to take part in the prestigious event.

He added organizers are doing final touches as registration will as well come to an end on February 16, 2020 with participants from different countries streaming in to collect their registration numbers.

"The turnout is huge and we are looking forward to yet another big and exciting event on March 1, 2020 at the Moshi Cooperative University," said a statement from the organizers," he disclosed.

The organizers said that this time the online registration worked out so well with more than 90 per cent of participants in the 42 kilometers and 21km races registering on time.

Speaking on behalf of Kilimanjaro businessmen, Jacob Tarimo, the Managing Director of Moshi Leopard Hotel, explained that the race has good meaning to their businesses as they do receive a huge number of guests in Moshi Municipality during the race season.

"My appeal to the organizers is to have such races three times a year instead of making it once as our region is highly benefited with the revenues from this Marathon," Tarimo explained.

Acting Regional Manager for the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Khalidi Mchuma, on his part, said that they will collaborate with the race's organizers to ensure business regulations are observed by the sponsors, organizers and all participants.

Various leaders including Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Anna Mghwira, Moshi District Commissioner, Kippa Warioba, hoteliers, sponsors and Athletics Tanzania officials, among many others, attended the race's launch.

James scores 31 points, Lakers beat Rockets 124-115



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) grabs Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) after a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, in Houston. (AP Photo)

HOUSTON

THE Los Angeles Lakers were determined to start the second half of their season on a high note following a loss that snapped a nine-game winning streak.

They were able to do that by riding a big third quarter to a 124-115 win over the Houston Rockets.

LeBron James had 31 points and 12 assists for the Lakers, who lost to Orlando on Wednesday night.

"We hated the loss that we had the other night against Orlando," James said. "So we had a couple of days to kind of just reshape, refocus and start the second half of the season the right way, and we did that tonight."

The loss was the third straight for the Rockets, which tied a season high, and they have

dropped four of five.

"We're just not playing well right now," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We haven't played well for a couple of weeks. And the only way you can get out of it is play hard, keep your head down and just go forward."

Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points, and Danny Green and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope each had 20 for the Lakers.

Russell Westbrook scored 35 points for his fourth straight 30-point game and James Harden had 34 for the Rockets, who also lost three in a row in late November.

Harden is confident the Rockets can break out of their funk.

"Everybody throughout the course of your career has been through some tough times and the only way you can get through them is continue to work and continue to go hard

and mentally lock in and just try to be as solid as possible," Harden said.

James was impressed with the work Kuzma did against Westbrook in the second half when he was held to 13 points.

"Kuz just kept his body in front of him and made him take tough shots," James said. "He made a couple but Kuz made it tough on him, so that helped change the game for us."

Los Angeles didn't lead in the first half but used a 32-point third quarter to take a nine-point lead into the fourth.

Houston used a 6-0 run to cut the lead to 10 with about seven minutes left, but the Lakers scored the next six points to extend it to 110-94 midway through the quarter. That sent many Rockets fans streaming for the exits and caused a large contingent of Lakers fans to

start chanting, "Let's go Lakers."

The Rockets did not get closer than seven points the rest of the way.

The Lakers opened the second half with a 10-3 run to take their first lead of the game, 69-68, with about eight minutes left in the third quarter. James capped that run by making a basket and then added another one seconds later after JaVale McGehee blocked a dunk attempt by Clint Capela. McGehee beat his chest and screamed after the play and received a technical foul for taunting.

"We picked up our intensity," Dwight Howard said. "Then JaVale got some big blocks, which got us out in the open court. So we've just got to make sure we continue to do that."

AP

SPORT

Five tasks facing Quique Setien at Barcelona

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Kilimanjaro Marathon organizers launch cartoon competition

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KILIMANJARO Marathon sponsors have launched cartoon competition to spice up the climax of this year's marathon which will be held in Moshi in March.

Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), who are sponsoring the Kilimanjaro Marathon through their brand Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, said the finals of the cartoon competition, dubbed 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020', will be held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, said the competition will involve cartoonists whose works were done on canvas which is not below 60-50 centimeters.

Kilimanjaro Marathon will be held in Moshi on March 1.

She said cartoonists must use one of the features of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager which are Kilimanjaro Mountain, five stars, a giraffe and drawing patterns of Africa.

"Judges will go through all cartoons and the cartoonists, who will enter the top five list, will be given the opportunity to show their works live," she said.

She said the winner will also pocket 2m/- while those who will emerge second to fifth will get 200,000/- each.

Prominent cartoonist Nathan Mpangala, the competition's chief judge, asked artists in the country to make use of the competition to showcase their works.

TONIGHT @ 9:30

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanyake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguza
15:30 Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Ma (r)
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:30 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Muziki/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MUDA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Pace trio sets up Pakistan's seven-wicket rout of Scotland

BLOEMFONTEIN

IT was all rather one-sided in Potchefstroom as Pakistan steamrolled Scotland to get their Under-19 World Cup Group C campaign off to a rousing start.

Medium-pace Tahir Hussain, Mohammad Wasim and Abbas Afridi first shared all ten wickets between them to bowl Scotland out for 75, and Irfan Khan then led the way in a straightforward chase, the target coming up in just 11.4 overs with seven wickets in hand.

Angus Guy, the Scotland captain, won the toss and opted to bat, but was bowled by Tahir off the second ball of the innings for a duck, his opening partner Ben Davidson suffering the same fate two balls later to leave the scoreboard reading 1 for 2 after four balls.

Tomas Mackintosh got going, but became Tahir's third victim when he was caught behind for an 18-ball 17.

Once Tahir was done, Wasim - who came into Pakistan's squad as Naseem Shah's replacement - and Afridi took over. Apart from Mackintosh, Uzzair Shah was the only other batsman to get to double-digits as Wasim returned 5 for 12 in 75 overs, to go with Tahir's 3 for 23 and Afridi's 2 for 32. The Scotland innings lasted just 23.5 overs.

AGENCIES

Kilimanjaro Marathon 2020 launched in Moshi



Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Anna Mghwira (C) officially launches the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2020 in Moshi yesterday. Others looking on are various leaders from the region and sponsors of the marathon. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

THE 18th edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2020 was launched at the Kibo Palace Homes, in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, barely one and half months away.

Speaking during the launch of the marathon, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Anna Mghwira, praised the race's sponsors and organisers led by the main sponsors of the event, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42 km, Tigo-21km, Grand Malt-5km Fun Run and other water table sponsors for their contributions in uplifting Kilimanjaro through the yearly event that has gained popularity in and outside the country.

She praised Kilimanjaro Premium Lager for sponsoring the event for 18 years now and for, among other things, offering an additional 5m/- in cash prize to encourage Tanzanians to perform well in

the race.

The first Tanzanian male and female athletes will receive an extra 1.5m/- apiece.

She said that the regional administration would support the sponsors and organizers of the event with the intention of maintain the status of Kilimanjaro as one of the leading tourists' centers through the annual event.

"May I take this opportunity to urge the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to come and join forces with us in this event because it adds new tourists in the region and the country in general every year," she said.

She called upon business persons in the region to make good use of the event as a business opportunity because it attracts many potential buyers from different countries of the world.

She pointed out that this year's race is expected to draw participants from more than

50 countries worldwide.

"Hotel owners and other business persons should start thinking of coming up with different business types of business packages which would attract tourists including those who will want to visit various tourist attractions, a move which will generate more income," she added.

Speaking during the event, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, whose brand sponsors the 42 km race expressed her expectations that this year's event would be better due to the excitement and awareness shown by different people concerning the event.

"Tanzanians taking part in the full marathon should train harder so that most of the prizes can remain home," she said.

She pointed out the total prize money is 23m/- with the first male and female athletes receiving 4m/- apiece while there is an additional 3m/- to

encourage Tanzanians to perform well.

"There would be an extra 1.5m/- to both Tanzanian men and women athletes who will finish first in the full marathon category", she noted.

Tigo's Acting Northern Zone Director, Aidan Komba, on his part, said they were proud to be the sponsors of the 21km race, popularly known as the Tigo Half Marathon, which will be part of the Kilimanjaro Marathon.

"We are excited to once again be part of this iconic road race that brings together elite athletes alongside people from all walks of life under the umbrella of celebrations through sports, fun, culture, tourism and healthy living," he said.

"I urge participants to register and pay via Tigo Pesa services by dialing *149*20# in order to participate in the world-renowned 21km Tigo Half Marathon," said Komba,

adding, Tigo is partnering with other organizations to support the landmark event, which not only plays a huge part in promoting Tanzania's tourism attractions to the worldwide community, but also brings together families and friends from all nations to create unforgettable memories.

Grand Malt Brand Manager, David Tarimo, said they were gearing towards a bigger 5km Fun Run and appealed to participants to register on time, whereby he assured the participants of Grand Malt drinks which he said would be available in the newly launched 330 ml can.

Other sponsors include Kilimanjaro Water, Barclays Bank, Simba Cement, TPC Sugar, Precision Air, Kibo Palace Hotel, Unilever, GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel and CMC Automobiles.

According to Kili Marathon Local Race Director, John Bayo, registration was still going on through the race's website www.kilimanjaramarathon.com as well as through Tigo Pesa services by dialing *149*20#, whereby he said the registration processes were expected to end on February 16, this year.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Kilimanjaro has expressed its intention to co-operate with the organizers of the Kilimanjaro Marathon with the intention of ensuring its success.

"We understand very well that apart from being a sports competition and entertainment, the event plays a big role in improving the economy of the region through its participants who come from in and outside the country, that's why we have decided to be part of this event whereby this year, some of our staff have already registered as participants in different categories of the race", Khaleed Mchumwa, the Assistant TRA Regional Manager in Kilimanjaro, said.

The Chairman of the Kilimanjaro Hotel Owners Association, Jacob Tarimo, hailed the organizers of the event, saying the race has been very valuable to their hotel businesses as well to other businesses within the region and the neighbouring Arusha.

"May I take this opportunity to urge the regional administration and other development stakeholders to look on ways to add two or three other annual or seasonal events, a move which would help to advertise and improve the economic well-being of Kilimanjaro," he said.

Gwambina FC clobbers Arusha FC in FDL

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

GWAMBINA FC, a Misungwi-based soccer team which was previously known as Arusha United before being sold off to a Mwanza-based businessman, returned to Arusha last weekend to comprehensively beat their former siblings, the Arusha Football Club (AFC), in a First Division League (FDL) clash.

AFC netted the opener on the fourth minute of the game through Shaaban Imam, but head start did not guarantee their victory, because by the time the final whistle was blown, Gwambina FC thrashed the former 3-1.

And it was essentially some sort of a derby because historically Gwambina FC were previously called Arusha United before being sold off to a Misungwi businessman late last year.



Gwambina Football Club

They last weekend returned to their former home base and thrashed their siblings AFC, with all three goals scored in the

second half of the match.

The AFC versus Gwambina FC duel was played at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha

over the weekend.

The venue was packed to the brim as it happened to be an interesting match to local residents here.

Until the break, AFC were leading the game, but during the second part of the match, Gwambina FC started imposing themselves in the clash, with the team's player, Yusuph Kagoma, helped the team level matters on the 56th minute and, two minutes later, they scored the second through Kapama Abdallah.

The third goal for Gwambina FC came on the 72nd minute through David Bryton and this creamed up the entire match, leaving AFC lost for words in yet another FDL match.

In the previous match between the two squads, AFC were beaten 3-0 by Gwambina FC at the latter's own stadium in Misungwi, Mwanza.

The AFC coach disappeared without trace shortly after the match.

Gwambina FC head coach, Fulgence Novatus, admitted that the match

was indeed tough on that records show that, AFC always win at their home ground and indeed they started the match well.

"For us it was important to win this game because we are intending to fight our way into the Premier League," the coach said, adding that their next task is playing against Stand United.

In other FDL results, Geita Gold FC managed 2-2 draw with Mashujaa FC in Kigoma, GIPCO managed to beat Rhino FC 1-0 in the match played in Tabora.

Dodoma Jiji also managed to beat Cosmopolitan FC 1-0 in Dar es Salaam, while Mawenzi Market thrashed Green Warriors 3-1 at the former's venue in Morogoro.

Iringa United FC drew with African Lyon in Iringa, while Majimaji FC of Songea beat Ihefu FC 3-1 at Majimaji Stadium in Ruvuma.

Flexibles

by David Chikoko

