



WILDLIFE



MAN JAILED FOR 20 YEARS OVER LION TOOTH **PAGE 3**

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US lady's close jeep encounter with cheetah in Serengeti

NEW JERSEY

A WOMAN from Summit City in New Jersey let out nervous gasps as she recorded a cheetah that climbed onto a jeep with passengers inside while she was on safari last month in Tanzania's world-acclaimed Serengeti National Park.

"Don't come to us. Don't come to us," Jennifer Shimek, who has lived in Union County for about seven years, repeated in the video.

Shimek shot the video last month while on vacation with her family in Tanzania. While most people would never want to get that close to an animal that has claws, fangs and can run faster than a sports car can accelerate, Shimek savored the encounter.

"It was the best thing I ever saw," Shimek told NJ Advance Media. "We felt pretty lucky and amazed that we saw it."

Her two teenage daughters could be heard giggling in the background as they listened to their mother's reactions. "Oh em gee," Shimek can be heard saying in the video.

The cheetah even lays down on the roof of the jeep at one point. She didn't have the opportunity to talk to those who were



It was the best thing I ever saw," Shimek told NJ Advance Media. "We felt pretty lucky and amazed that we saw it."

inside the vehicle after all were in the clear.

Shimek's fear was that the cheetah would come to her vehicle just a few cars back.

"I was worried for them, but I was also worried for all of us," she said. "I mean, this thing was on the vehicle in no amount of time."

The tour guide told Shimek that she should sit completely still if the animal

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WHO, US offer to assist as mystery disease fears rise

REACHED for comment yesterday, Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummu Mwalimu and her deputy Dr Faustine Ndugulile did not pick the phone despite several attempts.

By Guardian Reporter

TOP government health officials were yesterday tight-lipped over a mysterious viral infection availability of unknown illness in the country yesterday even as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States offered to assist the government in preventing an outbreak.

In a statement, the country office of WHO said it is working with national health authorities on the issue and expects to make public the outcome of its investigations.

"We have reached out to Ministry of Health officials for further details and have offered our support. In line with our responsibility under international health regulations, WHO regularly receives and investigates numerous rumours of public health events," the agency noted.

It further stated that WHO will be informing member states of the outcome of this investigation through national focal points of its operations.

WHO said in an advisory on Thursday that it had deployed a technical team to support investigation of a rumour in connection with mysterious disease outbreak or any reported case.

The US embassy in Dar es Salaam said yesterday that it was prepared to partner with the government and members of the international community to assist in the efforts.

Reached for comment yesterday, Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummu Mwalimu and her deputy Dr Faustine Ndugulile did not pick the phone despite several attempts.

The Guardian also called the chief medical officer, Prof Muhammad Kambi but like the minister and the deputy minister, his phone rang without being picked.

Following the outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic of Congo (DRC) last year, the govern-



Dar es Salaam regional dental officer, Dr Daisy Majamba (L), and Women Health, GE Healthcare marketing director Maria Smith "consult" as they watch a 3-D mammography machine shortly after launching it at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is for use in the early detection of breast cancer, with this particular type reportedly the first of its kind to be deployed in the East Africa region. Photo: Romana Maliya

World Bank to hand TASAF 1trn/- boost

By Guardian reporter

THE World Bank yesterday approved USD450 million (over 1trn/- for the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) improved social safety nets which will benefit over five million people, mostly women.

A statement released yesterday by the World Bank said the amount was approved by the board of executive directors under the aegis of the International Development Association (IDA), the soft loan window of the global development bank.



Tanzania successfully piloted a conditional cash transfer programme in three districts from 2009 to 2012. It was eventually developed into a wide ranging social safety net, as a social action fund.

The money will be used towards improving food consumption and livelihoods, while increasing children's primary school attendance and completion aside from access to health care. The financing will also improve secondary school participation, the statement indicated.

Bella Bird, the World Bank country director said that Tanzania's earlier social safety net programme helped beneficiaries to save more money and obtain more assets. As a result, many had more food and access to better

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It further stated that WHO will be informing member states of the outcome of this investigation through national focal points of its operations.

ment through the Ministry of Health organized a charity walk to launch the public awareness sensitisation campaign to help enhance vigilance on health norms to prevent disease outbreak.

With the theme of 'Understand Ebola, prevent, save life,' the walk conducted on September 22rd last year in Dar es Salaam brought participants from various public health stakeholders including government officials, students, development partners, journalists, along with public and private organizations.

The ministry said that Tanzania faces a seri-

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Relief as early breast cancer detection equipment launched

By Aisia Rweyemamu

TANZANIA now stands a better chance of reducing the number of deaths caused by breast cancer, the second killer of women after cervical cancer following the launch of a modern machine for early detection yesterday.

The state-of-the-art equipment installed at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam which will make it possible for women to nip cancer cells in the bud earlier than it was the case before is



the first in the entire East African region.

Speaking during the launch of the Senographe Pristina three dimensional mammography, consultant radiologist Dr Pili Ally said the machine has been procured in line with the government's strategic plan to improve the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases.

The machine which cost the hospital USD300, 000 (over 700m/-) is the second in Southern Africa after South Africa, she said.

Designed by a team of female GE Healthcare engineers who used their own insights coupled with feedback from more than 1,000 patients, technologists and radiologists, Senographe Pristina helps to address the fear of discomfort that women face around mammograms.

Dr. Ally explained that the system offers comfort features for a better patient and

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Relief expected as early breast cancer detection equipment is launched

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technologist experience, including rounded corner instead of sharp edges that used to poke patients' ribs and armpits.

"Women can relax their muscles during exam, which simplifies positioning, compression and image acquisition," she explained.

The system uses a low radiation dose to create cross sectional images of the breast and it humanizes the mammography experience by increasing comfort and reducing patient anxiety. The system has a potential to help increase the number of annual screening exams, the consultant noted.

Among advantages of the mammography is that it provide more accurate detection, earlier diagnosis and better detection of dense breast tissue, while inducing less anxiety and proving to be safe and effective.

The expert recommended that women aged 40-44 years should have a choice to start annual breast cancer screening and women above 45 years should get mammogram every year. Additionally, women above 55 should switch to mammogram every two years or continue screening yearly.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Daisy Majamba, the regional dental officer, said breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women after cancer of the cervix and also the second leading cause of cancer mortality among women in Tanzania.

Dr. Majamba said the launch of the digital mammography is a milestone in the country's public-private partnerships in the fight against cancer.

Sulaiman Shahabuddin, the regional chief executive officer for Aga Khan Health Services, East Africa said that the radiology department at AKHS has been a pioneer in investing in advanced technologies to enhance diagnostics which play a key role in modern day patient management.

Mammograms play a key role in the detection of breast cancer, a disease that if caught earlier is more likely to be curable. This ultra-modern unit will further boost efforts of the institution to not only increase awareness with screening campaigns performed every first Saturday of the month, apart from aiding early detection of the disease.

Speaking at the launch, the marketing director of women health at GE Healthcare said the company was proud to partner with AKHS to bring digital mammography services that will help in the awareness, early detection and treatment as well as palliative care of the disease.

Dr. Ahmed Jusabin, the medical director and senior consultant radiologist at the hospital said that the hospital has announced the provision of free screening service by using the new installed machine on 30 women.

The machine has the capacity of screening 20 patients per day while the other machine could only screen five patients in one day, he pointed out.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presses a button to launch the Bunge Mobile Application in Dodoma on Thursday. Looking on: National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L), Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson Mwansusu (2nd-R) and Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group chairperson Margaret Sitta. Photo: PMO

World Bank to hand TASAF 1trn/- boost

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education and health care.

"Still, this new support will be critical to improve the lives of many more people in need and overall raise the country's human capital index, which is still very low at 0.40," she explained.

"We will continue to work with the government and engage with ordinary people and other stakeholders on the complex set of development issues facing the country and its people," she stated.

Tanzania successfully piloted a conditional cash transfer programme in three districts from 2009 to 2012. It was eventually developed into a wide ranging social safety net, as a social action fund.

In 2012, the government began implementing the scaled-up

first phase supported by IDA through the productive social safety net (PSSN I), which attained its target of reaching one million households by September 2015, well ahead of schedule.

PSSN I targeted over 10 percent of the country's population, approximately 650,000 households living under the food poverty line as well as about 350,000 at-risk of falling under that line, because of a shock affecting their income.

The objective of this second productive social safety net project is to provide poor households with income-earning opportunities and socio-economic services, while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children, the statement underlined.

This phase builds on the first

phase achievements and will especially focus on productive and financial inclusion, through support services such as public works, savings groups, training and livelihood grants.

Participants in public works program are projected to increase from around 250,000 in 2019/20 to more than 830,000 in 2022/23, while the livelihood enhancement program will be scaled up from the current pilot stage to reach over 200,000 households by the end of the project time frame, it further noted.

Muderis Abdulahi, a senior social protection specialist and associate task team leader said that due to population growth, despite the reduction in the rate of extreme poverty, the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty increased be-

tween 2007 and 2018.

"Poor households face significant barriers in accessing existing livelihood opportunities and services and this second project will be placing a stronger focus to address and remove these barriers."

Michele Zini, senior economist and team leader associate, said that PSSN II will support the Social Action Fund to enable many extremely poor households "not simply to temporarily move out of poverty, but to progressively build their asset base, human capital and resilience necessary to keep themselves out of poverty for the longer term."

In addition to the newly approved IDA support, the overall PSSN program is being financed by the government and other development partners includ-

ing the UK DFID, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UN Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, NORAD (Norway), SIDA (Sweden) and the OPEC Fund.

The IDA statement recalled that the World Bank has been engaged in a range of policy issues that led to a hold-up of financing since 2018 for important operations including those supporting Tanzania's human development goals.

"Approval of this project acknowledges efforts by the government to address the policy issues by amending the Statistics Law (2018) in line with accepted international practice, as well as its commitment to facilitate all girls to complete their education," it added.

WHO, US offer to assist as mystery disease fears rise

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ous threat of an ebola epidemic as people regularly cross from areas hit by the disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Then Permanent Secretary Dr Mpoki U-Isubisya said that although ebola cases had not been recorded in the country, prevention measures must strongly be instituted at all levels.

Thermo scanners were also installed at international airports around the country for screening of visitors.

Last month, scientists announced that Ebola may soon become preventable and treatable after a trial of two drugs that when combined showed significantly improved survival rates.

Four drugs were used for trials on patients in the DRC where there have been periodic outbreaks of the virus.

More than 90 per cent of infected people can survive if treated early with the most effective drugs, research findings affirmed, and the drugs will now be used to treat ebola patients in DRC.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which co-sponsored the trial, said the results are "very good news" for the fight against Ebola.

The drugs, named REGN-EB3 and mAb114, work by attacking the Ebola virus with antibodies, neutralising its impact on human cells.

The recent outbreak in eastern DR Congo began in August last year and is the biggest of 10 flare ups of the disease to hit the country since 1976, when the virus was first discovered.

In July, the WHO declared the Ebola crisis in DRC as a public health emergency of international concern, as it constantly threatens to spread to neighbouring states.



Home Affairs minister Kangi Lugola (2nd-R) has a first-hand account of the ongoing construction of the Immigration Department Headquarters building in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Home Affairs.

US lady's close encounter with cheetah in Serengeti

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came her way. Luckily, the animal jumped down and ran away.

The family stayed in Serengeti National Park and were up-close to animals for the duration to their trip.

They had witnessed two tigers days earlier fighting over a buffalo and were blown away when they saw that.

But the cheetah encounter was the most memorable. She said she'd go

back again and recommended others a vacation in the Serengeti if they ever got an opportunity.

"It's so beautiful there," Shimek said. "It was an amazing experience."

Zimbabwe out to give Mugabe hero's burial

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S former President Robert Mugabe will be buried in the National Heroes Acre monument in Harare, his family said yesterday, following a row with the government over his final resting site.

Family spokesman and nephew Leo Mugabe says the date is yet to be determined.

Before that there will be a public ceremony at the shrine in the capital on Sunday, followed by a ceremony at Mugabe's home village.

Mugabe, who was 95, died last week while being treated in Singapore.

His body is now lying in state at the Rufaro football stadium in the capital.

Before Sunday's ceremonies, a state funeral will be held on Saturday. Heads of states of a number of countries are expected.

What did Mugabe's family say?

Leo Mugabe told the media that after Sunday's public ceremony in Harare Robert Mugabe's body would return to his home village of Kutama.

Clan chiefs and the family would be allowed to perform their own ceremonies there.

Only at a later date - another Sunday as yet to be determined - Mugabe

would be finally buried at the National Heroes Acre monument, Leo Mugabe added.

The family had earlier expressed shock at not having been consulted by the government about the funeral arrangements.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa had declared Mugabe a national hero after his death, indicating he should be buried at the national monument.

Mugabe's family is said to be bitter over him being ousted by his former ally Mnangagwa two years ago.

Mugabe fired Mnangagwa in 2017, in what many believed was a way to prepare for his wife, Grace Mugabe, to succeed him.

It's an awkward tug-of-war. A reminder of the furious power struggles that consumed Mugabe's last years: the feuds, plots and alleged poisonings, that culminated in 2017's military coup.

Zimbabwe's current leadership - those behind the coup - may be keen to paper over those divisions now.

And a veneer of decorum is likely to prevail.

Stadium stampede

Meanwhile, thousands of mourners have been queuing up at Rufaro stadium to pay their respects to Mugabe.

Scrutinise TICAD funding, PM tells Foreign Affairs ministry

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation to closely monitor the eight projects submitted for funding with finance approved at the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) held last month in Yokohama, Japan.

Under the TICAD, the Japan government has allocated \$ 20 bn/- for African countries for in a period of three years.

"I am directing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation to cooperate with responsible ministries to effectively coordinate the implementation of the projects," he said.

The Prime Minister issued the directive in Dodoma during the adjournment of the 16th Parliament.

He said the funds have been allocated to enable African countries to pursue strategic development projects that will bring about economic transformation.

"The amount was allocated to develop various projects in the fields of education, health, agriculture, water, energy, construction industrial areas and infrastructure.

He said the fifth phase government aims to ensure that the country is benefiting with the allocated fund from Japan.

In another move, the Prime Minister has called on Tanzanians to take advantage of the scarcity of grain in Southern Africa by producing more crops.

The PM explained the food security situation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has been shaken due to various factors including drought.

The premier said the impact has led to the fall of production such as maize, sorghum, rice and wheat within the SADC member countries, the number has decreased by 14 per cent from 42.6 million tonnes in 2018 to 36.8 million tonnes in 2019.

However, during the same period Tanzania and South Africa have successfully produced more which are projected to meet the demand by 2019/2020.

The Prime Minister said that on August 29-30, this year, the Ministry of Agriculture convened a meeting with various agricultural stakeholders in the country to discuss the opportunities available in the grain industry, the challenges they face and seek solutions to it.

"I call upon the relevant Ministry to ensure that it cooperates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation to take advantage of the growing grain markets in the SADC region, meet the needs of the region in line with improving the business and livelihoods of the rural population," he said.

He also called on the ministry to continue to encourage production of food crops so that the country can have enough food security.



Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri (2nd-R) pictured yesterday showing Jose Correlá Nunes (to his left), head of the European Union in Tanzania, one of an assortment of products made by farmers following training provided under the Igunga Eco-village project. Photo: Correspondent Tiganya Vincent

TRA needs 7,000 staff for maximum efficiency

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Dodoma

THE government has said in order for its revenue agency, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to perform efficiently it needs about 7,000 staff in various cadres in its ranks.

The Deputy Minister for Fi-

nance and Planning Dr Ashatu Kijazi said this in the House in Dodoma yesterday when responding to question from Tunza Malapo, Special Seats MP who wanted to know how many staff were needed by TRA so as to attain maximum efficiency.

Dr Kijazi said since TRA is not experiencing very acute shortage of staff contrary to what it is

explained from time to time, the total number of staff currently in employment is 4,751 out of 7,000 needed, thereby making a shortfall of only 28 per cent.

She said efforts to attain the 7,000 figure are being made in phases, and the aim is to increase efficiency in performance so as to get positive results for the good of the country's devel-

opment. Elaborating, she said since the coming of the phase 5 government, great efforts had been done to solve the situation and already 692 staff had been employed, adding that in the FY 2019/20 a budget had been allocated to hire another 150 employees

charged with the responsibility of managing the assessment,

collection and accounting of all central government revenues. It is a semi-autonomous body that operates in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

In carrying out its statutory functions, TRA is regulated by law, and is responsible for administering impartially various taxes of the central government

Tanzania 'fine' on AU anti-graft convention

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA was yesterday said to be on the right track in implementing the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AU-CPCC) including establishment of High Court division to deal with the vice.

The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) Chairman Begoto Miarom disclosed that in Dar es Salaam in the sensitization workshop to non-state actors after their initial assessment.

He said the preliminary survey had shown that AU-CPCC had been well implemented including establishment of special

court dealing with corruption where other countries in the region have yet establish.

"We have come in Tanzania to assess how the AU-CPCC is implemented in Tanzania to combat corruption. We have found a number of achievement that can be used as case study to other countries," he said.

Miarom said before the tour, the AU-CPCC received reports from member states to conduct assessment adding that the final report will further be submitted to the board.

According to chairman, 14 member states have yet ratified the convention so far in the region calling them to do so for the well-being of their people.

He however highlighted the importance of involving Civil Society Organization (CSO'S) and private sector saying they have a high role in fighting corruption.

For his part, the Acting Prevention corruption and combating bureau (PCCB) Director General, brigadier, John Mbungu, said that it was first time Tanzania was assessed since it signed and ratified the convention.

He said the assessment commenced September 9th, this Tanzania had implemented the convention on preventing and combating corruption.

"The signed and ratified the convention in July 2003 through PCCB and The Zanzibar

Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (Zaeca) and implemented by some institutions, He said.

Mbungu mentioned some of the target as to improve and strengthen system in preventing, detect, punishment and eradicate corruption in member states.

Furthermore, to strengthen collaboration between member states to ensure the legal framework to deal with corruption related issues are implemented.

Mbungu said PCCB was also coordinating policy and legal framework to prevent and fight against corruption in member states to bolster the economy of member community, culture

and politics.

Also to set up infrastructure to promote transparency, accountability in supervising public issues.

"As PCCB we have a big role to play in increasing awareness to the community to promote more transparency and accountability at different level," he said.

According to Mbungu, there other institutions that participate in the implementation of the convention apart PCCB as, Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), Financial Intelligence Unit (FUI) Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and office of the Attorney General to mention the few.



Kongwa district commissioner Deogratius Ndejemi tries a tractor when launching it at Kibaigwa in Dodoma Region yesterday at an exhibition of agricultural implements organised by Lonagro Tanzania and mainly targeting smallholder farmers. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP




MELODY MUFARO KUTCHWA whose photograph provided above, is applying to the Minister of Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. Her Nationality at present is ZIMBABWEAN. Country of origin ZIMBABWE. Employers address is P.O. Box 72776. She has been living in Tanzania since 2011. Any one, who knows any reason why Citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Commissioner of Immigration, P.O. BOX 512, Dar es Salaam, Use reference, DN, 704090.


WANTED

Ritha Mahimbo a resident of Mbagara Kibonde Maji of plot No. 524 Block "B" is looking for Salima Said who is the vendor, who was once the owner of the mentioned piece of land Plot No. 524 Block "B" Kibonde Maji Mbagara, before she sold it to Ritha Mahimbo for the purpose of effecting transfer of mentioned property from Salima Said to Ritha Mahimbo.

Whoever see this, please inform Salima Said or call: 0715 933274. Police Report No: MLB/RB/103/2019.



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DC blasts parents who encourage girls to perform poorly in exams

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kahama

THE government in Kahama District says it will take legal action against all parents who will be found to have persuaded their children to perform poorly in the just ended Std VI exams.

Parents in Kahama district in Shinyanga region in particular, but in the whole Lake Zone in general have the habit of persuading their children, particularly girls to write wrong answers so that they fail in the exams and later married off, citing lack of money to pay for higher education for them.

This warning was given yesterday by the Kahama District Commissioner (DC) Anamringi Macha during the Councilors' meeting of Msalala District Council, and called for every Councilor to be on the lookout for offenders.

He said parents have been the root in making students fail in their Std VII exams for reason of lack of money for further education.

He said any Std VII student who will fail these exams, his/her previous performance record at school will be scrutinized and if he/she will be found to have performed well

the parents thereof will have to explain.

"The government cannot undertake its responsibility to give free education to children whilst the parents want them to perform poorly in the final exams," Macha said, adding that this has been occurring many times in regard to girl students.

Macha also asked councilors to ensure more classrooms for secondary school students are constructed in the District. He said Kahama District has 16,000 Std VII students who did the exams whilst Masalala District Council had 4,000 examinees.

In another development Macha wanted the Councilors to ensure people are mobilized to join the Community Health Fund Scheme (CHF) which he said it has now been much improved so as to alleviate their medical costs at health centres.

He said joining CHF for only 30,000/- per year, one including six other family members will greatly minimize medical expenses.

A Councilor, Flora Sagasaga of Mwaligulu Ward complained to the DC of foul language by health workers in hospitals and other health centres saying that is the reason people decline from joining CHF.



Tanzania Youth Alliance (Tayoa) board chairperson Ambassador Charles Sanga (3rd-L, front row) cuts a ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch the organisation's 'Vijanatz Talent Show - Timiza Malengo Yako' project. He is with Tayoa director and CEO Peter Masika (to his left) and editors from various media houses. The project is aimed, in part, at empowering Tanzanian youth by helping develop their potential as entrepreneurs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAYOA, editors team up to empower youth

By Joseph Mwendapole

A-DAR-ES-SALAAM-based non-governmental and non-profit organisation, Tanzania Youth Alliance (TAYOA), has teamed up with editors from various media outlets to educate and mobilise youth on self-reliance and entrepreneurship—widely seen as a practical model for transforming youths' social and economic lives.

"We have to step up massive campaigns to educate our youths on self-reliance and how

they can utilize their potentials so that they could lead successful lives...youth can achieve by learning from other successful youths," said TAYOA executive director, Peter Masika at a special visit by editors (from different media houses) to the organization's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Among other things, media practitioners got exposed to various activities/programmes implemented by TAYOA

According to Masika, youths constitute large per cent of the

country's population, thus they need to be empowered and given space to show up their potentials and talents in the media (print and electronic).

"TAYOA is more than committed to expose youths' talents so that they could realize their dreams through modern communication and other technologies, enabling them to be independent," said Masika, expressing profound appreciation to the editors for accepting to take the responsibility of providing space for youths to demonstrate their talents in their

respective media houses.

Through its strategic programme, "Vijanatz Talent Show", TAYOA in collaboration with editors would work out strategic and special programmes to uncover talents and potentials of young girls and boys through ICT in the context of bringing about positive changes in their social and economic lives.

"These programmes would build capacities of youths to be creative and innovative, and be able to transform current social-economic challenges into oppor-

unities," said Masika, adding that "Youths expected to be engaged in these shows would be required to practice in a professional and ethical manner, efficiently and effectively.

According to Masika, the talent-show also targets to lift up youths from difficult environments, change their attitudes and perceptions, empowering them on better ways of utilizing resources around them to transform their lives.

"The sense of being accountable, responsible and transparent—

would be considered in the implementation of these programmes," said Masika.

Since its inception 20 years ago, TAYOA has provided health and related services—HIV counseling, testing, adolescents' reproductive health, business and entrepreneurship education—to youth and adults 3.5 million through helpline number 117.

As part of efforts to enhance reading culture amongst youths, Masika said TAYOA has been preparing information and learning packages (through re-

corded voices plus photos) as a way of building capacities of youth on social, life-skills and professional issues—important for improvement of their lives.

"We TAYOA believe that through this platform youths—girls and boys—would get out of problems, and become successful. I am optimistic that the current partnership formed between TAYOA and editors would have greater impact on the transformation of youths' lives countrywide," said TAYOA top official.



KCB Bank head of retail banking Masika Mukule (R) fields questions from Dar es Salaam business owners and executives at the bank's Biashara Club workshop held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. The event, which attracted representatives of over 300 SMEs, dwelt on the honing of the participants' financial management skills and ways to help them access more reliable markets inside and outside Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Archbishop Ruwa'ichi now doing light exercises, says professor

By Guardian Reporter

THREE days after the Archbishop of Dar es Salaam Diocese Thadeus Ruwa'ichi had head surgery to remove blood clot, he has started sitting up and walking by himself.

This was revealed yesterday by his surgeon, Dr Joseph Kahamba, Professor in Neurosurgery at Muhimbili at Muhimbili

Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) in Dar es Salaam.

Prof Kahamba said Archbishop Ruwa'ichi has continued to do light exercises by walking and sit on a chair all by himself without any problem.

He said: "It is normal for a patient who has undergone head surgery to sit and walk in three days as is the case for Archbishop Ruwa'ichi. His condition is

improving very well."

He said a team of seven doctors including four who are experts in the field continue to monitor his condition by taking further tests so that his condition returns to normal.

Yesterday MOI Public Relations Officer Patrick Mvungi said after every one hour the doctors enter his ward to monitor his condition.

"He said Archbishop Ruwa'ichi is improving and every morning a short prayer is performed and today the prayers were said whilst he was sitting.

He added: "Today evening the doctors will sit to decide whether the patient is to be moved from ICU to ordinary ward."

Medical costs

Prof Kahamba said the cost for treating the disease known professionally as 'Chronic Subdural Haematoma' is 4m/- but outside the country the cost is more than 20m/-.

He said MOI performs two such surgeries every week, about 100 every year and the conditions have been well.

Body of missing Dutch magnate in septic tank

NAIROBI

POLICE have finally found the body of missing Dutch tycoon Tob Cohen in a septic tank within his compound in Kitisuru, Nairobi.

According to Director of Criminal Investigations boss George Kinoti, the late Cohen's body was found on Friday afternoon dumped in a tank in the compound.

The 71-year-old tours and travel expert was at the time of his disappearance pursuing a divorce case against his estranged wife Sarah Wairimu Kamotho. He had also filed an assault case against Kamotho.

Vanished

Cohen vanished between July 19 and 20 and Kamotho had told detectives that her husband had left for Thailand.

"He said he was taking a break," Cohen's wife further told Nation. "Lawyers were pushing him for money and he wanted to seek medical treatment."

Initially, his workers had told police that Cohen left his high-security compound, where CCTV cameras point to the drive-way, on the afternoon of July 20 at around 2pm. They claimed that he only carried a briefcase and was driven off in a white car. By whom? They don't know.

"My husband has not come home ever since," Wairimu said.

Cohen's Mercedes Benz had remained parked in the compound and he had not contacted his relatives ever since.

Seek Treatment

At first, his wife - well known in Nairobi socialite circles - had told Cohen's friends that the established golf tournament organiser had left for Thailand to seek for treatment but de-

tectives say that there is no evidence from immigration department that the missing tycoon had left the country.

Wairimu had repeated the same story to the Nation.

Detectives in Nairobi were intrigued by the disappearance since it happened shortly after two letters, dated July 20, 2019, that purported to withdraw both the divorce and assault case were sent to Cohen's lawyers; Judy Thongori for the divorce case and Dunstan Omari in the assault case. The letter to Thongori was stamped as received on July 24.

One of the question that detectives assigned to the case are grappling with is: Did Cohen write those two letters?

Although Kamotho had said that Cohen left for Thailand, she also went to Kilimani police on July 22 and reported that Cohen was missing.

Four days before he disappeared, the Nation has established Cohen had played a four-ball at the Vet-Lab Sports Club together with former Gatundu North MP Kariuki Muiruri.

"He was not sickly - he was in perfect shape," says Muiruri who has known Cohen for over 30 years. "He was a good friend of mine and we spent the entire day together."



He said he was taking a break," Cohen's wife further told Nation. "Lawyers were pushing him for money and he wanted to seek medical



Ihala municipal officials move to load a motorcycle onto a vehicle yesterday after intercepting it allegedly in connection with illegally venturing into Uhuru/Nyamwezi Street in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo market area. Photo: John Badi

Food giant Nestlé inaugurates packaging research institution

By Guardian Reporter

GLOBAL food giant Nestlé yesterday inaugurated its Institute of Packaging Sciences, the first-of-its-kind in the industry.

According to a statement released by the company yesterday, the new institute will enable it accelerate its efforts to bring functional, safe and environmentally friendly packaging solutions to the market and to address the global challenge of plastic packaging waste.

Speaking at the inauguration, Ulf Mark Schneider, Nestlé CEO, said, "Our vision is a world in which none of our packaging ends up in landfill or as litter. To achieve this we introduce reusable packaging solutions and pioneer environmentally friendly packaging materials. Furthermore, we support the development of local recycling infrastructure and deposit schemes to help shape a waste-free world. The Nestlé Institute of Packaging Sciences enables us to create a strong pipeline of sustainable packaging solutions for Nestlé products across businesses and markets."

The Nestlé Institute of Packaging Sciences focuses on a number of science and technology areas, such as refillable or reusable packaging, simplified packaging materials, recycled packaging materials, high-performance barrier papers as well as bio-based, compostable and biodegradable materials.

Meanwhile, the company also announced initiative to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through implementation of the Paris Agreement which seeks to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

The announcement comes ahead of the U.N. Secretary-

General's Climate Action Summit this month during which the company will sign the 'Business Ambition for 1.5°C' pledge.

With this announcement, the company said is accelerating its climate change efforts. This builds on a decade of work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over the past four years, Nestlé has aligned its objectives with science-based targets to keep the temperature increase below 2°C. The company is determined to play a leading role in tackling climate change. Over the next two years, it will lay out a time-bound plan including interim targets consistent with the 1.5°C path. Nestlé will review its progress annually to ensure it is on track.

"Climate change is one of the biggest threats we face as a society. It is also one of the greatest risks to the future of our business," the statement quotes Schneider. "We are running out of time to avoid the worst effects of global warming. That is why we are setting a bolder ambition to reach a net-zero future. Deploying Nestlé's global resources and industry know-how, we know we can make a difference at significant scale. Our journey to net zero has already started. Now, we are accelerating our efforts," he added.

To achieve its 2050 ambition, some of the company's specific actions include speeding up the transformation of its products in line with consumer trends and choices.

"Nestlé will launch more products that have a better environmental footprint and contribute to a balanced diet. This includes more plant-based food and beverage options. Nestlé will also look to reformulate its products using

Legislator laments 'mixing' of inmates in prisons

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has admitted that the issue of separating prison inmates on the lines of age, crimes committed and length of prison sentences has not been adhered to due to congestion in jails.

And due to this congestion remand and ordinary prisoners have often been living together.

This admission has been made in Parliament in Dodoma yesterday by the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Hamad Yusuf Masauni when answering a question from

Special Seats MP Najma Murtaza Giga (CCM).

In her question Giga said the practice of putting together inmates jailed from different crimes such as theft of a chicken or crops, murderers, bandits, rape and remandees has now been normal in jails.

She wanted to know why the government doesn't see such a situation as dangerous to their lives and added: "Doesn't the government see it is losing much workforce of the youths, of 18-30 years old by putting them together with rapists?"

Answering the questions, Masauni admitted of the prevailing situation in some of the country's prisons, especially remand prisons. He said the situation is due to congestions of remandees and shortage of cells.

However he said in alleviating the situation the government has embarked on various steps including the construction of prisons in the districts that had no prisons. In addition Masauni said the government is making extensions of existing prisons by building more cells as well as to educate the society of the negative

sides of involving themselves in crimes.

Elaborating, he said for criminals engaging themselves in criminal activities whilst in prison on reason that prisoners categories are placed together does not allow them to engage in such crimes as there are prison regulations and procedures that forbid them and stern punishment given to offenders.

He added: "Prison Offences Regulations of 1967 for example classifies various offences that inmates are prevented to commit crimes and given stern punishment."

Ministry: Operation against wildlife invasion underway

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Adolf Mkenda has said the government will soon embark on special operation against wild animals that invade human

habitats by instilling fear and causing destruction crops.

Speaking here yesterday, Prof Mkenda said he has already instructed the Director General of Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) to officially kick-start the operation in various areas of the country.

He said it is anticipated that

in the next 20 years, the country's wildlife sector will be in tandem with its environmental sustainable development vision as per Tanzania's Vision 2025 on economic and social transformation.

"We will not tolerate wild animals to continue causing destruction at will, we have resolved this has to stop and

Dr Msuha, TAWA director general, has been directed to ensure the special operation gets under way as quickly as possible," said Prof Mkenda.

He said the goals of the wildlife sector is to preserve the bio-diversity, to manage and develop wildlife resources by involving other stakeholders in the sector.

There is also the issue of sharing of the proceeds obtained, to develop the sustainable use of resources from wildlife so as to increase its contribution to the nation's GDP from two to five percent and to assist in alleviating poverty among Tanzanians.

He said there is also the issue of enhancing the exchange

of data and expertise, nationally, regionally and globally.

When called to comment, Dr Msuha said: "We are already in the process laying groundwork for this important operation countrywide keeping in mind that the issue of wildlife conservation concerns us all because the wild animals are not only the objects for obser-

vation hence they are our heritage."

He added: "Hence by agreeing the responsibility for wildlife conservation, we must ensure that our children and grand children will enjoy the fruits of this rare resource endowed from nature."



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi (L) bids farewell to Gyangyang Limave, leader of a visiting Nigerian government delegation, shortly after talks at Vuga in Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Thousands demand justice over killings

KHARTOUM

THOUSANDS of people have protested in Sudan to demand justice for pro-democracy demonstrators who were killed earlier this year.

The crowd gathered outside the presidential palace in the capital, Khartoum, on Thursday.

They chanted slogans, waved flags, and also called for the appointment of new senior judiciary officials.

Sudan has been in turmoil since long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir was ousted by the military in April.

More than 100 demonstrators were killed in June, doctors say, when the security forces dispersed a sit-in outside the defence ministry.

The unrest on Thursday was the first major protest since civilians and the military signed a power-sharing deal last month.

The landmark agreement ushered in a new governing council, which includes both civilians and generals, and will pave the way towards eventual elections and civilian rule.

On Thursday, police blocked protesters near the palace but the crowd broke through a barbed wire barrier.

Police later fired tear gas in an attempt to disperse them, witnesses told Reuters news agency.

The unrest in Sudan can be traced back to December 2018, when then President Bashir's government imposed emergency austerity measures.

Cuts to bread and fuel subsidies sparked demonstrations in the east over living standards, and the anger spread to the capital.

The protests broadened into demands for the removal of Bashir - who had been in charge for 30 years.

In April, the president was overthrown by the military after sit-ins outside the defence ministry, but demonstrators then wanted to ensure authority was swiftly transferred to a civilian administration.

UN renews Libyan mission amid ceasefire initiatives

TRIPOLI

THE UN Security Council yesterday extended the mandate of the support mission in Libya (Unsmil) by a year in an effort to assist the country's severely damaged political transition and to try and deliver a ceasefire.

It comes after the UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salamé, warned that the country was on the verge of descending into an all-out war that could lead to its possible permanent division.

Salamé said the fighting was fuelled by foreign military support for the two main warring parties - in violation of a UN arms embargo.

The UN Security Council reiterated its call for all parties to commit to a lasting ceasefire and expanded Unsmil's role to provide support for such a truce.

It expressed concern over ongoing hostilities in and around the capital, Tripoli, which began in April when eastern forces under the command of Gen Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive to take control of the city from the UN-backed government.

Opposing factions, including extremist groups, have battled for control of Libya since 2011 when long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown.

Gen Haftar enjoys some support from France, the US and Russia.

The UN resolution called on countries to not intervene in the conflict.

Hundreds of African refugees and asylum seekers trapped in Libyan detention centres will be evacuated to Rwanda under a "life-saving" agreement reached with Kigali and the African Union, the UN refugee agency said on Tuesday.

The first group of 500 people, including children and young people from Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan, are expected to arrive in Rwanda over the coming days, out of 4,700 now estimated to be in custody in Libya, where conflict is raging. The measure is part of an "emergency transit mechanism", to evacuate people at risk of harm in detention centres inside the country.

Babar Baloch, UNHCR spokesman in Geneva, said the agreement was "a life-line" mechanism to allow those in danger to get to a place of safety.

"This is an expansion of the humanitarian evacuation to save lives," said Baloch. "The focus is on those trapped inside Libya. We've seen how horrible the conditions are and we want to get them out of harm's way."

More than 50,000 people fleeing war and poverty in Africa remain in Libya, where a network of militias run overcrowded detention centres, and where there are reports that people have been sold as slaves or into prostitution.



CCM's Hala district chairman Ubaya Chuma addresses members of the party's political committees at district, ward and branch level in Dar es Salaam yesterday in preparation for the nationwide local government elections scheduled for later this year. Photo: Muhidini Msamba

Dar residents hail map that tracks informal dumpsites

By Getrude Mbago

DAR ES SALAAM residents have hailed environmental stakeholders for developing an interactive map which will be able to identify and track informal dumpsites, waste "hot-spots" polluting rivers, and informal settlements thus enabling easy collection of garbage in the city.

Developed by two environmental organisations, Nipe Fagio and Open Map Development in collaboration with the

Institutions for Inclusive Development (I4ID), the technological solution dubbed "TrashMap", uses drones in capturing the trash sites. It is now in trial in some of the Dar es Salaam city areas.

Reports show that, while Dar es Salaam has the potential to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, a wave of rapid economic development has brought a host of service delivery challenges to the waste sector: As little as 40 percent of household waste finding a way

to the city's dumpsite.

Speaking during the trial exercise of the technology in Dar es Salaam on Thursday some stakeholder's commended the move citing that it is one of the best solutions to address congestion of rubbish in streets.

Neema Thomas, a local leader in Majengo suburb in Vingunguti ward said that once fully completed, the technology will contribute immensely in making Dar es Salaam city clean.

She also appealed to residents

to shun the habit of throwing their waste into canals and drainage systems, as it causes huge problems for the environment and people.

"Our area has a huge challenge when it comes to waste management, most of people throw their garbages in canals and rivers which is dangerous for our health, this also results to flooding during rainy season," she added.

Also speaking Juma Athuman, a Mabibo resident urged the government to come with a proper

or specific system of waste management which includes forming environmental committees from street level.

According to him, the system among others should focus on enhanced and more inclusive waste collection services along Dar es Salaam's riverside communities; better informed transport and infrastructure planning in unplanned settlements.

He also urged that more education should be given to stakeholders and the public in general over proper waste man-

agement.

Leyla Shabaan from Vingunguti advised her fellow residents to be innovative by using the wastes to get money.

"We should now change our minds and start thinking on recycling our rubbish to improve income," she said.

Innocent Maholi, the director of Open Map Development Tanzania said that they are now in initial stages to research and develop the map which upon completion will support the government and stakeholder's

efforts in making Dar es Salaam city clean.

He said that between April and July 2019, the organisation conducted over thirty-five drone flights, in Dar es Salaam and along seven of its rivers as part of the development of the "TrashMap".

According to Maholi, the "TrashMap" provides a comprehensive overview of the city's waste "hot-spots", responsible for clogging up Dar's rivers and waterways and magnifying flood risks across the city.

High Court allows students in Kenya to wear dreadlocks

NAIROBI

THE High Court has ordered Olympic High School not to expel students who keep dreadlocks.

A High Court decision yesterday indicated that Rastafarianism is a religion just like any other and ought to be respected.

While giving his final verdict in a suit in which a father of a girl who was sent away from Olympic High School soon after being admitted in Form One, Justice Enoch Chacha Mwita said that the school administration's action denied the girl her right to religion and education.

Constitution The judge also pointed out that the Constitution does not define what religion is but the dictionary does.

"This is the first ever case in this country where a child dons rasta braids because of her religious beliefs, Rastafarianism is a religion which should also be accorded protection," said Justice Mwita.

And while defending the girl's parents for taking her to school well aware that the learning institution may be opposed to Rastafarianism, the judge said that every parent has to ensure that their child joins school for purposes of spiritual mental and social development.

He pointed out that the Constitution clearly spells out that failing to take a child to school is an offence that attracts a fine of Sh100,000 or a one-year jail term.

Discriminatory The judge ruled that the school acted in a discriminatory manner to send away the said girl.

"School rules stand on her way to religion and education, the rules have been applied in a

manner to deny her education, keeping rastas is a manifestation of her religion and forcing her to cut it is contrary to her beliefs," said Justice Mwita.

In the suit, the father of five protested against the school's decision to send home his daughter with instructions to cut off her dreadlocks at the start of this year.

According to her parents, they had indicated in her admission documents that she belongs to the Rastafarian Society of Kenya (RSK).

Her father's attempt to seek assistance from the education office in Nairobi's Kibera estate did not bear any fruit as his complaint was summarily dismissed.

Suspension He then moved to court to challenge his daughter's suspension from school. But the school argued that RSK has nothing to do with the right to education of students.

It also claimed that the girl wore a hijab on the day of her admission and verbally indicated that she was a Muslim hence was admitted to a class that teaches Islamic religion.

The school also told the court that her hijab fell off and exposed her dreadlocks. It is then that she was told that she would only be allowed in class after she shaves her hair.

However, the judge declared that the decision to exclude the student from school because of keeping dreadlocks was a violation of her rights to education and religion.

Dreadlocks He also issued an order barring Olympic High School from interfering with the minor over her dreadlocks.

"School rules are not intended



A Dar es Salaam resident stands just next to a "DO NOT STAND HERE" signpost in front of the Msimbazi Police Station in the heart of the city's sprawling Kariakoo market area on Thursday. Photo: John Badi

AfDB president jets into Ouagadougou for Sahel summit

OUAGADOUGOU

PRESIDENT of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina arrived in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso yesterday, ahead of the G5 Sahel Summit where he was received by Burkina Faso's president, Mark Kaboré.

The Burkinabe president applauded the Bank's Desert to Power initiative, and also highlighted his country's excellent relationship with the Bank, expressing his thanks for the portfolio of projects implemented. The Bank president

is an invited guest at the G5 Sahel Summit of heads of state and government on 13 September.

President Adesina praised President Kaboré's commitment, vision and leadership in agreeing to host the summit. He stressed the importance of political will in the success of the "Desert to Power" initiative, whose goal is to guarantee universal access to electricity for over 60 million people through solar energy. It will also provide an opportunity to strengthen the south-south partnership as well as stimulate worldwide involve-

ment in the initiative beyond the G5 Sahel countries. At least \$20bn must be raised from development partners.

The two presidents also discussed issues relating to the cotton sector, and agreed on a policy of strengthening the domestic cotton industry, so important for the economy of Burkina Faso. The African Development Bank's president also expressed his sympathies for the terrorist acts that Burkina Faso has recently suffered and reaffirmed the Bank's support to the country.

During the summit, the Bank will

present its Desert to Power initiative to heads of state and government. President Adesina has drawn attention to the paradox that one of the world's sunniest regions lacks access to electricity: "Now, more than ever, cooperation and cross-border trade in energy are essential to maintaining a secure supply over the long term given the challenges of climate change," he said, adding that "in Burkina Faso, significant steps have been taken with the Bank-supported Yeleen rural electrification project."

'Retired' wildlife poachers become conservationists

KIGALI

SOME Rwandans who used to be wildlife poachers have turned into conservationists.

These days, Felicien Kabatsi sings about the importance of gorilla conservation. You wouldn't know from his lyrics that he used to hunt gorillas and other wild animals in Volcanoes National Park in northern Rwanda.

He was a poacher for 30 years and served four months in jail for it. Then one day a buffalo killed his brother.

Kabatsi says they were hunting together. Arriving in the forest, his brother and his other friends took another way, and unfortunately, a buffalo killed his brother right away.

After talking with animal conservationists, Kabatsi had a change of heart and joined their side. He now makes a living at Gorilla Guardians Village, where he plays traditional musical instruments for tourists.

His story is similar to those of other members of this cooperative, like Mukanoheri Venantie. She used to go poaching with her husband.

She says "my husband used to carry spears, me, a machete with a bag to put in the meat of animals that we killed. But with training, and this project, they have changed their mindset."

Now she refers to poaching as a serious crime and works in the village making traditional baskets for tourists.

Visitors to the park, like South African tourist Nelis Wolmarans, go on hikes to see the gorillas, but their

money supports projects that aim to employ Rwandans and promote conservation.

"What they've done here, what they created here is an employment and opportunity for a lot of people that would previously use the forest for livelihood, let's say subsistence living," Wolmarans said.

Government figures show conservation efforts are boosting tourism revenue, said Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

"The support of the local communities, whom I have had the opportunity to express our thanks to. We also made sure that they benefit from this good cooperation," he said.

In a bid to boost conservation and make Rwandans feel more connected to wildlife, Rwanda also began an annual gorilla naming ceremony in 2015. At this year's event, 25 baby mountain gorillas were named, bringing the total number to 281.

Meanwhile, when the Government entered into a partnership with Zipline in 2016, an American logistics startup, Rwanda became the first country in the world to use drones to deliver blood.

The government knew it was dealing with a big challenge, but there was also an understanding that there were more possibilities that would come with the opening of the environment for commercial use of drones, otherwise known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

When President Paul Kagame joined the team behind the innovative solution in Muhanga District, he noted that



Children move to catch fish using a mosquito net in a mixture of sewage and muddy water at Kinyerezi in Dar es Salaam yesterday - with the least care about the possibility of contracting water-borne and other diseases. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

the cutting-edge technology was going to enable the country to bypass the challenges of existing modes of transport.

That is true for the most part because, currently, the World Bank estimates that Africa needs to spend some \$38 billion each year on transport infrastructure, plus a further \$37 billion on operations and maintenance - that is just to sustain its current level of development.

Africa's infrastructure deficit is more than a mobility issue. Today, road accidents are the continent's third-biggest killer.

There was a belief that drones could offer a starting point for a new model of low-cost, fast and futuristic transportation, and Kagame argued that it demonstrated there were possibilities of "trans-

forming business models in many industries beyond healthcare." Since then, Rwanda has been credited with championing the use of drones for non-military purposes and for becoming a test-bed for more future innovations that drones can deliver.

Moreover, the country received global recognition when it became the first country to put in place an open drone regulation.

And this year, that work gave the country a direct ticket to host the African Drone Forum, thanks to the collaboration between the Government and the World Economic Forum.

Rwanda will next year, in February, host the forum whose aim is to demonstrate how drones can be used for everything, from cargo delivery to emergency response throughout Africa.

The forum will feature a symposium, an expo, and series of flying competitions.

According to the organisers, the symposium will promote best drone ideas, technologies and practices for the continent, and the competitions will focus on aerial delivery solutions that will transform distribution services in Africa.

The expo, on the other hand, will convene global logistics experts, start-ups, drone pilots, and engineers to showcase their innovations and technology for cargo drone deliveries.

The event will include a regulatory summit that bringing together leading figures in drone technology from the private sector and airspace regulators to highlight and discuss what is possible for the future of drones in Africa.

Journos challenged on need for ethical election reporting

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

JOURNALISTS in Tanzania have been challenged to execute their duties diligently and in line with the country's Constitution for the betterment of the society.

Facilitator Dastan Kamanzi threw the challenge during a

workshop for reporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, saying that they need to make sure that their work does not disappoint members of the society, but provide a way forward for freedom, justice, concord and unity to flourish. He said journalists need to be productive and

have the potential to show how the government and the society work together to attain economic and social development that would lead to sustainable peace and harmony.

"A good journalist is one who thinks critically, is inquisitive, observes and conceptualises issues

and gives reflections," said Kamanzi, adding: "Such a journalist ought to produce stories that directly makes positive impact on the society by addressing existing challenges."

The three-day workshop organised by the Tanzania Civil Societies Consortium for Election

Observation (TACCEO) and coordinated by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) was held in Bagamoyo.

The training is part of an initiative meant to improve and strengthen election reporting, particularly with a view to fostering peace, with the next nation-

wide local government elections scheduled for later this year. An official from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) underlined the importance of professionalism among media practitioners, saying quality journalism and civic education to public about elec-

tions would enhance public participation in the polls.

The official called upon journalists to abide by election regulations and the country's laws in order to report competently and effectively without fear of being associated with bias or distortion.

South Africa's sexual violence protesters target stock exchange

JOHANNESBURG

PEOPLE campaigning over the high levels of violence against women in South Africa have taken their protest to the financial heart of the country.

Hundreds have gathered outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday to call on the country's big firms to do more to tackle gender inequality.

Protests have been triggered by the rape and murder of 19-year-old Uyinene Mrwetyana in Cape Town last month.

Over 41,000 people were raped in South Africa in the year from April 2018.

That amounts to more than one rape every 15 minutes. Police statistics also show that eight women are murdered every day in the country.

"Women ask: Am I next?"

Last week's news cycle was littered with stories of the rape and murder of women and children in several parts of the country.

It left many women asking: "Am I next?"

The rape and murder of Uyinene Mrwetyana was a moment that made women feel vulnerable and scared.

There was a sombre mood at the protest, which brought traffic to a standstill in Johannesburg's Sandton district.

Tears were rolling down the women's faces as they started singing "Senzeni na?", which loosely translated from Zulu means "what have we done to deserve this?"

The latest crime statistics released on Thursday revealed that women are justified to fear for their lives because murder, rape and sexual assaults have all increased.

But with the South African police

overstretched and often accused of turning away victims who are desperate for help, it remains to be seen how the country plans to tackle this very real and disturbing problem.

Among the protesters' demands were that all companies listed on the stock exchange should set aside 2 per cent of their profits to go towards tackling violence against women.

"We really are suffering [from] femicides and we need all hands on deck and business [in] South Africa is not exempt from that," Mandisa Khanyile, one of those organising the march, told the BBC's Newsday programme.

She said one of the things that needed funding was an education programme to get people to move away from the "toxic masculinity" that allows men to think that violence against women is acceptable.

A nurse, who was among the protesters, told the local eNCA news channel that she sees the victims of violence "each and every day... and we are saying 'we have had enough with the men doing this to our kids'".

"The government must stop all this," she added, "we want to go to work without the fear of being victimised."

President Cyril Ramaphosa has been criticised for not doing enough to tackle the problem.

Last week, he was heckled at a rally outside parliament when he told protesters that violence against women was a national crisis. He pledged to review the laws on violence and sexual offences to make sure they were more effective.

In August Uyinene Mrwetyana, a student at the University of Cape Town, was raped and beaten to death. A man has been charged over the attack.



Motorists have a hard time by-passing a ditch lying right in the middle of a section of Kisutu Street in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

UN Commission warns of likelihood of genocide

BUJUMBURA

THE U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Burundi said Wednesday that the country, following years of political turmoil, was primed for a genocide.

The commission's warning, contained in its latest report on human rights in Burundi, was based on an analysis developed by the U.N. Office for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect.

The three-member panel found that eight common risk factors for criminal atrocities leading to a possible geno-

cide were present in Burundi.

Factors included an unstable political, economic and social environment; a climate of impunity for human rights violations; a weak judicial system; and the absence of an independent press and freedom of expression.

Commission member Francoise Hampson said the criteria identified by the Genocide Prevention Committee indicated that in countries where these factors were present, there was a risk the situation could deteriorate.

"On top of that, our own report shows the continuation of violations

of human rights law based on human security," she said. "So, things like arbitrary killings, torture, arbitrary detention.

And this year, a deterioration ... freedom of expression, freedom of association. Now that is actually already getting worse compared to last year."

Nkurunziza campaign

Burundi has been in turmoil since President Pierre Nkurunziza ran for a third term in 2015, defying critics who said he was violating constitutional term limits. Violence prompted more than 300,000 to flee the country.

Hampson said the crisis in Burundi was essentially a political one. She noted that targeting people because of their political affiliation does not come within the definition of genocide, according to the Genocide Conventions.

However, she said, "There are elements on occasion where there is an ethnic dimension.

There are sometimes taunts of people in detention. And, there have in the past been the chants of the Imbonerakure [the youth wing of the ruling party] when they have been gathering, which have got hateful content."

Ozone Day: CAMS data helps to protect save lives on Earth

FOR over three decades, the Montreal Protocol has done much more than shrink the ozone hole; it has shown us how environmental governance can respond to science, and how countries can come together to address a shared vulnerability. I call for that same spirit of common cause and, especially, greater leadership as we strive to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change and mobilize the ambitious climate action we so urgently need at this time." UN Secretary-General António Guterres

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer commemorates human efforts to protect the atmospheric layer that shields all life forms on Earth from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

Observed on 16 September each year, the occasion also presents an opportunity to educate the public about the ozone layer, its 'hole' over Antarctica, and the vital role that monitoring services play in assessing the dangers posed by ozone depletion.

The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS), implemented by ECMWF, is a major provider of data used by policy makers to ensure that the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer - an international treaty signed on this day in 1987 - is successfully executed.

By supplying information on the amounts of ozone in the stratosphere, where about 90 percent of ozone is found, CAMS data helps to quantify the effects of the treaty, which phases out almost 100 ozone-depleting chemicals, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

The Montreal Protocol and its amendments have had huge success in cutting as much as 98 percent of the world's consumption of chlorofluorocarbons,

hydrochlorofluorocarbons, halons and other ozone-depleting chemicals. As a result of the Protocol, the first universally ratified treaty in United Nations history, the ozone layer is slowly recovering and the hole has stopped growing. However, ozone-depleting substances can remain in the stratosphere for up to a century, so scientists estimate that the ozone layer will not return to pre-1970s levels until 2060, assuming that nations continue to comply with the treaty.

"Monitoring is very important because although we know the basic principles on how the Montreal Protocol should affect ozone in the stratosphere, there are lots of other factors to consider," says Johannes Flemming, CAMS Principal Scientist. "We have to see if a larger ozone hole in one particular year means the Montreal Protocol is not working or if the anomaly is part of the natural variability. It may also be influenced by stratospheric temperature trends from climate change or the varying presence of stratospheric aerosol injected by major volcanic eruptions."

The ozone layer was discovered in 1913 by the French physicists Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson.

In 1976, atmospheric research revealed that the ozone layer was being depleted by chemicals released by industry, mainly chlorofluorocarbons. Concerns that increased UV radiation due to ozone depletion threatened life on Earth, including increased skin cancer in humans and other ecological problems, led to bans on the chemicals, and the latest evidence is that ozone depletion has slowed or stopped.

September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. This designation had been made on December 19, 2000, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Global promotion of tourism a driver of economic growth

THE World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It is the leading international organisation in the field of tourism, which promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism knowledge. It encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism to maximize the contribution of tourism to socio-economic development, while minimizing its possible negative impacts, and is committed to promoting tourism as an instrument in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), geared towards eliminating poverty and fostering sustainable development and peace worldwide.

UNWTO generates market knowledge, promotes competitive and sustainable tourism policies and instruments, fosters tourism education and training, and works to make tourism an effective tool for development through technical assistance projects in over 100 countries around the world. Its headquarters are located in Madrid, Spain.

International tourist arrivals grew 4 percent from January to June 2019, compared to the same period last year, according to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer released by the World Tourism Organisation recently. According to the UNWTO, destina-

tions worldwide received 671 million international tourist arrivals between January and June 2019, almost 30 million more than in the same period of 2018 and a continuation of the growth recorded last year.

Growth was led by the Middle East (+8 percent) and Asia and the Pacific (+6 percent). International arrivals in Europe grew 4 percent, while Africa (+3 percent) and the Americas (+2 percent) enjoyed more moderate growth.

As the organization points out, so far, the drivers of these results have been a strong economy, affordable air travel, increased air connectivity and enhanced visa facilitation.

According to the UNWTO, performance has been uneven across major tourism outbound markets.

Chinese outbound tourism (+14 per cent in trips abroad) continued to drive arrivals in many destinations in the region during the first half of the year though spending on international travel was 4 percent lower in real terms in the first quarter. Trade tensions with the USA as well as the slight depreciation of the yuan, may influence destination choice by Chinese travelers in the short term.

Outbound travel from the USA, the world's second largest spender, remained solid, supported by a strong dollar. In Europe, spending on international tourism by France and Italy was robust, though the United Kingdom and Germany reported more moderate figures.

Among the Asian markets, spending from Japan was strong while the Republic of Korea spent less in the first half of 2019, partly due to the depreciation of the Korean won. Australia spent more on international tourism.

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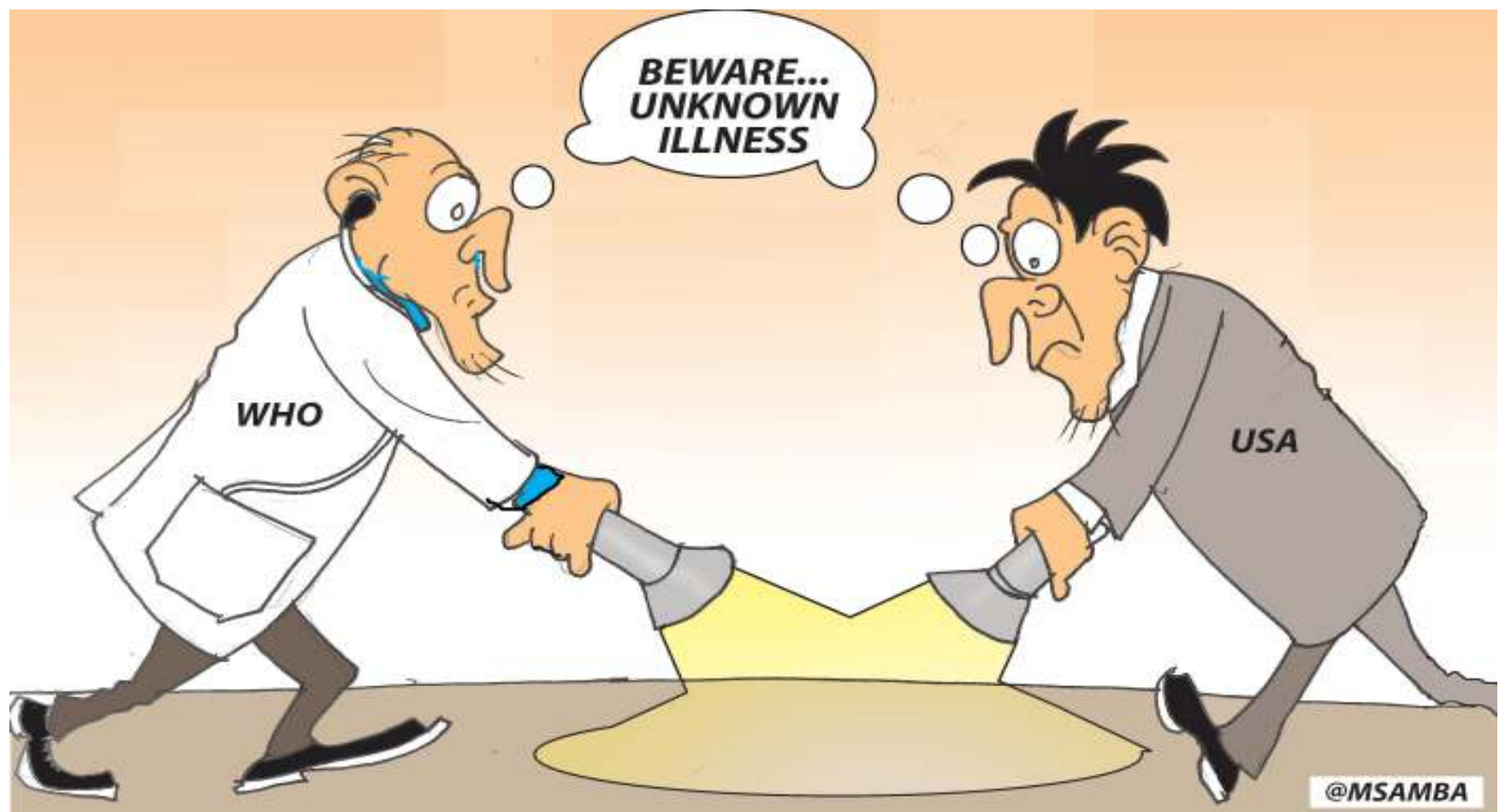
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Budding entrepreneurs: Business schools must pinpoint the few who will succeed

By Mikael Samuelsson

THERE can be no doubt that start-ups can regenerate economies and create jobs, but it must also be conceded that not every would-be entrepreneur should actually pursue that idea. With unemployment at its worst since 2008, it is time to try a new approach to selecting and supporting entrepreneurs.

As uncomfortable as it may be, there are some hard truths about entrepreneurship that we are going to have to come to terms with.

Chief among these is that while many are called into entrepreneurship, not every entrepreneur will succeed in creating wealth and jobs, either through the novel combination of resources, in the form of innovation, or through more effective combinations of supply and demand which leads to increased competition. That, as statistics from around the world bear out, is incontrovertible. The failure rate among nascent and early-stage venturing efforts ranges between 50 per cent and 90 per cent over a period of three to five years. That applies as much to entrepreneurs in the developed world as it does to those labouring in developing world contexts. According to one study in the US, as many as 75 per cent of venture capital-backed start-ups fail - meaning their businesses collapsed despite having initial funding, vaunted by many as a key determinant for success. Likewise, half of new companies in Europe fail within the first five years, according to a European Commission Report.

The narrative gets even bleaker in Africa. Even among those businesses that survive, few can support themselves, much less their families. In addition, these businesses have limited or no discernible effect on economic development. There is even - a phenomenon that should not be overlooked - a negative relationship between high levels of nascent necessity-based entrepreneurial activity and economic development as seen across Africa.

Even a dedicated champion of entrepreneurship, the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation - which touts entrepreneurship as a "key to financial stability for youth" - has acknowledged that entrepreneurship in South Africa is not for the faint of heart. Yes, South African start-ups fare bet-



Traditionally, business schools have been tasked with training cohorts of line managers who can slot seamlessly into existing businesses without upsetting too many apple carts

ter than their counterparts in other African countries, but the foundation also points out that a mere 15 per cent of new businesses make the cut, and while we "record an impressive number of start-ups... few of those translate into sustainable jobs". While SMEs contribute nearly 98.5 per cent of the number of formal firms in the economy, they only account for 28 per cent of the jobs. The impetus to boost entrepreneurship in South Africa is understandable. Estimates for unemployment stand somewhere between 27 per cent and 29 per cent - depending on which measures you apply - while unemployment among the youth (those aged 15-24) is increasingly becoming critical: heading northwards of the 55 per cent mark, according to Statistics South Africa. More than just a waste of human potential, so many unemployed young people is simply a powder keg for any country.

However, nudging the majority of the country into entrepreneurship is clearly ill-advised. In part because necessity entrepreneurship, aka survivalist entrepreneurship, has no lasting impact on either economic development or on the lives of those who rely on it for a living, be it the entrepreneur, their families or communities. Ergo, those who turn to entrepreneurship as a last resort against unemployment are least likely to succeed.

With limited skills and capacity, most people will fail at considerable personal and economic opportunity cost. Assume for example, that there are 100,000 new firms all started by one person. Each spends approximately 10 hours a day, five days a week hard at work for three years. That is 300 million productive hours with almost no return.

Perhaps it is time to adopt a different approach. If we accept that only a few will survive and thrive, we should ask ourselves: by what criteria should they be selected? Experience shows that key indicators for success are aspiring entrepreneurs' resource base, their specific and potentially unique knowledge, whether or not they have adopted a scientific approach to the venturing process, and whether they operate within a multi-disciplinary and trust-based environment.

When businesses are started by entrepreneurs with a little more specific knowledge (meaning they understand their business and their market), with a few more resources and resource networks, a little more skill, a little more capacity to grow or sustain a business, the odds that they will succeed improves.

The benefits of such high-potential entrepreneurs to a country's economy are twofold. One, in today's marketplace where old orders are crumbling, established businesses are in need of

innovation and, thus, innovators. Entrepreneurial types with an eye for new products make ideal recruits for such businesses. Secondly, entrepreneurs can, by striking out on their own, challenge established business models and businesses by virtue of the fact that, as true mavericks, they have been encouraged to and are able to innovate.

But over and above that, it is entrepreneurs who have the skills, resources, networks and capacity to grow their businesses quickly, who will truly propel economies forward. Consider the South African banking landscape. One could argue that the high profits and returns on equity reported by South Africa's big six banks in 2018, amid a sluggish economy, hint at an inefficient market. With little in the way of true competition, for instance, banks can charge high-interest rates and fees. Now imagine the possibilities should these banks have viable competition - lower fees, lower interest rates, the diffusion of value and profits over more businesses, and more efficient use of resources. This is what entrepreneurs can bring to an economy.

This imperative presents new challenges and mandates to educators. Education remains a critical factor in entrepreneurship. In just about every South African Report of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, the foundational importance of education - both at school and post-school - in a favourable entrepreneurial ecosystem is stressed.

Business schools have a vital, if shifting role to play here. Traditionally, business schools have been tasked with training cohorts of line managers who can slot seamlessly into existing businesses without upsetting too many apple carts.

Now, in the age of innovation, they are expected to identify and foster non-conformity, to nurture those comfortable with breaking rules and imagining new markets and products.

But if we agree that we need to change our approach to identifying and selecting high-potential entrepreneurs, business schools will have to push their role one step further and be more discerning in who they select for training and nurturing in the first place.

This might be uncomfortable and hard to do, but if we don't do it, we run the risk of losing out on the opportunity to capitalise on the potential of high-potential entrepreneurs. For it is these individuals who are most likely to make a tangible contribution to value and job creation that will bring true and lasting economic benefits to this country.

Africa's links with China in biodiversity conservation highlighted at Kenya forum

NAIROBI

THE international biodiversity conference taking place in Kenya's Maasai Mara University has shed light on the growing contribution of China towards conservation of rare species in Africa.

Policymakers and scientists attending the conference co-organized by Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO) and Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre (SAJOREC), noted that biodiversity conservation has become a critical feature of China-Africa bilateral cooperation.

Bai Chunli, president of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said at the opening ceremony of biodiversity forum on Wednesday that it was timely as Beijing forges strategic alliances with African institutions to promote conservation of rare species.

"By holding this forum, we wish to provide a platform for academic institutions from China, African and other parts of the world to share the experiences and showcase the best practices in conserving biodiversity," said Bai.

He had earlier witnessed the handing over of modern laboratory equipment to Maasai Mara University, located in Kenya's south eastern county of Narok, to aid research on conservation of indigenous plant species that have immense medicinal and nutritional value.

Besides donating the state of the art lab equipment, CAS has through SAJOREC supported establishment of a medicinal plants garden at Maasai Mara University as part of collaborative venture to enhance biodiversity conservation in Kenya and beyond.

Felix Dakora, president of the African Academy of Sciences, said that African countries have leveraged on China's competitive edge in scientific research, technology, innovations and skilled manpower to enhance protection of the continent's natural capital.

"Biodiversity is a major asset for the African continent but it is being destroyed due to climate change and



rapid desertification. I hope both the Chinese and African scientists will come up with solutions to reverse loss of habitats," said Dakora.

The Chinese and African Academies of Sciences early this week signed a memorandum of understanding to boost collaboration in diverse areas like natural resources management, public health, food security and climate change.

Dakora said that collaborative research, technology transfer and skills development that underpins Sino-Africa scientific collaboration, will aid conservation of the continent's vital ecosystems.

Kenyan officials hailed the biodiversity summit running until Friday saying it will provide a platform for Chinese and African scientists to share knowledge and best practices that can strengthen protection of rare species.

Bai Chunli (3rd R), president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Bulitia Godrick (2nd L), deputy vice-chancellor in charge of academic and student affairs at Maasai Mara University (MMU), attend an unveiling ceremony of the MMU-CAS Joint Research Laboratories at MMU, about 145 kilometers southeast of the capital Nairobi on Sept. 4, 2019. (Xinhua)

Mohamed Elmi, chief administrative secretary in the ministry of environment and forestry, said that China has become a dependable ally in Africa's quest to promote ecological renewal.

"This week's conference symbolizes our true friendship and cooperation with China to help conserve our biodiversity, drylands and wetlands," said Elmi.

He said that Kenya has elevated its cooperation with China in the field of environment through joint research and capacity development aimed at strengthening protection of habitats.

"We are collaborating with China on research in bamboo to help restore our degraded landscapes," said Elmi, adding that joint research between Chinese and African scientists is key to halt loss of critical species like pollinators.

Robert Gituro, Kenyan founding di-

rector of SAJOREC, said that Beijing has provided material and technical support to help revolutionize management of Africa's biodiversity.

"Our partnership with China has focused on training of next generation of scientists who are coming back to the content to transfer skills required to boost sustainable management of our biodiversity," said Gituro.

He said that African scientists are keen to harness cutting edge technologies from China to support community led biodiversity conservation initiatives.

Bulitia Godrick, deputy vice chancellor in charge of academic and student affairs at Maasai Mara University, said that African scientists have drawn inspiration from China's advanced technologies and innovations that are providing solution to water scarcity, food insecurity and ecological depletion.



Winnie Byanyima. Credit: Mariana Jarroud/IPS.

UNAIDS and WHO Africa leaders need to prioritise women's health

ABUJA

TWO African women were recently appointed to top global health positions: Winnie Byanyima as the Executive Director of UNAIDS and Dr. Matshidiso Moeti reappointed as the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa.

Already, Ms. Byanyima is focusing on human rights as a way to end the AIDS epidemic, and Dr. Moeti's priorities include ensuring more Africans have universal health coverage, preventing and managing disease outbreaks and promoting good health.

In these powerful roles, they should also prioritize addressing issues uniquely affecting women – from HIV to childbirth to infectious diseases – because when women are healthy, the society progresses.

Further, the health of women is a measure of a society's level of development. As a father to two daughters, I am rooting for Ms. Byanyima and Dr. Moeti to succeed and leave the world healthier than they met it. This is what they can do.

HIV

Thirty-eight million people were living with HIV and 23 million had access to antiretroviral therapy according to UNAIDS 2018 global data, women are disproportionately affected by HIV. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of new infections among adolescents aged 15-19 years are in girls.

Globally, young women aged 15-24 years are twice as likely to be living with HIV than men. An additional crisis is how of the 1.3 million pregnant women who were living with HIV, only 82% received drugs that would prevent mother to child transmission of HIV. Thus, the cycle of having above 180,000 new HIV infections in children aged 0-14 years continues.

Ms. Byanyima's major focus around HIV infections should be to ensure that women of reproductive age have access to the right information to prevent new HIV infections and not give birth to a HIV-infected baby.

There is a solution already – Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) reduces this risk from 45% to 5%, it just needs to be applied more broadly. Further, there are lessons UNAIDS can learn and share from Cuba and Malaysia, countries that have eliminated mother to child transmission of HIV.

Childbirth

Too many women still die while trying to give life. Globally, an estimated 830 women die due to pregnancy or birth related complications daily. The burden is more in developing than developed countries – a ratio of 239 versus 12 per 100,000 live births respectively.

The Maternal Health task Force at the Chan Harvard School of Public Health reports a 2013 review which showed that 5% of pregnancy-related deaths globally and 25% of pregnancy-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa are attributable to HIV and AIDS.

Research shows that use of community drug keepers can prevent excessive bleeding after birth, which is the commonest cause of birth-related deaths, by up to 83%, even with low skilled attendance at birth.

Consequently, community health workers should be used to improve maternal health because they live and work in communities and are trusted by the people. They can accompany pregnant women to health facilities for antenatal services/birth and provide other supports that would reduce the stress of pregnancy.

Despite the strategic position of community health workers in improving health, most of them are unpaid. Therefore, Ms. Byanyima and Dr. Moeti should ensure that community health workers, who are mostly women are henceforth paid for their services.

The important work they do across communities globally should no longer be considered as mere volunteerism and if it is paid, more people could undertake the job and save more lives at childbirth.

Infectious Disease

It is inevitable that infectious disease outbreaks will happen and that they will spread quickly. An infection which begins in a remote location can get to major capitals within 36 hours.

Sadly, there is no African country that is fully ready for epidemics, based on scoring on preventdemics.org. Women are usually the caregivers when family members are sick and bear the brunt of infectious disease outbreaks.

Dr. Moeti should use her influence as the Head of WHO Africa Office to advocate to African leaders to ensure all countries on the continent conduct a joint external evaluation to document their levels of preparedness for epidemics and engage with legislatures to appropriate more funds to national public health institutes for epidemic preparedness.

WHO should work with national and sub-national ministries of health to educate communities about epidemics and their roles in detecting, preparing and responding to disease outbreaks.

Partnership between UNAIDS and WHO AFRO is imperative. Therefore, Ms. Byanyima and Dr. Moeti should work together to achieve these objectives. The global health community will continue to hold both accountable and demand for improved services for women.

IPS

'Robert Mugabe's real legacy is the hunger of his people'

BY PETER FABRICIUS

THE death of independent Zimbabwe's first president Robert Mugabe on 6 September at age 95 sparked a predictable debate about his legacy. Many acclaimed him a hero for liberating 'Rhodesia' from British colonial rule and from the government of Ian Smith, and for continuing to defy 'Western neo-imperialism'. Others condemned him for his brutal repression of any political opposition that threatened his power and for driving Zimbabwe's once quite prosperous economy into the ground.

A new Institute for Security Studies (ISS) report provides an objective answer to this debate. It is a timely testament to Mugabe's meagre bequest to the nation, after he was deposed in a de facto military coup in November 2017.

The report, Great Zimbabwe: alternative prospects to 2040, depicts a country still gripped by poverty, hunger and deprivation. It is unlikely to escape from these ills by 2040 unless Mugabe's successor Emmerson Mnangagwa enacts the sort of radical political and economic reforms he so far seems unable to do.

Using the International Futures (IF) forecasting tool, the report paints three scenarios for what Zimbabwe could look like in 2040. The first is if it continues on its Current Path. The second is if it takes a high road of deep reforms ('Great Zimbabwe'). Third, if it takes an even lower road than present ('Things Fall Apart').

First it looks at the present, which may be regarded as Zimbabwe's inheritance from Mugabe. The ISS finds that the recurring political and economic crises the country endured on Mugabe's watch, especially since 2000, caused 'a dramatic deterioration of livelihoods'. These crises peaked in about 2008 when inflation reached Weimar Republic levels running into the billions of percentage points and the Zimbabwe dollar de-



preciated to over one trillion to the US dollar before finally being abandoned.

By 2008 the economy, which had peaked at US\$18.6 billion in 1998, had halved to US\$9.3bn. GDP per capita more than halved from US\$310 to US\$136. Zimbabwe's precipitous socio-economic decline plateaued somewhat during the unity government years from 2009 to 2013, helping GDP per capita grow over the past decade by 60% to reach about US\$220 today.

And so life remains bleak for those almost 17 million Zimbabweans who haven't fled the country. Two out of five (7.3 million) are living on less than US\$3.20 a day, the international extreme poverty line for lower-middle-income countries. Two out of five are also under-nourished – the seventh greatest rate of undernourishment globally.

Life expectancy is today 61, just two years older than it was in 1980, at independence. This is a particularly damning index of how little the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) government has improved the lives of its people in 39 years. Though improving education is most widely touted as Mugabe's greatest achievement, this has also suffered from the overall decline.

And what of the future? The ISS report notes that the Zimbabwean government's Vision 2030 aims to create an upper-middle-income country by

Will Mugabe's successor Emmerson Mnangagwa do what's needed to finally free Zimbabweans from deprivation?

2030. But on its current trajectory, Zimbabwe won't achieve that goal, which would require it to triple its gross national income in 11 years.

Nevertheless the report concludes that if the ZANU-PF government departed 'from its historically state-centred approach to developing the country', this could result in 'dramatic improvements in human development and economic outcome'.

For the Great Zimbabwe scenario, ZANU-PF would have to abandon its command and control approach to both the economy and politics. It would require freeing up economic space, cutting red tape, curbing corruption and rampant misgovernance and resolving the endemic financial crisis.

The ISS highlights agrarian reform as perhaps the most critical for Zimbabwe's recovery. Agriculture was once the driver of the economy and then, after the 2000 land grabs, its downfall.

In this scenario, GDP would reach US\$66 billion by 2040. That amounts to US\$14.6 billion more than on the current trajectory. GDP per capita would reach US\$4,500 – 20% more than on current trends.

If government fails to resolve the financial crisis, or improve accountability, democracy and service delivery, growing insecurity and instability could plunge Zimbabwe onto the Things Fall Apart low road. Then the numbers living in extreme poverty

OBITUARY

Zimbabwe's first post-independence leader Robert Mugabe

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S founder Robert Mugabe will be buried at a national shrine in Harare on Sunday, the Mugabe family spokesman said yesterday, contradicting comments a day earlier which suggested the family was resisting the government's burial plans.

Mugabe, who ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years until he was ousted by his own army in November 2017, died in a Singapore hospital a week ago aged 95.

A fight over his burial place has threatened to undermine his successor, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mugabe's former deputy who conspired to topple him, and expose deep rifts in the governing ZANU-PF party.

"I can confirm that he will be buried at the National Heroes Acre on Sunday," family spokesman Leo Mugabe said, adding that an official ceremony would be followed by a private family event at the monument to heroes of the liberation war against white minority rule.

Mugabe's body arrived in Zimbabwe from Singapore on Wednesday and started three days of lying in state on Thursday.

Some of Mugabe's relatives have expressed bitterness at the way former comrades including Mnangagwa ousted him and pushed for Mugabe to be buried in his home village.

Foreign dignitaries were yesterday due to start arriving in Harare ahead of a state funeral planned for the country's National Sports Stadium today. Heads of state expected to attend the funeral include South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta.

At his best, Robert Mugabe could rank beside such revolutionaries as Nelson Mandela and Che Guevara. In the 1970s, he was Africa's teacher-turned Marxist rebel against white rule who declared: "Our votes must go together with our guns."

He remains a Zimbabwean liberator who defied the West but Mugabe, who died on Friday aged 95, will also be remembered by some as an autocrat who butchered opponents, rigged votes and gobbled up cake at lavish birthday parties while his people went hungry.

"Mugabe was one of the most consequential of Africa's post-colonial leaders. He remains highly regarded by many for his leadership role in the insurgency against white minority rule," Brett Schaefer, Africa analyst at The Heritage Foundation, told Al Jazeera.

"But the violence and chaos resulting from his struggle to hold on to power led to thousands of deaths, millions of refugees and economic impoverishment. Mugabe's legacy will forever be stained by his destructive and murderous acts."

Mugabe was born under British colonial rule in Southern Rhodesia in 1924, the son of Bona and Gabriel, a carpenter. Despite poor school and job prospects for most black people, he gained a Jesuit education and thrived in academia.

Frustrated by racism and white-settler rule, Mugabe embraced socialism and grew more hardline. He spent 11 years in jail, waging a rebellion from



A casket carrying the remains of Robert Mugabe is brought to lie in state at the Rufaro stadium in Harare.



Robert Mugabe Jr. pays his last respects to his father, Robert Mugabe as his body lies in state at the Rufaro stadium, in Mbare, Harare.



Mourners hold paintings with the face of former Zimbabwean president as they queue to pay their last respects at the Rufaro stadium in Harare.



Zimbabwe President Mnangagwa declare Robert Mugabe a 'national hero' after his death last Friday.

behind bars via his resistance movement, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).

The fierce bush war brought white settlers to the negotiating table and led to a British-brokered accord in 1979.

By the end of the following year, Mugabe was elected prime minister of the newly-founded Republic of Zimbabwe.

His early socialist reforms brought teachers and medics to rural backwaters and boosted grain harvests.

But Mugabe also launched a crackdown on political rivals in the Matabeleland region that claimed the lives of some 20,000 Ndebele civilians.

After serving two terms as prime minister, he abolished the position and became president in 1987, a post he held for 30 years.

"He was a ruthless authoritarian, not burdened by democratic practice. But don't mistake him for a much larger machine that operates in Zimbabwe - the ruthless ethos Mugabe represented is deeply-embedded in his political party, ZANU-PF," academic Stephen Chan told Al Jazeera.

"They believe that those who fought in the Liberation War, from the beginning, against all odds, deserve to rule. Now they have entrenched modes of financial practice within Zimbabwe's economy that they don't want to give up."

Zimbabwe had begun to recover from conflict, but a land reform policy that saw black farmers

take over white-owned farms sparked domestic chaos and global outrage. Western nations slapped sanctions on the country and it was suspended from the Commonwealth.

For Mugabe, land grabs corrected colonial-era injustices and his defiance of Western "imperialism" resonated across the continent.

"The land is ours, we give it to who we please, it's not the business of Britain to tell us who to give land and who not," he told Al Jazeera in 2000.

This won Mugabe loyalty from war veterans, cronies and others who seized land; but it also led to an exodus of white farmers, hyperinflation and shortages of foodstuffs that slashed 40 percent off the economy, according to World Bank figures.

"Getting rid of white farmers was one of his biggest mistakes - it led to sanctions and economic collapse," Tom Wheeler, a former South African ambassador, told Al Jazeera.

"It was catastrophic. The people couldn't feed themselves any more, while Mugabe's inner circle was high on the hog."

In the maelstrom, Morgan Tsvangirai of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) emerged as a political rival. In 2010, Tsvangirai told Al Jazeera that the president had squandered his legacy and "betrayed the liberation that he fought for".

Mugabe intimidated voters and rigged elec-

tion outcomes, both the opposition and Western powers have said. Operation Restore Order saw the destruction of the homes or businesses of 700,000 mostly poor backers of the opposition in the capital, Harare, in 2005.

"The way he ran roughshod over the rule of law was an unmitigated disaster," John Campbell, a former US ambassador to Nigeria, told Al Jazeera.

"If ever there was a continent that desperately needs rule of law, it's Africa. It's crucial for development and political security. But, for his supporters, it was all about land: Mugabe's expulsion of whites cancels everything else."

While Tsvangirai won more votes in the 2008 election, Mugabe fought back with violence and the threat of greater bloodshed to broker a power-sharing "government of national unity", in which he held on to the presidency.

"He had no sentimentality at all," added Chan, author of Robert Mugabe: A Life of Power and Violence.

"He could feign normal, human feelings for public consumption; but if Mugabe needed to make a political corpse out of somebody and put a knife in their back, even if they had been a long-standing comrade, with him through thick and thin, he would do it."

Once a charming pan-African visionary,

Mugabe had dropped his socialist ideals and become a petty dictator, clinging to power and lavishing some \$250,000 on his 85th birthday party in 2009, while Zimbabweans died of cholera.

In increasingly-erratic public appearances, he railed against Africa's former imperial overlords. Britain was using "gay gangsters" to undermine him.

Only God - and not "the MDC, not the British" - could unseat him.

The father of four children from two marriages had become a pariah - the "Hitler of the time", he said. As economic hardship bit ordinary Zimbabweans, Mugabe was forced to step down by the military in November 2017 following nationwide mass protests.

After his resignation, he continued to live at home in Harare, visiting Singapore multiple times for medical treatment.

Despite his ignominious exit from the political scene, Mugabe's legacy as a liberator was recognised by his successor, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, when he announced his death on Friday.

"Cde Mugabe was an icon of liberation, a pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the emancipation and empowerment of his people. His contribution to the history of our nation and continent will never be forgotten. May his soul rest in eternal peace," Mnangagwa said in a statement.

BEIJING

China is betting on its successful hybrid rice varieties to curb perennial food shortage in Africa.

"We're no longer suffering from hunger," 55-year-old Georges Ranaivomanana, a Madagascar farmer who took the lead in planting Chinese hybrid-rice in his town of Mahitsy told Xinhua.

Georges told Xinhua that he hoped that all his compatriots would use the seeds to raise their living standards, and that his country might even be able to export rice some day.

China has been helping African countries develop productive and resilient rice farming for years with its hybrid rice.

For farmers on the continent like Ranaivomanana, they are "very grateful" to the Chinese as the hybrid rice is the key to better food security and higher incomes. With a humid tropical climate, abundant sunshine and

rich water resources, Madagascar has a long tradition of rice cultivation and consumption.

However, due to insufficient financial resources and outdated agricultural techniques, the low yield of local rice has long troubled the island country.

The government has to import hundreds of thousands of tons of rice a year, but it's still not enough to lift its people out of the threat of famine.

In 2010, a team of Chinese experts came to Madagascar. With their assistance, a hybrid crop variety planted produced a harvest of 10.8 tons per hectare this year, far exceeding the yield of local rice.

In May, the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center opened a research center in Madagascar to select hybrid rice varieties based on



Luo Haoping, the manager of Chinese run Hubei-Gaza Friendship Farm and a local worker check rice in the paddy field on the suburbs of Xaixai, capital city of the southern province of Gaza, Mozambique, April 17, 2010. (Xinhua)

the island nation's diverse ecological environment, in a bid to find more productive crops for a continent long troubled by insufficient grain output.

In the northwestern Nigerian state of Kebbi, Chinese expert Wang Xuemin stood in a rice

paddy, surrounded by green rice plants. "This year, we are using a new spraying technology," he said, adding that it "can significantly reduce labor and other costs."

"The land, climate and rice farming methods in Nigeria are very different from those in China. We had a lot of problems at the beginning," said the 51-year-old who has been in Nigeria for 16 years.

In 2006, after Wang and his colleagues had sown the seeds, their field management techniques and large-scale farming equipment could not adapt to the operating environment, and hundreds of hectares of rice fields were almost completely encroached by weeds.

"We came to realize that blindly copying the Chinese model is not feasible. It is necessary to

constantly innovate our techniques to fit the local situation in Africa," he said.

After more than ten years of research and innovation, the Nigerian farm now becomes a major training and mechanized production center in the country, training more than 1,000 farmers and agricultural machinery management staff.

Located in the Xai-Xai district of the southern Mozambican province of Gaza, the Wanbao Mozambique rice farm, invested by the China-Africa Development Fund, is China's largest project of its kind in Africa.

With vast arable land, a favorable climate, abundant water resources and support from China, this project plans to cover 20,000 hectares.

In Kenya and Angola, hybrid rice seeds have been or are to be

sowed, helping farmers achieve higher production and higher incomes.

Farmers in other countries such as Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of the seeds that would bring hope and prosperity.

In June, Yuan Longping, a globally renowned Chinese scientist who is known as the "father of hybrid rice," sent a video message to a China-Africa seminar on rice development as part of the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo held in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province.

"It's my great pleasure to help other developing countries develop hybrid rice to solve, to overcome their food shortage problems," he said. "I am confident that through our joint efforts the purpose will be realized in the near future."

United Nations and World Bank Group make appeal for sustained funding meant to relieve suffering in Somalia

MOGADISHU

ON mission to Somalia, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and senior officials from the World Bank and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office say that early action and joined up approaches are key to ending the country's cyclical crises

With the latest analysis showing that Somalia's main harvest was the worst since the famine in 2011, Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock today called for sustained funding to protect recent gains made in beating back hunger and reiterated the importance of the Government's Resilience and Recovery Framework, which is at the centre of efforts to break the paradigm of recurring humanitarian crises in Somalia.

He was speaking at the end of a two-day mission to Somalia undertaken with the World Bank Group's Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships, Mahmoud Mohieldin, and the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco.

"The latest food security analysis for Somalia shows that our response is working. One million fewer Somalis are hungry today than had been projected because we acted early when we saw the situation could deteriorate and because aid workers are able to deliver," Mr. Lowcock said. "The analysis also showed that the harvest from the April-June cropping season is the worst since 2011 because of poor and erratic rains, followed by flooding at the end of the rainy season."

As a result, up to six million people are now projected to be food insecure over the coming

months. A third of them will be severely food insecure without sustained aid. And climate-related events will continue to have deleterious effects on the humanitarian situation in Somalia."

Over the past 30 years, droughts have become more intense and frequent in Somalia, which also faces recurring flooding during the rainy seasons.

Much of Somalia's infrastructure is dilapidated as a result of the decades-long conflict and lack of investment, which further undermines the country's ability to cope.

Together with ongoing conflict, these shocks continue to drive people from their homes. The 2.6 million people already displaced are often marginalized on the fringes of society, facing evictions and other indignities.

The delegation visited Baidoa where nearly 360,000 people who fled slow onset drought, terrorist attacks and armed conflict over the past three years live in 400 sites in and around the town. "Conflict and marginalization perpetuate drivers of fragility and fuels displacement. A sustained humanitarian response must be combined with government-led developmental and peacebuilding approaches to promote reconciliation and to assist people to rebuild their country," said Mr. Fernandez-Taranco.

The Peacebuilding Fund that his office manages is supporting the Midnimo project that brings together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding elements to address the impact of displacement in Baidoa.

In a constructive meeting with Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire in Baidoa, the three officials commended the Government for its leadership on the Recovery and Resilience Framework and reiterated their commitment to supporting the



Severe climatic conditions, combined with other persistent drivers of humanitarian crisis, armed conflict, protracted displacement and a spike in evictions of internally displaced persons are again pushing Somalia towards a major humanitarian emergency.

Government to address the impacts of repeated cycles of disaster.

"The World Bank Group will continue to support Somalia's efforts to boost investment in its productive sectors and infrastructure in line with the priorities of the Recovery and Resilience Framework and the new National Development Plan for 2020-2024," said Mr. Mohieldin.

"However, unlocking substantial additional investment requires Somalia to qualify for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The coming months will be critical in this regard and we welcome the authorities' efforts to sustain the positive track record established over the last few years on insti-

tutional and economic governance reforms."

One innovative way the World Bank Group and partners are supporting the Government to change the paradigm of recurring crisis is by rolling out an anticipatory action model in Somalia which would release funding for pre-agreed projects to mitigate the impact of drought when it is forecast.

The Famine Action Mechanism (FAM), developed by the World Bank Group, the United Nations and NGOs, is expected to be operational to provide anticipatory financing with funding from the World Bank Group next year.

OCHA is also supporting work towards anticipatory action financing to recurrent driv-

ers of humanitarian needs in Somalia.

The FAM builds on earlier help international partners have provided to mitigate the worst of climate shocks through early action.

In 2017, the UN and partners averted famine in Somalia by sounding the alarm early, which spurred donors to contribute generously to the response.

"Following the failed harvest and the impact of flooding, I urge all donors to step up their generous support to enable the provision of life-saving assistance alongside long-term and durable solutions to help prevent a recurrence of humanitarian crises," said USG Lowcock.

AGENCIES

Man cleared in bus bomb case jailed for threatening witnesses

NAIROBI

CHIEF Magistrate Francis Andayi has sentenced Warwue Dejene Sar, who recently escaped jail after he was acquitted of a charge of blowing up a bus on Thika Road in 2014, to 14 years in jail for threatening witnesses in the terrorism case.

Andayi said the offence he committed is very serious as it threatens to kill justice and the rule of law.

The magistrate said the witnesses who testified against his son, who was jointly charged

with him, never returned to court to testify further.

He said the accused achieved his goal when he made the threats as witnesses disappeared.

"Criminal justice will be thrown into disarray and eventually die slowly," Andayi ruled while sentencing Sar who was treated as a first offender.

Meanwhile, police officer attached to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) offices in Mombasa county was on Thursday arrested by detectives for allegedly stealing

Sh416,000 which was part of exhibit in a case she was handling.

Lilian Joan Simiyu is also alleged to have destroyed evidence to be used in the case.

According to a police statement, the said police officer will also face various charges, in a different case, for engaging in crime as a law enforcer.

"She is now placed in the cells for further action," police said in the report.

The suspect is being held at Mombasa Central police station as an investigation continues into the alleged theft and will be

arraigned in Mombasa once the probe is complete.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) was established after Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki signed the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Act on 29 August 2011. The EACC replaced the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC).

The country's Parliament disbanded KACC on 24 August 2011, in line with the requirements for change as stipulated in the new Constitutional dispensation after the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution.

The EACC was established on 5 September 2011 and Commissioners Irene Keino and Prof. Jane K. Onsongo appointed on 11 May 2012 to head the anti-graft agency.

Chairman Mumo Matemu was nominated by the Grand Coalition principals, President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga in 2012 to head the anti-graft agency alongside commissioners Irene Keino and Prof. Jane Onsongo.

The three have since resigned concurrently amid controversy in between April-May 2015.

In November 2015, President Uhuru Kenyatta nominated new members to head the agency. Philip Kinusu as the commission's chairperson alongside four other officials as commissioners.

The commissioners are Dabar Maalim, Paul Gachoka, Sophia Lepuchirit and Rose Macharia. The Commission Secretary - HALAKHE DIDA WAQO is in charge of the day to day operations. Mr. Halakhe D. Waqo formally took office at the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) after a swearing-in

ceremony held at the Supreme Court of Kenya, on 21 January 2013.

By doing so, he becomes the Commission's first Secretary/Chief Executive Officer since EACC was established to replace the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission in 2012.

He is deputised by Michael Mubea (Deputy Secretary/Chief Executive Officer - Operations) whom joined the commission in 2013.

AGENCIES



Lesson about oil from revolutionary driller

By Mickael Vogel

CHAD'S rigs count has been surprisingly high for a year now, in a country that produces only about 100,000 bopd. With seven rigs deployed on its territory since September 2018 according to Baker Hughes GE, Chad counts more rigs than most African petroleum provinces. It is more than Angola, sub-Saharan Africa's second largest producer of oil. It is almost more than Congo, sub-Saharan Africa's third largest producer. The list continues: it is more than Gabon, Cameroon, or even Equatorial Guinea.

The reason: Chad is drilling. In efforts to expand exploration and

boost domestic production, the land-locked Central African nation is proving that focusing on basics is a recipe for success. Drilling efforts have translated in increased production and oil revenues, despite several industry setbacks.

The recovery of Chad's economy and petroleum sector after the recent plunge in oil prices has indeed not been a smooth journey to say the least.

Chad has Africa's 10th largest proven oil reserves but its output has been slipping in recent years due to maturing fields and disruptions caused by the conflict with Boko Haram in the southwest. Lower commodity prices added another

layer of complexity to an already very intricate situation, and put the economy in jeopardy. Hopes brought by the renegotiation of the country's debt with Glencore and the rebound in oil prices were short lived. In 2019, both ExxonMobil, which produces a fourth of the country's oil and Glencore, which represents about 9% of Chad's production, announced their intention to sell their assets in the country.

But as two of its biggest operators prepared their exit, Chad welcomed new ones and did not lose focus on bringing out what former minister Me Béchir Madit had then called a "second golden age of oil between the end of 2019 and 2025."

To ensure the growth of its industry, Chad launched the construction of the mini Rig-Rig refinery in 2017 to address crying domestic shortage of petroleum products, granted several new fields to the CNPCC in the Bongor Basin, welcomed new operator United Hydrocarbons, and renegotiated its debt with commodity trading giant Glencore in 2018.

As oil prices started rebounding, good news came along. Taiwan's Overseas Petroleum and Investment Corporation completed its exploitation platform and connection pipeline to the Komé centre, while Petrochad developed its Krim-Krim wells.

Schoolchildren, know your rights

By Tarryn Cooper-Bell, Pila-sande Mkuzo and Asiphe Funda

INJUSTICES against schoolchildren are sometimes the result of schools not having adequate capacity and staff not being trained in fair processes. But sometimes there is a blatant disregard for the law.

School disciplinary processes and sanctions can have major effects on the lives and futures of children. There are detailed provisions in law on how disciplinary matters should be handled, yet unlawful practices and violation of children's rights are perpetuated daily.

The Equal Education Law Centre runs an advice clinic on education-related matters and, in the past six months alone, we have received at least 25 matters related to unlawful disciplinary processes.

In some cases, the injustices are because the schools do not have adequate capacity, or training in fair processes. In others, there is a blatant disregard for the law.

Based on the experience of the EELC, there are also gaps in relevant laws that need to be addressed so as to fully protect learners' rights.

No due process

In one case this year, a Grade 9 pupil, Chuma*, was suspended for fighting at school. According to Chuma, he was attacked by a classmate during a class rotation and acted in self-defence. He was suspended pending a disciplinary hearing. In terms of the South African Schools Act, school governing bodies may only suspend a learner suspected of serious misconduct as a precautionary measure.

This may only be done on reasonable grounds and after the learner has been granted an opportunity to make representations on the matter. Allowing parties to be heard is especially important in matters concerning children. However, often schools do not make sure this happens.

Despite provisions of the Schools Act, schools

often suspend pupils as an automatic or default response to misconduct. In Chuma's case, the school conducted a minimal investigation into the matter and did not afford him a chance to put his side of the story.

This unlawful practice saw Chuma excluded from valuable class time and subjected him to a stigmatising situation. It could have been avoided with due process.

The EELC intervened and helped Chuma to present his version of events to the school, which then allowed him back into class. However, many other learners remain excluded from education due to such unlawful suspensions.

Unlawful expulsions from school is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a child and has a direct impact on their access to education. Importantly, schools do not have the power to expel, can only recommend expulsion and can only do so following a disciplinary hearing.

It is the head of department (HoD) who decides if someone will be expelled. Despite the law, many children are expelled without a hearing and without any decision from the HoD.

In one case, Grade 8 learner Lubabalo* was expelled without a hearing and without the HoD even being approached by the school.

The EELC intervened by contacting the principal and facilitating a discussion between school and parents, following which Lubabalo returned to the classroom.

More training and oversight of schools is needed to prevent these incidents. When matters are referred to the HoD, the EELC has noted that the information placed before the official by the school does not always include full submissions by the learner - so the HoD gets a skewed view of events and might make an unfair decision.

It is important for parents and pupils to be aware of their legal rights, but it is equally as important for schools to be able to handle disciplinary processes correctly.

Translating ambition into action: High hopes for United Nations Action Week

New Caledonia

IN less than 10 days, countries from around the planet will come together in New York for the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit. I look forward to representing the Pacific Community (SPC) at this important event, and throughout "Action Week" during the upcoming UN General Assembly.

The interconnections and synergies between major issues of global concern and the key role multilateralism and international cooperation can play in helping tackle these challenges are illustrated by the agenda of the week from 23 to 27 September.

Underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals, each of the high-level summits will focus on commitments to accelerate action across climate change, enhance efforts to secure healthy, peaceful and prosperous lives for all, mobilise sufficient financing to realise the 2030 Agenda and address the specific issues and vulnerabilities of small island developing states.

The week of summits kicks off with a focus on climate action. And this is, in my mind, highly appropriate. The multiplier effect of climate change undermines our efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals, it increases the challenges of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, it intensifies competition and the potential for conflict around natural resources and it poses the single greatest existential threat to the lives and livelihoods of millions of people around the globe. From where I stand, the science on climate change is clear.



To take only these examples, the IPCC Special Reports on the impacts of global warming of 1.5° above pre-industrial levels and climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems provide us with the most robust, high quality evidence base to understand the significant negative impact climate change is already

having on our natural environment, on the wellbeing of people, ecosystems, flora and fauna and the massive and potentially irreversible consequences of inaction.

As regards our ocean, the upcoming Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate is likely to

confirm what the islands of the Blue Pacific continent, and others whose cultures, traditions and livelihoods are deeply attached to the ocean, have already sensed: the climate crisis is a real and present threat to ocean and coastal ecosystems and the human communities that depend on them.

The stakes are high, but where there is a threat there is also an opportunity. If we act now, there is still time effectively to tackle the climate crisis! To put it simply: ambition without action is insufficient and simply not an option. SPC is committed to working with our Member States, international and regional partners to translate climate ambition into tangible climate action, for both mitigation and adaptation.

The benefits could be huge, with the Global Commission on Adaptation estimating that investing \$1.8 trillion in climate adaptation globally in just five areas from 2020 to 2030 could generate \$7.1 trillion in total net benefits. We are also convinced that we must collectively harness the synergies between, for example, climate and the ocean, biodiversity, health, security, economic development, food systems, land use, gender and many other development areas to fully exploit the potential of the SDGs and ensure that future pathways to sustainable development are integrated, inclusive, nature-friendly, climate-informed and resilient. SPC is already implementing this approach with its Members and partners.

One illustration is our EU funded PROTEGE project, whose intended outcomes include a transition to sustainable integrated agriculture and sound forestry

resource management; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management that is integrated in and adapted to island economies; sustainable integrated water resource management; and invasive alien species control, all against a backdrop of climate-change hazards that require ecosystem and biodiversity protection, resilience and restoration.

As was recently remarked to me at the Green Climate Fund Global Programming Conference in Korea: "we already know what we must do. We need to stop talking and start doing". It is my sincere hope that "Action Week" in New York will indeed be a turning point for "doing"; a catalyst for firm, measurable commitments to tangible actions that match the level of ambition already expressed to address the climate crisis and the multiple development challenges that remain as we approach the final decade of the 2030 Agenda.

If we do not translate ambition into action, we will fail ourselves, we will fail future generations and we will fail our planet. If, however, we take up the challenge and take sustained, coordinated and integrated action, we can win the battle against climate change, create new and innovative opportunities for development, deliver on the promise of the Global Goals and trace a positive pathway to new era of resilient and sustainable devel-

The poison in our society: Toxic masculinity must be rooted out

By Raymond Suttner

RECENT weeks have been widely interpreted as representing crises for the Cyril Ramaphosa presidency, and it does not look as if they will abate in the near future. One of the reasons appears to be an element of withdrawal or detachment of Ramaphosa in relation to the issues that engulf him.

There is also ambiguity over his stance on these and other issues where decisive leadership and understanding are required. There is clearly also an ongoing "fightback" and sabotage of his efforts in a range of ways, as with the astonishing and confirmed sabotage by individuals in the SABC, who aired a rehearsal Ramaphosa address to the nation, rather than the one that was intended.

Xenophobia: Name it by its name!

There is a general sense that one has of Ramaphosa and much of the leadership not being "hands-on" in relation to the issues of the day. The continual refrain that the xenophobic attacks are criminal and not xenophobic lacks credibility to this, and any person who follows this question will know that in the period before the recent violence, there have been numerous attacks and victimisation of foreign migrants, as with the evictions from homes in Alexandra and Orange Grove by vigilantes claiming to have City of Johannesburg lists of lawful occupiers. That these were not legitimate actions is borne out by at least one case where the house was being rented but owned by a South African who was living in Cape Town. There are numerous and ongoing cases of victimisation (often with police present).

But there is also ongoing co-operation with foreign shopkeepers who are valued by the poorer communities. Their shops are supported because they are open at all hours, and they often sell items cheaply and extend credit.

It is true, however, that these same communities may loot the shops on which they are dependent when the opportunity arises. It is part of an ambiguity relating to ongoing poverty. Absolute power, it is claimed, corrupts absolutely. But the absolute powerlessness that the poor often experience, also has an impact on people's moral compass. What is clear and undeniable is that this criminality, while it does affect some South Africans who have been looted or killed, specifically targets foreign migrants. If that is the case, why is there this reluctance to name the deed for what it is?



Attacks and murders of women and children:

The recent xenophobic violence in Gauteng happened at the same time as a groundswell of anger over ongoing rapes and murders of women and children. The killing of UCT student, Uyiniene ("Nene") Mrwetyana and others in recent weeks seemed to have been a spark for widespread mobilisation of women and many men against the scourge of killing and attacks on women and children, including babies.

There is nothing new about such attacks and these ought not to have been addressed only in a situation of urgency. There is evidently no systematic plan to address the gender-based violence (GBV), specifically against women and children, nor is there a coherent approach towards gender equality in a broader sense.

What also needs reflection is the lack of credibility that leadership has earned for itself. This is captured in a twitter thread of Andisiwe Makinana (who uses the name "Scapegoat") of the Sunday Times.

President Ramaphosa facing a hostile crowd outside Parliament.

CR: I have with me my colleagues from Cabinet, ministers and deputy ministers

Crowd: We don't care

CR: I come here before you with great humility.

Crowd: Hayi Suka!

CR: I stand before you with a deep sense of feeling.

Crowd: Yoooooh!

CR: I know what you are all going through.

Crowd: YOOOOH! You don't know.

CR: It is important to continue as a nation to show our solidarity and to show our care and compassion.

Crowd member: WHAT CARE?

There is an inadequate appreciation that the scourge of violence, specifically violence against women and children, is related to the broader failure to adequately relate to the problem of patriarchy and violent masculinities and to name these as the cause of the rapes and deaths. The mother of Nene Mrwetyana poignantly reproached herself for not warning her daughter not to go into a post office - where she was raped and murdered. Understandably, her mother asked herself what more she could have done to have her daughter still be alive.

But many have remarked that it is not the responsibility of women and children to stay away from "dangerous" places. It is the responsibility of the state and its citizens to make South Africa a safe space from predatory men and to find a way of reducing and eliminating toxic masculinity.

This raises the question of whether gender equality and violence against women and children are adequately addressed.

One of the reasons for the lack of progress is that the entire question of gender equality is generally denuded of its connection with patriarchy, and successes in achieving gender equality are treated quantitatively: How many women are in the Cabinet, Parliament or in various other institutions and organisations?

What is not asked is whether women necessarily use their presence in these institutions to advance gender equality and curb GBV.

It is not automatic that a woman in any position of power necessarily signifies an advance in gender equality. Insofar as patriarchy is a structural phenomenon, embedded in various institutions, practices and cultures, it can be rein-

forced and advanced by women as well as men, where the institutional culture is patriarchal. In short, there can be and are patriarchal women.

The same phenomenon operates with racist law enforcement, where police, generally black police, wave white motorists past in roadblocks and tend to stop black people who can sometimes be seen being frisked by the side of the road or pavement. White and black police and private security continue to racially profile black people as potential criminals.

The inadequate response to GBV or violence against women is also seen in the calls for heavy sentences and sometimes castration. Extreme penalties are supposedly a sign of seriousness in tackling these crimes. It focuses on individual "scoundrels" who must be locked away indefinitely and/or castrated. But it does nothing to address the ways in which patriarchy has violence embedded in its policing of the behaviour of women and all others who do not conform to heterosexual norms and the patriarchal male sense of entitlement to women's bodies.

Violent masculinities:

The question of violence against women is one related to masculinities, and by that, I do not mean that all men should take specific and direct personal responsibility for the rapes and murders of women. I do not take responsibility for these, but what we need to be doing is ask ourselves not simply what we ourselves do, but what are the models of masculinity that are commended to young boys growing into men, in South African society? What is regarded as touchstones of manhood? To what extent are boys advised to be gentle rather than or in addition to being physically tough in their daily lives? What type of people are anointed as heroes in our society? What kinds of qualities in boys and men are decried as "effeminate", and therefore not really manly?

This is not a purely South African problem but one that is found throughout the world, where violence is primarily the act of boys and men. It is notably so in the US where toxic masculinity is fuelled by a proliferation of guns and killings mainly of African-Americans.

Learning from the legacies of

Zuma?

In the case of the Ramaphosa presidency, this question relates directly to the way in which the post-Zuma ANC and government has related to the legacies of the Jacob Zuma presidency. There has been a reference to nine wasted years and this allusion, like most other references to the Zuma period, relates to corruption, State Capture and economic stagnation.

When the Ramaphosa leadership articulates what it represents by contrast with that of the Zuma period, it generally focuses on its efforts to address corruption and State Capture, tackling the debt and the rule of law, as in the attempts to reconstitute and clean up the NPA, Hawks, SARS, state-owned enterprises and other crucial institutions needed to ensure compliance with legality and the rule of law.

In making this emphasis, there are minimal attempts to link the Zuma period with the extreme form of patriarchy that it represented, the most conservative versions of customs and cultures or caricatures of these, used to advance violent masculinity. Whether or not he was found guilty by the court in the rape of Fezekile Ntsukela Kuzwayo, who used the name "Khwezi", that trial witnessed singing and dancing by Zuma and his allies, many of whom are still in Cabinet or in other leading positions, that were threatening songs, songs that mimicked a rape.

"Umshini wam", meaning "bring me my machine-gun" is not merely a Struggle song when deployed in a time of peace, and especially in the context of a rape trial. It is a song of war, and the gun is very often seen as a phallic symbol and the firing of bullets signifying ejaculation.

It is a Struggle song whose meanings bear very different connotations in a time of peace. Those who so assiduously sang that song, especially in a time of peace, symbolically endorsed taking women by force.

The very conduct that Zuma displayed, whether or not he was found not guilty in court, was highly threatening and disrespectful of the complainant and potentially threatening towards women in general. This has never been repudiated by the post-Zuma ANC.

DM

BUSINESS

INDEPENDENCE

Freelancing in Africa: A steadily growing trend on the continent

ABIDJAN

Freelancing is rapidly growing across Africa. This way of working provides a variety of opportunities, for both men and women, that run parallel with the economic dynamism that the continent is currently experiencing.

An increasing number of companies are choosing this new model of employment. In a study conducted by financial services company Payoneer, around 21,000 freelancers from 170 countries around the globe were interviewed. The report shows that Africa holds 10.1% of the world's freelancers - and could continue to grow.

Freelance work can be found across sectors: from economics and graphic design, to translation, writing, photography, and computer science. Younger generations are wanting to define their own career path and work hours, which translates to companies having difficulty in finding candidates ready to conform to traditional employment policies.

Freelancer tools
The rise of self-employment in Africa today is structural. The economy of countries on the continent has changed, along with the means by which to create added value to work.

The business models of traditional companies have been challenged by the double blow of the virtual economy and globalization, which are spreading rapidly throughout the continent. In addition, new professions have emerged alongside the development of the web economy over the past ten years. These professions, which are not dynamic in terms of job creation, have one thing in common: it only takes a computer and an internet connection to be able to get to work. We can work anywhere, at any time.

Intellectual and creative professions that are boosted



by a web culture of sharing and collaborative work often push businesses to imagine other models of organization, along with new forms of management. This model of employment suits the current generation of youth - without too much hierarchy, of course. It is a revolution that is changing the classical organization of the workplace. Being one's own boss, creating one's own job, and independently working from home is becoming increasingly attractive in Africa.

A trend attracting African youth

The job market in most African countries today, especially for young graduates, is difficult. Without being able to find a job that suits them, young graduates are rapidly moving towards the creation of their own personal activity. For the more experienced, this can be in combination with a job or retirement. As for young people, it is an alternative to the classic job search, and a solution that can overcome the problem of unemployment.

In cities across Africa, many workers are turning to freelancing and self-

employment. Some of them leave their full-time jobs, either in the public or the private sector, in order to set up their own projects. Sometimes this choice is made without a guarantee of being able to derive a sufficient income.

Freelancer working
Ndom Fabrice, a 34-year-old Ivorian freelancer, thinks freelance jobs can be helpful to many unemployed graduates. Specializing in scientific data, Fabrice holds a Master's Degree in Biotechnology. Her thesis included two components - biology and computer science.

A PhD in bioinformatics was a logical continuation for her career, yet Fabrice states "I decided to stop, because I noticed that there were more freelance opportunities in IT than in biology."

Fabrice had a full-time job opportunity to work in the IT department at a local company in her country, but he refused. "I decided to work as a freelancer, looking for temporary tasks so that I can work with different companies at the same time. For some people, a full-time job is better, but things have changed; we should adapt

ourselves to these changes," he expresses.

The same view is also shared by Ahmed Zaitouni, president of "Tunis Freelancers Club" in Tunisia. He thinks that freelancing will be the new way of working in Africa within the next two decades. According to a study conducted by the club in 2016, the fast-growing sectors of new technologies, renewable energies, public services, and communications are all encouraging young people to have their own projects, thus working with different companies and customers at the same time.

"It is a model that attracts more young people in North Africa who have finally understood that the public sector cannot employ all of them. Therefore, freelance jobs can help them have an income," explained Zaitouni, who also believes that "A full-time job limits freedom, development, and innovation."

For this generation of web entrepreneurs, the traditional model of the employment contract - the relationship of subordination with an employer - is not necessarily of great interest. These experts

earn more by working freelance, and can continue to progress and learn much faster independently.

Freelancer work station
Toufik Bougarne, director and founder of PsdMaroc Magazine, is a famous Moroccan freelance designer with more than 13 years of experience in the fields of design, branding, and typography. Fortunately, there are a variety of sectors in Morocco where freelancers can innovate and build successful careers.

Graphic Design, according to Bougarne, is one of the areas where talented young people can either work alone, or with a company; they just need to have a laptop and an imagination that shows their intellectual and emotional abilities. He stressed that young people can be successful freelancers if they can create a good relationship with the client and have the required technical capabilities, in addition to having the ability of self-marketing.

"I think individuals and companies have finally understood that freelance can solve a lot of problems. This is also good for companies in terms of cost, as freelancing work costs a little less than a full-time employee. Freelancers cannot compete with companies, but they would rather cooperate with them. The development of freelance starts from the freelancer himself. It starts with organizing the tools of work and time, and ends with finalizing the end product to meet the needs of the customer. It is essential for young freelancers to know how to do self-marketing, and how to search for business partners - whether they are individuals, institutions, or companies," says Bougarne.

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DISHONESTY

SA unsecured loan boom leaves 40pc of borrowers in default

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's unsecured lending boom has left 40 pc of borrowers in default and millions of people in a debt trap, according to fund manager Differential Capital.

About 7.8 million of the country's 60 million residents have taken out a combined R225bn of loans without collateral, mostly for short-term needs such as furniture and urgent family care, the Johannesburg-based firm said in a report.

South Africa eased controls on unsecured lending in 2007 to boost financial inclusion in one of the world's most unequal nations. Faced with growing criticism, the industry has battled to improve its reputation even as regulation has improved. Instead of helping those most in need, the practice has led a consumption-driven debt boom by those least able to pay back loans, according to Differential Capital.

"It is a dysfunctional industry where lenders compete on the largest loan size, not on customer value, preying on financial illiteracy and consumer demand for credit," the report said. "Reckless lending is almost systemic in the industry."

'Extortionate pricing'

Even with the high number of defaults, the industry stays profitable by charging "extortionate pricing" and rescheduling loans that are in default, according to the Differential Capital report. President Cyril Ramaphosa in August signed the National Credit Amendment Bill into law, setting the groundwork for over-indebted consumers to have payments suspended, in part or full, for as long as 24 months, or even scrapped if their financial situation has been found to have worsened.

The bill applies to customers who earn a gross monthly income of no more than R7 500, have unsecured debt amounting to R50 000, or who have been found to be critically indebted by the National Credit Regulator.

Interest charges, once all associated costs are included, range from an annual rate of 225% for one-month loans to 34% for five-year loans. Two-

thirds of customers pay more than a quarter of their net income to service their loans, the report said.

Biggest lenders

Capitec Bank [JSE:CPI] is South Africa's biggest unsecured lender. While the country's big four - Standard Bank [JSE:SBK], Nedbank [JSE:NED], Absa Group and First National Bank - also offer unsecured loans, their affordability tests are more stringent, it said. The South African Reserve Bank, which oversees banks, declined to comment.

"The industry has changed enormously over the last couple of years due to regulations," said Capitec CEO Gerrie Fourie. "The big players like ourselves have moved out of the lower sector and the slack has been taken up by the smaller shops. The biggest portion of the market complies."

Although the number of loan defaults is high, it has come down in recent years, Fourie said. Capitec focuses more on longer-term debt with between 60% and 70% of the money it has lent out used for needs such as education, vehicles and establishing businesses, he said.

Indebted miners

South Africa's mining sector has been particularly hard hit. Two-thirds of the industry's 450 000 workers have had unsecured loans and spend an average of 48% of their wages paying off debt, Differential said.

In 2012, the extreme indebtedness of miners was seen as one of the root causes for violent labour unrest that culminated in the massacre of 34 strikers at Marikana. In 2014, African Bank Investments, the biggest unsecured lender, went bankrupt. Last year, Net 1 UEPS Technologies was censured for allowing loan repayments to be taken directly out of welfare checks.

"In South Africa, financial inclusion through micro-credit has become financial enslavement through debt traps," Differential said. "Expensive loans used for consumption purposes create a transfer of wealth from the borrower to the lender - in South Africa's case from the poor to the rich."

GENEROSITY

US presidential candidate running a raffle to give 10 families a \$12K annual basic income

NEW YORK

2020 American presidential candidate Andrew Yang - who is running on a platform of giving every American a universal basic income of \$1,000 a month - announced at a debate that he will hold a raffle to give 10 families \$12,000 a year.

The raffle, first reported by Politico, will begin online next week, and will give each family \$1,000 a month. The universal basic income program, which Yang calls the Freedom Dividend, is his flagship campaign proposal.

"It's time to trust ourselves more than our politicians," Yang said at a debate of Democratic Party candidates. "My campaign will now give a Freedom Dividend of \$12,000 per year to 10 families. This is how we will get our country working for us again, the American people."

Yang argues that the Freedom Dividend would not only help ameliorate economic inequality but would reward unpaid work like childcare and housework, boost innovation by providing entrepreneurs with more leeway to start new businesses, and give everyday workers more leverage to demand better working conditions from their employers.

Yang, a former entrepreneur, is the main candidate in the race sounding the alarm about the effects of automation on the American economy, particularly how it could eliminate jobs in the trucking and retail sectors.

Beyond the Freedom Dividend, Yang also advocates for other progressive policies including free community college, and nationwide marijuana legalisation. But Yang is through-and-through a capitalist and rejects the notion that a universal basic income constitutes socialism.

"This is not socialism, this is capitalism where income doesn't start at zero," Yang told CBS of his universal basic income plan in March. "If you think about where Americans are going to spend this money, they're going to spend it at their local businesses, their main street economy."

Yang has shot up to the top tier of the 2020 field in recent months and has over 200,000 unique donors thanks to his extremely online base of supporters known as the #YangGang. The Yang Gang has transformed Yang's initially longshot candidacy into a serious one, and Yang has now outlasted several US members of Congress and Governors in the race.



Democratic presidential hopeful Andrew Yang.

INVESTMENT

Swahili food joints get fancy upgrades in Mombasa, Kenya

NAIROBI

One of Mombasa's most-frequented restaurants, also known for its Swahili cuisine, has opened a third outlet. The new Camel's Joint is fancier with wall paintings by portrait artist Zuber Bakhrani, unlike the two restaurants in Bondeni and Kilifi corner.

The director, Suheil Hasean, says today's diners want a space where the family-run businesses can share their experiences; so they had to consider interior design, ambience as well as good food.

"So far it has cost us Sh12 million and we are not yet done. We studied the market and realised that people want to be in a comfortable place. They want order and elegance. Also some entertainment as they are waiting for the food," says Suheil.

His father, Hassan Al Amoodi, who is the founder of the restaurants, helped in designing the interior and exterior space. "We did the decor together with my father and also had an interior designer," says Suheil.

Their father started Camel's Joint as a fruit parlour. "It was started in



Swahili cuisine restaurant, Camel's Joint that has opened its third outlet at Haile Selassie Avenue in Mombasa.

1995. My father started with a bucket and 12 glasses on the table. He used to work in the market. He saw there was an opportunity to sell juice and fruit salad. Then it slowly grew to the restaurant business it is now," says Suheil.

Their menu, which does not include alcohol, offers Swahili-style barbecues, biryani, Shawarma and fish. They also prepare 'scud', a drink made of mixed fruit and ice-cream.

Felix Omuga, the head chef with over 18 years in professional

kitchens, said the menu is growing to accommodate more than Swahili cuisine. "We have introduced beef burgers, sandwiches and pasta dishes, with plans to serve seafood," says the chef.

Meanwhile, Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort has refurbished its Lido Lounge that serves from tapas, sushi, sashimi, calamari fritters, chicken pops, nigiri, among others.

"Our best-seller is the celebration platter with lobster, crabs, oysters, prawns, shrimp and more. The King

Prawn Tanjung is also popular at Lido and goes well with couscous," says Chef Andrew Okello, senior sous chef at the hotel.

There is also the option of ordering burgers, sandwiches, pulled pork with wasabi mashed potatoes, calamari and pasta dishes. "The chicken deluxe burger features crispy Cajun chicken where we use crushed cornflakes to add the crispiness to the chicken. The homemade bread and pickled onions add a unique flavour to the

burger," Chef Andrew adds.

Andrew has been a chef for seven years now and has previously worked in Johannesburg, South Africa. The steak sandwich, which is homemade bread, aged steak, caramelised onions cheese, creamed mushrooms, accompanied with French fries and salad, is a perfect treat as one watches the ocean tides. As evening approaches, the tune of a saxophone fills the air as the resident saxophonist takes to the stage.

TRIUMPH

Innovation challenge in Africa: Six winners rewarded handsomely

CAPE TOWN

Two Ugandan innovations; Uganics and Mscan are among the six winners of the Champions of Science Africa Innovation Challenge 2.0; an initiative of Johnson & Johnson. The winners were announced at the 28th World Economic Forum on Africa (WEF) here.

The winning innovations offered bold, and entrepreneurial approaches to tackling major healthcare priorities in African communities. The priorities included; blood delivery, healthcare worker burnout, hearing loss, jaundice, malaria, and ultrasound access.

The winners share USD\$300,000 (approx. UGX1.09 billion) along with mentorship and connection network building, to support the expansion and sustainability of the companies and programs.

The Champions of Science Africa Innovation Challenge reflects Johnson & Johnson's legacy of supporting entrepreneurs to uncover, develop and promote solutions that improve health and well-being in their communities and beyond.

Uganics and Mscan tackled and presented solutions to Malaria, and Ultrasound Access, respectively. Uganics manufactures an organic, affordable soap that repels mosquitoes with intent to help prevent the spread of malaria. The soap can be used for bathing, washing hands & clothes.

Mscan developed a device that performs ultrasounds through the use of a portable probe and a tablet, laptop, or smartphone, allowing trained healthcare workers and midwives to be prepared for potential risk-factors during delivery.

SUCCESS

Jaguza Tech wins €15,000 in AgriHack competition

ACCRA

Jaguza Tech from Uganda led in the category securing €15,000 (roughly UGX61 million). Kenya's Arinifu Tech as the 1st runners-up secured €12,500 (roughly UGX50.8 million).

Jaguza was represented by Ronald Katamba; CEO & Co-Founder, Christine Kihunde; Co-Founder, and Charles Kalungu; Developer & Engineer. The winners were announced at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Accra, Ghana with seven startups awarded out of the 22 finalists.

Michael Hailu, Director at CTA at the gala, said: "It's a rewarding legacy for CTA, which has pioneered support for digital entrepreneurship among young people in the agricultural sector. Through Pitch AgriHack we have discovered self-taught youngsters, who are full of ideas and determination, and who are providing answers to some of Africa's persistent challenges."

The annual competition is an initiative by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) that supports entrepreneurs in ICTs for agriculture (ICT4Ag) through capacity building and funding to accelerate youth employment and agricultural transformation.

Founded by Mr. Ronald Katamba, Jaguza Tech have developed a mobile application and a drone to help farmers monitor, and manage their livestock. "It was a great opportunity for our startup to reach at this level where we expect to now roll to other countries. We expect to have our final launch together with our stakeholders next month at Serena Hotel in Kampala," said Katamba.

This startup helps farmers with their farming problems, especially people who are socially or economically disadvantaged. It helps them with farming problems about disease, Market, Farming Methods, information sharing, Livestock Monitoring, social security and Reporting.

The Jaguza Livestock App is used to monitor the animal's health including; the heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure and its whereabouts. The app is connected to chip that is embedded to an RFID tag attached to the cattle. The data extracted from the chip is sent to a farmers device that can either be a PC or a mobile phone. Upon receiving a notification, the farmer takes action as soon as possible.

On the other hand, the drone under implementation – monitors the livestock from above. This becomes helpful to especially farmers with large herds of cattle. The drone has a chip and thermal cameras that directly communicate with the microchip on the RFID tag of the cattle – detecting the well-being of the animal.

GENIUS

Miss SA Zozibini Tunzi claps back after negative comments about her blackness



Miss SA, Zozibini Tunzi.

CAPE TOWN

The discussion around black features not being celebrated on black women but on other races is one that will probably go on for a while still. But more and more black women in a position to make themselves heard are speaking out against the discrimination.

And their efforts aren't going unnoticed - Beyoncé's recent hit, Brown Skin Girl, being a good example.

Now reigning Miss South Africa, Zozibini Tunzi, has clapped back at all the negative comments she's received since being crowned last month. Zozibini decided to "take advantage of the teaching moment" and addressed the hate on Instagram. Miss South Africa 2019, Zozibini Tunzi was welcomed with love in her home town.

"I just want to take a moment to dedicate a post to the unkind comments that I have been receiving about my blackness since my crowning. To comments that are aimed at all brown skinned girls at some point in our lives. Not because it hurts me or gets under my skin, but because I see an opportunity to educate and speak out on a serious issue.



I just want to take a moment to dedicate a post to the unkind comments that I have been receiving about my blackness since my crowning.

When people say hurtful, negative things about black women and black people in general I do not quickly take offense and here's why," she began.

The Eastern Cape-born beauty then wrote of how society has programmed people to believe darker skin isn't beautiful. "Society has previously been programmed in such a way that there's nothing beautiful about being black. The furthest you are from being fair skinned the uglier you are. That unfortunately has been the universal standard of beauty and it is very difficult for some people to

unlearn it.

"I am going into Miss Universe with hopes to shatter whatever misconception and stereotypes people have of beauty. These comments are exactly why we should keep inserting ourselves in spaces where we have been told we do not belong and we will never make it.

"It is up to us re-write the narrative. To whoever else thinks that black is not beautiful I cannot wait for you to experience the depth and magic of a black woman. I am a daughter of the African soil and I am beautiful. See your face reflected in mine."



Jaguza CEO & Co-Founder, Christine Kihunde holding the award in Accra.

APPRECIATION

A 21,000-kilometre journey in pursuit of Tiffany diamonds

ANTWERP

On May 9, 2017, Tiffany & Co ran an advertisement in The New York Times. "We're still in," it said, before directly addressing the president of the United States. "Dear President Trump, We're still in for bold climate action. Please keep the US in the Paris Climate Agreement. The disaster of climate change is too real, and the threat to our planet and to our children is too great."

The diamond industry has not traditionally been synonymous with sustainable, ethical, environmentally friendly business practices. It has not traditionally been viewed as a proponent of positive change. In truth, it has a murky history littered with phrases like "blood" and "conflict." But Tiffany & Co is trying to change all that.

Much like these sleepy

streets, the unassuming exterior of the Laurelton Diamonds headquarters offers no indication of the treasures to be found within. This is the first stop in a 21,000-kilometre journey that I will take as I chart the course of a Tiffany diamond. I will follow the gems from this nondescript building at Schupstraat 9, where they are examined and sorted, to a low-key industrial estate on the paradisiacal island of Mauritius, where they are painstakingly cut, polished and transformed from their rough state.

The gems are already billions of years into their own odyssey - having formed deep in the bowels of the Earth, they have, over the course of millennia, stealthily travelled up to the surface to be discovered in mines as far afield as Botswana, Canada, Namibia, Russia and South Africa. Those deemed worthy end up in this building in Antwerp.



Handling rough Tiffany diamonds in Antwerp.

Only 0.04 per cent of the world's gem-grade diamonds meet Tiffany's exacting standards, and it is these that I discover piled up in a room within the Laurelton building. Sachets of tiny rough diamonds dot the tabletops, alongside neat piles of stones the size of mini sugar cubes. With so many gems gathered in one place, you could almost forget how valuable each one is. Almost.

In Antwerp, the gems are sorted for size, colour, clarity and fluorescence (in a special machine, the rough diamonds are exposed to UV light; those with too much fluorescence are rejected, as this will ultimately result in a milky effect in the polished stone). I watch on as experts use computer software to work out how to extract the best possible combination of polished stones from the rough. It's a

game of millimetres and minutiae, of mathematical precision and infinitesimal angles. The stones are then taken off to be cut, using a water laser technology that is shrouded in secrecy.

Established in 2002 and named for Laurelton Hall, the Long Island home of Louis Comfort Tiffany, Laurelton Diamonds is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tiffany & Co, and responsible for managing the company's worldwide diamond supply chain. Over the last two decades, Tiffany has transformed itself into a vertically integrated company that sources, polishes and cuts all its own diamonds. In an era when more and more people are paying attention to such things, this allows the company to achieve a level of transparency, traceability and accountability that had long been missing from the diamond industry.

As of this year, all of Tiffany's newly sourced diamonds of 0.8 carats and over are being marked with a unique serial

number, etched on to them by laser and invisible to the naked eye, which will tell customers exactly where their diamond has come from. "There should be nothing opaque about Tiffany diamonds," Alessandro Bogliolo, the company's chief executive officer, said when the initiative was launched. "Our clients want and deserve to know where their most valuable, most cherished diamond jewellery is from, and how it came to be."

By 2020, Tiffany plans to be able to share details about the diamond's entire craftsmanship journey: where it was sourced, its passage to Antwerp and then its onward journey to Laurelton's various other operations around the world - the company has cutting and polishing facilities in Mauritius, Botswana, Vietnam and Cambodia, along with jewellery manufacturing facilities in New York, Kentucky, Rhode Island and the Dominican Republic.

Newly arrived from Antwerp, the diamonds sit behind

iron bars, encased in paper envelopes within neatly stacked boxes, at the Laurelton facility in Mauritius. Between 40,000 and 50,000 medium-sized diamonds pass through this building each year.

Along well-lit work benches, a predominantly local workforce (which earns what Tiffany calls a "living wage," at least 60 per cent higher than the minimum wage set by the government of Mauritius) industriously cuts and polishes priceless gems.

I try my hand at the polishing process, running a diamond back and forth along one of the specially created wheel cutters, which are accurate to five microns. I feel the friction as the hardest material on Earth is forced to bend to my will, and marvel, once again, at the precision and patience required to shape such minuscule facets. Nature is responsible for the colour, clarity and carat count of a diamond; the cut alone is dictated by human hands.



Wemmy de Maaker, founder of Dubai's Mawaheb, opened the cafe and art studio for adults with special needs in 2010.

RECOGNITION

The cafe owner who empowers adults with special needs speaks

DUBAI

Wemmy de Maaker's first memory of working alongside people with special needs goes back to when she was 14 and volunteered to assist children with Down syndrome.

Now, Ms de Maaker, 53, a Dubai resident from the Netherlands, is battling society's misconceptions about people with special needs by showing the public what people of determination can achieve.

In 2010, a cafe opened in Al Fahidi that was unlike any other in Dubai. Mawaheb, a cafe and art studio, was home to four adults with special needs who could create art and develop social skills. Artists from the cafe have gone on to host their own exhibitions, while one even had his art published on the cover of Emirates airline's magazine.

Mawaheb was created by Ms de Maaker, a former nurse, who said she wanted to give a voice to people with special needs. "When I moved to Dubai in 2002, I did not see any people with special needs in the malls or on the streets," Ms de Maaker said.

"I was a volunteer at a school and I learnt that there were no facilities for adults with special needs. Many parents were desperate to know where they could send

their children when they finished school."

She said that many adults with special needs were simply sitting at home becoming depressed or developing behavioural problems. "I want to integrate people with special needs into society because I believe in equality and acceptance. They are as important to society as everyone else," she said.

Ms de Maaker came up with the concept for Mawaheb in 2008 but it took her two years to do the necessary research and create a business plan to get Mawaheb up and running. She worked at Dutch residential homes and day care centres for adults with special needs for more than 15 years before moving to the UAE. She quit her job and moved to Dubai in 2002 when her husband was given a job as a consultant in the emirate.

Ms de Maaker said she made art part of the concept for Mawaheb because she felt it was a universal language through which UAE residents from all over the world could connect. Mawaheb has a shop and a cafe where students learn the basics of hospitality, as well as developing their social and communication skills.

Creating a business plan and being granted approvals were far from easy, but she persisted with her ambition when many before had giv-

en up. The art studio will celebrate its ninth anniversary in October and has worked with more than 60 students so far.

"I wanted to show the community that people with special needs can achieve so much if we have faith in them," Ms de Maaker said. "We should listen to them and involve them in community activities."

She said that when she arrived in the UAE, the country did not have as strong an understanding of special needs as it does today. She said she encouraged people to keep an open mind because people with special needs can teach many lessons. Students at the cafe conduct workshops, yoga classes and art classes. For Ms de Maaker, the most important goal is to increase awareness about people with special needs and make sure they are included in society.

"When I first came to Mawaheb, I had no confidence and I did not believe in myself," James Casaki, 32, a British student at Mawaheb, said. "Now, I am working on a solo exhibition that starts next month."

Wemmy is an amazing person and she has watched me grow in confidence. "She gave me the chance to do art and has helped to change my life. Cafes and businesses should give people with special needs opportunities."



ITV PGM SCHEDULE	
TUESDAY 10 Sept	23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International
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 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:25 Igizo: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Uchumi na biashara 13:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tafakari rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipini maalum rpt: Nyumba ni chao	
14:15 Series rpt: The Slingshot 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:00 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean Drama: The Great queen Seonduk 18:55 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Series: The Slingshot 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International	
WEDNESDAY 11 Sept	THURSDAY 12 Sept
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 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk 11:15 Jagina rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 14:00 Series rpt: The Slingshot 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tafakari 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yakol! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Historia ya utumwa 22:15 Series: The Slingshot	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 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 14:15 Mr Tanzania rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru -live 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Shamba lulu 18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Mwanzo mzuri 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo
FRIDAY 13 Sept	SATURDAY 14 Sept
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 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 14:15 Mr Tanzania rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru -live 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Shamba lulu 18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Mwanzo mzuri 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International
SUNDAY 15 Sept	MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM
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Tues 10 Sept	Wed 11 Sept
06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 Sports Gazette 12:30 Out n' About rpt 13:00 Series rpt: Grapes of wine 13:45 Scandal 14:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 Sports Gazette 12:30 Out n' About rpt 13:00 Series rpt: Grapes of wine 13:45 Scandal 14:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera
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WORLD

Biden maintains grip on 2020 Democratic race after third debate

WASHINGTON

THOSE expecting Joe Biden's presidential candidacy to flame out any day now will have to keep waiting.

The former U.S. vice president survived another Democratic debate on Thursday largely unscathed and unbowed, leaving those on the margins of the race for the party's 2020 nomination wondering if their time to gain ground on the front-runner is running out.

If anything, the third Democratic debate in Houston was notable for how few of the nine other candidates took hard swings at Biden, a marked contrast from earlier debates when his record was more directly challenged.

The evening likely left the race fairly much as it was before the debate, with Biden holding a sizeable, but not overwhelming lead over U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

None of the other 17 Democratic presidential candidates seeking the chance to battle Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election have more than 4% support, according to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday.

Biden seemed more vulnerable

than ever coming into the debate, facing persistent questions about his age, verbal slip-ups and performance on the campaign trail.

But on Thursday, his resilience and forceful defense of his record as a U.S. senator and No. 2 to former President Barack Obama left wide open the question of who else in the field might rise to shake up the race.

"Most had a decent night, but the front-runners are still the front-runners," said Leah Daughtry, a Democratic strategist in South Carolina, a critical early voting state in next year's nominating contests.

FEW FIREWORKS

It was the first time Warren was on a debate stage with Biden and the matchup between the old-school Democratic centrist and the spirited progressive senator from Massachusetts was widely anticipated.

Yet it produced no fireworks, as Warren stuck to her pattern of not criticizing other Democrats.

More fortunate for the 76-year-old Biden: Aside from a few slips of the tongue, he provided little ammunition for those who argue he is too old or too out of step to be the party's nomi-

YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE 2020



Joe Biden (centre), Bernie Sanders (left) and Elizabeth Warren (right) faced off in Houston. (AFP)

nee.

Rather, most of the candidates stressed party unity and worried aloud about not appearing divided in front of the American people, a shift from earlier debates where intraparty conflict was the story.

When Biden's rivals on stage did go on the attack, their attempts largely backfired. Most notable was a guided missile fired by Julian Castro, the U.S. housing secretary under Obama, who worked hard to portray Biden as past his prime.

Castro, 44, alleged Biden was "forgetting" something he had said a few minutes earlier and then followed it up by charging that he, not Biden, was the better steward of Obama's legacy, resulting in audible gasps from the large crowd in attendance.

As it turned out, Castro was incorrect about what Biden had said earlier.

Biden's advisers criticized Castro for what they called a "cheap shot" and argued that Castro had not learned the lesson of the first two debates - attacking Biden does not pay off.

"Castro went too far, tone-wise," said Delacey Skinner, a Democratic strategist in Washington who is unaffiliated with a campaign. "The job at Biden's age was cringeworthy."

Even U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, a candidate on stage with Biden, told ABC News afterward that Castro's attack was "so personal and so unnecessary."

Asked afterward about the charge he had taken a cheap shot, Castro told MSNBC: "I com-

pletely disagree," and said he was not suggesting Biden was too old but seeking to highlight their policy differences on healthcare.

Biden was helped as well by several candidates paying homage to Obama's record, which reinforced Biden's long-standing argument that he is best positioned to build on the former president's achievements and reverse Trump's policies.

Biden himself seized on Obama's popularity with Democrats early on, by suggesting that Warren lined up with Sanders, a self-described socialist, on policy issues, while he mirrored Obama.

In doing so, Biden drew a sharp distinction between himself and his two closest challengers. "The senator says she's for Bernie," Biden said. "Well, I'm for Barack."

Skinner said another candidate who probably helped himself the most on Thursday was Beto O'Rourke, the former Texas congressman who has refashioned his campaign persona in the aftermath of last month's shootings in his hometown of El Paso that killed 22.

O'Rourke, who has made gun control his animating issue, vowed unequivocally to call for an assault weapons ban if elected president in a statement that quickly went viral on social media.

"I think he'll generate some buzz out of this performance," Skinner said. "The question will be whether or not he can capitalize on it and sustain it."

Agencies

Countries with 80% of the world's population back Russia's approaches - Lavrov

MOSCOW

NATIONS that have over 80% of the global population living within their borders share Moscow's foreign policy line, Russia's top diplomat Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with the Trud newspaper.

"The overwhelming majority of countries that make up over 80% of the worldwide population are receptive to Russia's international political steps, support Russia's approaches to the key problems of today's world," he said, adding that Western countries, with whom Russia still has a difficult relationship, represent a small part of the global community.

The chief diplomat noted that Russia as an important guarantor of international security will continue to facilitate "the strengthening of fair, democratic initiatives in the international life" and for those purposes will "coordinate steps with its allies and adherents" further on.

"We expect our Western colleagues, chiefly the US, to understand that it is essential to give up on confrontation logic at some point.

That will open up principally new possibilities for us in the fight against modern challenges and threats, the bulk of which are transnational and requires the joint efforts of absolutely all states," the diplomat emphasized.

Agencies

Zimbabwe's Mugabe to be buried at national shrine, family says

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S founder Robert Mugabe will be buried at a national shrine in Harare on Sunday, the Mugabe family spokesman said yesterday, contradicting comments a day earlier which suggested the family was resisting the government's burial plans.

Mugabe, who ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years until he was ousted by his own army in November 2017, died in a Singapore hospital a week ago aged 95.

A fight over his burial place has threatened to undermine his successor, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mugabe's former deputy who conspired to topple him, and expose deep rifts in the governing ZANU-PF party.

"I can confirm that he will be buried at the National Heroes Acre tomorrow," family spokesman Leo Mugabe said, adding that an official ceremony would be followed by a private family event at the monument to heroes of the liberation war against white minority rule.

Mugabe's body arrived in Zimbabwe from Singapore on Wednesday and started three days of lying in state on Thursday.

Some of Mugabe's relatives have expressed bitterness at the way former comrades including Mnangagwa ousted him and pushed for Mugabe to be buried in his home village.

Yesterday, foreign dignitaries were due to start arriving in Harare ahead of a state funeral planned for the country's National Sports Stadium today.

Heads of state expected to attend the funeral include South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta.

Agencies

Libya's UN-backed gov't demands Italy to end fishing deal with eastern-based gov't

TRIPOLI

THE Foreign Ministry of the UN-backed government of Libya on Thursday demanded Italy to end a fishing agreement signed with the rival eastern-based government.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Accord demanded the competent Italian authorities to intervene to stop the fishing federation in the island of Sicily from dealing with illegal bodies in the eastern region," the Ministry said in a statement.

"The Ministry said in a note sent to the Italian Embassy in Tripoli that the so-called Military Investment and Public Works Authority in the eastern region is an illegal body and that dealing with it is a violation of international resolutions," the statement said.

The statement also said that the monthly fee of 100,000 euros (110,000 U.S. dollars) paid according to the agreement to the Military Investment and Public Works Authority is "funding of illegitimate bodies, support to the continual aggression on the capital, and a coup against the legitimate government in Libya."

Xinhua

British PM says he didn't lie to Queen over Parliament suspension

LONDON

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson gave his first public response on Thursday in the row over the suspension of the British Parliament, insisting he did not lie to Queen Elizabeth II.

Opposition politicians have demanded a recall of Parliament, suspended on Monday for five weeks, after judges in Scotland ruled the government had not told the British monarch the real

reason Johnson wanted the shutdown.

The issue will go before the highest legal body in Britain, the Supreme Court, next Tuesday for a final decision.

During a boat trip on the River Thames in London, Johnson was asked about the suspension of Parliament.

The Guardian reported that the prime minister denied lying to the Queen over the suspension, insisting such claims were "absolutely



not true".

Johnson was asked if he had lied to the Queen when he asked her to prorogue Parliament for

five weeks.

The Guardian reported that Johnson replied: "Absolutely not. The high court in England plainly agrees with us but the supreme court will have to decide."

Media reports said Johnson was very hopeful there would be a deal with the European Union (EU) on Britain's departure.

He said the British Parliament will have time both before and after the crucial European Council summit on Oct. 17-18 to talk about

a Brexit deal.

With less than 50 days before Britain's planned exit from the EU on Oct. 31, Johnson added: "I'm very hopeful that we will get a deal at that crucial summit. We're working very hard - I've been around the European capitals talking to our friends.

"I think we can see the rough area of a landing space, of how you can do it. It will be tough, it will be hard, but I think we can get there."

Agencies

Malicious rumors widen rifts, fuel violence in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

PERSISTENT rumors and fake news have exacerbated social tensions and whipped up violent activities in Hong Kong over the past three months.

Much of the misinformation has been used by radical protesters as pretexts to resort to more violence, slander police and government authorities, and stir up hatred. Hong Kong authorities have made tremendous efforts to provide the facts and stop people from engaging in speculation.

A large part of the daily press conferences held by the Hong Kong police was spent on clarifying various types of unfounded

comments about police operations. Though police spokespeople repeatedly refuted these allegations, some media chose not to believe in facts but stuck to their own perspectives.

Recently, the opposition and radicals spread rumors about the protester death at Prince Edward MTR station on Aug 31. Taking this claim as an excuse, radical protesters surrounded and attacked the Mong Kok police station, and went so far to attempt setting up a "mourning hall" at the MTR station.

On Tuesday, a joint press conference by the police, hospital authority and fire department laid bare the facts, saying neither



Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam

Mong Kok Police Station nor the police missing persons unit had received any report of missing persons in connection with the incident on Aug 31.

A total of 53 people were arrested at Prince Edward MTR station on the night of Aug 31, including seven people who needed to be

sent to hospitals for treatment.

The opposition hyped up another incident that a female police officer had strip-searched a female protester for 15 to 30 minutes.

The Hong Kong police then clarified that they checked related documents and the CCTV record, and found that the level of the search was not the "3C" level which requires a strip search; the whole search took four minutes.

Deliberately misinterpreting photos and videos of police operations is another common practice to cook up false accusations against police.

A photo of a police officer "hitting" non-protesters with his shield had been widely used as

proof of police brutality. Video footage later revealed that the officer was holding his shield up to protect passersby as he escorted them out of the danger zone.

During a demonstration in Sheung Shui, a protester tried to jump from a six-meter footbridge to flee the police but was saved by several police officers who rushed to hold him. The photo was put online but captioned wrongfully saying the police were trying to push the protester off the bridge.

Agitation and mud-slinging against officers have been recurrent. During a protest at Tsuen Wan on Aug 25, some violent protesters hurled petrol bombs at the police.

Xinhua

Lebanon struggles to find solution to waste crisis

BEIRUT

LEBANON has struggled to find a proper solution to deal with its waste crisis since the situation deteriorated in the wake of its civil war.

The garbage problem emerged following the closure of the controversial Naameh landfill in July 2015, which has disposed more than 15 million tons of trash, a number far more than two million tons as originally planned in 1998.

In fact, Lebanon produces a bit more than two million tons of trash every year with 94 percent of garbage being buried in landfills and around 6 percent getting recycled.

Despite the European Union's efforts to upgrade solid waste management capacities, Lebanon still finds itself

unable to deal with the increasingly amount of trash.

"The main problem with trash in Lebanon is that the government did not resort to the original waste hierarchy ... over 90 percent of our waste today is placed in landfills while we disregarded the most important steps," Julien Jreissati, Arab world campaigner at Greenpeace Mediterranean, told Xinhua.

Jreissati explained that the first step in proper waste management is to reduce waste.

"This way we would be already addressing the issue of lands use," said

Jreissati. He added that there should be incentives to avoid people using plastic bags, for instance, imposing taxes on such material or providing alternatives to such products. Jreissati said the third step to tackle garbage is recycling.

However, he explains the weakness of waste classification makes recycling quite difficult in Lebanon, enumerating that trash collecting companies compress waste all together which makes it impossible to sort.

"We need to sort from the source and the companies themselves need to collect different kinds of wastes," he added. Jreissati said that most of Lebanon's

waste is organic which could result in fertilizers used in agriculture if sorted the right way. However, he expressed an opposing stance against incinerators which have been under heavy debate in Lebanon for a long time now.

Jreissati explained that incinerators can only burn organic waste if recyclable items are added to it, which means that the government would not be giving incentive to people to reduce, sort and recycle products.

Jreissati also argued that incinerators constitute the most expensive solution while they are very advanced and require a lot of monitoring, not to forget

that they create toxic gas if filters are not changed regularly.

"If we use incinerators we would be converting safe stable waste into toxic waste and fly ash which, in other countries, are normally sent to islands and buried thousands of meters under the ground," he said.

For his part, Environment Minister Fadi Jreissati did not seem too insistent on incinerators. His plan for waste management includes the creation of two incinerators by the government and a third one by Beirut's municipality.

"Any solution that would lessen the

use of landfills would be environmentally profitable for me. The incinerator's problem is not toxins because we can change filters and there would be a supervision by international experts in partnership with academics," he told Xinhua.

The minister added that fly ash can be put in sanitary landfills which is not bad because today all the trash is being buried in landfills everywhere in the world.

However, the minister insisted that the main plan for the ministry before resorting to incinerators would be reducing, sorting and then recycling waste while reducing import by reusing the products that Lebanon already has.

Agencies

US businesses gravitate toward China market despite trade volatility

BEIJING

OF the U.S. companies investing in China, some dive right in while some cautiously dip their toes, but few want to miss out on the opportunities the market affords.

Although the lingering trade dispute cause U.S. businesses to be more cautious about investment decisions, most of them have no intention of retreating from China. They will stick to the Chinese market and supply chains, expanding their presence and enhancing cooperation with Chinese partners to overcome the challenges.

COMMITTED TO CHINA MARKET

The 2019 member survey of the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC) showed that for the council's more than 220 member companies, the Chinese market remains a priority over other markets due to its significance as a driver of revenue growth.

Some 97 percent of the USCBC member companies reported increased profitability in China in 2019. "It's very important for worldwide competitiveness that these companies be in China and be successful there," said USCBC president Craig Allen, expecting the profitability to be higher with China further opening up the market.

To tap into the China market, U.S. materials science conglomerate Dow broke ground in June on a new silicone specialty resin line in Zhangjiagang City of eastern China's Jiangsu Province, the third new line it has invested in over the past three years.

Calling China a strategic market, a manufacturing and innovation hub for Dow and an important part of the international supply chain of Dow, Lim Yoke Loon, Dow's Greater China president, said: "We are here for the long run."

Dow in 2009 opened the Shanghai Dow Center, its largest integrated R&D center outside the United States. More than 20 new labs were moved to the center last year to facilitate growing needs from downstream businesses like consumer care, auto and electronics.

To meet growing market demand, Kohler Engines, a U.S. producer of engines and parts with a deep presence in China, rolled out a new production line earlier this year at its manufacturing plant in Chongqing Municipality, a vehicle-manufacturing powerhouse in southwest China.

"The Chongqing plant has produced nearly 9 million engines since it was built in 2007," said Dong Chongqing, senior marketing manager of Kohler Engines China, adding that the strong performance has reinforced their confidence to further grow with China.

To promote its products in the Chinese market, Matracks Inc., a U.S. manufacturer of rubber track conversions, set up a representative office in Shanghai in 2010.

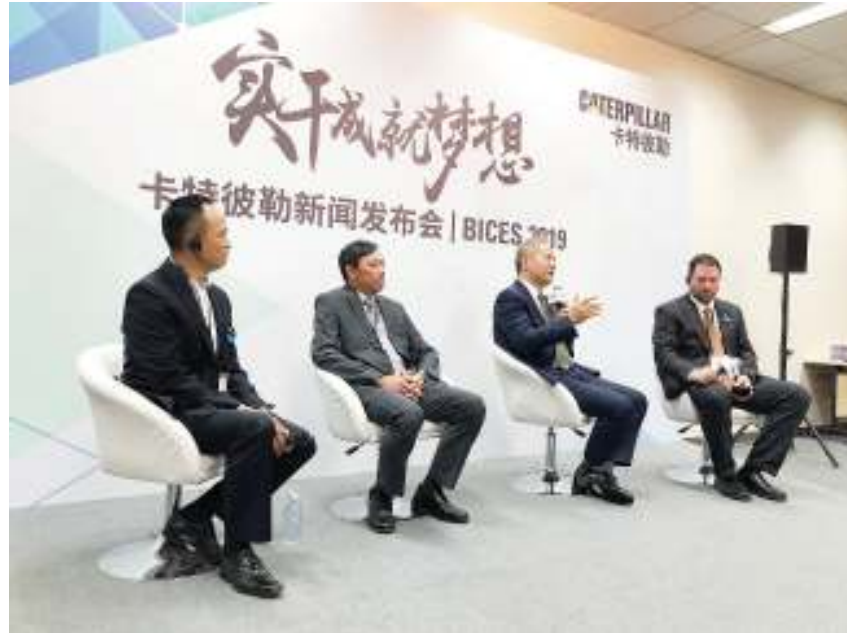
"We value the market and want to have a presence here," said Brian Liu, chief representative of the Matracks Shanghai representative office.

The USCBC said the majority of American companies surveyed remain committed to the China market, with 87 percent of them planning to continue to invest in China.

IRREPLACEABLE IN SUPPLY CHAIN

Although costs rise in China, U.S. businesses do not want to abandon their long-standing supply relationship. They manage to absorb rising costs or find ways to share with suppliers or customers.

"We have been cooperating with Caterpillar for more than two decades,



Chen Qihua, vice president of Caterpillar Inc., speaks at the press conference to launch new products at the new venue of China International Exhibition Center in Beijing Sept. 4, 2019. (Xinhua)

and our bond cannot be easily broken down," said Wan Jianping, general manager of China's Jiangxi Jinghang Aviation Forging & Casting Co., which produces parts for U.S. heavy machinery giant Caterpillar Inc.

Industrial products are not as cost-sensitive as consumer goods; factors such as quality control, services, production efficiency and manufacturing clusters are more important. Some lower-cost countries cannot compete with China in terms of these factors, Wan said, adding that China's rising efficiency can largely offset the cost increases.

Wan's company is just one of Caterpillar's more-than-400 Chinese suppliers. "We have forged a solid strategic cooperation partnership with our Chinese dealers and suppliers in our 43-year operation here, and our jointly pursuing sustainable development in

the market will not change," said Chen Qihua, vice president of Caterpillar Inc.

"The truth of the matter is, we've been trying to get out of China for years, but they just seem to do it better than anybody else," Rick Helfenbein, president and CEO of the American Apparel and Footwear Association, said when asked whether U.S. companies could somehow shift supply chains out of China at a public hearing held by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

"There are limited places ... we can go," Helfenbein said, adding that the next possible locations following China -- Vietnam, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh -- are simply not cost-effective.

Lack of experienced manufacturing workers, electricity and industrial clusters are also main obstacles of

moving production to some Southeast Asian countries, Dong Chongqing said.

INVESTMENT WELCOMED

"China has a vast market. We welcome enterprises from all countries, including those from the United States, to expand economic, trade and investment cooperation with China and achieve mutually beneficial results," Premier Li Keqiang said Tuesday when meeting with American delegation visiting China.

China will only open wider to the outside world and is committed to creating a market-oriented, law-based international business environment where domestic and foreign enterprises are treated equally and the protection of intellectual property is given priority, the premier said.

To further open up its market, China unveiled a series of measures, including a shortened negative list for foreign investment as well as scraping investment quotas on the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (QFII) scheme and its yuan-denominated sibling RQFII.

Having worked in Caterpillar for 25 years and now with responsibility for the company's China operations, Chen Qihua said China's business environment is becoming more open, transparent and fair.

Although the China-U.S. trade dispute increased uncertainties, U.S. companies operating in China are looking at the frictions from a long-term perspective.

"Kohler Engines has gone through lots of economic fluctuations and regional trade disputes in its 100-year-long history. The China-U.S. trade dispute causes fluctuations but will not be a disaster. We focus on long-term sustainable development," Dong Chongqing said. **Xinhua**

US business leaders urge Congress to act on gun violence

WASHINGTON

CHIEF executives of some of the best-known companies in the United States on Thursday urged Congress to act on gun violence, a scourge that has long plagued the nation.

"Doing nothing about America's gun violence crisis is simply unacceptable and it is time to stand with the American public on gun safety," read a letter signed by the heads of 145 U.S. companies, including Airbnb, Twitter, and Uber.

Specifically, they were asking the Senate to pass a bill to "require background checks on all gun sales" and a strong law that "would allow courts to issue life-saving extreme risk protection orders."

"There are steps Congress can, and must, take to prevent and reduce gun violence," read the letter. "We need our lawmakers to support common-sense gun laws that could prevent tragedies like these."

The letter came several weeks after two mass shootings, which occurred hours apart in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, took dozens of lives combined in August.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a non-profit organization which advocates for gun control and against gun violence, applauded the letter, while urging U.S. politicians to listen to the message.

"This diverse coalition of leading companies knows what consumers want and, for the first time, is using its combined clout and knowledge to push for common-sense gun safety legislation," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, in a press release on Thursday. **Xinhua**

Kremlin denounces calls by Ukraine's Zelensky to carry on sanctions against Russia

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin has denounced the calls by Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky for the West to continue slapping sanctions against Russia.

"We have not welcomed it Zelensky's statement. We all know that there is a set of talking points, maybe they have become trivial by now, however, these talking points have been proven correct many times," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"Sanctions are a double-edged sword, they do not benefit anyone, they do not help to resolve the problem, they violate international law, blur the lines of international law and in general, they bring good neither to the countries against which they are introduced nor to the countries that introduce them."

"The statements that we hear from Kiev on the development of a roadmap to adhere to the obligations of the Ukrainian side on the implementation of the Minsk Agreements seem much more appealing to us," Peskov (pictured) noted. "These words, these reports are more appealing to us than those mentioned [on sanctions]," the spokesman said.

Earlier, during the Yalta European Strategy Conference in Kiev, Zelensky urged the West to continue its sanctions policy against Russia, calling the sanctions "a tax for peace."

The US and the EU first imposed sanctions against Russia



in March 2014 after Crimea reunited with Russia.

The first wave of individual sanctions included a number of Crimean officials and Russian citizens who, according to the West, were involved in the events in Crimea. These sanctions have been expanded several times since then, with the West citing Russia's influence in Donbass.

The additional restrictions covered banking and industrial sectors of the Russian economy. Representatives of the US and the EU stated several times that if the Minsk Agreements are fully adhered to, sanctions against Russia in relation to the events in eastern Ukraine will be lifted. Crimea sanctions will remain in force.

Russia-Ukraine prisoner swap Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has not ruled out that Russia and Ukraine may carry out another exchange of individuals being held in each other's custody, but warned that preparations for

such an event will require much time and effort.

"This [new exchange] will require the start of another process, an exchange of opinion and very scrupulous and time-consuming work," Peskov told the media. "Nobody is ruling out the possibility and expediency of this process a priori. It is a subject matter of bilateral contacts," he added.

Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky said yesterday Kiev was working on lists for another exchange of held persons with Russia.

Moscow and Kiev on September 7 exchanged 35 held persons for 35. Preparations for the exchange were stepped up after Zelensky's victory in the presidential election.

The active phase of the talks and legal procedures began several weeks ago. On September 5, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that there would be a large-scale exchange and that it might serve a step towards normalization of bilateral relations.

Handover of detained vessels in Kerch Strait

In the course of the prisoner swap negotiations, Russia and Ukraine have not discussed the handover of Ukrainian ships detained in the Kerch Strait, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"No, we haven't discussed this issue," he said, adding that he is not ready to specify the conditions Russia puts forward to hand over the ships to Ukraine.

"I am not ready to discuss this issue with you now. It seems that this issue should be raised within the framework of the contacts between Moscow and Kiev," the Kremlin spokesman said. "When the issue is raised, we will discuss it."

On November 25, 2018, three Ukrainian warships, en route from Odessa to Mariupol, illegally crossed Russia's state border, entered Russia's territorial waters in the Kerch Strait and started performing dangerous maneuvers. Despite the repeated warnings and demands to stop, the Ukrainian vessels continued their way, forcing Russia to use weapons. All three Ukrainian ships were detained in the Black Sea, along with 24 Ukrainian sailors.

On September 7, Moscow and Kiev carried out a "35 for 35" exchange of detainees, which included the 24 Ukrainian sailors taken into custody in the Kerch Strait.

Agencies

UN chief launches plan of action to safeguard religious sites

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday launched a plan of action to safeguard religious sites, against the backdrop of a surge in attacks on places of worship and widespread hate speech.

The plan of action, developed by the UN Alliance of Civilizations, provides concrete recommendations to support member states in their efforts to ensure that religious sites are safe, that worshippers can observe their rituals in peace, and that the values of compassion and tolerance are fostered globally. Guterres told a launch ceremony.

"Religious sites are powerful symbols of our collective consciousness. When people are attacked because of their religion or beliefs, all of society is diminished," he said. "Houses of worship around the world must be safe havens for reflection and peace, not sites of bloodshed and terror. People everywhere must be allowed to observe and practice their faiths in peace."

With this plan of action, the United Nations is taking an important step to advance that critical goal and address what has emerged as one of the leading global challenges of our era, he said.

The world is plagued with



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

a surge in anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred, attacks against Christians and other religious groups, Guterres told reporters after the launch of the plan of action.

In recent months alone, Jews have been murdered in synagogues, Muslims gunned down in mosques, Christians killed at prayer, he said.

Beyond the targeting of religious sites, loathsome rhetoric is also spreading like wildfire. This includes hate speech targeting not only religious groups but also migrants, minorities and refugees; assertions of white supremacy; a resurgence of neo-Nazi ideology; venom directed at anyone considered the so-called "other," said the UN chief.

The world must step up to

stamp out anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred, persecution of Christians, and all other forms of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and incitement, he said.

The plan of action asks the United Nations to develop a global communications campaign to foster mutual respect and understanding, develop a mapping of religious sites around the world, pursue efforts on the prevention of violent extremism through education, and strengthen cooperation with regional organizations to foster intercultural dialogue.

It also makes recommendations for member states, religious leaders and civil society.

Xinhua

China stays rational to cope with external uncertainties

ON Sept. 11, the Customs Tariff Commission of China's State Council announced the first group of US imports for exclusion from the initial round of additional tariffs.

Sixteen types of US products will be excluded from the first round of additional Chinese tariffs with effect from Sept. 17, 2019, and affected import enterprises are allowed to apply for refunds of collected duties.

It is a rational decision eyeing the overall picture.

There is no winner in a trade war. China does not want a trade war, but it is not afraid of one and it will fight one if

necessary. China's position on this has never changed. The country's countermeasures are a just act responding to the US who unilaterally launched and continuously escalated the economic and trade frictions.

The exemption lists reflect China's rationality and restraint it has always exercised in dealing with the China-US trade disputes.

All the countermeasures taken by the Chinese side are not for the sake of confrontation, and the tariff increase is not aiming at earning more tariffs, either.

Since China started the

tariff exclusion process for US imports on a trial basis on May 13, relevant Chinese departments have carefully examined eligible applications and taken on board related suggestions.

Will the additional tariffs make it difficult for enterprises to find substitutes? Will they cause negative structural impacts on relevant industries? Will they lower the life quality of Chinese citizens?

These questions have all been taken into consideration, which demonstrates the responsibility the Chinese government is fulfilling for its own people and enterprises in

China.

However, some people in the US distorted the exemption lists unveiled by China, saying the lists are a signal that China is not able to take the impacts of the trade friction.

What these people said is one-sided and is intended to make hypes.

Chinese economy is resilient and China is not afraid of any external challenge. China has the only complete industrial chain in the world, and this chain cannot be easily destroyed by the US tariff rise. In the short term, the US tariffs will only highlight the value of

China in the global industrial chain.

According to a survey by US-China Business Council, 87 percent of interviewed US enterprises had no plans to leave China.

Rhodium Group statistics showed that US enterprises invested \$6.8 billion in China in the first half of 2019, which is 1.5% more than in the same periods of the previous two years.

China has always been staying lucid in doing its own things well. The measures it has taken to continuously take off external pressure, such as

promoting high-quality development, expanding opening-up and improving business environment, have been lauded by the world.

Tim Stratford, chairman of American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China), said recently that the confidence of AmCham China's members in opening up market by the Chinese government is at a historic level, and over half of its members still consider China as one of their top three investment destinations worldwide.

The increasingly strong appeals shown by the Chinese

market well responded to the unreal "decoupling" illusions of some US politicians.

Over the past more than a year of trade frictions, China has spared no effort to inject impetus into sustained and healthy economic development and to improve the life quality of its people.

Facts once again prove that China is making the optimal choice by exerting rationality, doing its own things well and maintaining its own stability when facing various external uncertainties.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Crew members film a scene on the set of a ROK's film in Lagos, Nigeria July 21, 2019. REUTERS

Action! Nigeria's film industry draws global entertainment brands

LAGOS

"OYA!" shouts the director in Nigerian Pidgin English. Actors take their marks. Lighting blinks on. The film crew snaps into action after the order to hurry up.

It's another day in Nollywood, the affectionate nickname for Nigeria's film industry - the world's second most prolific after India's Bollywood, producing hundreds of films and TV episodes each month.

For decades it was a factory churning out visual pulp fiction destined for the market stalls of DVD pirates. But Nollywood is increasingly grabbing the attention - and financing - of global entertainment brands.

Some, like French group Vivendi's Canal+, seek to harness Nigerian hustle and know-how to extend the lifespan of the traditional pay-TV model, which is bleeding customers in developed markets but still has a future in Africa.

Others, including South Africa's MultiChoice, are using Nigeria as a testing ground for introducing streaming platforms in African markets with poor communications infrastructure and low income levels.

In both cases, it's local production that's benefiting.

"Ten years ago Nollywood was very different," Mary Njoku, whose ROK studios was acquired by Canal+ in July, told Reuters as the film crew worked in an abandoned hotel in Nigeria's megacity Lagos. "Today we shoot with better cameras... We do things differently."

A room on the hotel's top floor was standing in for a college dorm on "What Are Friends For?", an ROK comedy series that will be among new shows aired by Canal+ in coming months.

The company first dipped its toe into Africa's most populous country six years ago, buying up local films, dubbing them and airing them on a dedicated channel, Nollywood TV, to viewers in French-speaking Africa.

That success led to the creation of a second channel.

The deal with ROK secures a steady supply of new films and series as the firm eyes a further expansion of African content, said Fabrice Faux, Canal+ International's chief content officer.

Since it was founded six years ago, ROK has produced more than 540 films and 25 series. Under the Canal+ deal, Njoku says it aims to increase production from next year to around 300 films and 20 series annually.

Canal+'s pivot to Africa - a golden opportunity for ROK - is a business necessity for the French company.

"It is one of the very rare pay-TV markets that is growing and is growing very fast," Faux told Reuters. "When I joined Canal+ International back in 2014, we had half a million (African subscribers) and now we have 4 million."

Compare that to mainland France where, as of last year, it had lost some 1.3 million individual subscribers since 2013.

Much of that decline arose from losing broadcasting rights to popular sporting events. But it also reflected stiff competition from streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon. However, Faux believes such rivals pose no threat in Africa due to a widespread lack of 4G coverage or fixed broadband internet on the continent.

To properly develop African markets, however, Canal+ must cater to their diverse audiences, Faux said.

Francophone Africa has no Nollywood

equivalent. Producing shows there has been slow and expensive, as Canal+ has been forced to bring in film crews from Europe to shoot on location, Faux said. He now hopes Canal+ can use ROK to clone the Nollywood model.

"The best knowledge and expertise is here in Nigeria. So it is our intention to try to bring some producers, technicians, directors to French-speaking Africa, for us to try to develop new production methods," Faux said.

If Canal+ sees little threat from streaming services in Africa, MultiChoice - the first major entertainment group to realise Nollywood's potential - is out to prove it wrong.

In its infancy in the 1990s, Nollywood churned out cheap films ranging from bawdy comedies to morality tales about witchcraft and infidelity.

Low on production quality but high on entertainment value, these movies quickly garnered a fanatical following across Africa and its diaspora. And in 2003, MultiChoice launched Africa Magic - a Nollywood channel that would grow into a subscription package on its DStv satellite network.

In July, Showmax, MultiChoice's fledgling video-streaming service, launched in Nigeria. "The Nollywood phenomenon makes it quite interesting from a content development point of view. You have a huge base of very loyal fans," said Niclas Ekdahl, CEO of MultiChoice's connected video division.

Showmax - also available in South Africa and Kenya - is not alone in Nigeria's video-on-demand market.

U.S. streaming giant Netflix released "Lionheart", its first original film produced in Nigeria, in January. It is also negotiating licence deals for Nigerian films such as "Chief Daddy", a comedy that debuted on the platform in March.

But bringing streaming to African audiences won't be easy. Expensive mobile data and low incomes make regular streaming unaffordable for many on the continent.

One gigabyte of data, enough to watch about three films, costs the equivalent of around \$2.80 in Nigeria, while most people live on less than \$2 a day.

The experience of Malaysian streaming platform iflix is a cautionary tale.

It launched in Nigeria in 2017, then expanded to Kenya, Ghana and Zimbabwe following a tie-up with Kwese TV, a subsidiary of Zimbabwe's Econet Media Limited.

However, data discounts and a pay-as-you-go option were not enough to sustain the business. In December, iflix sold its Africa business to the Econet group, which shut down the streaming service last month.

Showmax's Ekdahl remains undaunted, passing the challenges off as "temporary glitches". The potential payoff - a largely untapped audience of 1 billion - is worth the effort of tailoring a business to African markets, he believes.

Showmax partnered with mobile phone operators Vodacom, MTN and Telkom in South Africa and Safaricom in Kenya to offer reduced data and subscription fees. It aims to do the same in Nigeria.

It is also experimenting with installing wireless internet in public transport, so viewers can download content during their daily commutes without incurring data costs.

The boom in interest in Nigeria's film industry can only be a good thing, says Joshua Richard, a barrel-chested actor who plays a fanatically religious student on "What Are Friends For?"

REUTERS

Dar runners urged to go for medals in Cape Town Marathon

BY BEATRICE PHILEMON

FIVE Tanzania runners, who emerged as winners of the just concluded race known as 'Life is a Marathon', leave for South Africa today to participate in the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon slated for tomorrow in Cape Town.

Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Khamis Suleiman, whose company has sponsored the runners' trip, handed over air tickets to the runners in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

The runners and their jogging clubs in brackets are Jamila Abdullah (Runners Tanzania), as well as Lister Pakua and Maulid Kitenge (E-FM Radio).

Stephen Mndeme (CRDB Bank Plc) and Sanlam Life Insurance customer, Innocent Shauku are also in the list.

Jamila and Maulid Kitenge will run the full 42km race, whilst Nurdin Mshana, Lister Pakua

and Mndeme will run 10km race.

"Please don't let us down, you must run and win medals in Sanlam Cape Town Marathon to help Tanzania shine and win fame for what the country has to offer in sports," he told the runners.

He commended the athletes for their prowess and urged them to put their best foot forward at the race.

"We are very proud of how well these individuals performed and, as they prepare for the trip, we would like to encourage them to be the best they can be," he disclosed.

"You need somebody to help you get through, whether you are a grown up person training for a marathon or a young child learning how to ride a bicycle."

He added: "We strive to ensure that we improve our products and services to serve you throughout the stages of your life."

"You should compete for

medals and not simply make up numbers."

He noted Sanlam Life Insurance firm, in collaboration with Sanlam General Insurance Tanzania, will continue to organize the 'Life is a Marathon' to ensure more people from different jogging clubs and athletics clubs in areas, where the two firms operate, participate in the race.

He said the firm launched the 'Life is a Marathon' August 8 this year in an effort to demonstrate the importance of collaborating with the right partner to help one live good life and achieve goals.

He disclosed it was also an opportunity recognize and celebrate the tenacity and resilience that has become synonymous with athletes.

"Jamila and Pakua emerged as winners of the 'Life is a Marathon' which was an open event, to the public, while Kitenge is the brand ambassador, Sanlam Life Insurance customers, Mndeme and Shauku, were nomi-

nated to take part in the marathon," he noted.

The first stage of the marathon had participants submitting either photos or videos showcasing how they would prepare for a marathon as a two-member team.

Participants were then short-listed for the second stage of the race during which they underwent a series of outdoor fitness sessions.

As the only gold label marathon in the continent, the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon attracts over 23 international clubs including a world class elite field of athletes and over 15,000 runners annually.

Kitenge lauded Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania for organizing the marathon and sponsor them to participate in the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon.

"We are going to participate in this event, we believe we will do well and we are going to win and help Tanzania win plaudits in sports," he noted.



Sanlam General Insurance Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Gift Noko (3rd L), hands over air ticket to runner, Jamila Abdullah, one of five runners that will feature in the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon slated for Sunday in South Africa. The function took place in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Looking on are runners, who will also participate in the marathon, and Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Khamis Suleiman (R). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Analysis: USA Basketball's World Cup plan went awry long ago

DONGGUAN, CHINA

USA Basketball's plan for a third consecutive World Cup title started going off the rails long before this tournament even began, after just about everyone who was originally asked to play for this team turned down the opportunity.

As such, this outcome was not exactly unexpected.

The Americans are not winning a medal at this World Cup, after they got outplayed by France in the quarterfinals on Wednesday night and got relegated to a playoff where the best remaining option is finishing fifth. France won 89-79, meriting much credit. Evan Fournier made tough shots and tougher passes. Rudy Gobert was outstanding. The French defense, with the game on the line, thwarted the U.S. repeatedly.

The better team won.

But the best team was at home. Of the 35 players originally picked last year by USA Basketball for its roster pool this summer, four made it to China. The group that ultimately got assembled for this mission was a bunch of guys not even on the radar screens when this selection process began, a group that decided playing with and against really good players all summer - while getting coached by Gregg Popovich - was worth giving up nearly two months of an off-season.

They played hard. But there's no medal for playing hard.

"I know that people are going to focus on who we didn't have, but how about we focus on who we do have?" U.S. guard Donovan



Team USA's small-ball lineups posed no challenge to France's Rudy Gobert. (Agencies)

Mitchell said after his 29-point performance Wednesday night. "Our season ended, and we came out ready to work with Coach Pop and all his coaches. It's not about who's not here. I've been saying that for a while."

It bears noting that Mitchell was not on the original player-pool list. He chose to play and didn't mind being asked in the second wave. It's hard to imagine where the Americans would have been without him over the last few weeks.

Joe Harris was supposed to be a practice player for this team and wound up becoming a starter. Derrick White wasn't supposed to be here either, and there were nights in this tournament where he was the first sub off the U.S. bench - not because Popovich

was playing favorites with his San Antonio point guard, but because it was merited.

Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown had big-time moments for this team and they, too, were not anywhere near the original U.S. wish list.

A lot of other NBA players might not have cared about the World Cup. Fans might not have, either. And there's not much incentive for multimillionaires to give up their time off, travel thousands of miles to risk injury by playing in a tournament in which most of the games are not nationally televised in the United States.

Plus, plenty of players who have already won with USA Basketball often say they want to let someone else have a shot. That's

not a new concept.

Losing just makes everyone look for easy solutions because, well, the thought is USA Basketball shouldn't lose - even when the other team has NBA players.

The good news in all this is the loss Wednesday probably won't get a whole lot of attention at home.

That's also the sad news.

Fact is, to most if not all players, an Olympic gold medal shines brighter than a FIBA gold medal. Same goes for an NBA title.

And those players who made the commitment to come to China realized this was pretty much a no-win proposition - win and you were supposed to, lose and it becomes a giant failure.

AP

De Gea can be replaced at Man United - Van der Sar

LONDON

DAVID de Gea is not irreplaceable at Manchester United as doubts remain over his future, according to former Red Devils goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

De Gea has been tipped to sign a new long-term contract with United, however, the star goalkeeper is yet to commit to the struggling Premier League giants.

The Spain international - who arrived from Atletico Madrid in 2011 - is out of contract at the end of the season and has been linked to Serie A champions Juventus as his reported contract offer remains unsigned.

Van der Sar - now Ajax's chief executive officer - won four Premier League titles and the Champions League during his time at United and the 48-year-old said De Gea is not indispensable despite his quality.

"Other goalkeepers can also fill the gap," said Van der Sar, who has been linked with a return to United as a sporting director, though the Dutchman has dismissed speculation.

"There are a few Premier League goalkeepers playing at the club who can also take the step up.

"I was 34 when I went to United, so there are lots of opportunities there.

"The decision needs to come at a certain point. It's taken a long time now, so it's a case of 'yes' or 'no' but I'm not a director of United."

De Gea's form has been questioned after a number of errors at the end of the 2018-19 season, while he could have done better for Crystal Palace's last-gasp winner against United last month.

However, Van der Sar added: "That happened to me, it happened to [Ryan] Giggs also, to everyone.

"Your form differs. He has been for so long at such a high level, so at a certain point it gets noticed [when your form dips], maybe not the first two times, but then people start to write about it. But he'll be fine. He's a great goalkeeper."

United - who have only won one of their opening four matches - are back in action at home to Leicester City on Saturday following the international break.

(Agencies)

PSG ready for Neymar return ahead of Champions League campaign

PARIS

WITH the saga over his on-off move back to Barcelona now over, Neymar could return to action with Paris Saint-Germain this weekend.

The world's most expensive player has had to come to terms with a third season in Ligue 1 after PSG and his former club failed to agree terms on a transfer before the transfer window shut on September 2.

Neymar has since been away on international duty for Brazil in two friendly matches in the USA, scoring one goal and making another in a 2-2 draw with Colombia and then coming on as a substitute in a 1-0 loss to Peru.

Those were his first appearances this season after the 27-year-old was left out of PSG's opening four league games amid the uncertainty over his future.

If he is passed fit after a long trip back across the Atlantic, coach Thomas Tuchel may choose to select Neymar in Saturday's game against Strasbourg, the team against whom he suffered a fractured foot in a cup tie back in January.

PSG are already without Kylian Mbappe, who has a hamstring injury, as they prepare to start their Champions League campaign at home to Real Madrid next week. Edinson Cavani is also struggling for fitness.

Argentine striker Mauro Icardi is available after joining from Inter, but Tuchel may be tempted to turn to Neymar, even though the Brazilian is suspended for the game against Real and seems unlikely to receive a warm welcome from fans unhappy with his posturing for a transfer.

"He knows that he has made mistakes, but he has no bad intentions," said his club and

international colleague Thiago Silva. "He is an incredible kid. I hope he has a great season."

Even Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo has had her say, urging Neymar to get his head down and help PSG finally succeed in Europe.

"We turned the Eiffel Tower red and white for him, in the colours of PSG," she told magazine *Tele Loisirs*. "Now my boy, we love you a lot, and you are going to have to work hard and win us the Champions League."

One to watch: The stands French football has been consumed by its battle to eradicate homophobia from stadiums, so all eyes will be on the stands this weekend to see if more matches will be halted by referees.

Seven games have been interrupted so far this season because of anti-gay chants and banners, including a hold-up of more than 10 minutes during a match between Nice and Marseille.

The last week has seen French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet enter into a war of words with the country's sports minister, former Olympic swimmer Roxana Maracineanu, after saying in a radio interview that stopping matches in such circumstances was "a mistake".

On Wednesday the French league (LFP) called on politicians to let them get on with leading the fight against homophobia, while insisting that referees will be left to decide whether to stop matches if they hear "discriminatory" words from the stands.

"For a long time we have tolerated certain chants in stadiums, but today society no longer accepts them," said LFP president Nathalie Boy de la Tour.

AFP

VAR system has made four errors in Premier League - referees' chief

LONDON

THE introduction of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) has been unable to prevent four wrong decisions in the Premier League matches this season, referees' chief Mike Riley has said.

Riley, managing director of the official referee's body and the man responsible for VAR in England, said technology had "added value to the game" but said there had been incidents where a referee's decision should have been overturned.

"If you look at the four match rounds, 227 incidents have been checked. Out of that we've changed six decisions. We think we should have changed 10 in total," Riley told Sky Sports News on Thursday.

"That gives you the scale of where VAR can help and add value to the game, but it also demonstrates that this is still about refereeing a game of Premier League football on the

pitch."

VAR's guidelines state that the technology should only be used to overturn a decision if the on-pitch referee has made a clear and obvious error.

Riley explained that the technology should have been used to award reigning champions Manchester City a penalty in their 3-1 win at Bournemouth and give a spot-kick to West Ham United in their 2-0 victory at home to Norwich City.

He also said Fabian Schar's goal for Newcastle United in the 1-1 draw with Watford should have been chalked off for an earlier handball, while Leicester City's Youri Tielemans should have been sent off in their 3-1 win over Bournemouth.

England's top flight joined Germany, Spain and Italy in bringing in video technology at the start of the campaign and it has played a decisive role in the opening four rounds of games. **REUTERS**

Liverpool leave title rivals breathless

LONDON

LIVERPOOL's sizzling start to the Premier League season has left their title rivals breathless and the red-hot leaders are expected to maintain their perfect record against Newcastle on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side have seized the early initiative in the Premier League with four successive wins to open up a two-point lead over second placed Manchester City.

The European champions' relentless tempo has overwhelmed Norwich, Southampton, Arsenal and Burnley, sending a message that they are determined to make amends for narrowly failing to pip City to the trophy last season.

Arsenal's Dani Ceballos is new to English football after joining on loan from Real Madrid and the Spain midfielder admitted to being gob-smacked at the intensity Liverpool displayed in their 3-1 victory against the Gunners in August.

"I had never seen anything like it. I've not seen up until now a team that plays better, that presses better. That game had quite an impact on me," Ceballos told the Daily Mail.

"They suck the air out of you. You spend so much time defending and when you want to catch your breath and get on the ball for a bit, they've taken it from you again.

"I think Jurgen Klopp now has the team he first had in mind when he started four years ago."

That glowing testimony underlines the size of the task facing City as they try to stop Liverpool winning their first English crown since 1990.

City may have won the last two



Liverpool winger Mohamed Salah has inspired his side's blistering start (AFP Photo/)

Premier League titles in scintillating fashion, but Liverpool look better than ever this term and Newcastle are unlikely to halt their progress at Anfield this weekend.

With City playing Norwich in Saturday's late game, the champions could be five points behind Liverpool by the time they kick off at Carrow Road.

Pep Guardiola's team are unbeaten and have already thrashed West Ham and Brighton, but their lone slip -- a draw against Tottenham -- allowed Liverpool to seize pole position and they can't afford another against second bottom Norwich.

Across Manchester, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's United can only dream of gate-crashing the title race after a disappointing start showed how far they have fallen off the pace.

- Maguire in spotlight - United have won only once in their first four games, adding to the

incentive for their England defender Harry Maguire to inspire a victory against his former club Leicester.

Maguire is the world's most expensive defender after his £80 million close-season move from Leicester, but he is yet to play like it, as his creaky showing in England's midweek Euro 2020 qualifier against Kosovo emphasised.

Leicester will arrive at Old Trafford above Maguire's men in the table after an impressive unbeaten start.

But, whatever his shortcomings in some areas, Maguire's personality has made an impression on his new team-mates, who expect him to come good soon.

"It's been seamless," said United reserve keeper Lee Grant. "Harry has definitely slotted straight in, in terms of the social side and in terms of his mentality and attitude, which has been first class.

"The most important thing, though,

is his quality and he was able to show that against Chelsea. We could all see he is quite at home in front of the Old Trafford crowd and quite at home as a Manchester United player."

Mauricio Pochettino must hope the closure of the European transfer window lifts the mood at Tottenham, who host fourth placed Crystal Palace looking to secure only their second win.

Pochettino was concerned that speculation over the futures of several Tottenham players, including Christian Eriksen, had unsettled his squad.

But Eriksen remains with Tottenham in the final year of his contract and Pochettino said: "He was always happy. He never said he wasn't happy here.

"Everyone of course has aims, goals, challenges. His qualities are there and important for the team."

Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham will become only the third player aged 21 or younger to score two or more goals in three consecutive Premier League games, matching the achievement of Cristiano Ronaldo and Dele Alli, if he bags another brace at Wolves.

Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

Today
Brighton v Burnley, Liverpool v Newcastle (1130 GMT), Manchester Utd v Leicester, Norwich v Manchester City (1630 GMT), Sheffield Utd v Southampton, Tottenham v Crystal Palace, Wolves v Chelsea

Tomorrow
Bournemouth v Everton (1300 GMT), Watford v Arsenal (1530 GMT)

Monday
Aston Villa v West Ham (1900 GMT)

Messi committed to Barcelona on condition of success

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi wants to remain at Barcelona for as long as the club can satisfy his hunger for trophies.

Barcelona captain Messi is in his 16th season as a first-team player at Camp Nou, having made his LaLiga debut in October 2004.

The 32-year-old signed a fresh four-year contract in 2017 but the agreement has been revealed to include a clause which gives him the option of leaving on a free transfer at the end of each campaign.

Messi, who denied being in talks over a new deal, does not intend to leave, although his commitment comes with one key condition.

"What I can say is that I want to be at Barcelona as long as possible," Messi said in an interview with SPORT.

"I've said throughout my career that this is my home. But I also don't want to have a long-term contract and only be here because of it. I want to be here because physically I'm fine to play and be an important member of the squad.

"And as I said before, I need to see there's a winning team because I want to keep winning things at this club.

"For me, money or a clause don't mean anything. Other things motivate me and the most important thing is having a winning team."

He added: "Obviously, I want to win and I want to win at this club. This is my home. I don't have any intention of going anywhere but I want to keep competing and winning."

At the top of his wish list is a fifth Champions League crown. Messi and Barca looked set to end a four-year European drought upon reaching the semi-finals last season, only to give up a three-goal first-leg advantage as they crumbled to defeat against Liverpool at Anfield.

Ernesto Valverde's job was called into question but star forward Messi, while adamant the club "must" win the Champions League, absolved the Blaugrana boss of blame.

"When these things happen, everyone thinks the worst because we didn't complete our objectives," the 10-time LaLiga winner said.

"Something similar happened in the previous year too, although I believe it was worse on this occasion.

"As I said in the moment, we [the players] are to blame. The coaching staff had nothing to do with the performance we put in.

"Until that moment we had a great season, dominating the league from



Lionel Messi

the first moment, making the final of the Copa del Rey.

"It was more an issue with us than with the coaching team."

Meanwhile, Lionel Messi insists he has no issue with Cristiano Ronaldo and would accept a dinner invitation from his long-time awards rival.

The pair crossed paths at a recent ceremony to crown the UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2018-19, which Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk won.

Barcelona captain Messi and Juventus star Ronaldo finished second and third respectively, but the event gave the former Real Madrid forward the chance to publicly reflect on their "battle in Spain" and the time they have spent at the pinnacle of the game.

Ronaldo floated the prospect of a private dinner in future, an idea welcomed by his fellow five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

"Yes, I don't have any problem with

that," Messi told SPORT.

"I've always said that I don't have any issue with him. We might not be friends because we've never shared a dressing room together, but I always see him at award shows and there's no problem.

"We actually spoke with each other for quite a long time at the most recent show.

"I don't know if there will be a dinner because I don't know if our paths will cross for obvious reasons, each one of us has our own life and our own commitments. But obviously I would accept the invitation."

Messi has missed the early weeks of the new season because of a calf injury suffered before Barca's pre-season tour to the United States.

The 32-year-old ruled himself out of Saturday's clash with Valencia and remains unsure whether he will be available for next week's Champions League date with Borussia Dortmund.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga eye Zesco United scalp

SPORT

Liverpool leave title rivals breathless

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
13:00 FUNGUA
14:00 UJAZE
14:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SFELEK
17:30 KURASA
18:00 #NEWS
18:30 MUSIC
19:00 EATV 3AA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Tulia festival to involve 100 troupes

By Guardian Reporter

ABOUT 100 traditional music troupes are expected to compete in an event, known as Tulia Traditional Dance Festival, slated for September 26-28 in Tukuyu, Mbeya.

Tulia Trust, owned by Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Tulia Ackson, organizes the annual festival.

Tulia Trust's ambassador, Yvonne Cherrie, noted in Dar es Salaam yesterday the event, which takes place for the third consecutive year, will involve several troupes which will perform traditional music and showcase activities performed by different tribes.

Yvonne, a prominent domestic actress, pointed out this year's event will differ from the past events as prizes to be presented to winners have been doubled.

She disclosed there has also been an increase in participating traditional music groups.

Bongo Flava artiste, Ditto Lameck, who as well represents Tulia Trust, disclosed a troupe that will win the event will get 22 motorcycles to be presented to each of the troupe's members.

Lameck said the second placed troupe will be presented with 1m/- and the third placed troupe will get 700,000/-.

The artiste said each of the troupes, which will participate in the event, will be presented with 400,000/-, noting a section of winners will land chance to gain skills at Bagamoyo Arts and Cultural Institute.

"Zanzibar troupe, known as Wapendanao Orchestra, won the previous year's event," he noted.

In this year's event, he disclosed, Tulia Trust will sponsor 40 artistes to attend studies and create opportunities for the latter to improve their lives.

Musician Mwasiti Almasi, the Tulia Trust ambassador, pointed out over 15,000 revelers are set to attend the festival.

She disclosed Kigoma, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Kagera, Mwanza, Mtwara, Njombe, Lindi, Dar es Salaam and Songwe will field troupes in the festival.

"Each of the troupes, which will compete in the festival, should include two women according to the event's regulations, the women will cook traditional cuisines for people that will attend the festival," she disclosed.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Yanga will be seeking to inch closer to qualification for the groups' phase of this season's CAF Champions League, as they entertain Zambia champions, Zesco United, in the first leg of the first round at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The Tanzania football big guns will, for the first time, come up against their former head coach, George Lwandamina, who is heading Zesco United's technical bench, and the aspects is expected to boost excitement in the clash.

Yanga had headed to Mwanza last week to shape up for the match.



Yanga Sports Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MAHMOUD ZUBEIRY

They took on the region's outfits, Pamba and Toto Africans, in friendly games at the CCM Kirumba Stadium and Nyamagana Stadium respectively.

Pamba that is taking part in the First Division League (FDL) held Yanga to 1-1 draw, the latter thereafter thrashed Second Division League (SDL) club, Toto Africans, 3-0.

Yanga dispatched Botswana's Township Rollers in the preliminary stage of the tournament to secure qualification for the first round of the premier continental club tournament.

Yanga and Township Rollers settled for 1-1 draw in the first leg clash and the former, against all odds, cruised to 1-0 win over the Botswana champions in the return leg in Gaborone.

Ugandan striker, Juma Balinya, drilled in the lone goal for Yanga to earn them the memorable victory.

Zesco cruised to 3-0 aggregate victory over Eswatini outfit, Green Mamba, in the preliminary stage to secure

progression to the first round.

Zesco recorded 2-0 win over Green Mamba in the first leg in Manzini, the Zambia big guns notched 1-0 win over their opponents in the second leg in Lusaka.

Much as they have sailed through to the stage, Yanga have endured criticism from a section of domestic soccer stakeholders that are of the opinion the team has yet to forge good coordination in almost all departments.

The soccer fans have, in particular, been critical of Yanga's failure to orchestrate a good move and score goals and the outfit has, therefore, been depending much on set pieces to find opponents' back of the net.

Yanga's forward line will, in this case, be under pressure to deliver in today's match to boost the side's search for progression to the groups' phase.

The squad's head coach, Mwyni Zahera, mid this week, appealed to its fans to stop

concentrating on the team's friendly matches results.

The Congolese coach was adamant the friendly duels targeted to help him assess his players' ability to deploy his game approach.

"I'm not concerned with the friendlies results. I'm assessing my players' displays and choose players I will use in matches, these matches serve as preparations for the Zesco match," he disclosed.

"I know Zesco, I know their strengths and weaknesses. Yanga fans should understand the outfit's approach in friendly clashes differs from the one the outfit will use in the coming continental clash. We will opt for a different approach."

The coach moreover expressed dismay at criticism a section of the squad's fans pour on striker David Molinga.

The muscular Congolese striker experienced criticism for his failure to find Ruvo Shooting's back of the net when the Coast Region squad faced Yanga in the Vodacom Premier

League clash.

Ruvo Shooting cruised to 1-0 victory over Yanga, with Molinga wasting several good opportunities.

Molinga, nevertheless, showcased his goal scoring prowess thereafter as he was on target when Yanga played the friendly matches against Pamba and Toto Africans.

Molinga slammed in a late equalizer in Yanga's match against Pamba, he also drilled in a brace against Toto Africans.

Zahera maintained he will not recruit a player he has hardly assessed, adding he believe Molinga needs time to prove his worth

The gaffer pointed out the striker finished second in the golden boot race in Democratic Republic of Congo's top flight last season with 15 goals, with TP Mazembe forward, Jackson Muleka, finishing as the top scorer and winning the golden boot.

Zesco have brought a strong squad and head coach Lwandamina said his charges are ready for the encounter.

The squad for the Zambia giants includes Clement Mwape, David Owino Odhiambo, Fackson Kapumbu, Marcel Kalonda, Mwila Phiri, Simon Silwimba, Anthony Akumu, Jesse Were and Enock Sabumukama.

The coach pointed out he will not depend on his past experience and knowledge of Yanga, adding his side is looking for good results.

He disclosed that much has changed at Yanga in the past 18 months since he left the club for a return to the Ndola-based Super League giants.

"We are here looking for good results, I coached Yanga but I think many things have changed at the club, what we want is to play our football and record the desired results," he said.

Ismaili cricketers face Kutchi Leva test in GP Gymkhana Shield tourney last eight

By Guardian Reporter



Kutchi Leva cricket squad player, Athumani Siwa (R), pictured with a cricket enthusiast after the former had been presented with a man of the match prize after the completion of his squad's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's encounter with DCC at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

ISMAILI Community cricketers are set to step up their pursuit of the top honour in this season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition when they confront Kutchi Leva in a mouth-watering last eight clash in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

General Petroleum and Premier Refineries are the tournament's main sponsors, with the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Cricket Section organizing the event.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I & M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

Exciting action is expected to be on show in the knockout phase, as it was the case in the tournament's group stage.

Ismaili Community that put impressive performance in the groups' phase will be banking on their depth in batting to come out with a win tomorrow.

Such players like Jitendra Gariya, Khalil Rehemtulla, Aahil Jessani, Harshed Chohani and Premji brothers Aaryan and Arslaan will face a tricky task of seeing to it the outfit registers an imposing total and eventually edge Kutchi Leva.

The mentioned players were instrumental in the team's qualification for the last eight phase, they are for that matter expected to once again showcase their prowess and help their squad stay in contention for the trophy.

Skillful all-rounder, Athumani Siwa, has been one of consistent performers for Kutchi Leva and the youthful player will be under pressure to prove his worth tomorrow and play a pivotal role in his squad's success.

The Ismaili Community versus Kutchi Leva duel will be the day's only fixture, with two other last eight encounters slated for the following day.

The competition's previous edition's runners-

up, Jain Sangh, will take on Lions Cricket Club effectively a repeat of last year's quarterfinals.

Jain Sangh easily dispatched Lions to book a place in the previous season's last four stage.

However Lions Cricket Club look more solid this year round and Sunday's game, therefore, is expected to be quite thrilling.

The third quarterfinal match will be a battle between Gujrat Lions and Jaat Blasters.

Gujrat Lions will be facing their first serious challenge in this year's tournament and the clash promises to be a high scoring affair.

The fourth quarterfinals, scheduled for next week, will see Punjabi Kings lock horns with defending champions, Caravans.

The DGC Cricket Section Captain, Ashish Nagewadia, pointed out this year's tournament has been a success from the start.

"We faced a number of challenges in hosting this tournament this year, but, with the overall support of

the club, we managed to undertake this years' event," he disclosed.

"From not having the approval to host the competition to getting the approval to host it, was itself a success. Overall it has been an incident free tournament."

He pointed out the competition's spectators have seen two blistering centuries from Jaat Blasters' Ankit Bhagel and Jain Sangh skipper Abhik Patwa.

He disclosed 278 players have participated in the event, 8440 balls have been bowled and 8178 runs have been scored.

He pointed there have been impressive statistics in the competition, in which 465 wickets have been taken, 639 fours and 206 sixes have been smashed and 25 half centuries have been scored.

"Currently at the end of the group stage, Patwa (215 runs) has turned out to be the leading run getter, Jitin Singh is the leading wicket takers with 11 wickets," he disclosed.

Qatari global motorbike rider visits Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

QATARI motorcyclist famed as global leader for having traveled from London to Beijing and Alaska to Argentina, Khalid Al-Jaber, is in Tanzania on his way to South Africa.

In the company of other travelers from different countries, he crossed the Namanga border from Nairobi on an African adventure dubbed 'Heart of the Planet'.

The trip targets promotion of countries he rides through and encouraging people around the world to explore and enjoy their lifestyle and try out their food, music and cultural heritage.

He will be spending ten days in the country and is due to carry forward his noble cause, including the presentation of laptops to one school in Morogoro.

Al-Jaber is considered a record for the State of

Qatar and the Middle East region for having ridden a motorbike covering the Silk Road from London to Beijing and 40,000 kilometers from Alaska in the United States to Argentina in Latin America in five months.

Accompanied by a British Guinness Record holder, Kevin Sanders, Julia Sanders, and other travelers from Europe, the group is expected to pass through Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia before entering South Africa.

Besides enjoying the beautiful sceneries of the country, Al-Jaber emphasizes it is important to see the magical islands of Zanzibar and through blogging about his travel encourage more people in the Middle East to visit Africa, especially, Tanzania - the favourite tourist destination for hundreds of thousands of tourists from all over the world.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

