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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7663 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh 100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 10 AUGUST, 2019



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Legal framework harmonisation tops Industrial Week recommendations

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBER states of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) have been asked to create a conducive environment, legal framework and improve licensing regimes to attract more direct foreign investment and enhance growth of the mining sector.

Reading a declaration during the closure of the 4th Annual SADC Industrialization Week in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening, Executive Secretary of the SADC Business Council, Peter Varndell insisted on the bloc to improve infrastructure as a basis for successful value chain development in the region.

Varndell said that the development of regional value chains in priority sectors with drive industrialization and engagement of the private sector. "Countries should revisit the issue of work permits for member states," he



He called on member states to embrace E-commerce and ICT to promote trade and allow cross border financing through local DFIs particularly on industrial projects and value chain financing.

urged.

He noted that to develop regional value chains, there should be improved coordination of small and medium scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) through facilitation of communication and linkages to access markets. SMEs must be trained on simplification of procedures and requirements such as licensing and registration, he stated.

"The private sector in the SADC region must be stimulated to embrace financing of infrastructure development. Attraction of private sector investments is only possible through reduction of risks in infrastructure development," said the business sector leader.

He called on member states to embrace E-commerce and ICT to promote trade and allow cross border financing through local DFIs particularly on industrial projects and value chain financing.

PCCB suspends officer for soliciting 300m/- bribes



The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Chief Investigator Cosmas Batanyika is escorted by police officers when he appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday facing three charges of economic sabotage, corruption and money laundering. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Tanzanians must support government efforts towards ending corruption since the president cannot work single handedly, the anti-corruption czar remarked.

By Felister Peter

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has arrested a senior investigator for allegedly soliciting bribes of over 300m/- from two Dar es Salaam businessmen.

Cosmas Batanyika, hitherto stationed at PCCB headquarters, has already been suspended from the job, to be arraigned at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court.

PCCB Director General Diwani Athumani told journalists yesterday that investigations into the case are complete, and that the file was on Friday handed over to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for further action.

Explaining, Diwani noted that in February, Batanyika was assigned to investigate two businessmen suspected of tax evasion. He re-



The number of people who think corruption is still a major problem in the country has declined to 10 percent compared to 66 percent in 2015, he stated.

quested a 2m/- bribe from the first businessman and \$ 50,000 from the second one.

The PCCB top executive said the expelled official received a bribe of \$ 40,000 from both traders, approximately 100m/-, with each trader giving him \$ 20,000 over promises of being assisted in their tax evasion matter.

He withheld names of the businessmen for security and investigation purposes, he said.

Diwani said that Batanyika negotiated with the traders to provide \$ 20,000 each after they seemed not ready to give out the amount he demanded.

"We are working in accordance with the law. We will not spare anyone including public servants who will be proved to engage in corruption," said Diwani, insisting that the measures taken are in accordance with the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act, 2017.

He said assured Tanzanians that PCCB has a good number of honest and faithful employees and that citizens should continue providing the anti-corruption body with relevant information that will help nab dishonest officials as well as fake officers.

Nditiye cautions on stalled inter-network call charges

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has been tasked to take legal action against mobile phone operators who have failed to lower inter-network call charges from the current 60/- per minute to 10.40/-.

Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Atashasta Nditiye issued the directive yesterday in Dar es Salaam when he hosted the Zanzibar Minister for Works, Transport and



He used the opportunity to call upon Tanzanians to register their phone lines via biometric registration as it was for the safety of the country and individuals.

Communications Dr Sira Mamboya who toured TCRA headquarters.

Nditiye said that TCRA is doing a commendable job but it has been slow in taking action on the matter whose deadline was August 1.

"They are charging six times more than the charges directed by the government. We want them to follow rules and in so doing they are also required to return the money they have been charging customers because

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TBS disciplines two officials over plastic bags smuggling

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

Cleverly camouflaged plastic materials from across the border are still being smuggled into the country despite that the government banned the use of plastic bags and other



The TBS has also endorsed more than 1600 types of commodity standards in areas of food, chemicals, agriculture, garments, engineering, electricity, leather and cotton.

environment unfriendly polythene based carriers in June.

A serial inspection conducted by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards along the northern zone lengthy borderline has shown that some

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Legal framework harmonisation tops Industrial Week recommendations

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On energy infrastructure and gas, the council urged member states to prioritize support for the development of a Regional Gas Program, and conduct individual country assessment of policies and gas utilization master plans to confirm the state of readiness for development of a Regional Gas Program.

Varndell noted that member states should reduce roadblocks and other non-tariff barriers within SADC countries to speed up delivery and reduce costs of pharmaceutical goods, particularly cold chain stock and harmonize medicine registration policies.

"The bloc has to make use of the ZAZIBONA initiative to create a pathway for speedy registration of innovative medicines and create a platform for private sector engagement," he said, referring to ZAZIBONA as a SADC collaborative medicine registration process, while it originally covered the countries mentioned in its abbreviation, namely South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

He said member states should introduce duty free systems on the import of raw and packaging materials, provide incentives for local manufacturing, establish pooled procurement on raw materials and medical equipment to promote local pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Commenting on barriers to trade, he said that SADC structures should consult the private sector in identifying and solving non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that pose an obstacle to industrial development.

"Countries should continue harmonizing standards as well as conformity assessment procedures to conform to the World Trade Organization's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (WTO-TBT protocol) and therefore facilitate trade within the region.

SADC should also facilitate national standards bodies to work closely with SMEs since they are the major players in most production and value chains, and align their quality principles with those at international level.

Themed "A Conducive Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Increased Intra-Regional Trade and Job Creation," the 4th Annual SADC Industrialization Week was hosted in preparation for the 39th session of SADC Heads of State and Government summit.

Key topics included infrastructure development in Africa and regional value chains and discussions focused on SMEs, local development, gender and youth.

Other topics were finance for infrastructure and industrialization, barriers to trade and trade facilitation, research, innovation and technology development.

Group says Zambia needs 176 mln USD to support people affected by hunger

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA needs to raise about 176 million U.S. dollars to support people affected by hunger in some parts of the country due to poor harvest, an advocacy group said on Friday.

The Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance said the government has no choice but to declare the hunger situation a national emergency because it may not be able to raise the funds without donor support.

"Declaring the hunger situation a national emergency will increase donor support in the area of food and nutrition support, as the country is in desperate need of help to deal with this situation and save lives," Mathews Mhuru, the organization's country coordinator, said in a release.

According to him, about 2.3 million people in the country are in dire need of food assistance.

Mhuru said some donor partners have already committed to supporting the government in raising the money through emergency social cash transfer if the hunger situation is declared

a national emergency.

He warned that failure to plan adequately will see Zambians dying of hunger and malnutrition due to increased food insecurity.

This came barely few days when the high levels of food insecurity in southern Africa expressed concerns due to the reports that this year, households are expected to exhaust their food reserve crops within three months, compared to three to five months in normal years. By the September to January period, more households are expected to face crisis levels of food security and acute food insecurity is likely to be exceptionally high across the region.

The causes of the crisis are complex and each of the worst-affected countries can trace its food insecurity levels to a different major problem.

Zambia, which last year registered its second-biggest harvest, received below average seasonal rains this year, leading to a prolonged drought, a sharp decrease in agricultural production and widespread crop failures. As a result, Zambia now has a cereal deficit of close to a million tonnes.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan in talks with outgoing Rwandan ambassador to Tanzania Eugene Kayihura when he paid a courtesy call at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday to bid farewell after his tenure of office. Photo: VPO

PCCB suspends officer for soliciting 300m/- bribes

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In another development, the PCCB chieftain said that Tanzania is performing better in the anti-graft war as per a recent report by the Global Corruption Barometer Africa, 2019. The number of Tanzanians who have confidence with the government has risen to 71 percent compared to 37 percent in 2015.

he declared.

The number of people who think corruption is still a major problem in the country has declined to 10 percent compared to 66 percent in 2015, he stated.

"Tanzania has been ranked 1st among 35 African countries in implementing anti-graft measures followed by Lesotho and

Sierra Leone," he said, elaborating that the report prepared by Transparency International indicates that 72 percent of Tanzanians consider that corruption has declined, compared to only 13 percent in 2015.

He attributed Tanzania's successes in fighting corruption to political will by President John Magufuli who has been in

the forefront to end bribe and restore public confidence to the government, ensuring discipline among public servants and curbing the misuse of public funds.

Tanzanians must support government efforts towards ending corruption since the president cannot work single handedly, the anti-corruption czar remarked.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa cuts a ribbon to launch the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Trade Management Information System (ATMIS) funded by the Trade Mark East Africa during the NaneNane exhibition which climaxed on Thursday at Nyakabindi in Simiyu region. Looking on are Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga (R) and Simiyu Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nditiye cautions on stalled inter-network call charges

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the aim is to make people communicate at the lowest price possible," he said.

Nditiye said that communication was a basic right for all wananchi and the government will ensure it is provided at an affordable price.

He used the opportunity to call upon Tanzanians to register their phone lines via biometric registration as it was for the safety of the country and individuals.

In her remarks, the

visiting minister said she was making consultations because communication is a union matter and the two governments have been working on various matters together to ensure the issue is properly regulated.

The government announced earlier last year that the rate for internetwork communication will be 10.40/- per minute from August 1 this year, aiming at ensuring that communication was offered at an affordable price.

In 2017, the government

through TCRA asked mobile phone operators in the country to cut fees they charge each other to connect calls by over 90 percent in the next five years, a move that will benefit consumers with cheaper phone calls, but could destabilize competition in the sector.

The move was opposed by mobile phone operators who complained that the move will adversely affect their revenue. They urged the supervisory body to ensure that any decision on the matter strikes

a balance between upholding consumer interests and ensuring the sustainability of operating firms.

In a public notice TCRA said mobile termination rates (MTR) - the charges one network pays another to end a call on its network - were to be gradually slashed over the next five years starting January 2018.

Under TCRA's proposal, interconnection rates were to fall from 26.96 shillings per minute to 15.6 shillings per minute.

TBS disciplines two officials over plastic bags smuggling

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environment damaging bags were being smuggled from the Kenya through Namanga, Tarakea and Holili border points, despite that Kenya banned the use of plastic bags much earlier than Tanzania.

TBS Director General Dr Yusuph Ngenya said here that the bags in question, "while they can fool the eye as being environment friendly, but in reality they are just as destructive as the banned polythene carriers."

The bags do not infiltrate through illegal routes. The consignments have been passing through official border crossings and we have realized that some TBS officials collude with racketeers to let the destructive materials filter through, he declared.

"For the well trained TBC officials at the border it is easy to tell if the bags meet the standards, but the fact that the consignments continue to enter the country implies that our men at the border could be onto something fishy," he reiterated.

In that connection, TBS has suspended two officials at Namanga, namely Emmanuel Kiwango who headed the TBS center at the border, along with Jennifer Jackson, who was on duty when one such consignment went through there recently.

"The two will both be arraigned in court soon and if found guilty, the officers are to be sacked and punished," stated Dr Ngenya after he inspected the Kenya-Tanzania border post TBS service centre.

Meanwhile, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards has managed to establish five zonal offices in the Central Zone, the Lake Zone, Southern Highlands, Northern Zone and Southern Zone, while its headquarters remain in Dar es Salaam.

The TBS has endorsed more than 1600 commodity standards in areas of food, chemicals, agriculture, garments, engineering, electricity, leather and cotton.

"The bureau is busy conducting regular inspections at port of entries and overseas export zones," the visiting top official added.



Zanzibar President and chairman of Revolution Council Dr Ali Mohamed Shein in talks with UNESCO Tanzania representative Tirso Dos Santos (L) who paid a courtesy call to the President in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Social cohesion and corruption among challenges hindering GBV fight in Zanzibar - survey

By Lusekelo Philemon

SOCIAL cohesion and corruption are among of the challenges hindering Gender-based Violence (GBV) cases to proceed to judiciary level in Zanzibar, according to the newly released fact-finding survey.

Conducted by Tanzania Media Women Association in Zanzibar (Tamwa-Zanzibar), the study titled: "Report on engagement of young media fellows (YMF)," was meant to assess gender-based violence situation in Zanzibar covering two districts - North A District of Unguja, and Mkoani District in Pemba.

The survey was conducted in order to instigate the media to demonstrate their significant role to end GBV via strategic advocacy and intervention by improving contents and focus on thematic issues encompassing GBV as well as sensitizing other actors both governmental and pri-

vate institutions to be actively engaged in the fight against GBV through media.

Presenting study findings recently in the stone town of Zanzibar, researcher and media consultant, Ali Sultan said: "In most cases, GBV incidences are either resolved at family level or quashed by corruption orchestrated by family members, police or other law enforcement agency. It aims to smoothen up things but it puts off efforts by activists into lowest ebb of the fight."

"Whilst encouraging people to influence justice while denying rights to others. Therefore, societal and cultural attitudes sometimes tolerate GBV."

According to the survey, rape is a leading GBV pandemic in both districts - Mkoani and North A, averaging at 80 percent of all reported cases to Police Gender Desk for 2017/2018 aggregated statistics.

Sultan said the survey also cited superstition as the new trend related to GBV

incidences in Zanzibar. "In some case, the findings indicate that there is a direct link between the offenders/culprits, and witchcraft though veracity of the claims requires further studies to establish more facts and details of the subject."

The study also found that rape is a leading GBV pandemic in both districts - Mkoani and North A, averaging at 80% of all reported cases to Police Gender Desk for 2017/2018 aggregated statistics.

The survey suggested the need for gender-based violence to be addressed in Zanzibar as the number of cases of GBV being reported increasing throughout the Islands-Unguja and Pemba.

Citing on some of the limitations of the survey, Sultan said lack of a public narrative on the issue compounded by disparaging understanding of the issue of GBV, making it difficult for people to articulate concerns around GBV.

In Zanzibar, the researcher said: "GBV is judged as thorny issue, but not judged to be particularly important subject matter."

The survey was also in line with the Zanzibar's National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), 2017-2022, signifies a commitment to end all forms of violence against women and children.

In 2018, a total of 942 GBV cases were reported to the Police Gender and Children's Desks in Zanzibar, a slight decrease from the 1,041 cases reported in 2017.

Ending Violence against Women and Children is a critical pillar of the Zanzibar Joint Programme that was launched in August 2018 - a development collaboration between the United Nations and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. The programme will be implemented in Unguja and Pemba (main islands of the Zanzibar Archipelago) from 2018-2021.

AfDB pledges to continue funding Tanzania's development initiatives

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of various projects it supports, pledging to continue funding Tanzania's development initiatives.

The bank has been a long time supporter of the government's development projects.

AfDB director general for East Africa Regional Development, Gabriel Negatu made the remarks yesterday during his meeting with Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango in country's capital-Dodoma.

Gabriel stated that Tanzania is among the countries that have showed positive results in spending the bank's fund in implementing development projects. He said the bank will continue providing financial support to development projects.

Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango, commended the bank for supporting the country's development projects. He said that AfDB is playing a big role in ensuring successful implementation of projects.

According to Dr Mpango some of the development

projects that AfDB supports are in infrastructure, transportation and energy which are among the main components towards realization of an industrialized economy as well as attaining the middle-income nation status.

He insisted that improvement of energy infrastructures is crucial for Tanzania and other African countries since it is the main component towards industrialization. He said that African countries including Tanzania will hardly realize their industrialized strategy without rural power services.

Dr Mpango highlighted efforts done by the government through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) whereas millions of new customers have been connected to the national grid. He said rural electrification will help citizens to get news as well as improve their welfare through establishment of income generating activities.

The bank is also expected to fund construction of a standard gauge railway from Tanzania to Rwanda which will foster development and facilitate smooth movement of goods and people between the two East African nations.



Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango, commended the bank for supporting the country's development projects. He said that AfDB is playing a big role in ensuring successful implementation of projects



Plan International Tanzania

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2. Plan International Tanzania through Tusome Pamoja Project has set aside funds for printing and distribution of manual/books, intends to apply part of the proceeds of the fund to be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for which this invitation for quotation is issued.
3. Plan International Tanzania now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for the above services; interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org attn: **Head of Procurement and Logistics**. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
4. Quotation properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes "**marked the above quotation number**" must be delivered to the address, Plan International Tanzania, Central Technologies House, Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA, P O Box 3517 at or before 11am EAT Friday 23th August 2019.
5. Late and electronic quotations shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Tender Panel
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam
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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa listening to K-VANT liquor entrepreneur Tumaini Simbaya who was empowered by NBC Bank, when he visited the bank pavilion during the Nane Nane exhibitions at national level on Thursday at the Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu region. Right is NBC Corporate Affairs Manager William Kallaghe. Photo: Correspondent Happy Severine



Flower pots entrepreneur Mariam Mathias briefing customer on the products during the Nane Nane exhibitions ended on Thursday at Nzuguni grounds in Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdalla Ulega (L) presents a trophy to Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) Director Jacqueline Mkindi after her firm emerged first winner in best agricultural service provider category during the Nane Nane exhibitions for the Northern Zone on Thursday at Themji Njiro grounds in Arusha. Looking on (2nd L) is Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa hands over a trophy to Global Education Link Digital Marketer Mick Mussa after the firm emerged number one among universities and other higher learning institution exhibitors during Nanenane exhibitions in Simiyu Region. Second (L) is Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga. Majaliwa commended the performance of Global Education Link when he visited their pavilion earlier. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Zanzibar President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Dr Ali Mohamed Shein speaks when closing the 4th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Industrialisation Week Exhibition at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Zanzibar State House



SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax delivers a speech at the SADC Industrialisation Week exhibition closing ceremony. Photo: Zanzibar State House



Zanzibar President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, plays 'bao' shortly before closing the 4th SADC Industrialisation Week exhibition. Photo: Zanzibar State House



Veridoc Global Director Alex Mhagama (L) explains a point to visitors during the 4th SADC Industrialisation Week exhibition on Thursday at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries Industrial and Trade stakeholders delegation led by Mkuranga District Commissioner Filberto Sanga (C) and chief engineer in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Eng Jesse Chonde (R) visited Azam carbonated soft drinks plant at Mwandege in Mkuranga District, Coast Region yesterday. Left is Bakhresa Group corporate affairs director Hussein Sufian Ally. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Stakeholders embark on campaign to save the endangered bird species

By Beatrice Philemon

NATURE Tanzania in partnership with Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCC) has embarked on a new campaign to save the endangered bird species—long-billed tailorbird in Amani and Nilo nature forest reserves.

Started last year, the campaign involved a number of players including primary and secondary school students in Muheza District, Tanga Region.

Most of the targetted students are those located around Amani Nature Reserve—the largest forested block within the East Usambara Mountains and occupies the southern extremity of these mountains.

Nature Tanzania, project manager, Victor Mkongewa revealed this when briefing journalists from different media houses who visited at Shebomeza and Mbomole villages in Muheza District to see the impact of conservation of long-bird billed tailorbird and forest conservation initiatives through a project dubbed: 'Sustainable Forest Edge Management for the conservation of the Long-billed Tailorbird and Endemic globally threatened biodiversity of the Usambara Mountain'

According to Mkongewa, primary and secondary school students from Shebomeza and Mbomole villages are being engaged in the project.

"We train them by using binoculars, books and different tapes that have bird voice so that can understand it properly and attract them to conserve the habitat of the bird species including the long-billed tailorbird found in the area."

"As Nature Tanzania we are very glad for this training because has brought positive results right now majority of students are very competent on forest conservation and how to conserve the Long-billed Tailorbird," he noted.

He said that the bird species are on the verge of extinction due to habitat loss and fragmentation caused by deforestation and forest disturbance for timber production and the invasive exotic tree species such as *Maesopsis eminii* that reduces the abundance of several bird species when it is abundant.

According to him, loss of forest habitat is one of the big reasons for this species decline.

It is estimated that there between 250 and 300 and they are only found in Tanzania and Mozambique.



We train them by using binoculars, books and different tapes that have bird voice so that can understand it properly and attract them to conserve the habitat of the bird species including

Africa must boost industrial capacity to benefit from free-trade zone - AfDB

ABUJA

AFRICAN nations will need to boost output of goods and services and integrate payment systems if they are to take advantage of a new \$3.4 trillion economic initiative, according to the head of the African Development Bank.

A continental free-trade zone was launched this month in Niger which, if successful, will usher in a new era of de-

velopment for an area with a population of 1.3 billion people.

It is hoped that the 55-nation African Continental Free Trade Area - the largest bloc since the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1994 - will help unlock Africa's long-stymied economic potential by boosting intra-regional trade, strengthening supply chains and spreading expertise.

Akinwumi Adesina, president of the

AfDB, said he expected industrial manufacturing capacity in Africa to increase, while financial markets would integrate and food production expands.

"Africa has to have its own industrial capacity ... it's not just about moving raw materials, it's about value added products," Adesina told Reuters on the sidelines of a conference in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja. The bank chief said African countries need to mobilise more domes-

tic resources, and encourage sovereign wealth and pension funds to invest in infrastructure.

"We brought investors to Africa and in less than 72 hours we mobilised \$38.7 billion," he said. "That tells me that the opportunities are there, if we can get the regulatory and investment environment right." He said nations need to provide the right incentives to boost local output while encouraging competition.

SADC: NGO requests for establishment of regional civil society organisations forum

By Felister Peter

THE Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO) has said it will use the coming Southern African Development Community (SADC) heads of State and government summit to request for establishment of regional Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) forum to be used to present public opinions.

TANGO executive director, Ngunga Tepani said yesterday

when speaking in Dar es Salaam during the CSOs consultation forum organised to create shared understanding of various issues as well as coming up with suggestions to be submitted to the ministerial and heads of state summit.

He said yesterdays' meeting was part of preparations before meeting with other 35 CSOs from Africa on August 13 to 15th this year.

Tepani noted that since they have been working closely with

the government and citizens, they intend to advise the SADC Secretariat to establish a formal forum of CSOs that will be recognized by Section 23 of the SADC Treaty. "We want to be officially recognized by the SADC Treaty. We are also pushing for member states to collaboratively enhance the integration agenda for regional economic growth through agriculture and industrialization", noted Tepani.

He insisted on member states

to utilize business opportunities in the bloc following establishment of the SADC Customs Union that provides for free trade area, common external tariffs and common external trade policy.

Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) senior official, Anna Sangai, said the meeting will also deliberate on women and gender issues that are to be presented to the Ministerial and Heads of State summit later this month. "We want women to take

part in SADC industrialisation drive as well as fostering sustainable development", she noted.

Reading declarations of the 4th Annual SADC Industrialization Week in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Executive Secretary, SADC Business Council, Peter Varndell called on member states to prioritize and promote youth, woman and SMEs participation in regional value chains and industrialization.

He called upon SADC to build

capacity of women and integrate them into regional value chains, facilitate their financial inclusion and create targeted incentives.

The Heads of State and Government summit will be held for two days from August 17th to 18th 2019. The meeting will be preceded with the meeting of SADC council of ministers and permanent secretaries from August 9th to 16th 2019. During the meeting President John Magufuli will take over the chairmanship of SADC

from the current chairman, Namibian President Hage Geingob who assumed the leadership of the regional organization from his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa in August 2018.

SADC has a total of 16 member states namely, Comoros, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, ESwatini, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



City residents selling meat threatening environmental and public health at Vingunguti slaughter house in Ilala municipality in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam City yesterday. Photo: John Badi

DSE expects to pay dividends worth 36.9/- per share to its shareholders

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) is expecting to pay dividends worth 36.9/- per share to its shareholders, the amount which is below half of the amount paid last year.

DSE chief executive officer Moremi Marwa announced in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking on the sidelines of the 4th annual general meeting of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange PLC.

He said that last year shareholders were being paid 100/- per share and "this year, the proposal by the board of directors is to pay shareholders 36.9/- per share, and we'll present this proposal to shareholders, who can agree or advise otherwise."

He said that the dividend policy requires paying shareholders at least 50 percent of net profit.

"Hence, 36.9/- which we're talking now is half of every profit of every share that was made last year," he said, adding that last year, the company made a profit of 1.8bn/- and half of it is to be paid as dividends to shareholders.

Between July 2016 and December 2017, the company paid dividends worth 100/- per share and the profit was about 5bn/-

"At that time, we're in transformation as our Financial Year changed from ending in July to December, so there was an accumulation of 18 months, that's why the net profit was big compared to last year's 12 months,"

he said.

Marwa admitted that the 1.8bn/- profit was low as DSE didn't list many companies and transactions were also low compared to the previous year.

He however expressed his optimism that capital market has a better future due to increased increase of financial literacy as one of the factors for encouraging investments in the country.

DSE interim board chairman, Elinani Minja said that the challenge ahead is to increase liquidity an important aspect for the healthier capital market growth.

During the meeting, shareholders endorsed for DSE board members as Dr Abdiel Abayo, Beng'I Issa, Layson Mwanjisi and Selestine Some.

Food, non-alcoholic beverages inflation for June-July increased by 0.6 per cent, NBS says

By Francis Kajubi

FOOD and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate on monthly basis increased by 0.6 per cent in the period between June and July this year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has revealed.

Addressing the press yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Ruth Davison, Population Census and Social Statistics Acting Director said food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation increased to 2.9 per cent in July this year from 2.3 per cent in June this year.

"Annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of July increased to 4.9 per cent from 4.3 per cent recorded in June this year. On the other hand, the twelve month index change for non-food products in July this year has increased to 4.2 per cent from 4.7 per cent recorded in June" said Davison.

According to her, annual inflation rate which excludes food and energy for the month of July has decreased to 3.1 per cent from 3.4 per cent recorded on June this year.

Speaking of Annual Headline infla-

tion rate, she said that for the month of July the speed of price change for commodities remained the same as that recorded at the end of the preceding month. The overall index went up to 116.61 in July this year from 112.44 recorded in July last year.

"Annual Headline Inflation rates over the same period range between 3.3 per cent in July last year and 3.7 per cent recorded in July this year" she said.

Consumer price index from June to July 2019 decreased by 0.4 per cent compared to a decrease of 0.2 per cent recorded from May to June this year. The overall index has decreased to 116.61 in July from 117.03 in June.

"The decrease of the overall index is mainly attributed to the price decrease for food items. Some food items that contributed to such decrease include rice by 2.4 per cent, spaghetti by 1.1 per cent, sardines by 2.1 per cent, fruits by 3.4 per cent, Coconut by 4 per cent, Round potatoes by 2.3 per cent, Cassava by 6.5 per cent and Cooking bananas by 2.2 per cent," said Davison.



Home Affairs Minister Kangi Lugola (L) in a jovial mood with Kilolo MP Venance Mwamoto shortly after he received two motorcycles worth 2.8m/- donated by the legislator in Kilolo district, Iringa region yesterday aimed at supporting the district's police force operations. Looking on are Iringa Regional Police Commander ACP Juma Bwire (behind the minister) and other police officers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Hortinet revolutionise sustainable horticulture value chain in Malawi

LILONGWE

A Lilongwe-based upcoming social enterprise, Hortnet is revolutionising a more inclusive and sustainable horticulture value chain in Malawi mainly in its supply chain.

Speaking on the sidelines of inspecting the first Tissue Culture Laboratory as one way of resuscitating the banana industry in country, Hortnet Managing Director Frankie Washoni said they intend to operate its own network of distribution and negotiates production contracts with small-scale farmers.

The laboratory has been con-

structed with assistance from Hivos.

The enterprise cultivates Bananas and other vegetables for the urban market up the value chain and it intends to expand its product portfolio from fresh produce to value added through modern solar drying technology.

"We want to improve access of clean planting materials for crops like bananas, Potatoes and Pineapples which is the current biggest challenge small holder farmers are facing that's why we have constructed a laboratory which will help to fully commercialize the banana

value chain in Malawi.

"Production of banana fruits for sale in local markets is among the few agricultural activities that provide households, especially the rural poor, with regular income throughout the year. The crop is predominantly grown by small-scale farmers both as a source of income and as a household food security crop," said Washoni

While the foregoing scenario depicts the economic and food security potential of banana, Washoni said the production and marketing of the crop in Malawi takes place in a context characterized by lack of a sup-

portive policy environment and institutional arrangements to optimize outputs.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi has lately lost over 30000 hectares of banana crop stand, representing 90 per cent of the total area that was under banana production, all this due to poor agricultural practices, diseases and lack of access to clean planting material.

Currently, over 80 per cent of the banana fruits consumed in Malawi come from neighbouring countries, Tanzania and Mozambique, further draining the scarce foreign exchange re-

serves.

Following this rapid decline in banana production, food, employment and income security for over 500,000 households in the banana producing areas of the country have been seriously threatened.

The major problem now affecting the production of banana as a potentially reliable food and commercial crop is the high infestation with various pests and diseases.

The condition is aggravated by traditional practices of exchanging planting materials. In this way pests and diseases are easily transmitted from one

farm to another and this has been observed to reduce national banana yields up to 90 per cent. Currently efforts to rejuvenate the banana industry in Malawi are proving difficult due to lack of clean planting (disease & pests free) material.

To help farmers with clean planting material the Ministry of Agriculture has on different occasions imported the banana tissue culture plants from South Africa and France, but this has proved to be expensive.

Unavailability to access clean planting materials for banana growers in Malawi constitutes a priority problem since banana

contributes to the livelihoods of many as well as the nutritional needs, employment and income for nearly over one million people in the country.

"Diffusion of this new technology (use of tissue culture-banana plantlets) is so far the only way that can resuscitate the banana industry in Malawi which is currently relying on imports from neighboring countries, Tanzania and Mozambique," said Washoni

This tissue culture technology has been fully commercialized in banana exporting countries such as South Africa and other East African countries.



Baskets vendor negotiates his way looking for potential customers along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Women in agri can create jobs, ensure food security

By Jeandré van der Walt

PARTICIPATION of women in the agricultural sector should be promoted, in order to create much-needed employment opportunities and ensure food security.

This was according to Wandile Sihlobo, head of economic and agribusiness intelligence at Agbiz.

According to Sihlobo, women constituted between 60 per cent and 80 per cent of smallholder farmers, but

made up only 15 per cent to 20 per cent of landholders in sub-Saharan Africa. He explained that women's incomes made a larger impact on food security than that of men.

"Studies have shown that every R1 in income earned by women achieved the same impact as R11 earned by men. Therefore, increasing the effective participation of women in commercial agriculture will significantly increase the potential to address food insecurity."

However, he highlighted that women's contribution to South Africa's agricultural labour market had been hampered by legal and cultural constraints, which was manifested in unequal land inheritance, ownership and usage.

"In order to grow the sector and unlock employment, it is critical to explore ways of tackling gender disparity and improve the proportion of women in the agricultural labour market during the next few years," he said.

Peter Setou, chief executive of the Vumelana Advisory Fund, a non-profit organisation assisting communities that have benefited from the land reform programme to put their land to profitable use, concurred with Sihlobo. He added that there was also a need for adequate representation of women in communal property institution (CPI) structures to ensure that female land reform recipients played decision-making roles in these structures.

Education firm links Tanzanian students to universities abroad

By Guardian Reporter

GLOBAL Education Link Company has emerged number one among all universities and education exhibitors during the Nane nane climax at Simiyu that was officially closed by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Monitoring Officer from the company Hemed Mlapakolo said that they become number one among all universities and education institutions exhibitors and was awarded with trophy and certificates while Sokoine University emerged number two and University of Dodoma became number three.

The trophy and certificate was handed over to the winners by Prime Minister who was the guest of honoUr representing President John Magufuli.

Hemed said they were awarded certificate and trophy as recognition of their contribution in boosting education sector in the country by enabling many students in the country to join different universities all around the world.

Earlier, Hemed said the premier visited their pavilion and asked them if they practice his directives given to them during exhibition prepared by Tanzania Commission for Universities TCU at Mnazi Mmoja Dar es Salaam recently.

During the exhibitions at Mnazi Mmoja, Majaliwa wanted to know if Global Education Link collaborates with TCU in the process to know the qualities of abroad universities which they connect Tanzanian students to join with.

"We told the Prime Minister that we collaborate with TCU and other gov-

ernment related institutions and also we told him about other services we provide like loans to university students, he was happy about that and said that he wish other institutions could do like Global Education Link," he said

"Also the premier was interested to know if we charge affordable rates that enable all Tanzanians to use this opportunity. About how many students we have enrolled for this year we told him that up to now we have assisted 600, he congratulated us for this achievements," said Hemed

Either, Hemed revealed that during the exhibitions Global Education Link introduced its new service of medical tourism whereby they assist patients to go abroad for medical checkup and treatments.

He said through that service, they have a team of competent doctors who work with them to give advice to patients on where to go for medical checkup and treatments outside the country where there are modern facilities.

The company has successfully managed to link more than 5,000 students with universities abroad since its establishment in 2016.

Recently, Global Education Link Dar es Salaam Regional Manager, Regina Lema, told this paper that there are big numbers of students who wish to study abroad nowadays a situation which she said is contributed by good performance of form six leavers.

She said the company has set an arrangement to make follow-up for students they link with different abroad universities to know their development and if they face obstacles.

Positioning women as catalysts for innovation in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

GLORIA Muhoro believes that there are many misconceptions around innovation in the current business climate.

She says it's less about hiring a Chief Innovation Officer and starting Innovation Labs and more about stimulating a certain kind of thinking - and women have a key role to play.

When Gloria Muhoro was growing up in Nairobi, Kenya, her first career choice was medicine. She had good marks and she wanted to make a positive impact in the world. With a BSc in Biochemistry under her belt, she soon discovered a strong interest in business and project management which led her in a whole new direction.

"I realised I wanted to make an impact on the growth and development of whole communities," says Miss Muhoro, who obtained a job at the African Development Bank shortly after completing an MPhil in Inclusive Innovation at the UCT Graduate School of Business in 2014.

In this role, Gloria says she is helping people every day, especially women - even though she is not a doctor. "At the African Development Bank, I can ensure that every project we approve, is gender sensitive and benefiting the community as promised. I help perform gender assessments and analysis and propose mitigation measures to ensure that gender dimensions are taken into account in our operations. As such, we get to play a very real part in improving their quality of life."

Her role includes fostering strategic partnerships with development partners and public and private institutions as well as designing and managing direct interventions in the areas of information communications technology for development and gender equality and women's economic empowerment that have the potential to bring a critical mass of African women into the access, use, creation and leadership of technology.

The overall goal is to catalyse women's inclusive participation in the digital economy, which is a prerequisite for Africa's digital trans-

formation.

Gloria is concerned about African women falling behind in critical aspects of development. "When it comes to mobile phone use; in some cultures, barriers such as social norms, cost, literacy and privacy issues hinder women from accessing and using mobile technology."

Even when women do own mobile phones, there is a significant gender gap in usage, and this is even more pronounced when it comes to transformational services, such as the use of mobile internet. While this may be a global problem, it is more pronounced in Africa where a majority of the women are poor and live in rural areas.

She says there is research that shows that once female entrepreneurs secure funding for their start-ups, they tend to pay back their loans faster and their companies have higher revenues.

"There is proof for the argument that women-led businesses offer better investment opportunities. Innovation plays a critical role in ensuring sustainable and scalable solutions to

the challenge of gender inequality."

Women are also natural born collaborators and activists, thinks Gloria, and may be catalysts spurring more inclusive innovation in African business.

While many in the business world think innovation is some kind of one-size-fits-all solution. "The fact is, there is no defined path to innovation. What might be innovative for one organisation may be business-as-usual for another. It is all about the context of the innovation and the adaptability of an organisation to meeting the needs of its end users."

She quotes the example of former Apple CEO Steve Jobs, who once said that often people didn't know what they wanted until it was shown to them.

"It follows then that you can't create something new by asking people their opinions about what currently exists." Gloria says that innovation is more of a process and a way of thinking. The focus should be on the customer or client and their needs. "It's not only about thinking but acting too, then innovative out-

comes will follow.

This is what distinguishes innovation from creativity. While creativity is coming up with a new idea, innovation is about executing that idea. Both are crucial for successful innovation." For her current job, Gloria relocated to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, the capital of Francophone West Africa, an exciting and fast-paced city.

A normal day starts early for her, just after five o'clock, when she gets up to read, do research and have some quiet time for thinking before the day begins.

She does not care much for watching TV and prefers books or going to the gym. There is often not enough time for either of these as she has full days at the office. But she does not mind working hard and is inspired to explore further ways of fostering innovation and pulling more women into the access, design and use of technology in Africa.

"I love my job and I really believe in the power of social activism to catalyse inclusive socio-economic transformation in Africa," she says.



Musoma Rural legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo (R) shakes hands with Nyambono secondary school headmaster Michael Mpasi shortly after handing over 80 desks donated by NMB Bank and 80 chairs donated by him at the school in Mara region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAZARA memorial park is a national monument, says Chinese ambassador

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

CHINESE Ambassador to Zambia, Li Jie yesterday visited the Regional Office of TAZARA in Mpika, where he introduced AVIC international, the contractor engaged to build the TAZARA Memorial Park in Chongwe area near Lusaka, which will house the remains of Chinese who died during construction of TAZARA.

He urged TAZARA to co-operate and support AVIC International in the process of building the memorial park in Chongwe, emphasizing that the memorial park would serve as a national monument.

Ambassador Li said that the TAZARA memorial park would act as a museum for the younger generation to appreciate the friendship that existed among the three countries of China, Tanzania and Zambia.

"The younger generation need to know that the spirit of hard work, friendship and commitment can achieve great things such as the TAZARA railway line," the ambassador said. The Ambassador also took the opportunity to commend the management of TAZARA for improving the performance of the authority in the last few years, noting that the performance had deteriorated tremendously prior to 2016.

Ambassador Li, who was welcomed by the Regional General Manager, Eng Kambani Ndhlovu, advised the authority to focus on improvement of capacity in order to increase revenue and overhaul of the management systems for better decision making.

The ambassador said there was also need for both countries to encourage the building of industries along the line so that there are more railway activities to bring in traffic.

Ambassador Li stressed that the Chinese government always had TAZARA at heart and was always willing to work with the two countries towards improving TAZARA.

Botswana to continue elephant protection talks with Kenya - minister

GABORONE

BOTSWANA will continue talks about elephant protection with Kenya in order to hold the east African country together with itself at an upcoming international conference on wildlife

protection, a minister said on Thursday.

The talks aim to bring Kenya on board with southern African countries at the table of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), whose

18th regular meeting will be held on Aug. 17-28 in Geneva, Botswana Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Kitso Mokaila said.

Last month, Kenyan First Lady Margaret Kenyatta lobbied for a global ban on ivory trade, aiming

to raise awareness of the protection of the iconic large mammals.

Last week, Kenya proposed that all African elephant populations should be listed in Appendix I at the CITES, which strictly prohibits trade and offers the

highest protection.

However, Botswana's position is that communities should be allowed to get involved in the sustainable management of elephants. "We have taken a resolution to continuously engage Kenya to support us at the CITES

meeting," said Mokaila when addressing residents at Nata Village, some 630 km northwest of Botswana's capital Gaborone.

Elephant-human conflict is becoming rife in Botswana due to elephant overpopulation caused by a hunting ban in 2014.

Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi lifted the ban a few months after he took office in April 2018.

Botswana has an elephant population of more than 100,000, far above the country's carrying capacity.

Giant freshwater fishes are in alarming decline

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

FRESHWATER megafish - giants weighing more than 30 kilogrammes that can live for decades - declined by more than 94 per cent between 1970 and 2012, according to a recent study.

The findings, published on 8 August in the journal *Global Change Biology*, are part of an analysis that looked at the populations of enormous freshwater animals in the world's rivers and lakes.

The drop-off reflects a broader downward

trend in the populations of freshwater megafauna - such as caimans and giant salamanders - around the world (see *Plunging populations*). The study authors estimate that the populations of big freshwater animals have fallen by 88%.

"It is sadly a very shocking result," says Fengzhi He, a fish ecologist at Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin and the lead study author. His team estimates that the megafauna populations that started dropping in the 1980s across swathes of Asia - including Cambodia, southern China, India and Afghanistan - have plummeted by 99 per cent.

The team collected data on the populations of 126 large freshwater species from 72 countries. They analysed the data using the Living Planet Index, a statistical measure that adjusts for imbalances in the amount of informa-

tion from various areas.

They expected megafish to be hit the hardest by human activities such as overfishing and loss of habitat, because many giant fish species mature late, have relatively few offspring and require large, intact habitats for migration. Their movements are increasingly hampered by hydroelectric dams in the world's greatest river basins, such as the Mekong, Congo, Amazon and Ganges.

Of the more than 200 freshwater animal species in the world larger than 30 kilogrammes, 34 are categorised as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species. But He cautions that researchers just don't have enough information on many of the large freshwater species to determine their conservation status. It might be possible to help some species in danger of extinction to recover if scientists have accurate data on the animals' populations, He says.

He hopes that his team's findings prompt more-detailed assessments in places such as southeast Asia before it's too late. "I actually think it might be worse than we think in the Mekong Basin, where megafish like the Mekong giant catfish and the giant salmon carp have almost been eliminated," he says.



City residents at the scene of an accident which involved a commuter bus and a rickshaw passenger cart at Mbezi Mwisho in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Human actions can reduce vulnerability and prepare for disaster

A DISASTER is a serious disruption occurring over a relatively short period of time, affecting the functioning of a community or a society as it causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

In contemporary academia, disasters are seen as the consequence of inappropriately managed risk. These risks are the product of a combination of both hazards and vulnerability. Hazards that strike in areas with low vulnerability will never become disasters, as in the case of uninhabited regions.

Developing countries suffer the greatest costs when a disaster hits - more than 95 per cent of all deaths caused by hazards occur in developing countries, and losses due to natural hazards are 20 times greater (as a percentage of GDP) in developing countries than in industrialized countries.

The root of the word disaster ("bad star" in Greek) comes from an astrological sense of a calamity blamed on the position of planets.[8]

Researchers have been studying disasters for more than a century, and for more than forty years disaster research. The studies reflect a common opinion when they argue that all disasters can be seen as being human-made, their reasoning being that human actions before the strike of the hazard can prevent it developing into a disaster. All disasters are hence the result of human failure to introduce appropriate emergency management measures. Hazards are routinely divided into natural or human-made, although complex disasters, where there is no single root cause, are more

common in developing countries. A specific disaster may spawn a secondary disaster that increases the impact. A classic example is an earthquake that causes a tsunami, resulting in coastal flooding.

A natural disaster is a natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Various phenomena like earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, tsunamis, and cyclones are all natural disasters that kill thousands of people and destroy billions of dollars of habitat and property each year. However, the rapid growth of the world's population and its increased concentration often in hazardous environments has escalated both the frequency and severity of disasters. With the tropical climate and unstable landforms, coupled with deforestation, unplanned growth proliferation, non-engineered constructions make the disaster-prone areas more vulnerable. Developing countries suffer more or less chronically from natural disasters due to ineffective communication combined with insufficient budgetary allocation for disaster prevention and management.

Human-instigated disasters are the consequence of technological or human hazards. Examples include transport accidents, industrial accidents, stampedes, fires, oil spills, nuclear explosions/nuclear radiation. War and deliberate attacks may also be put in this category.

Other types of man-made disasters include the more cosmic scenarios of catastrophic global warming, nuclear war, and bioterrorism.

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

THE Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030. The SDGs are part of a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda.

The goals are broad based and interdependent. The 17 sustainable development goals each have a list of targets that are measured with indicators.

Key to making the SDGs successful is to make the data on the 17 goals available and understandable. Various tools exist to track and visualize progress towards the goals.

In 1972, governments met in Stockholm, Sweden for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, to consider the rights of the family to a healthy and productive environment. In September 2011, this idea was picked up by the United Nations Department of Public Information 64th NGO Conference in Bonn, Germany. The outcome document proposed 17 sustainable development goals and associated targets.

In January 2013, the 30-member UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was established to identify specific goals for the SDGs.

Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary-General from 2007 to 2016, has stated in a November 2016 press conference that: "We don't have plan B because there is no planet B!" This thought has guided the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Post-2015 Development Agenda was a process from 2012 to 2015 led by the United Nations to define the future global development framework that would succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs were developed to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended in 2015. The gaps and shortcomings

of MDG Goal 8 (To develop a global partnership for development) led to identifying a problematic "donor-recipient" relationship. Instead, the new SDGs favor collective action by all countries.[13]

The UN-led process involved its 193 Member States and global civil society. The resolution is a broad intergovernmental agreement that acts as the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The SDGs build on the principles agreed upon in resolution entitled "The Future We Want". This was a non-binding document released as a result of Rio+20 Conference held in 2012.

Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda began in January 2015 and ended in August 2015. The negotiations ran in parallel to United Nations negotiations on financing for development, which determined the financial means of implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda; those negotiations resulted in adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July 2015. A final document was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 in New York.

On 25 September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

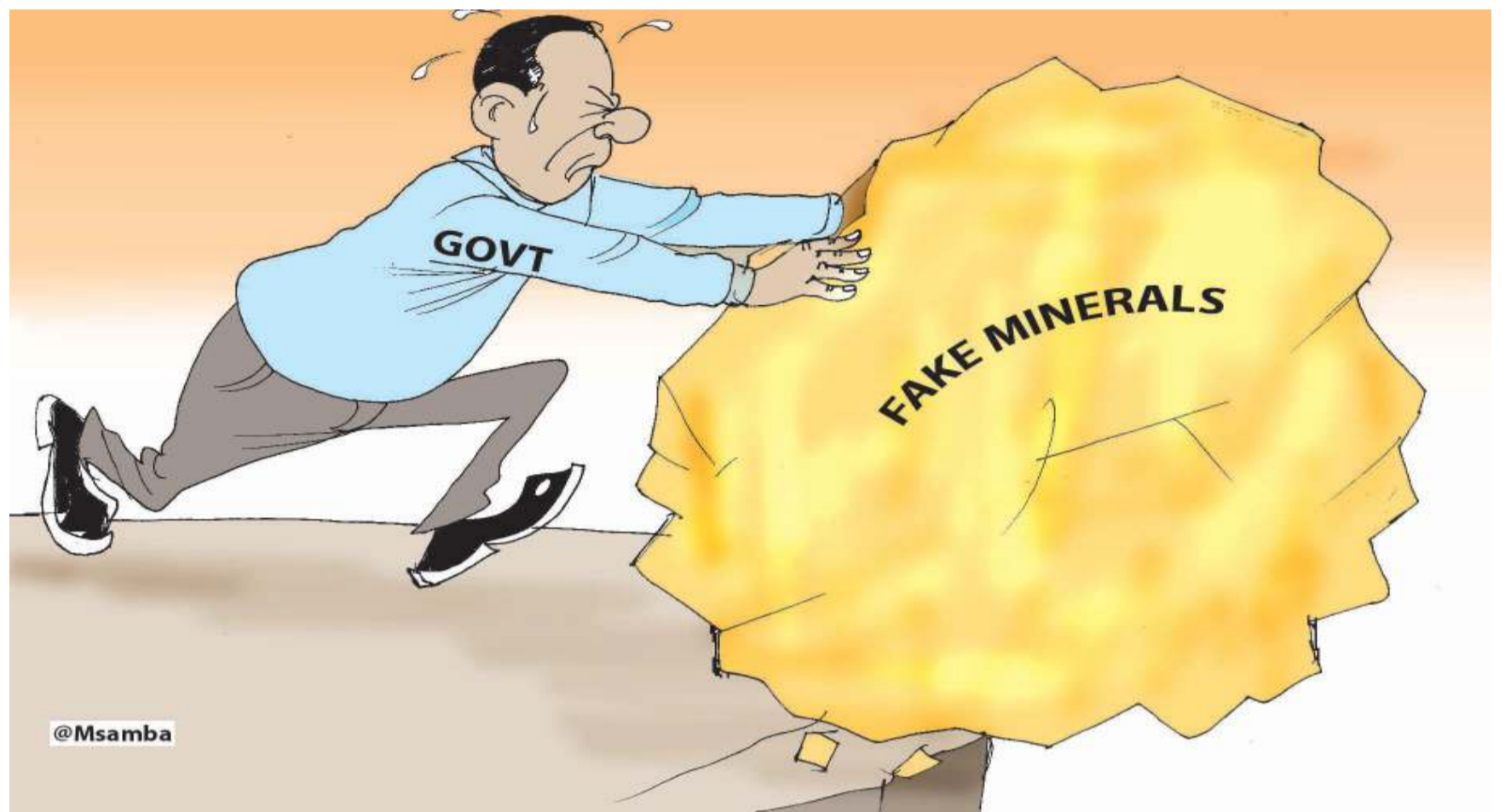
In the same vein, the High-level Political Forum, United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, provides for the full and effective participation of all states members of the United Nations and states members of specialized agencies.

The meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019 convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, was held from 9 July to 18 July 2019.

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No SDGs without equality, rights and choices!

By Julitta Onabanjo

THE United Nations' High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals met last week at ministerial level, ahead of the September SDG Summit under the theme 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. The ministers reviewed SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

At a Ministerial Luncheon held on the margins of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), African Ministers, HLPF Heads of Delegations, high-level government functionaries, Permanent Representatives to the UN, and UNFPA leadership reaffirmed the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Agenda through the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD). Ministers recommitted to fulfilling the Promise of the ICPD through accelerating implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, with a priority focus on placing people's rights at the centre of development.

This important exercise took place just a few months before UNFPA's high-level conference in November to advance implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise. The six goals under review this year are fully in line with the ICPD Programme of Action, without which the achievement of the SDGs will not be possible.

Twenty-five years ago, at the ICPD in Cairo, 179 governments adopted the visionary Programme of Action that aimed to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls and to promote their empowerment. The Programme of Action urged governments to "accelerate women's equal participation and equitable representation at all levels of the political process and public life".

As part of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review, Africa adopted 88 bold commitments in the framework of the Addis Ababa



Declaration on Population and Development, which was endorsed by the Heads of States in January 2014.

Although important gains have been made, many of the goals laid out in the ICPD Programme of Action have not been met. Today, it is recognized globally that fulfilling the rights of women and girls is central to development.

At the 2019 Commission on Population and Development in New York in April, governments agreed that the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This is why UNFPA and its partners are calling for renewed commitments from governments, organizations and advocates to accelerate efforts to realize the goals of the Programme of Action.

Across Africa, we continue to see the promise of the ICPD agenda manifested through the unprecedented mobilization of young people, whose voices inform change; through traditional leaders, who decree that traditions of oppression and discrimination against women and girls should no longer be tolerated; through religious leaders, who believe that women must have the freedom to determine the number and spacing of their children; through First Ladies, who work every day to galvanize sup-

port for women's empowerment; and through civil society, which holds us all accountable, and contributes in immeasurable ways to expanded access to critical sexual and reproductive health services.

The HLPF provided a unique platform to discuss the renewal of commitments and, as UNFPA in partnership with the governments of Kenya and Denmark organizes the Nairobi Summit in November this year, all opportunities should be seized in preparation.

Fighting inequality across the board

For Africa, addressing inequalities across the board is of paramount importance. Addressing inequalities across all sectors of our societies - including quality education, decent work and economic growth - necessitates that we eliminate disparities in access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the consequences of lack of access, such as unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion, maternal deaths, and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation. It also requires that we spare no effort to prevent child marriage and provide young people, particularly adolescent girls, with quality education that includes comprehensive sexuality education.

For these to happen, we should maximize the benefits

of the demographic dividend by investing in the empowerment, health, education and employment of young people, as well as by creating opportunities and a supportive environment for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship for young people to access jobs and realize their full potential.

Addressing inequalities also means that we empower young people with the information and skills to make informed choices about their lives, to enable them stay healthy and free from sexually transmitted infections, HIV and Non-Communicable Diseases, and ensure the availability and use of accurate, disaggregated data for decision-making to ensure that no one is left behind.

Renewing our commitment to, and actioning, the ICPD Programme of Action will enable us to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

People matter - and every single one of us counts. In Africa, we can truly work towards ensuring equal rights and choices for all.



How far public sector initiatives can create, sustain markets in the SADC zone

By Anil Kija

EXPLORING diverse SADC markets was a recurring theme as Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa conversed with local exhibitors at the start of the SADC Industrial Week and Exhibition at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre in the city. The premier was making a point on industrialists in the country to explore diverse markets of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as a trading bloc with 16 member countries. It is a point that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni once made in Mwanza when winding off a visit to Tanzania, saying that the East African Community has a total population (then) of 120 million, but if the purchasing power is too low, it is hard to create big markets.

While the total population of the SADC zone has been mentioned once in a while during the current preliminary meeting and exchanges before the summits of heads of states and governments, it is the number of countries that appears to be making a statistical impression on those listening to discussions, for instance in the whole issue of seeking markets in the numerous countries forming the bloc. It is the question posed by President Museveni which comes ringing back: how far does the number of member states widen market opportunities, and even if prima facie this is the case, by what magnitude, though?

The SADC Industrialization Week and Exhibition has the theme 'A Conducive Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Increased Intra-Trade and Job Creation,' where organizers take note of a preliminary impression that the SADC market is rich, taking into account that it has a population of 277 million with 39 per cent living in urban areas.

That means the average rate of urbanization in the SADC zone as a whole is noticeably higher than in the host country, where the rate of urbanization has scarcely ever been put at higher than 27 or 28 per cent of the total population. At the same time this means that there is a certain increase in consumption as urbanization generally widens consumption on account of frequency of service provision compared to rural areas, but consumption levels tend to stagnate, etc.



Looking at the situation for a number of SADC countries a sort of gloomy picture emerges though there are specific enclaves of economic difficulties of this or that particular sort, their intensity and modes of solution.

At times the level of civic unrest or the lack of it is an indicator on economic health of a country where purchasing power is the clincher, but there are other factors at work on how far citizens support or listen to current authorities without question, as countries have political cultures that others take time to decipher its signals, to comprehend why they act the way they do, like disenchantment with authorities.

The point is it is not across the board comparisons which work but local ones, the rise or decline of hopes.

So when the public authorities tell the private sector that the Industrialization Week and Exhibition is a good platform for our manufacturers to showcase and

market locally made products, what can a person say a bystander, guess will be the reactions and expectations of the private sector? Is it one of elation and assiduous search for markets, or one of muted acceptance of the challenge while realizing that efforts must be carefully scaled as the markets are not predictable? Why is it that South African supermarket chain Shoprite collapsed in its local operations after making an intense effort across a number of years? And why has Uchumi of Kenya, which in some instances replaced it, also largely downsized operations?

Were it that one talked a bit keenly to a local exhibitor it is possible that the issue is less the pursuit of a regional market than exhibition so that anyone might be interested, local buyers as well as those from SADC.

It is the sort of logic that habitually obtains at the Dar es Salaam International Trade fair where a 42nd edition was in place just last month, where it is defi-

nately meant to be international or outward looking in its orientation. But in practice it is inward looking and seeks to attract customers from afar.

Not just those who pass at a shop window or have seen adverts of the product somewhere, in which case participating in an exhibition is really like putting up a billboard on a major road, as one elicits the same number of people as those passing under the billboard and have read it before passing it.

The difference is that those who go to a trade fair might have a minimal inclination to buy some sort of product in this or that aspect of daily life, but have no preliminary intention of doing so at a specific exhibitor, so the fact of exhibition, positioning, makes a difference. It is a different matter from boardroom strategies of exploring markets in SADC countries, but on the contrary, a SADC visitor may take note of the product and inquire.



Localizing innovation: Quality control and state-based principal stakeholders

By Nimi Mweta

RECENT reports that TARI Mikocheni, one among 17 research centres operated by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), has become a certified virus-free sweet potato vines producer and sell different grades of certified seed for various agricultural products.

TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo told the media that the certification of virus-free sweet potato vines was conducted by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) following quality inspection and assessment. Obviously the director was of the view that the procedures followed were vigorous as stipulated in regulations relating to crop research, but it is a different issue if the matter is examined from a public-private context. There is clear intention of collaboration or synergy in this case.

While it is positive for public sector organizations to work together to achieve set national goals, it is a different matter when the regulatory body is tasked with supervising the private sector as well. During early socialist days, many parastatal bodies used to have a chief executive officer named 'chairman and managing director' or 'chairman and director general,' as he was the vital person in the board of directors as well. Board members represented quarters of society rather than usual shareholders.

The report on certification says that TOSCI is an entrusted institution to enforce the Seed Act of 2003 and its Seed (Amendment) Regulations of 2017 stipulating standards for quality seeds of vegetatively propagated crops, including sweet potato. In this case specifically, the certification allows TARI Mikocheni to multiply and sell high quality virus-free sweet potato vines to decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs) for further multiplication of other seed grades. TOSCI Director General Patrick Ngwediagi said that approving TARI as a seed dealer was premised on official directive to TARI to produce sufficient quantities of high quality seeds. It means the centre is trusted already, not depending on what the regulatory body would find on any specific set of seeds, etc.

The report noted further that this certification is meant to complement what is produced by private companies and the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA), particularly for crops such as sweet potato. TOSCI appealed to TARI to ensure that all seeds sold meet national and international seed standards as Tanzania recognizes these protocols. Is this appeal part of enforcement of quality standards, or a peer review advisory of sorts?

The research and innovation process follows standards stipulated in seed schemes of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and procedures approved by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). On the other hand, Dr. Fred Tairo,

research and innovation coordinator at TARI Mikocheni as well as coordinator of BioInnovate Africa supported project for Tanzania, tied to the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) said that TARI Mikocheni facilitated the institutionalization of a sweet potato seed delivery system by training 54 sweet potato decentralized vine multipliers (DVMs) and sellers from Dar es Salaam, Coast and Singida regions. It is evident that the capacity building is apace, generally.

The training, which covered areas in sweet potato seed production, certification procedures and dealership was conducted in November 2018 and March 2019 in partnership with BioInnovate Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), TOSCI and TARI Kibaha. Still there are differences between training and control of those processes, in which case even at the apex of the national quality seed control setting, control is different from technical capacity for awareness of standards, as it presumes ability to enforce such standards. There are multiple hindrances to the constant observation and total adherence to standards, if the producer has no oversight body or if the two bodies both belong to the state. They tend to cooperate, not control.

These are some of the challenges facing scientific innovation in Southern Africa on the basis of the socioeconomic reality of the predominance of the public sector in this process, which begets an operational principle of localization of innovation, regulation and control. At the same time research structures set up during the socialist period make state institutions the leading stakeholders, and as they have the best crop of scientists that the country fields at present, ministerial regulators are often seek as paper pushers issuing certificates of quality on advice of the scientific personnel, period.

Contrary to the socialist period, scientific research at the moment is integrated at the regional level and well connected internationally. The sweet potato project is far from a local activity per se as BioInnovate Africa is an Eastern Africa regional innovation-driven bioeconomy programme of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) based in Nairobi. The report underlined that it is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to develop and pilot innovative biological based technologies and products that are relevant for inclusive growth and a sustainable economy in the region. Participating countries in the BioInnovate Africa programme are Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. In that case wider regulatory functions working at the regional level will be needed, as local bodies both premised on observance of government directives are unlikely to exercise effective checks and balances, and could even handle differently queries on the public sector and on the private sector.

Agro-industrialisation in SADC zone: Lessons from honey economics in Tanzania

By Nimi Mweta

ON the basis of comparable landscapes between a number of SADC countries while they are not entirely identical, as small enclave states like Lesotho and Eswatini are more comparable to Rwanda and Burundi with densely populated highland zones a remarkable characteristic, those with wider plains and forests have a few things in common. It is the presence of vast unutilized land which is more remarkable for the contests surrounding it than for the potential capital that is likely to be invested in the next two decades or so on the basis of current economic structures. Industrialisation needs that such bottlenecks are sorted out.

An item in this newspaper at the start of the SADC Industrial Week and Exhibition, which coincides with the national agricultural how often known as NaneNane as it falls on the 8th of August was an illustration both of these aspirations and difficulties of their realization. It was lucidly presented under the tempting title of 'Forgotten honey money: Why billions lie in forests' in the sense that were local forests to be used as per technical requirements, the country would reap billions in honey exports, etc. This looks altogether valid at first glance until one brings economic history into account, mechanisms of competition and so on.

It said that "young Tanzanians engaged in beekeeping and honey processing have appealed to the private sector and the government to increase investments in the sub-sector to enable them harness billions of shillings in annual revenues that are currently wasted due to inferior practices." It means that if such a flow of cash is assured then the potential in the forests is to be realized, and for some reason or other, that is, on the basis of the current policy standpoint, those who stand to make such operation are the 'youth.' What it means is that either



they receive direct funding from the government, or a benevolent NGO, etc.

The idea that millions of shillings or even billions lie in wait for energy to be brought together so that it is harnessed is true in the sense of the physical potential, but economic activity is not a situation where there is physical potential for producing say cotton - or in this case honey - and once we know it, we do it. It is a faulty trajectory that the youths and the wider policy advisory environment appear to be taking into their perspective, that this potential is known and public or private sector agencies are equally relevant to bring that into realization. It is hard to see how a specific dynamic arises from that kind of mixture of roles, etc.

For the forests to be turned into cash spinners, all what is required are investments ranging from training of farmers to supply of modern equipment as well as processing methods. Now there comes the clincher, as to who actually supplies equipment and processing facilities, also capable of

assuring the quality levels that are demanded especially in export markets. When the focus is directed at training farmers that is a rather simple role as many extension officers are within regions or districts, the problem being the little funds required for upkeep especially for farmers or youths who have to leave their places of sanctuary and camp somewhere for two or three days to learn basics of honey value chains. It can be done, all the same.

There was a reference to remarks by Prof. Dos Santos Silayo, the chief executive officer of the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) who said that Tanzania has the potential to produce over 100,000 tonnes of honey per year but currently produces slightly over 50,000 tonnes. The real potential is higher if the forest cover is used intensively but possibly the CEO offered a more restrained projection considering available means, by current capacities like financing. Do we use 50 per cent of honey making capacity already?

A Singida-based farmer and pro-

cessor said for the potential to be unlocked, what is needed is not change but transformation, underlining that it should start with introduction of modern beehives, packaging, harvesting, processing as well as transportation. When all that is work to be done is it likely that were it to be completed to capacity, that is, on the basis of each region's physical potential, shall the result be just a doubling of the honey output or perhaps the don's estimation was slightly on the lower side? But what all the same is the likelihood of scaling these impediments and realize the potential, evading us many years?

A group formed last February contracted 30 farmers to supply honey for processing but so far only one with the capacity of 200 gallons per season has managed to meet the quality threshold. That situation shows that gaps still remain or are broadly expressed but there is progress towards realizing quality standards that would make the product marketable locally and definitely overseas. The group is also obtaining orders from foreign markets but those interviewed admit they have problems accepting and processing such orders, as they lack the quality honey supply base and facilities for rapid processing.

The group is a beneficiary of the 'Support sustainable value chain development for job creation, food and nutrition security in Tanzania,' a project supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) whose implementation began in 2016. Reports say it offers selected youth training in modern agricultural practices with focus on horticulture, beekeeping and honey processing as well as small livestock rearing like poultry. Still stakeholders admit that quality issues led to the past closure of Mlandizi-based Honey King processing factory set up by Chinese investors, operating for only two years.

The summit is capable of marking decisions that are binding

MUHARRAM MACATTA

THE Protocol on Trade has been hailed as the most important for integration in SADC. This article will indicate that institutions are essential drivers of organizations and their role in regional integration is therefore very important.

However under the current legal and institutional framework, the SADC regional integration agenda faces major challenges of implementation.

SADC institutions are not capable of completely fulfilling their legal obligations, although in some instances the lack of fulfillment was clearly a result of the legal instruments themselves being incomplete and needing further reform.

The SADC Treaty provides the legal framework of the organization by setting out the status, principles and objectives, and obligations of Member States; the membership, the institutions, procedural matters relating to areas of cooperation among Member States, cooperation with other international organizations, financial issues, dispute settlement, and lastly sanctions, withdrawal and dissolution.

The SADC Treaty makes provision for the formulation of subsidiary legal instruments such as protocols giving specific mandates to various SADC institutions. A total of twenty three protocols have so far been formulated.

Without some level of institutionalization or other means of enforcement, national commitment to regional trade integration is bound to face some challenges. Accordingly, transnational trade is obviously inhibited when the validity and enforcement of contracts, obligation and rules cannot be guaranteed beyond the term of office of an administration.

Thus Member States' commitment to the work of institutions within a regional economic community like SADC is critical for the full implementation of the SADC Treaty and its Protocols.

The more comprehensive the trade arrangements and the more advanced the integration process, the stronger the need for appropriate institutions with supranational powers.

Thus, the drive towards deeper integration in the SADC should equally be supported by stronger supranational mechanisms and the highest political level in a Member State.

Regional economic integration in the SADC is presently discussed with a thorough examination of the important institutional and legal structures of the organization.

This discussion is focused on the various



Southern African Development Community (SADC), Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax

ious institutions whose legal mandate is related to the economic integration process. The institutions are authorized by the Treaty and the Protocol on Trade.

In addition to consider among other things, to harmonize the political and social economic policies of Member States, and to encourage popular participation in the activities of SADC and the implementation of SADC initiatives.

The countries in Southern Africa have been key drivers of the new global proliferation of regional trade agreements (RTAs). Consequently, Southern Africa has taken its place on the global stage, mainly because of the existence of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Before the signing of the SADC Treaty, the organization was run under a loose and non-binding structure of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

The origins of the SADCC lie in the Frontline States, a group of Southern African countries that fought for independence from colonial rule, whose majority resided in Tanzania through the courtesy of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the President 1st phase government.

Their aim was to help liberate the whole region from colonial rule. In the 1960s and 70s, these newly independent states supported national liberation movements in the region by coordinat-

ing their political, diplomatic and military struggle to bring an end to colonial and white minority rule.

The idea was to secure international cooperation for economic liberation and collective self-reliance. At that time, according to the late President of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama, "economic dependence had in many ways made political independence somewhat meaningless".

An additional effort under former President Kaunda of Zambia was to establish a transcontinental belt of independent and economically powerful nations from Dar es Salaam and Maputo on the Indian Ocean to Luanda on the Atlantic Ocean.

The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference was established in 1980 by the governments of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which was the forerunner of the "Southern African Development Community (SADC)".

SADC which was formed in Lusaka, Zambia, on 1st April 1980, following the adoption of the Lusaka Declaration (1980) by the nine founding member states. There was no treaty signed for SADCC. Thus, the SADC was

formed as an international regional organization established in terms of a treaty and declaration referred to as the 'Treaty of Southern African Development Community', signed by the heads of state and government of the signatory Member States.

To avoid pitfalls from the beginning, the SADC placed particular emphasis on a decentralized institutional arrangement. This was a deliberate avoidance of supranational institutions. This ensured that Member States are the principal actors in the formation and implementation of policy decisions.

The SADC Treaty basically re-enacted the institutional structure of the SADCC. Thus not much was learnt from the 1980 failures. Deeper integration and trade liberalization was not going to be realized under a decentralized institutional arrangement.

Thus deeper integration and trade liberalization is not possible under a decentralized institutional arrangement. Deeper integration requires governance that transcends individual Member States within the region to a level where decision making is delegated to regional institutions that are to some extent independent of Member States' influence.

If this is not done, regional institutions might lack democratic legitimacy and may result in the loss of popular support for the whole project. This is important because the nature and extent of the powers vested in regional institutions determines the institutions' ability to promote the region's integration agenda.

Therefore the importance of the existence of supranational institutions in promoting regional integration cannot be overemphasized.

According to Mutharika "Economic integration requires the delegation of power to a supranational body entrusted with the task of safeguarding the interest of both the supranational entity as well as that of the individual Member States".

The principal organs driving regional economic integration in the SADC are the Summit, which is made up of Heads of State and Government; the Troika; the Council of Ministers; the Integrated Committee of Ministers; the Tribunal; SADC National Committees; Standing Committee of Officials; and the Secretariat.

The SADC Tribunal was the only new institution provided for under the Windhoek Treaty. For the purposes of this analysis only

the important institutions relevant to regional integration are discussed herein. The Summit is made up of Heads of State and/or Government from all SADC Member States. The decisions of the Summit are taken by consensus.

It is the ultimate policy-making institution of SADC and is responsible for the overall policy direction and control of functions of the Community. The Summit is also a legislative organ. The Summit is described as an organ capable of making decisions that are 'binding'. Therefore it is a mainly supreme organ.

Special Summit meetings are also called to discuss issues of emergency and whenever there is a need. The Summit is a critical institution that has to approve policy before it is considered for adoption into law, for example protocol formulation.

In future, the SADC's ambitious trade timetable needs to be matched by the political will to meet the deadlines in order to restore the organization's flagging credibility or integrity.

This means that this body has to show political willingness to implement the SADC integration agenda. Unfortunately this is lacking, as regional leaders are sometimes reluctant to surrender state sovereignty for the benefit of the region. The SADC Trade Protocol itself is evidence of this need.

The above discussion has emphasized the importance of the Summit in SADC economic integration. As the supreme policy-making institution, it has to promote economic integration objectives if deeper integration is to be realized.

The leadership of the Summit has not always been clear; as part of its structure the Summit is led by a chairperson and vice-chairperson elected 'for an agreed period' and 'on the basis of rotation'.

However, the election procedures have not been specified, which has left the Heads of State and Government some latitude in the selection of the political leader of the organization at any particular time.

This leadership role is not necessarily taken on by the persons best qualified to guide the SADC agenda at any particular time; thus, regional integration efforts may be either weak or robust depending on the calibre of the leader.

New laws bring new hope for Tunisia's trafficking victims

BY RIM DHAOUADI

TRAFFICKING in people - including children, women and foreigners as domestic servants and for street begging, criminal activities and sexual exploitation - is not new in Tunisia. It has been happening for decades, despite laws that prohibit and punish forced labour, child labour and sexual exploitation.

It is common, for instance, for wealthy families to employ Tunisian minors as domestic helpers. Even though it is illegal, the practice has long been considered socially permissible. It enables minors - usually girls from the north-west of Tunisia - to support their families, who are often economically marginalised, and to financially prepare themselves for marriage.

Before new legislation on preventing and combating human trafficking was adopted in August 2016, victims of trafficking did not have legal protection. For example in 2012, Tunisian authorities arrested over 80 Tunisian women accused of prostitution in Lebanon. Many of them provided evidence of being forced into prostitution, and said they ended up in Lebanon through fake employment agencies who took away their passports.

Because there were no laws protecting human trafficking victims at the time, they were prosecuted as accomplices and convicted under Tunisian law for being part of a prostitution network in a foreign country.

Victims from countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Nigeria, Mali and



Cameroon who are trafficked or smuggled to Tunisia to serve as domestic servants tell similar stories. According to their testimonies, they were recruited in their country of origin by agencies which, it turned out, had no real operations in Tunisia, and were not easy to trace. They were lured by promises of good pay and working conditions as domestic workers.

Once in Tunisia, they were 'transferred' to their employers' homes, where their passports were confiscated. Often they would then be told that their visas had expired, making them irregular migrants.

In many cases this deters people from reaching out to the authorities,

Acknowledging in law that victims are coerced helps address the bigger issues of human smuggling. File photo

as doing so could result in expensive penalties to exit the country. Given that their passports have been taken away, proof of identity becomes another challenge.

The 2016 law dramatically changes these dynamics. Article 6 includes legal protection for victims, and victims are also protected from criminal prosecution for offences committed under pressure or threat in direct relation to being trafficked.

The law gives legal status to foreign victims of trafficking, and ensures that victims are provided with medical and social help. It also allows them to return safely to their countries of origin. This

change, to some extent, alleviates the absence of a legal framework for asylum in Tunisia and the absence of protection for migrants.

Article 64 of the law enshrines the 'right to a recovery and reflection period' of up to two months. During this period, victims cannot be repatriated. This gives them an opportunity to get help initiating legal proceedings in Tunisia.

According to Article 65, Tunisian authorities must consider requests for temporary residence, or the extension of temporary residence, for victims engaged in legal procedures. As part of the requirement to facilitate the safe return of foreigners to their coun-

tries, Tunisia must also coordinate with relevant institutions in those countries to remove physical and administrative obstacles.

The legislation is consistent with international law, including the Palermo Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Tunisian law also aligns its definition of human trafficking with these international frameworks. Article 2 specifies that human trafficking constitutes three elements, outlined broadly as: the action of mobilising a person; the means of undermining a person's free will; and the purpose of exploitation of a person.

The distinction between the three elements is essential, because it helps achieve two important goals. First, the consent of the victims cannot be invoked if the means that are listed in the law have been used. (The law describes these in detailed terms, and include the use or threat of force, any form of coercion, deception or offering money or benefits to obtain the consent of one person having authority over another.)

This means that victims can no longer be considered complicit, as used to be the case. For victims who are minors, however, the means used are irrelevant since minors' legal capacity is limited or absent. Therefore only two elements are needed to prosecute traffickers of minors: the action

and the purpose.

Judge Amor Yahiaoui, one of the speakers at a December 2018 conference in Tunis, emphasised the links between weak state institutions, corruption and people trafficking in North Africa and the Arab region. 'Modern slavery consists of exploiting victims' work for private material gain,' he said.

Now that foreign trafficking victims have legal status and a right to protection and assistance, they are encouraged to report abuse to the authorities and civil society organisations.

At the same conference, Judge Raoudha Laabidi, president of the National Commission Against Trafficking in Persons, declared that the number of trafficking victims registered in Tunisia had exceeded 700 people since January 2017. Among these victims, she said, 70% were minors, including around 100 foreigners. These victims were exploited for domestic servitude, street begging, criminal purposes and sexual abuse, and were subjected to various forms of violence.

Victims' legal status and the protections provided by the law will help boost the fight against human trafficking. Now Tunisia needs to focus on training judges, lawyers and law enforcement agents to ensure the law is sufficiently implemented.

Rim Dhaouadi, Researcher, ENACT project, ISS



Help African farmers cope with climate change threats, UN food agency urges

KIGALI

AFRICAN farmers need help to cope with the threats of climate change, with national policies that protect them and make them resilient, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, has declared, following a major conference on food security in

the continent.

In a statement released on Tuesday, at the conclusion of the high-level Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue, in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, the FAO stated that building resilience is one of the agency's priorities in Africa, and is key to meeting the challenge of feeding over two

billion by 2050. Small-scale food producers and their families, says the UN agency, are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, but they have always been innovators: "What they need are policies that protect them and increase their resilience to climate change", Helen Semedo, FAO's Deputy Direc-

tor-General, told the conference. "They need access to information, technology, and investment, and they should be brought to the conversation on innovation".

According to the latest FAO data, hunger is on the rise in almost all parts of Africa, and the continent has the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the

world, at almost 20 percent.

The situation, which is attributed mainly to conflict and climate change, is particularly acute in Eastern nations, where almost one-third of the population struggles to find enough to eat. On Monday, participants - who heard that adaptation to climate risks is possible if there is immediate

and bold action taken to build resilience - endorsed a commitment to do more to help African countries to improve their food security.

The aim of the Leadership Dialogue is to engage governments and key development partners, and bring about unified action for Africa's agriculture and food

systems in response to climate change.

The two-day event was hosted by the Government of Rwanda, in partnership with the FAO, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank.



Exhibitors at the India-Africa ICT Expo at Kigali Convention Centre. File photo

Idea to harmonise digital policies in Africa mooted

By Julius Bizimungu

AFRICAN leaders in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector have proposed an idea to harmonise digital policies to accelerate the continent's digital transformation.

The leaders are meeting in Kigali for the India-Africa ICT Summit and Expo.

Rwanda's Minister of ICT & Innovation, Paula Ingabire suggested the need for African nations to have inclusive policies.

"We need to think about inclusive policies because the levels of development, levels of resources, as well as skills are not similar on the continent," she said.

This, she argued, will facilitate the delivery of equitable opportunities for the entire African population.

Ingabire suggested that policymakers ought to leverage on the continent's youthful population, which is agile and adaptable to drive digital transformation.

More than ever, countries across the continent are talking about digital transformation and investing in technologies. There is a flourishing section of firms providing services to the population.

Leaders say the policy making institutions should be proactive to properly harness digital technologies and leverage these unprecedented benefits.

However, Mark Botomani, Malawi's Minister of Information, Civic Education and Communications Technology, argued that without political leadership commitment, Africa will never be able to achieve its policy targets.

"We can have infrastructure and partners to support us, but if we do not have strong leadership that will drive these things, we will not be successful," he said.

In Malawi, he added, the Government has committed to drive ICT growth through investing in infrastructure and establishing legislations like the 2016 Financial Crimes and Cyber-security Act.

"As of now, in terms of infrastructure, we have already laid 11,000 kilometres fibre backbone across the country, which means that even the people in remote areas are able to access network," he noted.

The country has also recently commissioned a project to set up towers to enable citizens to have full-time signal, and Botomani believes it is such kind of commitments that Africa leaders should undertake.

But Kazembe Kazembe, the Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services in Zimbabwe said there was a need to harmonise policies and regulations in Africa to remove border barriers.

"We have to remove the borders; we have to work as one African family. If we are to have our own Alibaba, we have to look at Africa as one global village when it comes to technology," he stated.

With broadband internet expected to have an immense impact to Africa's gross domestic product, Kazembe indicated that policies being put in place should be aligned to the address existing gaps.

The World Bank predicts that by 2032, the impact of 5G alone in Sub-Saharan Africa will be \$30 billion.

Kazembe said his country has understood the need to invest in broadband infrastructure, highlighting that more than 20,000 km of optic fibre has been deployed so far.

"We have also ensuring that each and every village in Zimbabwe has access to internet by deploying what we call community information centres and today, we have installed about 146 centres through our regulator," he noted.

Despite progress, only 3 African nations expected to meet global breastfeeding goal

SEATTLE

ONLY three African countries are expected to meet the global target for exclusive breastfeeding, "an unparalleled source of nutrition for newborns and infants, no matter where they are born," according to a global health expert.

The three nations, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe, are singled out in a new study from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington's School of Medicine. The study, published today in *Nature Medicine* in advance of World Breastfeeding Week Aug 1-7, finds areas of persistent low prevalence in countries that have made progress overall. Detailed maps accompanying the analysis reveal vulnerable populations, especially those living in rural areas and in extreme poverty.

However, researchers note that several nations, including Burundi, Rwanda, and parts

of Ethiopia, Uganda, and Zambia were among the highest rates of exclusive breastfeeding levels in 2000 and 2017. Sudan had some of the "highest and most consistent rates of increase" toward the exclusive breastfeeding goal of the World Health Organization (WHO) - prevalence by 2025 of at least 50% nationwide. The Global Burden of Disease, the annual comprehensive health study, attributed 169,000 child deaths to lack of breastfeeding in 2017, more than half of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, according to the WHO, increasing breastfeeding to near-universal levels could save more than 800,000 lives every year, the majority being children under 6 months.

The paper examines breastfeeding prevalence down to the level of individual districts and municipalities and compares progress among 49 African nations. The paper is accompanied by an interactive visualization tool that allows users to compare prevalence of exclusive

breastfeeding within and across countries, look at the rate of change over time, and see the probability of meeting WHO's goal by 2025.

The value of exclusive breastfeeding of children cannot be over-emphasized.

"Breastfeeding is an unparalleled source of nutrition for newborns and infants, no matter where they are born. If we are serious about ensuring that every infant is offered a healthy start in life, we need to know who isn't being reached with the support they need to breastfeed," said Dr. Ellen Piwoz of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "By illustrating where exclusive breastfeeding rates are falling behind, these maps are a powerful tool to help policymakers and practitioners examine and act on disparities within their countries."

In 2017, at least a two-fold difference in exclusive breastfeeding prevalence existed across districts in 53% of countries, a three-fold difference in 14% of countries, and a

more than six-fold difference in Niger and Nigeria.

Exclusive breastfeeding refers to mothers using only breast milk to feed their children for the first six months, with medications, oral rehydration salts, and vitamins as needed. The practice provides essential nutrition and can prevent infection and disease, particularly in areas without access to clean water.

The study's detailed maps reveal vulnerable populations left behind. Senegal, Angola, Ethiopia, and Tanzania had areas with a less than 5% probability of meeting the WHO target and, simultaneously, communities with a greater than 95% probability of meeting the target.

"Our maps allow us to see patterns and trends that aren't visible at the national level. They serve as an invaluable resource to ministries of health and others making decisions to advance child well-being," said lead author Dr. Natalia Bhattacharjee, Research Scientist at IHME.

A plan to end Cape Town's violence

BY STUART MBANYELE AND ANDREW FAULL

IT'S been three weeks since a battalion of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) was deployed to the crime-saturated Cape Flats. Last week, the Western Cape government reported that 25 murders had occurred on the first weekend after deployment, with 46 the next.

Are these figures important? In the absence of a clear goal and mechanism through which to measure progress, it is hard to say. Authorities should reveal their plan for the three-month deployment and regularly report on indicators by which success is being measured.

Cape Town is among the most violent cities in the world. In 2017/18 its murder rate was 69 per 100 000 residents compared to the national average of 36, and a global average of 6.1. Since November 2018, over 2 300 people have been murdered in the Western Cape province, most in specific parts of the Cape Flats. In Philippi for example, 14 people were murdered in just three incidents over the weekend of 5 June 2019.

Amid such bloodshed, the notion that streets saturated in armed men will bring order is intuitively appealing. But intuitions are often wrong. Action should be guided by a plan based on careful analysis of reliable and relevant data, and measured against a set of predetermined indicators and time frames.

It is often suggested that the bulk of Cape Town's violence is gang-related, but is this true? Police statistics suggest otherwise. In 2017/18 the South African Police Service couldn't determine a motive for 38% of murder cases reviewed in the Western Cape. Murders attributed to arguments, domestic violence and retaliation/revenge accounted for 23% of cases while 22% were identified as gang-related.

Gang-related motives may be easier to identify than others through crime intelligence, the modus operandi (such as types of firearms used, gun battles, hits) and victim tattoos, for example. However, when looking at the overall drivers of murder it becomes apparent that most violence in the province remains interpersonal rather than gang-related.

Similarly, the city's highest murder counts (totals) and rates (per 100 000 residents) are recorded in areas not historically associated with organised



gangs, such as Nyanga (308/135:100 000), Philippi East (205/323:100 000) and Khayelitsha (192/110:100 000), rather than 'gang stations' such as Manenberg (61/63:100 000), Bishop Lavis (98/82:100 000) or Elsies River (54/69:100 000).

Also telling is that most murders occur over weekends and evenings, when people are likely to drink and socialise, and most probably result from sharp and blunt force trauma.

Considering the numerous factors driving the high rates of both gang and interpersonal violence in affected communities - e.g. child neglect, domestic conflict, poverty and unemployment, substance abuse, organised crime, weak state services - it isn't clear why the SANDF has been deployed. Is it to stop friends and lovers from killing each other, truant youth from robbing commuters on their way home from work, or organised gang members from shooting each other in the streets? Each requires a different strategy.

It is generally accepted that crime and violence cannot be stopped by police (or military) deployment alone. But police remain central to ending endemic violence. As the embodiment of the state's claim to the monopoly on force, their role is to ensure social stability so that crime generators can be addressed. But the two must occur together and be united by an intentional, clear plan.

What can the police do while the SANDF supports them?

There is evidence that hotspot policing is effective, especially when coupled with problem-solving initiatives. But hotspots are not high-crime police precincts. They are the small parts of such precincts in which harm is most common. For each hotspot, interventions should be adapted, including police tactics, to suppress violence while other agencies focus on addressing lo-

cal enablers.

Focused deterrence is another effective tool. This involves identifying likely offenders (e.g. those at risk of perpetrating gang- or firearm-related violence), and offering them support services (e.g. substance-dependency treatment and job training), together with a message that violence won't be tolerated. A range of agencies must collaborate to provide these services.

Similarly, intelligence-led policing can have an impact. If intelligence was being effectively used from when the SANDF was deployed, one would have expected raids culminating in high-profile arrests, seizures of weapon stockpiles, and the flushing out of corrupt police. While raids, and stops and searches have occurred, their purpose isn't clear.

We also don't know what impact they have had on feelings of

safety or perceptions of legitimacy in affected communities. How safe residents feel, the degree to which they trust police and soldiers, and whether they perceive them as legitimate authorities, should be key measures of this operation's success.

These, together with weekly numbers of people appearing in hospitals and clinics with violence-related injuries, would tell us a lot more about the operation's impact than reported murder alone. And yet even these are insufficient to measure 'success'.

Assuming a best-case scenario in which all violence ceases during the SANDF deployment, we'd still want to know how life in the affected communities has changed. And whether mechanisms to address structural drivers of violence have been planned or put in place. Are fewer learners skipping school, more pregnant mothers attend-

ing clinic check-ups, and more children attending after-school programmes?

To evaluate the success of the army's deployment, we need to know why they were deployed. In an ideal scenario, how would this end? Based on this vision, reliable indicators should be selected, tracked and regularly reported. Where data suggests the plan isn't working, it should be adapted.

The deployment of the SANDF in Cape Town provides the national, provincial and city governments with a rare opportunity to alter the violence entrenched in parts of the Cape Flats. To do so, however, they need to be clear about what they want to achieve and how they hope to do so.

Stuart Mbanyele, Consultant and Andrew Faull, Senior Researcher, Justice and Violence Prevention, ISS Pretoria

Stopping America's next hate-crime killers on social media is no easy task

WASHINGTON/LONDON

THE pattern is clear: Hate-filled manifestos posted on websites populated by white supremacists, followed by gun attacks against blacks, Jews, Muslims, or Latin American immigrants.

In some cases, the killers use their internet posts to praise previous attacks by other white nationalists. And after new assaults, the manifestos get passed around, feeding the cycle of propaganda and violence.

Following the racially-motivated attack that killed 22 people at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, President Donald Trump said he wants police to do more to stop extremists who are active online before they can turn to murder.

But identifying and stopping the extremists who plan to launch an attack is much easier said than done.

Law enforcement experts say that the constitutional right of free speech means police cannot arrest someone simply on the basis of extremist rants online, unless they make a specific threat.

"You couldn't just open a case on the words," said Dave Gomez, a retired FBI agent who has worked on cases of both international and domestic terrorism.

"Posting something like that on the internet doesn't harm anybody," he said, adding that police can only successfully investigate a white supremacist when you can "connect his words to an overt act."

The White House will discuss violent extremism online with representatives

from a number of internet and technology companies on Friday, according to a White House spokesman.

Social media companies are reluctant to spy on or censor their users, though increasingly they are responding to demands that they take down obvious incitements to violence. And civil rights groups warn that tighter monitoring can lead to unconstitutional abuses of power. Another former FBI agent, who asked not to be identified, said closer monitoring of extremists' websites would anyway be unlikely to prevent new mass shootings.

"There is not enough manpower. There is not enough technology to properly monitor the internet," he said. "This is the number one thing we always say in law enforcement: 'You can't stop crazy. You can't even predict crazy.'"

Trump said after the mass shootings last weekend in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio, that he would ask the Justice Department to work with local, state and federal agencies as well as social media companies "to develop tools that can detect mass shooters before they strike."

Even before those attacks, The FBI in early July requested bids for a contractor to help it detect national security threats by trawling through social media sites.

"The use of social media platforms by terrorist groups, domestic threats, foreign intelligence services, and criminal organizations to further their illegal activity creates a demonstrated need for tools to properly identify the activity and react appropriately," the FBI said



A rally attendee holds a sign calling for common sense gun reform during a rally against gun violence in Louisville Kentucky U.S. FILE PHOTO

in its request.

PRESSURE

Top law enforcement and domestic security officials from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand met with leading social media and internet companies in London last week, and pushed them to help authorities track suspicious users.

The government officials noted in an agenda paper for the meeting that some companies "deliberately design their systems in a way that precludes any form of access to content, even in cases of the most serious crimes."

"Tech companies should include mechanisms in the design of their encrypted products and services whereby governments,

acting with appropriate legal authority, can obtain access to data in a readable and usable format," the agenda paper said.

A final statement from the meeting said little about encryption, however, and neither company nor government officials talked about what was discussed.

Facebook and Microsoft confirmed they attended but Google,

which was invited, did not respond to a request for comment. Other attendees included Roblox, Snap and Twitter, the statement said.

FBI agents say that broad surveillance powers enacted by Congress in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks helped them track international terrorist groups and stop people with links to foreign groups like al Qaeda and Islamic State before they could carry out crimes.

But their key law criminalizing "material support" for terrorism does not apply to investigations or prosecutions of domestic terrorists, such as violent white supremacists, that commit hate crimes.

This week, the FBI Agents Association called on Congress to make domestic terrorism a federal crime in order to give agents more tools.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which promotes internet civil liberties, said the sheer amount of users posting aggressive content online makes it almost impossible to identify and track the people who pose an actual threat.

"Even though it seems like there is another mass shooting every week, if you are looking at the number of mass shooters versus the total population, it's still a tiny, tiny number which means this is still a very rare event," said Jeremy Gillula, the group's tech products director. "It's like trying to predict where lightning is going to strike."

BUSINESS

MOBILIZATION

Second beer business opens up to crowdfunding

OPTIMISM

Johannesburg visitors may one day stroll the business district

JOHANNESBURG

International travellers to Johannesburg know the warning: Avoid the central business district. Known as the CBD, the metropolitan area in the South African commercial capital is where robberies are most prevalent, according to an urban safety review for 2018-19.

A Johannesburg celebrity recently told a magazine interviewer the one risky thing he'd like to try is walk through the CBD on a Saturday night holding his mobile phone and emerge with it still in his hand. Now the South African Police Service, along with provincial and metro forces, say they're trying to take back control of the city centre.

In a series of raids focused on stopping sales of counterfeit goods and related crimes, the joint force rounded up 560 undocumented foreign nationals, confiscated weapons and impounded vans jammed with illegal items for sale.

The crackdown isn't the first time Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba has targeted foreign nationals in the city. He's faced criticism in the past for tactics used to evict occupants living illegally in some of the city's buildings. And the regional police commissioner has accused members of his force of being part of the problem.

This time will be different from past clean-up attempts, the forces said in a joint statement. "Worth noting was the arrest of seven police officers by their own colleagues for corruption," they said. Any clean-up won't be easy. Just a week ago, police forces were driven back to their vehicles when crowds of street sellers pelted them with rocks. Police said they retreated to avoid bloodshed. The crackdown will go on.

"We cannot have parallel governance with criminals," Police Minister Bheki Cele said in the statement. "We will continue to squeeze the space for criminals to zero."



Beerhouse Fourways.

CAPE TOWN

The Uprise.Africa platform is hosting a crowdfunding initiative for a Beerhouse that is set to open at the site of the former Starlight Diner in Tygervalley in October. Renovations began this week.

This will not be the first beer business to raise equity via the platform. Inge Prins, founding member of Uprise.Africa, says it has paid out investment funds to Drifter Brewery Company following a campaign that raised R3.89 million, in excess of its original equity crowdfunding goal of R3 million.

The craft beer market in South Africa has grown over the last 10 years, with more than 50% of craft beer production taking place in the Western Cape. Beerhouse is earning a name for its extensive menu and the '99 bottles of beer on the wall', which founder Randolph Jorberg admits "might have something to do with the song."

Jorberg owns the Beerhouse in

Fourways and another in Long Street, Cape Town, and says the equity crowdfunding idea came about after a random customer expressed an interest in becoming a shareholder.

If the Tygervalley Beerhouse campaign is successful, its shareholders will have the advantage of liquidity since Uprise.Africa has entered into a partnership with ZAR X - a fintech-based licensed stock exchange that will list start-ups and small companies that have successfully raised capital for trading on the bourse.

Investment participation starts at R1 000 for a single share and is capped at R250 000 per investor. The campaign was launched in July and will run until September 14. It has a target of R3 million, and by Wednesday (August 7) had raised R729 000 from 56 investors for just over 37% ownership.

If unsuccessful in reaching its R3 million target, Uprise.Africa will return any funds invested by potential investors.

The crowd is growing

According to the World Bank, the overall market potential for crowdfunding in sub-Saharan Africa will be \$2.5 billion by 2025. Traditional business funding models currently include bank loans, venture capital, private equity and government grants.

Uprise.Africa CEO Tabassum Qadir says the group aims to disrupt South Africa's traditional funding landscape by providing an alternative method for small businesses to raise capital. "We are simplifying venture capital through this mutually beneficial partnership for entrepreneurs and investors."

"It means when you have a business idea, you can leverage the Uprise.Africa platform to potentially raise capital quickly and can ultimately list on a licensed stock exchange, making your shares tradeable," she says.

Uprise.Africa is currently the only equity crowdfunding platform in the country with a category one licence from the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA), which enables it to provide advisory services.

Equity crowdfunding set to get formal

Noma-Afrika Sandlana, manager in the investment providers supervision department at the FSCA, says the regulator has been reviewing the crowdfunding process and looking at the legislation other jurisdictions have put in place.

In the US, for example, companies are restricted to raising a maximum of \$1 070 000 over a 12-month period and any shares purchased in a crowdfunding transaction cannot be resold for a year. The FSCA has not introduced any such restrictions in South Africa as yet.

"It must be clarified that crowdfunding for a charitable cause - for example, for the garage station attendant recently - is not under our scrutiny," she says. "We are looking specifically at crowdfunding initiatives such as the one by Beerhouse currently, where potential investors are going to become shareholders and receive a return on their investment."



Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba.

EXPANSION

US celebrities test NSE with marijuana firm plan

NAIROBI

A US company involved in the cultivation and processing of marijuana has announced plans to cross-list on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), putting to test Kenya's resolve to maintain the drug on the list of banned narcotics amid legislative pressure to legalise it.

The firm, Bangi Inc., which is traded on the New York Over The Counter (OTC) market, counts among its board members well known US celebrities including Mathew Knowles, the father of global superstar Beyoncé Knowles.

Renowned actor and rapper Ray J (William Norwood Jr), a brother of another US superstar artist Brandy, and TV actor Hill Harper, are also listed as board members of Bangi. In a statement, the company said its board has approved its cross-listing on the NSE, despite the drug remaining banned in Kenya.

Dual listing
"A dual listing in Africa would be a natural step for the company considering its corporate name, 'BANGI' means 'marijuana' or 'hemp' in Swahili, one of the most spoken languages in Africa," said Neil Parsan, chairman and chief executive officer of BANGI Inc.



NSE chief executive Geoffrey Odundo.

"The Kenyan capital market has grown rapidly in recent years and has also exhibited strong capital raising capacity, which will allow us to access an entirely untapped market valued in the hundreds of billions of dollars."

NSE chief executive Geoffrey Odundo said the bourse had not yet received any listing application from the firm, adding that he was not aware of its existence. "I

have not heard about the organisation," he said, even as he promised to establish its identity.

Kenyan laws prohibit any dealings in cannabis with hefty fines and jail terms meted out to deter possession, cultivation and trafficking of the drug in its fresh, dried or processed form. Bangi describes itself as a diversified investment vehicle that acquires and leases specialised real estate assets in the can-

nabis, hemp and Cannabidiol (CBD) industries.

Initial stage

The company says it recently rolled out its initial stage of its acquisition of a prime 7,000 square foot property located in Detroit City's famous Eight Mile district. It intends to operate the property as a licensed cannabis cultivation and processing facility upon completion of renovations.

US celebrities are increas-

ingly endorsing and even investing in the newly liberalised marijuana industry. Mr Knowles, a record executive and former manager of the hip hop group Destiny's Child, is listed as Bangi's chief marketing officer. He is also the father of another superstar artist, Solange Knowles.

The company's board chairman, Neil Parsan, is a former US diplomat in the Caribbean who also had a stint as a World Bank advisor. The firm's shares are listed on the New York-based financial trading platform OTC Markets where 9,620 securities are traded.

The OTC Markets offer firms a cheaper and easier alternative to listing compared to traditional US exchanges such as the Nasdaq Stock Market and the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and comes with fewer disclosure requirements for most firms.

Only the top of the three-tier OTC market, known as OTCQX, is regulated by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the capital markets regulator in America.

Credibility
Bangi is listed on the lowest tier of the market known as OTC Pink, where disclosure requirements are low, hence it is difficult to ascertain the credibility and viability of companies on the counter. The firm is the latest to turn its attention to

the country for potential expansion, even as the government has dismissed any calls for its legalisation.

Another US firm, GoIP Global Inc - incidentally also listed on the OTC Markets of New York - in March claimed to have obtained a permit to cultivate marijuana on 500 acres of land in Kenya. The government then denied issuing such a licence, warning that marijuana remains a prohibited plant in the country's statutes.

Agricultural Research principal secretary Hamadi Boga said at the time that he was not aware of any permit issued to GoIP Global Inc for the growing of cannabis. "I am not aware of the licensing of the said firm to grow marijuana. As you are aware, cannabis is not in the list of crops that we currently regulate," said Prof Boga.

If US states have legalised marijuana, leading to the proliferation of start-ups targeting the potentially lucrative industry. Canada also recently approved the use of the crop for medicinal value, with firms eyeing the business rushing to list and fundraise on the country's stock exchange. The product remains illegal in many African countries, bar a handful including South Africa, Zimbabwe and Lesotho that have legalised its cultivation. tion.

PROPOSAL

Zambia to prohibit expiry dates on internet bundles

LUSAKA

Zambian lawmakers have passed a motion in parliament that prevents ISPs from prescribing expiry dates on internet bundles purchased by customers.

Lawmakers said enforcing expiry dates amounts to stealing from subscribers because expired bundles benefit service providers rather than end users. They added that Zambians are dependent on internet connectivity and this service must be rolled out to every customer, regardless of any time period attached to a specific bundle.

In putting the motion forward, Professor Geoffrey Lungwangwa said citizens should be protected from ISPs and it was unfair for subscribers to be disconnected if a bundle is not utilised within a stipulated time frame.

"Data bundles should be transferable to avoid loss of money by subscribers," said Lungwangwa. Zambia's minister of communications and transport Mutotwe Kafwaya vowed that the government would "act soon" to address the issue, particularly after passing the motion. However, it is not clear as to when exactly the motion will be enforced.

Kafwaya said a recent study conducted by the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA) revealed that 52% of subscribers who purchased 500Mb data bundles on a monthly basis do not exhaust their bundles. Response by telecommunications service providers has been largely muted.

Airtel Zambia's head of corporate communications and government relations Yuyo Kambikambi commented: "We are an entity that follows due process, and we are a law-abiding company; therefore we await to hear more on the motion from parliament on the matter concerning the prohibition of expiry dates on internet bundles purchased by customers."

CALL

FAO urges greater support for African farmers

KIGALI

African farmers need help to cope with the threats of climate change through national policies that make them more resilient, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has declared, following a major conference on food security in Rwanda.

The call comes just ahead of the release of a new report on Climate Change and Land by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the most comprehensive scientific assessment yet of the impact that industrial agriculture, deforestation and food waste have on our planet.

"Farmers have always been innovators. What they need are policies that protect them and increase their resilience to climate change. They need access to information, technology and investment, and they should be brought to the



African women farmers at work.

conversation on innovation," FAO's Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo said at the high-level Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue, held in Kigali

from 5 to 6 August.

The FAO said that building resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change is one of the agency's top development

priorities in Africa, and is key to meeting the challenge of feeding over two billion people by 2050.

According to the latest FAO data, hunger is already on the rise in al-

most all parts of Africa, and the continent has the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the world, at almost 20 per cent. The situation is mostly driven by

conflict and climate change, and is particularly acute in Eastern Africa, where almost one-third of the population are struggling to have enough to eat.

Conference participants heard that it is possible to adapt to these risks with immediate and bold action focused on resilience, and endorsed a commitment to increase support for African countries to improve their food security.

The two-day event was hosted by the Government of Rwanda, in partnership with the FAO, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank.

Agriculture is gaining traction in the United Nations Climate process. The UN climate conference (COP23) in November 2017 adopted the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA), which officially acknowledges the significance of the agriculture sectors in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

Under this decision, FAO supports countries providing technical support to adapt to and mitigate climate change, working in close collaboration with UNFCCC and other partners.

REQUEST

Rwandan soya farmers count losses, seek compensation

KIGALI

Farmers who had planted soya on over 50 hectares in Huye district and failed to yield are appealing for compensation.

Erasme Budadi Rushimisha is one of 624 members of COAGIMPA cooperative in Mpaza marshland that cuts across Tumba and Mukura sectors. He told The New Times that he was expecting to harvest four sacks of soya beans but they failed to yield as they never produced pods. He was expecting

over Rwf300,000 from the harvest.

"I was expecting to pay schools fees to my children this third term, but because I never harvested anything, I am requesting Rwf150,000 as a loan to be able to pay my children's school fees," he said. He said they had intended to grow beans but were advised to plant Soya but it turned out that the soil was not favourable for the seed variety.

Godelive Muhimpundu, president of the cooperative, said the seeds were not suitable to the marshland. "We are

waiting for officials to tell us what support they will give us," she said. Charles Bucagu, the Deputy Director-General of Agriculture Research and Technology Transfer at Rwanda Agricultural Development Board, told The New Times that they will meet the farmers on Friday to discuss the way forward.

"Of course, the farmers will be compensated. We have to correct the issue so that it does not occur again," he said. Under the Agricultural Season B in which the farmers faced the losses, Rwanda Agricultural Board

was supposed to distribute 300 tonnes of Soya seeds.

The recent African Seed Access Index completed earlier this year in Rwanda and released last month revealed that farmers' satisfaction with regards to efforts to stamp out bad seeds stood at 72 per cent.

But the index indicates that the use of improved seeds is not yet at a satisfactory level since the use of those seeds has risen from 3 per cent in 2006 to 12.5 per cent in 2018 in small scale farms and 53.1 per cent for large scale farmers.

COMPETITIVENESS

Huawei launches its own operating system called HarmonyOS

BEIJING

Huawei has launched its own operating system – the HongmengOS, known in English as the HarmonyOS, the CEO of the Chinese tech giant's consumer division, Richard Yu, said Friday.

He said the operating system can be used across different devices from smartphones to smart speakers and even sensors. It's part of Huawei's play in the so-called Internet of Things, which refers to devices connected to the internet. The United States placed Huawei on

a blacklist – or the so-called Entity List – in May, which essentially restricts some U.S. companies from selling their products to the Chinese tech giant.

Following that move, Google said it suspended business activity with Huawei. But days later, the U.S. government eased some of those restrictions, and allowed Google to work with Huawei for 90 days. That timeline is almost up.

At the G-20 summit in Osaka in June, President Donald Trump said he would allow American companies to sell

products to Huawei where national security is not compromised. But the exact details remain unclear.

The Chinese telecom equipment maker acknowledged publicly that it had its own operating system in the works. Yu told CNBC in May that the company's own OS could be ready for smartphones and laptops by the end of the year in China, and by midyear in 2020 for international markets.

At the time, Yu stressed that the OS would only be used for smartphones and laptops if Huawei could

not get access to Google's Android or Microsoft's Windows operating systems.

Google's services are effectively blocked in China. So Huawei uses a modified version of Android in its domestic market that is stripped of Google apps. That means not having access to Google in China isn't that a big problem for China. However, if Huawei were to get banned from being able to use Android internationally, analysts said this could hurt the Chinese firm's smartphone business abroad.

CREATIVITY

A new massage treatment with traditional herbs

NAIROBI

Massage parlours are going traditional as they mix herbs with natural oils to soothe muscles and stimulate blood flow.

At Lotus Health and Relaxation Centre in Leisure Lodge, Mombasa, they have introduced a new massage that incorporates the 'magic' of Maasai medicinal plants. It starts with feet cleansing.

"If you have been driving for long or jet lagged and someone cleans your feet in this water, it is very soothing. You relax even before the masseuse starts the body massage," said Syprose Super, the masseuse at Lotus.

A masseuse then uses a warm cloth filled with steamed herbs from Narok to gently press the body and stimulate blood circulation. "They are sourced from Narok after being sun dried. We then pack them in bags and heat them. When we do the massage, the herbs are warm and their medicinal value is able to penetrate to the skin to soothe the muscles," she said.

The herbal massage treatment takes about 90 minutes. "We realised that we can use traditional herbs and oils to do massages. We get the oils from the Mt Kenya region mainly made from macadamia nuts and avocado," Syprose said.

According to Sam Ikwaye, the Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers Coast executive officer, wellness tourism is growing, attracting many customers. He said the industry however lacks skilled labour, with the trainings offered failing to keep up with the changing trends.

"Since it is an emerging area, we have not had many spa workers trained in mainstream schools," he said. Mr Ikwaye urged hotels to offer authentic spa products and services to attract more tourists. "Most hotels offer Thai, Japanese and other kinds of foreign massages but tourists are also looking for authentic African experiences," he said.



Massage parlours are going traditional as they mix herbs with natural oils to soothe muscles and stimulate blood flow.



This July 24, 2019 photo shows Tito Jackson, a member of the famed Jackson 5, posing for a portrait in Los Angeles to promote his solo project, a new version of his 2017 song "One Way Street." (AP)

Tito Jackson looks to prove doubters wrong with new music

LOS ANGELES

EVEN though Tito Jackson experienced fame with the Jackson 5, he heard the comments from Charles Barkley years ago, about him having an insignificant role in the group's historic success.

Now, for anyone who believes that, Jackson is looking to change that narrative about his musical abilities through his new solo project. He recently released a new version of his 2017 song "One Way Street," and is working on his sophomore album, which he says is expected to be released next year.

In 2010, NBA superstar-turned sports analyst Barkley dissed Jackson's talents as a supporting cast member. Jackson, 65, said he still feels motivated to prove Barkley and other doubters wrong.

"I took that sort of personal," he told The Associated Press in a recent interview, adding he's never heard anyone say that. "He's trying to say that I don't contribute. So then I say, 'Maybe it's time they hear from me.' I love Mr. Barkley. I am not upset about it. But it just hurts in a way where I tried to do the right thing in life, you know, raise my sons as good young black men who do the right thing by people. But now, that time has come and I'm going to do my thing."

The Jackson 5 included brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon and Michael. The family group – which was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 – produced several No. 1 hits in the 1970s including "ABC," "I Want You Back," and "I'll Be There."

But with the Jackson 5's burgeoning success, Tito was the least-heard member of the group as a background singer who played the guitar. His brothers launched solo careers, including Michael Jackson who reached su-

perstar status.

The King of Pop, died at age 50 on June 25, 2009. Michael Jackson's estate has worked to protect his legacy, a task made more challenging by the 2019 release of the HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland," in which two men accused the singer of molesting them as boys. The Jackson family criticized the documentary.

"The people that know Michael Jackson, it just boils our blood because he's not anything like the perception that they're trying to put out on him. He's totally opposite," Tito Jackson said. "And, it's just not heard of a person being so caring and giving. But that's, Michael has been that person ever since he's been a kid. You know he cares about others and very giving and just like to make people happy. And sometimes people can use that against you. And that's exactly what happened to him."

Michael Jackson vehemently denied abuse allegations and was acquitted in 2005.

Tito Jackson and his brothers are currently touring in Europe.

"We're each other's best friends," he said. "And that's what I love about working with my brothers because we're friends."

Out of the nine Jackson siblings, Tito was the only one to never release a solo project – until his 2016 debut "Tito Time."

Jackson said he purposely held back from pursuing a solo career, because he wanted to focus more on raising his three sons – TJ, Taj and Taryll, who have their own music group 3T.

Now, it's his time.

"I'm doing things right now that some would have done 20 or 30 years ago," Jackson said. "I'm glad I did it the way I did."

AP

Morrison appreciated for giving black women a voice

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

RANDOM House senior editor Porscha Burke keeps a copy of the Toni Morrison-edited *The Black Book* – an expansive encyclopedia on the accomplishments of African-Americans – on her desk at work, not only as a memento of the author, but also to keep her aware of the path Morrison blazed for black women like her in the world.

"It's a reminder of what I have to carry in this space," Burke said.

Unflinching and outspoken, Toni Morrison always spoke her truth

without fear, especially when it came to racism, sexism and the American life, never caring to conform to the paradigms that her white male-dominated society tried to impress upon her.

After Morrison died this week at 88, people around the world, particularly black women, mourned the loss of the Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner and praised her for opening a literary door into their world – and reflecting their pains and triumphs in her work.

"Toni's words gave freedom to Black girls and women to be who

they want to be, and step into the world as who they are," blogger and author Luvvie Ajayi said Tuesday. "Toni's works teach us to be freer. Finally, she gave me the freedom to be who God purposed me to be."

Morrison's groundbreaking books included "Beloved," *Sula* and "The Bluest Eye." On Wednesday, the day after her death was announced, "Beloved" was the No.1 selling book on Amazon, "The Bluest Eye" was at No. 3 and "Song of Solomon" No. 4.

Morrison refused to write for a white audience, instead extrapolating from her own culture. In an inter-

view, Morrison clearly remembered the reviewer who wondered when she was going to get "mature" about her writing and write about white people, the "real confrontation" in African American lives.

"As if our lives had no meaning, no depth without the white gaze," Morrison said. "I have spent my entire writing life trying to make sure that the white gaze was not the dominant one in any of my books."

Morrison gave women, especially black women, space to care about themselves in life and in literature, said Dana A. Williams, chair of the

English Department at Howard University – of which Morrison was an alumnus – and leader of the Toni Morrison Society. As an editor, among the black women writers she published were Gayl Jones and Toni Cade Bambara.

"She helped us understand that there were other people included in the American story," she said. "She gave black women permission to write from their own cultures."

Avis Jones-DeWeever, a diversity and inclusion consultant in Washington, D.C., said her reading of "The Bluest Eye" made her realize how

important it is to be self-aware as a black woman.

"She was someone who showed us the best of who we are, showed the world the best of who we are ... She centered the important of who we are even when others tried to question why she did that," she said. "She was amazingly loyal to the beauty of our culture. In a society where whiteness is perceived as normalcy, her loyalty to the beauty of who we are as a culture and the richness and fullness of that was just incredibly important and brave and I admire her for that." AP

Serena, Osaka book US Open final rematch in Toronto quarter-final

TORONTO

SERENA Williams and Japan's Naomi Osaka booked a rematch of last year's US Open final in the WTA Toronto quarter-finals after straight-set triumphs Thursday.

Reigning US and Australian Open champion Osaka broke at love in the final game to defeat Polish teen Iga Swiatek 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 after one hour and 51 minutes.

World number 10 Williams was broken twice and dropped the first three games in 10 minutes then battled back to defeat Russia's 48th-ranked Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-5, 6-4 in 91 minutes.

That set the stage for Williams, a 37-year-old American who will try for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title at the upcoming US Open, to again face Osaka after the controversial finish to their Grand Slam showdown last year in New York.

It would be the first match between Osaka and Williams since the Japanese star defeated her childhood idol 6-2, 6-4 in last year's US Open final, a match marred by an on-court dispute between Williams and the umpire that led to a game penalty against Williams.

Osaka was booed by some fans during the awards ceremony and later dubbed what should have been her moment of glory "a little bitter-sweet."

Williams spoke after her match but before she knew who she would face in the quarter-finals, saying either Osaka – who could return to the world number one ranking next week – or Swiatek would be worthy foes.

"It will be a good match, whoever wins," Williams said. "Both players are playing well in this tournament



Naomi Osaka -

Serena Williams

in particular, so I'll be ready for her."

Alexandrova broke Williams – the 2001, 2011 and 2013 Canadian champion – in the first and third games for a 3-0 edge only to have Williams roll through the next four games.

They held from there until the final game of the first set, when the Russian's eighth double fault handed Williams the set after 46 minutes.

"(Alexandrova) hit really, really hard and she was hitting a lot of winners, so I was just happy I was able to just fight through that," Williams said.

Alexandrova broke Williams again to open the second set, but the US star pulled level in the sixth game and broke again in the 12th to advance after 91 minutes.

"I'm feeling good," Williams

said. "Just hopefully just being able to stay in the rhythm and playing this week and next week would be good."

Williams said she is struggling with the transition from clay to grass to hardcourts more than usual this year.

"I definitely feel like it takes a while to get back into the rhythm," she said. "So it definitely feels different, especially for me now. Usually I don't feel that huge of a difference, but for whatever reason I do this year."

- Pliskova chases No. 1 -

Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova kept the pressure on Osaka in the battle to take the world number one ranking by also reaching the quarter-finals.

Pliskova eliminated Estonia's Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 7-5 to set

up a last-eight clash with rising Canadian star Bianca Andreescu, who outlasted fifth-seeded Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens 6-1, 6-7 (7/9), 6-4.

Pliskova, 27, must reach the final to have any chance of taking the top spot next week. Otherwise, Osaka will claim the number one berth.

French Open champion Ashleigh Barty's stint as the world's top-ranked player was assured of ending after she was knocked out on Tuesday.

Defending champion and fourth seed Simona Halep of Romania, coming off a Wimbledon title last month, beat Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-1 to book a quarter-final against Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova, who ousted Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko 6-2, 6-2.

AFP



Toni Morrison receives a Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama on May 29, 2012. (Agencies)

Brazil judge ends investigation of Neymar on rape allegation

SAO PAULO

A BRAZILIAN judge accepted a recommendation from prosecutors Thursday to close the investigation of soccer star Neymar on a rape allegation on the grounds of there being a lack of evidence against him.

Sao Paulo state prosecutors Flavia Merlini and Estefania Paulin announced during the day that they agreed with a July 30 decision by police not to bring charges in the case. Judge Ana Paula Vieira de Moraes issued an order closing the case Thursday night.

Brazilian model Najila Trindade went to Sao Paulo police to accuse Neymar of raping her at a Paris hotel in May. No complaint was filed with French police. The Associated Press doesn't name alleged sexual assault victims unless they make their identities public, which Trindade did in several interviews. Neymar denied the accusation and said their relations were consensual. He is in France, where he plays for Paris Saint-Germain.

"We decided in favor of the closing of the case because there is no sufficient evidence," Merlini said at a news conference.

Paulin said the model did not produce any of the evidence she claimed she had, including a video that allegedly proved the player attacked her.

"The police investigator asked her to plug her phone to a computer

so she could see the video, but she (Trindade) didn't want to do that. She also refused to hand over her phone, and later she said it had been stolen," Paulin said.

The prosecutor said Trindade's only injury was to a finger.

"The medical report of a private doctor introduced by the victim did not show an injury that proved she was raped," Paulin said. "The slaps and the redness (on Trindade's skin) happened for the satisfaction of both parties."

Representatives for Neymar and Trindade did not respond to an AP request for comment on the conclusions of the Sao Paulo state prosecutors.

Sao Paulo police are still investigating whether Trindade falsely reported a rape. Police interviewed Trindade three times about her claims. Twelve other people were also questioned. Neymar himself was heard for about five hours in mid-June.

Neymar, meanwhile, is still under investigation in a cybercrime case connected to Trindade's allegations. After the model offered the rape charges, he posted images and messages of the accuser without her authorization in his social media channels, in possible violation of her online privacy.

The player, who also testified in that investigation in Rio de Janeiro, said the images were posted by his press team.

AP

S. Korean police raid company involved in Ronaldo no-show

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH Korean police raided the office of a marketing agency on Thursday as part of a fraud investigation into Cristiano Ronaldo's non-appearance in a friendly match between Juventus and a K-League selection last month.

The game has become the subject of lawsuits issued by disgruntled fans after Ronaldo remained on the bench for the entire game, despite promoters having said he was contractually obligated to play at least 45 minutes. More than 65,000 tickets costing up to \$330 had been sold for the July 26 game, which was organized by marketing agency The Fasta.

The Fasta issued a statement after the raid promising to "fully cooperate with the police in their investigation, so that we can clear any concerns and suspicions."

The agency also said it has "lodged a complaint with Juventus over their breach of contract."

The K-League declined to comment on the police's involvement when asked by The Associated Press.

Earlier this week, police issued a travel ban on an official that had been involved in organizing the match, with local media naming the person as The Fasta's chief executive

Robin Jang.

Juventus manager Maurizio Sarri said after the match that Ronaldo stayed on the bench because of "muscle fatigue."

But Kang Joon-woo of Seoul-based legal firm Oh Kims Sports, one of a number of companies representing fans, said The Fasta should be held responsible for supporters not getting what they paid for.

"The host secured tickets revenues even though the game was not implemented as advertised," Kang said. "It was the organizer's fault that it did not prepare for the situation. It caused the soccer fans to take all the damages. The Fasta ... should be legally liable."

The affair has damaged the reputation of Juventus in South Korea. The K-League has sent a complaint to the two-time European champion, also accusing it of arriving late at the stadium to delay kick-off by almost an hour and canceling a pre-game fan signing session.

In a letter from Juventus, seen by The Associated Press, chairman Andrea Agnelli rejected accusations of wrongdoing and disrespect.

The K-League's reply accused Juventus of "shamelessness" and blatant deception and demanded an apology. AP

Napoli owner: Koulibaly worth triple Maguire

LONDON

NAPOLI president Aurelio De Laurentiis has told ESPN FC that defender Kalidou Koulibaly should be valued at £250 million given that Manchester United signed Harry Maguire for £80m.

United spent a world record fee to secure Maguire's signature from Leicester despite manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer also being interested in Koulibaly this summer.

De Laurentiis said he would have offered significantly less money to sign Maguire and said Koulibaly was worth three times more than the England international.

"He has a clause of £150m," he said in an exclusive interview with ESPN. "But, for example, in England, they paid £85m for a player. In Napoli, I would pay £30-£35m."

"With that in mind, I think Koulibaly's value is £250m if they paid that much for that guy."

(Agencies)

How the Premier League top six fared in the transfer window

LONDON

PREMIER League clubs splashed out well over £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) in the transfer market arms race ahead of the start of the new season on Friday.

The vast majority of that sum was again spent by 'top six' powerhouses Manchester City, Liverpool, Tottenham, Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United, but some have strengthened wisely, while others still look under prepared for the new season.

Here, AFP Sport looks at how each fared in the transfer window:

Manchester City (2018/19: 1st)

Last season's domestic treble winners have strengthened an enviably deep squad with the signing of Rodri for a club-record £63 million (\$77 million) as the long-term successor to Fernandinho in defensive midfield.

The full-back positions have also been reinforced, with Joao Cancelo competing with Kyle Walker at right-back, while Angelino has been bought back from PSV Eindhoven to offer cover at left-back for Aleksandr Zinchenko and the injury-prone Benjamin Mendy.

However, City have failed to replace former captain Vincent Kompany after he left to take charge of Anderlecht.

Kompany's leadership will be missed and City could be vulnerable in central defence.

Liverpool (2018/19: 2nd)

The European champions have stepped away from the bidding wars this summer, making just three low-key signings in teenagers Sepp van den Berg and Harvey Elliott and reserve goalkeeper Adrian, none of whom are expected to have much impact on the first team this season.

De Bruyne back to drive City's title defence

LONDON

KEVIN De Bruyne can't wait to play a key role in Manchester City's bid for a third successive Premier League title as the Belgian star finally returns to peak form and fitness.

Pep Guardiola's side start their title defence at West Ham on Saturday with De Bruyne providing a reassuring presence for the champions.

City have bolstered their treble-winning squad with the £62 million (\$75 million) club record signing of Atletico Madrid midfielder Rodri, while also adding accomplished Juventus full-back Joao Cancelo.

But the prospect of De Bruyne driving City forward from midfield is a mouthwatering prospect for Guardiola.

The 28-year-old was an influential figure in City's 2017-18 Premier League title triumph, but he had only a bit-part role in last season's domestic dominance due to knee and muscular injuries.

De Bruyne made just 22 starts in all competitions before returning to prove he was still a force to be reckoned with by winning the man of the match award in City's FA Cup final thrashing of Watford.

He is confident those injury issues are behind him after proving to be one of the stand-out players during City's pre-season tour.

"I'm fine. What happened last year happens to everybody. I have been a professional for 11 years now and had one season where I had some injuries," De Bruyne said.

"I just get on with it. Now I feel good. I'm happy I could play a whole pre-season."

- Formidable -

With De Bruyne back in their lineup, City look more formidable than ever -- quite a feat after they amassed 198 points over their last two Premier League title-winning seasons.

If they can retain the crown, City will become only the fifth team in the history of English football to clinch three consecutive top-flight titles, after Huddersfield, Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United (twice).

But Liverpool seem certain to push City all the way once again after they



"You should never do transfers because other clubs are doing transfers. That makes no sense, it's not about that," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "If you sit back for a second and have a look at the squad, do we need more players?"

The Reds are banking on the stability of retaining the side that posted a club-record 97 points last season and won a sixth European Cup.

However, the decision not to build from a position of strength will be questioned if Liverpool's long wait for a league title stretches beyond 30 years come May.

Chelsea (2018/19: 3rd)

The Blues' ban on registering new players means the focus of preparation for Frank Lampard's first season in charge has been on returning loanees such as Mason Mount and Tammy Abraham, who could finally be given their chance to shine for the Chelsea first team.

Lampard's job has not been made any easier by the loss of the club's best player Eden Hazard to Real

Madrid and David Luiz's deadline-day move to Arsenal.

Christian Pulisic, who was signed in the winter transfer window before being loaned back to Borussia Dortmund, will add attacking zest and Mateo Kovacic's loan deal from Real Madrid has been made permanent.

Tottenham (2018/19: 4th)

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy again left it late but the signings of Giovani Lo Celso and Ryan Sessegnon on Thursday, allied to the arrival of Tanguy Ndombele for a club-record fee earlier in the transfer window, has finally reinforced a Spurs squad that had gone 18 months without a new recruit.

Spurs, though, still do not appear to have the depth to rival City or Liverpool for the title.

Right-back Kieran Trippier has not been replaced since joining Atletico Madrid and a failed attempt to land Paulo Dybala from Juventus means there remains little back-up to Harry Kane up front.



Kevin De Bruyne

finished just one point behind Guardiola's team last term and then won the Champions League.

And De Bruyne challenged City to maintain the relentless consistency that carried them to last season's title with 14 successive league wins.

"You don't need to be better, you need to be

consistent," De Bruyne said.

"At the end of the year, with all the competitions, maybe you don't need 95 or 100 points."

"Maybe teams get more points out of each other and you win it with 85, just because the competition is that high."

"You need to be just one point ahead of the other

ones and whatever you need to do, you need to do.

"I think Liverpool will be up there, but they all will be there. We have to be consistent."

De Bruyne's return gives Guardiola an embarrassment of riches in midfield, with Spain international Rodri likely to fill the holding role while the Belgian and

Arsenal (2018/19: 5th)

Against expectations, with budgets tightened by a lack of Champions League football, Arsenal have strengthened across all areas with the additions of Nicolas Pepe, Dani Ceballos, Kieran Tierney and Luiz.

Pepe's club-record £72 million move from Lille adds even more firepower to a frontline already containing Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette. Ceballos, loaned from Real Madrid, will add guile and goals from midfield.

However, it is at the back where Arsenal were desperately in need of improvements.

Captain Laurent Koscielny's acrimonious departure to Bordeaux further weakened a defence that conceded 51 goals in the Premier League last season, but Luiz will add experience, while Tierney will prove a substantial upgrade at left-back.

Manchester United (2018/19: 6th)

A change of approach at Old Trafford to target young, British talent has not come cheap, with around £145 million spent on Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James.

Maguire's arrival made the English international the world's most expensive defender at an eye-watering £80 million, but that fee was a necessary splurge to shore up a leaky defence in need of leadership.

However, questions remain over whether enough has been done to improve a side that finished as close to the relegation zone on points as to champions City last season.

Striker Romelu Lukaku has departed for Inter Milan and not been replaced, while moves for a number of midfield targets such as Sporting Lisbon's Bruno Fernandes have not borne fruit.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga eye Township Rollers scalp

SPORT

How the Premier League top six fared in the transfer window

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5 EATV **UJENZI** **TONIGHT @ 21:00**

MONDAY
 11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
 15:00 FUNGIKA
 16:00 UTAKE
 16:30 #HASHTAG
 17:00 SSELECT
 17:55 KURASA
 18:00 eNewz
 18:30 Music
 19:00 EATV SAA 1
 19:30 MJADALA
 21:00 UJENZI
 21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
 22:30 BONGO HITS

eastafrica RADIO
 05:00 EA Breakfast
 09:00 Supamix
 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
 13:00 Planet Bongo
 16:00 EA Drive
 20:00 Kipenga
 21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier

Wushu competition climaxes in Dar

By Correspondent James Kandoya

WINNERS of the Tanzania Wushu Competition 2019, which has involved competitors from martial arts clubs from in and outside the country, will be announced at the climax of the competition slated for tomorrow in Dar es Salaam.

According to Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, which sponsored the event, the competition started at the National Indoor Stadium in the city yesterday and involved 220 participants.

The competition brought together 24 martial arts clubs. Foreign competitors have come from Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Nigeria.

The competition saw competitors battle it out in such events like Changquan (long boxing), Taijiquan (Taiji Boxing), Shaolinquan (Shaolin Boxing), Taiji sword, sword, knife, spear, cudgel fighting and Chinese boxing.

The event has been organized by Tanzania Wushu Association, in collaboration with the National Sport Council (NSC) of Tanzania, Confucius Institute at the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Dodoma.

Having co-sponsored by the Chinese Embassy in the country, the competition is free for all and has two categories, namely elders and teenagers (adolescence), as noted by the organizers.

Director of Culture Development in the Ministry for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Habib Msami, will be the guest of honour in the closing ceremony, whereas Chinese Embassy in Tanzania will be represented by Cultural Director, Wei Gao.

The competition last year attracted 214 athletes from 24 martial arts clubs, with countries namely Zambia, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda also taking part in. It consisted of collective events, routine events and Sanda.

Contestants all contributed to a spectacular display of performances. The teenage group was the spotlight with its youngest member being only eight years old.

In the competition, the small players showed great momentum with standard moves.

During the competition, Salum, a representative of the Confucius Institute at the University of Dar es Salaam, won the gold medal in three events of training, long boxing and spear fighting, and was the highest scorer in the competition.

He said: "I like martial arts very much. I was young when I started practicing martial arts and so far I have been practicing for ten years. I will work even harder in the future."

Mary was the only female player of the Zambia team. In the long boxing competition, she made powerful punches, and was able to couple hardness with softness, winning herself a bronze medal.

By Guardian Reporter

YANGA have disclosed they will settle for nothing short of a win in the first leg of the CAF Champions League's first round match against Township Rollers of Botswana that will be played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The Tanzania football big guns made their way back to Dar es Salaam early yesterday after a weeklong camp in Zanzibar which aimed at putting the squad in great shape.

Ramadhan Kabwili, Yanga's keeper, disclosed he and the rest of the squad have trained well for the clash and he believes they will get good results.

"Preparations for our first match in this competition have so far been good. I believe we will perform well today and get three points at home in an effort to mini-



Yanga head coach, Mwyni Zahera.

mize the workload in the return leg," Kabwili disclosed.

"I appeal to Tanzania's soccer fans to turn up at the stadium and cheer us, given we are representing the country in this competition.

They should support us so we can perform well, I believe by God's grace we will excel."

Yanga played friendly matches against Zanzibar's top flight squads Malindi and Mlandege on Wednes-

day and Thursday in an effort to give the former's gaffers chance to spot the players' weaknesses and address them.

Yanga clobbered Mlandege 4-1 in the first match and the former later on managed 1-1 draw with Malindi.

Yanga had also locked horns with Kenya's Kariobangi Sharks in a friendly, which was held in Dar es Salaam last week, and ended with the two outfits settling for a 1-1 draw.

The Jangwani Street side had also trained in Morogoro for over a month to stay in great shape before taking part in the premier continental tournament at the club level and other assignments.

The Tanzania soccer big guns are ironically coming up against familiar foes, given the two locked horns in the first round of the competition in the 2017/18 season.

Yanga faced an early exit from the competition as they conceded a 2-1 aggregate loss to Township Rollers.

The Tanzania club went down 2-1 to their opponents at the National Stadium and the former then held the latter to a 0-0 draw in Gaborone.

Meanwhile, Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona reports Tanzania's other representatives in CAF Champions League, Simba SC, yesterday jetted into Beira, Mozambique safely for today's first leg of the tournament's first round game against Uniao Desportiva do Songo.

The Mainland Premier League champions chartered a plane from Dar es Salaam yesterday morning and arrived in Beira in the afternoon.

Information from the club's official website said af-

ter arriving in Mozambique they had some training.

"The team has arrived well and safely in Beira, Mozambique, we are looking forward to tomorrow's game," said information from the club.

The team arrived with 19 strong squad which is made up of newly recruited players and those who have been retained, accompanied by head coach Patrick Aussems, club and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) officials.

The players who are in Mozambique for the clash are Beno Kakolanya, Gadiel Michael, Shomari Kapombe, Erasto Nyoni, Pascal Wawa, Jonas Mkude, Sharaf Shiboub, Francis Kahata and Meddie Kagere.

Others are captain John Bocco, Clatous Chama, Ally Salim, Mohamed Hussein, Tairone da Silva, Mzamiru Yasin, Gerson Vieira, Deo Kanda, Rashid Juma and Hassan Dilunga.

Coach Aussems recently told the media that his charges are ready for the encounter and promised good results in Mozambique.

"The game in Mozambique will not be that easy, but we are ready for them and our aim is to register the required results," he said.

The return leg is set for the weekend of August 23-25 at National Stadium.

Winners of the two-legged encounter will play either FC Platinum of Zimbabwe or Nyasa Big Bullets of Malawi in the next stage.

On paper Simba are favorites as last season saw the club reach the quarterfinals of CAF Champions League while US do Songo were eliminated in the group stage. However in modern football there are small teams.

Union SC seeks qualification for GP Gymkhana Shield tourney last eight

By Guardian Reporter

UNION SC cricketers have an opportunity to make certain of their qualification for the last eight stage of the GP Gymkhana shield competition given they will confront Patel Samaj in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The Group B clash, to be played at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue, will be one of three matches which have been slated for the same day.

Lions Cricket Club will open the day by locking horns with Kanbis in Group A in the morning, Kutchi Leva will face Punjabi Kings in a Group C clash shortly thereafter.

Union have registered one win in three outings in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament.



Young Muslims cricket team's skipper, Ejaz Aziz, bats against TNCC team during this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's clash which was held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

They started the four-wicket defeat to Jaat match. foot, succumbing to a Blasters in what was also Union then regrouped to command victory over

Tarangini in the second match before falling to Jain Sangh last weekend.

Union, therefore, need nothing short of a win against Patel Samaj if the former are to stay within reach of a place in the last eight.

Experienced performers that include Athuman Kassim, Hasnain Damji and Shabbar Ratansi have to step up their game if Union wish to get the better of Patel Samaj and sail through to the knockout stage.

Teams which are participating in the GP Gymkhana Shield tournament have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters,

Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

The Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Cricket Section-organized tournament has General Petroleum and Premier Refineries as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I& M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

The T20 -formatted competition, as disclosed by DGC Cricket Section captain, Ashish Nagewadia, will run for 14 weeks with all matches taking place at the club's oval.

The competition's last eight stage has been slated for September 14-21 whereas the last four will be played on September 22.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

YOU WILL WIN, DRAW OR LOOSE

