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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 17 JANUARY, 2020

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Jitters as Namibia's opposition resists any adoption of Kiswahili

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA'S centre-right opposition Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) has expressed dissatisfaction with the government's move to include Kiswahili in its curriculum beginning next year.

National spokesperson for PDM's youth wing, Maximilian Katjimune, has said it is "hypocritical and unpatriotic" for the country to introduce other African

“We therefore urge the Swapo government to stop their pursuit of Kiswahili and rather focus on integrating learners to speak different Namibian languages

languages in schools while citizens have not even mastered their own indigenous languages.

This comes after the Ministry of Education earlier this year announced it will introduce Kiswahili as an optional language in the Namibian school curriculum in 2021, on a cabinet directive.

“The Popular Democratic Movement Youth League totally rejects the introduction of the Kiswahili language in our basic education system. We would like to make it clear that our rejection of the Kiswahili language should not be viewed as non-African, but we are of the

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More downpour likely as Dar comes to a standstill



A cart pusher carries passengers' loads to cross the flooded road section at Mkwajuni valley following heavy rain in Dar es Salaam early yesterday, with commuter buses and other vehicles having to wait for the water to recede to manageable levels along Kawawa Road. Photo: Selemani Mpochi.

THE rains are likely to result in damaging infrastructure and part of habitation, with precautions needed on the part of residents, humanitarian agencies and rescue authorities.

By Guardian Reporter

AS residents of the commercial capital of Dar es Salaam come to terms with disruptions caused by yesterday's downpour, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has forecast more rains, strong winds and waves close to the seashore until Sunday.

A TMA statement said yesterday that regions to be affected by the weather pattern are Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara, Coast (including Mafia Island) as well as Zanzibar.

The weather condition is likely to disrupt economic activities such as fishing along the shore as well as marine transport between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, apart from other coastal destinations.

“Residents of the mentioned areas should take precautions in their activities during the stipulated period,” it cautioned.

The rains are likely to result in damaging infrastructure and part of habitation, with precautions needed on the part of residents, humanitarian agencies and rescue authorities.

The warning comes as residents of Dar es Salaam are counting losses caused by the downpour that pounded the city in the early hours of yesterday, rendering most parts of the city, including the Central Business District (CBD) a no-go zone.

A survey by The Guardian in various suburbs of Dar es Salaam saw long queues of motorists and perplexed pedestrians as a number of bridges and walkways were submerged by running water.

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“Residents of the mentioned areas should take precautions in their activities during the stipulated period

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TCRA offers advice ahead of switching off SIM cards

By Guardian Reporter

“AS the January 20 deadline for biometric registration of SIM cards looms, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has advised those whose lines are set to be switched off to resume the process later or get new numbers from service providers and register.

In a statement released yesterday, TCRA said that victims of the imminent mass

“Those whose SIM cards will go off after the January 20 deadline will choose either to register the same numbers biometrically or get completely new one

switch off of SIM cards will have an opportunity to retrieve their numbers after either getting a national identity card or just ID number from the National Identification Authority (NIDA).

“Those whose SIM cards will go off after the January 20 deadline will choose either to register the same numbers biometrically or get completely new ones,” the statement reads.

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

subscriber can wait before being declared vacant and assigned to another user by the respective service provider.

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

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Anxiety as TASAC readies for exclusive big shipping mandate

By Felister Peter

AS TANZANIA Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) readies to start implementing exclusive mandate for oil tankers, cruise ships, minerals and military vessels among others early next month, private sector players have raised concerns over imminent surge of charges and rigidity of state bureaucracy.

Explaining the matter in an interview yesterday, Tanzania Shipping Agents Association (TASAA)

executive secretary Abel Uronu argued that the changes will result in raising ship demurrage charges, application of fixed tariffs and lack of flexibility in coordinating tourist services.

With private agents, cruise ships have enjoyed flexibilities since arrangements are always made by the shipping agents to connect tourists with other enjoyable services in the supply chain, he stated.

“Under state agency, tourists are not likely to enjoy the flexibilities



as with private organizations worldwide due to the bureaucratic mode and lack of competition in services,” he asserted.

TASAC has announced intention to start implementing exclusive mandate for tankers from 3rd February, 2020.

Uronu declared that tankers have been handled by private shipping companies with much care and flexibilities depending on the fluctuation of oil prices in the world market. When freight

rates fall for ship owners, shipping agents also charge lower agency fees after negotiation, to avoid affecting consumer prices, he elaborated.

He said competition among private shipping agencies enables earlier documentation resulting into vessels berthing quickly after arrival, thus reducing ship demurrage charges.

“This will not happen with a state agency, because there will be no competition for better services in

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Anxiety as TASAC readies for exclusive big shipping mandate

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handling tankers. Delaying in documentation and slow pace in solving problems will cause delays in vessel berthing and thus ship demurrages will always be more painfully experienced," he further argued.

There will be nowhere to complain since the referee - the regulatory agency - is also a player in the sense of the state shipping agency.

Shipping agents have been advancing payment to the port for charterers free of charge so as to attract nomination and thus enabled consumers to enjoy reasonable prices. He said TASAC has stated that it will not advance payment to the port free of charge, and if they do, they will charge 2.5 percent of the amount advanced, which is a burden to consumers.

"Tanker business is volatile due to the nature of its seaborne trade. Decisions to monopolize tanker business have been made quickly without considering the menaces the nation will face when oil prices rise," he pointed out.

Uronu suggested that the state agency concentrate on military cargo instead of military ships since payment made to the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) will be based on gross registered tonnage (GRT) regardless of whether the vessel is served by a private or public agency.

He added: "There is no income which will be increased by monopolizing handling of military vessels. It is good for the government to protect national interests without affecting the private sector."

Last year, the National Assembly endorsed changes to Section 7 (iii) of the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, No.3 of 2019 which gave exclusive mandate to TASAC to carry out clearing and forwarding functions involving the importation and exportation of minerals, mineral concentrates, mining machinery and some other sensitive cargo categories.

With the new law TASAC operates both as sector regulator and having exclusive clearing and forwarding functions.

However, TASAC Director General Emanuel Ndomba was quoted as saying the new law is not meant to push out of business private shipping agents and freight forwarders despite its exclusive mandate in a number of functions.

TASAC was established by the government in 2017 to regulate the maritime transport industry in the Mainland, assuming some of the responsibilities of the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA).

Jitters as Namibia's opposition resists adoption of Kiswahili

FROM PAGE 1

view that there are simply more important pressing matters at the moment that confront our basic education system," Katjimune said at a press briefing this week.

Katjimune stressed that most Namibians can only speak their own indigenous language, English and Afrikaans, insisting that it must be the aim of government to ensure that Namibians are patriotic and learn a different mix of Namibian languages rather than "introducing a language from far-away which has no significance and relevance to the ordinary Namibian."

"We therefore urge the Swapo government to stop their pursuit of Kiswahili and rather focus on integrating learners to speak different Namibian languages," he specified.

PDM, formerly the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), is an amalgamation of political parties in Namibia which is registered as one singular party for representation purposes.

In 2018, Namibia's neighbour South Africa announced that it would start teaching Kiswahili as an optional language beginning this year, making it the first African language outside South Africa to be offered in class.

Education minister Angie Motshekga said then that the move was meant to promote unity and "social cohesion with fellow Africans." Anti-immigrant sentiments have brewed in South Africa in the past decade, leading to sporadic attacks on the homes and businesses of communities including Malawians, Somalis and Nigerians.

The push to embrace the Kiswahili language comes as African countries look into plans to reform and critically assess their education systems. There's also the recognition that the continent needs a new strategy for mother-tongue based education from primary through to tertiary level education, and to cast aside dependence on foreign languages.

This realization also arrives as African languages continue to die as governments adopt official languages while discouraging local ones, in hopes of forging harmonized national identity.



Former President Benjamin Mkapa and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa arrive from Mozambique at Julius Nyerere International Airport Dar es Salaam yesterday. They represented President John Magufuli at the swearing in ceremony of President Filipe Nyusi. Photo: PMO

More downpour likely as Dar comes to a standstill

FROM PAGE 1

At commuter bus stations passengers were braving intermittent rains that went on for most of the morning as buses delayed in queues.

Authorities were forced to close the busy section of Morogoro Road at the Magomeni descent to Jangwani valley as the silted underneath of the

bridge was submerged by gushing water from upstream suburbs, leaving motorists and pedestrians stranded on both sides of the road, from Magomeni to Kariakoo.

Several smaller bridges were rendered impassable including the Mto Ng'ombe at Manzese area which also left motorists as well as pedestrians stranded on both sides for several

hours.

The Msimbazi occasional stream which discharges into the sea was overflowing, cutting off Kigogo from Ilala Boma thus leaving residents of both sides stranded for the better part of the day.

'Bodaboda' riders took advantage of the situation to make a killing by transporting people from one place to other using

narrow pathways that cannot be accessed by vehicles.

Also some unemployed youths usually carrying luggage found a niche service of carrying persons on their backs through testing paths for a fee.

Over 70 percent of Dar es Salaam's 4.5 to 5 million inhabitants live in informal settlements,

mainly straddling the two sides of the former Msimbazi river basin, now a silted seasonal stream.

The government through the Tanzania Urban Resilience Programme (TURP) funded by the World Bank has over the past two decades launched several initiatives to solve the problem.

The programme was

based on a strategic development and management framework to guide future investment activities in the basin area.

This includes a detailed plan for the lower basin, transforming much of the lower flood plain to a city park and building a solid foundation for housing and commercial development, experts noted.



Speaker Job Ndugai pays his last respects at the casket bearing the body of former Newala Rural MP Rashid Ajali Akbar held in Newala district, Mtwara region yesterday. Photo: Parliament

TCRA offers advice ahead of switching off SIM cards

FROM PAGE 1

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

Recently Home Affairs minister Kangi Lugola dismissed two NIDA regional and district officials for deliberately

delaying distributing cards already worked upon by NIDA headquarters. Biometric registration is supported by NIN and SIM card holder's fingerprints.

Speaking shortly after he registered his telephone line, the president said the deadline extension will also provide a chance to Tanzanians who couldn't register due to various reasons including sickness to complete the exercise. He registered his SIM card at Chato town in Geita region.

NIDA is responsible for issuance of the national identification numbers (NIN). At one time the president directed the NIDA director general to drive urgently

to Morogoro municipality and sort out problems of registration in the district and region as a whole, after querying what NIDA officials were doing, in a public accountability telephone conversation with the NIDA director general.

The government considers biometric registration of SIM cards as crucial to enhance national security and control crime. "Despite security organs arresting a number of criminals, yet such incidences happen in our community causing inconveniences, loss of money and properties," the president had stated.

Zanzibar police arrest 496 illicit drugs suspects in 2019 - police

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A TOTAL of 496 suspects in illicit drugs were arrested by the police in Zanzibar during 2019, including 17 women as transmitters, peddlers and users thereof.

Speaking to newsmen recently at Kilimani Police headquarters in Zanzibar, the Zanzibar Commissioner of Police Muhamed Haji Hassan said a total of 806.65 grams of cocaine 10.2 kgs of heroine was seized in 2019.

He said 659.6 kgs of marijuana, 10.6 kgs of qat (mirungi) and 10.3 grams of valium were also seized.

"In continuation of these efforts beginning January 1 this year police in Zanzibar in collaboration with Dodoma police headquarters have been conducting special operation against illicit drugs and arrester 10 more suspects," he said.

He said among these, three have been involved in peddling illicit drugs and seven are users.

He said the police in Zanzibar in collaboration with other authorities and institutions have in place strategies to fight the social vice.

He said already all regions have been given directives on how to carry on with the war against illicit drugs, and added that the shehas (local leaders) in all areas have been told to submit in secret details of people who peddle, transmit or use the drugs.

Speaking about road traffic incidents for the year 2019, the Commissioner said from statistics compiled, incidents of road accidents have gone down as compared to 2018.

He said in 2019 there were a total of 311 road accidents that caused 162 deaths and 405 injuries, compared to 2018 when there were 319 accidents, 163 deaths and 584 injuries.

He said the main causes of the accidents include high speed, negligence by drivers, vehicles condition, congestion and lack of road signs.

He said other causes included drivers not adhering to road traffic road laws, drunkenness, use of mobile phones while driving and small fines meted out on the spot.

OPEC satisfied with implementation of projects under TASAF in country

By Guardian Reporter

THE Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of projects under the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) citing that social protection programmes are among major tools to eradicate poverty.

OPEC is among the major funders of the Tasaf projects in various parts in the country.

Speaking during their visit to various projects in Arusha region OPEC senior operations officer, Sharagim

Shams commended the operations of programme, saying it had changed lives of a number of poor Tanzanians.

"We are real satisfied with the way all projects had been effectively implemented...we affirm for our continued support," he said.

When they visited infrastructure development project at Oldonyowas secondary school in Arusha District council, the delegation was impressed, saying that its completion will enable students study in conducive environment.

The school project involves among

others, construction of female students' hostels, administration and teachers' buildings.

He urged students to study hard to realize, the their dreams.

"We, development partners and the government have been investing much in you young generation. I urge you to work hard for your benefits, your country and the world at large," he said.

For his part, TASAF regional coordinator Mathias Seif said that OPEC had funded over 400 projects worth 12bn/- in the region thus bringing joy and development among the poor

and needy people in the area.

The projects range from education, health, farming, women empowerment and livestock keeping among others.

"TASAF has been implementing about 413 OPEC sponsored development projects in Arusha region, worth over 14.2bn/-," he said.

The hostels, which are set to be completed in April, this year will serve among others, increasing the school enrollment since some students, especially females have been skipping classes due to walking long distances from their homes to

school.

The school headmaster, Richard Mugyabuso commended TASAF and OPEC for their generous support.

He also cited early marriage as among the challenges facing young girls thus thwarting them from joining secondary education.

"Last year, about 12 female students didn't report to the school. This year, a total of 169 students (both boys and girls) have been selected to join this secondary school but only 86 had reported so far. This is the second week since the school was re-opened, we guess some of

them are reluctant due to the same reason (long distances and marriage), but we are in special operation to make sure that all students must report."

There was information that girl students did not join the school because of early marriage, hence, the hostels will play a big role in supporting education for girls.

The headmaster further made the call to the government and development partners to continue supporting the construction of many more hostels at the school so as to serve all 146 girl students.



Senior programme officer for East and Southern Africa at Internews Network Fatuma Sanbur (C) yesterday met senior editors of The Guardian newspaper Richard Mngazija (R) and Alex Songa to share thoughts on media issues. Photo: John Badi

LATRA suspends nine bus firms for tampering with VTC system

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in the Southern Highlands Zone has suspended transport services for nine bus companies after they were found to have tampered with Vehicles Transit Control (VTC) systems that control buses on transit.

The authority also called on the bus owners to repair the gadgets within one month and should they fail to do so stern legal measures will be taken against them in accordance with

road transport laws.

LATRA manager for the Southern Highlands Zone Denis Daudi told this paper yesterday that since December last year they have been making investigations and follow ups on the movement of the buses while on the road through VTC system and discovered that the gadgets were not working at all.

He said after the gadgets were tampered with bus drivers thereof were speeding at the risks of passengers' lives and other road users. Daudi said among the steps that may be

taken in the event the owners will not implement instructions given include payment of 200,000/- to 500,000/- fine, revocation of their transport licences and taking them to court.

He said the devices installed in the buses are government property and for drivers to tamper with them is in contravention of the law hence gave a warning to bus owners not to tamper with the devices' adding that in case they find them to be defective they should report the matter to the concerned authorities.

TNBC wants councilors and individuals invited at district business councils

By Guardian Reporter

A STUDY conducted by The Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of regional and district business councils has recommended, in a report made public in Dar es Salaam yesterday that invitations should also be extended to local councilors as observers.

The 36-page candid report on best practices and lessons learnt so far from public private dialogue at regional and district levels in Tanzania, also recommends appropriate individuals and representatives of civil society organisations to attend those meetings.

It says the study revealed that ministries, departments and agencies dealing with business and investment were invited to attend the meetings, giving examples of TANESCO, TANROAD, SUMATRA, TRA, TBS and TFDA.

"(We deem it as) good practice to invite councilors, especially committees' chairs, as observers in district business councils. These are key decisions makers on matters affecting businesses in district councils. Therefore, it is important that they understand businesses environment issues before they are tabled at their official meetings for decision making," the report recommends.

Public and private sectors are each represented by 20 members in the council. The report says it would be a good practice to include individuals with expertise on particular issues for discussion and representatives of informal sector.

"Private sector membership should be determined by leading private sector and economic activities in a given locality," it underscores. During the study, the report says, it was established that civil society organisations play an important role in public private dialogues.



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This is to inform the general Public that **Mr. Uzairu Abdul Athumani**, whose picture appears below is no longer an employee of KCB Bank Tanzania Limited effective from 29th November 2019.

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Agriculture stakeholders plans farmers' exhibition to be held in Kilimanjaro

By Francis Kajubi

KILIMANJARO-based Flora and Fauna Restoration System Tanzania (Floresta) in collaboration with other stakeholders is organizing a two-day farmers exhibition to be held next week in Moshi Municipality.

Other stakeholders in the farmers' fair include National Bank of Commerce (NBC), Tanzania Forestry service (TFS), Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), Export and processing Zone (EPZ), Small Industries development organisation (SIDO), NEMC and Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT).

Themed 'Achieving sustainable industrial Economy and food security through Ecological Organic Agriculture Innovations' the exhibition is intended at promoting Ecological Organic Agriculture innovations in order to attain sustainable industrial Economy.

According to Floresta Director, Richard Mhina the exhibition is intended to boost market linkage, farmers shall have an opportunity to connect with local and global markets for their agricultural producers, increase awareness of the importance of EOA in achieving sustainable industrial economy, trade promotion and Job creations and Sustainable farming systems and small scale agro processing industries.

"The exhibition will seek to link initiatives that support scaling up the agro-ecosystems for increased productivity, while ensuring resilience and sustainability for achieving food security, poverty reduction and enhancing a green and resilient economy," said Mhina.

He asserted that the exhibition is designed to respond to key questions as to why farmer's exhibition is relevant in contemporary agricultural transformation agenda, environmental and health concerns, climate change resilience and sustainable production and consumption.

What are scalable best practices and technologies tested by research and practised by farmers and organic operators and how can farmers and the country can achieve scaling up and mainstreaming including methods and approaches.

He said over the years there have been efforts and initiatives from a wide range of actors in promotion, investment and advocacy for more sustainable, environmental, safer and responsible production and consumption patterns.

"This has been necessary in order to address challenges facing not only agricultural production but also livelihoods such as climate change and the need to immediately change the course to a more sustainable agroecological agriculture.

The trade show is therefore designed to exhibit products and information for awareness raising and sharing best practices for scaling up small scale famers and industries," he added.

Each year, Flora and Fauna Restoration System Tanzania previous known as Floresta Tanzania organises agricultural exhibitions and trade show that brings together smallholder farmer and traders within and beyond the Kilimanjaro region.



CRDB head of card business department Farid Seif makes a transaction through TemboCard Visa named 'Chanja, Lipa, Sepa' at the inauguration campaign held at Milmani City in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ndugulile orders arrest of two Rungwe district hospital officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

DEPUTY Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndugulile has directed police in Mbeya region to arrest two officials of the Rungwe district hospital for alleged theft of medicines and poor preservation of drugs.

The accused officials include the hospital's procurement officer, Vumilia Mwajande and pharmacist Elijah Kandonga. The two

are said to give medicines to patients without keeping records hence being suspected to attempt stealing some of the drugs.

He made an impromptu visit at the hospital after being tipped off that there are some dishonest workers attempting to steal drugs.

While in the drugs preservation room, Dr Ndugulile realised that the pharmacist had lied in his report by indicating the hospital only had 30 types of medicines while in reality there were 50 types of drugs stored in the room.

Responding, the hospitals' procurement officer, Mwajande said there were problems in keeping records, insisting the 20 types of medicines that were not indicated in the list were to be taken to patients on the same day.

"The Regional Medical Officer, Dr Salumu Manyata should form a committee that will investigate how systems work at the hospital especially when receiving medicines from Medical Stores Department (MSD) and discharging them to patients. We need to have at least a one

year records to be sure that government drugs are safe here," he noted.

Dr Manyata was also directed to replace the hospitals' Senior Medical Officer, Dr Manase Ngogo over failure to supervise hospital's operations. "You must replace Dr Ngogo to improve the hospital's performance and ensure provision of quality services to residents," said the Deputy Minister.

Rungwe District Administrative Secretary, Mnkondo Bendera said the district's safety and security committee will investigate and take

measures against hospital official alleged of negligence or being engaged in unlawful acts.

Earlier during his tour at the hospital, Dr Ndugulile met with Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila who complained that some dishonest workers have been stealing medicines, causing unrealistic shortage at health facilities in the region.

Chalamila mentioned Rungwe as the leading district in theft of medicines urging the Deputy Minister to visit the hospital.



VACANCY Executive Assistant to the CEO

The Legal Services Facility (LSF) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with Registration No. 00NGO/R2/00011. It is a basket fund created to channel funding on equal opportunity basis to organizations that provide Legal Aid and Paralegal services in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. These services assist individuals to claim their rights, redress grievances and protect their fundamental human rights.

The LSF manages a basket fund to which DANIDA, DFID and the EU are contributors. It operates as a grant maker with the overall goal to increase access to justice through a legal empowerment approach, in particular for women and girls. Through implementing partners, a paralegal cadre of around 3,500 is supported, organized in 170 small district based paralegal organizations.

The Role

Reporting directly to the CEO, the Executive Assistant to the CEO provides executive, administrative, and development support to the CEO and Board of Directors, as well as the Senior Management Team. The Executive Assistant serves as the primary point of contact for internal and external constituencies on all matters pertaining to the CEO. The Executive Assistant serves as a liaison to the Board of Directors and senior management teams; organizes and coordinates executive outreach and external relations efforts; and oversees special projects.

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience with social sciences background and an interest in national and global issues.
- Strong organizational skills that reflect ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks seamlessly with excellent attention to detail.
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- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build relationships with stakeholders, including staff, board members, external partners and donors.
- Previous experience working with development and fundraising programs to increase donor contributions and funding sources.
- Proficiency in Windows, including MS Word, EXCEL and PowerPoint; fund-raising data management systems knowledge helpful.

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: If you are Tanzanian and qualified for this post, please submit a single page application letter showing your suitability to the role with an updated Curriculum Vitae to hr@lsftz.org by Thursday 29th January, 2020. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. For a full job profile and information about LSF please visit LSF Website: www.lsftz.org.

Police officer sacked over the death of theft suspect

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

POLICE in Zanzibar has fired a police officer, Hussein Yahya Rashid (36), after he was found to have caused the death of one Mussa Suleiman whom he had accused of theft.

Speaking yesterday to reporters Zanzibar Urban West Regional Police Commander Awadh Juma Mohamed confirmed the sacking of the officer with Force No. 3307412 since November last year.

The RPC explained that the offence

committed by the police officer was to hand over the suspect to the angry mob who immediately attacked him causing his death.

He said the police officer was required to take the suspect to the police station for custody while waiting for other procedures for prosecution purposes.

He further said; when people commit crimes they run to police stations where they believe proper legal procedure will follow.

"Yes, it is true we have sacked our

former police officer Hussein Yahya Rashid who after arresting a suspected criminal he handed him to an angry mob who attacked him till he met with his death," he said.

He called upon other police officers to understand well laws governing the police force.

He said the main task of the police force is to protect the safety of the citizens and their property - you cannot arrest a theft suspect and take him to angry civilians.



Minister for Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training Prof Joyce Ndalichako (L) and Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (seated) share a light moment at the presentation of 100 desks worth 10m/- donated by I&M Bank through the Corporate Social Responsibility policy. The event took place at Mrisho Gambo secondary school in Arusha yesterday. Looking on are I&M Bank Chief Executive Officer Baseer Mohammed (3rd L) and I&M Bank head of retail banking (R) Lilian Mtali. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Focus in economic diplomacy, Kabudi urges CFR graduates

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has called upon the Diplomatic College to give practical lessons to students to enable them graduate and contribute in the national development especially at this time of the implementation of economic diplomacy.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooper-

ation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said the government will be pleased to see the college offering lessons on strategies, geopolitics and democracy including human rights especially in the African context.

He said the discipline offered by the college should not be theoretical only but must go together with practice so that it is used in the understanding of interna-

tional relations in the world.

He also urged the college to revise its curricula from time to time as suggested so that it is not left behind by time.

"The world is fast changing. We have no option but to also go with the speed," Prof Kabudi said at the College's 22nd Graduation in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

He said it better for the college

to be at the forefront in giving out these studies to the diplomatic community, representatives of international organizations and the business people in the country.

"I am pleased to hear that you have held talks with Angola's ISRI College for the purpose of teaching in Kiswahili in Angola and that the draft agreement has already been prepared wait-

ing for signature," he said.

He added that the government the ambassadors of Iran, Libya, Russia, Indonesia and China have been using this scope of cooperation and exchange experience.

He also used the opportunity to welcome other embassies in the country to visit the College to give their own experiences to students and instructors, and

added that it is better the College's management to send invitations to all embassies in the country to give their own experiences.

Earlier, welcoming the official guest, the Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Ministry Dr Faraji Mnyepe said 453 graduated have been conferred with certificates.

The Diplomatic College was

officially established on January 13 1978 by signing the agreement struck out by foreign ministers of two countries - by then Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania and Joachim Chissano of Mozambique.

Since then the Diplomatic College has concentrated in preparing diplomats and experienced strategists in international relations.

Conduct trainings for youth on how to access loans, financial institutions emphasised

By Correspondent Wilhelm

Mulinda, Mwanza

A member of the ruling CCM's National Executive Committee (NEC) in Mwanza Region, Jamal Abdul has called on financial institutions to come up with a training programme targeting youth on how they can process loans to access capitals to engage in entrepreneurship.

Abdul said in an interview here with this paper that if put in place, the move will significantly help as many youths as possible to get affordable loans to run economic activities and alleviate poverty among them.

At present most youths fail to borrow money from banks for business capitals owing to lack of knowledge on how to process loans but with the seminars they will be able to apply for them as required, he noted.

He stated that if youths are well empowered with capitals they can play a big role in the fight against poverty and raise national economy through entrepreneurship.

With the district councils giving loans to youths as promised in the 2015 CCM elections manifesto, through the seminars the youths can also know other sources where they can borrow money to run businesses, he said.

Youths' access to loans is one of the priorities of President John Magufuli for the country to reach the middle economy by 2025 a situation that will open up more employment opportunities among other things, he noted.

According to him, as there is National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) with the responsibility of planning, managing as well as coordinating matters with regard to empowering people economically, it will be easy for the organ to give direction on loans issuing to youths who are the workforce of the nation.

So far he said that as this year accompanies by general elections, youths should now use most of their valuable time engaging in income generation activities and not sitting in groups to keep on talking about politics.

He pointed out that youths have to wait until the time for elections reaches for them to discuss political issues therefore they should currently concentrate on economic activities for their well-being and development of the nation.

If the time for general elections sets in it will be the right chance to discuss politics but right now young people should be serious with economic activities, he said.

Also he noted that youths have each and every reason to ensure that peace and tranquility are maintained in the country all the time and not on the reverse to make the society safe.



Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority head of Eastern zone Eng. Lawi Odiero (L) presents one of 10 computers and Information Technology targets to a representative of Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary Tullo Fundi at a ceremony held at Mzumbe secondary school yesterday. Looking on is the school's second headmaster Edwin Matenga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Local bank issues loans worth 4bn/- to farmers in 3 cashew growing regions

By Beatrice Philemon

YETU Microfinance Bank has disbursed 4bn/- in loans to 4,068 smallholder farmers engaged in cashewnut production in Mtwara, Lindi and Coast regions so that they can operate their farming activities more effectively, raise production and produce cashew-nuts that meet domestic and international market demands.

Yetu Microfinance Bank Plc Managing Director Altemius Millinga told 'The Guardian' yesterday that the loans were issued in 2019/2020 farming season directly to the farmers but in partnership with 127 Agricultural marketing Cooperatives (AMCOs) and cash was disbursed directly in the farmer's individual bank account.

The loans had two components, farm inputs loans which were delivered through selected suppliers and Bridging cash "Jikimu" which was delivered on monthly basis to cover household and farm need prior harvesting and sale of cashews.

The farmers can access cash through mobile banking, ATMs and cash over the counter at our out Financial Services Centre (FSC) located in Masasi, Kilwa, Lindi and Zhakem in Mbagala.

"We provide cash for household consumption needs as a mechanism to fight side selling locally known as 'kangomba'. Each borrower qualifies for 300,000/- which are disbursed on monthly basis to address consumption and emergence cash needs," he noted.

The bank has a clear strategy to

finance smallholder farmers in the cashews value chain and later include coffee and other crops.

The model of delivery of financial services work only with crops participating in the warehouse receipt system.

So far the bank has invested in mobile banking and other technologies in order to reach smallholder farmers in any location.

Smallholder cashew farmers have also access to other products of the bank including loans for house improvement, Water and sanitation (WASH), Agro-asset loans (power tillers, tricycle motorbikes, greenhouses and drip irrigation system).

"Our biggest challenge is that we are not wanted by AMCOs as we deliver loans directly to farmers. We have learned that AMCOs model need to be revisited with all governance issues addressed," he noted.

Right now the bank had continued to extend its financial services in Morogoro, Tanga, Mtwara, Lindi, Coast, and Dar es Salaam regions and Unguja in the Isles.

Yetu Microfinance Bank is dedicated to providing financial services to the unbanked and under banked people in Tanzania.

The bank operate three branches namely Mbagala and Mzizima in Dar es Salaam and Mngeta in Morogoro and 16 Financial Services Centres located in the same region. With technology application the bank has brought banking services in urban and rural areas including remote villages.



So far the bank has invested in mobile banking and other technologies in order to reach smallholder farmers in any location



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR UPDATING FACTS AND FIGURES FOR PARTICIPATORY FOREST MANAGEMENT (PFM) ACROSS MAINLAND TANZANIA

The Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC) is a 4-year Programme funded by the Governments of Tanzania and Finland. The implementing agency of the programme is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania.

FORVAC aims to contribute in increasing economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands while reducing deforestation. FORVAC focuses on forest value chains development based on production of timber, charcoal and non-wood forest products (NWFP) in the Village Land Forest Reserves.

Currently, FORVAC is looking for a service provider to update facts and figures information/data of the PFM across mainland Tanzania to support required policy discourses and facilitate development of sustainable forest management in-country. For more details, see the specifications and application instructions on our website (www.forvac.or.tz). Deadline for proposals is **5th February, 2020**.

The Guardian **Nipashe** MWANZA WA JAMBI

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TANZANIA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (TAHA)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM

RFP NO. [TAHA/CONS/001/2020]

ISSUE DATE: 17/01/2020

CLOSING DATE: 29/01/2020 AT 05.00 P.M EAT

I Section A: Terms of Reference

1.1 Purpose of this RFP

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain proposals from software implementation partners who can demonstrate that they possess the organizational, functional, and technical capabilities to provide an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution that meets TAHA's needs.

1.2 About TAHA

Since its inception in 2004, TAHA, a member based private sector organization that advocates for the growth and competitiveness of the horticulture industry in Tanzania, has been an effective voicing platform for producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products mainly; flowers, fruits, vegetables, horticultural seeds, and spices. The Association safeguards the interests of industry stakeholders and ensures industry issues are well represented within national and international agendas.

In its 13 years of existence, TAHA has played a fundamental role in the industry's transformation, changing the public and private sectors' perspective on its potential and opportunities. As a result of its leadership, the industry is currently at the centre of the country's agriculture transformation agenda.

TAHA is implementing a five-year strategic plan 2017 – 2021 which will help the organization to pursue its vision, mission and strategic objectives. The strategy builds on the Association's previous achievements and focuses on addressing prioritized industry challenges to increase its competitiveness and contribution to job creation, improved nutrition, and national income.

The core of the strategy includes the vision, mission, values, strategic objectives and the corresponding interventions. TAHA focuses on strengthening its capacity into a sustainable national industry body that effectively leads the industry transformation and fulfils stakeholder priorities. Four cross-cutting themes: environmental sustainability, women and youth economic empowerment, and nutrition are also prioritized.

Among TAHA's strategic objectives is organizational effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. This will on a large scale, be achieved by strengthening systems for collection and use of data to manage performance driven decision making and accountability. In this regard, TAHA has embarked on a transformation journey to implement an ERP system that will see the organization integrate its processes, enhance controls, eliminate paper work substantially and provide assurance to key stakeholders, particularly development partners and TAHA members.

1.3 Scope of Work

TAHA is seeking proposals for a fully integrated municipal suite of software applications that will include software, installation and implementation services, user training, and technical support.

The Scope of the Implementation

The project scope for implementation of the ERP is briefly described and available in the business requirement to be shared upon request in the letter of intent. Specific functionality within each category listed below is described. The bidder is expected to review the business requirements and propose modules based on their respective product.

a.) Financial Management:

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Budgeting
- Asset Management
- Treasury/ Bank Accounting
- Tax Management
- Travel Management
- Grants Management

b.) Procurement

- Purchase Requisition Management
- Purchase Order Management
- Supplier Management
- Inventory Management

c.) Human Resource Management

- Recruitment Management
- Performance Management
- Personnel Administration
- Leave Management
- Payroll Management
- Timesheets Management

d.) Customer Relationship Management

The Scope of the ERP Solution

The scope and characteristics of the ERP solution to be proposed by the bidders to meet the requirements of TAHA will cover the following aspects;

- Process coverage or the functional units of TAHA
- User base of the TAHA
- Solution capabilities and features
- Process capabilities for membership-based associations
- The solution integration
- Future expansion and future proofing
- Strategic control over technology, usage, deployment and support services

The Scope of Work for the Project

The scope of ERP implementation services to be provided by the bidders would include the following.

- Configure/customize the ERP as per requirements of TAHA
- Integrating the CRM module with MPESA platform
- Integration for banking transactions
- Providing implementation and project management services
- Sizing the hardware for ERP solution and installing the ERP solution
- Data Migration of the materials data, project data, employee data, etc.
- Training IT, super users and end users and facilitating the adoption of the ERP solution by the users/employees of TAHA
- Providing 3 months post implementation support after completing commissioning of the ERP Solution.
- Providing skilled staff to augment the capacity of TAHA in continuous improvement/adoption of the ERP solution.
- Develop project documentation for the solution

TAHA plans to implement the new ERP System in two phases. Bidders will be evaluated on their ability to present information about the phases of a successful implementation process including training and on-going support. The information gathered through this RFP process may be used to adjust the project scope, if needed. Depending upon the costs of implementation and TAHA's availability of resources, TAHA may consider accelerating or postponing the implementation of selective components of the scope.

In general, the bidder will be expected to:

- Deliver a quality and fully integrated ERP solution, either traditional (on-premise) or cloud-based (hosted), that will meet or exceed the requirements listed in the supporting RFP attachments.
- Provide qualified and experienced project management and technical resources to advise TAHA stakeholders during the analysis, design, implementation and support phases of the project.
- Provide the appropriate technical expertise to configure all related files to make the system 100% operational.
- Provide comprehensive training for system operations and configuration.
- Training shall be provided in a hands-on environment with complete and necessary documentation and training manuals.
- Ensure all modules are complete, have been tested, and are ready for operation when training is complete.
- Provide follow-up training as needed, as well as dedicated support and customer service after the initial training and implementation of the system.

Required System Functions

TAHA has defined its Business Requirements as listed in the detailed User requirements as follows:

- Exhibit I: Financial Management
- Exhibit II: Procurement
- Exhibit III: Human Resource Management
- Exhibit IV: Customer Relationship Management
- Exhibit V: Non-Functional Requirements

Key Activities and Deliverables

To ensure quality throughout the implementation, TAHA's project will include, at a minimum, the following deliverables. Each deliverable will be the responsibility of the bidder and will be formally presented to TAHA for review and sign off. For projects with multiple phases, TAHA expects each phase to contain each deliverable (unless noted):

- **Comprehensive Project Plan** – Detailed listing of tasks for the entire project that includes the following for each task: due date, responsibility, predecessors. Tasks to include on the project plan will include all implementation activity, deadlines, milestones, sign offs, review periods, and deliverables.
- **Functional Specification Document** – Work product that identifies both the business process decisions as well as system configuration decisions for each in scope business process and system feature.
- **Technical Design Document** – Work product that identifies the deployment configuration for the solution, including application and technical architecture as well as intended support model. This will be handed over to the TAHA IT department after deployment to facilitate

support of the solution.

- **Test Scripts** – Test scripts based on the business requirements and system design to facilitate execution of user acceptance testing
- **Training Documentation** – Complete user manuals for each module/ sub-module/ business process for how to use the configured system

The application will cater for not less 100 TAHA staff members. The head office is located in Arusha town, Tanzania with approximately 50 staff. The remaining operational staff are located in offices across Zanzibar, Morogoro and Mwanza. There are also ongoing projects located in other regions where there are no TAHA offices.

1.4 Estimated duration of the project

TAHA's preference is to select and begin implementation of the ERP system in the first quarter of 2020. The whole assignment is expected to take a period of 3 months for phase I and 3 months for phase II from the commencement date that will be stipulated in the contract. The phases are split as follows;

- Phase I – Financial Management, Procurement, and Travel Management
- Phase 2 – HRM, CRM (Membership Management)

Costing for respective phases should be shown.

1.5 Deployment Approach

Bidders need to specify whether their proposed solution is;

- (1) On-premise and/or,
- (2) Cloud-based (SaaS) and provide appropriate pricing for one or both options.

For bidders who specify traditional install (1), TAHA requests that the hardware/software requirements be provided, and the bidder needs to specify the ability of the solution to perform in a virtualized (VMWare/HyperV) environment. Any specific requirements associated to running the solution in a virtualized computing environment also need to be provided.

3rd Party Software

If the software being proposed requires any additional third-party software or subscription services to operate (i.e., MSSQL, SSL certificates, etc.), the bidder needs to specify the software and/or services and whether the cost of this software is included in the proposal.

2 Section B: Bidder Instructions

2.1 Letter of Intent

Bidders wishing to submit proposals are encouraged to confirm their intent to respond and request for detailed business requirements. An email sent to procurement@taha.or.tz, not later than 21st January 2020 05:00 P.M EAT, please identify the name, address, phone and email address of the person who will serve as the key contact for all correspondence regarding this RFP.

2.2 Documents to be submitted

The following documents shall be submitted;

- Technical proposal including detailed breakdown on how your solution meets TAHA requirements, methodology on how you will approach the work, a proposed work plan, team structure of the team to execute the project, CVs for each team member and experience in implementing ERP solutions in similar organizations including reference letters from clients.
- Financial proposal basing on the above TORs with costs breakdown and not a lump sum amount.
- The following mandatory commercial documents;
 - o Certificate of Incorporation
 - o Business License
 - o TIN Certificate
 - o VAT Registration Certificate if registered
 - o Manufacturer's Authorization Form (MAF) if any;
 - o Audited financial statements at least one year
 - o Current Physical Location that is valid right of occupancy of office premises

2.3 Submission procedure

Bidders should submit both soft copy and hard copy in protected form, their documents by 5:00 PM (EAT) on 29/01/2020 referring the above RFP number, with the subject line "SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM" via email address procurement@taha.or.tz, addressing;

Chief Executive Officer,
Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA),
Kanisa Road, House No. 49,
P.O Box 16520,
Arusha,
Tanzania

TCCIA in Dodoma sets key strategies to assist small-scale entrepreneurs

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industrial and Agriculture (TCCIA) in Dodoma region is contemplating to launch a special programme targeting to roll-out capital loans to small scale entrepreneurs in the region.

Dubbed in Kiswahili 'Utajiri na Mtaji' (UTAM), the envisaged six-year based initiatives are projected to commence with a capital of between Sh100m and Sh300m, whereby the loans will be re-funded in friendly interest rates.

In his interview to this paper, TCCIA's Executive Director Idd Senge said most of small-scale entrepreneurs are crowded out from accessing capital loans from diverse financial institutions, hence the need for the establishment of the programme in question.

"Most of the banks are commercially-based, and are rolling-out loans starting from at least Sh500,000 but huge percentage of small scale entrepreneurs are searching for meager loans, starting from Sh100,000, which is considered as a low rate in many

banks," he observed.

Divulging more details pertaining to the programme, he said, in readiness to undertake the programme, they have already prepared special loan forms to be filled with traders who will go after the loans, adding: "As per our plans, the loaned entrepreneurs will be serving their loans on daily basis, at a very small amount."

Moreover, he said the plan is to develop a special database platform through which the beneficiary traders will be sending their daily payments via mobile money transfer systems.

And he added, in the further perspectives, the vision is to open a special TCCIA Bank in order to stand a chance to support the small traders in the region and the country in a whole.

"If the UTAM programme will be successful, it is our aspiration to open a major bank of at least 3bn/- capital in order to extend our foot holds to many areas," he expressed.

The envisioned TCCIA's bank, according to him, is projected to serve the small traders in seven different phases. "To start with, the bank will roll out loans to small scale entrepreneurs women in the capital city,

whereby in the second batch, the facility will serve women entrepreneurs in the entire region of Dodoma," he expressed.

In its third phase, he added, the financial institution will serve small scale traders especially women in all regions in Tanzania, and that, in the fourth phase small scale entrepreneur women, youth and disabled in Dodoma region will be served.

"If all goes well, in the fifth and phase, all small scale entrepreneur women, youth and disabled in Tanzania will be served by the bank, whereby, the sixth and seventh phases will see all entrepreneurs in Tanzania and outside the country respectively," he insisted.

The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) was established in 1988. It was initiated with the support of the Tanzanian government to strengthen the private sector.

The establishment of the TCCIA was an important step in moving from a centralized, planned economy towards a more open, mixed economy giving full scope to privately owned enterprises and farms.



Haydom Lutheran hospital managing director Dr. Emanuel Nuwas (R) briefing Norwegian ambassador to Tanzania Elizabeth Jacobsen (L) about CT Scan machine how it works shortly after the launch yesterday. The hospital is based in Mbulu district, Manyara region. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

TemboCard Visa and SimBanking Visa customers to get 60pc price cut when paying electronically

By Guardian Reporter

CLIENTS of CRDB Bank Plc who use their TemboCard Visa and SimBanking Visa to settle their payments for goods and services will get up to 60 percent price reduction for any 30,000/- transaction conducted.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of a campaign dubbed, 'Chanja, lipa, sepa,' CRDB's Head of Card Business Farid Seif said customers who use the electronic Visa card means to pay at famous restaurants and department shops will also enjoy various presents.

Seif named some of the outlets where such price cuts will be effected in Dar es Salaam as GSM Mlimani City and

Mikocheni, Orca deco, Miniso Mlimani City and Aura Mall; MM Brands; Baby shop at Mlimani City and Pugu Road; Splash at Mlimani City and Msasani; Mr Price at Mlimani City and Aura Mall; Little More; Cons Collection; Tanzania Brand Eyes and Shoe Express.

"I take this opportunity to urge our clients to use TemboCard Visa and SimBanking Visa to pay for their goods and service bills. Our target is to see more Tanzanians refrain from using cash when buying goods and services," said Seif.

He further revealed that other outlets where CRDB's Visa card holders will enjoy price reductions are Tips Kidimbwi, Luxe, Governors, The Boardrooms all in Dar es Salaam the cus-

tomers will also receive t-shirts, caps, key-holders and many other presents.

CRDB was among the first local banks to introduce an electronic card payment solutions in the market dubbed TemboCard in 2002 and also supplied point of sale (PoS) machines to accommodate the cards. So far the bank has over two million TemboCard holders who conduct on average 50,000 transactions a day.

"In order to give our clients a wider space to transact internationally, we teamed up with Visa International Inc which allows our clients to transact anywhere on the globe," he added while luring the public to open an account with the Dar es Salaam based lender to enjoy the myriad of benefits available.

TPDC, JICA to launch natural gas domestic promotion plan draft

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTRY of Energy, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will today conduct a workshop to introduce a draft of the natural gas domestic promotion plan.

A statement issued by JICA in Dar es Salaam on Thursday said the workshop will be held as part of

the JICA - financed project called-Project for Domestic Natural Gas Promotion and Supply System in Tanzania (DNGPP).

The workshop will be graced by Energy Minister, Dr Medard Kalemami and Yamamura Naofumi, Chief Representative of JICA Tanzania Office.

The event will bring together various stakeholders drawn from the public and private sectors as well

as the academia. Stakeholders are expected to engage in discussions centred on natural gas development in the country.

One of the main objectives of JICA - financed project is to examine and assess the future domestic natural gas demand of Tanzania and to suggest a possible development plan for the downstream market.

During the workshop, a JICA study team headed by

Kanekiyo will give an analysis of the natural gas sector situation in Tanzania and the potential of using it for industrial development.

JICA is a governmental agency that coordinates Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the government of Japan. It is chartered with assisting economic and social growth in developing countries, and the promotion of international cooperation.

Proposals received after this time will not be accepted for consideration. By submitting a proposal, each bidder represents that:

- The proposal is based upon an understanding of the specifications and requirements described in this RFP.
- The costs for developing and delivering responses to this RFP and any subsequent presentations of the proposal as requested by TAHA are entirely the responsibility of the bidder. TAHA is not liable for any expense incurred by the bidder in the preparation and presentation of their proposal.
- All materials submitted in response to this RFP become the property of TAHA and are to be appended to any formal documentation, which would further define or expand any contractual relationship between TAHA and the bidder resulting from this RFP process.
- The information regarding TAHA included in the RFP is confidential and the bidder may not divulge or disclose to any third party in any form or manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, any Confidential Information without the prior written consent of the TAHA
- The individual signing the proposal is authorized to legally bind the business.

2.4 Late Submissions

Regardless of cause, late submissions will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the bidder's sole risk to assure submission by the designated time.

2.5 Withdrawing Proposals

Proposals may not be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the proposal due date. Proposals may be withdrawn prior to the proposal due date, provided that such requests are in writing.

2.6 Rights Reserved

While TAHA has every intention to award a contract as a result of this RFP, issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by TAHA to award a contract. Upon a determination such actions would be in its best interests, TAHA in its sole discretion reserves the right to:

- cancel or terminate this RFP;
- reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP;
- waive any undesirable, inconsequential, or inconsistent provisions of this document, which would not have significant impact on any proposals;

2.7 Bidder Questions

This RFP contains the instructions governing the proposals to be submitted and a description of the mandatory requirements upon request. To be eligible for consideration, a bidder must meet the intent of all mandatory requirements. Compliance with all requirements will be determined by TAHA's procurement committee. Responses that do not meet the full intent of all requirements listed in this RFP may be subject to point reductions during the evaluation process or may be deemed non-responsive.

Bidders shall promptly notify TAHA of any ambiguity, inconsistency, or error, which they may discover upon examination of this RFP. Bidders requiring clarification or interpretation of any section or sections contained in this RFP shall send an email request to TAHA by the deadline of 5:00 PM (ET) on 21st January 2020. All email correspondence must be addressed to: Procurement procurement@taha.or.tz copying patrick.mchomvu@taha.or.tz, each bidder submitting a clarification request must clearly address each question by reference to a specific section, page, and item of this RFP. A written answer will be provided to all questions received by 5:00 PM (EAT) on 22nd January 2020. Written questions received after the deadline may not be considered. Every effort will be made to provide written answers no later than 5:00 PM (EAT) 22nd January 2020.

Any interpretation, correction, or change to this RFP will be made by written addendum by the Chief Executive Officer. Interpretations, corrections, or changes to this RFP made in any other manner will not be binding and bidders should not rely upon such interpretations, corrections, or changes.

2.8 RFP Response Format

In order to facilitate the analysis of responses to this RFP, bidders are required to prepare their proposals in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. Bidders whose proposals deviate from these instructions may be considered non-responsive and may be disqualified at the discretion of TAHA.

Proposals should be prepared as simply as possible and provide a straightforward, concise description of the bidder's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on accuracy, completeness, and clarity of content. All parts, pages, figures, and tables should be numbered and clearly labeled.

The technical proposal should include but not limited to:

- Cover Page
- Letter of transmittal signed by a legally authorized representative
- Executive summary
- Proposed software & computing environment (The bidder must present, in detail, features and capabilities of the proposed software)
- Implementation approach
- Project management methodology
- Change management methodology
- System test methodology
- Quality assurance methodology
- Proposed work plan
- Post-implementation support approach
- Relevant experience in similar engagements including a minimum of 3 references within the last 5 years including:
 - o Client name and address;
 - o Contact name
 - o Contact phone number;
 - o Engagement start and end dates;
 - o Description and outcome
- Proposed team structure and team CVs including the following key roles
 - o Project Manager
 - o Functional Lead

- o Functional Consultants (responsible for configuration of respective modules)
- o Technical Lead (responsible for deployment of environments and installation)
- Responses to detailed business requirements upon request

The financial proposal should include but not limited to:

- Cover page
- Letter of transmittal signed by a legally authorized representative
- Cost summary (detailed total cost of the proposed solution complete with costs for all software licenses, implementation services, training, and support being proposed. Cost for Phase 1 and Phase 2 should be shown)
- Detailed costs for the following (include Level of effort (LOE) and rates for resources where applicable):
 - o Software Licenses (include information on licensing model)
 - o System Implementation
 - o Conversion of Historical Data
 - o Training
 - o Annual Support/Maintenance/Upgrades
- Hourly rates for:
 - o Takes Not Outlined in RFP
 - o Additional Training
 - o Custom Modifications

2.9 Evaluation Procedure

All responsive proposals will be evaluated based on stated evaluation criteria. TAHA evaluation committee will separate proposals into "responsive" and "non-responsive" proposals. To be considered responsive, the bidder must meet the requirements outlined in Section 2.2 and Section 2.3 in the instructions to bidder. Non-responsive proposals will be eliminated from further consideration. The procurement committee will then evaluate the remaining proposals and rank them to establish the highest score. Bidders may then be asked to provide onsite demonstrations. Discussions and negotiations may take place with the short list of bidders to obtain a best and final offer. The award will be based upon the proposal that is determined to be in the most competitive.

Evaluation Criteria

Technical Evaluation

The intention of TAHA is to procure a functionally complete, cost effective, and fully integrated software suite of applications. The technical proposal will be given a technical score. The proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it does not achieve the minimum technical score stipulated. Responses to this RFP will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Technical Proposal = 60%
- Financial Proposal = 40%

Points may be subtracted for non-compliance with specified format requests. TAHA may also choose to not evaluate, may deem non-responsive, and/or may disqualify from further consideration any proposals that do not follow this RFP format, are difficult to understand, are difficult to read, or are missing any requested information.

A bidder responding to a question with a response similar to, "Refer to our literature..." or "Please see www.....com" may be deemed non-responsive or receive point deductions. All materials related to a response must be submitted to TAHA and not just referenced. Any references in an answer to another location in the RFP materials shall have specific page numbers and sections stated in the reference. Each element will be scored independently of one another and the scoring will be based solely on the information provided in the response to the specific element.

Award of Contract

Once the proposals are opened, a committee selected by TAHA will evaluate each proposal, taking into consideration the criteria and methodology stipulated in this RFP. TAHA will be the sole judge in evaluation considerations and may make an award to the bidder(s) who submits the proposal judged by TAHA to be in its best interest. A recommendation as to which system best meets the interests of TAHA (as determined by the evaluation committee) will be presented to TAHA management. The award will only be to responsible bidder(s) qualified by experience to perform the services specified herein. All proposals submitted shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the proposal opening.

Any effort by bidders to influence TAHA in the examination, evaluation, and recommendation for award of contract may result in the rejection of the bidders' proposal.

2.10 Other Requirements

- In the event that multiple firms partner to submit a joint proposal, the proposal must identify one firm as the primary contact. This primary contact will be the primary point of contact throughout the procurement process and will be held responsible for the overall implementation of all partners included in the joint proposal.
- All third-party solutions proposed as part of a joint proposal are subject to the same requirements of this RFP, unless otherwise stated.
- Implementation pricing must be submitted on a "milestone" basis. Bidders are to provide all work effort and assumptions used to calculate a fixed fee for each milestone. The scope of the project will be defined by the scope of work and detailed functional requirements included in this RFP
- All firms submitting proposals are encouraged to submit the most competitive proposal possible as the failure to do so may lead to elimination prior to software demonstrations.
- This RFP, its general provisions, and the terms and conditions shall be incorporated in any agreement resulting from this solicitation, and the RFP and its terms and conditions, plus attachments shall control unless the Agreement expressly provides otherwise.

All proposals shall be valid for a minimum of 60 days

The Guardian

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FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Agriculture sector remains most important pillar for food security and nutrition

IN politics, humanitarian aid, and social science, hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience.

Throughout history, portions of the world's population have often suffered sustained periods of hunger. In many cases, hunger resulted from food supply disruptions caused by war, plagues, or adverse weather. In the decades following World War II, technological progress and enhanced political cooperation suggested it might be possible to substantially reduce the number of people suffering from hunger. While progress was uneven, by 2015 the threat of extreme hunger subsided for many of the world's population. According to figures published by the FAO in 2019 however, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has been increasing over the last four years. This is both as a percentage of the world's population, and in absolute terms, with about 821 million afflicted with hunger in 2018.

There are a number of significant changes that are happening in Africa, the most important being that it is a continent with some of the fastest growing economies. Five of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa.

This has resulted in increased wealth in a segment of the population, with its attendant shift in food consumption patterns.

Africa's population is also growing fast. For instance, between 2015 and 2050, the populations of 28 African countries are estimated to have more than doubled.

According to UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), 2015 report, the population of ten African countries namely: Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania

and Zambia, are projected to increase by at least five-fold by 2100.

Increase in population growth in Africa, especially the youth segment, presents an opportunity to unleash the potential of the sizeable and growing demographic; it, however, also means more mouths to feed.

Combining the effects of consumption pattern changes and the high population means that the agriculture sector must respond by not only producing more food, but also food that appeals to a wealthier society.

African countries will likely continue to experience lower agricultural yields due to the impact of climate change, encroachment of agricultural lands - particularly crop and rangelands and, biodiversity loss.

In order to ensure sustainability of the agriculture sector, increased and quality investments need to be channeled into the sector.

Evidences supported by data and analysis from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) shows that agriculture plays an important role in economic development and poverty reduction as it creates employment opportunities and contributes to household income and food availability.

A majority of Africa's poor population lives in rural areas. Increasing investments into the agriculture sector can therefore play a critical role in poverty alleviation, especially rural poverty, since the majority of rural poor depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods.

The agriculture sector and its associated services will therefore remain as the most important pillar for food security and nutrition. The sector will also remain a critical engine for inclusive economic growth and transformation in Africa.

Various studies by FAO and partners confirm that the sector employs more than 70 percent of the labour force especially in rural areas where the majority of the poor live.

Education funds contributors have specific motivations

THERE has been an urgent appeal by the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) to contributors to focus on the authority rather than direct assistance to schools on the basis of private requests. The authority has lately appealed to individuals and companies making various contributions aimed at improving education in the country to direct the same to the authority and not directly to institutions as is the case now. It is hard to figure out if such a shift will increase the contributions.

This appeal has been issued by the TEA Director General, Bahati Geuzwe who admitted that those who direct their contributions to beneficiary institutions do not break any law, but there is a flaw in what they are doing. She said they are not likely to be better placed to know where the actual need is and thus they may end up pumping resources to less deserving schools. This is true, but only if the person or organization contributing has no specific preference in that regard, and that isn't always the case, since at times it is affinity with the school that sparks offers.

She said TEA receives requests for assistance from needy schools all over the country with details of shortcomings. "So when we receive contributions, we first of all refer to the list of applications and prioritize the most deserving," and in that view, this should be the way contributors should be thinking.

However it is only a view of how it should be, quite honest and even the most appropriate approach, but life doesn't always follow rules of a book. A school is like a child, so one has to have a reason for feeling close to the child, not just education needs.

There is however a particular group of contributors who may do well to follow that advice as they are neutral as to where their contributions will be directed. These are contributors who then wish to obtain a certificate of appreciation from the fund so as to seek for tax relief from the Treasury, as in the latter context there is at least a quid pro quo, if at least it is part of TEA operational rules that any organization that makes a contribution gets a tax exemption at least for the materials concerned (or any other appropriate definition of tax relief). The TEA chief executive did not dwell on that point so its breadth of appeal wasn't clear.

Still she made a remark that there is a mountain of challenges facing education support, despite the government directing funds in that direction each year, also lamenting that disposition to contribute was low.

She said both at an individual and corporate level the turnout to add resources the country's education fund was low, which implies that the 'carrot' aspect isn't working. It means there isn't systematic tax relief, and indeed no estates-general on the subject was ever held.

What was even more worrying was that the remarks by the director general, or at least as they were reported in this and other media outlets, focused more on where the funds are directed than the quantity thereof. This may not bring results as people help schools they passed through, those they are fond of.

Those helping the government need tax incentives as they wouldn't be contributing for nothing. That means we should forgo some taxes so long as input is made into deserving schools.

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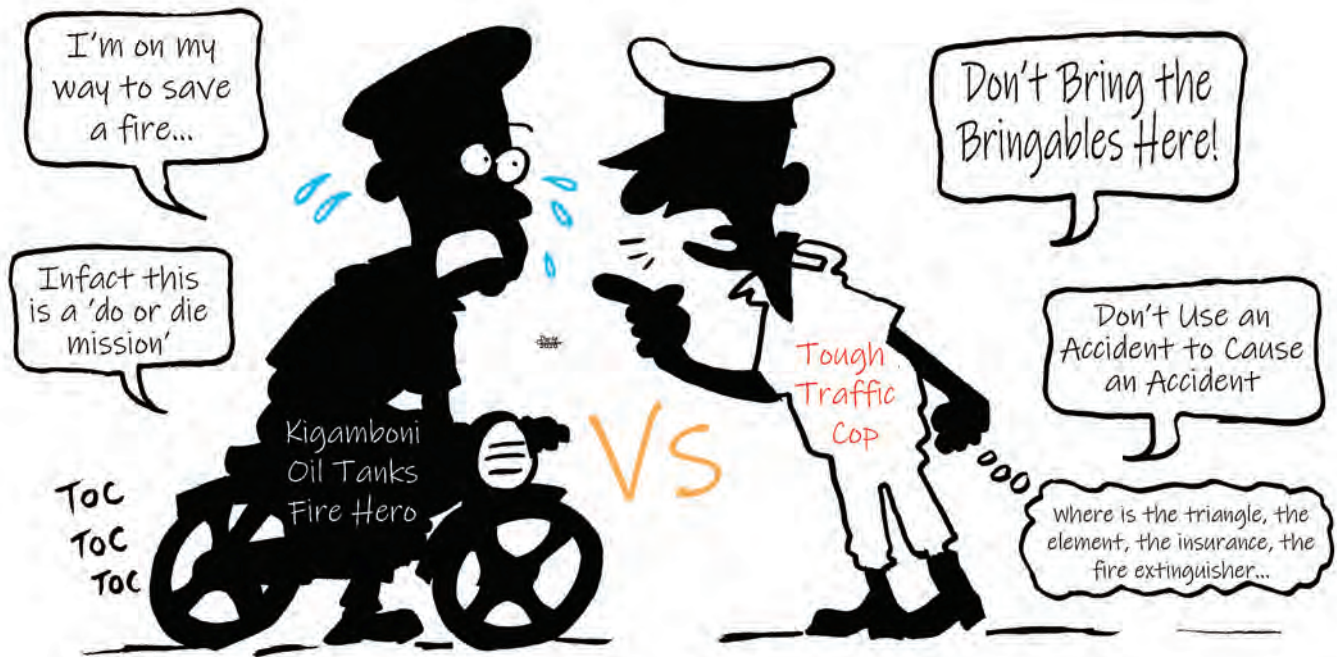
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'What transpired' off camera



Taking anti-corruption war to the next level

By Livingstone Wechie

THE craze to occupy government office has been to appropriate the resources of the state for personal use. The scourge of corruption became so pervasive that there is hardly any facet of the Nigerian society that is not tainted by corruption. Corruption gave Nigeria a very bad name in the international community and probably defined official policies. Even at unofficial levels, corruption is ravaging the Nigerian system.

When Ibrahim Magu was appointed Acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), he left no one in doubts as to his tempestuous zeal to anchor the avowed anti-corruption war of the President Muhammadu Buhari's government, which is one of the major planks of the Buhari's administration.

Magu employed his expertise as a seasoned investigator; he mobilized a crack team of intelligent and resourceful staff and even external hands to wage the war. He was fearless as he was ruthless and remains so. The name Magu works like magic and sends cold shivers down the spine of the accomplished embezzlers, celebrated thieves and seasoned fraudsters, who have hitherto had a field day displaying ill-gotten wealth in the most perverted manner.

Today, Magu has used the instruments of his office to investigate high profile personalities and some dubious companies doing illicit business in Nigeria. Many who felt threatened by this audacious move tried to use all means fair and foul to discredit him and the commission. They sponsored invidious articles on the pages of newspaper and even went secretly to dissuade him from investigating them, but he never budged.

The results of his resolute action started pouring in immediately and some of the then alleged criminals arrested were taken to court where many of them pleaded guilty. Many of them have been jailed. Under his watch the Commission has secured conviction as the courts have jailed three former governors: Jolly Nyame of Taraba state, Joshua Dariye of Plateau state and recently Orji Uzo Kalu of Abia state. A record his predecessors did not have.



The EFCC in December 2019, liaised with the Interpol to secure the extradition of former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Mohammed Adoke to face prosecution for over \$2 billion Malabu oil deal and is also making strong effort to extradite the former Minister of Petroleum Resources Diezani Allison Madueke from Britain to face corruption charges.

Between 2018-19 the commission secured more than 156 convictions and recovered N108 billion within the same period, all to his credit. The commission also recovered 106,516,222; 1,635,925 dollars; 629,193 pounds and 25,575 euro. This is just to say the least. Generally more than 2,500 convictions have so far been secured by the Magu led EFCC as stated by him during his recent visit to the Port Harcourt zonal office of the Commission.

A Civil Society Organisation, Initiative for Leadership and Economic Watch in Nigeria had through its Secretary Abubakar Ibrahim, quite rightly observed that members of the 8th National Assembly refused to confirm Magu as the substantive Chairman because they had ulterior motives.

"Several of the lawmakers facing financial crime charges in court in which majority of them were former governors who stole from their respective states as governor for 8 years are now in the National Assembly fighting Magu's confirmation because of his firmness

and support for Mr. President, Muhammadu Buhari's anti-corruption stance," the group said.

Magu has also declared war on internet fraudsters popularly called "Yahoo boys". Many of them have been jailed and their property confiscated.

Magu has also set up schemes in Nigerian schools to educate the young one on the dangers of internet fraud trying to do moral rearmament. Those who have fought against the Magu led EFCC know that he is an impediment to their evil regime and tradition.

Many people have shown indignation as to why President Buhari will continue to retain Magu even after the National Assembly refused to confirm. But irrespective of their feelings, Buhari stood behind Magu because of his apparent demonstration of transparency and accountability in his functions and especially in managing recovered assets.

Yes some have argued that his modus operandi is too high-handed and commando-like. They are not wrong in some cases because institutions in Nigeria and indeed Africa are still evolving in stages but must be strengthened to do better. Nobody has proven perfection therefore concerted effort must be made to build these sensitive institutions for our collective good. Just as someone jocularly put it, "if politicians argue that President Buhari is selective in his anti corruption fight, let the APC government prosecute

and jail all PDP thieves today, then tomorrow if the PDP finds itself in power it should jail all APC thieves, by that the war would have been won". Fact is that the anti corruption war is not and should never be political. As such Magu must live up to the public trust and sustain this singular tripod upon which Buhari campaigned and won election by ensuring that he does not let Nigerians down because the public confidence in him and the commission is high.

The fact that Magu is the undisputed Armour Bearer of the President on the war against corruption makes his job more sensitive. Hence the need for Mr. President to transmit his name to the ninth National Assembly for Confirmation as the substantive of the EFCC.

This will protect the anti corruption legacy of the President from being eroded and the gains from crashing. It is expedient to note that the success so far recorded by this administration on the war against corruption hangs in the balance if effort is not put in to confirm Magu which by itself will keep the struggle free from the traps of nay sayers. Magu definitely may not be the best Nigerian but his capacity and competence cannot be questioned justifiably. All that stand against him hold nothing but hate and bias and not genuine concern of any form. Can anyone deny Magu the display of patriotic spirit and nationalism in his job? It will be difficult to do so in conscience and in truth.

Although some argue that his tenure has lapsed, but the fact remains that he is not yet tenured being an Acting Chairman. Only a substantive chairman can be tenured according to the EFCC Act.

This again leaves the National Assembly with the task to revisit and amend the EFCC Act with a view to input an express provision defining the terms and duration for an Acting Chairman for the anti graft body. To this extent you cannot hold Magu's position against him or the President because the law does not provide expressly against the appointment of an Acting Chairman.

Stakeholders in this war on corruption must see the need to lend every level of support to win this battle particularly the judiciary which is vested with powers to Try and Convict in keeping with the due process of our laws.

We therefore urge President Muhammadu Buhari the Commander in Chief of the federal republic of Nigeria to see the urgent need appoint Ibrahim Magu as the substantive Chairman of the EFCC by transmitting his name to the 9th National Assembly who should see same as an urgent national assignment to confirm him.

In dealing with climate change: Foresight is key

ILLINOIS, United States

UNITED Nations World Food Program recently released 2020 Global Hotspots Report. According to the report, millions of citizens from Sub-Saharan African countries will face hunger in the first half of 2020 for several reasons including conflict, political instability and climate-related events such as below-average rainfall and flooding.

Focusing in on the latter, climate-related extreme events have already caused 52 million people across Africa to go hungry and over 1 million people to be displaced by flooding. Of course, African countries are not alone in this challenge and Italy, Southern California, and Southern France have recently been impacted by flooding linked to the changing climate. Australia has equally suffered from massive bushfires linked to the changing climate.

It is clear already that tackling recurring and persistent food insecurity challenges brought about by climate-related extreme events is by no means an easy task. So, how can countries navigate a future that will consistently be challenged by these types of climate change-related disasters? How can countries improve the strategies and approaches they are currently employing to mitigate climate change?

First, to deal with unpredictable and catastrophic climate-related events and ensure citizens have food to eat, countries must strengthen their predictive frameworks. Foresight is key.

Many African countries are strengthening their predictive capabilities. For instance, there are several centers that provide climate-hydro-agricultural monitoring and outlooks including AGRHYMET in West Africa, The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre in Eastern Africa, and SADC drought monitoring center in southern Africa.

Furthermore, in 2019, three South-east African countries, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, along with four Southwest Indian Ocean countries launched the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Platform, with the goal of sharing disaster prevention information.

In addition, individual countries are doing their best to implement predictive frameworks. Kenya, for example, has a Predictive livestock early warning system to help pastoralist communities. Uganda has a National Climate Change Policy, a supporting political structure for its implementation and



has continued to step up its efforts on addressing climate change. Ghana has a national climate change adaptation strategy and in 2018, UNEP worked with Ghana to implement a drought early warning system.

Beyond Africa, the international community is helping developing countries to improve its predictive capabilities. Recently, twelve international organizations launched the Alliance for Hydromet Development initiative, committing to ramp up actions that strengthen capacities of developing countries to deliver high-quality weather forecasts, and early warning systems among other services.

However, even with so many predictive frameworks initiatives, the African continent is yet to protect its citizens from climate-change related disasters. Clearly, disaster predictive frameworks can only go so far.

Thus, African countries must double down and implement many other complementing efforts to mitigate climate change and help farmers and citizens of African countries to stay on top. After all, even if predictive frameworks succeed, farmers must still be able to prevent disastrous climate change impacts such as drought.

Once crops have been planted, for example, farmers are still limited in actions they can take to protect their growing crops from extremities such as drought and flooding.

The foundation of resilient agriculture begins with healthy soil. Healthy soils, that have soil organic matter, improve the activities of microorganisms

Children drink from a tap during recess at a UNICEF supported primary school inside Bukasi internally displaced people's camp, in Maiduguri, Borno state, Nigeria. File photo

that live in the soil, which in turn help plants to utilize nutrients and cope with climate-related stresses such as drought and flooding while combatting pests and diseases.

Of course, it matters what crop varieties that farmers plant. As such, there is need for more investment on science that is geared towards developing crop varieties that are resilient to drought and flooding.

More than ever, initiatives such as stress tolerant maize, the Wheat rust resistant seed and initiatives aimed at breeding disease resistant and improved cassava plants, must be sustained, and the varieties developed from these efforts must be deployed to farmers. But, only with healthy soils as a base will all the complementing measures fully deliver on their promise.

Equally important is the need to have investments and funds by African governments and other stakeholders such as the Rockefeller Foundation and African Development Bank that are heavily committed to help the African Continent cope with climate change.

These funds can be set aside to finance promising innovations for solving climate change and to finance grand challenges to find efforts that can help those who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

It is exciting to see the formation of initiatives such as the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, an initiative of over 60 public and private in-

vestors and institutions continue with the efforts that include financing crop insurance schemes and providing technical assistance and subsidized-rate loans or guarantees to smallholder farmers in West Africa.

Finally, investments, which support climate smart agriculture, an integrated approach that addresses both the challenges of food security and climate change with the aim to enhance resilience, increase productivity and reduce emissions, must continue.

The World Bank is currently working with several African countries including Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, in an effort to identify concrete actions that these countries can take to boost and scale up climate-smart agriculture.

Climate-smart agriculture success stories coming out from African countries show that indeed, adopting these practices has the potential help African citizens to deal with the new and harsh realities accompanying the changing climate.

It is clear that climate-related disasters and food insecurity will continue to challenge many sub-Saharan African countries in 2020. By strengthening predictive frameworks and doubling up by planting drought and flooding tolerant crop varieties as well as continuing to invest in climate-smart agriculture, governments and citizens can confront these challenges while building the resilience they need to rebound back when disasters strike.

Agencies



Climate change and financial risk

WASHINGTON DC

CLIMATE change is already a reality. Ever-more-ferocious cyclones and extended droughts lead to the destruction of infrastructure and the disruption of livelihoods and contribute to mass migration.

Actions to combat rising temperatures, inadequate though they may have been so far, have the potential to drive dislocation in the business world as fossil fuel giants awaken to the need for renewable sources of energy and automakers accelerate investments in cleaner vehicles.

But measuring economic costs of climate change remains a work in progress. We can assess the immediate costs of changing weather patterns and more frequent and intense natural disasters, but most of the potential costs lie beyond the horizon of the typical economic analysis.

The economic impact of climate change will likely accelerate, though not smoothly. Crucially for the coming generations, the extent of the damage will depend on policy choices that we make today.

Policymakers and investors increasingly recognize climate change's important implications for the financial sector. Climate change affects the financial system through two main channels (see Chart 1).

The first involves physical risks, arising from damage to property, infrastructure, and land. The second, transition risk, results from changes in climate policy, technology, and consumer and market sentiment during the adjustment to a lower-carbon economy.

Exposures can vary significantly from country to country. Lower- and middle-income economies are typically more vulnerable to physical risks.

For financial institutions, physical risks can materialize directly, through their exposures to corporations, households, and countries that experience climate shocks, or indirectly, through the effects of climate change on the wider economy and feedback effects within the financial system.

Exposures manifest themselves through increased default risk of loan portfolios or lower values of assets. For example, rising sea levels and a higher incidence of extreme weather events can cause losses for homeowners and diminish property values, leading to greater risks in mortgage portfolios. Corporate credit portfolios are also at risk, as highlighted by the bankruptcy of California's largest utility, Pacific Gas and Electric.

In what The Wall Street Journal called the first "climate-change bankruptcy" (Gold 2019), rapid climatic changes caused prolonged droughts in California that dramatically increased the risk of fires from Pacific Gas and Electric's operations.

Tighter financial conditions might follow if banks reduce lending, in particular when climate shocks affect many institutions simultaneously.

For insurers and reinsurers, physical risks are impor-

tant on the asset side, but risks also arise from the liability side as insurance policies generate claims with a higher frequency and severity than originally expected.

There is evidence that losses from natural disasters are already increasing. As a result, insurance is likely to become more expensive or even unavailable in at-risk areas of the world.

Climate change can make banks, insurers, and reinsurers less diversified, because it can increase the likelihood or impact of events previously considered uncorrelated, such as droughts and floods.

Transition risks materialize on the asset side of financial institutions, which could incur losses on exposure to firms with business models not built around the economics of low carbon emissions.

Fossil fuel companies could find themselves saddled with reserves that are, in the words of Bank of England Governor Mark Carney (2015), "literally unburnable" in a world moving toward a low-carbon global economy.

These firms could see their earnings decline, businesses disrupted, and funding costs increase because of policy action, technological change, and consumer and investor demands for alignment with policies to tackle climate change.

Coal producers, for example, already grapple with new or expected policies curbing carbon emissions, and a number of large banks have pledged not to provide financing for new coal facilities.

The share prices of US coal mining companies reflect this "carbon discount" as well as higher financing costs and have been underperforming relative to those of companies holding clean energy assets.

Risks can also materialize through the economy at large, especially if the shift to a low-carbon economy proves abrupt (as a consequence of prior inaction), poorly designed, or difficult to coordinate globally (with consequent disruptions to international trade).

Financial stability concerns arise when asset prices adjust rapidly to reflect unexpected realizations of transition or physical risks. There is some evidence that markets are partly pricing in climate change risks, but asset prices may not fully reflect the extent of potential damage and policy action required to limit global warming to 2°C or less.

Central banks and financial regulators increasingly acknowledge the financial stability implications of climate change. For example, the Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), an expanding group that currently comprises 42 members, has embarked on the task of integrating climate-related risks into supervision and financial stability monitoring.

Given the large shifts in asset prices and catastrophic weather-related losses that climate change may cause, prudential policies should adapt to recognize systemic climate risk—for example, by requiring financial institutions to incorporate climate risk scenarios into their stress tests.

Agencies

Tunisia must put its human trafficking laws to work

BY RIM DHAOUADI

TUNISIA has made significant advances since 2016 to stop human trafficking. Laws have been passed, anti-trafficking institutions created, and growing numbers of victims identified and rescued. To really reduce the risk for potential victims, the challenge now is to ensure that new anti-trafficking legislation is fully implemented.

Tunisia has long been both an origin and destination country for human trafficking. It also faces the challenge of (often) poor and marginalised Tunisians being forced into servitude in the country. Successive governments from the 1950s to the 2000s ratified international treaties against trafficking, but implementation has often been weak.

The law against human trafficking passed by Tunisia in 2016 sought to address the implementation gap. It created the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons (NCTIP) to develop a national strategy and establish coordinated mechanisms to identify victims, care for and protect them, and prosecute offenders.

The NCTIP has actively pursued its mandate. It has worked with the justice and interior ministries to train law enforcement and judicial actors on trafficking victim identification, prosecutorial tools and organised crime investigative techniques. It has engaged the ministries of health, and women, family and children affairs, to develop protection programmes for minors and healthcare for victims. Strong partnerships with civil society organisations have been established to create clear channels for trafficking



victims.

As a result of these and other government efforts, there has been a sharp uptick in trafficking investigations. Between 2014 and 2018, the number increased by 1296%, and the number of victims identified rose from 59 to 780. In contrast to previous years, a significant number of those were foreigners, with Ivorians alone accounting for 40.5% of victims.

The NCTIP has also sought to publicise the problem in Tunisia, where levels of awareness about trafficking are low. The commission's president Raoudha Laabidi has issued several public statements, including on sexual abuse and trafficking faced by female Tunisian workers in Saudi Arabia, and on labour exploitation and sexual abuse of Tunisian youth at a religious school in the country's centre.

The NCTIP's achievements are significant but even as the number of cases under investigation has risen, the number of successful prosecutions has lagged. Thirty-one cases brought to trial between 2018 and 2019 were analysed by Judge Samar Jaidi. Only one conviction was recorded (although a number of cases continue). This is not an aberration, with only a

Great strides have been made in protecting migrants against trafficking, but more prosecutions and convictions are needed. File photo

single conviction reported the year before.

According to the same analysis, in seven of these cases, the offence of human trafficking was not specified, while the rest were opened for economic exploitation (nine cases) or sexual exploitation (two cases). Only four cases received a decision to open criminal prosecutions, while the remaining cases are still under investigation.

In many instances investigation and prosecution are slowed or stalled due to a lack of knowledge about the 2016 law. This also damages efforts to deter trafficking. Judges unfamiliar with the law have tended to rule on cases based on general criminal law, which can result in more lenient sentences. The 2016 law lays out robust sanctions, ranging from 10 to 15 years' imprisonment, but the only trafficker convicted in the past year received a four-month sentence.

Full implementation of the law requires criminal justice personnel to be more informed. The NCTIP has started working on this, co-hosting training workshops with civil society organisations for judges, legal practitioners and police. Progress is however slow.

Judicial and police responses to trafficking are still hindered by a lack of awareness about the trafficking law, the legal and prosecutorial mechanisms it offers, and when it should take precedence over general criminal law.

Tunisia needs to urgently close these knowledge gaps, as the risk of human trafficking may be rising. More foreign irregular migrants have arrived in recent years. Their lack of official clearance to stay makes them vulnerable to forced labour and trafficking. Tunisia is also increasingly a transit country for irregular migrants trying to reach Europe. While most arrive and depart without falling victim to traffickers, exploitation is rising.

The NCTIP has the tools and drive to deal with the increased risk of trafficking. This must be matched by better implementation of the 2016 law. Technical education of judicial and law enforcement personnel is key, and public awareness also needs to be raised. The past three years show that crafting new legislation is the easiest part of reform. Ensuring that new laws, and their accompanying tools, are understood and used by judges, prosecutors and police is much harder.

Battle of 'resistance' versus 'revolution' in the Middle East

By Rami G Khouri

THE events surrounding the US assassination of Iranian Quds Force leader Major General Qassem Soleimani brought to the surface the two main ideological forces that now battle each other across the Middle East - the anti-imperial "resistance" of Iran and its Arab allies, and the freedom "revolution" of domestic protesters in the same lands.

The first was reflected in the massive funeral processions in Arab and Iranian cities for Soleimani and his colleagues that were far bigger than the usual state-organised propaganda protests. Such outpourings of grief and anger in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and pockets elsewhere signify the central political dynamic - "resistance" in their view - which drives Iran and its allies, and shapes many regional developments.

After a brief pause - from the shock of the assassinations, respect for the dead, widespread anti-American anger, fear of wider conflict, much rain, and Tehran's admission of its error in downing the Ukrainian civilian airliner - the second key regional dynamic reared its head again: popular demonstrations for freedom and democratic pluralism resumed across the same lands (Iran, Iraq, Lebanon), where large crowds wept for Soleimani and vowed to stand up to the US and its allies.

These two forces now battle to define the identity and policies of the Middle East for decades to come. "Resistance" (moqawama) is how many Arabs and Iranians fight back against the US, Israel and their conservative Arab allies like Saudi Arabia and the UAE. "Revolution" (thawra) for democratic freedoms, social justice, and pluralism that exploded in Arab countries and Iran since the 2010-II uprisings is how determined ordinary citizens seek to remove the autocratic, incompetent or corrupt governments they blame for their deteriorating living conditions and denied rights.

The two forces had coexisted in separate spheres for years, but they now openly clash head-on in Iran, Iraq,



Syria and in Lebanon, as "resistance" troops try to beat down "revolutionary" protests by force.

"Resistance", the oldest of the two forces, since the 1980s has defined the policies of Iran and its Arab strategic partners, notably Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria, Ansarullah (Houthis), People's Mobilisation Forces (PMFs) in Iraq and Syria, and other smaller groups. Non-violent mainstream Islamists like the Muslim Brotherhood also "resist" Western and Israeli political and cultural threats to Arab-Islamic societies, as do nationalist and progressive groups across the region that share this wide tent.

Protesters celebrate after a structure representing a fist was erected to replace a previous one that was burnt at Martyrs' Square in Beirut on November 22, 2019. File photo

Since soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has defined and implemented the core resistance strategy by building political and technical military capabilities among its Arab allies. This allows it to conduct operations throughout the Middle East via its Arab partners and allies, who pester, fight or deter their common foes in neighbouring lands, before the battle reaches Iran itself.

They all use Iran's asymmetrical warfare toolkit - including missiles, cyber capabilities, attack drones and communications/surveillance systems - to confront

Israel (Hamas and Hezbollah) or conservative Arabs like Saudi Arabia and the UAE (the Houthis). General Soleimani's main mission was to develop this network of Iran's Arab allies.

Arab critics, however, see this as Tehran's hegemonic export of its Islamic revolution in order to weave a web of capable puppets under its control. Soleimani was able to foster so many Arab allies because many Syrians, Lebanese, Iraqis, Yemenis and Palestinians had suffered badly from American, Israeli and conservative Arab policies of war and occupation;

they were so weak and vulnerable that they willingly joined the Iranian-led, Islamist-driven movement as a self-preservation move.

The self-proclaimed "resistance axis" ethos is to defy foreign threats and refuse to bow to American and Israeli demands, even at the cost of war or debilitating sanctions. Yet, Iran's nuclear deal with the US, UK, Germany, France, China and Russia, and Hezbollah's indirect agreements and ceasefires with Israel show the resistance powers' willingness to engage their foes politically, but only based on equal respect for the rights of all sides.

Historians will determine whether "resistance" has been a heroic anti-imperial success or a naive fantasy. Its advocates say it evicted Israel from South Lebanon and Gaza, achieved strategic deterrence between Hezbollah and Israel, compelled the United States and its partners to agree to the nuclear deal, allowed Iran to survive severe sanctions, saved the Assad government in Syria, beat back the ISIL threat, and now may be pushing the US out of Iraq.

Critics say these gains have come at a brutal cost to Arabs and Iranians, leaving entire countries in economic and environmental collapse, in top-heavy autocracies that constrain liberties and human rights, and brutalise those who protest peacefully. Some also fear that the resistance culture promises them only a future of perpetual warfare and economic distress.

The "revolutionary" protests underway have rocked the region in the past decade. They have been led by a young generation which has borne the brunt of economic mismanagement and the increasing authoritarianism of what they see as a corrupt political elite more concerned with self-enrichment than the wellbeing of its people. This generation has decided to rebel against regimes they view as largely illegitimate and propped up by outside forces, which due to their incompetence are unable to provide for the basic needs of their citizens.

Millions have taken to the streets, defying violent crackdowns, and demanding reforms

or total changes in governing systems. Arab and Iranian protesters want to have a say in government policies to protect civil rights and pursue social justice, and to end the existing crony capitalist systems that have ravaged the middle class and spawned large-scale poverty and marginalisation.

In doing so, some of these protest movements have come head-to-head with regimes supported by the US, Israel and its conservative Arab allies and others with regimes backed by Iran and its proxies. In the first case, they have been slandered as Islamists and extremists; in the second as US and Israeli collaborators.

But many revolutionary protesters have been explicit about their opposition not only against inept and unjust rule at home, but also foreign interference from both the US and Iran. This sentiment was captured in a statement released on January 11 by protesting Iranian students at Amir Kabir (Polytechnic) University in Tehran, which said: "The only way out of our current predicament is the simultaneous rejection of both domestic despotism and imperial arrogance. We need a politics that doesn't merely claim security, freedom, and equality for a select group or class, but that understands these rights as inalienable and for all people."

As the full universe of "resistance" unfurls at this historic moment across the Middle East, the banner that Islamists and Arab nationalists had claimed exclusively for their battle against American, Israeli and conservative Arab threats has now been joined by a homegrown domestic "resistance" by Arab and Iranian citizens who confront their own governments and demand freedom, equality and dignity.

Arab and Iranian ruling elites and their own citizens now openly fight and resist each other, seeking to define their countries' identities and policies. This is probably the most consequential ideological battle in the Middle East since its state system was established a century ago.

Agencies

Climate Change: A tale of weather extremes with mixed fortunes

By Friday Phiri

IT is early Saturday morning and Planeta Hatuleke, a small scale farmer of Pemba District in Southern Zambia, awakens to the comforting sound of rainfall. As the locals say, the "heavens have opened" and it is raining heavily after a prolonged dry spell.

"This is welcome after two weeks of a dry spell," says Hatuleke with a sigh of relief. "The rainfall pattern has not been consistent so far, we could be headed for a repeat of last season" she adds pessimistically.

The 2018/19 farming season was characterised by drought and prolonged dry spells, which, according to the government Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), left 2.3 million people severely food insecure and in need of humanitarian food assistance.

Hatuleke along with her 8-member family members are part of the hunger stricken population. Last farming season, the family harvested only five 50Kg-bags of maize, 10 short of their annual food requirements.

"It has not been easy to feed my family since the five bags finished. I am grateful to government for relief food support but for big families like mine, we have to supplement through other means," says the 55-year old widow. "As a family, we have been surviving on sales from our gardening activities."

Statistics from DMMU show that at least 70,000 metric tonnes of relief food (maize grain and maize meal) has been distributed to the affected people between September 2019 and January 2020.

According World Food Programme (WFP) country director for Zambia, Jennifer Bitonde, the United Nations' food agency "requires \$36 million to effectively support the government in responding to the crisis."

WFP is currently supporting



Planeta Hatuleke, a small scale farmer of Pemba District in Southern Zambia, stands in a maize field. This year, she hopes that she will not be one of the country's 2.3 million food insecure people thanks to the climate smart agriculture techniques she implemented while planting her crop in November. File photo

the government's response by delivering government-supplied maize meal, as well as by procuring and delivering pulses to ensure a nutrition-sensitive food basket. WFP is also working closely with partners to monitor food distributions and guarantee that resources reach those most in need.

In a statement after receiving a contribution of \$3.39 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to help meet

the immediate food needs of drought-affected people in Zambia, Bitonde added that "USAID's contribution represents approximately 10 percent of the total needs and will allow WFP to ensure that drought-affected people will not go to bed hungry during this year's lean season."

Other partners who have made a contribution to WFP Zambia include the Swedish gov-

ernment, which has contributed \$2 million, and the Italian government with a contribution of \$610,000.

Last October, the three UN food agencies - the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP - called for urgent funding to avert a major hunger crisis and for the international community to step up investment in long-term measures to combat the impact of climate shocks and build the capacity of communities and countries to withstand them.

They warned that a record 45 million people across the 16-nation Southern African Development Community would be severely food insecure in the next six months starting from October 2019.

At the time, they reported that there were more than 11 million people experiencing "crisis" or "emergency" levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phases 3 and 4) in nine countries: Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho.

"Late rains, extended dry periods, two major cyclones and economic challenges have proved a recipe for disaster for food security and livelihoods across Southern Africa," said Alain Onibon, FAO's Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa.

"As it could take many farming communities at least two to three growing seasons to return to normal production, immediate support is vital. Now is the time to scale up agricultural emergency response. We need to ensure farmers and agro-pastoralists take advantage of the forecasted good rains, assuming they happen,

as this will be crucial in helping them rebuild their livelihoods."

While Southern Africa has experienced normal rainfall in just one of the last five growing seasons, persistent drought, back-to-back cyclones and flooding have wreaked havoc on harvests in a region overly dependent on rain-fed, smallholder agriculture.

Interestingly, Zambia is experiencing both climate extremes at the same time. While farmers in the southwestern parts of the country are anxious about the rainfall pattern that has been erratic so far, their counterparts in the northeast are battling flash floods, adding pressure on the already overstretched resource base.

Over 300 families have been reported as being affected by floods in the Mambwe and Lumezi districts of Zambia's Eastern Province.

And Zambian President Edgar Lungu, continues to urge government technocrats to work at finding a lasting solution to the climate problem.

"So as we provide relief, I think that we should put our heads together. My Permanent Secretaries are here so we can work together to find a lasting solution," said Lungu when he toured and interacted with flood victims on Jan 9.

It is unanimously agreed globally that climate change is due to human activities that cause damage (either directly or indirectly) to the environment. Such activities include overexploitation of natural resources, pollution and deforestation, among others.

Experiencing a critical energy deficit, with over 2 million food-insecure people to feed due to a climate-induced droughts and flash floods in a single year, are

key lessons for leaders and ordinary people alike.

This December, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25), Zambia's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources Ndashe Yumba highlighted the adverse effects of climate change on his country's natural resource-sensitive sectors, such as energy and agriculture, and how the country was moving away from a business-as-usual approach.

"There is still increasing evidence that climate change is negatively impacting critical sectors of our country," said Yumba during a high-level event at COP25.

"In the recent past, drastic reduction in precipitation and rising temperatures in Zambia has led to a reduced agricultural productivity by about 16 percent and subsequently slowed down our economic growth. While Zambia is still pursuing her aspirations on socio-economic development, it is mindful of the need to maintain a healthy environment in order to achieve sustainable development...a recipe to a healthy climate is a healthy environment," he added.

Back in Pemba District in Southern Zambia, Hatuleke is hoping that climate smart agricultural principles which are routed in sustainable environmental management, and which she has recently implemented, will bring her a better harvest this year.

"I ripped my field and planted early; just after the first rains in mid-November and as you can see, my maize is at tussling stage," she says. "I am hopeful of a good harvest, provided it consistently rains in the remaining half of the season."

Agencies

UN sounds alarm over unprecedented levels of hunger in southern Africa

By Karen McVeigh

SOUTHERN Africa is in the throes of a climate emergency, with hunger levels in the region on a previously unseen scale, the UN has warned.

Years of drought, widespread flooding and economic disarray have left 45 million people facing severe food shortages, with women and children bearing the brunt of the crisis, said the World Food Programme (WFP).

Zimbabwe is already facing its worst hunger emergency in a decade, with 7.7 million people - half the population - acutely food insecure. But there is evidence the situation has "deteriorated significantly" over the past few months.

About 20% of people in Zambia - a regional breadbasket - and Lesotho face acute food insecurity, as does 10% of the population of Namibia, WFP said. The crisis has been aggravated by surging food prices, large-scale livestock losses and rising joblessness.

The 16 nations in the Southern African Development Community, a region identified as a climate "hotspot" by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have experienced only one normal growing season in the past five years. Seasonal rains have been late in many countries and UN experts predict, with 60% certainty, that another bad harvest is due in the coming months.

Central and western areas have been hit by the worst drought in 35 years during the growing season.

"The hunger crisis is on a scale we've never seen before and the evidence shows it's going to get worse," said Lola Castro, WFP's regional director for southern Africa. "The annual cyclone season has begun and we simply cannot afford a repeat of the devastation caused by last year's unprecedented storms."

Last March, Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, leaving 900 people dead,

thousands displaced and more than 1 million short of food. Cyclone Kenneth hit Mozambique six weeks later.

"While our most pressing priority is the millions in need of immediate support, building the resilience of the many more threatened by increasingly frequent and destructive droughts and storms is absolutely essential," Castro said.

WFP plans to provide lean season assistance to 8.3 million people struggling with "crisis" or "emergency" levels of hunger in eight of the hardest-hit countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and Malawi.

Eddie Rowe, WFP's country director for Zimbabwe, said the agency had carried out its own, unofficial assessment of the food security situation in the past week.

Commodity prices have risen sharply, and a network of "transporters" have sprung up on the borders, with relatives sending food parcels from bordering countries into Zimbabwe, Rowe said. Kiosks for money transfers have also popped up in rural areas, suggesting people are increasingly reliant on remittances from abroad, which in 2018 were worth about £980m, he added.

"The remittances are cushioning the effects of climate, the drought and the economic situation," Rowe said. But he warned: "There are clear indications that the situation has deteriorated significantly."

The number of districts assessed by the WFP as food insecure has doubled, from nine in August to 19 now.

An additional 1.1 million people are believed to be facing acute malnutrition.

"Our assessment is not officially recognised," said Rowe. "But it looks bad. We have told the government we need to present this unofficial data to donors. Our concern is there is a 60% chance we are going to see another failed harvest



Women pray for rain in Graaff-Reinet, South Africa. Seasonal rains have been late in many countries

this year."

The climate emergency has altered the way WFP operates in Zimbabwe.

Over the past three years, after the 2015-16 El Niño drought, almost half of the country's strategic plan is aimed at building resilience and mitigation of the impact of the climate crisis.

One pioneering insurance programme gets

people to build boreholes and irrigation schemes in return for insurance coverage. It has reached 1,650 households, of mostly women. About 100,000 people are covered by a £6m national insurance policy, purchased by the Zimbabwe government and WFP, to protect the most vulnerable.

To date, the WFP has secured just \$205m

(£157m) of the \$489m needed for southern Africa. If the organisation fails to get the full amount it will face "assisting fewer of those most in need with less", said Castro, who added that without the funding it would not be possible to expand activities to combat the climate emergency long-term.

ECA says financial innovations vital to transform Africa's business sector

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has emphasized the vital need to promote technological innovations in the financial sector to transform Africa's economic landscape.

The ECA, amid its call to spur financial innovations, also on Tuesday disclosed that its latest continental flagship economic report, dubbed Economic Report on Africa (ERA-2020), will evaluate the role of financial innovations and technologies in transforming Africa's business sector.

The ECA, which is set to launch the report in March this year, said that this year's edition of the continental economic report will mainly focus on the status of financial innovations in Africa, as well as the role of financial

technologies in transforming Africa's business sector.

The ECA also stressed the need to articulate the proper utilization of innovative sources of finance to the development of Africa's business sector, taking into account both potential innovations in the financial services sector and innovations in businesses that include startups, micro-enterprises, large corporate, and private-public enterprises.

"These are integral components of achieving sustainable economic development," an ECA statement issued on Tuesday read.

According to the ECA, the report looks at current knowledge on innovations in finance, including financial technologies (fintech) and how such innovations can make a clear breakthrough in financing business sector development in Africa.



The ECA also stressed the need to articulate the proper utilization of innovative sources of finance to the development of Africa's business sector



Zambia shuts down three universities for violations

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S Higher Education Authority (HEA) has announced that three universities have been deregistered and are prevented from any further operations.

They include Citizen University, Pamodzi University, and University of East and Southern Africa, according to an HEA statement. The decisions fol-

lowed compliance audits at the institutions.

In the first case, the institution was cited for unspecified violations of the Higher Education Act. The Chingola campus of Citizen University has, however, been implicated in cases where directors at the institution were charged with fraud for taking money from students and enrolling them in nursing and clinical medicine pro-

grams. The campus did not have General Nursing Council of Zambia and Health Professional Council of Zambia approvals when a student complained last April that 16 people lost money to the Citizen University directors. The directors were accused of doing the same thing in November 2018.

Pamodzi University failed to take action on previous deficiencies, the HEA said, while University of East and

Southern Africa had closed its doors for more than six months.

"The Zambian government is committed to ensuring that only higher education institutions that meet the set standards in higher education are allowed to offer higher education in Zambia," said HEA. "The Authority will continue to conduct institutional audits to ascertain the continued compliance of the registered HEIs."

Chinese envoy hail business ideas from Arusha College of accountancy

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CHINA'S Ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke has pledged to bring together students from Arusha College of Accountancy with various business institutions in China so that they can develop their businesses.

He gave the pledge yesterday when he visited the College to see for himself the development of business ideas by the college's students and tutors.

He said the college is do-

ing a good job to prepare the youths in self employment by teaching them with business ideas developed at the college.

Wang Ke said they will ensure they strengthen the academic relationship between the students at the college, including tutors, with their Chinese counterparts in exchange of visits to gain more experiences in doing business.

The Principal of the College, Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka said the college has the responsibility to remind the youth what is expected

from them.

He said they have been giving lessons to youths and introducing them to markets as well as sources of capital to boost their businesses.

He said they will continue to strengthen the relationship with people in China in developing business ideas including tutors for them to become self employed or employ others.

"This centre is new and is faced by many challenges including lack of working tools including little understanding about business

hence good relationship with our Chinese counterparts will be a great assistance in overcoming these challenges," he said.

The Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo said the coming of the Ambassador has brought benefits to the College in enhancing business opportunities among students and tutors.

He called upon the college to use the opening in improving and developing business opportunities to moot out profitable business undertakings.

56 pct of Form I students have not reported in Chunya District

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

FIFTY percent selected to join Form I this year in Chunya District Mbeya Region have not reported to the schools due what is claimed to be little awareness by parents towards education.

This was revealed on Wednesday by the Acting Chunya District Council Director Cathbert Mwinuka during the extended visit of the district's defense and security Committee to inspect the construction work of classrooms.

Mwinuka said 2,476 students were selected to join Form I but only 1,132 reported when schools were opened early this month.

He said the Council has embarked on strategies to ensure all students selected start lessons including mobilizing parents to send their children to schools.

"We have also directed Ward functionaries to supervise the exercise so that all students report, as the infrastructures are adequate, except for those waiting for completion work on classrooms," he said.

He said this category include 261 selectees adding that their classrooms are in various stages of finalization, but by January 30 all of them will be ready.

The Chunya district Commissioner Maryprisca Mahundi called upon parents to be responsible in taking

their children to schools before the government starts visiting house to house. She said in her district there is the habit by some parents hesitating to take their children to school whom the use in farming, livestock keeping or working in mines, and added that taking a child to school is a requirement of law.

She said since the government announced free education, there should be no reason for parents refusing to allow their children getting education.

She stressed that they intend to take drastic steps against such parents as the government spends a lot of money in offering free education, hence it will not tolerate any person.

Misconceptions regarding China's presence in Africa

By George Muntu

I DO not understand why Western nations are afraid of China's presence in Africa.

The nations always say that China is interfering with their interests in Africa.

They are saying that, China's intention is to steal Africa's natural resources, not helping the latter fight poverty.

I always ask myself a lot of questions, but I can't find answers, why do Western nations still view Africa as part of their land?

Do the nations do so for their interests? Why do the nations have no interest in seeing other countries become friends with African nations?

Is it that they feel that they have probably helped Africa adequately in growing its economy and thus they deserve to be given special place in African nations' domestic affairs?

Have they forgotten that they were not welcomed in Africa but invaded it? Indeed, these are questions they must ask themselves before criticizing other countries' foreign policies towards Africa.

Day and night, Western media are busy trying to intimidate African countries to opt out of cooperating with China.

The media often either broadcast or publish wrong information about the country.

The Western media hardly cover whatever good deeds China does for African countries.

The function of the Western media has always been either portraying or broadcasting false information about China rather than publicizing the country's efforts to lift Africa out of poverty.

What people in the West do not understand is that, they cannot speak on behalf of Africans anymore.

African countries are no longer under their colonial rule, they have already gained independence, so they have every reason to choose any friend they deem fit.

The West also needs to understand that, the future of African countries is in the latter's own hands, so they have decisions to decide which countries they want to trade and partner with and which are not.

Thus, to say that China does not have good intentions with African countries while the Western nations are the ones who have plundered the resources of the African countries, is an insult to all Africans.

The Western nations think that they have the authority and rights over Africa, the former think they have the power to decide everything in African countries' internal affairs and force them to follow their orders and imitating their culture.

This exploitation by the Western world is no longer in the realm of the moment in which every country has the right to decide for its future.

As the world becomes more multipolar, African nations no longer need to either bow to or listen to a uni-polar idea.

The countries ought to learn the experiences and ways that others have used to end poverty, and China is the real and true model.

It is important to note that, for Africans to choose China as their biggest ally is not a matter of being chosen or questioned by anyone but the decision has been made by sovereign states. Africans are not so stupid that



Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta flags off the inaugural Nairobi-Suswa, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line constructed by the Chinese Communications Construction Company (CCCC) and financed by Chinese government, on October 16, 2019 in Nairobi. (File photo)

they still need a leader, they are free, and have rights and decisions over our countries.

After all Africans have gained independence are no longer under colonial rule, so they have the right to choose any country to do business with. And one of the countries that African countries have chosen is China.

Africans have chosen China not only because of its low interest loans and aid but because of its good foreign policy. Non-interference policy and win-win cooperation, these are policies that truly benefit African nations.

The notion that, African nations are burdened by China's debt and that if they fail to

pay then China will take their assets is caused by great fear that reflects their inner regret for the Western nations' failure to help Africa grow its economy. They are afraid of losing their influence in Africa, thus, are doing their best to thwart China's efforts of helping African countries. Africans are tired of listening to these accusations which have no value to their countries. Africans need a friend who will help them get rid of poverty and make progress in their countries and not otherwise.

China is African nations' true friend, the former belongs to the third world and developing countries' club, it has good policies and plans which will help African countries fight poverty and grow their economy.

China has been helping African countries in various fields before

and after independence. Africa that was once forgotten and called a dark continent, is now no longer dark, all of the continent's cities are enjoying progress. These are great contributions from China's efforts to help African countries build infrastructure that contributes to economic development.

Almost 75% of all infrastructures in Africa have been built by Chinese companies with low cost compared to western nations' companies. Because of these infrastructures, transport from one place to another has become easier, communication between countries has become easier too and access to electricity especially in rural areas has increased.

Thus, China is Africa's true saviour, as opposed to the Western nations whose aid and loans are provided with

stringent terms. These stringent conditions have been a major obstacle to Africa's development because for the respective country to be granted a loan, it must first comply with the wishes of the Western masters.

These oppressive policies have made African countries opt to forge closer relations with China. It should also be noted that China has been shoulder to shoulder with African countries throughout the latter's struggle for independence until the period of economic reform.

Through a Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China has continued to invest more in the continent as well as providing financial aid, technical aid and low interest loans to African countries.

The country has also continued to offer many scholarships in various fields and short-term training to African countries. China has further continued to send its specialists to Africa to offer various training. The specialists include doctors, nurses and agricultural experts.

Africans, for that matter, should not be intimidated by Western nations' propaganda, instead, the former should strengthen their relations with China and increase efforts to learn from the country's success.

African nations have every reason to be proud of their relationship with China. Through this unique relationship, African countries have benefited greatly from China.

They have not only benefited from loans, investment, financial and technical aids, but also accessed Chinese markets. African countries have been importing China's products, which have low cost and have high quality compared to western nations' products.

There are so many benefits African countries have had from their relationships with China.

Despite significant differences in construction costs between China and Western countries, yet China is building high quality roads and completing them ahead of time. Certainly, and without doubt, China is a true saviour, and a new hope for the African continent.

By Busani Bafana

ZIMBABWE needs urgent economic and political reforms to transform its economy amidst a growing national crisis, researchers say in a new study that urges swift policy changes and a sound financial framework to attract investment.

The country has been reeling from one of the worst droughts in decades, with the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) identifying Zimbabwe as one of the 15 critical emergencies around the world at risk of crisis without rapid intervention.

• More than 7 million Zimbabweans are food insecure owing

to a projected 50 percent fall in the 2019 cereal harvest. This month the WFP is doubling its assistance to reach 4.1 million people who are hardest hit in rural areas.

But the study, G20 Compact with Africa: No Reformers, No Compact- The Zimbabwean Case Study, states that the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) investment framework, initiated by the G20 countries in 2017, could support Zimbabwe's economic transformation only if Zimbabwe was committed to undertaking reforms.

•The voluntary compact has been signed by 12 African countries to date, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire,

Genuine reform culture lacking in Zimbabwe

Ethiopia, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia. Zimbabwe is not a signatory.

•The compact seeks to stimulate economic growth, create employment and nurture investment. Through this partnership, African governments are responsible for spearheading reforms that will make their countries attractive to international investors.

•The focus of the CwA is to promote a sustainable development framework in those African countries that accepted the invitation to be part of the initiative, in an attempt to attract

Zimbabwe needs urgent economic and political reforms to transform its economy amidst a growing national crisis, researchers say as more than 7 million Zimbabweans are food insecure owing to a projected 50 percent fall in the 2019 cereal harvest. File photo



tion of the agriculture sector and the collapse of the manufacturing sector.

Poor policy choices

"The policy choices that we made have caused so much damage to our productive sectors starting with agriculture," said Robertson, adding, "We imposed upon ourselves a serious handicap when we said the land in the country no longer has market value land so [people with] land can no longer borrow against ownership rights to that land because the land is now the property of the state."

David Moore, researcher and political economist at the University of Johannesburg, told IPS that if the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) party had maintained its neo-liberal and white-farmer-friendly economic promises it might have kept the "west" on its side. But cabals and corruption cannot be dismantled - they are the pillars of the party, he said. And so the military-party complex so tight that it cannot be untied: they are integral parts of the country's political economy.

Academic and social commentator, Rudo Gaidzanwa, concurred saying it will take pushing to get ZANU (PF) ruling party and its military allies to undertake political and social reforms.

"The types of political and economic reforms that the civilians want will undermine the interests of the militarist elements in the state and the security sector," Gaidzanwa, a Sociology Professor at the University of Zimbabwe, told IPS.

"ZANU won't stand for anything that undermines their hold over the state and the society. It is not likely that any meaningful reform will occur unless dramatic social and political changes occur in Zimbabwe," she said, adding that the ZANU PF led-government and elites have used economic sanctions as a convenient excuse to evade responsibility for economic and social crises.

Sanctions have not prevented the president and his cohorts from pillaging mineral resources. The current chaos was ideal for pillaging resources and undermining the rule of law and democracy, she said.

private investors. The framework is a three-tiered approach to reforming three economic fundamentals - macroeconomics, business and finance.

"As a reform strategy, the CwA framework has the potential to support Zimbabwe's economic transformation agenda," the study published last week by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), an independent public policy think tank, stated.

It further noted that the compact was relevant to Zimbabwe's re-engagement agenda and the Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP), which was introduced in 2018 as a blue print to turn around the economy.

But a crisis of governance and financial stewardship has long been stalking Zimbabwe, a Southern African nation that was once a model of economic success and democracy in Africa.

Life has become difficult for its citizens who have to battle with a high cost of living and many things are in short supply from water to electricity to monetary currency, jobs, food and even political freedoms.

The report pointed out that Zimbabwe's economic woes are multifaceted - a result of a combination of factors, including economic mismanagement, chaotic land reform, indigenisation policies, political instability and fiscal mismanagement driven by corruption.

Cold reception for compact

Yet despite its relevance, the compact has failed to raise enthusiasm among Zimbabwean policymakers, and few economic stakeholders are aware of it, the study found, pointing out that the Zimbabwe government is desperate and preoccupied with finding a quick solution to the economic crisis.

The study also made a note that there is no reform culture among the custodians of reforms in Zimbabwe.

Besides, the country's multilateral debt, estimated at over \$8.2 billion, has prevented any potential inroads with the international organisations involved with the compact.

"Clearance of multilateral debt arrears: the sanctions rhetoric seems to have taken the centre stage ahead of reform implementation," noted the study, adding that, "This behaviour has promoted corruption and stands in the way of reforms; hence there is no CwA for Zimbabwe."

Economic analyst, John Robertson, said nobody agrees with the government on the point of economic sanctions imposed by the Western countries on individuals accused of human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

"The sanctions are not applied to the country; the sanctions did not cause the country's failure. The failure is caused by our decision to close down our biggest industries," Robertson told IPS, referring to the destruc-

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =040=

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

- 3 letter word: VAN, SUM, NUN, WAR, ICE, ION, HOT, NOD
- 4 letter word: OPEN, AGOA, BAIT, LEAD
- 5 letter word: ARENA, YACHT, LOOTS, WANLY
- 6 letter word: LAD MAG, OPTION, NATIVE, VICTOR WANTED
- 8 letter word: INUNDATE, LANGUAGE, SERVICES
- 9 letter word: AMUSEMENT
- 11 letter word: CLIMATOLOGY, CHALLENGING

WORD FIT

S P A C E M C N
 I L B A N D I T O D E
 A B A N D O N A V O W
 C O U S E T E A S E R
 L U S H O T O R C A
 L L N E E D L E S A
 T A L N E E D L E S
 Y O N I O N E A T H
 H I N S O A K R
 O M E G A B N
 C H I L D R E N L E
 H R O V R E A M
 A W A S H F E G
 R T A F R I C A
 M E K L A L S O
 N R O T I A L
 N S U S A L E
 G S D R I T I Z
 D T I L U D
 M O N O O N R U S H
 S I N G G E N E
 P E T T
 Comments: 0789/37309

- Clues: Across
- 1 Inventing and innovation (8)
 - 6 Large black bird (4)
 - 7 Perceptive (5, 3)
 - 10 Form I - IV in Tanzania (6)
 - 11 Wise (4)
 - 12 Film showing an event (7)
 - 14 Make someone angry (5)
 - 15 Salty water covers large part of surface
 - 17 Musicians (4)
 - 20 Happen (5)
 - 21 Light things covers a bird's body (7)
 - 23 Pleasant (4)
 - 24 Body part for hearing (3)
 - 25 Largest city in Saudi Arabia (6)
- Down:
- 1 God (7)
 - 2 Enclosing (6)
 - 3 Terrorism and political crime (7)
 - 4 Use vehicle (5)
 - 5 Extremely and uncomfortably hot (10)
 - 8 Meditations in Hindu religion (4)
 - 9 Attractiveness (8)
 - 13 Tolerate, bear (6)
 - 16 Place (5)
 - 17 spoil something by doing it badly (5)
 - 18 Continuous unpleasant pain (4)
 - 19 At or from a great distance (4)
 - 22 Help or support (3)

PAPU KICKS OFF 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ARUSHA'S TALLEST BUILDING PLANS

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MARKING the 40th Anniversary of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), an event being observed in Arusha, the continental body has just unveiled the drawings for the proposed sky-scraping headquarters to be erected at Philips junction in Arusha City.

When announced several years ago, the anticipated PAPU complex, whose construction grounds located next to Mount Meru Hotel are being levelled now, was touted to be the tallest building in Arusha City, though since then other high edifices have also cropped up in town.

The Pan-African Postal Union complex will be constructed at the cost of 33 billion/- to serve as the headquarters for the continental communications body.

President John Pombe Magufuli was initially expected to lay the foundation stone for the 17 floor building on the 18th of January 2020 in Arusha but until going to press on Thursday, it was clear that this was subject to change.

The PAPU complex project is a joint venture between the Arusha-based continental posts body and the Tanzania government through the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

"The Implementation of this project is now underway," affirmed the minister for

Works, Communications and Transport Engineer Isack Kamwele who officiates the 40th Anniversary of PAPU at the Arusha International Conference Center between the 17th and 19th of January 2020.

The PAPU Assistant Secretary General Kolawole R. Aduloju, said the continental postal body would meet 60 percent of the costs while the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) will take care of the remaining bill tab.

Set to be a towering high edifice at 17 floors the PAPU building is set to radically change the skyline of Arusha city which has seen declining property development in the last few years. Major investment houses currently dominating the skyline are the Ngorongoro Tourism Centre, National Social Security Fund's (NSSF) Mafao House and Palace Hotel, all designed a decade ago.

Li Liang, the project manager with Beijing Engineering and Construction Limited said the project will be completed in two-and-a-half years or essentially a period of 30 months, which means the complex will open shop in 2023.

Recently, minister Kamwele in a company of Papu and TCRA officials visited and handed over site to engineers from the Chinese construction firm. The Arusha regional and district leaders, who accompanied Engineer Kamwele, assured the contractors that security would be beefed up in the area during



Proposed headquarters of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) building in the city of Arusha

the construction period.

PAPU was established in January 1980 as a specialized agency of the then Organization of African Union -the precursor to the African Union - after a postal conference held

in Arusha. It is one of several regional and international organizations with permanent headquarters in Arusha, including the East African Community (EAC) and its affiliated institutions.

Pakistan-Africa Trade Promotion Conference takes off in Nairobi

By Property Watch Reporter

THE government of Pakistan is organizing "Pakistan-Africa Trade Promotion/Engage Africa Conference" at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya, between January 30 and 31 this year.

The aim of the conference is to bring the two sides together for a meaningful exchange in order to enhance Pakistan's trade, investment and economic cooperation with Tanzania as well as other countries in Africa. More than 300 delegates from public and private sectors from Pakistan and Africa are expected to participate.

Representatives of Pakistan's private sector business will cover the following, Textile and Apparel, Agro Foods (Rice, Sugar, Wheat etc.) Services (ICT, Travel/Insurance) Pharmaceuticals, Engineering, Engineering Goods and Electronics, Surgical Goods, Cement, Sports Goods, Auto Industry and Cosmetics

Pakistan High Commission in Dar es Salaam is working on composing a sizeable private sector business delegation in the relevant sectors for participation from Tanzania. Further details regarding participation can be ascertained from Pakistan High Commission in Dar es Salaam.

Fintech startups are making it easier for Nigerian millennials to invest in US stocks

By Yomi Kazeem

FINTECH startups are the rave across African tech ecosystems but the sector has been increasingly defined by payments specialists. This is somewhat unsurprising given how global payments giants have fueled interest by investing hundreds of millions of dollars.

Beyond payments and digital banks, there's a growing crop of "wealthtech" or wealth management startups offering investment opportunities to willing users in Nigeria. More specifically, some of these platforms focus primarily on helping a generation of young Nigerians invest in foreign stocks and assets easier than ever before.

After starting Rise informally as an investment club among friends, Eleanya Eke chose to formalize operations as a fund management company given the scale of interest. The club of Nigerian professionals had teamed together to buy and flip or rent residential property in the United States but as the group grew demand rapidly evolved. "We first started with US real estate but a lot more people were interested in US stocks. All of that informed our move as there's a really strong demand for it—especially among the internet-connected crowd." Now in beta phase, Eke says Rise already has over 1,000 users.

Despite strong latent interest, the lack of know-how and on-boarding requirements for US brokerage firms represented barriers that restricted potential standalone middle-class investors. That was the driving factor for Richmond Basse and Yanmo Omorogbe, co-founders of Bamboo, an investment app that now allows Nigerian users buy and trade US equities. Bamboo has garnered over 10,000 Nigerian users since launching in October.

Basse says the company helps users scale the hurdles of on-boarding by partnering with trusted brokerage firms in the US and carrying out the data and identity verification requirements on the Nigerian end. Among other things, the platform requires users to register with a Bank Verification Number, a mandatory unique ID issued by Nigeria's financial authorities to every customer with a bank account. Bamboo's founders say while they have started with US equities due to most investor interest there are also plans to offer stock options from other countries in the future.

The growing use of wealthtech platforms also signal a wider shift in investment culture among younger Nigerians who are increasingly looking beyond traditional models of saving. Locally, wealth management apps like PiggyBank and Cowrywise which allow users automate savings in naira have also become popular by also offering savings and investment options with interest rates much higher than what traditional banks offer.

Minister wants Karanga shoe making factory completed before February 2



Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labor, Employment, Youth and People with disabilities) Jenista Mhagama speaks to senior officials of Karanga Prison during her visit to the prison to inspect construction of the shoe making factory in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Property Watch Reporter, Kilimanjaro

MINISTER of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labor, Employment, Youth and People with disabilities) Jenista Mhagama has ordered the contractor constructing the Karanga shoe making factory at Karanga prison in Kilimanjaro to complete the work before February 2, this year.

Mhagama gave the directive on Wednesday, shortly inspecting progress implementation of the project that is being implemented jointly by the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) and the Karanga prison.

She said there were no reasons for the

delay since all the required funds have been disbursed.

According to Mhagama the factory is one of the key strategic projects implemented by the government, hence the need for the contractor to comply with agreed terms of contract for the factory to start operating as planned.

"I am not satisfied with the construction speed of the project, I have given instructions to prison administration to ensure sufficient equipment and professionals in all construction areas for the project to be completed by 2nd February this year", said Mhagama insisting all the machines should be installed by the set date.

The Minister urged the contractor not to hesitate requesting for support from other construction stakeholders such as the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and the army's construction department—SUMA JKT to ensure the factory is completed on time.

Completion of the factory will result into Tanzanians getting jobs, she said.

Mhagama also called on all institutions involved in the project, including the PSSSF, Tanzania Industrial Development Research Organization (TIRDOR) and the Karanga prison administration to fully manage the technical provisions to make the project timely accomplished, as the government is not ready

to incur extra cost on the project.

Senior Prison Assistant Commissioner, Hamis Nkubasi said his office will respond to government directives and is committed to ensuring the project is completed as per government directives.

PSSSF Director General, Hosea Kashimba said his office has provided 200m/- for the purchase of necessary raw materials at various stages of construction.

Kashimba said his office is committed to ensuring it complies with all government directives and those from the contractor so that the project is completed within the allotted timeframe.

US \$70M BASILICA TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT KIBEHO HOLY LAND IN RWANDA

KIGALI

A US \$70m basilica is set to be constructed at Kibeho holy land in Nyaruguru district, Rwanda. This is after engineers presented feasibility studies and design to the Catholic Church and district authorities.

According to the Mayor of Nyaruguru, Francois Habitegeko, the project will be financed by a foundation called Our Lady of Kibeho basilica. "This foundation which was formed by Christians led by a lady called Immaculee Ilibagiza, will be in-charge of organizing fundraisings to acquire the needed resources," he said.

The basilica which will have a seating capacity of 10,000 people is expected to have been completed by November 2021, on the 40th anniversary of the holy land. With a 1,000-seat Chapel of Seven Sorrows of Mary, the basilica will have a parking lot for 700 buses and 2,000 smaller cars, and several other service unit spaces.

The very big basilica is also expected to have a VIP section as well as a very big ground outside. The outside area will be enough to accommodate up to 100,000 pilgrims.

The Mayor further added that, once completed, the basilica will attract more pilgrims and tourists which is a very big opportunity for businesses and hospitality sector in the district. Kibeho receives be-



A basilica that is to be constructed in Kigali. File photo.

tween 500,000 and 600,000 pilgrims every year.

There are 23 basilicas in Africa; Ghana with four, Uganda with three,

Algeria with two, and Egypt with also two basilicas. Currently, Rwanda has only one minor basilica in Kabgayi,

'Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady' with

a capacity to accommodate 3,000 people.

The largest basilica in Africa is Yamoussoukro Basilica in Cote

d'Ivoire, which has the capacity to hold 18,000 worshippers, while the esplanade can accommodate a crowd of 300,000.

China finishes construction of world's first 3D printed revetment wall

BEIJING

The People's Republic of China has unveiled the world's first 3D printed river revetment wall by Yingchuang Building Technique (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. (Winsun), a 3D printing architecture firm based in the East Asian country.

The 500m revetment wall is constructed along Suzhou Creek or Soochow Creek, which is also known as the Wusong River in the city of Suzhou, Jiangsu province.

In terms of stream restoration, river engineering or coastal engineering, revetments are sloping structures placed on banks or cliffs in such a way that they can absorb the energy of incoming water hence preventing the damage such as erosion, wetland flooding, aquifer, and agricultural soil contamination and lost habitat for fish, birds, trees, and plants, etc. that may be caused by rising water levels.

Consisting of separate 3D printed modules, the ecologically developed riverbank shoreline in question is specifically formed to retain the earth and to defend the shoreline from impact by the waves and the strong current, and collapsing under the pressure of the rising water level, caused by co-acting forces, such as water erosion, corrosion, earth pressure, and underwater osmotic pressure.

In traditional modes of revetment construction, materials such as concrete or customized designed bricks for the construction of solid walls and dams is a prerequisite. While these solutions are stable and provide the necessary protection, they are also expensive and complicated to construct, not to mention that the construction process, from excavation and foundation-laying, does not protect or support the existing eco-systems.

On the hand, 3D Printing Construction allows for an improved river revetment function, thanks to the 3D printing technology which enables to keep of the original "water flow" function intact. The technology also provides endless possibilities to keep or increase the high-quality living environment for the local flora and fauna.

The modules set above the riverbank, for example, provide a natural habitat for plants to grow on. As a result, this offers a safe, and green recreational spot with beautiful aesthetics for coastal residents and visitors.

US \$124.2m approved for water sector reforms in Nigeria

LAGOS

US \$124.2m loan has been approved by African Development Bank to finance the Urban Water Sector Reform and Akure Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Nigeria.

Ebrima Faal, Senior Director at the Bank's Nigeria Regional Office made the announcement and said that the amount includes an African Growing Together Fund (AGTF) loan of US \$20m.

The project whose overall cost is US \$223m is aimed to address bottlenecks in critical water supply services to households in the densely populated project area. The funds will also see installation of sanitation infrastructure for schools, hospitals, markets.

It is scheduled to take five years for completion, upon which it will benefit the 1.3 million residents of Akure City and vicinity. At the Federal level, the project's Urban Water Reform component will establish a water and sanitation investment program that would contribute to scaling up of the National WASH Action plan 2018-2030.

The project, which combines "hard" water, sanitation and environmental protection infrastructure with "soft" analytical and institutional reform support, aligns with the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (TYS) and its High 5s priority areas, the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Policy.

"The project will particularly contribute to improving the living conditions of the communities in the project area. Involving these communities in the public awareness and marketing activities, will increase the project's ownership and ensure they pay for the water supply and sanitation services," said Ebrima Faal.

Poor access to improved water and sanitation in Nigeria remains a major contributing factor to high morbidity and mortality rates among children under five. The use of contaminated drinking water and poor sanitary conditions result in increased vulnerability to water-borne diseases, including diarrhoea which leads to deaths of more than 70,000 children under five annually.



A water treatment and supply station in Lagos. File photo.

Ghana signs US \$250m power infrastructure upgrade deal



Power generation infrastructures in Accra. File photo

ACCRA

Ghana through the Ghana Grid Company Limited (GRIDCO) under the G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) initiative has signed a US \$250m Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Siemens to extend Ghana's power transmission infrastructure, improve the country's grid capacity and stability, as well as enable and expand a stable power export to neighbouring countries in the West African Power Pool.

Addressing the President during the deal signing, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Siemens, Joe Kaeser, said he was pretty much excited that the deal has finally been completed. "The

MOU we have signed together with our partners, GRIDCO, is aimed at modernizing the whole grid of Ghana to bring power to the people in a more efficient way," Mr Kaeser said.

On his part, President Akufo-Addo noted that the signing of the MOU is a very important development in the history of the country.

"This is a very welcomed development for us and the idea that Ghana is the first country on the continent to be getting a very significant transaction out of the Compact is in itself a big vote of confidence by the German Leadership. We therefore welcome that expression of confidence and we want to assure you that the monies will be put to good use," he

added.

Siemens is one of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies. Siemens is a leading supplier of systems for power generation and transmission as well as medical diagnosis. In infrastructure and industry solutions, the company plays a pioneering role.

The G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) was initiated under the German G20 Presidency to promote private investment in Africa, including in infrastructure. The CwA's primary objective is to increase the attractiveness of private investment through substantial improvements of the macro, business and financing frameworks.

CONSTRUCTION

DUBAI TO BE HOME TO THE WORLD'S TALLEST HOTEL COME 2023

DUBAI

The city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates is set to be home to the world's tallest hotel in the next 3 years following the completion of the ongoing construction works of Ciel towers.

Designed by NORR, and developed by The First Group (TFG), the tower is being constructed at Marina district, in close proximity to the most popular attractions like the Marina Walk and the Marina Mall shopping and entertainment complex.

Comprising of 1,209 luxury suites and serviced residences split across 82 floors, Ciel towers will stand 360 meters tall, approximately 4 meters

taller than Gevora hotel, the current world's tallest hotel.

The inside of the glass sculpture, inspired by the concept of vertical living, will be all about contemporary interiors motivated by the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-sabi, "a philosophy rooted in the appreciation of the imperfect and impermanent beauty of objects in nature" with a side of luxury and allocated green spaces.

The building users will enjoy 360-degree views, to Downtown Dubai and the Burj Khalifa to the East, Dubai Marina to the South West and out towards Palm Jumeirah and the Arabian Gulf to the north in addition to a rooftop that comprises of a

leisure deck/observation deck, a bar, State of the art fitness facilities including steam rooms and sun deck and an infinity swimming pool that will be one of the highest caliber in the world.

In the last month of 2019, the Ciel project was honored with three major prizes at the 2019 International Property Awards. It received awards for the Best International Hotel Architecture, the Best Hotel Architecture Arabia and the Best Residential High-rise Architecture Arabia.

Moreover, in June the same year, it received the top prize in four major categories at the 2019-20 Dubai, Africa & Arabia Property Awards.



A vicinity of Dubai captured late December in 2019. File photo.

Virgin US\$4.8Bn Bullet train construction to start in 2020

NEW YORK

Virgin Trains USA announced the construction of the 170-mile bullet train from Victorville, California, to Las Vegas that will cost US\$4.8 billion to construct will be breaking ground as early as the third quarter of 2020.

The vice president of business strategy for Virgin Trains USA, Tina Quig-

ley, said that construction would most likely start in five California locations first and that work in Nevada, including for the Las Vegas rail station, would not start until mid-2021.

Only 56 kilometres (35 miles) will run through Nevada, while the most up-to-date plan has the majority of the 274-kilometre line running between the northbound and south-

bound lanes of Interstate 15 in California.

The company cannot begin construction until it receives a record of decision from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), but the director of Nevada's Department of Business (DOB), Terry Mills, during an interview said, that Virgin plans on being prepared with enough material and equipment so

that it can start building as soon as the FRA gives it the green light.

They estimate that the entire line, that will transport passengers between Victorville and Las Vegas in 90 minutes, will have been completed by 2023.

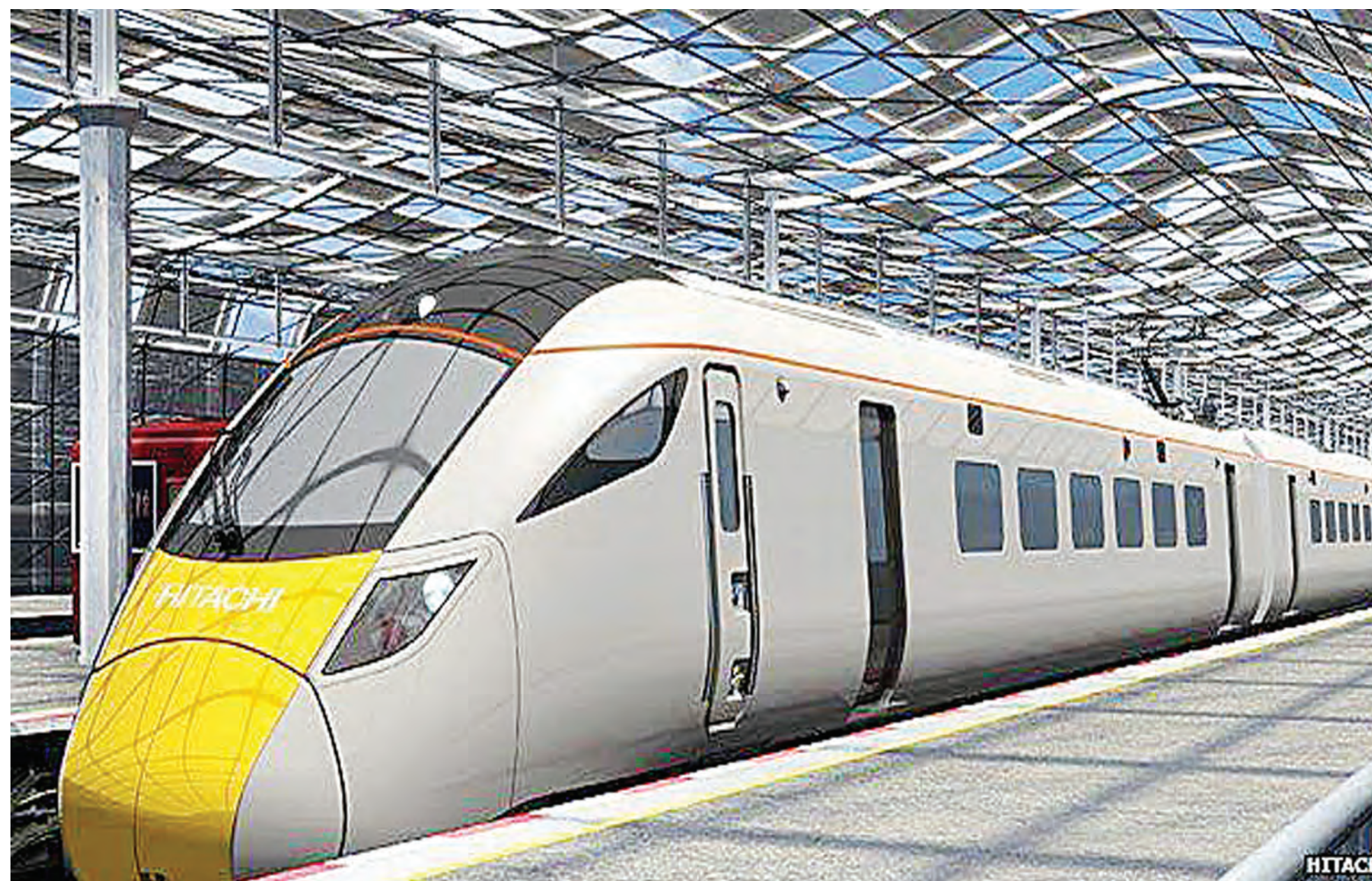
They have already received a \$3.2 billion tax-exempt, fixed-rate revenue bond issuance to help DesertXpress Enter-

prises LLC, an affiliate of Virgin Trains USA, build a high-speed train from Victorville, California, to Las Vegas from the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) and the approval of a \$950 million private activity bond program in January or February from the Nevada DOB.

They are also receiving sponsored bonds which

will go toward design, development, construction, operation and maintenance once the rail line is up and running from the San Bernardino County in California.

The line will be built over or under interchanges thus preventing pedestrians or vehicles from getting in the way of the bullet train.



A new make of an electric train. File photo

Ruzizi IV Hydropower Project in Rwanda receives US\$8.9m grant from AfDB

KIGALI

Ruzizi IV Hydropower Project in Rwanda has received US \$8.9m grant from the African Development Bank (AfDB), drawn from the European Union's Africa Investment Platform (EU-AIP) to support the implementation of the Project.

Currently, two power plants are already in operation: Ruzizi I which produces 29.8MW and Ruzizi II which produces 43.8 MW. Ruzizi III with a projected 147MW output is under development with Bank support. When completed, Ruzizi IV is expected to produce 287MW of electricity and exploit the Ruzizi River's full hydropower potential.

The power plant will be situated on the Ruzizi River between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo and will supply electricity to the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda.

The project will provide electricity to millions of households, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises and industries, thereby improving the living conditions of the regional population.

Greater and more reliable access to electricity will also improve the quality of basic social service delivery including health, education, and improved security.

According to Batchi Baldeh, the AfDB's Director for Power Systems Development, the Bank played a major role in

structuring and raising financing for Ruzizi III, and the lessons learned will be used to successfully develop and implement Ruzizi IV.

"The use of renewable and affordable electric power will help to reduce poverty, unemployment, greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation, as well as stabilise security in the Great Lakes region," he affirmed.

The grant approval follows a US \$980,000 grant approved at the end of 2018 by the New Partnership for Africa Development's Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF), which is a multi-donor Special Fund hosted by the Bank, to co-finance the technical assistance.

Ruzizi IV Hydropower Project meets the goal shared by Burundi, DRC and Rwanda to optimise exploitation of their energy resources by integrating electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure.

The project falls within the overall regional energy market framework being developed by the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP) and the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP).

It also aligns with the Bank's High 5 priority to "Light up and power Africa", as well as the Bank's strategy on regional integration, and specifically, development of regional energy infrastructure.

South Africa to embrace private power generation

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa has resolved to embrace efforts by businesses to generate their own electricity, due to growing frustrations by business to the constant power outages in the country. These nationwide power cuts have affected economic output and sapped investor confidence

in Africa's most industrialised economy.

Many power-hungry companies such as mines want to build their own renewable energy plants to reduce their reliance on Eskom but have not been able to secure the necessary regulatory approvals.

According to President Cyril Ramaphosa, it is high

time the country embraces the fact that there are those companies and households that want to generate their own energy. "For the first time we are now saying let us have self-generation. We cannot stop technology, we cannot stop the future from arriving hence we have opened up a new era," he added.

South Africa's mining in-

dustry body the Minerals Council recently urged the government to act promptly to bring online new power sources and ease licensing rules, because according to Roger Baxter, chief executive of the Minerals Council, miners could build between 500MW and 1,500MW of their own generating capacity over the next few years if

regulations were eased.

Under-fire state-owned utility Eskom generates more than 90% of the country's electricity but regularly struggles to meet demand because of breakdowns at its coal-fired power plants. The government has been slow to procure more power since the electricity cuts escalated last year.



South African main grid. File photo

WORLD

US House sends Trump impeachment charges to Senate for trial

WASHINGTON

THE Democratic-led House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to send two formal charges against President Donald Trump to the Senate, clearing the way for only the third impeachment trial of a US president to begin in earnest next week.

Lawmakers voted 228 to 193 to give the Senate, controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, the task of putting him on trial on charges of abuse of power for asking Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and obstruction of Congress for blocking testimony and documents sought by Democratic lawmakers.

The vote, which also approved a team of seven Democratic lawmakers named by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

to serve as prosecutors in the trial, was largely along party lines.

The 100-seat Senate is expected to acquit Trump, keeping him in office, given that none of its 53 Republicans has voiced support for removing him, a step that under the US Constitution would require a two-thirds majority.

But Trump's impeachment by the House last month will remain a stain on his record and the televised trial in the Senate could be uncomfortable for him as he seeks re-election on Nov. 3, with Biden a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to challenge him.

"We are here today to cross a very important threshold in American history," Pelosi said on the House floor before the vote.

Pelosi launched the impeachment



President Donald Trump

inquiry in September after earlier resisting such a move centered on Trump's actions to impede a federal investigation that documented Russian interference in the 2016 election to boost his candidacy.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, a Trump nemesis who served as a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles for six years, was selected to head the team of House "managers." The White House has yet to unveil its defense team. The trial will overseen by US Chief Justice John Roberts.

Trump, during a White House signing ceremony for a China trade deal, took a few shots at what he called the impeachment "hoax." He excused House lawmakers who needed to go to vote on impeachment and singled out for praise every Republican senator in the audience, whose support he will need at the trial.

White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said Trump "expects to be fully exonerated," adding in a statement, "President Trump has

done nothing wrong."

Opening statements in the trial are expected next Tuesday, according to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose fellow Republicans will set the rules for the trial.

The seven House managers marched the two articles of impeachment over to the Senate on Wednesday where McConnell's office said they would be formally presented on Thursday.

A pivotal event in Trump's impeachment was a July 25 telephone call in which he asked Ukraine's president to open a corruption investigation into Biden and his son, as well as a discredited theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 election.

Democrats have called this an abuse of power because Trump asked a foreign government to interfere in a US election for his own benefit at the expense of American national security. Biden, the former US vice president, is one of 12 candidates vying for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in November.

Republicans have argued that Trump's actions did not rise to the level of impeachable offenses. They have accused Democrats of using the Ukraine affair to try to nullify Trump's 2016 election victory.

"PRIVATE ATM MACHINE"

Democrats also accused Trump of abusing his power by withholding \$391 million in security aid to Ukraine as leverage to pressure Kiev into conducting investigations politically beneficial to him. The money - approved by Congress to help Ukraine combat Russia-backed separatists - was provided to Ukraine in September after the controversy spilled into public view.

"The president considered that his private ATM machine, I guess," Pelosi said of the aid on Wednesday.

Agencies

Angola's dos Santos moots presidency run despite charges

LISBON

AFRICA'S richest woman and Angola's ex-first daughter Isabel dos Santos expressed interest yesterday in running for the presidency despite an asset freeze and accusations of diverting more than a billion dollars of state money.

It was the first time the daughter of former president Joao Eduardo dos Santos, who ran Angola for 38 years until Joao Lourenco took the helm in 2017, has mooted entering politics.

Asked in an interview with Portuguese TV channel RTP whether she would be interested in the role of president, which is next up in 2022, dos Santos said: "It's possible".

Lourenco has cracked down on the role of his predecessor's children, firing dos Santos from her job chairing oil firm Sonangol and her brother from the sovereign wealth fund.

The 46-year-old businesswoman nicknamed "The Princess" at home is estimated by Forbes magazine to be worth more than US\$2 billion, while two thirds of her compatriots live on less than US\$2 a day, according to the World Bank.

In the past, she has consistently identified herself as an entrepreneur, not a politician.

Dos Santos, her husband Sindika Dokolo and associate Mario Leite da Silva were subject to an asset freeze on Dec 31 after accusations of steering more than US\$1 billion from Sonangol and official diamond trader Sodiam to firms where they held stakes.

She denies the allegations as a "witch hunt" forming part of an attempt to erase her father's legacy and distract from failures under the new government.

In the RTP interview, she framed the accusations not just as an attack on her family but as a campaign against future candidates for office.

"We cannot use corruption, or the supposed fight against corruption, in a selective way to neutralise who we think could be future political candidates," she said.

"It's about the fight for power."

Dos Santos, who lives abroad, divides opinion in Angola. Supporters see her as an inspiring entrepreneur, while detractors say she embodies African corruption, with her fortune and Instagram-published jet-setting offensive to the poor.

Dos Santos holds significant stakes in several important Portuguese firms, including in Eurobic bank, telecoms company NOS, engineering company Efacec, and oil and gas company Galp Energia

Agencies

Sudan's army restores 2 oil fields from rebellious security elements in east Darfur

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S Energy and Mining Minister Adil Ali Ibrahim on Wednesday announced that the Sudanese army restored two oil fields in Darfur region after they were earlier seized by elements belonging to the General Intelligence Service (GIS).

The armed forces have managed to contain the situation at Hadid and Sufian oil fields in east Darfur State, Ibrahim told reporters in Khartoum.

"They have been evacuated from the area, while the armed forces are completing receiving their weapons prior to transporting them to Khartoum," he noted.

The minister explained that an armed group, belonging to the GIS, on Tuesday entered Hadid and Sufian oil fields, seized the crude oil compilation area and forced the personnel and engineers to leave their sites.

He said the incident has affected the production at the two fields, noting that "the two fields produce around 7,000 barrels of oil a day, whereas the work stopped for about 10 hours."

On Tuesday, headquarters of the GIS's Operations Authority witnessed heavy gunfire, which sparked fear among the citizens of central Khartoum and the areas of the GIS's headquarters.

The Sudanese government described the incidents as a "rebellion" by a security force.

The former Transitional Military Council in August 2019 dissolved the GIS's Operations Authority. An estimated 13,000 dismissed ex-employees were asked whether to join the army or the Rapid Support Forces, or to be discharged and get end-of-service rewards.

The majority opted for the latter, and some refused to hand over their weapons until they get the rewards. **Xinhua**

Iran: Europeans yield to bully Trump in nuclear row

DUBAI/PARIS

IRAN said yesterday three European states had succumbed to "high school bully" Donald Trump when they triggered a dispute mechanism in a nuclear pact the US president opposes, a step that could eventually lead to reimposing UN sanctions.

The pact, known as the JCPOA, was agreed in 2015 between Tehran and world powers, offering Iran relief from sanctions if it curbed its nuclear work. Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 and reimposed US sanctions, telling Tehran he wanted a more stringent deal on nuclear and other issues.

Iran has responded to the US sanctions by scaling back its compliance with the deal, culminating with an announcement this month that it would reject all limits on production of enriched ura-

nium, although it says it wants to keep the deal in place.

Britain, France and Germany triggered the deal's dispute mechanism this week. London said it was now time for a "Trump deal" to replace it, while Paris said broad talks were needed.

The Washington Post reported on Wednesday that Trump's administration had threatened to impose a 25% tariff on European automobile imports if Britain, France and Germany did not formally accuse Iran of breaking the nuclear deal.

"Appeasement confirmed. E3 sold out remnants of #JCPOA to avoid new Trump tariffs. It won't work my friends. You only whet his appetite. Remember your high school bully?" Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter.

Two European diplomats confirmed Washington had threat-



An Iranian cleric walks past a mural painting of the national flag in the capital Tehran. (File photo)

ened tariffs but said leaders of the three European states had already decided to trigger the mechanism before that.

A third diplomat said such US tactics only undermined the Europeans, who are trying to apply pressure independently.

"True or not it has the effect of

discrediting the Europeans, but then Trump doesn't really care about that," the diplomat said. "From the Iranian side, it just proves that only the US matters in this."

'SNAPPING BACK'

The Europeans have long op-

posed Trump's decision to withdraw from the nuclear deal, but have been threatening for months to trigger the dispute mechanism if Iran did not comply with it.

The dispute mechanism begins a complex diplomatic process that can end with UN sanctions on Iran "snapping back" into place, although the Europeans say that is not their aim.

In triggering the dispute mechanism, the European countries said they were not backing a US policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran, and they still hope to salvage the nuclear deal.

The nuclear dispute lies at the heart of Iran's long-running standoff with the West that spiraled into open conflict this month when Washington killed an Iranian general in Baghdad and Tehran responded with missile strikes on US targets in Iraq.

Agencies

Japan lawyers who won Ghosn's bail quit after client escapes

By Bloomberg

CARLOS Ghosn's lawyer, one of the most respected criminal-defense attorneys in Japan, has formally resigned after his client fled the country at the end of December to escape trial.

Junichiro Hironaka, whose nickname is "The Razor" and who led the legal team representing the former chairman and chief executive of Nissan Motor Co, notified the Tokyo District Court on Thursday that he is no longer representing Ghosn, his office said in a statement. Hironaka had already signaled his intention to resign last week.

Arrested in November 2018, Ghosn and former Nissan executive Greg Kelly - who both deny

wrongdoing - were set to stand trial this year. That's now looking unlikely without the main defendant, thrusting the conflict into the public arena and possibly the Lebanese courts. With an Interpol red notice and revocation of his bail, Ghosn is unlikely to ever set foot in Japan again.

All of the lawyers in Hironaka's practice resigned, as did Takashi Takano, another well-known attorney who worked with Hironaka and helped arrange bail for Ghosn.

Hiroshi Kawatsu, another lawyer who was part of the defense and was the main attorney registered with the court, will continue to represent Ghosn for the time being, the Asahi newspaper reported. Ghosn hired the new Japa-



nese team in February after firing his first defense team. Ghosn was represented in the US by Paul, Weiss.

Separately, the court decided on Thursday to try Kelly separately in Ghosn's absence, Kyodo News reported. That effectively leaves the American at the center of the criminal case and a proxy for Ghosn's innocence or guilt in the first set of charges against him. The two were arrested on the

same day; Kelly remains in Japan to face charges that allege he helped understate Ghosn's compensation by tens of millions of dollars.

It wasn't clear whether Nissan, which has also been charged for being involved in underreporting Ghosn's income, will be prosecuted. Japanese prosecutors have continued to push the case domestically, issuing an arrest warrant for Ghosn's wife Carole earlier this month.

Ghosn, arrested in November 2018, had been free on bail as he awaited a trial that was scheduled to start this year, but made a dramatic escape last month and fled to Lebanon. He has denied all of the charges, saying they were part of a conspiracy to prevent further

integration between Nissan and Renault SA.

Since Ghosn's escape, his legal team in Japan came under scrutiny and criticism for the events leading to his departure. Hironaka, speaking just a few hours after Ghosn announced he was in Lebanon on Dec 31, said his office held all of Ghosn's passports. He later confirmed that one was returned to Ghosn's person last year in a locked case to which the legal team held the key.

Hironaka is best known for successfully defending Atsuko Muraki, a former senior bureaucrat, charged in 2009 with falsely certifying an organization as representing disabled people so it could use cheaper postage rates.

Agencies

Fighting resumes in Tripoli as Haftar leaves Moscow without signing ceasefire deal - TV

CAIRO

ARMED clashes resumed early on Tuesday in the south of the Libyan capital Tripoli as commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) Khalifa Haftar left Moscow without signing a ceasefire agreement, the Al Arabiya TV channel reported.

Meanwhile, the Al-Wasat news portal said, citing eyewitnesses, that artillery fire is heard in Tripoli's southern neighborhoods of Salah Al-Deen and Ain Zara.

According to local media reports, Haftar and President of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives Agila Saleh Issa have left Moscow without signing a ceasefire deal with the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) led by Fayez al-Sarraj. "The speaker of the House of Rep-

resentatives and the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab armed forces left the Russian capital of Moscow and departed for Libya, without signing any agreements with the head of the unconstitutional Government of National Accord, Fayez al-Sarraj, regarding ceasefire or troop pullback from areas controlled by the army in the country's capital Tripoli," the Libyan News Agency (LANA), active in the east of the country, said.

The news came as hostilities resumed in the south of Tripoli. In a statement, cited by the Al Hadath TV channel, the Libyan army has declared its "readiness and determination to win."

A ceasefire took effect in Libya at midnight on January 12 within the framework of a joint initiative pro-



posed by the Russian and Turkish presidents. Delegations of the sides arrived in Moscow on January 13 for

talks, after which Chairman of Libya's Government of National Accord Mr. Sarraj and Chairman of the High Council of State Khaled al-Mishri signed a draft document on the settlement in the country, while Haftar has taken a pause until Tuesday morning.

Moscow meeting

Sky News Arabia earlier reported that during the indirect talks in Moscow, Haftar insisted on allowing his troops to enter Tripoli and on forming a national unity government that would receive a vote of confidence from the Tobruk-based parliament. The field marshal also called for international monitoring of ceasefire without Turkey's participation and demanded immediate withdrawal of mercenaries "who arrived from Syria and Turkey."

At the same time, Sarraj wanted Haftar's forces to retreat to positions they had occupied before April 4, 2019, when LNA announced it was advancing towards the country's capital city. He also insisted on retaining the post of the supreme commander-in-chief of the Libyan armed forces.

According to the channel's sources, those demands became the main bone of contention for the sides during their talks in Moscow.

Commenting on the Moscow talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said al-Sarraj and al-Mishri had signed a draft document on the settlement in the country, while Haftar and Issa "view this document in a positive light and asked for extra time until next morning to decide on signing."

However, according to Abdulhamid al-Safi, a media adviser to the Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives affiliated with LNA, no accord has so far been reached in Moscow, except for agreements on humanitarian aid. In his opinion, talks on other issues are also planned, but may not take place.

Currently, Libya has two parallel bodies of executive power: the internationally recognized GNA and Abdullah al-Thani's interim government operating in the country's east together with parliament and supported by Haftar's Libyan National Army. After a standoff near Tripoli since April 4, Haftar on December 12 declared the beginning of a decisive offensive to seize the capital.

Agencies

Xi hails initial trade accord signed by China, US

HINGTON/BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has hailed the long-awaited phase-one trade deal signed by the United States and China at the White House yesterday morning Beijing time as a pact that was good for China, the US and the world.

Speaking in Washington, Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He first conveyed the message of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Trump.

"It also shows that our two countries have the ability to act on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and work through dialogue and consultation to properly handle and effectively resolve relevant issues," according to the message read out by Liu.

In the next step, the two sides need to implement the agreement in real earnest and optimize its positive impact, so as to make even greater progress in China-US trade and economic cooperation, the Chinese president said in his message. Xi was also quoted as saying that maintaining healthy and steady growth of China-US relations serves the interest of both countries and requires joint efforts from both sides.

In that spirit, Xi voiced hope that the US side will treat fairly Chinese companies and their regular economic, trade and investment activities, and give support to the collaboration between enterprises, research institutes, and schools and colleges of the two countries, as it will help enhance mutual trust and cooperation between the two sides.

"China is prepared to work with the United States in that direction. And I will stay in close touch with you personally," Xi said in his message. "I believe that under our guidance, China-US relations will deliver more results and bring greater benefits to our peoples in

the year ahead."

Liu said the China-US phase-one economic and trade agreement has considerably addressed the concerns of both sides.

Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue, made the remarks during a briefing with some Chinese media outlets. He said the China-US economic and trade agreement bears both economic and political significance.

The deal has injected positive energy into the stability and development of the world economy, he said.

China-US phase-one trade deal conforms to WTO rules, Liu told reporters, adding that the pact went beyond the economic realm as it also has a bearing on world peace and prosperity.

Liu stressed the agreement is not directed at nor will it affect the lawful rights and interests of any third party.

Liu said China will work with the US, adhering to the principle of equality and mutual respect to ensure proper implementation of their phase-one economic and trade agreement.

On a separate note, Liu said China will further deepen domestic reforms and open up wider to the outside world.

Liu pointed out that China's economy is transitioning from high-speed growth to high-quality development while a massive domestic market is taking shape.

China welcomes investors from around the world, including those from the United States, and will expand the import of quality products and services from countries around the world, he said.

He said China's gross domestic product is estimated to record an expansion



US President Donald Trump and Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue, show the signed China-US phase-one economic and trade agreement during a ceremony at the East Room of the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, on Thursday. (XINHUA)

of over 6 percent in 2019, and the January data also indicates a better-than-expected economic outlook.

For his part, Trump called the signing of the phase-one economic and trade agreement a milestone, and a boon to the United States, China and the whole world.

Describing China as a great nation, Trump also expressed his admiration for Xi's wisdom and leadership.

Relations between the United States and China are very important, said the US president, stressing that the two

sides are working together closely in economy and trade, along with a wide range of other areas, which will help promote world peace and prosperity.

Trump also said he looks forward to another visit to China in the foreseeable future.

Approximately 300 people, including US officials, all members of the Chinese delegation and representatives from various US sectors, attended the signing ceremony.

The deal, agreed to in mid-December after a dozen rounds of negotiations

led by Liu, China's top trade negotiator, and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, was finally closed at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House that was attended by leading US officials and about 200 representatives of business, government and diplomatic circles.

The trade truce came 22 months after tensions flared between the world's top two economies in March 2018. It is widely expected to reduce the uncertainties that have dampened the business investment mood in both countries and around the world.

Xinhua

Filipe Nyusi sworn in as president of Mozambique for second term

MAPUTO

MOZAMBICAN

relected President Filipe Nyusi was sworn in for his second term on Wednesday, highlighting economic development and national peace.

With the presence of a dozen heads of states, diplomatic delegations and thousands of guests at the inauguration, Nyusi provided in his speech a framework of the goals his government aspires to achieve in economic and social sectors.

Recalling that in his first term the agenda was to involve the people into the national economy, Nyusi said remarkable advances have been observed in the social and cultural domains, and internationally recognized by financial agencies.

The president admitted that in the past term there were uncontrollable constraints, including national disasters and the suspension of the National Budget support from international partners, but the impacts were duly addressed."

These and other adversities tested our resilience, our capacity to turn obstacles into opportunities. And we have been able not only to resist, but also to hold the hand firmly in the boat's rudder where we all find ourselves sailing," said Nyusi.

For the next five-year period of governance, the president said that peace will be the absolute priority and the government will continue to focus on promoting peace as "a prerequisite for development." The president said his government will further improve the business environment, fight corruption, promote agriculture toward "zero hunger", increase power availability, and boost tourism activity.

Xinhua

Ugandan president opens China-funded industrial training, production center

WAKISO, Uganda

UGANDAN president Yoweri Museveni on Wednesday commissioned a China-aided industrial skills training and production center at Namanve Industrial Park in the central district of Wakiso.

Museveni (pictured) said the 30-million-US dollar facility is critical in fast-tracking Uganda's industrialization process, noting that it will not only provide skills to locals but also manufacture mechanical parts using modern technology.

He hailed China for its continued support in helping Uganda fast-track its economic development.

Museveni noted that the facility, which is seated on 15 acres (about 60,000 sq meters) of land, was the second of its kind China helps to build. The first was a food processing facility, which has been in existence for years.

Chen Huixin, Charge D'affaire of Chinese Embassy in Uganda, said the facility is one of the many significant projects arising out of the consensus between the two countries and a follow-up action of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in its consecutive sessions.

He said the center has five



manufacturing workshops and an electronic, electrical and mechanical processing training building. "These workshops will help to meet the demands of Uganda industry development."

All these have been equipped with necessary furniture, facilities, mechanical equipment, instruments and tools, allowing 960 trainees to undertake training at the same time. A whole college and factory!" Chen said.

"We shall be looking forward to the trainees that graduate from the Industrial Skills Training center into the job market of Uganda," he added.

Elioda Tumwesigye, minister of science, technology and innovation said industrial skilling will help fast-track the industrialization process in the country,

which will in the end increase household income through creating employment.

Tumwesigye noted that with the state of the art machinery installed at the facility, Uganda stands out to benefit from the opportunities the Fourth Industrial Revolution has to offer. He said the institution now has machines that use artificial intelligence.

Charles Kwesiga, head of Uganda Industrial Research Institute, a state agency under which the facility will be affiliated is optimistic that the products that will be made will meet international standards.

"It is a very important facility. It is the initial step of creating modern machining, manufacturing. That way we can get in

the market with competitive high quality products," Kwesiga said.

Uganda hopes to use the center as a production unit of automotive spare parts in a bid to bring down the import bill, according to Tumwesigye. Government figures show that the country spends 23 million dollars annually on importing motor vehicles spare parts and 18 million dollars on spares for motorcycles.

The country's nascent motor vehicle manufacturing industry is also eyeing the industrial center as a key partner in producing vehicles parts."This center will be manufacturing the components that Kiira Motors Corporation will use to build various motor vehicles, like buses and so forth.

The center is going to have capacity to develop parts, components which will be used in other industries," said Sandy Stevens Tickodri-Togboa, executive chairman of Kiira Motors Corporation.

Kiira Motors Corporation is a state enterprise established to champion domestic vehicle manufacturing. The corporation is currently setting up a plant in the eastern Ugandan district of Jinja.

Xinhua

Russian hi-tech firm develops new flight control system for Mi-28NM combat helicopters

SARATOV

THE Design Bureau of Industrial Automatics based in Saratov in southern Russia has developed a new flight control system for upgraded Mi-28NM combat helicopters, the press office of the regional industry ministry reported on Tuesday.

"The PKV-28 flight control system for the latest Mi-28NM 'Night Hunter' combat helicopters has been developed by the Saratov-based Design Bureau of Industrial Automatics," the press office said in a statement.

The flight control system developed in Saratov is lighter by its weight and smaller by its dimensions than other systems and ensures a new level of comfort and easiness in piloting. It also integrates big potential for further upgrade to meet the customer's new requirements.

"Following the results of state trials, the implemented technical solution will be offered for helicopters of other models," the statement says.

The Design Bureau of industrial Automatics was set up in 1947 and is licensed for all types of activity in the aircraft industry. Today the Design Bureau of Industrial Automatics develops



and produces onboard systems for various aircraft.

The Mi-28NM is a modernized version of the Mi-28N 'Night Hunter' helicopter. The work on the helicopter's new modification started in 2009.

The Mi-28NM has received a principally new panoramic view locator, a new control system with artificial intelligence elements and other equipment and will be capable of using pre-

cision weapons. The helicopter is designated to strike the armor, carry out reconnaissance and provide target acquisition.

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexei Krivoruchko said at the Army-2019 arms show that the Defense Ministry had signed a contract with the Russian Helicopters rotorcraft manufacturer on the delivery of 98 Mi-28NM attack helicopters to the troops.

Egyptian museum enables visually impaired children to experience heritage through touch

CAIRO

AT the main hall of the Egyptian Museum near Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo, a group of blind children were touching the feet and legs of a massive granite statue of ancient Egyptian King Ramses II, while accompanied by their sightless tour guide.

They looked as if they were seeing the antiquities with their hands, using their imagination instead of their vision. They were assisted by Braille tags for each monument on their special path.

The tour was part of the activities of the museum's school for raising blind children's archeological awareness. "It's not an actual school with a building,

but it's an activity of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to raise visually impaired children's awareness of their heritage and monuments through their tour in the museum," said Adel Fouad, a visually impaired tour guide and a researcher at the ministry.

"Regular schools for blind kids tell them about Egypt's ancient history, but our symbolic school let them practically touch different archeological pieces and communicate with their own history," Fouad, the chief supervisor of the museum's school, told Xinhua.

Fouad and his fellow blind tour guides deal with all ages of blind visitors of the museum starting from the age of six. They follow psychological rules and consider

the different mentalities of visually impaired visitors while guiding them during the tours.

The Children's Museum of Lego inside the Egyptian Museum was part of the tour, where the unsighted children would touch copies of Pharaohs and the Sphinx made of thousands of little Lego pieces.

Adam, a little boy who came with a group from a foundation for visually impaired children, seemed very excited during the tour, especially that he and his peers touched the features of a Lego-made copy of the golden mask of King Tutankhamun.

"I was very happy to play with the Lego pieces and touch the statues and all these nice things. I also touched the feet of a statue

out there and they were too big. I would love to come here again," said the six-year-old child, who is in his first year of elementary school. The museum's blind visitors have a special itinerary, including 12 masterpieces of Egyptian antiquities with a Braille map to guide them. Among the 12 pieces are the Narmer Palette, a statue of King Ramses II, the sphinx of King Amenemhat III, a mummification table, coffins, and others.

"The path for the visually impaired was gifted to the Egyptian Museum in mid-2019 by an Italian museum that also provided Braille labels in Arabic, English and Italian for the pieces of the itinerary," said Ahmed Naguib, a tour guide for visually impaired people.

He explained that visually impaired visitors cannot see all the antiquities featured in the museum because most of them are placed inside showcases, but they can only touch those uncovered pieces made of granite or basalt. "As for the antiquities made of sandstone or limestone, they can only touch their copies," said the visually impaired tour guide, who is also deputy supervisor of the museum's school for blind visitors.

Another group of blind children gathered around a large coffin in the museum's main hall, while Naguib gave them basic information about how ancient Egyptians kept mummies inside coffins. Some also approached a basalt statue of an ancient king, imagining his face

via the tips of their fingers.

"We made an experiment during an exhibition inside the museum in 2016 called 'You Can See with Your Hands,' and the minister of antiquities himself closed his eyes and touched the special copies of antiquities made for the visually impaired," the tour guide told Xinhua.

The Egyptian Museum's school for raising archeological awareness of blind visitors cooperates with special schools and non-government organizations to arrange visits for the visually impaired to the museum.

The school also started a new initiative based on "mobility," through which the tour guides visit visually impaired children at

their schools with copies of the museum's famous antiquities as if it's "a mobile museum."

Amal Ezzat, head of Hope City Foundation for handicapped children, said she was happy with the tour arranged with the museum's school to teach her visually impaired students about their country's history and heritage. "We release our visually impaired kids from the prison of disability to explore life. We take them to museums and teach them what museums are and what they contain. They are not quick learners but with patience and persistence we integrate them into the society," the foundation's chief told Xinhua.

Xinhua



Yanga midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima (R), dribbles past Kagera Sugar defender Erick Kyaruzi when the two squads clashed in the Vodacom Premier League game held at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

New decade begins with Serena still chasing Court

MELBOURNE

AS the calendar flipped to 2020, Serena Williams was once again being feted, this time as sportswoman of the decade in the United States.

She was an obvious choice, having started 2010 with a blast by winning the Australian Open for a fifth time before going on to pile up 11 more grand slam singles titles before the decade was done.

Yet that decade did not end with a bang for the great Williams but, rather, a slow fade. She did not coast into the 2020s so much as trudge there through a barren patch of nearly three years.

With motherhood having given her fresh perspective and priorities in her late thirties, she had not won a singles title of any description since 2017, while her quest to match Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slams had stalled on 23.

So the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of a new decade, had looked ready to usher in a new era for women's tennis until the 38-year-old American turned back the clock with a win on Sunday by triumphing at the ASB Classic in New Zealand.

Normally, a victory by the greatest women's player of her generation, and perhaps all-time, at one of the WTA Tour's lesser stops against a middling field might not have been expected to generate too much excitement.

But this result even caught the attention of the U.S. president Donald Trump, who offered her congratulations on Twitter for "another big win".

"It's pretty satisfying just to get a win in the final," Williams told reporters following her 6-3 6-4 win over compatriot Jessica Pegula in the Auckland final. "That was really impor-

tant for me - and I just want to build on it.

"It's just a step towards the next goal."

That goal is a singular one that has grown into a quest - to match and surpass Court's record.

Australia has provided a happy hunting ground for Williams with seven of her 23 major titles coming at Melbourne Park, including her last in 2017 when she beat sister Venus in the final and later announced she was pregnant.

But Grand Slam success has proven elusive since the birth of daughter Alexis Olympia.

Four times - twice at Wimbledon (2018, 2019) and U.S. Open (2018, 2019) - Williams has come agonisingly close to that 24th Slam, only to fall at the final hurdle.

"I'm not necessarily chasing a record," said Williams, following her straight-set loss to Canadian Bianca Andreescu in last year's U.S. Open final. "I'm just trying to win Grand Slams."

Since having a child and returning to the WTA Tour Williams's focus has been split between raising a family and work.

Striking that balance between private life and career has been a challenge.

Williams has tried a limited schedule but her play lacked sharpness. She then played more but by the time she reached the end of a two-week Grand Slam grind had run out of gas and ideas.

In four Grand Slam finals since that 2017 Australian Open win, she has failed to take even a single set, exposing serious cracks in Williams's aura of invincibility.

Her presence is not as intimidating, her power not as threatening. She no longer relies on speed and athleticism to get to balls but on experience and guile. **REUTERS**



National junior tennis team's players and some of Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) officials pictured with the team's runners-up prize at the end of this year's ITF/CAT East and Central Africa Championship played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Magic now snap Lakers' 9-game winning streak in 119-118 thriller

LOS ANGELES

MARKELE Fultz faked LeBron James off his hip, weaved through traffic in the waning seconds and scored the final bucket of his phenomenal triple-double performance.

Fultz then dropped to the court with a cramp. The Orlando Magic rushed to their valuable teammate's aid, with Nikola Vucevic swiftly stretching out Fultz's foot to make sure he could finish.

"It was the biggest play of the game!" Vucevic said with a laugh.

Fultz had several bigger ones, and so did a half-dozen contributors to what was likely the Magic's best win of the season.

Fultz hit two big layups in the final minute while scoring 21 points during his second career triple-double, and Orlando snapped the Los Angeles Lakers'

nine-game winning streak with a 119-118 victory Wednesday night.

Fultz added 11 rebounds and 10 assists, while Aaron Gordon had 21 points and a late go-ahead basket as the Magic became the first sub-.500 team to beat the Western Conference-leading Lakers this season despite blowing a 21-point lead in the second half.

James had 19 points and matched his career high with 19 assists, but he also missed a tying 3-pointer with 3 seconds left. The Lakers showed off their impressive depth in the absence of Anthony Davis, but they couldn't overcome the Magic's superb contributions from up and down the roster.

"I think it just shows how deep this team goes, how much we believe in each other and what we're capable of," Fultz said. "We have guys out, but our mindset was the same going into the

game. We all believed we had a chance to win this game, and we relied on each other."

The Magic played without injured regulars Evan Fournier, Michael Carter-Williams and D.J. Augustin in their third stop on a six-game road trip, but they've rarely looked better.

Wes Iwundu scored a career-high 19 points while starting in Fournier's place, and Vucevic scored seven of his 19 points in the fourth quarter of the Magic's eighth win in 12 games.

Fultz said the final minutes were "what I've dreamed of," and the Magic were thrilled to see it come true for the up-and-down former No. 1 overall pick.

"Boy is nice, and he's only going to get better," Gordon said. "He did a great job just running the show, settling them down, getting good shots. And then down the stretch, he took over."

Quinn Cook hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to finish with a season-high 22 points, but the Lakers (33-8) hit the halfway point of their regular season with their first loss since Christmas.

Troy Daniels added a season-high 17 points, but the Lakers finally failed to overcome the absence of Davis, who missed his fourth straight game with a bruised backside.

"We've just got to be better," James said. "We didn't start the game out the right way, but I'm not disappointed in anybody or anything that we did. Our bench was the reason there was a game at the end, but they came in and produced everything we needed."

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope also scored 17 points for the Lakers in their final home game before a five-game road trip while the Grammy Awards take over Staples Center.

The Lakers erased an 87-66 deficit early in the fourth quarter with an impressive rally, but the Magic answered and traded big scores down the stretch. Gordon's basket with 2:03 left reclaimed the lead for Orlando.

Cook and James hit late 3-pointers that trimmed the Magic's lead to one point, but Fultz drove for a clutch layup with 15 seconds left to put Orlando up 118-115, and James' tying attempt didn't go down.

"We wanted to finish this homestand out the right way, but those guys made plays," Cook said. "Being the Lakers, we get everybody's best shot. Markelle made two tough, tough plays at the end."

Cook and Fultz both graduated from the famed DeMatha Catholic High School in Maryland. Cook referred to Fultz as his "little brother."

AP



Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard's feet are seen after he crashed into the seating area while chasing a loose ball during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

Whitney Houston, Notorious B.I.G. lead field into rock hall

NEW YORK

POSTHUMOUS inductees Whitney Houston and The Notorious B.I.G. will lead a new class into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, joined by Depeche Mode, the Doobie Brothers, Nine Inch Nails and T-Rex.

The gospel-trained Houston, whose soaring voice transformed the Dolly Parton cover "I Will Always Love You" into a gigantic hit, was one of four artists elected after being on the ballot for the first time. The Doobie Brothers, Biggie and T-Rex were the others.

The annual induction ceremony will take place May 2 at the Public Auditorium in Cleveland, the city where the rock museum is located. The Saturday night show will be on HBO, televised live for the first time.

Houston, who succumbed to years of drug abuse in 2012, was an instant success after being signed to a record contract at age

19 by record executive Clive Davis. Her 1985 debut had three No. 1 singles: "Saving All My Love for You," "How Will I Know" and "The Greatest Love of All." She had seven consecutive singles top the charts, a first for any artist.

The daughter of gospel singer Cissy Houston and cousin of Dionne Warwick, she grew up in the business.

"I feel wonderful," Davis cheered in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday after learning of Houston's inclusion. "I mean, obviously, mixed with sadness that she's not here with us to really hear this wonderful recognition of her talent. I know she would be so touched and gratified. It's a very special day. It really is wonderful news."

"It's just very touching," he added, "and emotionally satisfying that her legacy will include this unique and special recognition. She deserved it."

The imposing, Brooklyn-born

rap artist Christopher Wallace took on the identities of The Notorious B.I.G. and Biggie Smalls and was massively influential as rap became music's dominant style in the 1990s. With hits like "Juicy" and "Big Poppa," he was the leader of an East Coast school of rap that found itself in a bitter rivalry with artists from the West Coast.

He was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles at age 24 in 1997. On the album, "Life After Death," with hits like "Mo Money Mo Problems" and "Hypnotize," he became the first artist to earn multiple No. 1 singles after his death.

Depeche Mode remains active, but its biggest influence came in the 1980s, when its post-punk, synthesizer-dominated music made the Brits a favorite of the goth subculture. Hits included "Personal Jesus," "Just Can't Get Enough" and "Enjoy the Silence."

Depeche Mode shares with fellow inductees Nine Inch Nails the

honor of having one of their signature songs covered by country legend Johnny Cash, who recorded "Personal Jesus" and NIN's "Hurt" during his late-career resurgence.

With songs like "Closer," NIN was a leader of the industrial rock movement in the 1990s. Like Green Day, a memorable performance in the mud at Woodstock '94 brought them a wider audience. Leader Trent Reznor has become a go-to soundtrack producer in addition to his continued work with Nine Inch Nails.

The Doobie Brothers weren't critical favorites, but they had some indelible rock hits in the 1970s, including "Listen to the Music," "Black Water" and "China Grove." They're embarking on a 50th anniversary tour this summer, bringing members Michael McDonald, Pat Simmons, Tom Johnston and John McFee together for the first time in 25 years, and a rock hall induction makes for perfect publicity. **AP**



This combination photo shows Notorious B.I.G., who won rap artist and rap single of the year, during the annual Billboard Music Awards in New York on Dec. 6, 1995, left, and singer Whitney Houston at the BET Honors in Washington on Jan. 17, 2009. The pair will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 2020 class. (AP Photo)

AFCON 2021 switch could cause chaos for Liverpool

LONDON

LIVERPOOL face the prospect of going a month without Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane when the Africa Cup of Nations returns in 2021.

The 2021 edition of the continental tournament is moving back to a January-February slot in the congested global football calendar, a switch likely to be unpopular with Premier League clubs.

Other Premier League players affected could include Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Gabon), Naby Keita (Guinea), Wilfred Ndidi (Nigeria), Riyad Mahrez (Libya), and Ivory Coast duo Serge Aurier and Wilfried Zaha.

Cameroon's Football Association announced on Wednesday they will be hosting the competition in 2021, with proceedings beginning on Jan. 9 and wrapping up on Feb. 6 to avoid the country's rainy season.

The entirety of the tournament takes place during the Premier League season and will likely be

unpopular with other European clubs, who have long objected to the mandatory release of their players in the middle of the domestic league seasons.

Liverpool would stand to lose star forwards Mane of Senegal and Salah of Egypt, the past two African players of the year.

Hosts Egypt exited in the round of 16 in last year's tournament, while Senegal finished runners-up to Algeria, but Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was spared the sort of selection headache that he could face next year, because the 2019 showcase took place during the summer break.

The influential European Club Association has been part of talks with FIFA to move toward coordinating all continental championships in the European off-season.

FIFA's revamped Club World Cup competition also kicks off in June 2021, with a 24-team lineup including Liverpool set to play in China. (Agencies)

Licence-less Klinsmann left red-faced before Bayern clash

BERLIN

WITH the Bundesliga resuming this weekend, ex-Germany and USA head coach Jurgen Klinsmann has been left red-faced after it emerged the Hertha Berlin boss is unable to prove he holds an up-to-date coaching licence.

The 55-year-old took charge in late November at Hertha, who host defending champions Bayern Munich on Sunday when the Bundesliga restarts after a four-week winter break.

Under Klinsmann, Hertha took 10 points from 12 in their last four league games of 2019 to climb to mid-table before hosting mighty Bayern, who sit third in the league, four points behind leaders Leipzig.

However, the former star striker has fallen foul of the German Football League (DFL) because he can not prove he holds a valid coaching licence, which he claims is at the family home in California.

Both Klinsmann and Hertha could be fined if his licence, which he gained in 2000 on a German Football Association (DFB) coaching course, is not up to date.

AFP

Aubameyang to serve three-match suspension after appeal is dismissed

LONDON

ARSENAL will be without Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang for three matches after Mikel Arteta confirmed their appeal to have the striker's red card overturned was unsuccessful.

Aubameyang was sent off midway through the second half of Arsenal's 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace on Saturday after lunging in on Max Meyer.

The Arsenal captain was initially booked for his challenge, but VAR directed referee Paul Tierney to change his decision to a straight red.

Arsenal appealed the red card and were hopeful that the ban would be reduced but - in his news conference to preview Saturday's clash with Sheffield United - Gunners boss Arteta revealed Aubameyang will have to serve his suspension.

"That has been confirmed that he will be suspended for three games, so we are not going to have him for three fixtures," Arteta told reporters.

"It is a big shame, it is a big loss for us because as well, we know it was not his intention. But he mistimed the tackle, made the decision and we have to accept it.

"He was very sad after the game, disappointed he left the team with 10 men. It was an action which was completely accidental in my opinion.

"For me he has been superb, working so hard, scoring goals and probably has been the most important player of the team so to lose him is really bad news for us."

Aubameyang expressed his remorse for the tackle after the game, wishing Meyer well in a post on Instagram.

"Hopefully Max Meyer gets well soon," the striker said. "I really didn't want to challenge him so hard and I appreciate that the boys fought hard to take that win, but unfortunately we come back with a draw. We keep going."

Aubameyang, who will miss Saturday's match with the Blades, a derby clash with Chelsea and an FA Cup tie against Bournemouth, scored the opener at Selhurst Park before Jordan Ayew drew Palace level.

The former Borussia Dortmund striker - who shared the Premier League Golden Boot along with Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah last season - has scored 14 times in the top flight so far this term.

(Agencies)

Why RB Leipzig is the most hated team in the Bundesliga

LEIPZIG, GERMANY

RB Leipzig was almost done dispensing with TSG Hoffenheim one chilly evening in December when a few of its better-dressed supporters retreated to the VIP lounge atop Red Bull Arena. Drinks in hand, they gathered around a video monitor to watch the waning moments of a different game.

Everyone knew what was at stake. If Bayern Munich could hold off Borussia Monchengladbach, upstart Leipzig would move atop the Bundesliga. With more than half the season remaining, it wouldn't mean too much - and yet, it would mean everything. Built from the ground up by Red Bull, the Austrian beverage company, Leipzig has become the most reviled club in Germany. If it isn't your favorite club, Leipzig is probably your least favorite. And if you are a Leipzig fan, the rest of the Bundesliga would tell you that you're one of a select few.

RB Leipzig is Europe's equivalent of an American expansion team. Before 2009, it simply didn't exist. Then Red Bull - already the owner of soccer clubs in Salzburg and New York as well as Formula 1 racing teams and other sports entities - took control of SSV Markranstadt, which had been puttering along in the German fifth division. It changed the team's name and Red Bull'd its colors and logo. It bought a 10-year lease on the city's 43,000-seat stadium, broke ground on a palatial training facility and began its journey to the top of German football.

In just eight seasons, RB Leipzig reached the Bundesliga. By the 10th, 2018-19, it was competing in the Champions League. Fielding Germany's youngest squad, it deploys a high-octane style; this season, no team in the league has scored as many goals. As the Bundesliga resumes this week after its holiday break, Leipzig is well positioned to depose mighty Bayern, which has won seven titles in succession but currently sits four points behind Leipzig in the table. That's big news for a competition that has crowned just two different champions - Bayern and Borussia Dortmund - in the past decade and only four this century.

You would assume the emergence of a new contender would be celebrated. It isn't.

"We would prefer our worst enemies," says Philipp Reschke, Eintracht Frankfurt's chief operating officer. "We would always not vote for the plastic. We would vote for a traditional club like Bayern. We would vote for the heart."

To understand that, it is necessary to realize that German football has barely changed since the 1960s. Sure, the stadiums are bigger and the shirts have advertising, but the game is still perceived as a sacred trust between a club and its fans. "Football is a glue in our society," says Carsten Cramer, Borussia Dortmund's chief executive. "It has a social responsibility."

To ensure that soulless corporations or free-spending oligarchs don't buy up clubs, as they're allowed - indeed, welcome - to do in most other nations, the Deutscher Fußball-Bund (DFB) bylaws require that individual members own a majority of voting shares, a "50-plus-one" rule unique to Germany. Exceptions, such as Volkswagen's ownership of Wolfsburg and pharmaceutical giant Bayer's of Bayer 04 Leverkusen, are allowed only when a company or individual has bankrolled a club for at least two decades. That obviously isn't the case with Red Bull and RB Leipzig, but in a shrewd move, and an entirely legal one, the company managed to meet the "50-plus-one" requirement by issuing a small number of shares, buying 49% of them itself, then pricing the rest prohibitively and choosing who could invest.

There also is a restriction against clubs adopting commercial logos, but a few tweaks to the taurine combatants on the drink cans proved enough to circumvent it. As for the rule forbidding teams to name themselves after corporations, Red Bull had an answer for that, too. It turns out that the RB in RB Leipzig doesn't actually stand for Red Bull. Officially, at least, it is the near-nonsense word RasenBallSport, which literally means "sports played with a ball on a lawn." Almost everyone calls them



Leipzig's fan base has grown exponentially over the decade of its existence, but around the league, there's no love for the club. Not even close. (Agencies)

Red Bull anyway. Such sleight of hand, coupled with the club's vertiginous rise, has led the rest of German football to treat Leipzig's success as an existential crisis.

"Is the purpose of football to serve the people who love football or to serve something else?" asks Axel Hellmann, who serves on Eintracht Frankfurt's board. When Leipzig plays in Frankfurt, Eintracht refuses to show its logo on the video board or anywhere else in its arena. "I'm not here to make an advertisement for Red Bull," Hellmann says.

It isn't just Eintracht and Dortmund, two of Germany's most traditional clubs. The first time Leipzig traveled to Union Berlin, the page in the game program usually devoted to the history of the visiting club was replaced with a primer on bull breeding instead. Fortuna Dusseldorf has updated its bylaws to forbid the club from scheduling friendlies with Leipzig or offering recognition in any way "beyond what is required by the rules of the sport."

Fan groups around the Bundesliga routinely boycott trips to Red Bull Arena, and nearly all of them display banners with biting slogans. "Sometimes I feel that there's a competition between the fans of other clubs to do the strongest action against Red Bull," says Frank Aehlig, a former Bundesliga manager and executive at RB Leipzig, who now works at FC Koln. (The president of another rival, FC Augsburg, even formed his own group of investors in an attempt to wrest control of Leipzig, but failed.)

"We call Leipzig's supporters 'customers,' because that's what they are," says Sue Rudolph. A fan activist for Fortuna Dusseldorf, a team struggling to avoid relegation, Rudolph resents Leipzig's presence in the Bundesliga table, let alone at the top of it. "It just feels so unfair," she says. "What they've done is not a fairy tale. It's just money."

But then Leipzig scores a fairy-tale goal like the first one against Hoffenheim, a counterattack that seems to take only as fast as the head can swivel. It ends with Patrik Schick sliding the ball to Timo Werner at precisely the moment that the retreating full-back is forced to commit, with Werner punching the ball home with a thunderclap. "High-pressure soccer" is how the American midfielder Tyler Adams, who was transferred from MLS' New York Red Bulls to Leipzig in January 2019, describes it. "After winning the ball back," he says, "we want only a certain number of seconds to get to the goal and create as many chances as possible. That's how we play."

Adams, 20, is part of the second

generation of emerging RB Leipzig standouts. It has come directly on the heels of the first generation, which includes Werner, who is just 3 years older. "We're all just a bunch of young guys running around on the pitch," Adams says. "We want to play a brand of soccer with the same kind of energy that Red Bull is known for."

Whether he was referring to the company's approach to football across its various teams or to the caffeinated drink was unclear.

Apart from fragmented Berlin, Leipzig was the largest city in the former East Germany and a significant center of sports. Much of the research into high-performance training (including, but not limited to, illegal doping in the Olympics) was performed at Leipzig's Deutsche Hochschule für Körperkultur.

Once upon a time, Leipzig was a football town, too. In the 1950s, crowds of more than 100,000 gathered for games in the old Zentralstadion, the shell of which now surrounds Red Bull Arena. As late as 1988, the year before the Berlin Wall came down, a Lokomotive Leipzig UEFA Cup game against Napoli and Diego Maradona drew 90,000 fans. After unification, football throughout the former East fell into disrepair. Occasionally teams would emerge in the Bundesliga for a season or two, but none was competitive. Before RB Leipzig took over first place for the 11th week of the 2016-17 season, its first in the Bundesliga, the last eastern team atop the leaderboard had been Hansa Rostock, early in the 1991-92 season. Until Leipzig, none of them had qualified for the Champions League, and none has won the Bundesliga.

By the time Red Bull turned its attention to Leipzig in 2009, football in the former East had deteriorated to a few struggling clubs in the nether reaches of the German professional structure. Each drew, at the most, a couple of thousand fans per game. Where had all those other fans gone?

"You could see that in the eastern part of Germany there was space for a professional soccer team," says Oliver Mintzlaff, Red Bull's head of global soccer. Still, success came more slowly than the company had anticipated. Barred from using the Red Bull logo, the club played its first season without any logo at all. Attendance was low. After a quick promotion, it languished three seasons in the fourth division before moving to the third.

By then, Ralf Rangnick had been hired as manager. Previously, Rangnick had engineered two successful Bundesliga promotions, at Hannover 96 and Hoffenheim. Backed by the

Red Bull empire, he enjoyed an almost limitless budget. But rather than spend it on established players, he concentrated on gathering young talent, much of it poached from academies at smaller clubs around eastern Germany. Red Bull's war chest also meant that its scouts could operate further afield than those at similarly sized clubs.

Yussuf Poulsen was playing in the Danish second division at 17 when Rangnick arrived in Portugal for a U-19 tournament. "There was a big plan already - how it was all going to develop," Poulsen recalls. "He told me they would go up to the third league the next season, and I would come into the team and be a big part of it. Then they would go up to the second league the following year. 'We can have one year to get to know the level in the second league,' he said. 'And then we will go to the Bundesliga.'"

The assumption that such an ascent could be scripted was startling. But the more Poulsen listened, the more it made sense. "Look at his résumé," he says of Rangnick. "He hasn't just done it once. This is the third time. He knows how to do it." When Poulsen visited Leipzig's training ground, the plan came into sharp focus. "It looked nothing like any other team in the third division had," he says. "They were Bundesliga-ready."

The young players Rangnick signed, like Poulsen and Werner and midfielders Marcel Sabitzer and Diego Demme, were primed to learn his system. They were also far less expensive than established stars. "If you look at our squad, many are players who came in when we were still in the second or even the third league," Poulsen says. "They came really, really cheap. We have five or six players who combined cost under €10 million."

Now Leipzig is playing in the Champions League round of 16, preparing to face Tottenham Hotspur in February. Yet to this day, it hasn't spent more on a player than the €20 million it gave to Bayer Leverkusen for Kevin Kampl in 2017. "We didn't do what people expected," Mintzlaff says. "Oh, Red Bull is coming, taking over the Bundesliga, they're going to spend crazy money, they're going to buy the best-best-best." No. We never, ever bought a star. We bought young players. At the time, every other Bundesliga team could have bought these players. Many of the 2. Bundesliga could have bought them. We did a good job of scouting, with a clear philosophy. And we still stick to that philosophy."

To be continued

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

AFCON 2021 switch could cause chaos for Liverpool

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Children with intellectual disabilities feature in fitness training in Dar es Salaam recently.

EATV FRIDAY
TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
 12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
 13:30 Kall Za Wana
 14:00 Bongo Hits
 15:00 Funguka
 15:30 Wakilisha (r)
 16:00 Ujenzi (r)
 16:30 #HASHTAG
 17:00 S5ELEKT
 17:55 Kurasa
 18:00 eNewz
 18:30 Skonga
 19:30 EATV SAA I
 19:45 MJADALA
 20:00 DADAZ (r)
 21:00 Friday Night Live
 23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
 10:00 MAMAMIA
 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
 13:00 Planet Bongo
 16:00 EA Drive
 20:00 Kipenga
 21:00 Friday Night Live

Shoaib Malik, Hafeez back for Bangladesh T20s

LAHORE

The experienced pair of Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez will return to the Pakistan side for the T20I series against Bangladesh next week. Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz have been left out, with pace bowler Muhammad Musa keeping his place in the shortest format, while batsman Ahsan Ali and fast bowler Amad Butt were called up.

For the second T20I squad in succession, head coach Misbah-ul-Haq rung in the changes as Pakistan look to break a streak of seven T20Is without a win. Pacer Shaheen Afridi returns to the side for the first time since May, having sat out the T20s against Sri Lanka and Australia as he recovered from about of dengue fever, while Usman Qadir keeps his place and may finally be in line for his debut. Haris Rauf has also been called up after his impressive season in the Big Bash League with the Melbourne Stars.

Squad: Babar Azam (capt), Ahsan Ali, Amad Butt, If-tikhar Ahmed Haris Rauf, Imad Wasim, Khushdil Shah Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Musa, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Usman Qadir

"He[Hafeez] is experienced enough and has performed well in past," said Misbah when asked about the merits of his selection. "At the time when him and Malik were ruled out, we never said that they will never be considered again. Obviously, we were trying out our pool, but we found they were missed. So even if Hafeez hasn't played much cricket lately, he is experienced and mature enough to contribute for Pakistan."

Hafeez was suspended from bowling in ECB competitions just last week after umpires reported him following a match at Taunton in August, and independent testing revealed he was breaching the 15-degree limit. Hafeez pledged to contest the findings, but as things presently stand, Pakistan will not have his services as a bowler available to them.

In the last 12 months, Pakistan have lost 8 out of 9 completed T20s they have played, and a side that was until recently ranked comfortably at the top of the T20I rankings has begun to fall apart. They still hold the number one ranking, but that is more by dint of their remarkable record in the time before this recent string of poor results. Misbah said they needed to continue to experiment until they found a combination that worked for Pakistan.

"We have lost two series earlier and it was important for us to think hard about how we can return to winning ways," said Misbah. "Most of our decisions were taken considering the fact that we have been losing and have to start winning again. So we've got our experienced players back and picked our domestic performers. We wanted to persist with Khushdil Shah and Usman Qadir and picked Harris Rauf on his performance in the national T20 Cup and the Big Bash."

"We have tried a mix of senior and young players which enable us to retain our winning momentum. Until the World T20, everyone is in consideration. Yes, the situation has been alarming after we lost against Sri Lanka and then in Australia. But we are going to keep experimenting until we don't get to our best combination. The results I know weren't up to our expectations but we don't need to be frightened." **AGENCIES**

Dewji to set up soccer academy

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

IN an effort to unearth phenomenal football talents in Tanzania, Simba SC's investor and ardent football lover Mohamed Dewji has disclosed plans to set up an academy.

In a post from Simba SC, Dewji who is popularly known as MO said they will start with 100 players who will be divided to 25 each in age categories of U-18, U-14, U-12 and U-10.

Dewji, who was accompanied by Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Andres Sjoberg, said the aim is to produce good players who can play for Simba, overseas clubs and the national team.

"The whole essence of setting up the academy is to give an opportunity to the exciting talent we have in the country for it to grow to its fullest

potential because we have the talent but it doesn't blossom because they either lose interest or they are never taken in the right direction, the vision is to have Simba players in the future who have come from our structures," he said.

He said the academy will be full with all the needs for football and educational development.

"The youngsters will be provided with all the necessities for them to realize their dream of becoming professional players for local, overseas clubs and the national team" he said.

The post did not issue more details on the project and efforts to talk to Simba's information officer, Haji Manara, proved futile as his phone went unanswered.

However, Dewji previously said having an academy, which will nurture talents, is the only way for Simba and the country to develop

and have good players.

A few days ago when Simba lost to Mtibwa Sugar in the final of the 2020 Mapinduzi Cup, Dewji announced his resignation as chairman of the club's board of directors.

The popular businessman said he will continue serving as Simba's investor and supporter and he will also put much efforts in youth football development and infrastructure for the club.

Mid last year Dewji also posted a picture of him with an official of Benfica FC of Portugal and captioned it that "Benfica are one of the biggest clubs in Portugal and they have a very good youth football structure," he said.

Should the project come to fruition, it will be a giant step in developing players through proper channels as the academy will be one of well organized and systematic football education programs domestically.



Mohamed Dewji

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Special Olympics athletes head for Pan African Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Special Olympics athletes are expected to leave for Egypt on Wednesday next week where they will compete at the first Pan African Games set for January 23-31 in Cairo, Egypt.

The team's coach, Charles Rays, who also doubles as Tanzania Special Olympics administrator, said the country is expected to send five athletes and three officials to the event.

He noted the national Special Olympics governing body has, so far, managed to secure two air tickets for athletes and one for the leader of delegation.

Rays asked the corporate world, organizations and individuals to help the committee so that it can realize its dream of sending many athletes to the event.

He thanked Azam FC official, Abdulkarim Nurdin, who is popularly known as 'Popat', for his willingness to travel with the Special Olympics team as leader of delegation on his expenses and some committee members who have donated the tickets to the two athletes.

Rays, who is part the contingent heading for the competition, mentioned the players and officials who are earmarked for the event as Khalfan Jihadi, Elizabeth Kisaka, Nerverson Minja, Salma Idrissa and Idaya Vyai while Saada Hamad is the team matron.

He disclosed that the committee will today receive air tickets for Elizabeth Kisaka and Nerverson Minja.

"The initial plan was to send 26 athletes from athletics and football disciplines to the event, but due to financial problems we will only send five athletes and as I'm speaking to you we have secured three air tickets, two for athletes and one official and currently we are asking well-wishers to help us so that we can send the team to the event," Rays disclosed.

"Abdulkarim 'Popat' will travel with the team as leader of delegation, he has paid for his accommodation and air ticket," he said.

The first-ever Special Olympics Pan African Games will be held in Egypt under the auspices of the Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Chairperson of the African Union.

More than 1,000 volunteers and 100,000 spectators will join together in selected venues in Cairo to celebrate the accomplishments of over 1,000 athletes from 47 Special Olympics Countries around the African Continent.

The Games encompass a series of sports and non-sports events. Participating sportsmen and women will compete in football, basketball and bocce, alongside a range of activities like medical camps.

Tanzania Special Olympics Committee, through work in sports, health, education and community building, is addressing inactivity, injustice, intolerance and social isolation facing children and adults with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities.

The body is fulfilling its activities by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, leading to a more welcoming and inclusive society.