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JPM: Govt won't cap maize price

Those of you who want low prices for maize, rice, water melon and other crops, it's currently raining and you know what to do - start farming

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday said that his government will not control the price of maize and other farm produce no matter how high they shoot up.

Speaking at Dumila township in Morogoro Region where he stopped while on his way to Dodoma, the Head of State instead challenged Tanzanians who complain about high prices to stop the talk and venture into farming.

He said that as farmer's son he understands how laborious it is to farm and finally harvest, noting that any interference with pricing will be unfair to farmers.

"If prices of maize are too high for you, go farm yours," he said. The president vowed that it does not make sense that the farmer hustles with tilling the land, taking care of the crops, spending money on inputs and harvesting only for the selling price to be capped.

This stance comes after the Deputy Permanent

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ENDORSEMENT: Former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi in jovial mood as he 'blesses' resolutions by children for the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. This was at an event jointly organised by the government and Unicef in Dar es Salaam yesterday. World Children's Day (November 20) is the UN agency's global day of action for children, by children. This year is extra special as it marks 30 years of child rights that have helped transform children's lives around the world. Children are taking a stand around the world to say: it is time for every child to have every right. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Mwinyi graces UNICEF Children's Day gala

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER President Ali Hassan Mwinyi yesterday endorsed a call by children and young people in the country for more to be done to improve education, health, child protection and participation.

The retired Head of State threw his weight behind the junior citizens as Tanzania joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC@30) and World Children's Day

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EAC celebrates 20 years as it shifts summit to next January

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE summit meeting of six presidents of the East African Community (EAC) member states, which was supposed to take place in Arusha this November 30 in line with the 20th Anniversary of the EAC, has been pushed forward to early next year.

Postponement of the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Heads of State was announced by EAC

TURN TO PAGE 2

Alarm as thorny weed, invasive pests destroy 300 hectares of crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Hanang

INVASIVE weeds known as 'Mauritius thorns' have overrun some 327 hectares of land in Endasiwold Ward in Hanang District, Manyara Region, and have adversely affected the growth of various crops.

Apart from the weed, a pest afflicting tomatoes scientifically known as 'Tuta Absoluta' but popularly known here as "Kantangaze" has invaded more than 20 acres of irrigated farmland at Garbapi in the ward.

Councilor for Endasiwold Ward, John Farayo made this observation yesterday at Hanang Water Office (RUWASA) explaining to this newspaper on weeds that attack crops in the area.

Farayo said the weeds have invaded and inflicted havoc to farmers who have cultivated pigeon peas, chick peas and maize by sucking the nutrients in the stem, resulting in low yields as well incurring more costs to farmers as they have to uproot the weeds given their thorny nature.

He said they will refer the blight to the district council to seek expert assistance to



exterminate the weed, noting that if an effective solution will not be found the area will be condemned to low crop yields and hardships.

On the weed affecting the tomato crop, Farayo said it has affected many farmers as all kinds of pesticides seem to have failed.

The pest waits until the tomatoes start to ripen before they attack and they rot in no time, asking for an expert solution.

Recently one researcher, Dr Never Zekaya from the Nelson Mandela Science and Technology Institute (NM-AIST) created a pesticide which he called Vuruga that

works against pests affecting vegetables such as tomatoes as well as cereals.

Another expert from the Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute (TPRI), Maneno Chindege said armyworms were still on rampage in many areas in the country especially on maize farms.

He said research made at the beginning of the year in collaboration with a team from the Ministry of Agriculture as well as research institutions like TARU, SUA and TPRI under the sponsorship of UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) showed that if farmers in sub-Saharan countries and SADC countries specifically do not receive proper expertise they stand to lose between 29 and 52 percent of their crops.

He said it was found out that farmers spray their crops more than five times in the fight against the armyworm which is a burden to their incomes. Many farmers also use pesticide without following proper instructions on their use, he stated.

Farmers in the country need to use a pesticide known as Mguso and if they persist they should turn to a pesticide called Mfumo, he added.

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Mwinyi graces UNICEF Children's Day gala

FROM PAGE 1

(WCD) at a national summit led by children held in Dar es Salaam.

A statement released yesterday by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which co-organized the event said that the retired president, who graced the event commended young people for speaking up on their rights.

He also commended them for outlining their own responsibilities in ensuring society finds solutions to the issues that need to be addressed and remain committed to support the agenda.

"I am very encouraged to hear that these children and young people do not just list challenges facing them, but they know that their rights come with responsibility and they recognize their role in fulfilling the Agenda."

UNICEF said the former president endorsed the agenda and urged all stakeholders to endorse it as well, and ensure children enjoy their rights.

He reminded parents and caregivers to step up their parenting role to be more supportive and protect their children against all forms of violence and abuse, noting that caring and protecting children is everyone's responsibility.

At the summit, the Children and Young People's Agenda which is a compilation of Tanzania's children and young people's views on their rights was officially launched and handed to key stakeholders for their action.

Over 600 children were involved in the consultations and nearly 50,000 children participated in the process through SMS-based U-Report. Fema magazine was also used to sensitize children and young people on child rights and responsibilities, the statement indicated.

"We commend the government for ensuring we now have enough schools and classrooms almost all over the country, but we would like our government to review the education curriculum from primary schools to higher learning

to ensure it is more skill-based and help us to learn necessary skills that are needed in the 21st Century. Our curriculum is too theoretical which is a challenge for us," said Susan Elias (23), youth champion who was among the young people who went around the country collecting views from their peers on their rights.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile who represented the government in that event assured the young people that their agenda is endorsed by the government and all their recommendations are going to be worked on. "We have listened to you and we promise to work on your recommendations. The government is committed to continue to address all challenges facing children in the country, including the issue of violence against children which is indeed a problem in our country," he affirmed.

UNICEF acting Representative Rene Van Dongen commended Tanzania for the great progress that has been made in advancing children's rights since the country ratified the convention in 1991. He urged all stakeholders to reflect on what young people are saying and reaffirm their commitment to advance children's rights in the country.

"The children and young people have spoken. They are speaking to us every single day. Are we listening? Are we opening our minds, hearts and offices to what they have to say? Are we ready to give them a seat at the table, walk the talk and share our decision-making power with them?"

As part of the commemoration, six iconic buildings joined the global Go Blue campaign as a symbol to support children's rights. The buildings that went blue on 19th November at night, the eve of WCD are the EU - Umoja House, Canadian High Commission, National Microfinance Bank HQ (NMB), National Housing Corporation HQ (NHC), UN Compound and the UNICEF office, the statement added.



Energy ministry deputy commissioner Innocent Luoga (gesturing) briefs African Development Bank managing director Amos Cheptoo (L), who toured a cooling centre at Zuzu in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ben Mwaipaja

JPM: Govt won't cap maize price

FROM PAGE 1

Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Prof Siza Tumbo, on Wednesday challenged researchers to find out why the price of maize has been skyrocketing at a time when Tanzania has enough food reserves.

The deputy PS raised concern that urban dwellers were already complaining because the 100-kilo sack now sells at 107,000/- which is a substantial increase from 65,000/- last

year, further noting that if nothing is done, the price might reach unaffordable levels come February next year - as prices of maize normally go up during February.

But the president said yesterday that the government will keep a wide berth when it comes to matters price of farm produce - which should only be determined by forces of demand and supply.

"I want to be very clear on this: days of capping prices of farmers' produce are

long gone. That will not happen during my presidency," he asserted.

He said while the news of price hikes is bad for consumers, it is actually very good news for farmers whose joy should not be ended in order to satisfy complaining consumers.

"Those of you who want low prices for maize, rice, water melon and others, it's currently raining and you know what to do - start farming," he said, pointing a finger at "those who are employed in office jobs."

As for the farmers, the Head of State encouraged them to keep on farming even more and make more money while prices are still high.

In another development, the president ordered that 11 buildings belonging to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) at Dumila be converted into a health centre.

He promised that medicines, equipment and staff would follow.



Musa Sima (2nd-L), Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), speaks shortly after arriving at Somanga in Kilwa District yesterday for an inspection tour of strategic projects in Lindi and Mtwara regions and how they support environmental protection and management efforts. With him are National Environment Management Council (NEMC) board chairman Prof Esnati Chaggu (R), Kilwa district commissioner Christopher Ngugiagai (2nd-R) and NEMC director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC celebrates 20 years as it shifts summit to January

FROM PAGE 1

Secretary General Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko here yesterday, citing a request from one of the members of the summit.

He expressly specified that the postponement had nothing to do with a dispute or disagreement among the EAC Partner States.

A new date for the 21st Summit meeting would be communicated later after consultations among the EAC Heads of State, he said.

However, the 39th Meeting of the Council of Ministers slated for 21st to 27th November would proceed as planned, he further noted.

Ambassador Mfumukeko was addressing a media briefing at EAC Headquarters where he among other things

launched a Blood Donation Drive and unveiled the EAC 20th Anniversary Logo as part of activities to commemorate the Community's two decades of existence.

The blood donation drive, which drew participation from members of the EAC Secretariat and from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), was organized in collaboration with Mount Meru Hospital as part of the Community's initiative to give back to the society by helping to save lives.

The overall objective of the EAC 20th Anniversary celebrations was to commemorate the achievements of the Community over the past 20 years.

"The celebrations are a joint undertaking by all EAC organs, institutions and partner states' ministries respon-

sible for EAC affairs. The theme of the 20th Anniversary is EAC at 20: Deepening Integration, Widening Cooperation," he declared.

Pointing out that the Community had expanded in the past 20 years, growing from the original three Partner States in 1999 to six in the past few years, he said that the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo had filed applications to join the bloc.

He said the desire by other countries to join the six-member bloc was due to achievements made by the Community over the years that have made it more attractive for investments and in the process raised living standards of the people of East Africa.

On the customs union, the Secretary

General said that intra-EAC trade had increased from US\$2.7 billion in 2016 to US\$2.9 billion in 2017 and to US\$3.3 billion in 2018.

"The increase in intra-regional trade can be attributed to the resolution of multiple non-tariff barriers to trade by the partner states and the establishment and operationalization of 13 one-stop border posts to facilitate cross-border movement of persons and goods," he said.

"The implementation of the EAC Single Customs Territory has, for instance, resulted in drastic reduction in the period taken to clear goods from over 20 days to three days on the Central Corridor and from 21 days to four days on the Northern Corridor," he elaborated.

Under the Common Market, the

abolition of visa fees for EAC nationals traveling within the region, the issuance of internationally recognised East African e-Passports by all the partner states except the Republic of South Sudan and ongoing harmonization of mobile calling and data charges within the region are some of the achievements of the Community, he pointed out.

"Various professional associations in the region have also signed mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) to ease cross border movement of professionals within the region," the EAC chief-tain noted.

Infrastructure development remains a priority for the EAC Heads of State as evidenced by their biennial retreats on infrastructure development and financing, he said.

The Community had negotiated a total of US\$2.5 billion from the African Development Bank for development projects to be implemented by the partner states, where US\$1.6 billion is earmarked for various regional infrastructure development projects like road and railway transport connectivity, energy infrastructure and ICT connectivity.

"A total of US\$271 million was set aside for the construction of the multinational 301 km Nyakanazi-Kasulu-Manyovu road in Tanzania and the 78 km Rumonge-Rutunga-Bujumbura road in Burundi," he said.

"For Tanzania and Kenya, the Malindi-Mombasa-Lunga Lungu-Tanga-Bagamoyo road will be constructed at the cost of US\$585 million," he added.



Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania managing director and CEO Sanjay Rughani (L, standing) addresses the bank's stakeholders and members of staff at an International Men's Day (November 19) event held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB satisfied with execution of power project in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has expressed satisfaction with implementation progress of the Zuzu substation in the country's capital, Dodoma, which is also supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Speaking during a tour to inspect the project implementation, AfDB Group Chief Executive Officer, Cheptoo Amos commended the contractor's efforts to ensure construction of the power station completes in February 2020.

He added: "Completion of the Zuzu substation will not only benefit Tanzanians but also neighbouring countries. The project will be more productive after completion of Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project along

Rufiji River which is to produce 2000MW".

The AfDB boss noted that since electricity is among major components for economic growth, completion of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project will ensure reliable power services in Eastern and Southern Africa.

"These are better steps by the government, improvement of infrastructures in Dodoma is crucial because it is the country's capital," he asserted.

Project Coordinator, Eng Peter Kigandye said the Zuzu substation will have the capacity to transmit and distribute 400 kilovolts of electricity within Dodoma city.

The cost for Zuzu substation and another power project in Singida is US \$ 53 shared by the government, AfDB and JICA. Of the amount, US \$ 22 will be used to implement the Zuzu substation

project.

Assistant Commissioner for Energy, Eng Innocent Luoga, commended the bank for financing improvement of power infrastructures insisting once completed the projects will also benefit citizens of Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.

Eng Luoga called upon investors to establish projects in Dodoma since it will have reliable power service together with improved business environment. He requested the bank to further support power distribution projects to reach residents in peripherals.

Construction of the Zuzu substation in Dodoma, which is the core of the Iringa-Shinyanga backbone transmission line, connects 121 villages to electricity and significantly improves and stabilises access to electricity in Tanzania.

Deputy minister Sima wants Songas explosion report ready in seven days

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

THE Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Musa Sima has issued a one-week ultimatum to the management of Songas Station located in Songoma area to explain the cause of an explosion occurred early this month.

Speaking during the tour of southern zone to inspect strategic projects in the regions of Lindi and Mtwara, Sima said gas exploration is catastrophic to natural vegetation and human

health.

"I am giving a one-week ultimatum to the management of this project to tell us the source of the explosion and measures that have been taken to manage its effects, we will come back here to educate people on safety measures in collaboration with officers from other government agencies.

Sima who was accompanied by officials from National Environment Management Council (NEMC) noted that his office found it necessary to visit the area with the quest of knowing the source as well as the

involvement and participation of natives though educative programmes especially on the safety measures.

"This pipeline passes through 64 villages, thus it is important to ensure that people have good understanding on the safety measures," he said.

The minister noted that people needs to understand the importance of environment protection which is important in reducing environmental impacts caused by increase in human activities.

NEMC board chairperson, Prof Esnati Chaggu said that if

measures are not taken the impact would be huge to the environment and the people in general, adding: "There is a need for everyone to feel obliged to play a role in preserving the surrounding environment."

He cautioned management of the exploded station to make sure that the repair is done well to shun such accidents in future.

"It is our collective responsibility to make sure that the environment is protected to shun the impacts of environment degradation such as diseases and drought among others," he said.

Two immigrants die in road crash, nine injured

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TWO people believed to be illegal immigrants from Ethiopia have died while nine others were injured when the vehicle they were travelling in en route to Malawi overturned at 'Number One' in Rungwe District in Mbeya Region.

Speaking to reporters at Rungwe District Hospital at Makandana the Mbeya Regional Police Commander ACP Ulrich Matei said the incident occurred on Tuesday around 7.30 in the morning.

He said they were travelling in a truck with Reg. No CA 6439 and trailer Reg. No. BK 4744 owned by Almeida Company of Malawi, and whose destination was Lilongwe.

Matei said the illegal immigrants were hiding on the timber fixed underneath the truck and that they entered Tanzania from Nairobi, Kenya.

He said after the truck overturned, the traffic police from Rungwe district immediately arrived at the scene of the accident finding two among them dead.

He said the truck was carrying soap detergent as transit cargo and added that since such vehicles are not to be stopped by the traffic police for any reason, then the immigrants used the loophole to sneak themselves in.

He said those injured were continuing with treatment at the hospital and the police were still investigating the whole issue.

He also called on drivers of these vehicles to be faithful and abide by the laws governing transportation of transit cargo to avoid committing offences.

Illegal immigrants from Ethiopia have been using Tanzania as a transit route to enter southern African countries to seek for green pastures.

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Govt to establish authority to oversee coastal tourism

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is working on plans to establish an authority to oversee coastal tourism in effort to earn more foreign currency through tourism sector, it has been disclosed.

Briefing journalists after a stakeholders meeting held here yesterday, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Adolf Mkenda said the meeting aimed to discuss the best way to constitute the authority to develop beaches in the country.

He said after going through beach tourism stakeholders contributions, they realised the need to come up with one authority that would oversee development of beaches to attract more tourists.

"As we open up new tourism attractions, we have seen the need for one authority to harmonize all operations since there are many government agencies, departments and ministries currently involved in beach management," he said. The PS said there are many authorities like lands ministry, President's office, Regional Administration and Local Government, fisheries ministry and his ministry, but all these are now working to form one authority.

Prof Mkenda said initially there was a draft of proposals which have been worked upon in line with beach tourism stakeholders inputs. He added that having many authorities on one thing sometimes cause a lot of confusion.

He said other countries like Egypt have authorities that develop beaches which attract over 50 percent of tourists in the country. He said, adding that Mauritius also have sustainable beach tourism, hence Tanzania with beaches totaling 1400 kilometres can do better in the tourism sub-sector. The PS added that experts have stated that 80 percent of tourists visiting Tanzania come to see animals at the national game parks and reserves, citing the need to increase number of tourists.

According to the PS, Tanzania is endowed with a lot of tourist attraction sites that only advertise themselves, and many stakeholders are satisfied with the status but a lot more needs to be done if the country is to reap heavily from the tourism sector.

He said for instance, a total of 1.5 million tourists visit Mauritius every year compared to the country's population of 1.2 million people.

He said that the government's efforts to attract more tourists in the country have started yielding positive results as the number of international arrivals visiting the country has risen to 1.5 million in 2018 from 1.3 million in 2017.

Prof Mkenda said that the number of tourists has increased by 13.5 percent in the past one year.

He described the increase as one of the highest to be recorded in the country, noting that in 2018, number of tourists was increased by 6 percent only, compared to 13.5 percent for Tanzania.

Prof Mkenda said tourism activities generated \$2.4 billion last year, an increase of 7.2 percent from \$2.3 billion earned in 2017. According to him, Tanzania is ahead of Kenya when it comes to forex earned from tourism despite the fact that the neighbouring country receives large number of tourists.



George Simbachawene (R), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Italian Ambassador Roberto Mengoni on cooperation between the two countries in environmental conservation and efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania, Italy start initial talks on mitigating effects of climate change

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Italy yesterday started preliminary talks on joint efforts to fight effects of climate change.

Successful talks will result in Italy giving Tanzania \$5bn/-, Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), George Simbachawene, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"Talks between our two countries are progressing well. When they will be concluded successfully, we shall sign a protocol hopefully in Dodoma in the near future and Tanzania will receive over five billion/-. This money will go to projects mitigating effects of climate change," the minister said.

He said money would go into collection and processing of data relating to effects of climate change; development of alterna-

tive sources of energy and support to projects that will produce inexpensive electricity.

The Italian Ambassador to Tanzania, Roberto Mengoni, was optimistic, saying when the talks will be successfully concluded the inherent support will help Tanzania in protecting environment, stave off and mitigate effects of climate change.

He praised the government's efforts in protecting environment,

saying banning of plastic carrier bags was a very positive move in protecting environment.

According to the document made public during the occasion, cooperation between the two countries will include capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance, exchange of experts and trainees, organisation of delegation visits, joint organisation of workshops, seminars and meetings, promotion of private

sector participation and activities to implement public-private sector partnerships and development of fund-raising capacities with regard to global climate change and sustainable development.

Tanzania and Italy are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement of April 22, 2016 on Climate Change.

Government to relinquish 45,000 ha of its farm to villagers

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government is set to slash 45,000 hectares of its farm at Mabuiki Livestock Training Agency locat-

ed in Misungwi District, Mwanza Region, to be given to herders surrounding it.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega made the revelation here yesterday when addressing villagers living around

that farm. He said that move is geared to enable cattle keepers around the farm to fatten and multiply their herds and sell them at relatively higher prices in a bid to increase their income for the benefit of herders and the government.

He said that it is not wise to stop people from entering their cattle in the farm if grass is dry in villages surrounding it. Cattle keepers should be allowed to fatten their herds in the farm on contract basis for a short term and take them

away for sell, he noted.

The intention of the government is to ensure that people have good life through various activities including cattle keeping, he said.

The deputy minister so far said that every market of cattle should

be provided with a weighing scale to make sure that animals are sold according to their weight and not otherwise.

Buying cattle by just looking at their figure and sometime touching their tails is to exploit the keepers

who use a lot of time and expenses to grow and fatten them, he noted.

He stated that animals should be sold in terms of their weight as it is for other produces like maize, rice, beans among other commodities.

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF TANZANIA AT MWANZA

CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 598/08 OF 2017

1. MARK ALEXANDER GAETJE.....APPLICANTS

2. WIEBKE GAETJE.....APPLICANTS
VERSUS

BRIGGITE DEFLOOR GAETJE.....RESPONDENT

TO. BRIGGITE DEFLOOR GAEJTE

TAKEN NOTICE, that the hearing of the above Civil Application will take place at Mwanza on the 3rd day of December, 2019 at 09:00 a.m.

You are hereby order to appear on the day and time specified above.

If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself your pleaders or someone authorized by law to act for you in this Civil Application, it will be heard and decided ex parte (in your absence).

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 12th day of November, 2019.



Campaign on equal land ownership to be launched today

By Guardian Reporter

DEFICIENCIES in the implementation of the country's land laws are expected to be mitigated through the global campaign dubbed: 'Stand for Her Land' that is expected to be launched today in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania has been picked as an example in the campaign, citing its good land laws which include equal land rights to both genders.

Speaking to reporters yesterday chairman of the campaign Tike Mwambipile who is also the managing director of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) said the campaign will be unveiled by the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister Ummu Mwalimu.

She said despite having in place land laws there are some issues dragging their implementation,

whilst women continue to suffer economic and social hardship by being denied their rights due to traditional and cultural considerations.

Mwambipile said: "Tanzania is the first country to conduct the campaign because it has good land laws, and globally it will be assisted by Landesa Tanzania, Habitat for Humanity, Huairou Commission and the World Bank."

She said the civil society in the country will conduct deep analysis aimed at bringing changes in land ownership between women and men.

She said the campaign will be conducted by 26 NGOs that deal with land issues and will be coordinated by Landesa Tanzania.

She said the aim of the campaign is to fill the existing vacuum between policy, laws and traditional practice within the Tanzania society including changing the society's mindset in oppressive customs.

The director of Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) Rose Reuben said the media has a big role to play in filling that vacuum by carrying news that educate the importance of equal land ownership instead of discriminating women.

She said: family lands are sold without regard to women, hence we in the media should fully participate to make the campaign a success to remove that oppression."

Resident director of Landesa Tanzania Dr Monica Mhoja said bad customs have contributed in making many women pathetic in fighting for their rights including owning land.

She added: "If we join forces through this campaign and if it will succeed it will help in reducing widows' anguish, hence we must cooperate to ensure the existing land laws are put into practice."



Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) workers in Arusha pictured yesterday removing a vendor's kiosk standing right under the firm's infrastructure yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

TANCOAL HAILS PRESIDENT MAGUFULI ON ANNIVERSARY

During the four years, the mining sector has undergone many changes and has seen great support from the 5th Phase Government. Tancoal has specifically benefited from the support, which has seen an increase and an expansion in the coal industry in the country. Tancoal has grown and several other small and medium sized coal mining companies have risen which has proved crucial to the national economy.

Tancoal sold 237,735.93 tons of coal in the period of July 2014 to June 2015. In the financial year July 2018 to June 2019, Tancoal sold 788,702 tons of coal. This is a growth of over 300% for the past four years. For the period between July 2019 to 31st October 2019, Tancoal sold

225,616 tons of coal. These sales are not only domestic, but the export market has grown in the past four years to an average of 30% of total sales, thus earning the country much-needed forex.

Further growth is expected with plans of using Mtwara port for exports to countries that have shown interest such as Turkey, Madagascar and Ethiopia. This will be boosted by the earmarked Southern corridor railway which will render coal prices at Mtwara port competitive relative to those of the rest of the world.

Tancoal attributes this growth to the support which the coal industry has received from the President and his 5th phase Government.



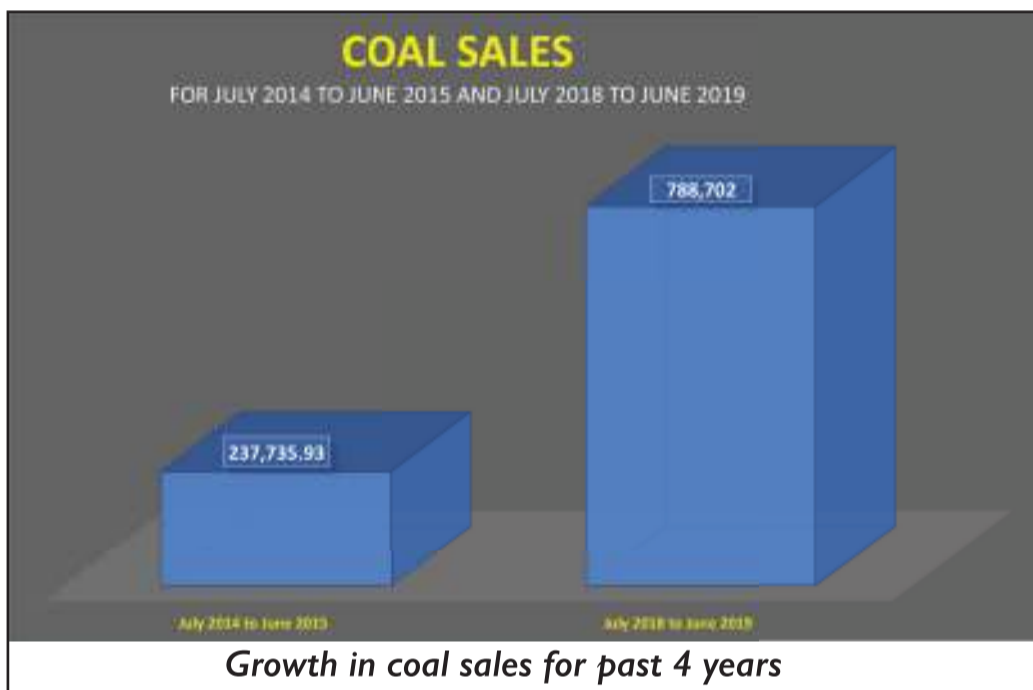
Industrialization

Tancoal continues to support the industries in the country with the supply of quality, affordable and reliable coal which is used as fuel in the production and manufacturing industries. Tancoal supplies almost all the cement companies in the country with reliable and affordable coal for use in their production/manufacturing processes. Tancoal also supplies various other industries including but not limited to the production of ceramics and gypsum.

Relations

Tancoal continues to work with the Government and its institutions in resolving pending issues between itself and the Government. Tancoal also hails the support of the Ministry of Minerals and its institutions such as the Mining Commission and specifically the Regional Mines Office in Songea, where Tancoal has interactions on a daily basis.

In support of local content, Tancoal has, with effect from the 23rd October 2019, appointed a new board member, Mr. Daniel James Mikenze, who is a Tanzanian national. Mr. Mikenze has vast experience in the mining and construction sectors and stands to assist Tancoal in achieving its objectives.

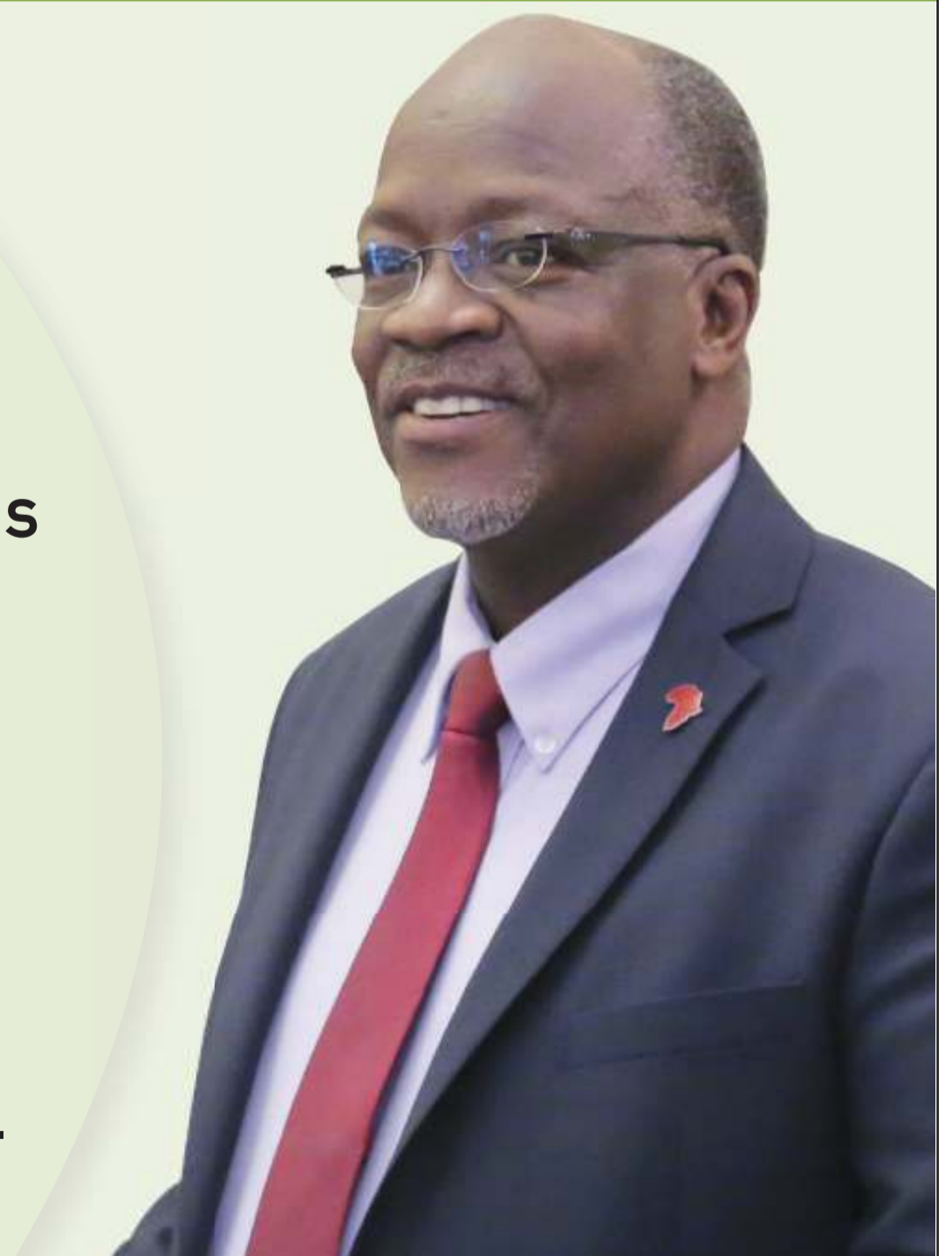


Growth in coal sales for past 4 years

TANCOAL

Congratulatory message

Tancoal Energy Limited (Tancoal) joins hands with the rest of the nation in congratulating his Excellency the President of Tanzania, **Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli**, on the commemoration of his **4th year** in the top office in the country.



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Shein: South Unguja District will continue to be CCM stronghold

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said that South Unguja District will continue to be CCM's stronghold insisting the ruling party will get a landslide victory in the coming civic polls and next year's general elections.

He made the statement yesterday when addressing party elders at Kizimkazi-Mkunguni school in South Unguja. He argued that both, serving leaders and retired party officials have responsibilities to build the party through their councils and party wings.

Dr Shein who is CCM's Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) challenged elders to talk to youth on various party issues as well as informing them on how to care for the elders. He said the government recognises and values the efforts by elders which led into the independency of Tanganyika and Zanzibar through ASP and TANU.

"We should value the elders as well as their opinions because they are the ones who fought for our independency," he said adding that the elders are also recognised by the ruling party's manifesto and country's constitution.

CCM Secretary General (Zanzibar), Abdalla Juma Mabodi called upon other party leaders to regularly meet with the elders. He commended President Shein for ensuring regular meetings with party elders.

Meanwhile, the elders applauded Pres-

ident Shein for successful implementation of CCM election manifesto (2015-2020) as well as the promises he made during 2015 election campaigns. They also commended the president for introducing a 20,000/- monthly pension to elders, whereas currently there are 1,348 elders benefiting with the new scheme that started in 2016 with 1,421 elders.

They were concerned that President Shein has been in the fore front to ensure improved social services especially availability of clean and safe water in South Unguja district and Makunduchi area.

The elders noted that implementation of the 1.8bn/- water project at Michamvi and Mtende Shehias have started with the contractor laying water distribution pipes.

On health sector, the elders said the government has improved provision of health services in South Unguja district and installed modern medical equipment at hospitals and health centers.

They said most of the residents now get medical services at their localities while they were previously forced to seek such services at the Mnazi Mmoja referral hospital.

CCM chairman in South Unguja district, Abdulaziz Hamad Ibrahim said during President Shein's tenure, the government has been able to increase its revenue collection, leading to improved social services.



Fishmongers at Ruvu Darajani (Bridge) in Coast Region exchange ideas at the weekend while waiting for customers. The roadside spot is a popular market for Ruvu River sun-dried fish. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kigoma gets new seed variety from TARI to boost palm oil production

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has come up with improved palm seed variety – "Tenera" specific for Kigoma farmers as part of efforts to boost the country's palm oil production.

The improved seed variety which is currently sold at 6,000/-, will be grown at TARI nurseries and given free to farmers across Kigoma Region.

TARI Director General, Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo made the statement during his visit in Kigoma region to examine production of better oil palm seeds following directives from the prime minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Dr Mkamilo said: "We have put in place an arrangement where the palm seeds will be delivered at district offices before they are distributed to farmers. We are giving the seeds for free as part

of implementation of directives by prime minister who wanted to see increased palm cultivation across the country".

Kigoma region agricultural advisor, Joseph Rubuye added that the palm seeds will also be given to public institutions including primary and secondary schools. He said TARI in collaboration with district authorities have started growing the seeds at established nurseries.

The districts which have established palm seed nurseries are, Kigoma, Kasulu, Kigoma-Ujiji, Kasulu municipal council, Uvinza and Buhigwe. The nurseries are monitored by TARI-Kihinga.

Rubuye said palm oil is mostly cultivated in Kigoma Ujiji district whereas apart from provided with 36,000 seedlings from TARI, the district authority has purchased another 6,000 from

abroad which have been distributed to farmers.

Director at TARI-Kihinga, Dr Filson Kagimbo said the most challenge that farmers face is low productivity associated with the use poor technology. He said currently farmers get 1.6 tonnes of palm seeds per hectare while their counterparts in Malaysia get between 8 and 9 tonnes per hectare due to use of improved agricultural technology. He was

recently quoted saying Kigoma has huge potential in increasing palm oil production by using better seeds, adding TARI is conducting research so that they scale up production of oil from 1.6 tonnes per hectare to 3 - 4 tonnes per hectare.

He said TARI's three-year plan is to distribute 15 million seedlings, an average of five million seedlings per year, a step that will help reduce gov-

ernment's cost to import palm oil.

Over 30,000 smallholder farmers in Kigoma Region generate income from cultivating oil palm trees and extracting and selling palm oil.

Tanzania has 27 agricultural research institutes specialising in production of quality seeds and improvement of extension services and boosting farm productivity.



Eliminata Awet, cultural coordinator of 4CCP, sensitises Mbulu villagers on the importance of latrines. The agency she heads, which is based in Tanzania's Manara Region, is meant to promote the interests of four major tribes living in the Horn of Africa zone. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

REA cautions rural power contractors over slowness

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE acting Rural Energy Agency director general eng Amos Maganga has said rural electrical contractors who dilly dally in implementing their projects for rural power distribution Phase III will not be given other coming contracts.

Maganga said this in Mbogwe District, Geita Region soon after REA board led by its chairman Julius Kalolo completed inspection of power distribution in villages in Bukombe and Mbogwe districts.

He said they will use the database they are preparing to spot contractors who dilly dally hence he said they should pull up their socks or no more new contracts will be given to them.

He also called on all contractors to abide by the government's directives to ensure that by December 31 this year all villages in REA III projects get

power.

On the contractor who is distributing power in Geita Region, Whitemcity Guangdong JV, Kalolo said by December 31 they should complete distributing electricity to the villages as allocated in the contract agreements and must also submit its work schedule, on weekly basis, on how it will do so.

The board also directed the contractor to mobilise for the use of electrical equipment in 'Umeme Tayari' (UMETA) system so as to reduce connection costs to the wananchi when wiring their homes and priority to be accorded to widows and old people.

The board also asked village leaders to mobilise wananchi in areas where power has reached to have them connected to electricity.

The board also inspected power distribution work in Nyang'hwale District in Geita Region whose contractor promised that by the end of this week they will light power in seven villages.



He said this in Mbogwe District, Geita Region, soon after REA board led by its chairman Julius Kalolo completed inspection of power distribution in villages in Bukombe and Mbogwe districts

Tanzanian youth to be trained on food security

By Guardian Reporter

DELEGATES from Tanzania and other African countries will early next month take part in an international training event that empowers young people on how to protect their food heritage as well as how to engage in policy and decision-making processes.

Dubbed 'Shaping the future of food system in Africa' the five-day event is scheduled to take place in Nakuru, Kenya from 3rd to 7th December

2019. According to a statement released yesterday by the organisers, other countries that will participate are host Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa.

Delegates are members of the Indigenous Terra Madre (ITM) network, the Slow Food Youth Network (SFYN) as well as the Hivos Sustainable Diets for All (SD4All) programme.

During the training, delegates will work on a common action plan to be presented to local

and international institutions at a public event to be held on the last day, December 7th. Feedback received from these institutions will help to create synergies and common agendas so that the project may be pitched to interested parties, the statement said.

"For four days, delegates will attend capacity-building workshops and networking events as young SFYN food leaders, both indigenous and not," the statement quotes Valentina Gritti of the Slow Food Youth Network.

"In addition to developing Action Plans pushing for change in the African food system, they'll celebrate raising awareness and appreciation for traditional products and crafts. The event will be an opportunity to discuss and share their approaches towards healthy diets, land rights, agro ecology, seeds and gender in agriculture."

"This event is an important milestone in the road map towards 2020 set up by Indigenous Terra Madre network in Kenya," affirms Maasai Tunda Lepore,

a member of the ITM advisory board. "Youth involvement is paramount for the continuity of the fight against harmful food production and other related challenges. It's fundamental that younger generations and indigenous peoples have opportunities to confront and share their knowledge and skills in addressing global challenges like climate crisis and hunger. We, indigenous and non-indigenous youth, need to be allies on this. We need to make our voices heard and do it in a more stra-

tegic way, and that's what this event is about."

Delegates will gain hands-on experience through field trips showing how local communities deal with specific issues, such as seeds, land rights and agro ecology: they will visit the Seed Savers Network Kenya, the Ogiek Honey and Mau Forest Dried Nettles Slow Food Presidia and the Slow Food Karirikani Community Garden.

The highlight at the end of the week will be the Indigenous Terra Madre event with confer-

ences and workshops open to the public. "Shaping the future of food in Africa" is supported by the SD4All programme, implemented by Hivos and IIED, and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Indigenous Terra Madre is a network of indigenous communities, partners and organisations formed to bring indigenous peoples' voices to the forefront of the debate on food and culture, and to develop both regional and global networks.

CCM parents wing organises symposium in Dar next week

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli is next week expected to take part at the ruling CCM parent wing symposium that will discuss election issues and the fate of national ethics.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CCM parent wing's chairman, Dr Edmund Mndolwa, said the symposium will be held in the country's commercial capital and will bring on board 1,500 participants from 32 regions and 168 districts.

He said the wing will use the symposium to praise President Magufuli for working in line with party's election manifesto and for being the chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)-regional organisation of southern African countries

that works to promote economic co-operation and integration among the member states and to preserve their economic independence. The member states are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Dr Mndolwa said a topic on election strategies will be presented by party deputy chairman, Philip Mangula, while Director General of Tanzania Railway Company (TRC), Masanja Kadogosa will present a topic on development of transport sector and railway in particular.

During the meeting, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda, will talk about national ethics and Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) Conserva-

tion Commissioner, Dr Allan Kijazi, will speak on national resources conservation for tourism potentials.

Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited Chief Executive Officer, Waziri Kindamba will also speak on communications sector while, managing director of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), Dr Tito Mwinuka, will talk of development of power sector.

Dr Mndolwa said during the symposium the wing will launch a magazine that highlights ways on how the government implemented the party election manifesto.

He said that the wing will produce more than 10,000 copies of the magazine that will be distributed in the country and Tanzania's embassies overseas.



TPB Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (2nd-L) is joined by students Jacqueline Mgina (L) and Mary Kyando of Songea District's Fei Girls Secondary School in cutting a cake at the school's Form Four graduation ceremony held at Madaba at the weekend. Looking on is the school's owner and manager, Omari Msigwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DEADLINE EXTENSION

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRADE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA



TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States of America. TMEA works closely with East African Community (EAC) institutions, national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

TMEA, with an annual expenditure of around US\$100 million, is now the leading aid-for-trade facility in the world. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya with vibrant and successful operations in EAC (Arusha), Burundi (Bujumbura), Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu), Ethiopia and the Horn (Addis Ababa & Hargeisa), Rwanda (Kigali), South Sudan (Juba), Tanzania (Dar es salaam) and Uganda (Kampala). The first phase of TMEA delivered exceptional results which directly contributed to substantial gains in East Africa's trade and regional integration environment in terms of reduced transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade.

We are now in the second phase and we aim to deliver even more large-scale impact to maximise the potential benefits of aid-for-trade interventions which lead to sustainable and inclusive prosperity through job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced economic welfare.

TMEA is now expanding its trade facilitation programme and launching operations in Malawi. To find out more, please visit our website www.trademarka.com.

We are looking for high calibre, results-oriented and experienced professional to join our team in the positions below.

Transport Director, Northern Cluster Countries & Horn of Africa

The Transport Director, Northern Cluster Countries & Horn of Africa will be responsible for providing strategic and operational support in delivering and managing TMEA's infrastructure programme and activities in the Northern Cluster Countries & Horn of Africa. S/he will ensure that TMEA's strategic objective of reduced trade barriers, and associated strategic impacts, outcomes and outputs are achieved, aligning infrastructure and international trade practices and goals to TMEA's strategies within the designated area of geographical coverage.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a postgraduate degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience. In addition, s/he will have a minimum of five years' experience leading the development and delivery of large infrastructure programmes, particularly those related to surface transport, and trade and trade facilitation development programmes to enhance the capacities of developing countries in trade policy development, formulation and implementation trade reforms, regional integration, and support to national governments.

Transport Director, Logistics

The Transport Director, Logistics will have the overall responsibility for directing and monitoring TMEA works streams related to developing logistics systems and services with a special emphasis on ports in line with TMEA project documents and the Theory of Change (TOC). S/he will ensure that the work is mainstreamed across all aspects of TMEA's work and clearly linked to organisational objectives at both the national and regional levels.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a postgraduate degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience. In addition, s/he will have at least five years of relevant leadership and management experience, and a minimum of 10 years' demonstrable experience in: (i) policy analysis and administration; (ii) implementing logistics projects aimed at reducing logistics costs and encouraging investment; and (iii) project cycle management in consulting firms or multilaterals providing technical assistance to governments and private organisations.

Country Director, Malawi

The Country Director, Malawi will have the overall responsibility for establishing the Malawi Country Programme and developing, managing and monitoring its strategy and programme delivery. This will include the design, implementation and delivery of programme activities in infrastructure development, trade facilitation, support to Government institutions and the private sector. S/he will develop and maintain an effective programme in line with TMEA's strategic plan, results framework and its management information and monitoring systems. The Country Director will identify opportunities for additional investments into TMEA's Malawian Programme through fundraising from donors and other agencies.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a postgraduate degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience. In addition, s/he will have at least five years of relevant leadership and management experience. Three years working experience should have been gained in Malawi or the other countries in which TMEA operates, primarily in managing economic development co-operation programmes related to regional integration, trade facilitation, trade and investment climate reform, transport sector development, and/or institutional reform.

Finance and Administration Officer

The Finance and Administration Officer will be responsible for providing comprehensive finance and administrative oversight to the assigned programme. S/he will ensure that the quality of service delivery in the areas of financial management, mobilisation of procurement contracts and general administration is consistent, efficient, responsive and seamless.

The ideal candidates will possess an undergraduate or postgraduate degree preferably in a business-related field. They must be full practicing members of and be professionally certificated by a relevant professional body. Undergraduate degree holders will have at least five years of relevant working experience while postgraduate degree holders will require at least three years of relevant working experience in accounting and general office management.

There are two open Finance and Administration Officer positions - one based in Malawi and the other in Hargeisa. Each position is open to nationals of the country in which it is based.

Application details

The detailed job profiles for these posts can be accessed on our website www.trademarka.com.

These positions are available on contract to 30 June 2023 with the possibility of renewal. Please apply online through <http://www.trademarka.com/work-with-us/> by Friday, 20 December 2019, 5.00pm Kenyan time. Attach your cover letter and detailed CV, including details of your qualifications, experience, and present position. Your application should also include a working e-mail address, daytime telephone contacts, and names and contact details of three referees. Interviews will be conducted in February/March 2020.

Please note that we will only consider applications received on-line through the link provided above. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. We reserve the right to accept or reject any application. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified women and persons living with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Diversity & Inclusion is our pulse!

TMEA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to open and transparent recruitment processes. We are committed to a culture that supports, celebrates and respects the unique and authentic self of each of our employees and partners. We believe that our work is better accomplished, success achieved and mission realised when we fully embrace the value in our differences by establishing a workforce that reflect the communities we work with. We are therefore committed to diversity across race, cultures, ethnicity or national origins, religious and political beliefs, age, disability, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, marital status or educational background; so that all are free to be who they are, and freely express their views and beliefs. We do so knowing that diversity and inclusion have tangible benefits not only to our organisation, but also to the communities we work with.



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. Government of Republic of Uganda has been allocated grant funds from TradeMark East Africa which are administered by TradeMark East Africa and executed by Ministry of Works and Transport – Uganda. TMEA intends to apply the funds to eligible direct payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.

As a result, TMEA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for:

- CIVIL WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NTOROKO LAKE PORT IN UGANDA [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190200]; AND,
- CIVIL WORKS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LAND BORDER POST AT GOLI, UGANDA [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190318]

The tender documents can be obtained at <http://www.trademarka.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the Tender Title and Number in the email subject should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com. The closing date for submission of bids is 13 January 2020 at 11.00 am (Kampala Time).

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline



The Guardian

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THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Increase in maize prices will likely benefit farmers, but...

AGRICULTURE ministry experts and policy makers are pondering what to do about maize prices, especially in urban areas. The ministry has expressed concern as the prices have shot up once again with a 100-kg bag now going for well up to 107,000/-, up from roundabout 65,000/- last year.

This situation had led to the conducting of a couple of surveys on food security so as to compare their results on the basis of sampled areas and findings, assuming that their methods would be similar.

A deputy permanent secretary raised some pertinent issues when launching discussion on the surveys, challenging researchers to find out why prices were rising despite bumper harvests.

As the DPS called for extensive discussion on why maize prices have kept skyrocketing despite there being substantial reserves, the real issue lay underneath. It was likely that there is demand beyond our borders.

He remarked that people living in urban areas had started complaining about the price hikes, but would not fall into guessing the bad answer.

While prices have led to pervasive concern, it may well be that a more likely factor behind the problem is that at the middle of the dry and warm season prices usually shoot up. So, with prices already rather too high, the situation could become all the more unmanageable at the turn of the year.

The point is that if the prices continue rising, the government will have to find answers, which was a key part of the remarks by the DPS, which should serve to prepare mindsets for that situation.

Still he pointedly rejected suggestions that the government should move to close territorial borders to control the sale of Tanzanian maize outside the country so that its local prices diminish,

as the country just could not keep closing and opening the borders.

True, the issue is not exports as such but rather how to control the prices, for instance if there are artificial shortages in view of sharper rises at the turn of the year. It is this latter point that investors will be waiting for, as intermittent border closures ruin agro-sector investment prospects.

It is likely that this point will elicit supportive elucidations from researchers from the likes of Tanzania's own Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), who conducted the two studies.

The background for conducting the studies was widespread opposition to exports of maize last year, which is habitual among some administrators.

These think that planting maize is a duty for farmers, while scarcely paying attention to price swings as a determinant of investment decisions. Rising maize prices stimulate investments in the crop, and eventually prices drop.

Ministerial data show that maize production in Tanzania stood at 6.2 million tonnes during financial year 2017/2018, up from 6.6 million tonnes the previous year.

This sort of diminishing output is surprising in that there was no drought during this period except for some areas, but there may have been no price incentives.

In that case, witnessing price hikes would mean that more maize would be grown the following year, or other crops like cassava would have a greater uptake.

Thus, while border closures may touch off or precipitate price stability, they could also reinforce stunting in the agricultural sector stunting, which would be a boomerang effect.

This points to the need to exercise as much caution as we can muster in dealing with the delicate issue of the supply, distribution and pricing of foodstuffs.

Every reason to address youth unemployment more seriously

CHALLENGES relating to youth employment constitute a global phenomenon but come in varying degrees of severity. For instance, in the US, the unemployment rate hovers between 7 and 9 per cent of the workforce.

But the US and most other highly developed economies in the West have what are known as unemployment benefits - sums of money from the government paid to those who genuinely cannot obtain jobs.

Youth unemployment in Tanzania has assumed disconcerting proportions, if one considers that our schools and other institutions of learning churn out between 800,000 to 1,000,000 young people every year.

The vast majority of these, especially primary school leavers, head straight into the streets in the real sense of the word. These are all but futureless, a good number ending up as small-time traders.

It is hard to subscribe to the popular notion that these youth men and women are gainfully employed, as they are "self-employed" for the simple reason that they do not have a choice.

In his recently launched memoirs entitled 'My Life, My Purpose', former President Benjamin Mkapa says the youth unemployment challenge he witnessed in Tanzania in 2015 was scaring.

He said it cast the gloomy path the country was moving along, adding that his prayer was that the subject would be a marvellous campaign issue for forthcoming elections. We subscribe to the idea.

As Mkapa revealed his fears through his memoirs, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that disruption in the private sector have greatly contributed to the ballooning of the unemployment menace.

The situation is pathetic. We say this because, with sound economic policies coupled with serious political will, the youth unemployment can be substantially scaled down.

In this connection, the nation should not be overwhelmed or overly distracted by the relatively fast growth of the country's population.

Yes, we may be lagging far behind in the provision of basic social services such as education and health, but redemption is possible - and ways towards that end are well known.

The creation of jobs largely meant for the youth is easily an essential part of a redemption strategy. For instance, wouldn't Dar es Salaam's three municipalities really significantly reduce the number of jobless youths if they were to institute public works such road construction and renovation projects?

Many Dar es Salaam streets were tarmacked over four decades ago and badly need a facelift. The resurfacing of these streets could ensure that hundreds of youth land employment, however temporary.

Another approach is what some parliamentarians have been rooting for all along - that the government should consider finding ways of turning the so-called jobless corners into productive centres enabling the youth to find employment.

Indeed, these "corners" are to be found every in the remotest parts of our country. The youth forced to frequent these spots should be encouraged to form associations or groups undertaking all manner of gainful development activities, including by being supported with start-up capital and tools.

We know a wide range of initiatives have been, and are being, made to that effect. Wonderful! However, we also know it is possible for a lot more to be done. And let it be so.

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Just some thoughts on ways to improve education in Tanzania (2)

By Special Correspondent

IT is important for the government to provide incentives that will draw at least up to two-thirds of students into mathematics and science from Form One onwards.

Most of the remaining ones, who will pursue Arts subjects should be encouraged to specialise in commercial subjects (accounting/auditing, marketing, financial/funding services). A few could also be talked into pursuing careers in soccer and other sports as well as entertainment or showbiz.

Today there are many unemployed graduates (at both degree and diploma levels), particularly non-science ones. The government should try and arrange for those interested to go into retraining to learn employable (especially self-employment) skills such as those provided in technical institutes like vocational education and training (VETA) centres or the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

As once recommended by a senior government official while on a tour of a youth centre in Bagamoyo District, Regional Administration and Local Government (ministry) authorities should make arrangements to ensure that districts that have not set up small-scale industrial centres/ estates that are large enough (say minimum of 50 acres), complete with fences and title deeds, do so.

The idea was to help those graduates from technical institutions wanting to go into small-scale manufacturing, machinery/ vehicle repairs find a decent setting to operate from. The tenants should also be assisted to secure small start-up loans for procuring equipment or tools and also with markets for their products.

In years gone by, there were several SIDO "estates" in various regions where women and men of various age groups would go to learn entrepreneurship and practical skills, but many of these have long since stopped running that way - one reason being that they have been interfered with politically and in various other ways.

The government should also try and facilitate graduates wanting to go into medium- or large-scale farming to get land and loans for start-up equipment such as tractors and irrigation equipment. It



should also assist in arranging for access to marketing infrastructure such as feeder roads, market/collection centres and storage facilities as well as in securing external/ foreign markets.

It is also noteworthy that Kiswahili has long been adopted as one of the official languages for use at regional and world bodies including the East African Community (EAC) and the African Union.

Furthermore, Tanzania has been chosen to head the EAC's Kiswahili language commission - and is therefore charged with overseeing efforts to promote the language, by extension meaning that it is now more than opportune for the country to use Kiswahili all the more widely.

This should apply to instructions and examinations in all learning institutions (including universities - up to PhD level, as stated above), in government offices, in all official meetings (government, National Assembly, etc.), in research and reports, and communication by Tanzanians at international meetings (including the Southern African Development Community -SADC, the EAC, the AU and the UN) just like is the case with the Chinese and Arabs.

Also, first degree graduates going for further studies abroad should not worry any more than those who have been going to non-English speaking universities (say, Germany and

China) where teaching instructions are in the respective countries' local language.

Usually such students spend one year learning the language, and this is enough for them to proceed to the learning of their higher degree subjects successfully in the respective 'local' languages.

The government would be well advised to put in place a clear policy on the use of Kiswahili and set aside a special budget for its promotion worldwide.

Kiswahili should always be used at all levels of government operations, including continuing naming all important sites and spots such as roads, national parks and institutions in Kiswahili.

In the particular case of institutions, we would then have boldly displayed names such as Chuo Kikuu Dar es Salaam, Chuo cha Tiba na Sayansi Muhimbili, Chuo Kikuu cha Ardhi, Chuo Kikuu cha Kilimo Sokoine, Chuo Kikuu Mzumbe, Chuo cha Usimamizi wa Fedha, Chuo cha Tekinologia (or Tekinologie), and so on.

Indeed, in our continued efforts to promote Kiswahili, we should neither compromise nor waver. In fact, Tanzania may need to set up a Kiswahili university that could go by the name of 'Chuo Kikuu cha Kiswahili'.

Actually, there could even be several such universities where students from across the globe

would flock to learn our national language - and what an honour it would be to us!

With 50 years of independence gone by, one would feel that the Tanzania should have been very, very far in promoting Kiswahili speaking, reading and writing. By now there should have been institutions teaching Kiswahili in most UN member countries (particularly AU member-states), while the language would be spoken not just in eastern, central and southern African countries, but far beyond that.

Thus, promotional efforts including teaching, establishing national Kiswahili 'chapters' or associations, organising seminars, meetings and workshops on the writing of Kiswahili books and training materials in various countries should be put in place, much like is being done in the tourism industry.

It is to be expected that the EAC will one day set aside a budget to enable its Kiswahili Commission to engage a higher gear in the promotion of the language in the region itself and more globally.

It is high time the commission became more aggressive in seeking funds for the work both within the EAC and beyond. Eventually, the language could also become a language of choice in trade and related transactions as well as in other uses including security communication in most of Africa and beyond, and not just in eastern and southern Africa as is the case until now.

Finally, adequate supply of suitable teachers (instructed in Kiswahili for non-language subjects), suitable quality books and other learning material and practical work tools in schools at all levels would be crucial if we are to ensure success in the well-intentioned endeavour.

Observations by the author of this piece and, indeed, also by several other people point to the fact that teachers in Tanzania seem more comfortable teaching in Kiswahili than in English. The fact is that, to make their students follow whatever is being taught, many secondary school teachers and college tutors commonly or frequently revert to clarifications in Kiswahili while officially teaching or lecturing in English. So, why not observe the law of gravity, if you will, to make yourself, understood?

This is the second and last part of a two-piece commentary. We ran the first part in Tuesday's (November 19) issue. - Editor.

Role of technology in development highlighted at AfricaCom

LONDON

MORE than 15,000 visitors attended this year's AfricaCom held in Cape Town for three content-packed days - November 12 through 14 - a record for the 22-year-old event.

AfricaCom is the world's largest and most influential Africa-focused technology, media and telecommunications event and the presence of so many industry heavyweights emphasized the significance of the role that technology is playing and will continue to effect on the way the world progresses.

A power-packed line-up of speakers, panelists and exhibitors unpacked several critical matters at this year's event, all addressing the continent's long-term digital potential and sustainability.

Highlights included the importance of developing the industry's human capital as well as the issue of accessibility to the digital ecosystem for those who, as yet, are unconnected.

In summing up this year's event, event director Tom Cuthell remarked: "AfricaCom is the annual meeting place for industry decision makers. What has been heartening is the growth in the number of enterprise visitors this year along with our telecommunications delegates as well as the cross-pollination of ideas and business synergies we have witnessed as technology, telecommunications and media converge."

"But one of the key highpoints for us, as the event's organisers, has been the outright success of AfricaTech, which we anticipate will be even bigger next year, given the rate at which technology is expanding its influence," he noted.

AfricaCom's content was rich, informative and definitely thought provoking. A recurring theme throughout several of the sessions - from IoT (Internet of Things) World Africa to the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit, AHUB, Headliners and more - was the preparation that needs to take place for Africa to fully embrace the digital paradigm and take advantage of it.

Hot topics in this regard included identifying the skills gap, bridging the divide, connecting the next billion in Africa, AI, and Data Security and the protection of people's information.



Preparing for a digital future

The need for the continent to address the level of its readiness is made all the more urgent given the fact that its workforce is expected to expand by an amount that is greater than that of the rest of the world put together.

According to Anish Shivdasani, founder of mobile recruitment app Giraffe, "15 to 20 million people will enter the workforce each year for the next decade". That requires a workforce with skills. Consequently, skills development in the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) was a hot topic at both AfricaCom and AfricaTech.

Gender parity also proved to be a strong talking point around the development of human capital in both the headliner sessions and on the AfricaTech Centre Stage.

Elisabeth Medou Badang, Senior Vice President Africa and Indian Ocean at Orange, was recognised with an award as the first AfricaCom Female Innovator of the Year.

She highlighted the fact that just 10 per cent of the computer industry is made up of women and the percentage was getting smaller each year, adding: "Computer science and AI are going to shape our society and if we don't bring any women into the room, women won't have a say in our society shift."

Meanwhile, matter of fact and typi-

Minister of Communications in South Africa, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams experiencing augmented and virtual reality at the launch of SENTECH Connect. File photo

cally to the point, Ole! Connect Chair Deseré Orrill stated: "Regardless of your point of view, the reality is that things are already changing and that while many wonderful new opportunities are emerging, there is also the risk that failure to adapt could deepen the chasm between the social and economic classes of the globe, with potentially disastrous effects."

"Government needs to step up and so do business leaders by prioritising the re-skilling of the workforce to smooth the transitions from current to new ways of working in an AI-powered future world," added Orrill.

At the crux of preparation for a digital tomorrow is education and the regulatory framework to make it a reality. In this regard, AfricaCom also saw the staging of a ministerial open panel discussion that brought cabinet ministers, regulators, academics and business together at AfricaCom for the first time. It is understood this will be expanded on this coming year.

Connectivity and its access

Connectivity remains the biggest key to unlocking Africa's digital transformation. 5G is not yet a reality for the continent, which is still largely based on legacy systems such as 2G, 3G and even 4G. However, AfricaCom also presented healthy discussions around the next generation in telecommunications.

MTN Group President and CEO Rob

Shuter added to the deliberations around accessibility by stressing the importance of ensuring that digital and telco services make a real impact in the lives of citizens.

"We believe in the concept of the demographic dividend, that Africa is characterised by 60 per cent of people below the age of 24," said Shuter, adding: "We call this the 'born digital' generation as they very quickly adopt the digital services once they have the connectivity."

Giving the enabling of accessibility for even remote areas as a tangible reality, MTN also took the opportunity to announce that they were looking to roll out OpenRAN to 5,000 sites across Africa. Interlinked are the cost of services and access to a stable source of cheap and reliable energy to power digital devices. A solution that will address the issue of broad-based accessibility, as well as the development of Africa's human capital, is collaboration and partnerships between all manner of service providers who have seen the scope for an open working relationship for all to benefit.

With AfricaCom providing numerous networking opportunities, many such partnerships were struck this year. All in all, though, AfricaCom 2019 reinforced that 4IR is an era of opportunity and that technology, enhances the potential to drive the continent forward.

Agencies



Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating. File photo

Climate change and the loss of species: Our greatest challenges

ROME

MOTTLED and reddish, the Lake Oku puddle frog has made its tragic debut on the Red List, a rapidly expanding roll call of threatened species. It was once abundant in the Kilum-Ijim rainforest of Cameroon but has not been seen since 2010 and is now listed as critically endangered and possibly extinct.

Researchers attribute its demise to a deadly fungal disease caused by the chytrid fungus. As noted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the skin fungus has devastated amphibian populations globally and holds the distinction of being the world's most invasive killer, responsible for the decline of at least 500 amphibian species, including 90 presumed extinctions.

The IUCN's Red List has expanded to cover more than 105,000 species of plants and animals, and its most recent update in July found that 27 per cent of those assessed were at risk of extinction. No species on the list was deemed to have improved its status enough since 2018 to be placed in a lower threat category.

Human exploitation is often responsible, as with the now endangered red-capped mangabey monkey hunted for bushmeat while its forest habitat in West Africa is destroyed for agriculture; or the East African pancake tortoise critically endangered because of the global pet trade. Thousands of tree species now make the list too.

In its multi-faceted approach towards combating species loss, the IUCN has launched its First Line of Defence against Illegal Wildlife Trade program in eastern and southern Africa, engaging rural communities as key partners in tackling wildlife crime. But this is just a small part of a much wider challenge.

As Grethel Aguilar, IUCN acting director general, noted: "We must wake up to the fact that conserving nature's diversity is in our interest, and is absolutely fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. States, businesses and civil society must urgently act to halt the overexploitation of nature, and must respect and support local communities and Indigenous Peoples in strengthening sustainable livelihoods." Jane Smart, global director of the IUCN Biodiversity Conservation Group, said the Red List update confirms the findings of the recent IPBES Global Biodiversity Assessment: "Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history."

More than one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, "unless action is taken to reduce the inten-

sity of drivers of bio-diversity loss", according to a landmark report by IPBES, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

It bleakly warns that the global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than it has averaged over the past 10 million years, and the rate will accelerate if action is not taken.

A summary was released in May and the full report is expected to be approved soon, assessing changes over the past 50 years and offering possible future scenarios.

Frightening statistics detail how 32 million hectares of primary or recovering forest were lost across much of the highly biodiverse tropics between 2010 and 2015 alone. Put in perspective that totals an area nearly the size of all Germany.

"Ecosystems, species, wild populations, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are shrinking, deteriorating or vanishing. The essential, interconnected web of life on Earth is getting smaller and increasingly frayed," said Professor Josef Settele, co-chair of the report. "This loss is a direct result of human activity and constitutes a direct threat to human well-being in all regions of the world."

Crucially, for the first time on such a scale of evidence, the report's more than 400 authors rank the five main drivers of this global disaster. In descending order they are listed as: (1) changes in land and sea use; (2) direct exploitation of organisms; (3) climate change; (4) pollution and (5) invasive alien species.

Clearly such challenges are interwoven and cannot be tackled in isolation. Some species are affected by all of these main drivers, or a deadly combination. Researchers into the fungal diseases wiping out amphibians like the Lake Oku puddle frog believe the most important factor in the spread of the pathogens is the global trade in wildlife. Some have also suggested that local changes in climate have also enabled the chytrid fungus to flourish in new habitats.

That governments are failing to address these warnings comes as little surprise, however.

"Despite 40 years of global climate negotiations, with few exceptions, we have generally conducted business as usual and have largely failed to address this predicament," declared 11,258 scientists grouped under the Alliance of World Scientists in a recent report, warning that the climate crisis is accelerating faster than most of them had expected and could reach potential irreversible climate tipping points, making large areas of Earth uninhabitable.

IPS

UDSM VC to graduates: Be agents of change in Tanzanian society

By Aisia Rweyemamu

IMPORTING knowledge as a basis for action from one generation to another and to meet the high level human resource needs of the Tanzanian society was among the objectives behind establishment of University of Dar es Salaam.

Established in 1961 as a College of the University of London, in 1963 it became a Constituent College of the University of East Africa. It was formerly established in August 1970, as a National University, through the University of Dar es Salaam Act number 12 of 1970.

The University of Dar es Salaam is a unique community of students and staff dedicated to bring out the best in all its members with aim to provide the best possible environment for teaching, learning, research and public services, and its track record of success is well known in East Africa, Africa and the rest of the world.

This year the university will start offering the international examinations for the Swahili language skills effectively from this month.

Being the first university in the world to come up with the examinations, the university will administer all examination process including marking and subsequently issue an international certificate that will indicate the competency level of the candidate.

Revealing this recently in Dar es Salaam during the 49th UDSM graduation, the university council chairman retired Judge Damian Lubuva said it is the great honour to the university due to the fact that the university is the only college with the oldest institution of Swahili studies since 1930.

He said the move will assist the university to be ranked high internationally.

However, the number of graduates has continued to increase, as postgraduate students have increased to 95 from 81 of last year and undergraduate students



have increased to 920 from 655 of last year.

Also the number of female graduates has increased to 38.5 percent from 32.3 percent.

Lubuva said; the university is proud of its achievements, including the mineral resource institution to be part of UDSM after being entrusted by the ministry of minerals this year.

Strengthening security at the university by installing road lights with security cameras in some areas of the university is also among the achievement the institute administration is proud off.

Judge Lubuva said: the council is pleased with the government's decision to start paying workers' claims including housing allowances, salary arrears and many others.

UDSM has also acknowledged the

great support by President John Magufuli in assisting the university in various development issues.

"The council is committed to ensure that everything which was directed by the president is fully implemented," the university chairman noted.

The chairman explained that despite many achievements recorded by the university, there are still significant challenges including shortage of staffs and experts in various profession and security issues of students and staff especially in dormitories and few areas around the university.

Another challenge is the low number of lecturers researching and publishing in internationally recognised journals.

Lubuva has also mentioned student's loans and accommodation shortage as challenges facing the university, calling

upon the government to assist in resolving the challenges.

He added; despite the installation of road lights at the university they are now looking for a more permanent solution in order to assure students and staff with enough security all the time.

"As the council we will continue to look for more measures on how we will put in place effective strategies to strengthen security.

The university noted that in the 2019 academic year, a total of 8,313 students have graduated in various education levels including diploma, undergraduate, post graduate as well as PhD, awarded by the university Chancellor, the former president Jakaya Kikwete.

During the ceremony, Prof William Anangisye, the UDSM Vice Chancellor, challenged the graduates to positively use the knowledge they have acquired, to pursue development in order for them to be a catalyst for change in Tanzanian society.

He told the graduates they have been effectively prepared by the university to engage with society and bring out development and positive changes.

"The important thing to remember is that, you have a responsibility to the nation as a whole and the responsibility to the university that provide you with the best education," the VC told the graduates.

He urged the graduates to join the community as part of the work force, and to tirelessly search for opportunities rather than waiting for opportunities to search them.

The VC also noted that the university has managed to complete the renovation of 11 workers house and rehabilitating 65 roofs that cost 920m/- from internal source.

Representing his fellow graduates, Arnold Matemba said that the absence of learning equipment for practical especially for science subjects is the problem which needs to be addressed soon for the future of students.

‘No peace, no safety, no documents’: Refugees plan 666-kilometre walk to Namibian border

By Sandisiwe Shoba and Noah Tobias

SAJEED Omar arrived in South Africa in 2011, fleeing violence in Somalia. Here, he found even less safety.

At first, Omar's papers allowed him to stay for six months. He managed to open a small shop in Philippi, eking out a living - until the store was burned down in a xenophobic attack. His papers burned with his livelihood. When he went to renew his asylum status at the Pretoria Home Affairs office, officials told him he couldn't do it without documentation.

On Monday morning, Omar packed his bags in preparation for the long walk to Namibia, alongside about 600 refugees who have been camped out in Cape Town's Central Methodist Mission since their forced eviction from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offices at the city's Waldorf Arcade.

The refugees share similar stories of violence and persecution.

The walk to Namibia is a 666km-long trek through the Northern Cape, where temperatures can reach as high as 38°C at this time of the year. The province is experiencing one of the worst droughts of the



A large banner hanging outside the Central Methodist Mission on Greenmarket Square in Cape Town send a clear message that refugees sheltered there want 'out' of South Africa, even if they have to walk to the nearest border. File photo

century, and farmers report widespread inability to feed and water their livestock.

Many refugees remain undaunted.

"I walked through eight countries without papers to get here," said Somali Abdi Kariim Moor, who sleeps outside the church in Greenmarket Square with his wife and two children. "We're waiting until Wednesday or Thursday, and then we'll pack up and leave."

Those who spoke to Daily Maverick said there was no concrete plan for

what they would do once they reached the Namibian border.

"When you are a refugee, you don't have a plan," explained leader Jean-Pierre "JP" Balous.

Saahra Qalaaye was one of the few who wasn't willing to make the dangerous trip.

"I'm not going to walk. I have six children to look after."

Whether the march will take place depends on the outcome of a new negotiation, which SA Human Rights Commissioner

Chris Nissen says is scheduled for Wednesday 20 November.

Despite Friday's scuffle at the church, in which several refugees assaulted a delegation composed of NGO workers and religious officials, the Human Rights Commission is still willing to engage the refugees sheltered at the church. The group later apologised for the assault.

According to Nissen, the SAHRC has been the go-between between the UNHCR and refugee

leaders. Communication had apparently broken down between the two groups.

A meeting between the SAHRC and the refugee leaders took place on Monday morning, where the leaders relented on their demand for mass resettlement and were willing to take the UNHCR up on its offer to resettle refugees on a case-by-case basis, said Nissen.

Yet, they are still willing to embark on a mass exodus if the outcome of Wednesday's meeting is unsatisfactory.

"If they were open to finding solutions, there would already be something on the table, but we don't see anything tangible," said Balous.

"If they still want to walk, we can't stop them," Nissen said. He was told they would be asylum-seekers when they reach Namibia.

Balous contends that they never refused the UNHCR's offer: "We never said we don't want a case-by-case basis."

"We asked them to come and do interviews at the church," he said, but the UNHCR allegedly never arrived.

The UNHCR head of external engagements, Joan Allison, told Daily Maverick: "We will not be setting up a table at the church and registering people."

She explained that the UNHCR will not engage the request for mass resettlement as the South African government has a policy of local integration. "It can take years to get reset-

tled," said Allison, due to multiple factors including the process of determining whether a person meets the criteria for resettlement, determining whether they are in fact a refugee and the host country's willingness to take them on.

"To put this in perspective, globally there are about 26 million refugees; only about 1% get resettled."

Karim Moor said he had never seen a single UNHCR representative come to the church.

"They didn't speak to us," he insisted. "We only got feedback through the leaders."

Nissen claims that some refugees at the church had already approached the UNHCR as far back as 2009 to request resettlement and were awaiting an outcome. He said those cases would have to be dealt with first.

The UNHCR, however, cannot give preference to the cases of the refugees at the church. All refugee cases within South Africa must be assessed on the same grounds.

Since they have to leave the church, the leaders asked SAHRC to engage authorities and request alternative shelter, an offer which UNHCR had already tabled.

"I'm tired of being a victim," said Ismail Dolal, a refugee from Somalia. After 14 years and two xenophobic attacks, he is ready to take any step towards safety, including this planned walk of a lifetime. **DM**

Could agriculture be Zimbabwe's way out of the dark?

BY LILY WELBORN

AMID a deteriorating political and economic context, there is one sector that Zimbabwe can look to for hope: agriculture. However, for agriculture to pull Zimbabwe out of the dark, the government needs to better harness the potential of the country's land and water resources.

A recent report by the African Futures and Innovation programme at the Institute for Security Studies used the International Futures forecasting system to investigate Zimbabwe's long-term development prospects across a range of sectors. These include economics, demographics, climate and infrastructure. It found that Zimbabwe has unrealised agricultural potential that, if carefully managed, could offer a practical path to making Zimbabweans more food secure and help improve livelihoods.

In 2012, Zimbabwean scientists updated the five agro-ecological zones, termed Natural Regions, that have guided agricultural activity in the country since they were first mapped in 1960. They discovered that although climate change and variability had generally led to warmer and drier conditions, much of the country's land remains suitable for crop cultivation.

Unexpectedly, the area of land best suited for cash crops like coffee, tea and potatoes more than doubled to cover 4% of the country. Known as Natural Region 1, this high-yielding land is located in the Manicaland province along Zimbabwe's far eastern border with Mozambique (see map). Here, specialised and diversified cropping operations enjoy the best soil and rain conditions in the country.

Meanwhile, the slightly less fertile Natural Regions 2 and 3 - where mostly smallholder farmers produce staple crops such as maize, wheat and soybeans - shrank, but still cover roughly a quarter of the country's total land area. These regions sweep across central and north-eastern Zimbabwe, covering parts of the Masvingo, Midlands and Mashonaland East, Central and West provinces.

Finally, in Natural Regions 4 and 5, the arid climate renders any agricultural endeavour other than the cultivation of the most drought-resistant crops (i.e. sorghum and millet) and livestock production difficult. Concerningly, these barren zones grew to cover the entire south-western half of the country and a significant portion of the north and north-east.

Water is a greater constraint on agriculture in Zimbabwe than land; there



is far more land with soil suitable for irrigation than there is water to irrigate it sustainably. However, Zimbabwe is under-utilising the scarce water resources it does have.

Presently only around 5% of Zimbabwe's crop land is equipped for irrigation, and it is likely that less than half of that is actually irrigated owing to decades of misuse or neglect. A 2015 Food and Agriculture Organization report estimated that Zimbabwe has enough renewable internal water to potentially double the area of land under irrigation sustainably, and without drawing from the Limpopo or Zambezi rivers.

There are a few strategies the gov-

ernment can pursue to better harness the potential of its land and water resources. First, expanding irrigation in Natural Regions 2 and 3 is critical to protecting smallholder farmers from the worst impacts of drought and to boost rural livelihoods. Despite decades of declining productivity, most Zimbabweans rely on subsistence farming for their primary source of income.

Outside of Natural Region 1, most crops are rainfed, making it highly difficult, if not impossible, for farmers to keep their crops alive during the dry season. The impacts are grave: 3.58

million Zimbabweans, representing nearly a quarter of the entire population, are currently estimated to be facing severe acute food insecurity.

This first requires that the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate and the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development and their respective departments prioritise rehabilitating existing irrigation schemes. The ailing dam management systems responsible for their decline also need to be reformed. An exploration of the economic feasibility of irrigating more land, within the constraints

of Zimbabwe's available internal renewable water resources, should follow.

Second, the government should make land legally transferable (i.e. tradable). Farmers' inability to use their land as collateral for loans, and banks' uncertainty about whether they can seize land without prior approval from the government, has proved a formidable and enduring obstacle to agricultural productivity. Transferability of land would unlock investment and productivity in the commercial sector and enable farmers to cultivate arable land that is lying

idle.

These are challenging tasks for a state struggling to navigate manifold political and economic problems. And none of this can be achieved without a level of political stability and accountability. But against a worsening food crisis, sustainably making use of Zimbabwe's under-utilised land and water resources to improve agricultural productivity is necessary.

Lily Welborn, Researcher, African Futures and Innovation, ISS Pretoria

As the food crisis worsens, better management of under-utilised land and water resources could turn things around. File photo

CSOs inaugurate code of conduct to guide human rights defenders during elections

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDCs) has launched code of conduct for human rights defenders during the elections and democratic processes in Tanzania.

The code of conduct shall mean a set of codes, values, principles, outlining the norms, rules, prohibitions and responsibilities of, and, or proper practices for HRDC members.

Launching the code of conduct, former Chief Executive Officer for Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Dr Judith Odunga said that the Civil Society Organisations are the main stakeholders of politics and democracy and they have the right to overseeing the elections and have the right to provide civic education so long as they don't violate the country laws.

"In recent years some people have developed a culture of monopolizing politics as if it is their own right and property. We should say no to these tendencies because that is the right of all of us. We have the right to participate in different forms," she said.

Dr Odunga said that the members of the THRDC should read it properly and understand and then disseminate it to other members for use.

"Many useful things have been written in this country and others are being written but people don't use them to get the required knowledge and skills instead, they are kept in shelves. We can't go this way we must change our mind and start reading and using them. We should develop a culture of reading," she stressed.

She called on the THRDC members across the country to play an active role in defending human rights.

"The code of conduct has come at the right time when we are approaching the local government elections and the general elections. The code of conduct will provide members an opportunity to fruitfully defend human rights. We must therefore read them and use them during the elections and the coming general elections next year," she said.

She commended the major pillars of democracy saying the concept of democracy is built on five major pillars which are truth and transparency, free and fair elections, good governance, separation of power and equality before the law.

According to THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olen-gurumwa, the Coalition has developed the code of conduct to guide its members in election cycles and democratic processes. The code provides for the mechanisms that members must adhere to ensure a neutral and effective engagement in elections cycles and democratic processes. The enforcement of this code of conduct shall be governed by the THRDC constitution.

He said the code of conduct intends to provide civic understanding on the roles of human rights defenders cycles, guide human rights defenders in monitoring and observation of the election processes in Tanzania. To raise awareness on the rights and opportunities for human rights available in elections and democratic process.

To equip human rights defenders with knowledge on how to engage securely, neutrally, and effectively into elections and democratic processes.

"This code of conduct shall apply in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. It shall only regulate and coordinate registered and non registered THRDCs members and potential members of the coalition," he said.

Olen-gurumwa added that the human rights defenders will adhere to the following codes during elections cycle. First, they must understand and adhere to local and international electoral laws, rules, regulations and any amendment thereto. The human rights defenders shall provide civic and voter education to the people in accordance to the existing laws. They shall engage in partnership with the electoral management bodies such as NEC and ZEC, the media and other relevant stakeholders in providing civic and voter education. Shall conduct public dialogues and discussions on issues related to elections and democratization.

The code of conduct further explains that HRDs shall undertake election monitoring and observation with an objective of establishing whether an election process meets required national and international standards. HRDs shall observe and expose the electoral malpractices and providing useful recommendations. HRDs must ensure that they play a very important role in collaboration with other stakeholders to facilitate a free and fair election process free from violence and intimidations.

Executive Director for the Door of Hope Tanzania Clemence Mwombeki said that the number of CSOs participating the elections should increase especially provision of civic education which is the right of all citizens. Citing an example he said only six organisations have been approved to participate in the provision of education and as observers of the elections saying the number is smaller and should be increased.

"We call on the civil Society organisations that have received permits to participate in the elections to make sure that they do their work diligently to ensure the elections are just and fair," read part of the statement.

He said that the government and the general public at large should perceive and consider the CSOs as true partners of development and democracy making process in the country.



High profile members of the THRDC display the code of conduct shortly after launching it. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Traffic police, brewer team up to end carnage on roads

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TRAFFIC Police in Kilimanjaro Region and the Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) have teamed up to cut high rates of accidents caused by reckless driving within Moshi Municipality by providing road safety gears and safe driving training to drivers.

Speaking with the drivers here yesterday during the launch of DRINKIQ Campaign to promote responsible drinking when driving, the SBL Corporate Relations Director John Wanyancha explained that, the DrinkIQ campaign aims at promoting road safety by promoting responsible drinking and not drinking while driving especially during the seasons when frequent accidents are reported to occur, sometimes resulting in deaths and morbidity to many drivers, passengers and other road users.

"In realization of the fact that drivers

are among the consumers of our beer products and other alcohol beverages, SBL initiated this campaign country-wide to discuss with our customers on responsible drinking and driving," he explained.

Wanyancha further explained that they have already run such campaigns in Dar-es-salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Morogoro, Tanga, and Moshi.

"Through this campaign we have more than 10,000 people reached directly, while many others reached through various media including social media..." Mr. Wanyancha further explained.

For her part, the Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Superintendent of Police (SP) Zauda Mohammed said the awareness by SBL entailed modern driving skills that require a driver to drive with a normal mind instead of drink and drive.



CLARIFICATION ON THE ONGOING SLANDER ON EXIM BANK TANZANIA.

In recent days there have been articles published in local tabloids (not mainstream dailies) authored by an unidentified reporter, seeking to disrepute or otherwise tarnish the strong reputation of some strong-standing companies in Tanzania, including our Bank (Exim Bank), our Director(s) and/or Shareholder(s).

These unfounded allegations have ranged from unsubstantiated assertions of illegal acts or omissions directly or indirectly relating our Bank, directors or shareholders, to an alleged plot to illegally take a specific Client's property with a view to benefit our Bank or a particular Director or Shareholder. In the said tabloid's articles, reference has been made to the property belonging to one Nimrod Mkono and to the High Court of Tanzania, Commercial Case Number 59 of 2018.

In response to these unfounded and malicious allegations, Exim Bank would like to clarify as follows:

i. Outstanding Loan to Nimrod Mkono

Hon. Nimrod Mkono is our customer through a credit facility obtained personally and secured, inter alia, by a legal charge over a residential property located in Dar es Salaam. In accordance with the terms of the credit agreement duly executed by this Client, Hon. Mkono, undertook to comply with the terms of the loan including repayment of the borrowed money to the Bank, in accordance with the loan agreement terms and the laws of Tanzania. Regrettably, the Client did not honour its signed undertaking to repay the loan.

Following non-compliance with the terms as agreed and despite extension of time and leniency by the Bank, at the end of the day (complying with the law and the Bank of Tanzania guidelines) after various demand notices went unheeded, the Bank was left with no option but to initiate recovery process. The Bank resorted to the High Court – Commercial Division, for the payment of outstanding amount from Hon. Mkono's personal loan, by institution of Civil Case No. 21 of 2018.

This case was dealt with and resolved in accordance with the terms of the Decree in another case (Commercial Case No. 59/2019) which also involved Hon. Mkono as a Guarantor of a Company known as Baobab Properties Limited as explained below.

ii. Outstanding Loan to Baobab Properties Limited

Baobab Properties Limited ("Baobab") is also a customer of the Bank. In June 2014, Exim Bank provided a credit facility to Baobab, to the tune of US\$ 750,000.00. The credit facility repayment obligations were guaranteed inter alia, by personal guarantee of one Nimrod Mkono.

Baobab defaulted in its payment obligations. This prompted the Bank to issue a Statutory Notice of default to Baobab and its Guarantors on 13th June 2016, repayment of Baobab's indebtedness to the Bank.

Despite the Notice and several attempts by the Bank, Baobab and its guarantors failed to repay the loan as required.

In line with its mandate under the law, the Bank endeavored to recover the outstanding amount by realization of security over a landed property in the name of Baobab, located at Kunduchi area. However, Baobab objected this lawful effort by instituting a Court Case against the Bank (Land Division Land Application No. 315 of 2017) challenging the intended loan recovery and also sought an injunction to restrain the Bank from disposing the property pending the determination of the main suit (Mis. Land Application No. 723 /2017).

Finally, Bank's only resort was to seek Court's intervention through a Commercial Case no 59/2018, requesting the Court to order Baobab (who is the borrower) and the two guarantors, to repay the loan plus interest.

For clarity, the said case was not lodged by any of the Bank's shareholders or directors personally, as it has been maliciously misrepresented in the tabloid. The case was lodged by the Bank against the defaulting Company (Baobab) and its guarantors.

While the case was pending in Court, Baobab Properties and its Guarantors entered into settlement discussion where an amicable settlement was reached and subsequently presented to the Court and issued as a **Consent Judgment**. That is, a **judgment** issued by the Court - based on an agreement between the parties to a lawsuit to settle the matter, aimed at ending the litigation with a **judgment** that is enforceable.

The clear terms of the Settlement Deed and subsequent Judgment of the High Court of Tanzania are briefly that:

- i. That Judgment and Decree be entered in favour of the Bank against the three defendants jointly and severally, for the amount and reliefs claimed by Bank together with costs and interest in both Commercial Case No. 21 of 2018 (recovery suit against a personal loan to Mr. Nimrod Mkono himself) and Commercial case No 59 of 2018 supra.
- ii. Baobab will in the first instance sell its properties comprised in Title Numbers 59293/4/1, 59293/4/3 and 39534 being the properties on the 8th and 10th floors of the building known as Exim Tower on Plots No. 1403/45 and 1404/45 Central Area, Ghana Avenue, Dar es Salaam and Plot No. 1 Kunduchi Beach, Dar es Salaam respectively ("the Properties") in order to pay off the Decretal sums due to the Plaintiff in Commercial Cases No. 21 of 2018 and 59 of 2018;
- iii. The Bank will not to execute the Decree for a period of six (06) months from the date of recording this Compromise as a Decree of the Court in order to allow the Sale of the Properties to take place and for payments of the Sale Proceeds to the Bank towards satisfaction of the Decree.
- iv. Baobab Properties Limited shall remit the Sale Proceeds from the Sale of the Properties to the Bank who shall place the same in a designated Bank Account and to utilize the Sale Proceeds in the following order: -
 - a. To first pay the Estate Agents Commissions and all taxes arising from the Sale of the properties;
 - b. Secondly, to satisfy the decree in Commercial Case No. 59 of 2018;
 - c. Thirdly, to satisfy the decree in commercial case No. 21 of 2018 (which is against Nimrod Mkono for the said personal loan); and
 - d. In the event of surplus to pay the remaining balance to Baobab Properties Limited
- v. That during the period of six months to allow Baobab Properties Ltd and its guarantors to dispose the properties, the Bank will not charge any interest on loans.
- vi. Upon expiry of six (6) month grace period, the Bank will be at liberty to execute the Decree the decree in Commercial cases No 21 of 2018 and 59 of 2018 in any manner the Bank deems fit.
- vii. Upon recording of this Compromise, Baobab Properties Limited will take immediate steps to Withdraw Land Case No. 315 of 2017 (supra) pending in the High Court of Tanzania, Land Division, at Dar es Salaam.

Despite the grace period given and further extension of time, Baobab and its Guarantors have failed to dispose the property (the two floors) and/or repay the outstanding loan to the Bank as it had requested and agreed in Court.

Due to this failure, the Bank had no option but to resort back to Court (under Clause vi above, which is paragraph 11 of the Consent Judgment) to enforce the Settlement Agreement and Consent Judgment, as it was agreed in the parties' Settlement Deed and ordered by the Court in the Consent Judgment. That process is continuing under the orders of the High Court of Tanzania and letter and spirit of the law.

THEREFORE, the Bank categorically denounces any allegations of foul play involving the Bank, its Directors or Shareholders in relation to its operations generally or any particular transaction. Exim Bank as a responsible bank, has a longstanding reputation in the banking sector in the United Republic of Tanzania and beyond. All operations of the Bank are undertaken in accordance with the laws, regulations and directives governing the banking sector in Tanzania.

In view of the deliberate campaign to disrepute the Bank, directly and indirectly, we have initiated legal proceedings against involved parties, which legal process is currently being pursued in the strongest terms, in accordance with the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Management,
Exim Bank Tanzania

NOTE:

The above information is publicly available and can be verified through perusal the Court's records in High Court Commercial Case No. 21/2018 and High Court Commercial Case No. 59/2018 at the High Court of Tanzania, Commercial Division (Dar es Salaam Registry).

You've graduated...What now?

YOUR fine dress is almost ready, or didn't they tell you that tailors be having very fake promises?

They better be sincere on this very special day literally!

What about that elite photographer you've booked for your day?! what of the make up artist?

Oh well, may your village people not come in between this day by messing up the schedules of these very important service providers.

Well, congratulations! You've made it through the college struggles, put in the work and hureeey! Finally you've got to the finish line and, here you are waving the graduation cap tagging your fiends in pictures with "mama I made it" captions and making the worth some memories in many years to come.

So you're officially a college graduate... what now?

You may not have a job just yet or any other activity to keep you busy during the day. Your siblings, parents and guardians might already be on your neck making demands or already asking disturbing questions. Relax... the journey has just begun.

Completing college isn't the commencement of a fulfilling career life but rather a bumpy ride which will leave you with more lessons than overnight success and what is beautiful about that experience is it will all be worthwhile.

Don't even begin comparing yourself to your college mates who you think have already started making it...each individuals' journey is different and in the long run we all get to it whichever way--you'll get there, you will.

Sit back relax, take a deep breath and clear your mind of anything that is meant to confuse you.

Nonetheless, this journey is yours and yours alone...so now what's next after that graduation ceremony?

Visit Your Family, Travel

This is definitely the perfect time to make the right choices with a clear relaxed mind...what of visiting your parents and siblings in the suburb's or your village? You now can create memories with the ones you love and use this time to reconnect with family and friends. Suggest a family vacation and help plan it. You can also go out with friends you haven't been able to



see or hang out with in a while and make wonderful memories together. Well, relax you need that don't be too hard on yourself.

Commit yourself to learn a new skill or hobby

There's nothing like me time or doing something for yourself that you never got to do. Another way to spend your time is opening your mind to learn a new skill and you may never know where the new learned skill might take you. Cooking, interior design & decor, public speaking, coding, graphic design, photography, sports and painting. Don't take it lightly but however unprofessional the skill might look like it has people earn a living out of it.

YouTube offers millions of free classes on anything, make good use of that...you are just a bundle away from learning a new skill. You now have a reason to stay on YouTube rather than watching that series or just watching pointless gists or music videos from tabloid online TVs.

Sign up for a salsa class, learn a new language, take a fitness zumba, cycling and spin class etc...Do something worthwhile this time. You could also look into expanding your professional skill set by taking a course that might make you more marketable to jobs when you begin applying. Sites like lynda.com, edx, coursera, udemy among many others provide a huge lists of professional courses you could

take and offer certification as well.

Volunteer in a community service project

Life after college will bring you so much free time you never knew you needed.

If you're interested in giving back to your community, then this is the perfect time. There are dozens of projects everywhere that can be reached locally in different places. You just have to find that passion of yours and see how you could lend a hand to those in need.

Although you may not have a job just yet, dedicating your time to community service can give you a mission or purpose. Volunteer work and setting time aside to give back will definitely make you productive and of course expand your network, polish your skills especially interaction with people boosts your social skills

as well. Your resume eventually will stand out among the rest in a job contest.

Spend time with Yourself

While you're closing one chapter of your life and walking into new doors with new opportunities, use this time to simply take care of yourself. Write lists: goals, dreams, things to do, or even affirmations and intentions that you have for yourself at this new beginning

Network

Networking is actually a skill that most people shy away from, forget how important it is, or don't have much experience with at all. Due to the fact that we have alumnus in college and that you are one of them, it's a great place to start building your network. Fellow alumni members are always more willing to help recent graduates get their foot in the door, guide you to the best people to talk to for advice, or even set up possible interviews. Also look for networking events that go on in your city, and use your social media to your advantage.

Meeting people in person to ask for advice will help you to build a relationship with them that will help you get that job you want.

Eventually, if you do these 5 things consistently, starting now, I'm confident that you'll end up having the career and life you desire.

Literally speaking, It won't always be easy. It certainly won't be stress free. There will be setbacks. There will be days you'll want to quit, but there will also be days you'll be jumping with joy.

Congratulations on completing that college life phase. Live your best life but carry your brain with you.



French President Emmanuel Macron addresses the opening ceremony of Paris Peace Forum in Paris, France, on Nov 12, 2019. The second edition of the Paris Peace Forum began on Tuesday.

Pooling all power to defend multilateralism

By He Yin

TO praise and call for international cooperation that safeguards multilateralism and promotes win-win results is now a common practice of the world.

The second edition of the Paris Peace Forum recently held was a perfect demonstration to this point. The event was joined by over 7,000 delegates from 136 official delegations, including 30 heads of state, government, and international organizations.

Centering on six major themes, the event held a total of more than 80 multilateral discussions on peace, security, development, environment and new technologies.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres shared his ideas at the forum, saying that the world is breaking apart and the status quo is untenable. He noted that no country is capable of bridging these fault lines in isolation, separately from the rest of the world.

"We must do everything possible to avert this Great Fracture and preserve a global system: a universal economy with respect for international law; a multipolar world with solid multilateral institutions," he added. His concerns echoed with those of the delegates.

French President Emmanuel Macron, initiator of the forum warned that the world is witnessing a crisis without precedent in the global system.

Development gap is growing amongst the sluggish global economy, and the world is overshadowed by the rising Cold War mentality and unilateralism. All countries must work together to explore a global governance plan that is more impartial, effective and conforming to the trend of history.

China has sent high-level delegations to the Paris Peace Forum for two consecutive years, making voices to support multilateralism and offering solutions to global governance. The Chinese presence has become one of the highlights at the forum.

The Chinese wisdom is manifested in many issues under discussion at this year's forum, such as China's ecological progress and the country's efforts to build a multilateral dialogue and collaboration platform between South-South cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the forum, China hosted a round-table conference on biodiversity, a pre-

view of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to held next year in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province, receiving huge attention from various parties.

China plays an important part in safeguarding multilateralism and world peace, noted Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former Prime Minister of France at the forum. China sent a message to the world that multilateralism and cooperation are the only path leading to peace, he added.

In the face of the ever-changing international situation, China and Europe, both major powers, markets and civilizations in the multipolar world, have witnessed increasingly closer cooperation under multilateral frameworks, shouldering historical responsibilities. Their efforts are obvious to all.

During Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Greece, the two countries issued a joint statement on strengthening their comprehensive strategic partnership. The two sides have agreed to promote openness and inclusiveness in building an open world economy, and to oppose all forms of protectionism and unilateralism.

The two sides will work together to advance and deepen China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership and forge partnerships for peace, growth, reform and civilization. At present, to build stronger multilateralism between the EU and China is a topic receiving increasing attention from foreign media.

The world today is like a vast ocean in which all countries are interconnected. Facing the same challenges, no one can stay unscathed or deal with these challenges on their own. Shifting troubles to others is not the right way forward. Collective response is the only viable solution, which is a consensus among all rational thinkers and doers in the world.

China is a champion of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of the international order. Many members of the international community are believed to be on the same page with China. In a world that is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, it is increasingly acknowledged that only by pooling all power to defend multilateralism and conducting international cooperation for win-win results can human beings embrace a bright future featuring common development and prosperity. **People's Daily**

The ocean in us: Ocean action for climate ambition

NOUMEA, New Caledonia

IN just under a month, countries around the world will gather for UNFCCC COP 25. The hashtag for this year's "Blue COP" is yet another reminder to us all that it is "Time For Action". We can no longer afford to wait as the effects of the climate crisis become ever more present. Vulnerable populations, whether from Small Island States, the rural heartland or the world's megacities, are becoming ever more vulnerable, and the wellbeing of people and planet continues to face its most existential threat.

At the Pacific Community (SPC), we are confronted every day by the striking dichotomy between the extreme vulnerability of our small island/large ocean Member States and the remarkable resilience and climate ambition of their peoples. We are also challenged by a new reality: under the effects of climate change, the islands and peoples of the Blue Pacific continent are both sustained and threatened by the ocean.

Responding to this reality, in 2018 Pacific Leaders adopted an expanded definition of human security to include the implications of climate change and environmental degradation, and, in the 2019 Kainaki II Declaration, they called for "urgent, transformational global climate change action" to limit global warming to 1.5°C, transition out of fossil fuels, achieve net zero carbon by 2050, increase global climate finance and invest in science-based initiatives to improve our collective understanding of risk and vulnerability, while providing a robust evidence-base for informed policy making.

The Kainaki II Declaration is also a milestone in its express recognition of the ocean-climate nexus and its appeal to "all parties attending COP 25 to welcome the focus on oceans, consider developing a work programme on oceans within the United Nations



A view of Majuro, Marshall Islands. File photo

Framework Convention on Climate Change process and convene a workshop on the climate-ocean nexus in 2020".

But it is not only for the island Nations of the Pacific that the nexus between climate change and our ocean is critical. It is just as vital for other Small Island Developing States and, whether they realise it or not, for countries and peoples around the globe, from the coastline to the highest mountains and the farthest reaches of the planet's great continental landmasses.

The recent IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) highlighted that "It is virtually certain that the global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and has taken up more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system" with observed negative impacts on ecosystems, people and ecosystem services. The SROCC underscored the risks this creates for, among others, biodiversity, water use and access, vulnerability to extreme weather events, changes in the distribution of natural resources and "intrinsic values important for human identity".

In this context, where ocean change is driven by climate change and each, in turn, compounds the negative impact of the other, we cannot ignore the science and we should not ignore the crosscutting benefits of combined

ocean/climate action. And SPC is already bringing its capacity and partnerships to bear to take action.

As a partner of the Because the Ocean Initiative and the Ocean Pathway Partnership, SPC supported the third regional workshop on the integration of the ocean into NDCs under the Paris Agreement, together with a special ocean-climate negotiators symposium in May 2019.

Over past years, SPC's teams have implemented significant programmes of work on the restoration of ecosystem services and adaptation to climate change, contributed to the Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card, led and published research on the vulnerability of tropical Pacific fisheries and aquaculture to climate change and, with our partners, developed projections for the future geographic distribution of tuna stocks under the effects of a warming ocean.

And through platforms such as the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science (PCCOS), we will convene partnerships, facilitate knowledge exchange and action to strengthen the collaborative contribution ocean science can bring to climate action, as one of our key initiatives under the upcoming United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

From 2 to 13 December in Madrid,

under the incoming Chilean presidency, SPC fully intends to leverage the opportunity provided by the "Blue COP" and mobilise its partnerships to highlight the powerful synergies between ocean action and climate action.

We will be convening several events presenting a Pacific perspective on the SROCC, highlighting the impact of climate change on maritime boundaries, emphasising the contribution of ocean science for climate action and outlining a 2030-2050 vision for resilient, green and clean ports in the Pacific islands region. At SPC, we are convinced that to deliver on the promise of the Paris Agreement, we need a healthy and sustainably managed ocean.

As such, we are also working actively with our Member States and partners like the Green Climate Fund, the European Union, the Agence Française de Développement and others to integrate the ocean into projects that will strengthen action for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in the Pacific.

The celebrated Pacific author Epeli Hau'ofa wrote "the sea is our pathway to each other and to everyone else, the sea is our endless saga, the sea is our most powerful metaphor, the ocean is in us". That eloquent statement of a fundamental ocean identity comes from the heart of Oceania, from the strength of the cultures and traditions of the Blue Pacific.

Imagine how powerful it would be if we collectively harnessed "the ocean in us" as a driving force for increased climate ambition and enhanced climate action. COP 25 is our chance to do just that! It is our chance to ensure the ocean is recognised as part of the climate solution. And it is our chance to embed the nexus between climate change and the ocean into our thinking, our cooperation and, above all, our action.

IPS



Thursday 21 November 2019



UTT-AMIS managing director Simon Migangala.

UTT's Bond Fund IPO raises over 15.9bn/- in a month

By Beatrice Philemon

UTT Asset Management and Investor Services' Bond Fund has raised 15.9bn/- during a month long initial public offer period which ended mid October this year. UTT AMIS Senior Public Relations and Marketing Manager, Rahim Mwanga said in Dar es Salaam this week that after the IPO period, the Bond Fund has now entered the secondary market and will sell at 101/- from 100/- which was the IPO price.

"We would like to invite prospective investors to come forward and by some part of the bond and earn some dividend in future," said Mwanga who stated that 1,400 investors took part during the IPO which started mid September this year.

He said the bond which interest pegged at seven year Treasury Bond is a lucrative vehicle for any investors to put their money in with as little as 50,000/- of purchase. "All funds are accessible after three months of lock in period with payment being made within 10 days," he noted while pointing out that investors can buy their stake using any mobile money platform.

Speaking during the IPO launch, UTT-AMIS Managing Director, Simon Migangala said the bond fund was aimed at ensuring that more Tanzanians including those in rural areas take part in collective investment schemes.

"UTT-AMIS is looking to widen the participation of all Tanzanians by putting initial investment to as low as 50,000/- where bond fund offers annual, semiannual and monthly income distribution," Migangala said.

He said those investing 10m/- will be eligible for monthly income distribution while the 5m/- investors will receive semiannual earnings but for investors who part with 50,000/-, they benefiting from capital appreciation.

The UTT-AMIS CEO further said rural folks are targeted investors by the bond because they can use mobile phones to buy their stake without the need to visit physical agents or brokers most of who are urban based.

Absa CIB bags Africa's best investment banking award

By The Banker Reporter

ABSA Group's Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) has been named the Best Investment Bank I Africa by the 12th EMEA Finance African Banking Awards for 2019.

The South African based lender was also awarded Best Investment Bank in Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia as well the Best Equity House in Mozambique and the Best Loan House in South Africa.

"We are honoured to be chosen as the best investment bank in Africa in these highly respected industry awards, and it is testament to the hard work the team have put in to make our business more and more client focused while ensuring we deliver to the level expected of a leading investment bank," said Absa CIB CEO, Charles Russon.

Russon said the bank which is transitioning to a pan African brand after Barclays Plc sold its majority stake earlier this year, has seen a growing appetite by clients to invest and expand across the continent, both in the markets that Absa operates in and in non-pro-



Barclays Bank Zambia's Managing Director, Mizinga Melu.

cess countries.

"We are here to provide the solutions that help our clients realise their ambitions across this continent," said Russon saying judges of the competition

took note of such a development across the continent.

The awards recognise the achievements of retail and investment banks as well as their asset management and broker-

age operations across the combined emerging Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) regions, the organisers said in a statement.

"Absa owes these achievements to incredible partnerships it has built with its clients and the talented teams within the business that continually demonstrate world-class expertise and capabilities across a range of solutions and markets for clients in Africa," David Renwick, Head of Investment Banking Division at Absa.

He added, "These included various advisory, capital raising and financing mandates, in addition being the joint-lead arranger in the first social bond ever raised by a corporate in Africa."

The other notable achievement for the bank was its selection as joint book-runner on the Airtel Africa Plc dual IPO on the London and Nigerian Stock Exchanges, where Absa was also joint issuing house in Nigeria as well.

Barclays Tanzania Managing Director Abdi Mohamed also cherished the role that the local subsidiary has played saying, "We are honoured to be receiving this award. We thank our customers and all our stakeholders for the ongoing support."

"As we transition our brand to Absa over the coming months we will continue to focus on innovation, service delivery, and bringing possibility to life for our customers," he added.

These awards speak to how Absa is pushing the financial boundaries by developing new propositions that remove obstacles and reduce our client's pain points, in addition to being a socially responsible bank in all the markets where operate.

"We are honoured to be the recipient of the 12th EMEA award. Being recognised for this prestigious award is testimony of our Corporate and Investment Banking capabilities that are anchored on supporting the growth of key sectors of our economy, building strong partnerships with our clients as well as connecting clients to larger markets through our regional and global footprint," said Barclays Bank Zambia's Managing Director, Mizinga Melu.

"As we embark on our journey to Absa, we will continue to provide our customers with innovative banking solutions that not only meet their needs, but help to shape the banking sector in Zambia," Meru said.

Africa's mobile data revenue to double by 2024

JOHANNESBURG

Mobile revenue in Africa will rise from \$54.31 billion in 2019, to \$67.12 billion in 2024. This is according to the Africa Digital Outlook 2019 report from market research firm Ovum.

The research, which looks at the state of Africa's telecommunications market, found revenue on the continent will more than double in the next four years, from \$14.91 billion in 2019 to \$31.42 billion in 2024, growing at a significantly faster rate than voice calling.

However, due to the overall growth in the mobile market and continued relevance of voice calling for many customers, some major African operators, such as Airtel and MTN, will continue to see growth in mobile voice revenue, notes Ovum. "Ovum expects mobile voice revenue in Africa to rise modestly through to 2021, but to decline thereafter to the end of the forecast period," says Matthew Reed, practice leader at Ovum.

"Service are reporting strong growth in revenue from data and digital services such as mobile money in Africa. Mobile broadband and financial services are key growth segments. The availability of affordable data-enabled devices is a key contributing factor to this growth in African markets, where average incomes are typically low."

Mobile subscriptions in Africa passed the one billion mark in 2017, and reached about 1.07 billion in June 2019, with population penetration of 82.6%, according to Ovum. Nigeria, the most populous country on the continent, also has Africa's biggest mobile market by subscriptions, with 170 million mobile subscriptions in 2Q19. The next-

biggest markets are SA, with 104.3 million mobile subscriptions, and Egypt, with 93.8 million mobile subscriptions, and Kenya with 50.2 million.

Smart feature phone boost

There will be 1.08 billion mobile broadband connections on the African continent by 2024, representing 79% of the 1.37 billion overall mobile connections on the continent, as service providers expand their mobile broadband networks, and as smart devices and services become more affordable, according to Ovum.

It adds the number of 3G W-CDMA connections in Africa will continue to increase through to 2024, in contrast with global trends, where these are expected to decline in other parts of the globe over the next few years.

"An overwhelming majority (85.3%) of mobile broadband connections on the continent were accounted for by 3G W-CDMA in the second quarter of 2019, while LTE accounted for just 14.2% of connections. 2G GSM still has a substantial market share, accounting for 42.9% of Africa's mobile connections in 2Q19," notes the report.

However, it predicts 14.2% of mobile LTE connections on the continent are expected to increase at a more rapid rate, rising from 97.5 million at the end of 2019, to 336 million at the end of 2024. "Both MTN and Orange have introduced smart feature phones that use the Kai operating system and are priced at about \$20 as a means of encouraging wider take-up of data services," Reed points out.

"Tecno, backed by Chinese company Transsion, has become one of the biggest mobile phone brands in Africa by offering

affordable smartphones with features tailored to the African market, such as long-life batteries."

Vodacom is also looking to extend its smart feature phones portfolio by bringing KaiOS-powered devices to the South African market in the second quarter of 2020. The report warns instability, poor infrastructure and digital divide factors will continue to hold back digital development in Africa.

"Just one example of the barriers to digital development in Africa is that in 2018, the average cost of a 1GB mobile broadband plan on the continent was equivalent to 8% of average monthly income - far above the affordability benchmark of less than 2% of income, according to the UN Broadband Commission," it notes. Fixed broadband household penetration in Africa was about 8.5% at end-2Q19, lower than in any other world region, except Central and Southern Asia.

In terms of 5G connectivity, although SA's two biggest operators, MTN and Vodacom, have been preparing for 5G for some time, it was data-only service provider Rain that became the first in the country to launch commercial 5G services when in September 2019 it started to offer 5G fixed-wireless home broadband in Johannesburg and Pretoria, with plans to expand to Cape Town, Durban and other cities.

"MTN and Vodacom say their plans to launch 5G in SA have been held up because they do not have access to the spectrum required in the sub-1GHz bands, as well as in the 2.6GHz and 3.5GHz bands. In 2018, Vodacom launched what it said was Africa's first commercial 5G service in Lesotho, using spectrum in the 3.5GHz band to which

Vodacom has access in Lesotho but not in SA," notes the report.

In the first week of November, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa published the long-awaited information memorandum on the licensing process for the assignment of the International Mobile Telecommunications spectrum.

WiFi projects on the increase

WiFi networks are increasingly important for broadband connectivity in Africa. Facebook and Google both have WiFi ventures on the continent: Facebook's Express WiFi operates in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, SA, and Tanzania; and the Google Station WiFi service operates in Nigeria.

"There are also efforts to improve connectivity in rural areas, using a range of technologies. MTN Group is working with the Facebook-backed Telecom Infra Project to test and deploy low-cost wireless networks designed for rural areas. Loon, a subsidiary of Google's parent company Alphabet, is to run a trial with Telkom Kenya of its plan to use giant helium balloons to bring wireless broadband connectivity to remote areas," according to the report.

Although wireline broadband penetration is low in Africa, Ovum expects the number of FTTx (fibre to the customer) subscriptions on the continent to grow strongly over the coming few years, from 1.28 million at end-2019, to 4.07 million at end-2024. "At end-2024, SA will have 1.22 million FTTx subscriptions, making it the biggest FTTx market on the continent (by subscriptions), followed by Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, and Kenya, forecasts Ovum."

China accuses Zimbabwe of understating financial support

HARARE

China accused Zimbabwe on Tuesday of understating its financial help to the southern African nation, after budget figures released last week showed that major ally Beijing ranked poorly on the list of Harare's foreign donors.

Zimbabwe's authorities have a history of quietly racking up foreign debt without the approval of parliament and the funding discrepancy has led to

questions from the critics of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government as to whether it is hiding figures or it has just made an accounting error.

Zimbabwe is in the throes of its worst economic crisis in a decade. Compounding the pain is a severe drought which has triggered food shortages and rolling power cuts. In August, Zimbabwe's annual inflation rate hit 300 percent - the highest in the world, according to the International Monetary Fund

(IMF).

Wages have stagnated while prices for basic necessities like food and fuel have soared. Cash shortages - a problem for years - have worsened and foreign currency is hard to come by. The litany of financial blows is making life unbearable for the majority of the 15 million people in the country.

In the absence of funding from lenders like the IMF and the World Bank, China has over the years become a ma-

major financier of projects in Zimbabwe, including water and power infrastructure through the China Export and Import Bank.

Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said in a budget statement on Thursday that the country received \$194m from bilateral donors between January and September, with the bulk of the money coming from Western countries.

He said China provided \$3.6m, a fig-

ure that was criticised as paltry by opponents of Mnangagwa's government, which considers Beijing an "all-weather friend." The Chinese embassy in Harare disputed the figure, saying in a statement: "This is very different from the situation on the ground."

The embassy said its records showed that bilateral financial support to Zimbabwe was far greater, at \$136.8m between January and September. The figure excluded donations to vulnerable

groups, the embassy said.

"The embassy wishes that the relevant departments of the Zimbabwean government will make comprehensive assessments on the statistics of bilateral supports and accurately reflect its actual situation when formulating budget statement," the embassy said in a terse statement. Zimbabwe finance ministry spokesperson Clive Maphambela could not immediately comment on the discrepancy.

TECC youth entrepreneurs forge partnerships at Riyadh global summit



Tanzania Entrepreneurship and Competitive Council communications officer Angela Bushajia (2nd L) has a word with the three young entrepreneurs upon their arrival at Julius Nyerere International Airport from a global youth summit in Riyadh last week. Others in are Consesa Mushi (L) Zeredi Amir (R) and Mfaume Hamsa. Photo courtesy of TECC.

By The Banker Reporter

THREE young businesspersons who attended a global youth entrepreneurship summit held in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh last week have marvelled at partnerships that they forged with peers at the gathering.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week on their arrival back home, the trio who went to the global summit under Tanzania Entrepreneurship and Competitive Council's sponsorship said apart from establishing new networks with peers, they also learnt a lot from the gathering.

"We had many speakers at the summit who have succeeded in their businesses globally who gave us new confidence and sense of competitiveness," said Zeredi Amir, one of the young entrepreneurs who went of the trip.

She said through presentations

and panel discussions, they learnt a lot of lessons on international investment and trade that will help champion their growth in the local market. "One of the presenters told us on the importance of financial discipline in managing a business. He emphasised that money earned from a business should be reinvested for further growth," Amir said.

Amir said the global market has a variety of opportunities which young local entrepreneurs are yet to know and exploit them hence she will share her acquired knowledge with local peers to ensure they grow together.

Backing Amir observations, Consesa Mushi and Mfaume Hamsa said their trip was an important adventure because it exposed them to global young business gurus who are exploiting the international markets.

"This summit allowed us to exchange knowledge and

experience with our peers from all over the globe most of whom are already successful entrepreneurs," said Consesa who further noted that the trio also had an opportunity to network with their global peers.

She marvelled at products and services which were displayed by the youth at the summit's exhibition as being of high quality and standards which challenged them to also invest heavily in production of quality products.

On his part, Hamza said in general, the world is a market place with plenty of opportunities which young local entrepreneurs need to learn about and exploit.

"It was a big lesson to us because young entrepreneurs of our age are already filthy rich out of their businesses," he said while noting that many young people who attended the summit are company owners and a few own multinational corporations.

"We got confident that age is no barrier to become a filthy rich businessperson," he added saying he has already forged partnership with peers to advance his gypsum business to international markets.

TECC's Communication Officer, Angela Bushajia commended the trio for utilising the opportunity given to them well by learning new skills and gaining international business knowledge which will help them prosper locally.

"We only hope to see you grow because you have found new business partners," Bushajia said noting the TECC will continue investing in young entrepreneurs to spur growth but also help tame unemployment.

Over 6,000 participants from 80 countries attended the Riyadh summit which was organised by Youth Business International which since 2014 has convened the Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit.

How Kenya is shipping out billions every year in imported cargo levies

NAIROBI

Kenya is losing about Sh100 billion yearly in freight charges for imported cargo, which is paid to foreign shipping lines docking at the Port of Mombasa.

Last year, the port made a cargo record of 1.3 million containers leading to a freight payment of Sh78 billion. Each of the standard containers is paid a minimum freight rate of \$500 (Sh50,000). Also every year, the port receives about 130,000 units of second-hand vehicles which attract freight charges of Sh10.4 billion, all of which is repatriated back to foreign countries where the shipping lines ferrying them are registered.

The reason Kenya is not getting a share of this huge amount of cash is simple; the country does not have a national shipping carrier that would enable it to benefit from the charges levied on imported cargo. Experts say such a local carrier will be to shipping what Kenya Airways (KQ) is to the aviation industry.

To address this situation, cargo importers and other players are calling on the Kenyan government to introduce the Cabotage law to save them from paying billions to foreign firms. "Cabotage laws apply to merchant ships in most countries that have a coastline, to protect the domestic shipping industry from foreign competition, preserve domestically-owned shipping infrastructure for national security purposes, and ensure safety in congested territorial waters."

The Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (Kifwa, Car Importers Association of Kenya (CIAK) and independent maritime and shipping sector players say Kenya lags behind in applying the laws that the developed nations



A containerised cargo at the port of Mombasa.

enacted years ago.

Speaking to Shipping and Logistics, Kifwa national chairman Roy Mwanthi said a national shipping carrier will be instrumental in reducing the cost of goods. "There is need for Kenya to have its own national shipping carrier. It is prudent because we are advocating for shipper freight rates which will end up reducing the cost of imported goods and it will in time reduce the cost of doing business," said Mr Mwanthi.

"If the government can operate a shipping carrier the same way they operate Kenya Airways (KQ), then that would be good." He said a national shipping line will get support from Kenyan importers because it will ease their trade and reduce freight rates.

"It (national shipping line) should be a parastatal run independently so that it can mar-

shal all cargo coming to Kenya. It must have several vessels to fulfil the demand of the importers," said Mr Mwanthi. The shipping line, he noted will provide stiff competition for foreign vessels, pushing them to lower their freight charges.

"If there is competition by a national carrier, they (foreign vessels) would bring the rates down," said Mr Mwanthi, adding that Kenya ought to urgently find a way to ensure that the huge money being repatriated abroad is retained within the country. Andrew Mwangura, a maritime and shipping expert, said most countries in Africa have not enacted the law despite them having all the required resources to do so.

"There are only some countries in West Africa that are trying to achieve this but they are also not at par with the world requirement. In East Africa, no

country has even tried to act on this law," said Mr Mwangura. He said developed countries such as USA and Japan only allow their shipping lines to trade in their waters for the benefit of their economies.

"From the first port of call to the third port of call in their territories, these developed nations make sure that it is only their shipping lines that trade and not foreign owned lines. The law on this is clear but our countries have neglected it," said Mr Mwangura.

CIAK national chairman Peter Otieno said a locally-owned national shipping carrier with a well-funded government programme will save Kenyan importers billions.

"We import into the country about 130,000 second-hand vehicles every year with each vehicle carrying on it a freight charge of Sh80,000 on average.

However, the figure might not be the correct because of factors such as the make and model of the vehicles and their engine capacity," said Mr Otieno.

He said Kenya should be promoted as a transshipment hub. "Because we have the Lamu port and Mombasa port has been dredged to accommodate big vessels, we need to promote the country as a transshipment hub to enable big vessels come in, discharge their cargo and then smaller vessels can take the cargo to its final destination," said Mr Otieno.

He called for the formation of Indian Ocean Services (IOS) that will be run by the Kenya National Shipping Line (KNSL) to ferry cargo to other East African countries like Tanzania, Djibouti, Comoros, and Reunion among other coastline countries.

"These are countries are bordering the Indian Ocean but we can serve them through the Port of Mombasa," said Mr Otieno. The CIAK boss also called for the launch of two additional Kenyan shipping vessels to import the vehicles into the country. "There are almost two motor vehicles vessels calling at the Port of Mombasa on weekly basis from Japan. These vessels bring vehicles for Kenyan and East African consumption," he said.

"If we can have two vessels for motor carriers, one leaves Mombasa and another one leaves Japan and they cross each other as they move, importers will be happy to deal with them here because they will have powers to negotiate the freight charges." That means, he added, the freight Kenyan importers pay to foreign shipping lines will go directly to local banks and the KNSL, boosting the country's economy.

Zimbabwe central bank changes tack on economy

HARARE

Zimbabwe's central bank halved its key interest rate to 35%, joining the finance ministry in efforts to revive an economy hobbled by years of mismanagement.

The decision reverses a move by the southern African nation's newly formed Monetary Policy Committee in September that raised the rate from 50%. It follows the unveiling last week of the 2020 budget which shows a planned surge in spending for next year.

The rate was cut as the MPC "emphasised the need for the bank to put in place measures to fund the productive sectors of the economy by redirecting excess liquidity in the financial system," Governor John Mangudya said in a statement.

While the moves by the monetary and fiscal authorities seek to boost the economy that's forecast to contract this year, it could drive up price growth in a nation that a decade ago had to abandon its own currency due to hyperinflation that reached an estimated 500 billion %. The government dropped a one-to-one peg of its quasi currency to the dollar in February and later outlawed the use of foreign exchange. Since then, the currency has lost almost 94% of its value against the greenback.

The worst regional drought in almost 40 years hit food supplies and left about half of Zimbabwe's 14 million people without reliable access to enough to eat, further driving up costs. Despite a spike in the monthly inflation rate to 38.8% in October, the central bank says the outlook for price growth is positive. While the country stopped releasing annual figures in August, the rate is 440%, according to John Robertson, an independent economist in Harare.

"The inflation rate itself says the interest rate should be set a lot higher," Robertson said. "It's a whole collection of imbalances and the interest rate is one of them." The October inflation increase was "due to shocks caused by mainly adjustments of electricity and fuel prices," Mangudya said. The position on interest rates will be reviewed at future MPC meetings, he said. The panel will convene again on Nov. 29.



Zimbabwe's Central Bank Governor John Mangudya.

RMB Holdings to give shareholders R130 billion-worth FirstRand stake

JOHANNESBURG

South African investment firm RMB Holdings (RMH) said on Tuesday it planned to distribute among shareholders its stake in lender FirstRand, worth about R130 billion, as part of a restructuring.

RMH has an almost three-decade history of investing in financial services, and FirstRand was born out of the group. It is the bank's largest shareholder with a 34% stake. RMH's largest investor, Remgro Ltd, has an almost 4% stake in FirstRand.

RMH said in a statement it had reviewed its investment portfolio and also decided to sell its R3.35 billion in property assets. "The board's intention is to distribute the FirstRand shareholding to RMH shareholders and to monetise the property assets in an orderly manner over time," the company said, without giving detailed reasons for the restructuring.

The distribution of the FirstRand stake will take place before the property transactions, it said, and will be net of the settlement of the FirstRand debt

and associated costs, as well as "an appropriate capitalisation of RMH." RMH could not be reached outside of usual business hours. A detailed announcement on the restructuring, including the approvals it would require and a timetable, is expected to be made before the end of the first quarter of 2020, its statement said.

In a separate statement, Remgro said it would also distribute to shareholders its 28% holding in RMH - worth just over \$2 billion, according to Eikon data - and its stake in FirstRand, though how

this would work was subject to further consideration.

"The boards of RMH and Remgro have further agreed to work together to determine the most practical and effective way to implement (the distributions)," its statement said, with it also expecting to make a more detailed announcement before the end of the first quarter of 2020. RMH, FirstRand and Remgro all advised shareholders to exercise caution when dealing in their shares. The announcements were made after market close in South Africa.

MARKETTRENDS

Stanbic Bank: We are committed to supporting oil, gas sub-sector growth

In October this year, the 3rd Oil and Gas Congress took place with multiple stakeholders converging and shared knowledge on investment opportunities and discuss sector strategies as well as enhance partnerships to boost industrialisation in the country. Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Head of Oil and Gas Corporate and Investment Banking, Elias Ngunagwa talks to the Banker Reporter Francis Kajubi on the role the bank is playing in supporting the oil and gas sector. Excerpts:



What informed Stanbic Bank's decision to participate in this year's Oil and Gas Congress?

Stanbic Bank Tanzania has supported the Oil and Gas Congress for the last three years. We believe that public private partnerships (PPPs) have a critical contribution towards accelerating Tanzania's industrialization process hence by supporting oil and gas development, the bank is directly investing in this sector and enhancing the country's economic growth. We believe that such meetings build understanding of the sector, foster networking among associated companies in the oil and gas value chain and facilitate the signing of deals.

What have you communicated to participants at the congress?

The financial panel discussion at this year's congress deliberated how financial infrastructure can support the growth of the energy sector in Tanzania. In this aspect, Stanbic Bank is offering capital and tailor-made financial

solutions such as syndicated loan facilities to accelerate PPP investment in Tanzania including the oil and gas projects. Stanbic Bank this year alone has provided financing to the tune of US\$17 million to the government which has been used to fund key infrastructure projects within the country.

Given that natural gas is responsible for 60 percent of power being generated in the country, what role does Stanbic Bank play in this arena?

The bank understands the role that natural gas plays to drive economic growth of the country through the provision of reliable electricity/power. Stanbic Bank's approach has been strategic by targeting the entire gas value chain, right from the gas suppliers to the industrial and power companies that consume use it to produce power. The bank has established strong relationships with key players in the gas industry and this has enabled us to come up with customized solutions and products that add value to the companies

How do you look at the entire oil and gas sub-sector in the country as a niche market for your banking products?

We believe that the oil and gas sub-sector has a great potential to become a significant contributor to the national economy. Backed by experienced teams and deep expertise of the sector, we are positioned at the forefront offering a comprehensive suite of transactional, global markets and financing solutions to help the sector ignite growth, driving broad and inclusive participation across the entire economy.

Investing in oil and gas is a long-term business which also means that interest rates have to be globally competitive, is Stanbic ready to lower interest rates to global standards to attract international oil companies?

Stanbic is a commercial bank operating in a competitive environment therefore all interest rates are charged according to their liquidity profile as well as Bank of Tanzania regulations.

As an expert what can you recommend the state to do in order to speed up investment and growth in the oil and gas industry?

As I mentioned earlier, collaboration is the key to achieving the desired investment in the sector. Stakeholders in the oil and gas industry should be encouraged through enabling policies, to initiate partnerships to advance the sector, as well as attract more investment opportunities and capital.

Is hiked taxation one of the barriers hindering rapid growth of the sub-sector?

The fifth phase government has been working towards a more favorable and predictable tax regime not only for the oil and gas sub-sector but across the board. This has gone a long way to ensure that the tax risk is properly mitigated and in turn boost market confidence to players. The ongoing developments are evidenced by the National Bureau of Statistics latest report where by the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) recorded an 18 percent increase (US\$1.1billion) in 2018, and Tanzania has been improving its ease of doing business gradually. The promising results indicate that investor confidence has improved.

What African central banks will be discussing next week

JOHANNESBURG

Central banks in key sub-Saharan African economies are expected to diverge on policy when they make interest-rate calls in the next week as some seek to tame inflation and others to boost growth.

Factors outside the usual ambit of monetary policy committees will also influence their calls. Since these panels last met, a deteriorating fiscal outlook in South Africa placed it one step closer to a full house of junk credit ratings, Ghana raised its budget-deficit forecast and Kenya scrapped a controversial law that capped interest rates.

"Where external liquidity is weak, or foreign-currency stability threatened, we expect central banks to either tighten or at least remain on hold," said Razia Khan, the chief economist for Africa and the Middle East at Standard Chartered Bank Plc.

Here's what the central bankers may do in the coming days:

Zambia, Nov. 20; Policy rate: 10.25%; Inflation rate: 10.7% (October)

Zambia's central bank faces a choice between stemming inflation that's at a three-year high and propping up production hit by rolling blackouts that last more than 15 hours a day.

Governor Denny Kalyalya warned in August that the central bank could raise interest rates if inflation doesn't return to its target band of 6% to 8%, but "any rise in the monetary policy rate will be suicidal for a country that already projects the lowest growth rate in over a decade," said economist Chibamba Kanyama. A Bloomberg survey of economists shows gross domestic product expanding just 2% this year.

South Africa, Nov. 21; Repurchase rate: 6.5%; Inflation rate: 4.1% (September)

While the South African Reserve Bank's quarterly projection model suggests the bank will hold the benchmark rate, forward-rate agreements – used to speculate on borrowing costs – are pricing in a one-in-three chance of a 25-basis-point reduction. That's as headline inflation has remained within the bank's target range 3% to 6% for 30 months.

Twelve of the 14 economists in a Bloomberg survey expect the bank to maintain the rate at 6.5%. The MPC is facing calls to ease policy to boost an economy that's forecast to expand only 0.5% this year. However, a 25 basis-point cut will only increase growth by 0.1 percentage point a year later, said Christie Viljoen, an economist at PwC, citing the bank's model.

Ghana, Nov. 25; Policy rate: 16%; Inflation rate: 7.7% (October)

The Bank of Ghana will probably hold its key interest rate even as inflation dipped below the mid-point of its target band of 6% to 10% when the statistics office started using a new base



Razia Khan, chief economist for Africa and the Middle East at Standard Chartered Bank Plc.

year in August. That's as it seeks to protect the cedi, which has lost 11% of its value against the dollar in 2019.

While President Nana Akufo-Addo asked the central bank to find ways to reduce interest rates to boost lending, a higher-than-expected budget deficit may act as a "source of concern," according to Patrick Asuming, a senior lecturer at the University of Ghana Business School. The bank doesn't have a strong basis to cut the rate, he said.

Kenya, Nov. 25; Central bank rate: 9%; Inflation rate: 5% (October)

Kenya's MPC, due to meet for the first time since lawmakers repealed a rule that capped interest rates and distorted the transmission of monetary policy, will probably cut the rate. That "would have the intended effect of lowering the cost of credit, which would make it more attractive to borrow," said Yvonne Mhango, an economist at Renaissance Capital.

Nigeria, Nov. 26; Policy rate: 13.5%; Inflation rate: 11.6% (October)

Nigeria's central bank is likely keep its rate on hold for a fourth meeting even as inflation jumped to a

17-month high. That's as policy makers look for ways to jump-start an economy projected to grow just 2% this year. Governor Godwin Emefiele has said the bank won't consider cutting rates before inflation slows to the 9% ceiling of the target band.

"The bank is focusing more on growth than inflation and currency at the moment," said Wahab Mustapha, an analyst with Cordros Securities.

Mauritius, Nov. 27; Repurchase rate: 3.35%; Inflation rate: 0.4% (October)

A slowdown in consumer-price growth could prompt the Bank of Mauritius to cut its interest rate to another record low to boost economic growth. The annual rate of inflation fell to a seven-month low in October.

A rate cut to 3% "would be motivated by the necessity to give a further boost to the economy amid a slowdown noted in key markets," said Ganessen Chinnapan, an independent economist. The statistics agency lowered its economic growth forecast for 2019 to 3.8% from 3.9%.

Nigerian banks stepping up efforts to plug gender gap

LAGOS

When Bolanle Austen-Peters sought a loan for a cultural centre in Lagos, she was told there was no business case. Then she found an art-loving banker to back her. Now she is lighting up stages and screens around the world.

Ms Austen-Peters, a lawyer, was 34 and fresh from quitting the United Nations when her Terra Kulture venture got equity funding in 2003 from Guaranty Trust Bank. It was led at the time by the late Tayo Aderinokun, who supported artists such as Yinka Shonibare, whose Nelson's Ship in a Bottle is on show at the National Maritime Museum in London.

Cash injections from GTB helped fund the purchase and refurbishment of the centre. In 2017, a loan from Nigeria's Bank of Industry financed a 400-seat theatre. She still regularly relies on Ecobank Transnational to fund stage productions.

"Support from banks makes life very easy for us," said Ms Austen-Peters, one of the producers of Netflix's thriller 93 Days, which tells the story of an Ebola outbreak in Nigeria. "From there we can pay the actors. Otherwise at times you can't rely solely on ticketing."

The steady stream of financial assistance helped transform a rundown building into a vibrant hot spot that has hosted former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and actors such as Forest Whitaker and Ben Stiller.

Ms Austen-Peters will be depending on even more support as she expands Terra Kulture to include an academy that will provide certified training and develop more local content. The success of her business shows why Nigerian lenders such as Access Bank, also one of Ms Austen-Peters' backers, are making a fresh all-out push to add women entrepreneurs as customers.

The economy is still dominated by men: Only a third of women have a bank account, according to Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access, a development organisation. They also are prevented from doing some jobs and are more likely than men to end up running roadside stalls rather than going to university.



Access Bank's chair, Mosun Belo-Olusoga.

"Women make most of the consumer purchases in the home," said Ada Udechukwu, the head of women banking at Access Bank. "They are an untapped economy." Nigeria's biggest bank has seen a two-fold surge in deposits from women over the past year since opening a gender-diversity unit, while the number of female customers has also doubled, Ms Udechukwu said.

Access Bank, itself chaired by a woman, Mosun Belo-Olusoga, has a 15-person team dedicated to gender issues at its Lagos headquarters. Each branch has a point person whose job is to target women and female-owned companies with savings and insurance products.

"The business is growing quite quickly," Ms Udechukwu said. Access Bank is also implementing the branch model at units in Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia, she said. It plans to launch the initiative in Mozambique in January.

The lender is also finding that women are better savers, are more loyal and are better at repaying debt. Their non-performing loans ratio is less than 1 per cent, compared with about 6 per cent across the group, Ms Udechukwu said.

There is a wider economic incentive too. Full gender equity in Nigeria could add 23 per cent, or \$229 billion, to gross domestic product by 2025, the highest of any African nation, according to research by McKinsey Global

Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Where 100 represents parity, Nigeria scores 56 on measures including equality at work, access to essential services, physical security and autonomy and legal protection, compared with 68 for South Africa, which vies with the oil producer for the title of Africa's biggest economy.

The push for more female clients is a long time coming. When GTB decided to back Ms Austen-Peters, the company itself tapped a small business fund created by the central bank. Former Governor Lamido Sanusi in 2013 also pushed lenders to appoint more female directors. Now two of the nation's six largest banks are chaired by women, the same ratio as South Africa. In East Africa, none of Kenya's top banks has a woman at the helm.

Current governor Godwin Emefiele is taking another approach and is penalising banks that don't lend out 65 per cent of their deposits to small- and medium-sized businesses, consumers and other targeted industries. That means lenders need to find their own next success stories.

Standard Chartered's Nigerian unit plans to give management training through a women-focused programme it has used in the US, Kenya, Pakistan and the UAE, said Dayo Aderugbo, the local division's head of brand and marketing. The Nigerian business, which aims to increase female customers to 500,000 from 100,000 over the next two years, will also offer some women entrepreneurs grants to expand, she said.

The lender is "positively optimistic it would be very successful" in banking Nigerian women, Ms Aderugbo said. "There is a steady growing population of women in business in Nigeria and the bank sees this as an opportunity to equally make tangible, measurable impact."

Another institution, United Bank for Africa, rolled out a female-focused account called Ruby, which offers zero charges for transactions and a discounted interest rate to target customers.

Ms Austen-Peters, who got the idea for Terra Kulture because of a lack of museums and art exhibition centres celebrating Nigeria's heritage, said banks aren't "charities" and are reacting to an opportunity they can't miss.

That's a view shared by Rise Networks chief executive Toyosi Akerele-Ogunsiji, who in 2011 was cited by US former First Lady Michelle Obama as an inspiration for her ability to rally people around social causes. "We are seeing more women in the private sector than ever before," said Ms Akerele-Ogunsiji. "We are beginning to see women take strategic positions in the public and private sector, and helping to shape policy when it comes to access to finance."

WORLD

Why Gordon Sondland is key witness in Trump impeachment hearings

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, was yesterday scheduled to stand as the first witness with a direct line of communication to President Donald Trump to testify in public to the Democratic-led impeachment inquiry.

Sondland spoke to Trump half a dozen times from mid-July to mid-September, according to the testimony of other witnesses, and could shed light on whether Trump abused his power by making U.S. security aid to Ukraine contingent on Kiev's agreement to investigate Burisma, an energy company on which Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President and political rival Joe Biden, had served as a board member.

He was likely to face tough questioning from Democratic and Republican lawmakers at the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee hearing following his revision of previous closed-door testimony to say there was a link between \$391 million in aid that was withheld and the investigations Trump wanted. Initially, he

testified that he knew of no preconditions to the assistance.

Here are some questions about Sondland and his importance to the impeachment inquiry:

WHAT ROLE HAS SONDLAND PLAYED IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE?

Sondland was one of three officials who largely took over U.S.-Ukraine policy in May. Career U.S. diplomats have portrayed Sondland in their testimony as a central figure in what became a shadow Ukraine policy operation, undercutting official channels and pressing Kiev to investigate the Bidens.

Ukraine is not part of the European Union but aspires to membership, making Ukraine issues part of Sondland's official remit. But his involvement was viewed as a problem by some White House National Security Council (NSC) officials.

Trump named Sondland to the post after Sondland, a hotel entrepreneur, donated \$1 million to Trump's inaugural committee.

WHAT MIGHT SONDLAND BE

US Ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland

ASKED TO TELL THE INQUIRY ABOUT TRUMP AND UKRAINE?

Democrats have heard testimony that Sondland has had frequent contact with Trump and can provide a first-hand account of Trump's interest in pressing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to announce an investigation into the Bidens. He will also face questions about the role of the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani in that effort.

Lawmakers are also likely to delve into one phone conversation between Sondland and Trump on July 26 in which a witness says Sondland reassured Trump the Ukrainians would agree to investigate the Bidens. The call took place the day after Trump's phone conversation with Zelenskiy that is at the heart of the inquiry.

David Holmes, a U.S. embassy staffer, testified that Sondland told him after the July 26 call that Trump only cared about "big stuff" in Ukraine, like "the Biden investigation."

He could have probably been asked about a July 10 White House meeting where, according to the testimony of one NSC official, Sondland made clear that the Ukrainians would have to agree to investigate the Bidens, as well as Burisma, for Zelenskiy to get an Oval Office meeting with Trump.

HOW HAS SONDLAND'S STORY CHANGED?

Sondland told lawmakers during closed door testimony in October that he did not know about any preconditions on U.S. security aid to the Ukraine government, which was approved by Congress to help it fight Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

But on Nov. 4, he sent the congressional committees an addendum, saying statements from other witnesses had refreshed his recollection about certain conversations from early September. In his addendum, he said he now remembered that he had told an aide to the Ukrainian president in early September that the United States "likely" would not send the aid until Ukraine provided an anti-corruption statement they had been discussing.

Sondland referred to prepared testimony by William Taylor, the top diplomat in Ukraine, about a conversation he had with Tim Morrison, a former National Security Council official. In that conversation, according to Taylor, Sondland told an aide to the Ukrainian president that the security money would not come until Ukraine agreed to investigate Burisma.

Sondland also did not recall his July 26 phone conversation with Trump in his original testimony. A person familiar with the matter said he intends to address the issue yesterday. **Agencies**

Thailand court bars rising opposition leader from parliament

BANGKOK

CONSTITUTIONAL Court yesterday disqualified outspoken opposition party leader Thanathorn Jungrongruangkit as a member of parliament after finding him guilty of violating election law.

Thanathorn, 40 (pictured), the leader of the progressive Future Forward Party, has emerged as one of the most prominent opponents of a government headed by former junta ruler Prayuth Chan-ocha after the new opposition

party came a surprise third in an election in March.

The Constitutional Court found Thanathorn guilty of holding shares in a media company after registering his candidacy for the election to formally end five years of military rule.

In its ruling, the court said the evidence against Thanathorn outweighed that in his favour.

Thanathorn had denied the accusation, saying he transferred his shares before beginning the campaign.



Thanathorn has been a fierce critic of the army's involvement in politics and did particularly well among young voters in the elec-

tion from which the pro-military party was declared the winner after a disputed ballot count.

Ahead of the court ruling Thanathorn thanked supporters at the court and said: "The Future Forward Party is a journey... All of us will continue fighting and keep moving forward."

Future Forward is part of an opposition alliance that disputed the vote count and accused the army of writing the electoral rules to ensure that Prayuth, the former military leader, would remain as

prime minister.

The court had earlier suspended Thanathorn from parliament pending the verdict to this case. Thanathorn's party won 80 out of 500 available seats in the Lower House of the Thai parliament.

The Future Forward leader also faces two criminal charges, one for computer crime for a speech he posted on Facebook criticising the junta last year, and another for sedition for allegedly aiding anti-junta protesters in 2015. **Agencies**

Iran's Rouhani claims victory over unrest and blames foreigners

DUBAI

IRANIAN President Hassan Rouhani yesterday claimed victory over unrest he blamed on foreign enemies, according to state media, after protests over fuel price rises rocked the nation and left scores reported dead.

"The Iranian people have again succeeded in an historic test and shown they will not let enemies benefit from the situation, even though they might have complaints about the country's management," Rouhani said in remarks carried by state broadcaster IRIB on its website.

Thousands of Iranians joined pro-government rallies in several cities on Wednesday, state media said, after Amnesty International said more than 100 protesters died in the unrest.

State television showed rallies in Rasht, Gorgan and Ardabil in the north, Hamadan in the west, and Shahryar, south of the capital Tehran, where a member of the security forces was also



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks during the cabinet meeting in Tehran, Iran, yesterday. **REUTERS**

killed in the turmoil.

"The spontaneous (pro-government) demonstrations which you see are the greatest sign of the power of the Iranian people," Rouhani added.

State media carried pictures of Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's top

security body, marching in Shahryar behind a banner that read "Death to America and Israel's deception!"

Iran has blamed "thugs" linked to exiles and foreign enemies - the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia - for the protests. The unrest began on Friday

after gasoline prices were raised at least 50% and rationing imposed. They quickly turned political.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday the protests had been a security matter, not a popular movement, and had been dealt with successfully.

Government spokesman Ali Rabie said a plot to bomb Iran's major gas production installations in Assalouyeh on the Gulf had been thwarted, blaming it on protesters, the semi-official news agency Mehr reported.

Amnesty International said at least 106 protesters in 21 cities had been killed, according to witness reports, verified videos and information from human rights activists. Iran's mission to the United Nations called

Amnesty's report "baseless allegations and fabricated figures".

Iran has restricted access to the internet, making it nearly impossible for protesters to post social media videos of demonstrations.

About 1,000 protesters have been arrested, officials said.

The U.N. human rights office said it had received reports that dozens of people had been killed. It urged authorities to rein in its use of force to disperse protests.

Frustration has grown over a weakening currency and rising prices for bread, rice and other staples since the United States withdrew from Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement and re-imposed sanctions.

The government said the

African countries urged to establish strong data, evidence to effectively counter future shocks

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries have been urged to establish stronger data and evidence to better understand and plan for future risks and monitor progress of global and continental development targets.

The call was made by experts and policymakers on Tuesday during a high-level seminar organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to mark the Africa Statistics Day at the ECA's headquarter in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa under the theme "Everyone Counts: Quality Statistics for Better Management of Forced Displacement in Africa."

"With strong data and evidence, African governments and partners are better equipped to understand and plan for future risk and to monitor progress of development frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union (AU)'s Agenda 2063," Kafkas Caprazli, Information and Management Specialist at the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), told the high-level seminar.

The FAO official also emphasized the crucial importance of strong data and evidence in monitoring the progress of the Sendai Framework as well as the Paris 21 Climate Agreement.

The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary and non-binding agreement which recognizes that "a state has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders."

"Importantly they (African countries and partners) will also be in a better position to address displaced people's needs," said Caprazli, while delivering presentation on the nexus between migration, agriculture, food security and rural development.

"The challenges of data on forced migration are inter-linked," he said, adding "a systemic approach that involves international standards and improves cooperation, coordination and data interoperability is vital if African governments and partners are to fully understand, prevent and address forced migration when policymaking, planning and risk reduction for achieving aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and 2063."

According to Caprazli, appropriate tools allow countries in Africa and beyond "to develop sustainable approaches to ending displacement."

He also stressed that the African Statistics Day "is an opportunity to remind us that the priority for now is providing national and local authorities with the financial and technical capacity building support they need to apply them."

Edem Kossi Kludza, an associate statistician with the African Centre for Statistics at the ECA, also shared Caprazli's comments, as he noted that nearly one person is "forcibly displaced every three seconds on the continent as a result of conflict, violence and disasters."

"The main reasons of the displacements are conflict, armed conflict, war, violence, persecution, fear of reprisals, political uncertainty, bad governance, social injustice, human rights violations, lack of opportunities, natural disasters, climate change, health emergencies such as the Ebola outbreak, food insecurity and extreme poverty," Kludza said.

Xinhua

Senior Russian diplomat slams US plans to build up military presence in Saudi Arabia

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S plans to step up its military presence in Saudi Arabia will whip up tensions in the Persian Gulf region, Russian Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and Africa and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov told reporters on Wednesday answering a question from TASS.

"This is just an escalation of tensions. Are they going to fight someone or what?" he said.

Bogdanov drew attention to the Security Concept for the Persian Gulf region promoted by Russia. "Our concept contains the philosophy of joint efforts without any dividing lines and confrontation."

On the contrary, [the Russian concept envisages] the involvement of all parties concerned without exception - states and regions, Arab countries, not only members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Iran, Iraq, maybe someone else," he stressed.

Washington earlier announced plans to send additional forces to Saudi Arabia in the coming weeks. The number of US troops in the country will reach 3,000.

US officials say that these measures are aimed at countering Iran, which, according to Washington, continues to pose a threat to security in the region and is responsible for attacks on Saudi oil facilities, which occurred in September 2019.

China never allows anyone to challenge 'one country, two systems' bottom line

CHINA never allows any act that challenges the bottom line of "one country, two systems", Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated in an important speech on the current situation of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) he delivered on Nov.14 when attending the 11th BRICS Summit in Brasilia, capital of Brazil.

The radical violent activities in HKSAR seriously challenge the "one country, two systems" bottom line, Xi pointed out, stressing that any illegal and criminal activities that challenge the "one country, two systems" bottom line must be severely punished in accordance with law.

Constantly enriching and developing the practice of the "one country,

two systems" principle and maintaining long-term prosperity and stability of HKSAR is an important part of the Chinese Dream and an inevitable requirement for improving and developing the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics and advancing the modernization of China's governance system and capacity.

Over the past more than 5 months, Hong Kong has undergone continuous violent activities which have happened and been escalated at the instigation of Hong Kong's opposition and interference by external forces.

Some people openly preached "Hong Kong independence", chanted "Liberate Hong Kong, the revolution of our times", and defaced the national

flag and national emblem of China as well as the regional emblem of HKSAR.

Radicals have even surrounded and attacked the offices of the Central Government in Hong Kong, the Legislative Council building in Hong Kong, and government offices of the HKSAR, attempting to trap Hong Kong in chaos and disable the HKSAR government.

These violent protesters aim to seize control of the HKSAR and turn Hong Kong into an independent or semi-independent political entity, thus ultimately making the "one country, two systems" principle nothing but a concept.

Today, China is faced with a battle between people who are determined to defend the "one country, two sys-

tems" principle and forces who try to sabotage the principle, and there is no middle ground or room for compromise on the issue concerning China's sovereignty and the future of HKSAR.

The "one country, two systems" principle is a pioneering initiative that has no precedent to follow. It has been a major issue for the Chinese central government and represents a significant turning point of Hong Kong and its citizens.

Numerous facts have demonstrated that the "one country, two systems" principle is the best solution to the historical question of Hong Kong and the best institutional arrangement to ensure Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability after its return. The "one

country, two systems" formula has proved to be a workable solution welcomed by the people.

Meanwhile, as an institutional innovation, the "one country, two systems" national governance principle needs to stand the test and be constantly improved in practice.

The disturbances triggered by the revision of the extradition bill in Hong Kong during the past few months have revealed some deep-seated problems and issues in such fields as politics, economy, and society of Hong Kong, and further highlighted the necessity and urgency of improving the governance systems of Hong Kong.

Fully and faithfully implementing the guideline of "one country, two sys-

tems" and constantly improving the institutional system of the "one country, two systems" principle is not only in line with the general pattern of the development of political systems, but is bound to help the ship of the "one country, two systems" principle sail forward steadily.

"One country, two systems" is a complete concept, which should be particularly understood by all. As Xi said, "one country" is like the roots of a tree, and for a tree to grow tall and luxuriant, its roots must run deep and strong.

There are certain bottom lines one shall never touch in the full implementation of the guideline of "one country, two systems".

People's Daily



Blue and White Party leader Benny Gantz, right, reaches out to shake hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at an official memorial at Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem, Nov 10, 2019. (AP)

Israel faces likely third election amid Bibi-Gantz standoff

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is no closer to a breakthrough out of its political paralysis and with the clock running out late yesterday on Benny Gantz's window to build a coalition government, the prospect of an unprecedented third election in less than a year appears increasingly likely.

Gantz, a former military chief, has a midnight deadline to present a potential coalition government. If he fails, as expected, the country enters the final 21-day period for a candidate to present a majority before new elections are called.

Neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his chief challenger Gantz has the required majority to build a coalition government with like-minded allies. Kingmaker Avigdor Lieberman has refused to give either the nudge for the required majority in Israel's 120-seat parliament and has urged them to join in a unity government as a way out of the stalemate.

But Gantz and Netanyahu have refused to bend on their core conditions for such an arrangement.

Gantz's Blue and White party refuses to sit under Netanyahu, who is expected to be indicted soon on corruptions charges. Netanyahu's Likud has refused to drop its alliance with other nationalist and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties.

A dizzying array of mediations and creative political machinations failed to break new ground and a Netanyahu-Gantz meeting late Tuesday night produced no headway, resulting in just more mudslinging.

Netanyahu has lambasted Gantz and his fellow former military chiefs in Blue and White for dangling the prospect of a minority government that depended on the outside support of Arab lawmakers, drawing accusations against him of racism and incitement. Such a scenario could end Netanyahu's decade-long grip on power.

But with the hard-line Lieberman's

long-time animosity toward the Arab lawmakers and his insistence on a unity government that pushes out ultra-Orthodox parties, that doesn't appear to be a real option.

Lieberman has been holding his cards close for weeks and is expected to speak later yesterday on where he stands.

"The truth must be said: Netanyahu is rejecting unity and will do anything to deteriorate us to a third election within a year," Gantz wrote on Facebook. "I am ready to make compromises for the benefit of the citizens of Israel but not to cave on our core principles."

Barring a last-minute development, it looks like Gantz will be forced to inform Israel's president that he has no government to present – just as Netanyahu did before him – setting off the final 21-day period before new elections are called. The past two have been inconclusive and polls indicate the result of a third will not differ significantly.

Looming above the entire process is the long-expected announcement on Netanyahu's corruption indictment that could remove him from the equation and potentially provide a long-sought way out of the impasse.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit has recommended that Netanyahu be indicted on fraud, breach of trust and bribery charges in three separate cases.

His final ruling has long been anticipated and could come down in the coming week. Though Netanyahu will not be compelled by law to step down immediately, it will certainly harden the opposition's stance.

Rising regional tensions could also force the sides into compromise.

Israel carried out a wide-scale offensive against Iranian targets in Syria early on Wednesday in response to rocket attacks against it. Eleven people were reported killed, including seven non-Syrians who were most likely Iranian.

Agencies

US Hong Kong bill to further inflame violence

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Senate passed a Hong Kong-related bill on Tuesday, trying to whitewash rioters' atrocities and further pile up pressure on the Chinese government, a move that will only inflame more violence in the already distorted cosmopolitan city.

The Senate's passage of the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 is nothing but a blatant interference in China's domestic affairs and once again unveils Washington's ill-intentioned motive against China.

Gripped by more than five months of violence and criminal activities, Hong Kong has been thrust ever

closer towards the abyss of chaos.

Rampant vandalism and arson have ruined the rule of law in the metropolis, leaving ordinary Hong Kong residents increasingly concerned about their personal safety.

The so-called human rights or democracy issue in Hong Kong is a pseudo-proposition.

What the city needs most at the moment is to end violence and restore order as soon as possible.

But some U.S. legislators and politicians have chosen to turn a blind eye to the havoc wreaked by the rioters and continue to side with those extremists.

What they truly want from med-

dling in the Hong Kong situation is to appear tough on China so as to serve their political self-interests and to make trouble for Beijing.

However, America's own interests are also at stake. The United States has significant interests in Hong Kong, an international financial hub. Presently, there are some 80,000 residing U.S. citizens and over 1,300 companies in Hong Kong.

The more chaotic Hong Kong becomes, the heavier losses those U.S. businesses will suffer. Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong. Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs and allow no interference by any external force.

Xinhua



Ethiopia's leader urges calm as key referendum begins

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA'S Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister urged calm yesterday as millions of citizens held a referendum on whether to create a new regional state along ethnic lines.

The Sidama referendum "is an expression of the democratization path Ethiopia has set out on," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement. The vote could inspire others to seek their own regional states and cause further fragmentation of ethnic groups in Africa's second most populous country.

Abiy's sweeping political reforms since he took office last year have opened the way for some of Ethiopia's more than 80 ethnic groups to push for more autonomy.

Sometimes deadly unrest has followed, and tensions could rise ahead of national elections in May. Observers say this poses Abiy's greatest challenge. The prime minister encourages national unity over an emphasis on ethnic identity to help prevent the eruption of old grievances.

The Sidama make up about 4% of the population of Ethiopia, and the electoral commission has said some 2.3 million people registered to vote.

Deadly clashes followed when the referendum was postponed in July. No official toll was announced.

Results of the referendum are expected today.

In a statement ahead of Wednesday's vote, Amnesty International urged authorities to prevent any use of excessive force.

"The referendum comes at an especially tense time when violence based on ethnic differences is breaking out all over the country and people are being killed simply for expressing their opinions," Amnesty's deputy director for the region, Seif Magango, said.

Agencies

Minister blase as Twitter says Conservatives misled public

LONDON

TWITTER accused Britain's ruling Conservative Party yesterday of misleading the public during a televised election debate, but Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said voters did not care about the cut and thrust of social media.

Twitter spoke out after the Conservative Campaign Headquarters press office changed the name of its account from "CCHQPress" to "factcheckUK" while Prime Minister Boris Johnson was debating Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn on Tuesday night.

With its avatar changed to a white tick against a purple background instead of the party's traditional blue branding, the account, which is followed by 76,000 users, issued tweets supporting Johnson and criticizing Corbyn.

Quizzed about the stunt on BBC television on Wednesday morning, Raab said he disagreed with Twitter's criticism that the tactic was misleading, and said voters didn't care anyway.

"I knock on doors every day," he said. "No one gives a toss about the social media cut and thrust. What they care about is the substance of the issues, and of course there's a huge amount of scepticism about the claims of all politicians."

Raab said the aim of the Conservative campaign was to rebut what he described as "nonsense" put out by Labour. "It matters that we have an in-



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

stant rebuttal," he said.

Asked why his party needed to dress up its rebuttals as independent fact-checking, he said: "Because we want to make it clear that we're holding Labour to account for the nonsense that they systematically and serially put out in relation to Conservatives."

Labour said what the Conservative press office had done was a "scam" that showed the party could not be trusted in government.

"Corrective action" Twitter issued a statement saying it would take action if anyone tried a similar stunt again.

"Twitter is committed to facilitating healthy debate throughout the UK general election," a Twitter spokeswoman said.

"We have global rules in place that prohibit behavior that can mislead people, including those with verified accounts. Any further attempts to mis-

lead people by editing verified profile information - in a manner seen during the UK Election Debate - will result in decisive corrective action."

Full Fact, a genuine fact-checking charity, also criticized the Conservative tactic.

"It is inappropriate and misleading for the Conservative press office to rename their Twitter account 'factcheckUK' during this debate. Please do not mistake it for an independent fact checking service," it said.

Raab was dismissive of the charity. "Who said Full Fact is the final arbiter of what the public get to see?" he asked during his BBC interview. "Doesn't sound to me like they like the competition."

During the debate, the disputed Twitter account's description, which featured under the "factcheckUK" name in much smaller script, was "Fact Checking Labour from CCHQ". Raab said this meant anyone who looked at the account properly would have understood what it was.

After the debate finished the account reverted to its regular Conservative Party branding.

Prior to the controversy, Twitter had pledged to make it easier to report misleading information about the voting process in Britain's Dec 12 election.

Twitter said last month it would stop all political advertising, making the British election one of the first major tests for the new policy.

Agencies

Kenyan economist roots for adoption of yuan as reserve currency in Africa

NAIROBI

AFRICAN countries should hasten adoption of yuan as a reserve currency amid increased bilateral trade with China, a Kenyan economist said on Tuesday.

Bernard Ayieko, a Nairobi-based economist said in a commentary published by the Business Daily newspaper that the adoption of yuan will boost the ability of African states to attract new investments and trade favorably at the global market.

"The Chinese growing influence and the increase in Sino-Africa relations have brought to the fore a debate on the African countries' need to adopt the renminbi as a currency reserve," said Ayieko.

He said the internationalization of yuan, or renminbi, will boost globalization and foreign trade that Africa can leverage to propel growth.

"The call to internationalize the ren-



minbi continues to reverberate across the world. African countries are mulling the need to use the renminbi as a

reserve currency and a medium of exchange in international settlements," said Ayieko.

Xinhua

Russian Foreign Ministry confirms that London denied visas to two Russian reporters

MOSCOW

THE Russian Foreign Ministry has confirmed the reports that two Russian staff correspondents were refused British visas necessary to work in the United Kingdom.

"We can confirm that British authorities did not issue visas to two Russian staff correspondents," the ministry told TASS yesterday.

A source in Moscow earlier told TASS that the UK failed to issue visas to several Russian journalists in 2019 without explaining the reason behind these refusals. The British embassy in Moscow refused to comment on these reports.

"As a rule, we do not offer comments on separate visa applications and consider them in their essence individually," the embassy press service told TASS.

"We remind you that 99% of all the applications submitted by Russian citizens between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 to obtain British visas were approved," the press service added.

Pompeo's anti-China remarks cannot fool the world

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is really addicted to provoking and smearing China with his vicious lies.

On Nov. 15, when addressing Rice University, the Secretary of State peddled the obsolete memories of the Cold War, and said that the US is confronting a "complex challenge" from the Communist Party of China (CPC).

He called China a country "that's stolen our stuff, taken intellectual property, forced companies that invested in China to transfer technology."

For the past three weeks, Pompeo (pictured) has been delivering such remarks which contain nothing but bald-faced lies. This exposed to the world

his ill-looking mindset that is prejudiced, malicious, arrogant and manic.

Pompeo, together with his likes, are making counter examples, from which the world can further recognize the evil of the Cold War and zero-sum mentalities.

As a matter of fact, such mentalities always instigate people to confront, separate from and even hate each other, and these are nothing but stinking garbage that should have been swept off by history.

Facts have proved that such mentalities are disruptive for international relations, as any intention that encourages confrontation and starts disputes is an obstacle for the peaceful de-

velopment of the world.

Lies cannot become facts even repeated thousands of times. When the theories of the so-called "China threat" have been negated by facts, the makers of such theories are now pointing their guns toward the CPC and the Chinese government. However, it is just a "plan-B" that is destined to lose again.

Under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation since the founding of the People's Republic of China 70 years ago. It has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming strong.

Leadership by the CPC is the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese character-



istics, and it is chosen by both history and the people. Facts have proven that such choice is completely correct, and no one is able to stop the advance of the Chinese people and Chinese nation.

The Chinese people have firm confidence in their path, theory, system, and culture, and will march forward unswervingly along the path of socialism with

Chinese characteristics and achieve continuous progress.

In front of the just choice and firm faith of the Chinese people, anyone or any voice that bears malicious intentions are just clowns that will neither cover the facts nor reverse the general trend.

China will never pursue development at the expense of others' interests, and its development does not pose a threat to any other country. This has been well recognized by the international community.

For instance, 181 countries, regions and international organizations attended the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) where over 3,800 enterprises exhibited their

products and over 500,000 professional buyers negotiated or made purchases.

Tentative deals of \$71.13 billion were reached for one-year purchases of goods and services, up 23 percent from a year ago. Such fruitful results indicate that China's "circle of friends" is expanding, and the country's efforts to build an open world economy and a community with a shared future for mankind have won broad recognition and high reputation from the world.

Hence, the provocation by Pompeo to play China off against its global partners can never succeed. China-US relations are not a zero-sum game. The two countries stand to gain

from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

The right way for them to get along is seeking common ground while putting aside differences with mutual respect. This concerns the interests of not only China and the US, but also the entire world at large. On such major issues of principle, both of the two countries shall avoid making historic mistakes due to short sight.

Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger recently called the two sides to avoid confrontation and manage disputes in a public speech. He said that the two countries should seek and sense the opportunities that might change the situation.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James dunks during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

LeBron sets triple-double mark, Lakers hold off OKC 112-107

LOS ANGELES

TO LeBron James, triple-doubles are not a goal.

They are only a side effect of the consistent, brilliant all-around play he has been dishing out for 17 NBA seasons, with no slowdown in sight.

Triple-doubles also don't mean much to LeBron without wins attached to them, so James was pleased when his latest statistical superlative occurred during yet another successful night for the surging Los Angeles Lakers.

James became the first player in NBA history to record a triple-double against every team in the league, and Anthony Davis scored 34 points during the Lakers' fifth straight victory, 112-107 over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night.

James finished with 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to post a triple-double against his 30th opponent for the NBA-leading Lakers, who have won 12 of 13 after a perfect four-game homestand. James was more surprised than thrilled by his latest statistical achievement, particularly while a different statistic glared at him from the box score.

"Coach (Frank) Vogel came in here and said, 'Congratulations,' and I thought he was joking about my seven turnovers," James said. "I really don't know what to think about it. I just think it's a pretty cool stat to know, and I'm glad it happened in a win."

James has five triple-doubles in the Lakers' last 10 games, getting four in victories. There's a reason for this spree: Although James has constantly filled the stat sheet since he joined the league in 2003, he is leading the NBA this season with 11.1 assists per game, nearly four more than his career average. He has at least 10 assists in six consecutive games, the longest streak of his career.

Vogel has put the ball in James' hands constantly on offense, and his playmaking acumen has grown along with his chemistry with Davis, as they demonstrated repeatedly against the Thunder. Seven of LeBron's assists came on baskets by Davis.

"Amazing," Davis said. "To be able to do that against every team is something special. I mean, (it's) trippy that he's been playing for a long time, so it was a matter of time before it happened, but just a tribute to all his hard work."

James is fifth in NBA history with 86 triple-doubles, but the four players in front of him – Oscar Robertson, Russell Westbrook, Lakers great Magic Johnson and Lakers assistant coach Jason Kidd – hadn't done it against 30 teams. Kidd, who did it against 28 teams, has served as a role model for James' efforts as a tall point guard.

"He's just playing terrific basketball," Vogel said. "For him to be doing what he's doing in his 17th year is just nothing short of remarkable. There's no reason to believe he can't sustain that for the rest of the season and help us make a real strong playoff push."

Dennis Schröder scored 20 of his season-high 31 points in a phenomenal first half for the Thunder, who have lost four of five despite two solid performances at Staples Center. Danilo Gallinari added 25 points in his former home arena, and Nerlens Noel had 15.

"That's why (James) is considered probably the best of all time, but I think we did a great job on him," Schröder said. "They obviously hit some tough shots."

One night after the Thunder barely missed an upset win over the Clippers thanks to a last-minute 3-pointer by former star Paul George, Oklahoma City couldn't quite catch up to the powerful Lakers despite keeping the game close all night.

AP

At long last, India ready to take day-night test plunge

KOLKATA, INDIA

INDIA have traditionally been reluctant to embrace innovation in cricket but on Friday, after much heel-dragging, they will finally experience a day-night test when they face neighbours Bangladesh in Kolkata.

The game's most influential nation were the last major team to jump on the Twenty20 bandwagon and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) doggedly resisted the Decision Review System before accepting it almost reluctantly.

They have been immune to the charms of day-night tests and turned down an offer to play one last year in Adelaide, where Australia had hosted New Zealand in the first ever pink-ball test in 2015.

However, former captain Sourav Ganguly, who was appointed BCCI president last month, is a champion of the concept.

Ganguly said it took him "three seconds" to convince India captain Virat Kohli to meet Bangladesh in what will be the maiden day-night test for both sides.

"I don't know why they didn't want to play (in Adelaide)," Ganguly told reporters earlier

this month.

"I met Virat for an hour and the first question was that we need to play day-night test. The answer in three seconds was, 'yes let's go ahead and do it.'"

The match, the second of a two-test series, will fittingly be held at Ganguly's home ground Eden Gardens, where the first three days are sold out.

He is convinced day-night tests could be a potent weapon in fighting the dwindling attendances at test matches seen in some venues.

Kohli shares that belief.

"It's an exciting thing. It's going to be a landmark occasion for Indian cricket," he said after India defeated Bangladesh inside three days in the series opener in Indore.

"We are just happy that we're the first team to start pink-ball cricket in India."

Innovation brings its own set of challenges, however, and Kohli is wary of exaggerated swing, though he says bowlers too might struggle once the ball gets old.

REUTERS

Iconic singer Kidjo hopes to close financing gap for African women

JOHANNESBURG

THE insect-eaten money fluttered in pieces to the floor. For global music star Angélique Kidjo, that image of her grandmother having to use a closet as a bank is driving her desire to see African women leap the many obstacles to obtaining credit – and respect.

The Benin-born singer, one of Africa's iconic artists and a collaborator with Philip Glass and others, is the voice of a new project aimed in part at rewriting laws across the continent that prevent millions of women from becoming a more powerful economic force.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Kidjo described what she has seen over decades of travel in Africa during which women in vibrant marketplaces wished they had the means to do more.

"Why do banks give more loans to men versus women? That's the question I have," she said. "Millions of women entrepreneurs in Africa, they lack loans versus the men. Once again, we come back to this patriarchy. And we know men pay less back than women."

Every time credit is refused to African women, who invest some 90% of what they earn in educating their children and supporting families and communities as opposed to about 40% for men, it's a disaster, Kidjo said. "We're taking up reducing the poverty rate in Africa to the smallest number ever. That's my passion. That's why I'm here."

She will help the African Development Bank next week launch AFAWA, or Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa. Already the G-7 group of the world's major democracies has committed \$250 million, and the bank is providing \$1 billion for the project that will be deployed across all 54 countries.

The goal is to raise \$5 billion for efforts that include helping to guarantee loans, training women on financial matters and eliminating laws and regulations that make accessing credit more difficult. African women face a \$42 billion financing gap even though one in four starts or manages a business, the highest percentage in the world, the bank says.

In some African countries, wom-



In this Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018 file photo Benin's Angélique Kidjo performs in front of heads of states and world leaders during ceremonies at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. One of Africa's iconic artists, Kidjo, is the voice of a new project aimed at rewriting laws across the African continent that keep millions of women from becoming a more powerful economic force. (AP Photo)

en can't open a bank account without their husband or father, or inheritance laws leave them with little or nothing. That means no collateral.

But reforms are catching on. In the World Bank's latest Women, Business and Law report in 2018, 32% of reforms tracked in sub-Saharan African countries addressed equal treatment for women and men in accessing credit and financial services. Angola, Congo and Zambia joined others in prohibiting gender-based credit discrimination, it said.

With the new fund for financing African women "we will be able to go as low as a few hundred dollars' loan ... for people who need it the most," said Vanessa Mounzar, the African Development Bank's Chad-French director of gender, women and civil society.

She was not ready to announce further pledges but said talks are continuing with potential donor countries, including African ones. With the continent's 1.2 billion population expected to double by 2050, the pressure for growth is huge.

"Look, women are one of the most powerful forces of nature

on this continent," Mounzar said. "If they can be economically empowered, transformation will be fast-tracked like we've never seen."

Launching along with the new financing project is an index to assess how commercial banks are performing. "When they come to us for more (loans) we'll say, 'What have you done for women?'" Mounzar said.

The project is also turning accountability on itself, with Kidjo and other ambassadors meant to speak up if they think the project isn't moving quickly or effectively enough.

True, Kidjo said. "I'm not a very patient person. Those women, they don't have time to waste. Their livelihood is in danger. I'm gonna be very strict."

Women across Africa have told her they don't want charity, the singer said. They know how to make money but aren't given the chance to try.

She recalled women in Ghana who resorted to digging a hole in the ground to stash their earnings because they didn't have bank accounts. And during a visit to Benin last month, one woman told her

that to obtain a loan of 5,000 CFA (\$8) she had to show a property deed and hand over 100,000 CFA as collateral.

Such experiences have helped to inspire another new program, the \$100 million U.S.-run Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative fund with projects in 22 countries in Africa and elsewhere. They include Morocco, where women are benefiting from new laws that allow them to own land.

The Africa-focused AFAWA, with vocal backing from French President Emmanuel Macron, will launch this month in Rwanda at the Global Gender Summit, which gathers multilateral development banks from around the world.

When that East African nation changed its laws to give women access to land, their financial inclusion jumped from 36% to 63% in just four years, Mounzar said.

"Can you imagine?" she said. "I want all the women out there to know that's what's really driving us and our hearts. We are working for them and nothing else."

AP

Pelicans spoil Anthony's debut, beat Blazers 115-104

NEW ORLEANS

CARMELO Anthony smiled easily in a hallway outside the Trail Blazers' locker room and asserted that he "felt great" after the first game of his 17th NBA season, even if his new team couldn't keep pace with Jrue Holiday, Brandon Ingram and a largely revamped Pelicans squad that is showing signs of figuring some things out.

"It felt great just to be back into the flow of the game, be back on the court, be back to where I think I belong," Anthony said. "As far as conditioning, though, I felt absolutely great out there. There was minor things, but it was more of the flow of things, and getting used to how the team plays and sets and getting used to the guys on the team."

Holiday had 22 points and 10 assists, Ingram added 21 points

in his return from a four-game absence, and New Orleans beat Portland 115-104 on Tuesday night for its second straight victory and third in four games.

Anthony finished with 10 points while Portland leading scorer and four-time All-Star Damian Lillard missed his first game of the season with back spasms.

Starting at forward and playing across the street from where he led Syracuse to the 2003 NCAA championship over Kansas, Anthony scored the Blazers' first points of the game on a 3-pointer from 26 feet out. Anthony missed 10 of 14 shots, but also hadn't even participated in a full practice, having joined the team the day after its loss in Houston on Monday night.

"For having (only) a morning shootaround, I thought he was pretty good," Blazers coach

Terry Stotts said. "I thought every shot he had, he was getting a good look at the basket."

Ingram looked spry in his return from right knee soreness, particularly on an authoritative, driving, one-handed dunk that got the crowd roaring in the opening quarter.

"I think trying to get to my spots and assert myself a little bit and getting other players involved, I think I did an OK job," Ingram said. "I felt pretty good today. I didn't have any restrictions."

C.J. McCollum led Portland with 22 points, while Hassan Whiteside added 14 points and 14 rebounds.

J.J. Redick hit 4 of 9 3-pointers and scored 14 points for New Orleans. Kenrich Williams, starting at forward, filled the stat sheet with hustle plays, grabbing 14 rebounds to go with three steals,

three drawn charging fouls and a blocked shot. He also scored eight points.

"He just makes winning plays," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "That's what he does – winning play after winning play."

New Orleans seized momentum in the third quarter, going up by 13 on a sequence that began when Nicolo Melli hit a 3 and then got the ball right back in a largely vacated Portland back court after Nickeil Alexander-Walker dove to swipe the ball away from McCollum. Melli went straight in for a dunk that made it 83-70.

Meanwhile, Carmelo Anthony had accepted the possibility that his NBA career might be over.

That seems to have liberated him to come back on his own terms when he signed with the Portland Trail Blazers.

"I came to a point where I was willing to accept it either way," Anthony said after playing the first game of his 17th season with his sixth NBA team on Tuesday night. "I had to get myself mentally prepared for that and I did, to be honest with you."

"I stayed with it, but there was times where I didn't want to. I wanted to just say, 'Forget it, move on with my life, spend more time with my family.' I started getting more comfortable with that," Anthony continued. "I come into this game with a totally different mindset, totally different motivation."

Anthony's Portland debut – played across the street from where he led Syracuse to the 2003 NCAA championship – was not a triumphant one. He missed 10 of 14 shots, finished with 10 points, and the Blazers lost 115-104 in New Orleans.

AP



Portland Trail Blazers forward Carmelo Anthony (00) drives to the basket against New Orleans Pelicans guard Josh Hart (3) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019. (AP Photo)

Mourinho appointed Spurs boss after Pochettino sacking

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho was on Wednesday appointed Tottenham's new manager to replace the sacked Mauricio Pochettino, with the club languishing 14th in the Premier League.

The Portuguese former Chelsea, Real Madrid and Manchester United manager signed a contract until the end of the 2022/23 season, the north London club said in a statement.

Pochettino, 47, transformed Spurs' fortunes after arriving from Southampton in 2014 and although he failed to win a trophy he took the club to the Champions League final for the first time in their history just six months ago.

But the Argentine was sacked on Tuesday, with Tottenham struggling in the league after picking up just three wins from their opening 12 games.

This season they were knocked out of the League Cup by fourth-tier Colchester United and suffered an embarrassing 7-2 defeat at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

- Exciting 'quality' -
"I am excited to be joining a club with such a great heritage and such passionate supporters," said Mourinho, who has won domestic league titles in four different countries -- Portugal, England, Italy and Spain.

"The quality in both the squad and the academy excites me. Working with these players is what has attracted me."

Spurs Chairman Daniel Levy said: "In Jose we have one of the most successful managers in football. He has a wealth of experience, can inspire teams and is a great tactician. "He has won honours at every club he has coached. We believe he will bring energy and belief to the dressing room."

Mourinho has won Champions League titles with Porto and Inter Milan.

The 56-year-old Portuguese won three Premier League titles over two spells in charge of Chelsea and returned to England to manage Manchester United in 2016.

Mourinho was sacked last December following a poor run of results and has been out of work since, most recently working as a TV pundit.

His first match in charge will be the London derby away to West Ham on Saturday.

Despite their recent poor run, Tottenham thrived under

Pochettino's leadership.

They qualified for the Champions League four times, culminating in a dramatic run to the club's first ever European Cup final in June, which they lost 2-0 to Liverpool in Madrid.

However, domestic results had been on the decline since February, with Spurs clinging on to a top-four finish last season despite winning just three of their final 12 league games.

- 'Reluctant' change -

That form has continued at the start of this season and Mourinho arrives with the club 11 points outside the Premier League top four, 20 behind leaders Liverpool and just six points above the relegation zone, though they are well placed to reach the last 16 of the Champions League despite the Bayern humiliation.

Levy said the club had been "extremely reluctant" to make the change, pointing at the poor domestic results.

The job done by Pochettino was all the more remarkable given the tight budget he was afforded by Levy for transfers and wages in comparison to Tottenham's Premier League rivals, as the club built a new stadium at a cost of more than £1 billion (\$1.3 billion).

Instead, much of Pochettino's success came from nurturing a squad of young players into household names such as Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Christian Eriksen.

"I can't thank this man enough," Alli tweeted alongside a picture of Pochettino with the England international.

"He's taught me so much and I'm so grateful for everything he's done for me. Good luck and hope to see you again my friend."

Spurs were forced to play at temporary home Wembley for the entirety of the 2017/18 campaign and most of last season before moving into their new 62,000 capacity ground in April.

The Tottenham Hotspur Supporters' Trust questioned Levy's role in the diminishing results on the pitch.

"Is the manager solely accountable? How much has the board's line on wages and transfers contributed to player unrest and disaffection?" THST said in a statement.

"Poch gave us many of our best moments as supporters, made Tottenham Hotspur a force to be reckoned with again, and forged a strong link with the fans. We will never forget the joy he brought us." AFP

Spurs criticized over Pochettino sacking

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's decision to sack Mauricio Pochettino six months after leading them to the Champions League final has sent shockwaves through the football world, with pundits saying the club should have given him more time to turn the season around.

Spurs sit 14th in the Premier League with only 14 points after 12 games, a situation that prompted club chairman Daniel Levy to make the "extremely reluctant" decision in an attempt to salvage their campaign.

Former Manchester United and Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has already been linked to the job, with Sky Sports reporting that talks between were at an advanced stage with both sides confident a deal could be reached later on Wednesday.

Pochettino led Spurs to four consecutive Champions League finishes despite a relatively small transfer budget and former Spurs striker Gary Lineker said the club would be hard-pressed to find a suitable replacement.

"He helped the club to punch massively above their weight for years," Lineker said on Twitter. "Good luck with finding a better replacement... ain't gonna happen." Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher criticised the timing of the sacking, saying Pochettino deserved more time.

"I think he should have been given until the end of the season

to try and get Tottenham back where they should be and where Tottenham should be really is not actually in the top four," he said.

"Tottenham should be a top-six club but he's made them a top-four club and also a club who almost won the title, almost won the Champions League."

Spurs midfielder Dele Alli thanked the Argentine on Twitter.

"I can't thank this man enough," the 23-year-old said. "He's taught me so much and I'm so grateful for everything he's done for me. Good luck and hope to see you again my friend."

However, with only 25 points from their last 24 games stretching back to last season, former Spurs manager Harry Redknapp said the sacking was inevitable.

"The results have not been good enough, they've not performed well enough. That's what gets you sacked as a football manager," Redknapp said, adding that he would return as an interim manager until the end of the season if he was asked.

"They've had one Champions League final and, if you look back at the run, really everything went their way a little bit. But they've not won a trophy in five or six years with an incredible squad of players, full of internationals.

"People talk about the players there all loving him. If they love him that much, maybe they should have started playing a bit better. At the end of the day, they've got him the sack."

REUTERS

Big teams have big problems in African Cup qualifying

BY GERALD IMRAY, AP SPORTS WRITER

IVORY Coast threw away an early lead and lost 2-1 to Ethiopia on Tuesday to join a list of former champions struggling early in qualifying for the 2021 African Cup of Nations.

The two-time African champion took the lead in the fourth minute with a goal by captain Serge Aurier but conceded twice in 10 minutes in the first half in an early blow to its hopes of making the African Cup in Cameroon.

Goals by Ethiopia's Surafel Dagnachew and Shimelis Bekele dropped Ivory Coast out of the qualifying places after two of six games in the final group stage.

Madagascar, which only made its Cup of Nations debut at this year's tournament, leads Group K ahead of Ethiopia after a 6-2 win in Niger, its biggest victory in qualifying.

Zimbabwe won 2-1 in Zambia thanks to a brace by star midfielder Khama Billiat. Zambia, another former champion, has lost two out of two to sit bottom of Group H.

Ivory Coast is not the only big team struggling, with seven-time champion Egypt winless after two games and clearly missing the influence of injured forward Mohamed Salah. Salah sat out both of Egypt's first two qualifying games, last Thursday and on Monday, with an ankle injury.

Egypt is the most successful team in African Cup history but began this campaign by drawing 1-1 at home to Kenya and then being held 0-0 away to Comoros, the Indian Ocean island which has never qualified for the continental championship.

Those were Egypt's first two



Taifa Stars

competitive games under new coach Hossam el-Badry, who attempted to reassure Egyptians by guaranteeing the team would get back on track when qualifying continues next August.

"Egypt will be among the teams to qualify for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations in the end," el-Badry said.

Egypt and el-Badry are under severe pressure at home. The team is still recovering from its failure at this year's African Cup, which it hosted. Hopes were sky-high but Salah and Egypt went out in the round of 16, coach Javier Aguirre was fired and the entire Egyptian Football Association board resigned.

Comoros could become one of the stories of qualifying after winning in Togo and matching Egypt to sit top of

Group G. The Comoros team is drawn from a nation of less than a million people. Cairo alone has more than 10 times as many people and is about three times the size of Comoros.

As is often the case in Africa, some of the leading teams are finding life difficult as they are tested in less celebrated venues in remote corners of the continent. In some cases, off the continent.

Egypt played at the 10,000-seat Stade Omnisports de Malouzi in Comoros, an island off Africa's east coast. Ghana, a four-time African Cup champion, scraped a 1-0 win on a rugged field in Sao Tome and Principe, an island nation off the west coast.

The Ghanaians complained about the poor state of the field but held

their nerve and have picked up two wins from two to lead their group, as has current African champion Algeria, top-ranked African team Senegal and Nigeria.

Some of the other early group leaders are surprising: Gambia, Mozambique, Comoros and Madagascar. Gambia and Comoros have never qualified for the African Cup, Madagascar made its debut at this year's tournament, and Mozambique last qualified a decade ago. Morocco overcame its own shaky start to qualifying - a 0-0 home draw with Mauritania last week - to beat Burundi 3-0 away on Tuesday. Noussair Mazraoui and Youssef En-Nesyri scored in the first half and Achraf Hakimi sealed victory seven minutes from time. Morocco leads Group E.

Tunisia beat Equatorial Guinea 1-0 with Wahbi Khazri's third goal in two games. Libya is second behind Tunisia in Group J after coming from behind to beat Tanzania 2-1. Libya 'hosted' Tanzania in Monastir, Tunisia, and hasn't played a game at home for six years because of the civil war.

These qualifiers will decide the 23 teams to join host Cameroon at the African Cup. Cameroon, the 2017 winner, is playing in the qualifiers for match practice despite already having a place in the final tournament as host. The top two in each group qualify except in Cameroon's group, where there's just one place up for grabs.

Cameroon was meant to host this year's African Cup but was stripped of the rights for being way behind with its preparations.

AP

Pochettino's Tottenham exit was inevitable

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

DON'T be surprised by Mauricio Pochettino's sudden departure from Tottenham Hotspur. The timing may have caught the football world on the hop, coming toward the end of an international break and with the return of Premier League action just four days away, but the fault line between the club and the Argentine has been growing for months.

Pochettino's side-door exit from Madrid's Estadio Metropolitano, within an hour of Tottenham's Champions League final defeat against Liverpool in June, when he and his coaching staff walked through the media centre, past bemused journalists and straight for a flight to Barcelona, was a clear hint that all was not well at the London club. While the Spurs players gathered their thoughts and headed home the following day, Pochettino was already somewhere else. In the minds of many at the club, he'd checked out long before that 2-0 loss to Liverpool in the Spanish capital.

The 47-year-old had done little to dampen speculation linking him to vacancies at Manchester United and Real Madrid during the middle part of last season. While that was viewed within Spurs as both the nature of the game and a ploy that any leading coach would adopt, Pochettino's sustained refusal to rule out leaving the club at the end of last season was a cause for alarm and displeasure, both in the dressing room and among the hierarchy.

Spurs went into the Champions League final -- the first in the club's history -- with Pochettino repeatedly being evasive when asked if he'd still be in charge at the start of this season, with the former Southampton and Espanyol coach even admitting he would be "open to anything" when asked if he would consider leaving the club. When he confirmed, during Tottenham's preseason tour of Singapore in July, that he would probably have left his job had Spurs won the Champions League, the guessing game that was a distraction among the club's players, supporters and senior figures finally had its answer.

The seeds of disaffection that were sown in the weeks before Madrid began to emerge at the start of this season, too. Spurs have made a dismal start, winning just three of their 12 Premier League games so far this term as well as suffering a



Mauricio Pochettino

humiliating 7-2 defeat at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League group stages.

Pochettino had made it clear that he was no longer fully focused on his job at Spurs, so how could he be surprised that Christian Eriksen would not sign a new long-term contract or that the likes of Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Danny Rose have since questioned their own futures at the club? Sources have told ESPN FC that Pochettino's methods began to grate with senior players, with one claiming privately that his demands on the training pitch would not be accepted by players at a "super club" like Real Madrid, Manchester United or Barcelona, because they were methods that would be accepted only by young players making their way in the game.

Perhaps there is an element of truth in that suggestion. Pochettino's undoubted success at Spurs was rooted in his ability to identify and nurture youthful talent in the shape

of Harry Kane, Dele Alli, Eric Dier, Eriksen, Heung-Min Son, Harry Winks and many others. Once those youngsters became experienced players, the message needed to be changed and finessed, but Pochettino chose to stick with what he knew best, and in the end, Spurs have decided to change the messenger rather than wait for him to change the message.

Pochettino's time in charge has been transformative for Spurs, however, and history will judge him positively, as Spurs legend Gary Lineker suggested on Twitter in the moments following confirmation of the manager's dismissal. "Mauricio Pochettino has been sacked by @SpursOfficial. He helped the club to punch massively above their weight for years. Good luck with finding a better replacement... ain't gonna happen."

Spurs may not have won a trophy under Pochettino, but they have re-established themselves as a major Premier League force, become

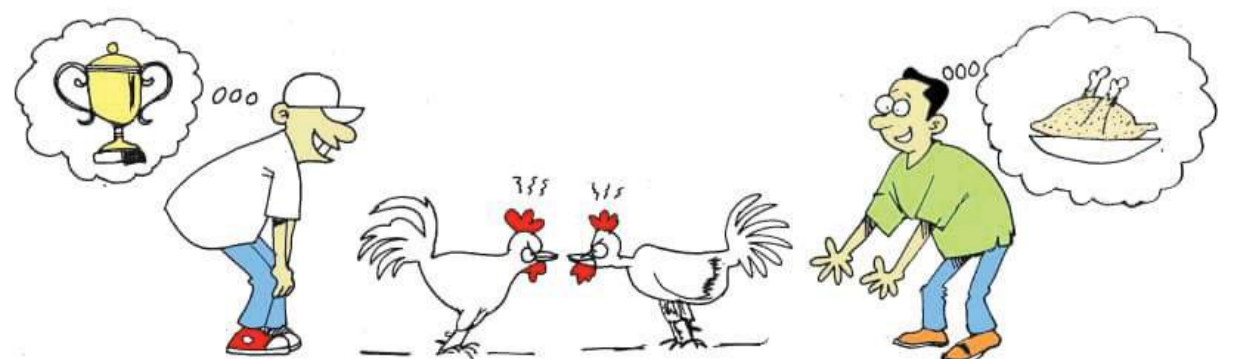
Champions League regulars and emerged from the long shadow of neighbours Arsenal in North London. All of that is down to Pochettino, and his five years in charge -- 293 games in all competitions -- will be remembered for his exciting football, the Champions League final, four successive top-four finishes and his ability to keep the team competitive while the club spent 18 months playing at Wembley while White Hart Lane was rebuilt.

Ultimately, he wanted what Spurs chairman Daniel Levy could not, or would not, deliver: funds to take the team to the next level. The rebuilding that Pochettino wanted to undertake this summer was only partially done and that's a big reason why the team now lies in the bottom half of the Premier League ahead of Saturday's trip to West Ham. But the rift had already begun to widen long before the start of this season. What has happened now is merely the inevitable conclusion.

Spurs will look to hire a proven manager, with the out-of-work Jose Mourinho available to start immediately and Leicester City's Brendan Rodgers an option in the summer, if Levy chooses to make an interim appointment in order to wait for the former Celtic and Liverpool manager. As for Pochettino, Real and United remain his likeliest next destinations, with both Zinedine Zidane and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer struggling to live up to expectations at the Santiago Bernabeu and Old Trafford respectively.

The only thing we know is that today has been coming. Pochettino had said and done too much for a parting of the ways not to happen.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Big teams have big problems in African Cup qualifying

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Samatta: We lost in second half



Farid Mussa, a midfielder for senior national football team, Taifa Stars (R), dribbles past Equatorial Guinea defenders in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers' clash, which was played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SENIOR national football team 'Taifa Stars' captain Mbwana Samatta has suggested they were overwhelmed in the second half of the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying match against Libya in Tunisia on Tuesday night.

The Tanzania squad suffered 2-1 defeat at the hands of Libya in the qualifiers' Group J clash, which took place in Monastir.

"What happened in the second half? In the first half we did so well, we could have extended our lead then we were overwhelmed in the second half. Libya overpowered us in the second half, after taking

the lead they started wasting time and playing for the referee whistle," the Taifa Stars' striker, who opened the scoring in the match through a penalty kick, said.

"It was a game that we played well in the first half and then in the second half we were supposed to take control of the proceedings," he disclosed.

"When you are playing away from home and leading you are supposed to change tactics especially when the hosts are very aggressive and attacking minded in the second half."

He concluded: "We have to improve, we have lost the

battle in Tunisia but not the qualification battle."

Taifa Stars led 1-0 by the time the interval was reached at Olympique Stadium on Tuesday night.

Despite substitutions by Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, the Libyans took charge of the second half and managed to equalize on the 67th minute through a controversial penalty.

Masaud Sabbou managed to slot home the equalizer to set up a tense finale as Tanzania looked lost and overwhelmed by the hosts.

With 10 minutes left, the

Mediterranean Knights completed their comeback when Anis Mohamed struck from close range after he was allowed time and space to take a chance against keeper Juma Kaseja as Taifa Stars' run of three games without defeat came to an end.

Libya were reduced to 10 men with about three minutes left following the dismissal of Hamdou Elhouni, but the damage had been done despite Taifa Stars' late charge for an elusive equalizer.

After defeating Equatorial Guinea by a solitary goal, Tunisia lead Group J with six points, with Libya and Tanzania both on

three points.

Libya, however, come second on head to head rule, which is used by CAF.

The 2021AFCON qualifiers take a nine-month break. When the competition resumes in 2020, Tanzania will play back-to-back (home and away) matches against Tunisia on August 31 and September 8.

The top two teams from 12 groups will qualify for the 24th edition of the African Cup of Nations tournament to be hosted in Cameroon in 2021.

As the host nation, Cameroon have already secured their spot for the final tournament.

TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 BADAZ (live)
12:00 Moyo
13:00 FUNGUA
14:00 Bongo Hits
14:30 RHASHIAG
17:00 SELEKT
17:55 KURUSA
18:00 SHWEZ
18:30 Muzik
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MUADALA
21:00 Bongo Hits

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supemix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Taifa Stars still in contention for 2021AFCON finals-TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has said all is not lost despite the country's senior national team, Taifa Stars, suffering 2-1 loss to Libya in Group J of the 2021Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers' clash which took place in Tunisia on Tuesday.

The federation, in one of its social media accounts, thanked all Tanzanians for supporting the team and said the chance to qualify for the continental competition's finals to be hosted by Cameroon is still on.

"We thank all Tanzanians for supporting Taifa Stars, we still have a chance to qualify, we should continue supporting the team" said the post by TFF secretary general, Wilfred Kidao, and the federation's president, Wallace Karia.

Taifa Stars were the first to score through skipper Mbwana Samatta through a spot kick the team got on the 18th minute.

Libya equalized through Sanad Al Qourfali on the 68th minute when he converted a penalty and Anis Saltou scored the winning goal for the hosts on the 81st minute.

Taifa Stars' head coach Etienne Ndayiragije is reported to have appealed for patience from domestic soccer stakeholders.

He said the journey is still on, insisting the team still has four games to play and anything can happen.

He asked Tanzanians to have faith in the team, promising to work on the shortfalls the squad showcased during the Libya game and the qualifiers' opening clash with Equatorial Guinea.

All goals Libya registered in the Tuesday match resulted from individual mistakes by Taifa Stars' defenders.

Taifa Stars were enjoying possession but were failing to cover when attacking, the approach exposed the side's defenders during counter attacks.

"It is too early to count us out of the race. We still have four games to play to determine our destiny. The game itself was the best teacher and we will address our problems," the Burundian tactician said.

According to Confederation of African Football (CAF), Tunisia are the Group J leaders, Libya are placed second while Taifa Stars are third in the four-team group with three points from two matches.

Equatorial Guinea that have suffered two losses are positioned last in the group.

The Central Africa nation's squad succumbed to 1-0 defeat to Tunisia in the group's other clash, which took place at the former's backyard the same day.

Taifa Stars won their opening game, edging Equatorial Guinea 2-1 at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania's next match will take place in August next year. The qualifiers will decide the 23 teams to join hosts, Cameroon, at the 2021 AFCON finals.

Cameroon, the 2017 AFCON winners, are playing in the qualifiers for match practice despite already having an automatic place in the final tournament as hosts.

The top two teams in each group will qualify, except in Cameroon's group, where there is just one place up for grabs.

Simba SC expresses concern about Aussems leave

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA Sports Club Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Senzo Mbatha, is concerned about the absence of head coach Patrick Aussems who travelled out of Tanzania on a short notice earlier this week.

Aussems was on the bench as Simba lost 2-1 to KMC FC in an international break friendly match played at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Saturday night.

He, though, immediately flew out of the country on what the club CEO termed as an 'e-mail notice to his employers'.

"I really don't know where the coach went, but we shall have a meeting when he returns and know the way forward. On Monday, he e-mailed me saying he is traveling," Mbatha said.

Reports doing rounds in social media have it that the Belgium-born tactician went to South Africa for an interview with one of the country's Premier Soccer League clubs.

However, Mbatha said



Simba SC head coach, Patrick Aussems

they are not aware of that report and termed it unfair speculation.

"When he is back, it is when we can determine what really happened. Even you can have an emergency. But he did not tell us the nature of the emergency. It is unfair to the coach if we speculate that way, let him come and explain himself," Mbatha added.

The South African native, who was appointed in August, also denied reports of a fallout between him and the coach since his appointment.

Mbatha explained that; "I have not been a challenge to him, I have never frustrated him. I have worked well with him."

On Tuesday, the embattled Aussems took to social media to clarify his leave and vowed to return strong in the next match against Ruvo Shooting in the Mainland Premier League.

"I had to leave for two days for personal reasons. I'll be back tomorrow to prepare for our match against Ruvo and get three more points," he wrote on his personal Twitter feed.

Meanwhile, the club has announced the appointment of Mwina Kaduguda as the successor to Swedi Mkwabi as the club's chairman on an interim basis.

"Following the resignation of Swedi Mkwabi as the chairman of Simba Sports Club, the Board of Directors of Simba Sports Club Limited has appointed Mwina Mohamed Seif Kaduguda to serve as the interim Chairman of Simba Sports Club effectively from November 19, 2019," read part of the press released by the club.

Salum Abdallah Muhene, popularly known as 'Try Again', has been appointed as the vice chairman of the club.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

