



National Pg 4 Pension underpayment for retirees



National Pg 5 Cyber security diplomacy training



National Pg 7 Locust outbreak threatens rural food security



NHIF targets to reach 75pc health coverage by 2025

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

NATIONAL Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) Director General, Dr Bernard Konga (pictured) said yesterday that 75 percent of the public will be covered by health insurance schemes by 2025.

Dr Konga made the statement in Arusha when launching a campaign to encourage city residents to join health insurance through its recently launched packages.

"The new health insurance packages are meant to allow individuals to join the system and enjoy reliable medical services throughout the year," he said, noting that by 2025 a significant percentage of adults and children will have been covered.

The fund is determined to ensure provision of quality health services to its members as well as increasing the number medical treatment centers across the country, he asserted.

Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo said the government has been working to improve the health delivery and infrastructures at various health facilities countrywide.



With health insurance Tanzanians are likely to work comfortably as they are sure of medical services

With health insurance Tanzanians are likely to work comfortably as they are sure of medical services, he stated.

"It is important to join a health insurance scheme with the fund for reliable medical services. It is the responsibility of leaders to sensitize people to join the fund since it is for their own benefit," the RC emphasized, elaborating that with a NHIF card people can access medical treatment countrywide.

The new NHIF packages breakdown show that individual persons in the 18 years to 35 years age group are entitled to cover ranging from 192,000/- to 516,000/- in price, while people falling in the 36 years to 59 year age category cough up 240,000/- to 612,000/-, and those aged 60 years and above need 360,000/- to 984,000/- to obtain fund packages.

The list shows that couples with more than one child will contribute between 612,000/- and 1,644,000/- across that range of packages. The Najali Afya Premium package comprises of services such as up to 30 days admission for in-patients each year, laboratory services and radiology, while antenatal care will be issued after two years of enrollment under this scheme.

As for Wekeza Afya Premium, beneficiaries will be eligible for in-patient services and

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Weighbridges: CCTV cameras to curb bribes, evading motorists



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi being shown the new construction mortgage loan banner by NMB Bank Acting Managing Director Ruth Zaipuna at the facility's launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is NMB head of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

From July to December last year, out of the 3,080,285 vehicles that passed through weighbridges that had already been fitted with the cameras, 19,432 violated the rules

By Guardian Reporter

MOTORISTS who are used to violating vehicle load rules should be prepared to pay hefty fines or be jailed since weighbridges in the country are now being fitted with Closed-Circuit television (CCTV) cameras.

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications has also warned unscrupulous weighbridge operators who take bribes from overloading drivers violating permitted weight as incidences of money changing hands will be captured on real-time footages.

Deputy Minister Elias Kwandikwa sent the warning message yesterday while tabling a report on operations of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) before the parliamentary standing committee on infrastructure development in Dodoma.

He said the cameras enable the monitoring of vehicles going through the bridges and the tonnage registered as well as interaction between staff manning the installations and motorists.

The method is a panacea for previously runaway corruption at weighbridges, he stated, noting that the cameras operate for 24 hours, trapping even those who might think of taking advantage of darkness.



The new system now enables us to monitor the whole weighing process as well as corrupt activities

"The new system now enables us to monitor the whole weighing process as well as corrupt activities," he said.

With the new system all motorists with vehicle overloaded with cargo have no chance of getting through weighbridges without being punished as no operator will risk their jobs by accepting a bribe in the full glare of CCTV cameras, the deputy minister intoned.

"From July to December last year, out of 3,080,285 vehicles that passed through weighbridges already been fitted with the cameras, 19,432 violated the rules and were fined," he told the committee.

He named weighbridges fitted with the cameras as Njuki (Singida Region), Nala (Dodoma), Wenda (Iringa) and Mpemba (Songwe).

He encouraged motorists to acquaint themselves with the East African Community Vehicle Load Control Act, 2016 to avoid getting in trouble with authorities and the consequent fines.

Tanzania began implementing the East African legislation in January last year with some transporters facing stiff penalties for contravening its provisions.

The law, passed in 2017, aims to protect roads by curbing overloading. Vehicles with a gross weight of 3,500kg and over have to be weighed at every weighbridge they pass through. The weight in axle of super single tyres has been lowered to 8.5 tonnes from 10 tonnes.

The law stipulates a USD15,000 fine or three-year jail term or both for contravening the weight

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Relief as education sector gets 240bn/- grant boost

By Getrude Mbago

EFFORTS by the government to expand infrastructure and improve the learning environment in schools have received a boost after development partners yesterday committed a 240bn/- grant towards education sector.

The grant agreement was signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the Treasury Permanent Secretary Doto James and Swedish Ambassador Anders Sjoberg, who represented the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

Speaking after the signing, the Treasury top official said the grant will be used to finance two projects, Education Programme for Results and Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP) 2016/17-2021/22.



Funds have been raised by development partners contributing to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

He said the funds have been raised by development partners contributing to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

The partners were listed as the World Bank (WB), the European Commission, UN agencies UNICEF and UNESCO, as well as Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

About \$38.89 million (equivalent to 88,55bn/-) will be used to finance ESDP 2016/17-2021/22 with a focus on primary education, inclusive education as well as adult and non-formal education.

"This will enhance universal access and participation in quality pre-primary education, primary and non-formal education with particular attention to learners from

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Fishing environment for scaled revamping

By Guardian Reporter

A GRAND plan to revive, build and refurbish fishing ports and markets has started being implemented by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries countrywide to improve service delivery for domestic and foreign markets.

Planned improvement of fishing ports has started with the city fish market at Magogoni in Dar es Salaam where the government has



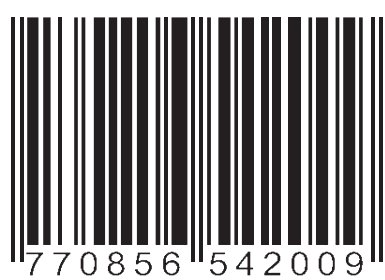
allocated 2bn/- for major refurbishment for its infrastructure and widen the scope for fish trading.

The ministry has also contracted Inter Consult Ltd, an advisory firm, for preparation of plans and estimates for the renovation of the Ferry Fish Market, with a contractor the work already appointed.

Minister Luhaga Mpina (pictured), announcing the plan yesterday, said the government will ensure that fishermen are not despised.

He was inaugurating well toilets at the ferry market for Ilala Municipal Council, numbering 12 toilets - eight for men and four for women, with eight bathrooms-six for men and two for women. There are also eight wash sinks and

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Chunya district commissioner Maryprisca Mahundi accompanied by district security committee members inspect classrooms meant to accommodate Form One secondary students enrolled in 2020. The event took place yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Weighbridges: CCTV cameras to curb bribes, evading motorists

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rules. For his part, the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on

infrastructure development Selemani Kakoso commended the project saying it is likely to end violation of load rules and endemic corruption at weighbridges.

Relief as education sector gets 240bn/- grant boost

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vulnerable groups lacking access to primary education," he elaborated.

About \$51.11 million (116bn/-) will be added to Sweden's contribution to the Education Programme for Results (EPforR) where July 2015 the two countries signed the Specific Grant Agreement amounting to SEK 885m (about 212.76bn/-).

The key EPforR objective is to support the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP) 2016/17-2021/22, specifically to ensure improved and equitable learning outcomes for all in basic education and upper secondary education.

"Successful implementation of these projects will contribute significantly towards achieving the objectives of our National Five Year Development Plan II, which among others, aims at improving the Education Sector through the Literacy and Numeracy Education Support (LANES) strategy, increase annual enrolment of pupils and improve the learning environment in schools through construction of modern toilets."

He paid gratitude to the government of Sweden for its continued efforts in supporting Tanzania through grants in various sectors including energy, public expenditure review, research, natural resources and the productive social safety net (PSSN).

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to reinforce ties with Sweden and GPE to strengthen valuable development cooperation.

The government will take all

necessary measures to ensure successful implementation of these projects in order to achieve intended objectives, he emphasized.

On his part, Ambassador Sjöberg said that GPE support to Tanzania aims to improve inclusive quality pre-primary and upper education in the country.

"The funds will among others improve learning, quality and efficiency with a focus on girls and children from disadvantaged backgrounds. It will improve the quality of education for pre-primary, primary and non-formal education," the envoy intoned.

Sjöberg commended the government for proper implementation of the Literacy and Numeracy Education Support (LANES) phase one thus bringing fruitful results in the sector.

"Considering the massive rise in enrolment, due to introduction of free education in 2016, and the associated pressures that this change placed on teaching resources, LANES has had a vital contribution in improving reading, writing and arithmetic," he pointed out.

The free education policy has also made apparent the need to increase the number of teachers, classrooms and schools which poses a great challenge to the education sector as a whole, he stated.

"We also commend the government of Tanzania for the considerable improvement of girls' transition rate from primary to lower secondary education as well as the best school results for girls," he added.

Fishing environment for scaled revamping

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two offices for levy collection, and one store room.

He said the new building has 40 trading spaces and its completion is important in improving the health of fishermen, fish processors, sellers, food vendors, buyers and other stakeholders.

The minister was adamant that for many years fishing activities were being despised and did not receive the necessary push, but the fifth-phase government has decided to reverse the trend, hence the grand plan to revamp the fishing sector countrywide.

He had given three months for district councils to improve fishing ports and markets along with facilities such as toilets, he told the gathering.

He said he was dismayed by district councils which look upon these facilities as sources of income for them, while not complying with the Fishing Law (Act No 22 of 2003) and regulations thereof of 2009.

He tasked the Ilala municipal director to ensure the project is properly managed as intended.

He also directed the Permanent Secretary to prepare and distribute guidelines for the administration of

fishing ports and fish markets to all district councils by February 1.

Councils will charge a three percent levy instead of 5 percent as has usually been the case, a levy over which fishermen were complaining that it was too high.

Should the councils not do so, the ministry will remove their rights to collect the levy and thus the fishermen conduct their activities for free.

Mpina also directed the Ilala Municipal Council to repair broken down refrigerators at the Ferry Fish Market, such that by February 1 they should be in working condition.

Permanent Secretary Rashid Tamatamah said the toilet project has cost 163m/- and will reduce inconveniences for people using the market.

A fisherman using the Ferry Market, Feisal Ally thanked the government for responding to their complaints over the toilets and as now they have been accorded great respect for having modern toilets.

He also hailed the government for its decision to allow them one license for fishing in the entire sea area as well as for using fishing nets with eight millimeter mesh.

NHIF targets up to 75pc health coverage by 2025

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admission of up to 45 days, along with antenatal care after the first year of enrolment and specialist surgeries.

Other services on offer are laboratory, radiology, ultrasound and CT Scans, which can be acquired after the first year of membership.

There is also Timiza Afya package comprising of up to 60 days of inpatient services, antenatal services after the first year, specialized surgeries and other basic services.

Beneficiaries are eligible to obtain services from dispensary to regional referral hospital level, the director added.

Over 100 pupils to study at nearby Nagulo primary school, councilor

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE ongoing rains in Bahi district have forced administration at Bahi Sokoni primary school to request a permit for over 100 pupils to study at a nearby Nagulo primary school in order to rescue them from the ongoing rains that have over flooded Bubu river, making it hard for pupils to cross.

The pupils at Bahi Sokoni primary school walk up to five kilometers to the school to access education. However, already two classes for Laloi primary school are at final stages of completion, a move that will help pupils of Standard One and Two to relocate.

Bahi Ward Councillor, Augustino Ndonu said he had received complaints from parents that their pupils could hardly cross Bubu river due to the fact that it had been overwhelmed by water.

"Bahi Sokoni headmaster and myself approached Nagulo headteacher where we agreed that about 120 pupils relocate to his school, at least for now.

He said the major focus was now at Laloi primary school where construction was still ongoing to accomplish the buildings for classes, where already 150 iron sheets had been obtained and that about 3m/- had equally been sourced from the Constituent Development Catalyst Fund.

More than 120 families in Bahi district, were left homeless, while schools and clinics had roofs blown off by ongoing heavy rains accompanied by strong winds. The most affected areas are Bahi Sokoni, Misheni, Mji-Mpya, Nkongwa, Mbuyuni, Uhelela, Laloi, Mugu and

Nagulo.

The district commissioner Mwanahamis Mukunda who was in the company of Bahi Ward Councillor Augustino Ndonu and district officials confirmed the incidence during their impromptu tour in the affected areas earlier this week.

According to Mukunda a number of rivers banks in the town which had no proper drainage such as dams thus floods in either of the river affect the nearby communities. "People here must take all necessary precautions from the actual precipitation to daily weather forecast information offered by the authorities," she said.

She said some bridges had been submerged while others had been washed away. She detailed that the district had requested at least 400m/- to repair the broken infrastructures.

She assured the victims and the public that the government was committed to restoring services in the community that was affected by the rains.

Mukundi wants parents to take proper care of school children and the under-age during the rain season to prevent more disasters.

Nagulo village Chairma Ashery Silla also noted that some 18 houses in his area were destroyed. "A lot of rivers had diverted from their main courses sending cries in the neighborhoods."

Bahi Sokoni primary school deputy head teacher said in an interview that during rainy season, the attendance of pupils at his school was very poor, baring in mind that they were forced to walk to between four and five kilometers to access education.



Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture Mathew Mtigumwe (C) talks with onions farmers at Baray river irrigation scheme in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

TMB orders closure of Morogoro open meat market

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA Meat Board (TMB) has closed the market for selling livestock products in the Morogoro municipality and warned all those who will defy the order.

TMB acting registrar Imani Sichwale accompanied by police officers made an impromptu visit at the area well known for selling meat products such as animal hoofs, tails and heads that is adjacent to Morogoro abattoir and said the area was not officially designated for the purpose.

Thereafter he announced the area's closure and warned all those who will continue trading activities in the area.

Explaining the reasons for the closure Sichwale said the government had already banned selling meat in open areas for fear of explosive diseases such as cholera as their standards of hygiene are often questionable.

"There are regulations in the Law (No 10 of 2006) that clearly forbids selling meat in open areas," said Sichwale.

He said they had already addressed the director of Morogoro

Municipal Council to close the area but business has been going on for a long time.

He said another danger is for people to be sold with meat from dead animals due to absence of adequate supervision of the meat being sold in the area.

"Morogoro Region is well known for livestock theft, may of who have been hiding in this area by slaughtering stolen livestock without following official procedures, hence the closure will also reduce livestock theft," he stressed.

Morogoro Municipal veterinary

officer Peter Lema said the market has been a great nuisance for a long time and they had already addressed its owner without success, hence the hail TMB decision for the steps taken to close it.

Meat traders at the area led by the chairman Abedi Matony explained that they have been trading in the area without any problems as what is being sold there is not meat per se, but livestock products. He said what they sell is the kind of meat by products that cannot be sold in ordinary butcheries.



AccessBank chief business officer Prosper William Gwemela and a customer cut a ribbon to officially launch the bank's new branch in Iringa. The event took place this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Bilateral trade arrangements pay off'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE bilateral trade arrangements have provided the country with benefits with the value of exports increasing in the recent years despite worrying decline in the value of traditional goods.

Deputy Minister for Trade and Industries, Eng Stella Manyanya gave the remarks here yesterday when launching the trade research and capacity building programme jointly implemented by REPOA and International Institute for Social Studies of Erasmus University (ISS).

"We have a number of bilateral arrangements, which collectively provide Tanzania with benefits from duty free, quota free arrangement or a waiver to minor customs charges imposed by industrial countries" said the deputy minister

Adding "Their dividends are all to abundant to see, with the value of our exports increasing in recent years, recording annual growth of 11.9 per cent to 9,534.4 million US dollar in the year ending November 2019"

However, she said, despite such developments, there has been a worrying decline in the value of traditional goods, mainly agriculture-based which provide for the livelihoods of large proportions of the population. "Our traditional exports fell by 21.4 per cent to 740.3 million US dollar in 2019, despite improvements in our coffee, cotton and sisal agro-industries" said Eng Manyanya

Thus, he said, evidence-based research as the one that aimed at strengthen the capacity of policy makers, exporters and trade associations to review trade and related economic policies to promote trade competitiveness and diversification for widen trade opportunities are vital.

She said the government will continue to put in place enabling environment for research organisations to carry out independent, inline with professional ethics, regulations and national

laws.

Eng Manyanya commended European Union among other development partners for their continued support for only in capacity building on export competitiveness and diversification but also for complimenting the national capacity to carry out the research and policy debates for enabling policies to be informed by research-based evidence.

In his welcoming remarks, REPOA executive director, Dr Donald Mmari commended the government commitment to engage with various stakeholders in the process of improving national policies and institutional framework aimed at improving the business environment and competitive economy.

Dr Mmari expressed his institution commitment to generate knowledge based on credible and targeted policy research and thus promoted its use in policies and development interventions to achieve socio-economic transformation for inclusive growth and sustained poverty reduction.

"We are pleased that the government has continued to utilize research findings and recommendations in its various policies and strategies, this programme, is about expanding Tanzania export potential through trade diversification and increased competitiveness," he insisted.

Adding "markets dynamics requires continuous improvement in production and trade efficiency, product quality and standards, policy and institutional drivers of efficiency and productivity are therefore vital in today's world, and this programme contributes to that."

He said the programme will focus on five value chains, namely, horticulture, rice, leather, seaweed and logistics with respect to food security, export earnings and employment, particularly for women and young people.

OCD, AMCOS official surrender bribery money to PCCB

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

FOLLOWING the Meatu District Commissioner Dr Joseph Chilongani's directives to the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to investigate the Police Officer Commanding of the District (OCD) Elisante Olomi and the District Cooperative (AMCOS) Officer George Budodi over a 2m/- bribery transaction, the duo had

returned the money.

The two returned the money after strict PCCB interrogation. The money was earmarked for payment to cotton farmers in Mbushi village in the district.

On December 31 last year the OCD and the cooperative official were claimed to have asked the Village Secretary Salum Malonge to pressurize the cooperative (AMCOS) officials to pay

them the 2m/- from the 5m/- that was earmarked to be paid to farmers so as not to take them to court.

AMCOS officials agreed to pay the money whilst other refused and decided to report the matter to the District Commissioner.

After the crops committee meeting that sat on January 11 2020 to discuss the matter, the District Commissioner directed PCCB to interrogate the sus-

pects.

On January 13 2020 the AMCOS official surrendered the money at District's PCCB offices, but he did not explain the reason for his being in possession of the money, from where he obtained or given by who.

Handing over the money yesterday to the District Commissioner for onward transmission to farmers, the Regional PCCB officer Joshua Msuya said

initial investigations showed the existence of corrupt transaction.

"Our first aim is to recover the money and take it to the farmers, which today we will hand it to the District Commissioner," Msuya said.

He said investigations were still continuing for all suspects including AMCOS officials who are alleged to give out that bribery and reminded of the law that says both the giver and receiver

are guilty.

Receiving the money, the Meatu District Commissioner Dr Chilongani thanked PCCB for the good job done and called upon them to continue with investigations on all the suspects so as to take them to court.

He also directed the Districts development Director (DED) Fabian Manzo to immediately suspend the AMCOS official, George Budodi.



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTREST

Introduction

The International Executive Service Corps (IESC) is a Washington, DC-based economic development, not-for-profit organization that provides technical assistance to public sector institutions and private sector companies around the world. IESC has contributed successfully to the growth and development of private enterprises in more than 130 countries since its inception in 1964.

Within the Tanzanian context, IESC is the prime implementer of the Feed the Future Tanzania Enabling Growth through Investment and Enterprise Program (ENGINE), launched in September 2016. ENGINE is a four-year initiative funded by USAID with the aim of streamlining and enhancing many of the regulatory, informational and financial channels that encourage domestic and foreign investment in the southern mainland agricultural regions of Mbeya, Morogoro, and Iringa, and in Zanzibar.

ENGINE works at the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) level, using a broad-based approach to engage with LGAs, private sector associations, business development service providers, financial institutions, and small and medium enterprises. The program's activities are divided into three main components:

- 1. Implement policies for growth.** Build the capacity of the private sector to effectively dialogue with the government to set the policy agenda and improve the capacity of the public sector to implement policies.
- 2. Equip businesses for growth.** Strengthen SMEs capacity and foster the growth and capacity of a sustainable market for business development services (BDS) in Tanzania.
- 3. Access to finance for growth.** Broaden access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in all sectors, especially women and youth entrepreneurs and those working within agricultural value chains (excluding primary producers), to facilitate increased business viability, growth, and investment.

The ENGINE Program is seeking short-term consultants to provide technical support in the above-mentioned program areas under the following titles:

- Consultant 1** : Organizational Development
Assignment : To Provide Organizational Development Support to Business Development Services Providers' (BDSPs) Regional Networks.
Location : Mbeya, Iringa, Morogoro and Zanzibar
- Consultant 2** : Resource Mobilization
Assignment : To Strengthen Capacity of Business Development Services Providers (BDSPs) to mobilize resources
Location : Mbeya, Iringa, Morogoro and Zanzibar.

For more details of these Consultancies please send an email to request an in-depth Scope of Work to enginebids@iesc.org with the name of consultancy applied on the subject line of the email.

Proposal Submission and Deadline

Interested Candidates are requested to submit their proposal and quotation via email enginebids@iesc.org with the name of consultancy applied on the subject line of the email by Midnight on **January 24th, 2020**. Any request for clarification about this assignment shall be addressed by e-mail to enginebids@iesc.org.



JOB VACANCY

Rijk Zwaan Tanzania is located in Arusha, Tanzania. Currently with 500+ employees. Rijk Zwaan is an international family company with a people-oriented culture. Rijk Zwaan is right at the start of the food chain. We develop vegetable varieties and sell the seeds produced from them globally. We have a long-term focus, which is why we offer our employees a permanent contract as soon as they join us. From our strategic position we contribute to the health and well-being of people all over the world. Everything we do is about growth. The growth of natural products that we export around the world. The growth of our company, which currently employs over 2,600 people in more than 30 countries. Above all the growth of our people: we give you every opportunity to use your own initiative and achieve your full potential. Working with colleagues to produce the best and tastiest vegetables. Reinforcing, helping and inspiring one another. That is how we continuously want to work together towards a healthy future. We have the following vacancies for dedicated diligent Tanzanians:

Job Title: Internal Auditor (1 Post)

(a) **Reports to:** Managing Directors

(b) **Job Summary:** Internal Auditor will work next to the Financial Controller and is responsible for the internal control, making sure (internal) procedures are followed correctly on all locations.

- (c) **Tasks and Duties:**
- Ensuring that laid down internal controls and other procedures are followed;
 - Conducting routine examination of the accounting records in order to ascertain the records are properly kept and accurately recorded, proper classification has been observed and that the available financial data is reliable;
 - Ensure that there is compliance with established policies, procedures, controls and other regulations;
 - Review of measures for safeguarding assets and inventories;
 - Checks accuracy of bank reconciliation;
 - Executes audit programs, carry out systems audit;
 - Detects frauds, theft and waste of any kind of asset;
 - Advises on best use of company resources;
 - Makes follow-up of previous internal observations;
 - Has managerial duties or managerial role;
 - Assists in closing the financial year, support of the external auditor, banking/cashflow, and treasure management.

(d) Qualifications:

- 5+ years experience at (one of the) big 4 audit firms.
- Preferably experience in handling fraud investigations.
- Preferably experience with IT audits.
- CPA; bachelor of commerce: major in accountancy, preferably at the University of Dar es

- Salaam or Mzumbe University.
- Fluent in English.

(e) Personality

- Proactiveness
- Strong personality, with a convincing attitude
- A balance between trust and control
- Helps to improve business and internal control framework
- Able to write reports and advise in a helpful way.
- Able to build strong relationships
- A sparring partner for MD Finance/HR
- Able to work independently and able to report to the internal auditor in the Netherlands

(f) Scope of the position:

- Financial audit
- IT audits, including information security
- Operational audit, create standards for instance on purchasing
- Risk analysis
- Special investigations on stores/warehouse

(g) **Background check:** A full background check is part of the procedure.

(h) **Status:** Permanent Position.

How to Apply:

If you believe you can clearly demonstrate your abilities to meet the criteria given above, please submit your application letter with a detailed CV attached with relevant academic certificates to, Q-Sem at ajira@rijkszwaan.com

To be considered your application must be received by 25th January, 2020. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Rijk Zwaan is an equal opportunity company everyone is encouraged to apply.

We will not centralise mineral licences - Doto

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has said it will not issue a national wide broker/ dealer licences until it is satisfied that all traders conduct the businesses in a good manner.

Minister for Minerals, Doto Biteko said yesterday in a meeting which involved goldsmith, dealers and brokers conducting their operations in Dar es Salaam.

Minister Biteko said the government has already allowed dealers or brokers to buy minerals at zonal level.

He said a broker who resides in Dar es Salaam can use his licence to buy minerals in Coast zone which includes Morogoro, Coast, and Tanga regions.

"We will not centralise issuance of dealer or broker licences, you will have to buy from the nearby region and not across the country," he said.

He said the government cannot issue licences at randomly since there are untrustworthy brokers who could use the opportunity for their own benefits.

"Let us continue with zonal level, saying trust will only become more crucial for businesses in the future. If we are satisfied that people conduct their businesses with trust the government can decide otherwise," he said.

He also insisted that the government will continue to use laws, regulations and procedures to curb minerals smuggling.

"Strategies to improve mining laws and investment climate go hand in hand with curbing smuggling. We will never repeat mistakes which caused losses of revenues as other countries were major exporters of minerals mined in Tanzania," the minister said.

However Minister Biteko said the government wants to see all mineral dealers conduct their businesses under conducive environment.

"We really depend upon you, there is no ministry of minerals without you, so we shall continue to make sure that you help the government in paying all taxes for the country's development".

Speaking a broker identified as Ahmed Nyamwese, urged the government to centralize licence applications and reduce fees.

He said if centralised, it would minimise unnecessary costs and improve the development of the sector.

According to executive secretary of Tanzania Mineral Commission, Prof Shukrani Many, they expected collect 470bn/- from mining trading centers in the country.

He said up to moment they have collected 242bn/- which is equal to 102 per cent urging Dar es Salaam residents and traders to use their trade mining centres effectively.

"We will reach the target of collecting 470bn/- before June, this year because already we have mineral trading centers countrywide, he said.

He urged workers of commission to work hard in order to reach the target before June 2020.



Strategies to improve mining laws and investment climate go hand in hand with curbing smuggling. We will never repeat mistakes which caused losses of revenues as other countries were major exporters of minerals mined in Tanzania



Mara regional commissioner Adamu Malima (R) looks at books donated by Steven Wassira Foundation for 29 secondary schools in Mara region during the launch ceremony of the foundation yesterday. The books include of history, mathematics, civics, chemistry and biology. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob.

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

INSPECTOR-GENERAL of the Police (IGP) Simon Sirro has promised to find solutions to complaints from retired police officers in Zanzibar over their pension payments.

Sirro gave the pledge at the weekend when he met with retired police officers including those who retired but claim of underpayment in the money they were paid.

He said he will send a team of experts to the Accounts Department at the

IGP pledges to solve pension underpayment for the retirees

headquarters in Dar es Salaam to come to Zanzibar to follow up the issue to find out of any failings thereon.

He said any worker who retires his/her expectation is to get his/her pension as appropriate so that he/she pursues other commitments in

retirement.

Retired police officers in Zanzibar were pleased with the IGP's pledge. "That is what we call accountability from a person who given the task of leading the Police Force," said Amour Abdullah, a police officer who retired

three years ago.

Most complaints from the retired police officers is underpayment of what they say to be their right pension benefits, different to what their Mainland counterparts have been receiving as pension.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

DEPUTY Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile joined residents of Utengule-Usongwe Ward, Mbalizi town in Mbeya Region in the building of nine classrooms that are needed to accommodate 400 Form I students who passed their last year Std 7 examinations but missed Form I places in secondary schools.

Dr Ndugulile did so after he was informed by Mbeya District Council officials that for more than two weeks the residents have been building the classes through self-help scheme.

Apart from assisting in the construction work that occupied him the whole day, Dr Ndugulile also contributed 50 bags of cement to complete the project.

He said the residents of the ward should be an example for the country for the participation of wananchi in development projects particularly in responding to education guideline call in construction of schools' infrastructures.

"In my all official visits it was the first time to see wananchi coming out to participate in a development project

Minister Ndugulile takes part in classrooms construction in Mbeya

and I'm staying with you here for the whole day," said Dr Ndugulile.

He said wananchi in other areas in the country are required to emulate what their Mbalizi counterparts were doing. He also called upon them to do the same in other development projects such as building of health centres.

The Chairman of Mbeya District Council Mwalingo Kisemba assured the Deputy Minister that in the ongoing classroom project professionalism in supervision of resources is of paramount importance due to wananchi's participation in their security.

He said apart from the contribution of the cement from the Deputy Minister, there are also contributions from other stakeholders including the constituency's Member of Parliament Oran Njeza who donated 100 bags of cement, the Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika 10 bags as well as business people from the Municipality.

He said they have started construction of three classrooms after the initial six reaching roofing stage.

"These wananchi are contributing money as well as their efforts, they cannot allow anybody to sabotage their efforts therefore I assure you in three days time the cement you have contributed will have finished and if you would like to contribute more you are welcome," he said.

He called upon other stakeholders to continue contributing in the classrooms construction so that students start lessons without further delays.

One resident Rebeka Kyoma said after starting the project in their own, they were joined by many others as the work progressed.

She said recently the Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila promised to contribute 35 bundles of corrugated roofing sheets, while the National Microfinance Bank also showed interest in roofing the classrooms.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



TAARIFA KWA UMMA

NDUGU WATANZANIA;

KAMA MNAVYOFHAMU, MWISHO WA KUTUMIKA KWA LAINI ZA SIMU AMBAZO HAZIJASAJILIWA KWA KUTUMIA NAMBA YA KITAMBUSHO CHA TAIFA (NIDA) NA KUTHIBITISHWA KWA ALAMA ZA VIDOLE NI **TAREHE 20 JANUARI, 2020.**

HAKIKI TENA USAJILI WA LAINI ZAKO KWA KUPIGA NAMBA *106# NA UCHUKUE HATUA STAHIKI SASA.

IKUMBUKWE KWAMBA UKOMO WA TAREHE 20.01.2020 UNAWAHUSU WALE TU AMBAO WANA LAINI ZA SIMU SASA (AMA KWA AJILI YA MAWASILIANO YA SIMU AU VIFAA VYAO VYA MAWASILIANO MENGINE) LAKINI HAWAJAZISAJILI KWA KUTUMIA NAMBA YA KITAMBUSHO CHA TAIFA (NIDA) NA KUTHIBITISHWA KWA ALAMA ZA VIDOLE.

1. KWA WATAKAOSITISHIWA HUDUMA ZA LAINI ZAO ZA SIMU TAREHE 20.01.2020 WANAVEZA PIA KUENDELEA NA UTARATIBU WA USAJILI KWA LENGU LA AMA KURUDISHA LAINI ZAO ZITAKAZOKUWA ZIMEFUNGWA AU KUPATA LAINI MPYA. **ZOEZI HILI NI ENDELEU.**

2. KWA WATUMIAJI/WAOMBAJI WAPYA WA LAINI ZA SIMU WATAENDELEA KUSAJILIWA MUDA WOTE NA USAJILI HUO KWA KUTUMIA KITAMBUSHO CHA TAIFA NA KUHAKIKIWA KWA ALAMA ZA VIDOLE. **HUDUMA HIYO NI ENDELEU PIA.**

3. KWA WANADIPLOMASIA AU TAASISI ZAO AMBAO HAWAJAKAMILISHA USAJILI WA LAINI ZAO ZA SIMU AU ZINAZOTUMIKA KWENYE VIFAA VYAO VYA MAWASILIANO WAENDELEE KUFUATA UTARATIBU WALIOWEKEWA.

Imetolewa na Mkurugenzi Mkuu

TCRA

15 Januari, 2020



Deputy minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth and Empowerment Anthony Mavunde talks at a press conference organised by Bakhresa Group of companies on engagement of employment for youth through the firm's value chain in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are SSB public relations director Huseni Sufiani (R) and Sokoine University graduates entrepreneurs cooperative (SUGECO) managing director Revocatus Kimario. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Youth volunteer to clear a clogged sewage system at River Side Ubungu in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Local NGO introduces new sanitary wear products for women, children

By Francis Kajubi

As part of efforts to ensure sustainability in its service delivery through social enterprising approach, T-MARC Tanzania had yesterday introduced new products to the market that are intended at serving young women, children and elders a comfort of hygiene.

The named products that the groups can now purchase on market at affordable price and supplied in towns and cities across the country are Flowless sanitary pads for women, Smile baby diapers and Harmony adult diaper for people with special medical cases and are part of T-MARC Tanzania social enterprising drive designed to ensure sustainability of services and products as it serves the larger Tanzanian society.

Speaking at the launch of the products in Dar es Salaam, T-MARC Tanzania Managing Director, Tumaini Kimasa, said that the aim of bringing up the new products was to support the community through sustainable products and services delivery.

"The products are part of our social enterprising drive. We want to ensure sustainability of our services and products at the same time maintaining quality and affordability. Our aim is to serve the larger society for a long time. We

are here to stay as a committed partner to the government and other stakeholders," said Kimasa adding:

"We at T-MARC Tanzania have added a social enterprise model to this effect. We intended to run our business through responsible commercial approaches at the same retaining our commitment to social impact as we serve the Tanzanian communities".

Ilala District Commissioner, Sophia Mjema, commended T-MARC Tanzania for the new initiative calling upon other stakeholders to venture into social oriented investments.

"Let me seize the opportunity to commend you for the new drive which is a key to sustainability. In today's world where donor funding is dwindling, it is important that organizations learn how to reduce that dependence. You will now be able to reach out to many people and in a longer period of time for sustained social impact," said Mjema.

T-MARC Tanzania is an independent locally managed non-governmental organization with committed and dedicated ambitions to improve public health and the wellbeing of Tanzanians through strong partnerships and programmes by ensuring them with accessible, affordable and quality services and products.

Community-based wildlife management benefits villagers of Namtumbo district

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

VILLAGES forming Mbarang'andu Community Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Namtumbo district council, Ruvuma region have significantly benefited from the tourism and tourist hunting after accumulating pleasant dividends in the season ended December 2019.

Ernest Nombo, a Wildlife officer in Namtumbo said that tourist hunting has performed well and brought positive impacts in the last season of July to December compared to the past two seasons.

According to him, due to the profits earned from hunting activities and tourism, the villages will be provided with \$3,844 (about 9m/-) each to support various development initiatives.

He named the beneficiary villages as Kitanda, Nambacha, Likuyuseka, Songambebe, Mchomoro, Kilimaseera and Mtelamwahi.

He said that the increase in tourists' arrivals

and hunting has been contributed by the increase of attractive animals in the corridor and good conservation of wildlife.

"In the season from July to December, we have experienced huge changes in the tourism sector something which impresses the government and the wildlife communities at large," he said.

For his part, Namtumbo Land and Natural Resources officer Simon Sambalu said that the Wildlife Community Conservations are established in accordance with the Wildlife Regulations Act, 2009. "Under the law, community can own wildlife blocks in areas surrounding the National Parks. The Act also directs 50 percent of tourism earnings under WMA be allocated in the villages forming the community," he noted.

Sambalu said that the Namtumbo district council has three WMAs which are Kisungule, Kimbanda and Mbarang'andu which have performed well in the last season.

Centre tasked to introduce training on cyber security diplomacy

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Tanzania-Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations has been tasked to introduce training on cyber security diplomacy to control cybercrime issues and enhance national security.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi made the call when speaking at the 22nd graduation ceremony at the Centre for Foreign Relations in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Prof Kabudi said such kind of training is most important due to the fact that Tanzania is surrounded by some conflicting countries but also the increasing threats of terrorism.

"I would like to see the college coming up with new programmes that includes cyber security training. This will increase national security", he said.

Prof Kabudi added the government will continue to lay good foundation for economic diplomacy for the country to achieve sustainable economic growth.

He said the various flagship projects such as the Nyerere hydropower project in Rufiji and construction of the standard gauge railway is clear indication that the government is committed to boost economic growth.

The minister also urged the college to establish an entrepreneurship course that will go in line with the training offered in order to help graduates to overcome unemployment

challenges.

He challenged graduates to use the acquired knowledge and skills to fight against poverty.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Faraji Mnyepe said a total 453 students had graduated with Masters and Bachelor Degrees, diploma and certificates.

The PS said the college has set out a budget for conducting special research on how it can help the ministry. Dr Mnyepe added: "The government has released 800m/- for construction of lecture rooms for the college to be able to accommodate over 1400 students".

He said the college faces a number of challenges including limited space and shortage of infrastructures.

Municipal council surrenders land after failing to pay compensation

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

SUMBAWANGA Municipal Council in Rukwa Region has been forced to return to original owners all land it bought from them for survey and ultimate sale to others after it failed to compensate the owners a total of 600m/-.

Speaking early this week in his office with people whose land had been taken by the council, the Municipal director Jacob Mtalinyia said currently the council cannot pay them compensation and it is not in a position to say when the money will be available.

He said in order to avoid conflicts the council has seen it better to return to the wananchi their land, except those whose land was taken for purpose of construction of buildings for government institutions as well as those whose areas were surveyed and then sold for human settlement developers. He said compensation will be paid in respect of the two categories.

He directed council officials to identify all areas of land that have been used for the said purpose in order to effect compensation, and those that have not been sold will be returned to their former owners for developing or sale but should abide by laid down procedures governing urban planning. "Personally I have seen that it would not be reasonable to continue holding the land as it's more than ten years and the wananchi are waiting for compensation while there

is no possibility for that, so I have deem it better to return the land to you," said Mtalinyia.

He said the council has more than 600 plots it has already surveyed in Nambogo area, but have no buyers, and these will be

sold to the wananchi, hence it has no reason to hold onto more other areas.

One among the wananchi in attendance Monica Makandi thanked the director for the decision as they are tired of waiting for compensation for more

than ten years, adding that it's better for themselves to dispose off the plots. She said some of them have children who are in need of land to build homes for themselves hence the returned plots will be an opportunity for them to do so.



Shaaban Robert Secondary School

FORM V ADMISSION 2020

Application forms for the Form V -2020 are now available at the School office Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for the following combinations:-

Physics, Chemistry, Biology	-	(PCB)
Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics	-	(PCM)
Physics, Geography, Mathematics	-	(PGM)
Chemistry, Biology, Geography	-	(CBG)
Economics, Commerce, Accountancy	-	(ECA)
History, Geography, Economics	-	(HGE)
History, Geography, Language (English)	-	(HGL)
History, Kiswahili, Language (English)	-	(HKL)

1. Applicant should not be above 18 years of age
2. Fee for Registration is Tshs. 25,000/- only.

Scholarships and bursaries are available for the deserving candidates with outstanding academic results and the needy, respectively.

The Headmaster
P. O. Box 736
DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: 2114903 / 2114935
Cell No. 0693 081688
E-mail: info@shaabanrobert.sc.tz

215565601



Organization Profile

Room to Read is a global organization transforming the lives of millions of children in low income countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. Founded in 2000 on the belief that world change starts with Educated Children, our innovative model focuses on deep, systemic transformation within schools in low income countries during two time periods which are most critical in a child's schooling; early primary school for literacy acquisition and secondary school for girls' education. We work in collaboration with local communities, partner organizations and governments to develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children and ensure girls can complete secondary school with the skills necessary to negotiate key life decisions. By focusing on the quality of education provided within the communities and ensuring these outcomes are measured, we have created a model that can be replicated, localized and sustained by governments. Room to Read has benefited 10 million children across 17,000 communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, South Africa, India, Laos, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Room to Read aims to reach 40 million children by 2025.

Position: Senior Program Officer, Girls Education Program (1 position)

Location: Field Office, Kibaha

Position Overview

The Girls' Education Senior Program Officer assumes the overall responsibility to manage the implementation of the Girls Education Program (GEP) program in selected areas and spends considerable time providing technical support and supervision to Room to Read's (RtR's) Social Mobilizers, Program Officers and Program Associate. This includes facilitating trainings for Social Mobilizers on program contents and delivery, providing technical guidance to ensure Social Mobilizers are conducting activities in line with global program design, conducting weekly 1-on-1 meetings and annual performance reviews for all direct reports, and regularly observing Social Mobilizers performance in the field to help them be more effective in their roles. The Senior Program Officer is also responsible for coordinating the preparation of work plan and allocating assignments to Program Officers, reviewing and analyzing program data collected by Social Mobilizers and Program Associates, overseeing needs assessments and delivery of material support for program participants, leading the facilitation of meetings with parents, teachers, and government officials, and supporting GEP annual planning and budgeting process. The Senior Program Officer reports to the Field Operations Manager (FOM).

Position: Senior Social Mobilizer (1 position)

Location: Pwani Region

Position Overview

The senior social mobilizer is responsible for the implementation, coordination development and reporting of the Girls' Education program in the respective school (s). She would serve as the first point of contact for the school, parents and scholars. The senior social mobilizer will report to the Program Officer - Girls Education. This position will be field based in one of the government schools and/or at the field office where required. The position will also involve regular interaction with school administrators, parents, School Management Committee members, teachers and scholars.

Position: Facilitator, Financial Literacy Life Skills Club (1 position)

Location: Pwani Region

Position Overview

The Life Skills Clubs Facilitator will be responsible for organizing and implementing the life skills club sessions and activities that are part of Room to Read's larger Girls' Education Program (GEP) in Bagamoyo, Chalinze and Kibaha Districts. The Life Skills Clubs have a primary focus on increasing girls' financial literacy knowledge and skills. In collaboration with GEP staff and school focal teachers, the Club Facilitator works with parents to educate them about the importance of girls' education by facilitating Community events and parent meetings. The majority of her time is spent with the girls at their schools. This position reports to the Girls' Education Program Officer- Technical. The Life Skills Clubs Facilitator has no direct reports.

To be successful as a member of the Room to Read team, you will also:

- Have a passion for our mission and a strong desire to impact a dynamic non-profit organization
- Be an innovative and creative thinker - you are not afraid to try something new and inspire others to do so
- Have a very high level of personal and professional integrity and trustworthiness
- Have a strong work ethic and require minimal direction
- Work well independently as well as part of a team
- Thrive in a fast-paced and fun environment

Application Procedure:

Please visit our website at www.roomtoread.org and click on the "careers" link under about us tab. This will take you to Room to Read's Career Portal. Click on the See Current Vacancies to find this vacancy, select the vacancy you are interested and click apply to begin the online application process. If you do not hear from Room to Read within one month of the closing date, please accept that your application was unsuccessful. Please note that late applications will not be considered and correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only.

Room to Read is proud to be an equal opportunity employer committed to identifying and developing the skills and leadership of people from diverse backgrounds. Women are encouraged to apply. **"Room to Read is a child-safe organization"**

CLOSING DATE: 23rd January, 2020.

215565601

Most women don't regret having abortion - research

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW research has found that most women feel 'relieved' and don't 'regret' their decision after having an abortion.

The study, which was described by a CNN report as one of the largest to date on the topic, was published Sunday in the journal *Social Science & Medicine*.

Also, about 25 per cent of all pregnancies ended in an induced abortion, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Researchers say there has been an assumption that women will regret having an abortion.

But they said the groups of women surveyed described as relieved how they felt each time they were asked about it.

According to the study, researchers

came to this conclusion after surveying nearly 1,000 women, and following up with them 11 times over a period of five years.

Five years after having an abortion, a majority of women surveyed - 84 per cent - had positive emotions or no emotions whatsoever about their abortion decision.

At first, over half the women in this survey said the decision to terminate the pregnancy was very difficult with nearly 70 per cent saying they felt they would be stigmatised if people knew they had an abortion.

But these feelings declined down the line, sometimes even one year after the abortion, the study revealed.

The survey, which was conducted in the U.S., builds on previous researches that rebuff studies linking mental illness

to abortion - a common argument used to justify policies that restrict access to abortion in many countries. This study finds such policies and arguments as misguided.

Globally, about 22,800 women die each year from complications of unsafe abortion, the Guttmacher Institute reports.

Around 25 million unsafe abortions were estimated by WHO to have taken place worldwide each year, almost all in developing countries.

As a result, many countries are putting an outright ban on abortions with others imbedding stringent routines in their abortion policies.

However, experts believe bans and restrictions will only escalate the rate of unsafe abortions, especially in developing countries.



A rickshaw rider at the back of a dangerous goods truck along Morogoro road in Dar es Salaam without taking any precautions as captured yesterday. Photo: John Badi

UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ACCESS FUND



Tender No. IE/037/2019 - 20/HQ/W/01

For

Design and Build for the Establishment of the Fund's Office in Dodoma

Invitation for Tenders

RE-ADVERTISED

Date: 24th December, 2019

- This Invitation for Tender follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project which appeared in TPJ Issue no. 1821 - 6021 dated 18th June 2019.
- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) has set aside funds for the operation during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for Design and Build arrangement for the Establishment of Fund's Office Building at Njedengwa Area, Plot No. 6, Block "K" in Dodoma City.
- The Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) now invites sealed tenders from eligible contractors registered or capable of being registered in class III and above for carrying out Design and Build for the Establishment of the Fund's Office Building in Dodoma.
- Tendering will be conducted through the National tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, GN. No. 446 of 2013 and Public Procurement (amended) Regulations, GN. No. 333 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board, **Universal Communications Service Access Fund, The University of Dodoma (UDOM), Old Computer Lab building, 2nd Floor in Dodoma, Tanzania between 09:00 am and 04:00 pm excluding weekends and public holidays at the same address or through a telephone contact +255-26-2965771 or e-mail address: ceo@ucsaf.go.tz.**
- A complete set of Tendering Document in English may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS 300,000/=. Payment should either be by Cash, Banker's Draft, or Banker's Cheque, payable to Chief Executive Officer, Universal Communications Service Access Fund.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by an original tender security in an acceptable form as shown in the tendering document in the amount of 10% of the contract sum.
- All tenders in one original plus two copies required, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered **to the Secretary of the Tender Board, Universal Communications Service Access Fund, The University of Dodoma (UDOM), Old Computer Lab building, 2nd Floor in Dodoma at or before 14:00 hours 3rd February, 2020.** Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the **Universal Communications Service Access Fund, The University of Dodoma (UDOM), Old Computer Lab building, 2nd Floor in Dodoma.**
- The site visit and pre-tender meeting shall be held on **Friday, 24th January, 2020 from 10:00 hours,** at Njedengwa Area, Plot No. 6 Block "K" in Dodoma City.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, tenders not received, tenders not opened at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- The Procuring entity is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

Chief Executive Officer
Universal Communications Service Access Fund,
P.O. Box 1957,
Dodoma,
Tanzania.

215586301

Shinyanga municipal council to focus on pending projects in 2020/2021 fiscal year

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

COUNCILLORS in Shinyanga municipal council have endorsed a 39bn/- budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year insisting district authorities to use part of the monies to implement delayed projects.

The councillors were concerned that a number of projects have been delayed thus affecting provision of social services. They were speaking after the district planning officer, Imelda Kirima presented to them estimates of the district budget for the coming financial year.

They urged that it was important for the district to use funds allocated for

development projects to implement delayed projects which have not been completed for years. According to them, coming up with new projects will result into the district having many incomplete projects.

Nicodemus Simoni from Masengwa ward said there are various projects which are implemented by the government in collaboration with citizens, but are yet to be completed. He said some of the projects include construction of dispensaries and teacher's houses.

"We started constructing a dispensary and houses for teachers but until today the structures are not complete. It is now more than three

years since the projects stopped, it will be better if we complete the previous ones before initiating new tasks," said Masengwa ward Councillor.

Shinyanga district council chairman, Ngassa Mboje backed the councillors' decision insisting the coming budget will be mostly spent to complete pending projects. He said priority will be given to projects which have been implemented by citizens.

Explaining, the district's planning officer Imelda Kirima said the district will spend 39,009,580,226/- in the 2020/2021 financial year whereas 29,901,156,000/- will be for salaries and 6,993,706,159/- for development projects among others.

FARM AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Farm Africa Tanzania has been working in Tanzania since 1990 as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under NGO Act with certificate of registration no. I-NGO/0008750. Its long-term objective is to contribute to poverty alleviation by developing replicable community based approaches for improving agricultural productivity and sustainable land use in Tanzania.

Farm Africa is an innovative international NGO that reduces poverty in rural eastern Africa by helping farmers grow more, sell more and sell for more: we help farmers to not only boost yields, but also gain access to markets, and add value to their produce. We place a high priority on environmental sustainability and develop approaches that help farmers to improve their yields and incomes without degrading their natural resources.

Farm Africa operates under its global Strategy for the period 2016-2020 with a mission Driving Prosperity Through Agriculture

On 03th January 2020, Farm Africa signed a grant agreement with World Food Program (WFP) worth TZS 1,407,750,726/=to implement eighteen (18) months project which will focus on sorghum value chain in Dodoma. The project aims to ensure that "targeted smallholders in prioritized districts will have increased access to agricultural markets by 2030, improving food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes (SDG target 2.3)."

The project will aim to achieve the following results:

- Targeted smallholder farmers benefit from WFP value chain support in order to have improved access to profitable markets and increase their incomes.
- Targeted smallholder farmers benefit from improved availability of climate-smart agricultural services and products in order to increase productivity and incomes and mitigate the negative effects of climate-change.
- Targeted smallholder farmers benefit from increased access to household and community storage infrastructure in order to reduce post-harvest losses and improve quality of crops harvested.
- To increase gender equality and youth participation in decision making related to agricultural production and marketing activities

The project will be implemented in Dodoma region (Mpwapwa, Kondoa, Bahi, Chamwino and Mpwapwa districts). This notice is in compliance with Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendments) Regulations, 2018 GN609 of 19th October 2018.

In case of further information please email: infotanzania@farmafrika.org

215586301



Tariff Guide 2020

Stanbic Bank would like to bring to your attention proposed tariff guide below which will take effect from Mid-February 2020

TRANSACTION/SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	LOCAL CURRENCY	FOREIGN CURRENCY			
		TZS	USD	EURO	GBP	ZAR
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT FEES						
Uhuru-Personal Current Account	Charged Monthly	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Hatua Account	Charged Monthly	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Pure Savings Account	No management fee if minimum balance is maintained	NO management fees if balances is above TZS 50,000. Else, TZS 2,000 fee will apply.	NO management fees if balances is above \$100. Else, \$118 fee will apply.	NO management fees if balances is above EUR100. Else, EUR 118 fee will apply.	NO management fees if balances is above GBP 100. Else, GBP 1.18 fee will apply.	NO management fees if balances is above ZAR 300. Else, ZAR 17.7 fee will apply.
Cooperate and Investment banking	Charged Monthly	64,900.00	38.94	30.68	23.60	361.08
Commercial banking Tier 1	Charged Monthly	64,900.00	38.94	30.68	23.60	361.08
Commercial banking Tier 2	Charged Monthly	35,400.00	21.24	16.99	12.74	196.82
Biashara Direct	Charged Monthly	15,000.01	10.62	8.26	7.08	97.94
Private Banking	Charged Monthly PAYT	29,500.00	17.70	14.16	10.62	164.02
Private Banking	Charged Monthly BUNDLE	53,100.00	31.86	24.78	18.88	295.00
TRANSACTION SERVICES						
Cash Withdrawal @ Branch Counter (Either With Cheque, Deposit Slip Etc.) - CURRENT ACCOUNT	Fee could be a % charge on withdrawal (with min charge per withdrawal) or flat charge per transaction.	4,088 for amounts below 20M, 0.14 % of value max 125,000 for amount above 20M	For FCY withdrawals 1% min 8	For FCY withdrawals 1% min 14.16	For FCY withdrawals 1% min 14.16	For FCY withdrawals 1% min 141.6
Cash Withdrawal @ Branch Counter (Either With Cheque, Deposit Slip Etc.) - PURE SAVE	One free cash withdraw per month, more than that charge will apply	5,900 for amounts below 20M, 0.14 % of value max 118,000 for amount above 20M	For FCY withdrawals 1.18 % min 10.62	For FCY withdrawals 1.18% min 21.24	For FCY withdrawals 1.18% min 21.24	For FCY withdrawals 1.18% min 212.4
Cash Withdrawal @ Branch Counter (Either With Cheque, Deposit Slip Etc.) - HATUA ACCOUNT	One free cash withdraw per month, more than that charge will apply	10,000 for amounts below 20M, 0.14 % of value max 118,000 for amount above 20M	For FCY withdrawals 1.18 % min 10	NA	NA	NA
Cash Deposit Charge	Fee to be charged to notes below \$50	FREE	1.77% of FCY currency below 50 note. Otherwise FREE. For all FCY currency.	FREE	FREE	FREE
Cheque payments to other banks	When our customer pays through Cheques to third party banks	950.01	0.96	0.96	0.96	6.34
Cheque Deposit		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Unpaid Cheque (Insufficient Fund)	Flat fee per unpaid item	100,000.01	100.01	100.01	100.01	666.68
Account Closure		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Cheque Book		450	0.46	0.46	0.46	3.01
CARDS AND ATM FEES						
Card expired		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Card New		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Card Not working		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Card compromised		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
POS Purchase (Domestic)		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Annual card fees	UHURU BANKING	10,000	10.01	10.01	10.01	66.67
Annual card fees	PRIVATE BANKING	30,000	30.01	30.01	30.01	200.01
Secondary Card fee		25,000.01	25.00	25.00	25.00	166.68
Card Damaged		25,000.01	25.00	25.00	25.00	166.68
Card lost/Stolen		25,000.01	25.00	25.00	25.00	166.68
Card Name Change		25,000.01	25.00	25.00	25.00	166.68
Cash withdrawal @ other bank ATM (in another country)		8,000.01	8.00	8.00	8.00	53.34
International card access fee		8,000.01	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent
Uncollected cheque/CARDS fees (Two month)		10,000	10.01	10.01	10.01	66.67
POS Purchase (International)		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Declined ATM cash withdrawal no funds - Stanbic/Standard Bank ATM (internationally)		2,500.01	2.50	2.50	2.50	16.67
Cash withdrawal @ other bank ATM (in country)		1,000 - 400,000 = 2800 400,001-above=4000	1 - 170 = 2.8 171-above=4	1 - 170 = 2.8 171-above=4	1 - 170 = 2.8 171-above=4	1 - 2,000 = 28 2,001-above=40
Declined ATM cash withdrawal no funds - other bank's ATM (in country)		1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	6.67
Balance enquiry on other Banks ATM/ CCC and at Branch		1,000	TZS EQV	TZS EQV	TZS EQV	TZS EQV
Cash withdrawal @ own ATM (in country)		1,200.00	1.20	1.20	1.20	8.00
Mini stat at own ATM		900.01	0.91	0.91	0.91	6.01
Declined ATM cash withdrawal no funds (own ATM)		700.01	0.71	0.71	0.71	4.67
Pin management		700.01	0.71	0.71	0.71	4.67
Balance enquiry own ATM		300	0.31	0.31	0.31	2.01
Optional Issuer fee	Card currency conversion fee	0.45%				
ATM International access fees	Cards from outside of Tanzania to withdrawal for ATMs	TZS 8 000 EQV				
USSD/WAP AND INTERNET BANKING						
Fee- Top-up Other		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Fee- Top-up Self		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Fee- Self Funds		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Biller Payment		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Fee-Monthly Subscription		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Bank To Wallet		1,000 - 25,000 = 1500 25,001 - 100,000 = 2250 100,001 - 250,000 = 3000 250,001 - 500,000 = 3,750 500,001 - 1,000,000 = 4,500	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent
Transfers Of Money Outside Stanbic (Express)		8,000.01	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent
Transfers Of Money Outside Stanbic (Normal)		2,000.01	2.01	2.01	2.01	13.33
Transfers Of Money 3rd party Within Stanbic		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Mini statement		500	0.51	0.51	0.51	3.34
Balance Inquiry (wap and ussd charged)		350.01	0.35	0.35	0.35	2.34
OTHER FEES						
Statement (Monthly) OTC		1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	6.67
E statement		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

MT940	Monthly Statement	75,000.01	75.00	75.00	75.00	500.00
Interim Statement (Over The Counter) (More Than One Month But Not Exceed 3 Months)		5,000	5.00	5.00	5.00	33.34
Certificate of Balance		42,000.01	42.01	42.01	42.01	280.00
Introduction letters (International banks)		55,000	55.01	55.01	55.01	366.67
Certificate covering interest paid		55,000	55.01	55.01	55.01	366.67
Certificate of Balance		42,000.01	42.01	42.01	42.01	280.00
Confirmation Auditor List		130,000.01	130.00	130.00	130.00	866.67
Search Fees For Copies		60,000	60.00	60.00	60.00	400.01
Fee- OTC History Statements		60,000	60.00	60.00	60.00	400.01
PAYMENTS						
Salary Payments EFT - Manual	per person	5,000	5.00	5.00	5.00	33.34
Salary for TISS - Manual	per person	10,000	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent
Fee- Standing Instruction	SI ESTABLISHMENT	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Fee-Standing Order Amendment	SI AMMENDMENT	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Basic Fee-Standing Instruction	SI THIRD PART ACCOUNT	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Basic Fee-Standing Instruction	SI - OTHER BANK ACCOUNT	40,000.01	40.00	40.00	40.00	266.67
Basic Fee-Standing Instruction	SI-OWN ACCOUNT	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Basic Fee-Standing Instruction	SI-UNPAID STANDING ORDER (FAILURE)	50,000.01	50.01	50.01	50.01	333.34
Stop Payment Orders		FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Fee-Inter Account Transfer (3Rd Party) OTC		5,000	5.00	5.00	5.00	33.34
Bank Cheque Issued		40,120	40.12	40.12	40.12	267.47
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE						
INWARD PAYMENT						
Telegraphic Transfer/SWIFT		USD 10	0.3% Min \$11 Max \$35			
Drafts/Bills (Clean Bill Collection)		\$150	\$150			
Bills and drafts negotiated and subsequently returned unpaid		\$150	\$150			
OUTWARD PAYMENTS						
SWIFT Charges for tracing remittances		\$50	\$50			
Telegraphic Transfer/SWIFT	Oversee charge is charged depending on made of payment customer has choose.	0.3% of Value Min \$50, Max 150 (excluding oversee charge of \$29.5)	0.3% of Value Min \$50, Max 150 (excluding oversee charge of \$29.5)			
Cancellation of TT/Recall of funds		\$75	\$75			
Amendment TT		\$75	\$75			
Transfers through TISS		TZS10 000	TZS 10 000 EQUIVALENT			
MT101 Issuance		TZS10 000	TZS 10 000 EQUIVALENT			
Drafts/Bills/Cheques		1.18% of the amount min 100 000, Max 400 000	1.18% of the amount min \$59, Max \$236	1.18% of the amount min 50, Max \$200	1.18% of the amount min 40, Max 160	1.18% of the amount min 560, Max 2240
LETTER OF CREDIT						
Outward (Import LC)						
Establishment fee		USD equivalent	1% per quarter min \$ 300	USD equivalent		
Amendment - Terms & conditions only		\$ 165	\$ 165	USD equivalent		
Cancellation		\$ 165	\$ 165	USD equivalent		
Extension/ Increase amount		USD equivalent	1% per quarter min \$ 300 plus \$ 30 swift charges	USD equivalent		
Discrepancy Fee		\$ 100	\$ 100	USD equivalent		
Inward (Export LC)						
Advising		Account holder \$ 120	Account holder \$ 120	Account holder \$ 120	Account holder \$ 120	Account holder \$ 120
		Non Account holder \$ 200	Non Account holder \$ 200	Non Account holder \$ 200	Non Account holder \$ 200	Non Account holder \$ 200
Advising of Amendment		Account holder \$ 75	Account holder \$ 75	Account holder \$ 75	Account holder \$ 75	Account holder \$ 75
		Non Account holder \$ 150	Non Account holder \$ 150	Non Account holder \$ 150	Non Account holder \$ 150	Non Account holder \$ 150
Inward Documentary Collection						
Advising		\$ 150	\$ 150	USD equivalent		
Payment commission		\$ 50	\$ 50	USD equivalent		
Availing		1% min \$ 150	1% min \$ 150	USD equivalent	USD equivalent	USD equivalent
Outward Documentary Collection						
Handling commission		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	USD equivalent		
Courier charge		TZS 100,000	\$110	USD equivalent		
Tracer Fees		\$ 50	\$ 50	USD equivalent		
Negotiation						
Document Examination fee		USD equivalent	\$ 200	USD equivalent		
Courier charge		TZS 100,000	\$110	USD equivalent		
Bank Guarantee						
Establishment / Re-issuance		USD equivalent	1% per quarter min \$ 300	USD equivalent		
Amendment - Terms & conditions only		USD equivalent	\$120	USD equivalent		
Advising/Amendment of counter guarantee		Account holder \$120	Account holder \$120	USD equivalent		
Advising/Amendment of counter guarantee		Non Account holder \$200	Non Account holder \$200	USD equivalent		
Extension/ Increase amount		USD equivalent	1% per quarter min \$100	USD equivalent		
BOL						
0.3% of Value Min 50.00, Max 150.00						
Local Transfers (RTGS / TISS)	BOL	8,000.01	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent
Local Transfers (EFT)	BOL	2,000.01	2.01	2.01	2.01	13.33
Internal Transfers	BOL	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	6.67
Payroll On-Us (Within Stanbic)	BOL	1,000	1.00	1.00	1.00	6.67
Payroll Off-Us - EFT	BOL	2,000.01	2.01	2.01	2.01	13.33
Payroll Off-Us - TISS	BOL	8,000.01	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent	Tzs equivalent
Mobile Bulk Payments	BOL	1,500.00	1.51	1.51	1.51	10.01
BOL Monthly Fee	BOL	24,000.01	24.00	24.00	24.00	160.01
BOL Token Fee (One-Off)	BOL	65,000.01	65.01	65.01	65.01	433.34
Till to bank	Merchant Services			1.8%		

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THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Good governance practices for the protection of human rights essential

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) is an independent government department vested with broad mandate to promote and protect human rights in Tanzania. Its functions include handling complaints on violation of human rights and contravention of good governance principles, advising the government on human rights issues, dealing with systemic human rights issues through research, public enquiry, monitoring and carrying out public education and other sensitization programmes.

Cultural rights can be described within the context of culture which is inseparable from the quality of human being and sense of self-respect. Culture as way of life includes a set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of the society.

Therefore, culture encompasses art, literature, lifestyles, and ways of life, values, traditions and beliefs. Cultural values affect peoples' livelihood in a number of ways, including on matters of inheritance, taboos that enhance moral rights, language, dressing style, entertainment, food and drinks. However, cultural rights are the most difficult components of human rights that to some extent may defeat principles of human rights such as universality principle.

The cultural rights are promoted and protected by the main international and regional mechanisms which have been ratified and domesticated by the government of Tanzania. There are over 120 ethnic groups in Tanzania all of them having diverse cultures. However, there are some ethnic groups which are closely attached to their culture compared to other groups of which seem remotely attached or abandoned their culture in favour of modern way of life.

Cultural rights in Tanzania are particularly important for indigenous peoples and minority groups because these communities are deeply attached to their culture and their land territories, leading to discrimination

and marginalization by the mainstream (dominant) community. The protection and preservation of the cultural rights of these communities is compromised by the challenges such as development projects, policies and laws, investments, climate change and cultural interaction

The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) is an independent government department, established as the national focal point for the promotion and protection of human rights in Tanzania.

The CHRAGG covers a wide range of functions with the core functions of promoting and protecting human right. Other functions include receiving and investigating complaints, conducting research, monitoring and enquiring into matters involving the violations of human rights and contravention of the principles of administrative justice, institute proceedings in court.

In the same vein, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has said Tanzania has made tremendous developments in promotion of social rights, good governance, nutrition, health, infrastructure and education.

CHRAGG chairman Judge (rt) Mathew Mwaimu made the remarks last year at the national dialogue on human rights, culture and society which was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The forum was aimed at discussing economic development that Tanzania has attained since independence.

Indeed Tanzania has made various achievements in the education sector through its free education policy which had increased the student's enrollment.

Despite the development, the issue now is how to increase the construction of classrooms, desks and school infrastructures.

Various stakeholders including those from the health sector explained the achievements that had been attained by the government especially construction of health centres at village and ward level as well as improvement of other social services.

Yes, PCCB must fight corruption diligently, not selectively

WHILE most of us were already beginning to forget some trouble shooting points of the past year, those who are charged with ensuring good governance are better placed to emphasize on continuity. In that spirit Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has reminded the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to as soon as possible complete investigations on claims of embezzlement during the 2019 Uhuru Torch Race. It's one such issue.

In the speech that was given as he opened a PCCB building in his Ruangwa home district, the premier also referred to the need to complete investigations on thefts in Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS). He cited the case of cashew nuts and sesame crops focusing on his home district, as it is among his audience that the matter was directed. The bureau will have to act.

The premier wasn't making the point just in relation to the 2019 race and crop frauds but also made a wider note on the need to energise efforts to rein in corrupt officials. A specific point in that regard was his affirmation that in addition to PCCB conducting day to day activities, it should also implement various directives given to them by President John Magufuli at different times. It means they have a clear list of those directives, when they were given and have a work plan in that regard, as if it is lacking, they will have to draw up one.

The premier in no way belittled the work the bureau is conducting, but as it is usually the case, making efforts to do a good job is one thing, and exerting oneself to the utmost is another. Routinely we are usually satisfied with

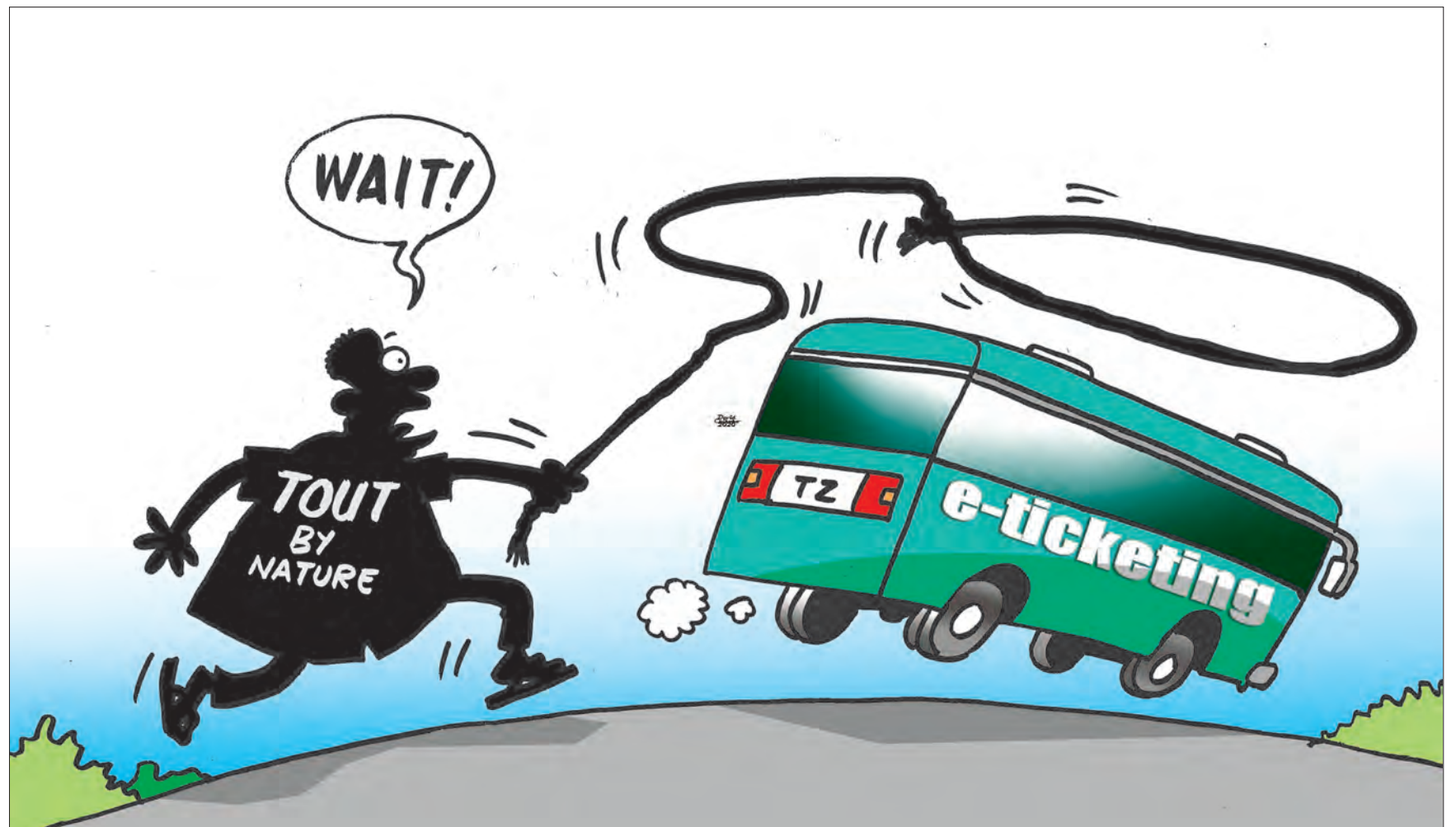
having made efforts, but the wider public is unlikely to be satisfied with those efforts unless each public official actually strives for the horizon of performance.

That isn't easy as the body enjoys rest rather than effort, and is easily satisfied with what is mediocre, and at times pushing for efficiency is offensive, intrusive, etc. Still what is what senior public officials need to ensure is done.

For instance, the premier noted that recent research by stakeholders in the fight against corruption including Transparency International (TI), the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Afrobarometer show that for three consecutive years Tanzania has been doing well in the war against corruption, seeking to attain good governance. But that doesn't mean this will continue indefinitely as top officials sit in their laurels, as this is how a corruption fighting government slowly turns into indifference, if such reminders are not given, and also enforced.

There was also an idea that there is need to establish anti-corruption clubs in schools so that students understand and report on corrupt incidences they may come across. That is an input in terms of education but the wider atmosphere is more important, as behavior follows the line of least resistance, and unless top leaders are widely awake, no amount of education eliminates tendencies of corruption. Living off the sweat of others or cheating to gain is part of nature. It is something that the whole of society knows is bad but as private interest are more formidable to sentiments than public interests, despite that knowledge they will do the opposite unless they are pointedly hindered from trespassing on cardinal rules of their offices.

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OPEN LETTER

United World College East Africa (UWCEA) tolerating racism?

I write this letter in complete disbelief with regard to the recent racial incident that has occurred in our community. As an alumnus of ISM, and someone who once served as president of the student council, I speak on behalf of the majority of alumni in this letter for I believe it is both our duty and responsibility to speak up about the recent report we have received on racism at UWCEA.

Before I begin, I would like us all to take a moment to remind ourselves of the UWC mission and values. "UWC (United World Colleges), is a global education movement that makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future." Further expanding into a few of the core values, the movement espouses "international and intercultural understanding, personal responsibility and integrity, mutual responsibility and respect, respect for the environment and action and personal example." UWC believes that all these can "bring together young people from all backgrounds on the basis of their shared humanity, to engage with the possibility of social change through courageous action, personal example and selfless leadership."

It has been brought to our attention (we the alumni of ISM) that a student racially attacked a Tanzanian student through using racial slurs, and in short calling them a "NIGGER." We are also aware that the school investigated the incident; however we are not pleased or satisfied with the outcome of the incident. As an international institution, we would have expected more social awareness and responsibility from

within our community.

Historically speaking, the word Nigger is such a derogatory term that evokes memories of the enslavement era. Whether or not this word was used in a casual or serious manner, it is important to note the power that this word denotes when it comes from someone who does not identify as Black. It is also important to note that this word is particularly hurtful and painful because Tanzania was East Africa's hub for the selling and trading of slaves. It has also been brought to our attention that this particular student has used other derogatory terms at the school e.g. referring to Black people as "monkeys."

We are also fully aware that this incident was brought up with the administration, faculty and staff. A meeting was held and the students expressed their concerns but instead of being listened to, the students feel as if their concerns were disregarded and they were instead told, "they could have handled the situation better" and were also labelled as "angry black kids."

This is very upsetting. It particularly pains me to say that there is clear white supremacy going on at an international institution such as UWCEA in Tanzania! Nobody should have the right to invalidate someone's emotional hurt. The narration of being an "angry black kid" needs to go. The black students at UWCEA have every right to feel the way they do because the word Nigger has very negative connotations for all Black people. To quote our former president, Hon. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are serious crimes against humanity. They are a gross violation of fundamental human rights

and the source of pain, suffering and misery of many people (its victims) in many societies, communities and countries world over."

I should also add that Tanzanian law states the following, "Discrimination of any kind is constitutionally prohibited under article 13 of the United Republic Constitution. Organs of State or authorities discharging public duties or rendering services are prohibited from discriminating against any person on the basis of colour, origin, status in life, etc. Any person who feels that he has been or is being discriminated may seek redress in a court of law. Discrimination is adequately defined under article 13 of the Constitution. This description is consistent with the Convention definition."

We believe that the few stated core values have not been upheld through the manner in which this situation was handled. The situation was rather swept under the rug. Considering that this incident occurred last term and that the students were promised a thorough investigation, why it is that nothing has been done to date? When the students asked about the status of the investigation at the beginning of this term, they were dismissed and instead labelled as rebels, unsatisfied and radical black kids.

We are disappointed with the approach taken and demand an immediate explanation. We also want to see UWCEA take a proactive approach to address racism, as this does not create a "safe environment" for the BLACK people represented in our community. Therefore, we want immediate action taken upon this individual. It should be the school's responsibility and commitment to

protect students from harassment and violence and to sustain a nondiscriminatory environment.

We also want the school to confirm that all members of the community are aware of their rights and responsibilities, to prevent retaliation of any form against those who report harassment or take part in related proceedings, to acknowledge and state the types of harassment prohibited by the policy, and lastly to state the steps the school will take to respond to incidents like this.

UWC has the noble goal of shaping and preparing young people to become future leaders. However, we fail to see how such leaders can be shaped if the individual and the school will not take responsibility for the actions that have occurred within the school's premises. These are not the people we want to send out forth into the world. In all honesty, their future actions will be reflected upon the UWCEA community, and the majority of us will not stand for that. We, the alumni rather, we stand for respect within and out of our communities.

Although we write this letter with a huge sense of disappointment, we are hopeful that the UWCEA administration is going to take our concerns on board and are hopefully going to work towards creating a sustainable future that holds all individuals responsible for their actions through upholding the mission statement and core values of the UWC Movement. This is the key if the school is indeed committed to creating a safe environment for everybody to thrive.

Kemilembe Mugangala
Dar es Salaam

REJOINER

United World College East Africa (UWCEA) Director Anna Marsden responds

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your email and for giving me the opportunity to respond.

Whilst I have no evidence for some of the allegations in the letter, I can confirm that last year the school investigated

an incident where a student used the N-word. We do not underestimate the effects of offensive language and the incident was in no way ignored. International School Moshi/UWC East Africa does not tolerate racism nor the use of offensive language in any

circumstance. We value all members of our community and the safety and well being of all students is our utmost priority. We will continue to engage with our students to ensure that they treat each other with the respect that everyone deserves.

For the sake of balance I invite you to visit our school and to meet members of our community.

Kind regards,
Anna Marsden
Director

10 lessons from the past decade

2020 is the 10th year since I graduated from high school. I can't believe it's been all those years since I graduated high school! (Like, where did time go? What have I done since high school?)

The last 10 years were some of the fastest yet slowest years of my life. It's the perfect time for me to reflect on the past years and ask myself where am I, where did I come from, what have I learned.

If you're a recent high school graduate or even a college graduate, I hope you find these lessons helpful.

Higher education is important but a 4-year college education is not for everyone

I believe in educating one self. In today's day and age, there are plenty of online courses that will teach you about sales and marketing, photography, cooking, make up lessons, trading, copywriting, web designing and so much more.

These are courses you can actually learn from the comfort of your home and on the topics you want to learn about. There are also technical schools and certificates that you can get to help you grow in your career in a short period of time and still build a career around it. A 4-year college or university is



not for everyone and that's okay. There are many other options in higher education that can help your life and/or further your career literally!

You can always go back to school

Life is different for everyone of us. We all live at our own pace. A lot of high school graduates go straight to college. Some of them don't. Some of those who go to college drop out. Some of those who didn't go right away, go a few years later. Some people don't go until they're in their

late 20's or even 30's. School will always be there. Don't feel like you have to go to college just because it seems like the thing to do. Sometimes it's not the next right thing.

Your college degree is not your life

I remember spending countless hours looking through college faculties and flipping through the academic year catalog trying to figure out how to piece different faculties and choose from. I struggled with picking a faculty because I wanted to

study too many things, and I genuinely love learning. I was so stressed out over declaring my college faculty after a year and half. But through that process, I learned that my college degree and GPA isn't my life. It's more about what I've learned and how I can apply or use that information to my advantage and to the people around me.

Make the best of college

College is whatever you make of it. I say that because it's one of the few times in your life where there are a



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lot of opportunities to learn new things and do new things all within a campus—meet new people, make new friends, travel to new places. Make the best of your tuition. Seriously, make the best of your tuition. You're not only paying for classes, you're also paying for ALL the resources available, so you ought to use all the resources your school offers.

Try new things, take on new hobbies

This is just as important during school as what you do after college. Once you're in the workforce, time is still vital. I don't remember the last time I was bored after college because there is always something to do. Sometimes as adults we get lost in the day-to-day that we no longer have time to learn new things, spend time on our hobbies or pick-up a new one. We forget to feed our creativity and curiosity. So, even when you're in the workforce, don't forget to invest time into your hobbies or pick up a new one.

Move out of your parent's house and/or live in a new town

If you can, I highly

highly recommend this. Sometimes by surrounding ourselves with new faces and new people, we learn new things, we understand different perspectives, we're challenged, we find our voice, we have new experiences. If you want just one thing to apply to your life out of this list, it is this one.

Learn the basics to managing your own finances

After college, I worked a bank for a couple years. I was surprised by how some 18+ year-olds knew so little about their own accounts. I still have a lot to learn too in this department, but I do think adults should know basic information about checking accounts, debit cards, writing a check, and saving accounts. So...before you move out, know the basics.

Surround yourself with good friends, mentors, and coaches

I always knew this was important, but I never knew how important it was until I was in my late twenties. Community is so important. I use to be someone who didn't really reach out

to others or ask for help because I hated being an inconvenience to others. But that ultimately did not help me. When I finally found the courage to reach out, to be vulnerable, and to ask for help, it was one of the best things ever. Find people who will walk alongside you, challenge you, pray with you and for you, empower and inspire you.

You don't need a 9-5 job to make money or have a career

In today's day and age, you don't need a 9-5 desk job to make a living. If you want to start a business—do it. If you want to monetize your creative ventures or work—do it. Learn and grow. I don't have much to say about this one, but believe you can and you will.

These are few lessons I've learned in the past years. There's SO MUCH More.

All in all, if I could add just one more thing, it would be to pray often. I believe in the power of prayer. And I don't think you can ever pray too much.

However, know that you're not too early, not too late, you're right where you need to be.

Nigerians mark 50 years of end of Biafra civil war

Abuja, Nigeria

Fifty years ago, a devastating civil war that killed more than one million people in Nigeria came to an end.

Most of those who lost their lives in what became known as the Biafran war died from fighting, disease and starvation during the two-and-a-half-year conflict.

In 1967, Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, the military governor of Nigeria's then-Eastern Region inhabited mainly by Igbo people, accused the federal government of marginalising and killing thousands of ethnic Igbos living in the north.

On May 30 of that year, Odumegwu-Ojukwu declared the former Eastern Region a sovereign and independent republic under the name of Biafra - a unilateral move rejected by the federal authorities.

A bloody civil war ensued, with federal troops deployed to stop the secessionist movement.

The Nigerian forces cut off aid and access to the area throughout the war, which ended with the surrender of Biafra in January 1970.

The Republic of Biafra ceased to exist and General Yakubu Gowon, the leader of the federal government, famously declared that there was "no victor, no vanquished" in the war.

Fifty years on, the scars are yet to heal for many, including former fighters who suffered injuries and others who lost their loved ones and suffered huge economic losses.

On Monday, at a "Never Again" conference held in Nigeria's commercial capital of Lagos, Igbo leaders from the southeast urged the government to step up develop-



IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu is not backing down from his call for a breakaway Republic of Biafra. File photo

ment efforts in the region and called for increased political inclusion and economic support to end fresh calls for a breakaway Biafra state.

In 2017, a regional court ordered the Nigerian government to pay 50 billion nairas (\$138m, today's prices) in damages to civil war victims. The Economic Community of West African States Court of Justice also ruled that 38 billion nairas (\$105m, today's prices) should be put towards evacuating abandoned lethal weapons which deprived southeast communities of farmland since

the civil war ended.

But for Canada-based Igbo leader Benjamin Allison, financial reparation is not enough.

"You cannot compensate anyone for past injuries without an acknowledgement that a damage or harm had been done to them. Nonetheless, the only true compensation the Igbos seek from Nigeria at this point is a government based on fairness, equity and justice," Allison said.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari in 2017 approved the payment of pensions

of former police officers who served in Biafra during the civil war. The officers were granted a presidential pardon in 2000 by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Nigerian government has repeatedly said it is committed to developing the region and recently undertook a series of road projects.

But Vincent Nnanna, who was barely 10 years old when the civil war broke out and was recruited to assist the Biafran soldiers with clerical work in Abia state, is not convinced by the government's efforts so far.

"The clamour for equity and respect for fundamental human rights by the Igbos in particular and the southeast at large has continued to fall on deaf ears," he said.

"Continued agitation" Separatist sentiment has not been wished away, and in recent years the pro-Biafra movement has seen some resurgence. The red, black and green flag of Biafra with a rising golden sun still dots the frontage of some commercial buildings and houses in the southeast region.

Rights group Amnesty International accused the country's security forces of killing at least 150 Biafra separatists at peaceful rallies between August 2015 and August 2016 and detaining hundreds demonstrating in support of a breakaway state. The military and police denied the allegations.

Nnamdi Kanu, a leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) group, is the most visible face of the movement. He was held for nearly two years for treasonable felony charges before being granted bail on health grounds in April 2017.

Kanu fled Nigeria under controversial circumstances in 2018 but still coordinates the group's activities from his base in the United Kingdom.

In 2017, following a number of IPOB-organised protests across Nigeria over a period of years, the government banned the group and declared it a "terrorist organisation". "They masquerade as a separatist movement, yet they endanger the very people they claim to represent," Information Minister Lai Mohammed said in a 2017 statement about the government's move to outlaw the group.

"In reality, IPOB cares about IPOB and nothing more."

The government's pronouncement, however, has not stopped the group's activities - especially overseas where it enjoys the support of millions of Igbos in the diaspora.

"Continued agitation for Biafra is impelled and spurred by state-sponsored or supported injustice which left most Igbo youth with a sense of hopelessness and lack of outlets to express their ... talents, potentials and ambitions," Allison said.

He alleged that no real effort has been made to develop the region, support business, create jobs and ensure adequate security.

Nnanna, however, said he is not happy with the approach of those leading the calls for a new Biafra.

"The regrets I have over Biafra is that since after the death of the forebears, some mercenaries have emerged on the scene purporting to have the spiritual mandate to champion the Biafran cause to a positive conclusion - only for them to herd the ... crowd onto a blind alley, leaving the agitators confused and almost disillusioned," Nnanna said.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Sarki, a public affairs analyst, called for more efforts towards reconciliation.

"The continued discussions about the Biafra war won't help the country to move forward. Our leaders already declared that no side won the war. We need to forget the past and focus on how to fix Nigeria," Sarki said.

"The civil war was not a pleasant experience for many people, not just Igbos. We are better as a united country."

Bushfires hasten death knell of many Australian native animals, plants

SYDNEY, Australia

The chatter of cockatoos and lorikeets has given way to an eerie silence in smoke enveloped charred landscapes across south-eastern Australia. The unrelenting bushfires have driven many native animal and plant species to the brink of extinction and made several fauna more vulnerable with vast swathes of their habitat incinerated.

As many as 13 native animal and bird species may become locally extinct following the devastating bushfires, according to an initial analysis by national environment organisations, including the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Australia.

These vulnerable species include, Koalas, Regent Honeyeater, Blue Mountains Water Skink, Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby and Southern Corroboree Frog in areas of New South Wales; Glossy Black Cockatoo and Kangaroo Island Dunnart in South Australia; Greater Glider and Long-footed Potoroo in East Gippsland in Victoria; and Quokkas and Western Ground Parrots in areas of Western Australia.

“Early estimates indicate the number of vertebrate animals affected since the fires started in September 2019 could be as high as one billion, with most of these likely to have been killed immediately by the severe fires, or dying soon after as burnt landscapes leave



Kangaroos in Bawley Point on the south coast of New South Wales. File photo

them with little or no food and shelter,” said the Acting Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in a statement.

Australia is one of 17 countries described as being ‘megadiverse’. The continent country is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are endemic, that is they are found nowhere else in the world. These include, for example, 84 percent of plant species, 83 percent of mammals, and 45 percent of birds.

“It is estimated that most of the range has already burnt for between 20 and 100 threatened species of plants and animals, putting them at even greater risk of extinction”, the IUCN statement added.

Some species have had large parts of their entire habitat burned, for example, the native grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and the spectacled flying fox or spectacled fruit bat.

ACF’s nature campaigner Jess Abrahams told IPS, “Flying foxes are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves. Spectacled flying foxes are just one of Australia’s many threatened species that are being pushed to the brink by the climate crisis. A heatwave in Cairns in November 2018 killed 23,000 endangered spectacled flying foxes – almost one-third of the total population in Australia – and the current devastating summer is killing thousands more”.

“The fate of our wildlife is intimately connected to our own fate; the loss of a key pollinating species like the grey-headed flying-fox, would have huge impacts on our future food supply,” Abrahams added.

Some 34 species and subspecies of native mammals have become extinct in Australia over the last 200 years, the highest rate of loss for any region in the world. In October 2019, over 200 scientists in an open letter to Prime Minister

Scott Morrison had expressed concern about the alarming rate at which Australia’s native species were disappearing and cautioned that another 17 animals could go extinct in the next 20 years.

The bushfire crisis may have undermined decades of conservation gains. With trees and foliage burnt and no vegetation cover, the surviving wildlife will be more at risk of predation, exposure to environmental conditions – heat, cold and wind, and more vulnerable to starvation. Besides wildlife, tens and thousands of sheep, cattle and other farm animals have perished in the fires or sustained burn injuries.

The prolonged drought and bushfires have also led to more animals vying with communities for the scarce water resources, especially in remote regions of this second driest continent on earth.

In a five-day aerial culling operation, about 10,000

camels were to be killed in drought-ravaged Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia.

According to the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy (DEE) spokesperson, “During droughts, feral camels congregate in large herds seeking water. At these times they damage infrastructure, compete with livestock for food and water, threaten people in remote communities, destroy native vegetation and foul natural water holes. Culling to manage camel numbers is the only option at this time to protect these assets and people.”

“Alternatives such as trapping and removal for domestic or overseas consumption, or live export, have prohibitive logistics and costs because of the extreme remoteness and specialised infrastructure required. There are also animal welfare concerns with trapping and transporting wild camels for overseas markets,” the spokesperson added.

Culling animals is decided on a case by case basis. Australian state and territory governments have primary responsibility for management of animals and their welfare.

APY Lands General Manager Richard King told IPS, “The Traditional Owners have requested this intervention, but they have not taken this decision lightly. We are simply doing the best we can in a dire situation. Increasing population of feral animals,

such as camels, has squeezed out animals that were part of traditional Aboriginal food and also many of the bush tucker (native bush food) – berries, plums and tomatoes – as camels eat a large range of flora. This makes it hard for Aboriginal people to hunt and gather as they have done for thousands of years to survive.”

Besides camels, kangaroos, horses, donkeys and pigs are also culled to manage sustainable feral populations as they are unfettered by the normal constraints of population growth, such as predators, disease and parasite load.

Arthur Georges from University of Canberra’s Institute for Applied Ecology told IPS, “In the Australian Capital Territory, the strategy is to take off a fixed number of kangaroos each year rather than wait for numbers to build up and cause a crisis where more animals need to be culled. This is a sensible strategy as some level of control, preferably using the meat and other products, is sensible from both a conservation and an animal welfare perspective. In the broader context, culling is also beneficial from an agricultural perspective because of the biosecurity risk and the impact on production.”

The Australian Federal Government on Monday announced an initial investment of AUD 50 million, drawn from the government’s AUD 2 billion bushfire recovery fund, for wildlife and habitat recovery.

Welcoming the announcement as an

important first step, WWF-Australia CEO, Dermot O’Gorman said, “Significantly more funding will be required to help our threatened species recover.”

As this ecological tragedy continues to unfold, Professor David Lindenmayer from Australian National University’s Fenner School of Environment and Society said in a media release, “Fires burn patchily, and small unburnt patches, half burnt logs and dead or fire-damaged trees are commonly left behind. Our research has demonstrated that these patches and remaining woody debris are very important to recovering wildlife populations. Standing fire-damaged trees as well as dead trees and fallen logs also provide many resources to surviving and recovering wildlife such as food, shelter and breeding hollows. Many trees that look dead will still be alive.”

The ACF, together with other environment groups, have written to Australia’s Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley with a five-point plan, including funding to provide feed, water and habitat structures in worst hit areas, and establishing breeding programs, to fast track recovery efforts for the most at-risk wildlife.

Arid Recovery, an independent not-for-profit organisation which runs wildlife reserve in South Australia, has come up with a simple design of water fountains that can be made from basic materials with little skill required.

Agencies

By Ahmad Sadri

A cloud of lies surrounded the downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 for three days. That the falsehood could never have been sustained under the magnifying glass of international scrutiny should have been clear from the get-go. What were they thinking?

Some aspects of this systematic dishonesty are unique to the Islamic Republic of Iran. But let us start with the more universal causes of governmental reticence and deception.

As a rule, all modern states tend to be secretive. Classifying even the most mundane information as “secret” is second nature to the bureaucratic state.

States lie and cheat and justify all in the name of a higher purpose: *raison d’etat* (national interest).

Occasional use of state-sponsored misinformation has a long history. In 1219, for example, the Mongols forged letters from commanders close to the powerful Khawarizmian Queen Mother Terken Khatun, claiming they had her blessing to serve the Mongol leader Genghis Khan. The letters undermined the power of her son, Ala al-Din Mohammed, and his ability to resist the invading Mongol forces.

In 1898, at the dawn of yellow journalism, William Randal Hearst, publisher of the New York Journal, dressed up what was likely an accidental explosion on board the battleship USS Maine as “Spanish treachery” and offered a \$50,000 reward for actionable intelligence on the perpetrator. The war party kindled the

Why did Iran lie about shooting down the Ukrainian plane?



Forensic investigators work at the scene of a Ukrainian plane crash as bodies of victims are collected in Shahed-shahr, southwest of Tehran on January 8, 2020. File photo

Spanish-American war of 1898 with that spark.

Sixty-six years later a similar yarn of dastardly attack on another American battleship, USS Maddox, at the Gulf of Tonkin was to ignite the flames of the Vietnam War. More recently, the neo-conservative members of George W Bush’s administration used a batch of doctored intelligence reports about weapons of mass destruction to launch the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

So, the real question is not why modern states lie, but why do they not lie more often? The public has no effective means of ensuring the veracity of the stories their elites concoct. But democrat-

ic systems have produced a measure of transparency that curbs lying and corruption.

By dividing the ruling elites through the principle of separation of powers, healthy democracies control their proclivity to collude and deceive the public. Additionally, a free press is set as a watchdog over the powerful elites. “The public has a right to know,” is not in the American constitution, but it might as well be.

Whistle-blowers are seen as heroes, not public enemies – even when a president wishes to make such an allegation. They are protected by laws and valorised in public for their commitment to truth.

The constitution of the Is-

lamic Republic of Iran does the opposite. It is a unique blend of theocracy and democracy – and it is uniquely godawful when it comes to transparency. By covering the state under a sacred shroud of theocratic sanction, the system unifies, rather than divides its ruling elites. This makes a mockery of the separation of powers that is in the letter of the Iranian Constitution.

Every public employee from the highest ministers to the lowliest apparatchik in the system is encouraged to become a coconspirator in “*hefz-e aberuoy-e nezam*” (saving the face of the regime.) “Saving face”, however, is a concept appropri-

ate only for preserving the honour of an individual or a social group such as a family. Safeguarding the reputation of an authoritarian modern state is a novel use of the concept.

Critics and whistle-blowers are criminalised and often face formal charges, such as “propaganda against the regime” and “collusion with enemies to defame the state” carrying punishments of respectively, one and five years of imprisonment.

I know, because I have been charged and tried under these provisions.

The absence of a free press and a dearth of whistle-blowers hermetically seals all the chinks in the regime’s armour

of deceit and secrecy. There is no way truth can leak out of such a closed system.

The only way it gets out is by a massive implosion. And that is what has happened since it was revealed that an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps operator shot down the Ukrainian aeroplane over Tehran on January 8, 2020.

This time, the implosion has led to an explosion of public rage. Increasingly determined protesters are calling the game. These demonstrations are not about the price of eggs or petrol. They are denouncing the dishonesty of the so-called “*nezam-e moghaddass*” (the holy regime).

In the past, implosions were stage-managed. Back in 1985, Iranian and American regimes were publicly reviling each other with terms like “barbarians” on one side, and “Great Satan” on the other. In the meantime, they were engaged in a cloak and dagger “arms-for-hostages” deal.

The nefarious affair was exposed in 1986 by a disgruntled clerical insider, Mehdi Hashemi. In the US, those engaged in this illegal affair, run out of a White House basement, were seen as violators of the law and betrayers of public trust.

The masterminds of the infamous Iran-Contra Affair were tried or otherwise shamed, and fired. In contrast, nothing happened to the Iranian parties to the operation – although Article 77 of the Iranian Constitution also forbids secret di-

plomacy.

The only one who was punished was the whistle-blower. Subjected to harsh interrogation and forced to appear on a show trial, Mehdi Hashemi was executed in 1987 on a number of charges including murder and sedition. Shocked by the revelations, a few parliamentarians objected to the scandal, only to be silenced by Ayatollah Khomeini’s harsh rebuke for harming the sacred unity of the regime.

Sacralising the state as a providential entity is the most important reason for its opacity. Lacking in internal checks and balances and protected from external critique by a free press, the system has gone dark, not only for the external world but even within itself.

That is why the reforms of the Soviet Union had to start with glasnost: transparency.

Two days after the downing of the Ukrainian airliner, President Hassan Rouhani and his government were still vehemently denying that it had been shot down by an Iranian missile, on the morning of January 11, he issued a fresh statement, reversing his earlier declarations about the incidence: “With regret and sorrow, a few hours ago ... I learned ...”

He asserts that as the elected and duly appointed president of the country he was kept in the dark for three days about a calamity of this magnitude.

This is not an excuse. It is an indictment.

Agencies

Sisters encourage Maasai mothers to turn to medically assisted deliveries

By Doreen Ajiambo

LOIBORSIRET, TANZANIA – In this remote, deeply traditional corner of northern Tanzania, Reginah Bennet stood outside her mud-walled hut and recalled the horrible ordeal she went through while giving birth to her fourth child with the aid of a traditional midwife versed only in folk medicine – a choice that nearly killed her.

"My first, second and third born, I went to a birth attendant. Everything went well," said the 30-year-old mother of four, amid sounds of bleating goats and crying babies in an area predominantly occupied by the Maasai tribe. "My fourth born was a scare." She said she bled profusely after the midwife performed a rough, physical exam. "I felt my life draining out of me and I lost consciousness. I was certain I was going to die."

Bennet's placenta had peeled away from the wall of her uterus before delivery, decreasing the baby's supply of oxygen and nutrients and causing heavy bleeding. The midwife, who had no formal training, was battling to save her life and the baby's, she said.

However, she was rescued and taken to the hospital for safe childbirth by the Sisters of Notre Dame, who are fighting high maternal mortality in the region through improved quality of care.

"I nearly died when I was giving birth to this child," recalled Bennet, shifting her 9-month-old son from her back to her bosom. "The sisters really saved my life and my baby's life. I bled excessively and the sisters had to rush me to their hospital for safe delivery."

Bennet is one of many Maasai women in this region who have been rescued by women religious in this way. Sisters with the support of the church have built several hospitals in the region in an effort to change the high incidence of maternal and infant mortality at childbirth in the Maasai community.

Although significant efforts have been undertaken to reduce child mortality in the country, the neonatal mortality rate among newborns under 28 days old remains high, at 32 per 1,000 live births, according to a report by Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. That figure accounts for almost half of the infant mortality rate among babies up to 1 year old.

The maternal mortality rate (deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth) in the East African nation has remained high over the last few years, reaching a 2017 level of 524 per 100,000 live births, according to an interagency group that includes the World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Bank Group and U.N. population researchers.

Tanzania is rated among the 20 countries with the highest maternal mortality rate, according to U.S. Central Intelligence Agency 2017 estimates. One woman dies every hour due to complica-



Sr. Rashmi Mattappally plays with a child while taking his weight at a local dispensary in Loiborsiret village in northern Tanzania.

tions that arise during pregnancy and childbirth in Tanzania, where 2 million women give birth every year, according to World Health Organization, U.N. Population Fund and Tanzania health data.

Fewer than half of all births in Tanzania take place in a health care facility, with 46% being assisted by a skilled health care worker, which results in a higher maternal mortality ratio, says a report released in 2015 by Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Out of the 53% of home deliveries, 19% are assisted by traditional birth attendants, and 31% are performed by family members, the report says.

No survey has been done to determine accurate maternal and infant mortality rates in every village, said Sr. Anita Kyorimpa, a community nurse at Loiborsiret Health Centre, but the risk is apparent.

"Babies born at home under the direction of midwives are at high risk of dying," she said. "They [midwives] have no skills, and they force pregnant women to squat while pushing, which is dangerous for the infant in case it slips and hits the ground."

Nevertheless, in a bid to change the trend, Catholic nuns have built health clinics and launched sensitization campaigns in local churches and villages with the aim of reducing maternal deaths. The World Health Organization defines maternal death as loss of life from preventable causes while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.

Kyorimpa said they have set up manytatas, a village hut, inside hospitals to encourage Maasai pregnant mothers to feel comfortable in a clinical setting rather than risking their lives by delivering at home.

Sisters discourage village birth attendants from tending to expectant mothers because they lack the skills needed to offer safe deliveries. The sisters encourage pregnant women to deliver their babies in hospitals and even offer incentives to birth attendants to take the women to health facilities for prenatal care and childbirth assistance, she said.

"We try to educate [pregnant women] on the benefits of delivering in hospitals in case of emergencies such as obstructive birth," said Kyorimpa, a Sister of Notre

Dame from Uganda who said they have been working in the region for the last decade. "We give them free antenatal care, ambulance services and vaccination."

The move comes amid growing interest in Africa and elsewhere to reduce maternal mortality and achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal Number 3 that seeks to ensure health and wellbeing for all, at every stage of life. The goal addresses all major health priorities including maternal and child health. The new goal commits countries to reduce maternal deaths to fewer than 70 for every 100,000 live births by 2030. The global maternal mortality ratio stood at an estimated 216 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015.

Fr. Micheal Shaji, who is a local priest at Loiborsiret Parish and administrator of the health center, said the sustainable development goals are ambitious but attainable if countries can deliberate about their priorities. The church is working in the Maasai region to reduce neonatal mortality to 12 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births and to reduce mortality for children under 5 to 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births, he

said. "We are helping and encouraging pregnant women to deliver their babies in hospitals to reduce the rate of maternal mortality," said Shaji, who works with sisters to offer quality health services to expectant mothers and the entire community. "We also encourage them to bring their children to the clinic for vaccines and checkups every month."

Shaji said the most common causes of maternal death in the region are hypertension and hemorrhage. But obstructed labor and unsafe abortions also contribute, he said.

Mary Ngaon, 55, a former traditional birth attendant who now works with sisters to ensure women in her village deliver their babies in hospitals, said it was risky to give birth at home with only a "traditional birth attendant" – a person who assists the mother during childbirth and initially acquired her skills by delivering babies herself, according to a definition by WHO.

Ngaon said she couldn't deal with the complications arising in some of the home deliveries. She is now helping sisters to distribute information in the villages about the benefits of giving birth in the maternity ward.

"The sisters helped me with information, and I was able to deliver my remaining babies in hospitals," she said, sitting on a makeshift stool. "Every pregnant woman should deliver in the hospital to avoid risks that arise from complications during childbirth. I used to help with home deliveries, but now I tell pregnant women to go to hospital for safe delivery."

Masai women, who have been able to attend prenatal clinics, deliver their babies in hospitals and attend postnatal clinics, have praised

the sisters for saving women from losing a child during complications arising from childbirth.

"I felt very happy and comfortable when I delivered in hospital," said Juliana Moringe, 33, a mother of five. "My baby is now very healthy, and I would still go back to hospital in case I get pregnant again."

Sr. Rashmi Mattappally said the number of Maasai women now giving birth at the health centers has increased to an average of 25 every month, which is a remarkable improvement compared with the three births a month experienced when the sisters came to the region a decade ago.

She said they have built maternity waiting homes in various health centers to accommodate pregnant women in the last days of their pregnancy so they can give birth with trained nurses.

"I once helped a woman to deliver a baby along the road, and it felt quite fulfilling to bring forth a child and I thanked God for the opportunity," said Mattappally, who is originally from Kerala state in India. "Maternal deaths have really reduced, and more mothers continue to seek services in our facilities."

In the meantime, Bennet, who escaped death by a whisker while delivering her fourth baby at her home with the help of a traditional birth attendant, urged Maasai women to deliver at hospitals under the guidance of trained nurses.

"Doctors say it's a miracle I'm still alive," said Bennet, remembering the pain she went through during childbirth. "I want to thank the sisters for saving my life, and I want to encourage women to attend antenatal clinics and deliver their babies in hospitals."

Using smartphone tech to improve maternal health in Uganda

KAMPALA

UGANDA is still grappling with high maternal and perinatal mortality rates. A new app allows women to quickly access vital health services, as well as education on antenatal care.

Uganda has consistently ranked among the highest in the world when it comes to maternal and perinatal mortality. According to the country's Demographic Health Survey, over one in a thousand live births are affected. In 42% of cases, women delayed seeking healthcare, 9% of which were due to a lack of transport. 49% of cases involved a delay in receiving appropriate medical intervention, even if the women did try to seek it out.

These figures concerned 26-year-old Asha Namugambe. She decided she wanted to help, so she developed a community program which has been dubbed "Uber for nurses," and works via a mobile app called Taheca. The app offers pregnant women home check-ups.

First-time mothers are also taught how to properly take care of their newborn babies.

"We have so many nurses and we said, okay, how about we use the Uber concept, use the phone to request a nurse," Namugambe told DW. "It's a holistic package. The mother is assessed 100%, and the baby. There is no danger."

Oliver Namirimu is eight months pregnant and receives antenatal services through the Taheca app. She's also been given a "mama kit" which contains tools to help with delivery. She opted for this home care service after her first C-section delivery turned septic. "This is the kit that has all things that I will need for delivery even if it's a C-section," she told DW. "Like cotton wool, gauze, and these sheets [which you can] lay on the bed, then the normal saline for cleaning my baby's cord."

The importance of postnatal education for young mothers

Nurse Mildred Nabageesera has attended to many young urban mothers. She says many have never been taught about post-natal care, which is critical to the health and survival of both mother and baby.

"I have seen mothers who



change diapers and they immediately go to clean the cord," she said. "You [need to] teach them about infections, teach them about hand washing. These things are not taught during the education that takes place at health centers in Uganda."

The Taheca app aims to offer the same kind of information women would get at antenatal services at health centers. But this is a one-on-one service, aimed at directly addressing maternal challenges, explains its founder, Namugambe.

"Some of the things we were thinking about [were] culture and the hospitals that are congested," she told DW. "Imagine, you go to a hospital and you don't even see a health worker."

'Simplicity in accessing healthcare is our goal'

The co-founder of this initiative is 25-year-old Danny Ruyonga. He says the best way to promote maternal and child health in Uganda is through technology and innovation.

"There is a high rise in use of technology," he told DW. "Smartphones are becoming cheaper and more affordable. Digitalization is becoming the main concept everywhere. So we thought, if you needed a nurse, maybe you could chat with her. If you feel like you need a check-up you can have the nurse come to your doorstep. We believe that maybe in the future

we can also do this at the workplace. For us, simplicity in accessing healthcare is our goal."

Charles Oloro is the director of clinical services at Uganda's health ministry. He says private interventions are now playing a larger role towards promoting maternal and child health development.

"Of the six most common causes of maternal health [problems], the highest is definitely bleeding which contributes about 34% followed by infections which contribute to about 16%," he said. "So we are emphasizing antenatal [education] and definitely this kind of social innovation is one of the areas [that is able to] reach out to different groups."

Scientists paint Australia fires as red alert on climate change

LONDON

WITH the sky outside a menacing red, Nerilie Abram's family is staying inside, with the windows shut and curtains drawn at their home in Canberra, Australia's smoke-choked capital.

On their return from recent holiday travels, "the kids didn't want us to open the curtains because outside it looked scary," said the climate scientist at the Australian National University.

Family friends who struggle with asthma have left town, she said, and most residents who do venture outside wear disposable masks - though the city, which had the world's worst air quality for several days in the past week, is running out of those.

"We're been really caught off-guard by these fires," said Abram, a professor who works with the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes.

"Scientifically, it's not surprising. We totally expected that as the climate warmed, fires in Australia would get worse. But the scale of this disaster is something I couldn't have imagined, and it's the same for a lot of people in Australia."

Large swathes of the

country are battling wildfires that have killed 27 people and torched more than 10 million hectares (25 million acres) in the wake of the southern-hemisphere nation's hottest and driest year on record.

The ferocious, fast-moving blazes have consumed about 2,000 homes, blanketed major cities from Sydney to Melbourne in thick smoke, killed an estimated billion animals, and pushed exhausted firefighters to their limits.

And while summer bushfires are nothing new in Australia, scientists say these are different.

Their scale and ferocity raise questions about how nature will recover - and the fires are now affecting a much higher percentage of Australia's population, they say.

In the well-populated southeast, nearly a third of people are estimated to have been directly affected by this season's fire and smoke.

In a nation of just 25 million, "most people know someone who's been affected", said Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, a climate scientist at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

coalition government with close ties to the powerful coal industry and a record of dismissing action on climate change as too costly.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has been verbally abused while visiting fire-hit areas after returning from an ill-timed Hawaii holiday, with angry residents saying his government has done too little to respond and prevent damage.

"People are deeply affected," said Joe Fontaine, a lecturer in environmental science at Murdoch University in Perth, noting "a deep sense of loss and anxiety in society".

But it was "a little too early" to tell if the bushfire crisis was shifting views on climate change, he added.

WORSE COMING?

Australia's brutal fire season stems from a confluence of threats, scientists say.

Climate change is generally causing a long-term trend toward hotter and drier conditions, while Abram said shifts in clouds and winds are gradually driving winter rain toward Antarctica.

And, this season, unusual cold in the eastern Indian Ocean has cut off moisture moving to Australia.

Is Iraq now a virtual 'US-occupied territory'?

UNITED NATIONS

At Buchanan, a senior advisor to three US Presidents and twice candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, once infamously described the United States Congress as "Israeli-occupied territory" -- apparently because of its unrelentingly blind support for the Jewish state.

Never mind post-1967 Gaza, West Bank and the Golan Heights.

And now, with Iraq threatening to "kick out" the US military and the Trump administration refusing to leave the country, is Iraq turning out to be "US occupied territory"?

Last week the Iraqi parliament demanded, in a vote mostly by Shia legislators, that US troops numbering over 5,200 leave Iraq.

But the Trump administration has refused to concede to the demand prompting Iraq to accuse the US of violating sovereign territory and perhaps the UN charter.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco who has written extensively on Middle East politics, told IPS: "This is a clear violation of Iraqi sovereignty".

Having foreign forces within a country's international border against the wishes of the host government and without a treaty commitment allowing them to be there is in effect a for-

eign military occupation and would give the Iraqis the legal right to use military force against them, said Zunes who serves as coordinator of the program in Middle Eastern Studies.

Currently, the US has several military bases in Iraq, most of them described as Forwarding Operating Bases (FOB) going back to 2003.

These include Contingency Operating Base (COB), Contingency Operating Site (COS), Combat Outpost (COP), Patrol Base (PB), Outpost, Logistic Base (Log Base), Fire Base (FB), Convoy Support Center (CSC), Logistic Support Area (LSA) and Joint Security Station (JSS).

Perhaps most vital is the Green Zone a 10-square-kilometer (3.9 sq mi) area in central Baghdad, that was the governmental center of the Coalition Provisional Authority during the occupation of Iraq after the American-led 2003 invasion and now remains the center of the US and international presence in the city.

When the Iranians retaliated against the drone-killing of Major General Qasim Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Quds Force, they hit the US military base Ayn Al Asad in western Iraq with a barrage of missiles last week.

That base hosts the largest number of US troops in Iraq.

And Iraq accused both the US and Iran of violating its national sovereignty with dual military attacks on Iraqi territory.

Since the US invasion of Iraq by the Bush administra-



A U.S. soldier stands watch at the Kindi IDP Resetlement Center near Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 16, 2009. File photo.

tion in 2003, there have been more than 200,000 civilians who have been killed or injured--an invasion described as Washington's greatest foreign policy disaster since Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has threatened to impose sanctions on Iraq if it continues to demand US withdrawal from the country.

"If they do ask us to leave, and if we don't do it on a friendly basis" President Trump was quoted as saying, "we will charge them sanctions, like they've never seen before ever.

It will make Iranian sanctions look somewhat tame."

The US also argues that its military presence in Iraq is to help Iraqis fight ISIS designated a "terrorist group" by the US State Department.

Norman Solomon, founder and executive director of the Washington-based Institute for Public Accuracy (IPA), a consortium of policy researchers and analysts, told IPS "history shows that respect for Iraqi sovereignty has never figured into the

US government's calculations."

"Rhetoric has sometimes sounded nice, but the actual policy has revolved around the precept of "might makes right"

What's happening now is consistent with that policy, sometimes more gracefully implemented with liberal verbiage from the White House, he pointed out.

The latest dynamics involve an approach to geopolitics that reflects a be-

lief in Washington that the United States has the right to work its will on the world as much as feasible, said Solomon, IPA's coordinator of its ExposeFacts program.

Zunes said Trump's refusal to consider a withdrawal is not surprising, however.

Republicans, along with some leading Democrats and prominent media pundits, insisted that President Obama should have kept U.S. troops in Iraq beyond the 2011 deadline by which

President Bush and the Iraqi government had agreed to complete the withdrawal.

This would have also been illegal. Obama was roundly criticized for his insistence on living up to the agreement and international law.

"It will be interesting to see how Congress and the media react to Trump's defiance", said Zunes, who is also senior policy analyst for the Foreign Policy in Focus project of the Institute for Policy Studies.

Asked if there was a possible intervention by the UN, Solomon said what the United Nations can do about such matters is contingent on the extent to which the UN can extricate itself from U.S. veto power and intimidation of governments with political, military and economic blackmail.

"There is little that's coherent about U.S. policies beyond flagrant self-interest for its extreme arrogance and military-industrial complex", said Solomon, author of "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death"

Asked about the issue of sovereignty and violation of the UN charter, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters January 13: "The status... as far as I understand, the status of US forces in Iraq is under a Status of Forces Agreement, which is negotiated bilaterally between Iraq and the United States, and those discussions should take place between the United States and Iraq."

AGENCIES

BY STELLAH KWASI, JAKKIE CILLIERS, LILY WELBORN AND IBRAHIM MAÏGA

The G5 Sahel region: A Desert Flower?

In 2014, five countries - Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Mauritania - created the G5 Sahel group to foster cooperation in tackling the region's security and developmental challenges. Growing regional security concerns include the occupation of Northern Mali by rebel groups and other movements affiliated to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

Since 2011, many Sahel strategies have been adopted in collaboration with various partners to respond to the region's challenges. Despite these efforts, the G5 countries face not only ongoing security threats, but a vicious cycle of low levels of development and fragile governance systems that

threaten the region's long-term security and development prospects.

New research by the African Futures and Innovation programme at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) analyses the current development trajectory of the five countries to 2040. Unless significant structural improvements are made especially in the area of governance, the outlook presented by the ISS study is gloomy. The findings point to the region's multifaceted, complex and urgent problems.

The G5 countries are at very low levels of economic development, even by continental standards. In 2018, per capita incomes were lagging significantly below the averages of other low- and lower-middle-income groups in Africa. This is part-

ly due to the rapidly rising population in those countries. The total population of the G5 group is projected to nearly double from about 81 million people in 2018 to 152 million people by 2040.

Most of the population is comprised of young people. The median age for the five countries was 16 in 2018. By 2040 it is projected to be approximately 19.7 years compared to the projected African average of roughly 23.4 years.

With the right investments, large youthful populations can result in economically productive populations. However in the absence of quality services and job opportunities, such a youthful population can be destabilising, resulting in greater risk of social up-

heaval. The countries also perform poorly in human development indicators. Over 40% of the 81 million people (33 million) were estimated to live below the World Bank's extreme poverty threshold of US\$1.90 per person per day (in 2011 constant dollars) in 2018.

More than 30% have no access to potable water and nearly 80% go without access to improved sanitation facilities. Moreover, leaving education quality aside for the moment, the average years of education for those aged 15 years and over at only 3.6 years is very low. This is less than half of the continental average and only a third of the global average.

Crop yields are also very low at an estimated 1.2 tons



Fundamental development interventions, not militarised approaches, can improve the region's dire long-term prospects. File photo

per hectare relative to the 3.6 average for Africa. In fact, current yields in the G5 Sahel countries are comparable to the modest averages for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the 1970s. Climate change is perpetuating low yields, and creating new challenges and conflict around resources like water between farmers and pastoralists.

At the centre of the region's complex problems is the low quality of governance. The G5 Sahel countries struggle with state building, which stems from the legacy of colonisation. This is aggravated by the large geographical size of the countries, coupled with limited resources that reduce government capacity as the centre-periphery divide widens. Decades of bad governance accentuated by poor accountability mechanisms has also perpetuated economic difficulties and increased the sense of marginalisation in some communities.

While the G5 Sahel has acknowledged the link between development, security and governance through its Priority Investment Program (PIP), responses to the region's manifold challenges have been fixated on a highly militarised approach.

Although security is of key concern to the population, a more balanced approach between security and development should

be pursued. The often uncoordinated presence of a plethora of international actors has also undermined the chances of strategies succeeding.

The ISS study designed a positive scenario called the Desert Flower which highlights the impact of policies to promote family planning, education, basic infrastructure, agricultural productivity and good governance. Improved agricultural productivity has the greatest impact on poverty reduction, while better governance has a significant positive effect on human development indicators.

The combined impact of the Desert Flower scenario drives a €416 billion (US\$460 billion) cumulative increase in economic growth, and more than 29 million fewer people living in extreme poverty by 2040. Additionally, agricultural import dependency declines to 29% compared to 45% in the Current Path scenario by 2040. This scenario also increases the average years of education by more than half a year (from 5.3 years to 5.9 years).

Life expectancy improves by 1.5 years and the demographic dividend is more favourable at 150 workers per 100 dependants relative to 130 in the Current Path by 2040. In the Desert Flower scenario, GDP per capita for most of the countries tracks slightly

above other low-income countries in Africa and builds momentum for other improvements in the region (Figure 2).

In the short and medium term, improving security in the region is important if any meaningful development is to occur. However the G5's challenges are not confined to security threats. Investments in structural change must begin sooner rather than later. Fundamental development interventions as simulated in the Desert Flower scenario can lay the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development.

This includes configuring a quality education system tailored to the needs of the region, family planning initiatives to ensure population growth is not outpacing economic growth, and climate smart agricultural systems that improve productivity and sustainability. None of these can be done without accountable governance that promotes transparency, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and provides basic services for the entire population.

Finally, the international community, regional organisations and the G5 countries themselves need to work together to prevent a multiplicity of actors from taking advantage of the challenges in the region.

AGENCIES

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =039=

WORD FIT

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

CROSSWORD

3 letter word: CAN, END, ETE, ODE, DOT, NEW, USE, EON, LORE, OHM, CEO
 4 letter word: MINE, AVOU, TRIP, TALL, SOAK
 5 letter word: SPACE, COVER, DORIC, TENON, ALACK, NEATH, ONION
 6 letter word: ABACUS, BANDI, TEASER, TENDON, ASHORE, OMEGA 3
 7 letter word: ABANDON, ASTRIDE, LUSHOTO, INERTIA
 8 letter word: SHILLING
 9 letter word: STABILITY

WORD FIT

PURCHASE, O, B, L, A, S, P, H, E, M, Y, S, N, O, W, A, B, B, R, E, V, I, A, T, E, E, A, S, Y, O, P, I, L, I, O, N, V, O, L, U, N, T, A, R, I, A, N, A, M, A, R, A, N, C, H, S, M, U, C, O, H, O, R, I, F, I, C, E, M, E, N, U, S, T, A, R, S, P, O, I, T, H, M, O, A, N, P, E, A, K, I, N, G, L, O, W, S, T, A, R, L, I, N, G, S, E, M, E, S, T, R, E, E, B, E, T, R, E, E

CROSSWORD

1 BABIES (8)
 2 VERY ANGRY (5)
 3 CHIEF PORT OF QATAR (4)
 4 CONTINUOUS AND PERMANENT (11)
 5 LAW (5)
 6 DECORATE CLOTH (9)
 10 NAME (4)
 12 GAS USED IN PARTICULAR TYPES OF LIGHTS (7)
 16 BRIGHT BLUE COLOUR OF THE SKY (5)
 18 MEDICINE IN DIFFERENT FORMS (4)
 20 SMALL HILL OF A SAND NEAR A BEACH
 22 THE EGG OF A LOUSE (3)
 24 FIX (3)

11 QUIETE, GENTLE AND NOT WILLING TO ARGUE (4)
 13 IN ADDITION (4)
 14 LIST OF THINGS TO BE DONE (4)
 15 SELL (4)
 17 MOVEMENT OF LIQUIDS (6)
 19 OBJECT TO PREVENT PREGNANCY (3)
 21 SOUND (4)
 23 FORCEFUL FORWARD RUSH (6)
 25 MAKE MUSIC (4) 26 GENETICS (4)
 27 ANIMAL (3) 28 SHORT FORM OF ET ALIA (4)

CROSSWORD

1 BABIES (8)
 2 VERY ANGRY (5)
 3 CHIEF PORT OF QATAR (4)
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Thursday 16 January 2020

Land Bank acting CEO resigns

CAPE TOWN

Acting CEO of the Land and Agricultural Development Bank of South Africa, Kone Gugushe, has resigned, the board announced on Wednesday morning.

In a statement on the JSE Stock Exchange News Service (SENS), the Land Bank said Gugushe would be handing over the reins as Acting CEO directly but would not immediately be leaving the organisation.

Gugushe is also the bank's Chief Risk Officer (CRO), and will continue to serve in that role until March 31.

The search for a permanent CEO is ongoing. Gugushe was appointed acting CEO in May 2019, with former chief executive Bennie van Rooy having resigned to pursue personal interests.

"The process to appoint a permanent CEO is at an advanced stage, with an announcement expected in due course.

"In the meantime, Mr Sydney Soundy, who is currently the Executive for Strategy and Communications, has been appointed as Acting Chief Executive Officer with immediate effect," the bank said in its statement.

The board would be briefing investors in the coming weeks, the statement added.

Bank introduces an enhanced Government Payments System

By The Bankers Reporter

STANDARD Chartered Bank Tanzania has introduced an enhanced online payment system that better supports and expedites government payments for corporates. Known as Straight2Bank-NextGen, the online platform is an enhancement of the Bank's award-winning suite of electronic channels that enable the Bank's clients to effectively run their cash management services, and will now include the capability to make government payments on the Government electronic Payment Gateway, GePG.

Speaking at a symposium organised by the Ministry of Finance in Dodoma last week, the Bank's Specialist on Online Banking and Government Payments, Mwiga Kapya, said that the Bank had considered a number of key aspects in coming up with the enhanced

platform.

"When it comes to any kind of online transactions what matters most is the aspect of instant confirmation of payments and receipt for both the sender and the receiver. With Straight2Bank-NextGen the receiving government institution receives an immediate notification as soon as a payment is made by an individual or company. On the other hand, the sender also receives an instant receipt on the Straight2Bank-NextGen platform which they can keep for the records," Kapya said.

The Straight2Bank-NextGen platform also automatically reconciles all transactions made on government accounts thus avoiding the hassle of running manual reconciliations by the respective entity.

With the enhancements and end to end automation of payments, there are no errors made when clients make payments using the platform.



"Standard Chartered Bank continues to leverage on its digital capabilities to further support

individuals and businesses in their business transactions which ultimately involve government

obligations and tax payments. As we roll out the new platform we will continue to work closely with various government institutions to widen the scope thus enabling the Bank's clients to meet their government payment obligations seamlessly," Mr. Kapya said.

He also highlighted that the platform caters for individuals who are not the Bank's clients and urged the public to visit any of the Bank's branches in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza should they need to make government payments.

Speaking at the symposium the Director of Financial Information System Management, Mr. John Sausi, commended the Bank for introducing the unique and well-designed platform given its straight-through processing design as well as its capability to accommodate the processing of GePG payments from individuals who are not the Bank's clients.

Dar beverage maker debuts in crowded nonalcoholic market



Motsun Group Chairman, Shubash Patel speaks during the launch of Sayona Twist in Dar es Salaam this week. photo courtesy of Sayona Group.

By The Banker Reporter

THE country's nonalcoholic beverages market welcomed a new juice this week thanks to Sayona Drinks Limited's rebranded Sayona Twist.

Unveiling the re-branded product at the launch in Dar es Salaam, Pawan Patel Sayona Drinks Limited's managing director, Pawan Patel said: "Twist comes in seven distinctive flavours."

He added that the firm aims to meet the ever-changing tastes of its consumers hence the decision

to be innovative by introducing new products in the market annually.

"We believe in Twist, we have a strong product that is different from anything currently available in the market to give our consumers a complete refreshing experience," he noted.

On his part, Nitin Menon who is Sayona Drinks' Group General Manager said the decision to re-launch Twist came as a result of working to reshape the company's growth strategy in line with changing consumer tastes and buying habits.

"The product will retail at the price of 500/= and will be available across Tanzania," Menon noted.

He also announced to the public about the partnership with Tanzania's bongo flava star Rajabu Abdul Kahali whose trade name is Harmonize as Sayona Drinks official brand ambassador who was present during the launch.

"We are delighted to have Harmonize on board as our brand ambassador. He is an iconic cool (Jipoze) figure, a fresh face to young Tanzanians, hardworking, supports locals and aspires to take the Tanzanian music industry to

greater heights. This is something that completely suits our mission and vision of becoming a giant soft drink company in Africa," Menon said.

"We are confident that this collaboration will help to position Sayona drinks among the top brands in the industry. Harmonize will help us to engage our target audience in Tanzania and working with him as a brand ambassador is just one of the many exciting upcoming projects that our company will have with him.

Speaking at the event, Harmonize remarked that he

was honoured to work with Sayona Drinks Limited and that it was the beginning of a fantastic collaboration with the group.

"Twist is a cool drink with great flavours. I have consumed it several times and been a part of re-designing the brand, I'm confident that Tanzanians will love it and the drink will become popular beyond our borders. I'm also very glad to be associated with the Sayona Group who take pride in the quality of their products," he noted.

NMB offers 23bn/- to aspiring house owners in market

By The Banker Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has launched a new mortgage scheme dubbed 'NMB nyanyua njengo' targeting to reach over 200,000 people, thus supporting government's efforts to avail decent houses to the public.

NMB has set aside 23bn/- for the mortgage-housing product but the amount is subject to increase depending on market demand.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the launch this week, NMB's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the new housing loan scheme will provide immense opportunity to all Tanzanians to build and own decent houses.

"NMB is supporting government concerted efforts to help its people develop their plots and own decent houses at affordable costs," Zaipuna said noting that as many public servants have shifted to Dodoma, this is will be a unique opportunity for them to access affordable housing loans from the bank.

The NMB Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said for an individual to qualify for the house loan, they must have surveyed plots as well as reliable source of income to pay back the loan.

The new mortgage proportion offers more attractive terms to borrowers, including a 15 years repayment period and competitive interest of 17 per cent. Building in the country belongs to individuals executing it through savings but have not been helpful in achieving something viable.

He said NMB has several housing loan schemes in the market namely purchasing that applies to all customers who would like to buy houses/apartments, where by the bank will finance up to 90 percent of the selling price.

The refinance or equity release to customer who owns a complete titled property and would like to get cash release from their property to invest in other legal activities.

The semi finish loan product that help people to finish up their houses, start financing from linter stage; the money will be disbursed in two stages that is roofing and finishing.

Borrowers can get between 10m/- to 200m/- loan as per their needs and ability to repay and that the loan is payable in 15 years period at 17 percent interest.

Speaking at the launch, Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Minister, William Lukuvi said the government has disbursed over 120bn/- to the Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited (TMRC) in the last five years to provide long term funding to banks for lending to the people.

"We have disbursed over 120bn/- to banks through the TMRC to make sure that more people have access to housing loans and manage building decent houses," he said noting that many people in the country own surveyed plots but lack source of finance to develop them.

Infamous 'Silence' bank hackers thought to hit local shores, warns cyber lab

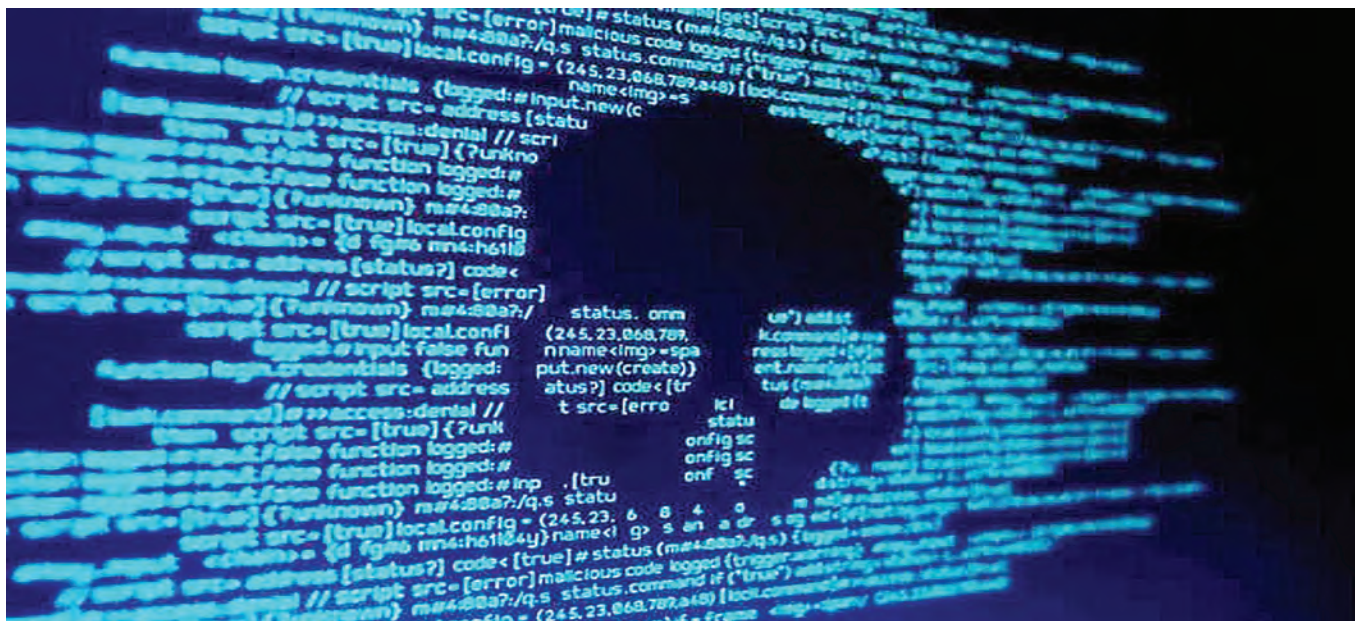


Illustration for an infamous silent bank hacker. File photo.

JOHANNESBERG

An infamous Russian-speaking hacking group referred to as Silence is the likely culprit making thousands of attempts to hack major banks in sub-Saharan Africa, cybersecurity company Kaspersky Labs said earlier this week.

The group is called Silence because of the silent monitoring done via their malware. They have already carried out a number of successful campaigns targeting banks and financial

organisations around the globe.

According to Kaspersky, the typical scenario of an attack begins with a social engineering scheme, as attackers send a phishing e-mail that contains malware to a bank employee.

From there, the malware gets inside the banks' security perimeter and lays low for a while, gathering information on the victim organisation by capturing screenshots and making video recordings of the day-to-day activity on the infected device.

"Once attackers are ready to take action, they

activate all capabilities of the malware and cash out using, for example, ATMs. The score sometimes reaches millions of dollars," says Kaspersky.

"The attacks detected began in the first week of January 2020 and indicated that the threat actors are about to begin the final stage of their operation and cash out the funds. To date, the attacks are ongoing and persist in targeting large banks in several SSA countries."

Kaspersky accordingly advises financial organisations to introduce basic security awareness

training for all employees so that they can better distinguish phishing attempts. Banks should also monitor activity in enterprise information systems and prepare an incident response plan to be ready for potential incidents in the network environment.

In August 2019 Kaspersky reported a cyber attack in which South Africa was apparently among 17 countries targeted by North Korean hackers, related to the activity of the so-called Lazarus group. They also targeted banks and other financial institutions.

Record high stocks pause to gauge Sino-US trade outlook, company earnings

TOKYO

World stocks eased off record highs on Wednesday and U.S. and German bond yields slipped as euphoria over a Sino-US trade deal was depleted by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin saying tariffs on Chinese goods would remain in place for now.

The 18-month long trade spat should enter a quieter phase as U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He sign an initial agreement that would boost Chinese purchases of U.S. manufactured and agricultural goods, energy and services.

Dubbed the Phase 1 deal, it may soothe markets which have been on edge as the conflict between the world's two largest economies hit hundreds of billions of dollars in goods, uprooted supply chains and slowed economic growth.

But share prices have pulled back from recent highs, with Wall Street closing weaker on Tuesday, MSCI's index of Asian shares outside Japan retreating from 19-month peaks and Japan's benchmark Nikkei likewise falling 0.5%, off a four-week high.

Bourses in China, South Korea and Hong Kong lost between 0.7 per cent on the day.

The pan-European index slipped 0.1 per cent. The retreat was triggered by Mnuchin's comments that U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would stay until the completion of a second phase of a U.S.-China trade agreement. Their eventual removal hinged on Beijing's compliance with the Phase 1 accord, Bloomberg reported, citing sources.

The news did not entirely surprise markets, however, and many attributed the pullback to profit-taking off the recent rally than to any turn in underlying sentiment.

"The Phase One deal had pretty much been priced in so (Mnuchin's)



A man is reflected on a board showing stock prices outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan. File photo.

comments took some steam out of the market last night and that's feeding through into today," said Justin Onuekwusi, a portfolio manager at Legal & General Investment Management.

The jittery mood gave a mild boost to safe-haven assets such as gold, with the precious metal ticking up 0.3 per cent after two days of losses. The Japanese yen and high-grade bonds also firmed slightly, though the yen was only 0.1 per cent higher versus the dollar and a whisker off 7-1/2-month lows of 110.22.

U.S. Treasury yields ticked down, with the benchmark 10-year note yield falling more than 2 basis points to 1.79 per cent, hurt also by Tuesday's data showing consumer prices undershooting expectations in December, which could allow interest rates to stay unchanged this year.

German 10-year yields also eased 2 bps, having earlier hit two-week highs around minus 0.169 per cent but their direction may hinge

on 2019 German growth numbers which showed the biggest euro zone economy grew at its slowest since 2013.

Markets are also weighing the potential impact of the U.S. government nearing publication of a rule to vastly expand its powers to block shipments of foreign-made goods to China's Huawei, as it seeks to squeeze the blacklisted telecoms firm.

"I think the Trump administration will continue to put pressure on China in this way or some other, even after signing a Phase 1 deal," Yuichi Kodama, chief economist at Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance said.

Markets are also likely to focus more on company earnings from now Refinitiv analysis suggests S&P 500 companies had a dismal fourth quarter, with earnings-per-share falling 0.6 per cent the second straight quarterly decline.

Big banks Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, BlackRock are among those reporting results

later on Wednesday and expectations are high after JPMorgan posted record profits and Citi beat estimates, though Wells Fargo profits slumped.

"The market will see trade escalation taken off the table but it will start to focus on earnings. We saw huge multiple expansions in 2019 and that won't happen again until we see earnings coming through," Onuekwusi said.

On currency markets, the trade-reliant Australian dollar slipped 0.3 per cent against the greenback while the euro was broadly flat.

The offshore yuan weakened slightly, a day after rising to its strongest level in six months of 6.865.

Investors were focused on the British pound which is down almost 2 per cent this month versus the dollar as dismal economic numbers and policymaker comments have fanned expectations of an interest rate cut as soon as this month.

Oil drops on doubts over demand boost from US-China trade deal

SINGAPORE

Oil prices slipped on Wednesday on concerns that the Phase 1 trade deal between the United States and China, the world's biggest oil users, may not boost demand as the United States intends to keep tariffs on Chinese goods until a second phase.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said late on Tuesday that tariffs on Chinese goods will remain in place until the completion of a second phase of a U.S.-China trade agreement, even as both sides are expected to sign an interim deal later on Wednesday.

Brent crude LCOc1 was down 11 cents at \$64.38 per barrel by 1020 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures CLc1 were down 12 cents at \$58.11 a barrel.

"A pickup with global demand for crude may struggle as U.S.-Chinese tensions linger after some hard line stances from the Trump administration," said Edward Moya, analyst at brokerage OANDA.

"Financial markets are disappointed that the Trump administration ... signalled tariffs will remain in place until after the 2020 U.S. Presidential election, depending on whether China comes through on their promises with the Phase 1 agreement."

U.S. President Donald Trump is due to sign the Phase 1 agreement with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He at the White House on Wednesday. That agreement is expected to include provisions for China to buy up to \$50 billion more in U.S. energy supplies.

U.S. crude inventories rose by 1.1 million barrels, data from the American Petroleum Institute showed, countering expectations for a draw.

U.S. oil production is expected to rise to a record of 13.30 million barrels per day in 2020, mainly driven by higher output in the Permian region of Texas and New Mexico, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said.

Energy ministers from OPEC member the United Arab Emirates and OPEC ally Russia said on Wednesday they were still committed to meeting in March to decide on future production policies.

Their statements came after Russian news agency Tass reported that OPEC and its allies – known as OPEC+ – have started consultations on extending the current output-cutting deal until June without holding a meeting in March.

Keeping the current deal in place until a June meeting "would be seen as much more constructive for the market," ING Economics said in a note. Russia had insisted it wanted the current deal to last only three months. Saudi Arabia wanted a longer time frame for the deal.

As Aramco hails record IPO, Abu Dhabi's ADNOC whips up \$19 billion

DUBAI

THE talk's all been about Saudi Aramco, and the suspense of its historic drive to whip up international cash. But, more quietly, its Gulf oil peer ADNOC has also been courting foreign funds - and its efforts compare favorably.

Like Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi's economy was hit by a dramatic fall in oil prices in mid-2014, triggering a drive to reduce its dependence on crude. A central part of that has been to reform and modernize state champion ADNOC and attract foreign investment.

Unlike Aramco's push for a giant stock market listing, which has been highly publicized and closely watched, ADNOC has gone for a more staggered approach with its fundraising efforts, and there has been little overview of their scope by industry experts. However the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, to give its full



Employees are seen at the Panorama Digital Command Centre at the ADNOC headquarters in Dubai.

name, has raised more than \$19 billion over the past three years from overseas investors, according to Reuters calculations based on publicly released size of investments, signing fees and share sales.

That's equivalent to two-thirds of the \$29.4 billion that Saudi Aramco raised in the biggest initial public offering (IPO) in history. Despite the record-breaking December listing, the bulk of the shares were sold to domestic investors after foreign institutions balked at the valuation.

ADNOC, which supplies nearly 3% of global oil demand, has for example struck deals with the world's largest fund manager BlackRock and with U.S. invest-

ment firm KKR, a rare foray for both into national oil companies in the Middle East.

It has also sold stakes in its pipeline infrastructure and refining businesses.

While both Gulf state-controlled firms are aiming to replicate the model of oil majors by expanding in downstream, trading and petrochemicals, their funding strategies diverge, said Dmitry Marinchenko, analyst with Fitch rating agency.

"Aramco is raising funds mainly by conventional borrowing while ADNOC is using more sophisticated forms of funding, including selling minority stakes in subsidiaries," he said. "ADNOC is more open to cooperation with international partners."

It remains to be seen which approach to attracting investment will prove more fruitful in coming years. But at stake could be the companies' ability to successfully diversify from crude production and, more broadly, for the domestic economies that rely on them to weather oil price shocks.

US, China set to sign massive purchases deal, easing trade war

WASHINGTON

THE U.S.-China trade war is set to enter a new, quieter phase yesterday as U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He sign an initial trade deal that aims to vastly increase Chinese purchases of U.S. manufactured products, agricultural goods, energy and services.

The Phase 1 agreement caps 18 months of tariff conflict between the world's two largest economies that has hit hundreds of billions of dollars in goods, roiling financial markets, uprooting supply chains and slowing global growth.

Trump and Liu are scheduled to sign the 86-page document, at a White House event before over 200 invited guests from business, government and diplomatic circles.

A translation of the text to Chinese was still being completed late on Tuesday afternoon, as Liu met with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Trump has already begun touting the trade deal as a centerpiece of his 2020 re-election campaign, calling it "a big beautiful monster" at a rally in Toledo, Ohio last week.

"Our farmers will take it in. I keep saying, 'Go buy larger tractors, go buy larger tractors,'" Trump said.

The centerpiece of the deal is a pledge by China to purchase an additional \$200 billion worth of U.S. goods over two years to cut a bilateral



The United States and People Republic of China flags. File photo.

U.S. trade deficit that peaked at \$420 billion in 2018.

A source briefed on the agreement told Reuters that China will purchase an additional \$80 billion worth of U.S. manufactured goods over the two year period, including aircraft, autos

and car parts, agricultural machinery and medical devices.

Beijing will boost energy purchases by some \$50 billion and services by \$35 billion, while agricultural purchases will get a \$32 billion lift over the two years, all compared to a 2017

baseline of U.S. exports to China, the source said.

When combined with the \$24 billion in 2017 farm exports, the \$16 billion annual increase approaches Trump's goal of \$40 billion to \$50 billion in annual agricultural sales to China.

Although the deal could be a big boost to farmers, planemaker Boeing, U.S. automakers and heavy equipment manufacturers, some analysts question China's ability to divert imports from other trading partners to the United States.

"I find a radical shift in Chinese spending unlikely. I have low expectations for meeting stated goals," said Jim Paulsen, chief investment strategist at Leuthold Group in Minneapolis. "But I do think the whole negotiation has moved the football forward for both the U.S. and China."

The Phase 1 deal, reached in December, canceled planned U.S. tariffs on Chinese-made cell phones, toys and laptop computers and halved the tariff rate to 7.5% on about \$120 billion worth of other Chinese goods, including flat panel televisions, Bluetooth headphones and footwear.

But it will leave in place 25% tariffs on a vast, \$250 billion array of Chinese industrial goods and components used by U.S. manufacturers.

Evidence is mounting that these tariffs have raised input costs for U.S. manufacturers, eroding their competitiveness.

Diesel engine maker Cummins Inc said on Tuesday that

the deal will leave it paying \$150 million in tariffs for engines and castings that it produces in China.

The company issued tepid statement of approval on Tuesday: "We believe this is a positive step and remain optimistic that all parties will remain at the table in order to create a pathway to eliminate all of the instituted tariffs."

Lighthizer and Mnuchin moved to stamp out suggestions that the U.S. and China may review possible removal of more tariffs after the November U.S. election, issuing a joint statement that there were no written or oral agreements for future tariff reductions.

Mnuchin later told reporters that Trump could consider easing tariffs if the world's two largest economies move quickly to seal a Phase 2 follow-up agreement.

The deal includes pledges by China to forbid the forced transfer of American technology to Chinese firms as well as to increase protections for U.S. intellectual property.

But it stops well short of addressing the core U.S. complaints about China's trade and intellectual property practices that prompted the Trump administration to pressure Beijing

for changes in early 2017.

The deal contains no provisions to rein in rampant subsidies for state-owned enterprises, which the administration blames for excess capacity in steel and aluminum and says threaten industries from aircraft to semiconductors.

It also fails to address digital trade restrictions and China's onerous cybersecurity regulations that have hobbled U.S. technology firms in China.

Mnuchin and Lighthizer said these issues are key U.S. priorities for Phase 2 negotiations with China.

China has agreed in the Phase 1 deal to open its financial services sector more widely to U.S. firms, and to refrain from deliberately pushing down its currency to gain a trade advantage, the latter prompting Treasury to drop its currency manipulator label on Beijing.

While China has made such pledges in the past, a key difference that the Trump administration is touting is an enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance and resolve disputes.

But the enforcement relies on reimposition of tariffs if disputes cannot be resolved, returning the two countries to the current status quo.

Race to refine: the bid to clean up Africa's gold rush

ENTEBBE

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

An employee uses a hammer to clean a gold ingot during the refining process at AGR (African Gold Refinery) in Entebbe.

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

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

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

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

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

Governments of gold-producing countries in Africa have long complained that the precious metal in their rocks is being illegally produced and smuggled out on a vast scale, sometimes by criminal operations, often at a high human and environmental cost.

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

is having multiple refineries in Africa," said Frank Mugenyi, head of the minerals unit at the African Union.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has developed global sourcing standards against which it recommends refineries are audited. Outside South Africa, no African refineries have yet followed that recommendation, said Louis Marechal, an OECD expert on responsible business conduct at who has traveled widely in Africa consulting with governments and companies on how to regulate and source gold responsibly.

The new refineries offer an important outlet for millions of individuals who dig for gold using basic technology.

Industrial mining companies usually fly metal they produce in Africa to large refineries accredited by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA), the industry's standard setter. All but one of these are outside the continent. Concerned about the risks of rights abuses, crime or conflict in the supply chain, LBMA-accredited refineries typically steer clear of metal from informal miners.

Six of Africa's new refineries - in Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda and Uganda - shared output data with Reuters. With combined annual capacity for around 270 tonnes, they currently process around 41 tonnes of gold a year worth some \$2 billion. For comparison, refineries in Switzerland handle around 2,500 tonnes of gold a year, worth \$120 billion at current prices.

Some people in the industry concede that it is hard for Africa's new refineries to be accepted as mainstream suppliers. Large banks, jewelers and electronics makers generally only accept gold from refineries accredited by groups such as the LBMA. LBMA rules require a refinery to operate for at least five years and process large amounts of gold before it can be accredited.

Neil Harby, chief technical officer at the LBMA, said several refineries in countries including Ghana are partnering with LBMA-accredited refineries, which support their efforts to control sources and offer an outlet to the global market by re-refining the gold they produce.

This helps to improve miners' livelihoods by lifting them out of the shadow market, he said. But it is time-consuming and expensive, and requires close regulation, such as a requirement that gold is exported via a refinery.



A small scale miner cleans a gold ingot before has taken for refining process at AGR (African Gold Refinery) in Entebbe, Uganda.

adding to problems of smuggling and funding conflict.

mentally responsible miners. "The only way to stop (smuggling)

same thing. Another, Robert Baker, the CEO



UnitedHealth quarterly profit beats expectations driven by Optum strength

NEW YORK

UnitedHealth Group Inc reported a better-than-expected quarterly profit on Wednesday, as the largest U.S. health insurer benefited from higher revenue from its Optum unit, which includes its pharmacy benefits management business.

The company affirmed its full-year outlook for 2020 adjusted earnings of \$16.25 to \$16.55 per share.

UnitedHealth has bolstered its fastest growing Optum business with a string of small-scale acquisitions, the latest being a \$300 million purchase of Diplomat Pharmacy.

Revenue from Optum, which manages drug benefits and offers healthcare data analytics services, rose about 8% to \$29.8 billion, estimates of \$3.78.

Net earnings attributable to shareholders rose to \$3.54 billion, or \$3.68 per share, in the three months ended Dec. 31, from \$3.04 billion, or \$3.10 per share, a year earlier.

Total revenue rose to \$60.90 billion from \$58.42 billion. A UnitedHealth Group health insurance card is seen in a wallet in this picture illustration. File

WORLD

Sanders, Warren spar over disputed remark about chances of a woman defeating Trump

DES MOINES, Iowa

ELIZABETH Warren and Bernie Sanders disagreed in a Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday over whether he once told her a woman could not win the White House in 2020, underlining an emerging rift between the progressive allies as the first voting nears.

After days of tensions between the fellow U.S. senators, friends and liberal standard-bearers, who agreed early in the campaign not to attack each other, Sanders emphatically denied he ever made the remark, saying it was "incomprehensible" he could have said such a thing in a private 2018 meeting with her.

Warren confirmed the comment and said she disagreed with Sanders, but quickly pivoted to the broader question of whether a woman could be elected president.

"Bernie is my friend and I am not here to try to fight with Bernie. But look, this question about whether or not a woman can be president has been raised and it's time for us to attack it head-on," Warren said.

The dispute brought questions about

gender, sexism and electability back into the spotlight in the campaign, almost four years after Democrat Hillary Clinton failed in her bid to become the first woman president, in an upset loss to Republican Donald Trump.

Warren pointed out the men on the stage had collectively lost 10 elections, while the two women on the stage - she and U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar - had won each election they had contested.

"I have won every race, every place, every time, I have won in the reddest of districts, I have won in the suburban areas, in the rural areas," Klobuchar said, pointing to the 2018 election of women governors in conservative states as further evidence a woman can win the White House this year.

The rare clash between Warren and Sanders came as recent opinion polls show her trailing him nationally and in early nominating states just weeks before Iowa voters kick off the Democratic nominating race on Feb. 3.

The debate also featured sharp exchanges between Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden on foreign policy and trade as the top Democrats made their case to voters assessing an unsettled presidential field with no



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidates (L-R) Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) speaks with Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) as billionaire activist Tom Steyer listens after the seventh Democratic 2020 presidential debate at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S., on Tuesday.

clear front-runner.

The debate was the seventh in the race to find a November election challenger to Trump. Polls show an extremely tight race among Biden, Sanders, Warren and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Sanders, a longtime antiwar advocate who voted against the 2002 authorization of war in Iraq, criticized Biden for supporting the war and said they heard the same arguments from officials in former President George W. Bush's administration before coming to different conclusions.

"I thought they were lying, I did not believe them for a moment," Sanders said. "I did everything I could to prevent that war. Joe saw things differently."

Biden, a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who touts his security credentials, acknowledged the vote "was a big, big mistake" and said that as President Barack Obama's vice president, he worked to bring the troops home.

"It was a mistake to trust that they weren't going to go to war," Biden said of the Bush administration. "It was a mistaken vote, but I think my record overall on everything we have done, I'm prepared to compare it to anybody's on this stage."

'FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE' ON TRADE

On trade, Sanders said he and Biden had "a fundamental difference" on the worth of regional free trade agreements like Trump's new agreement with Mexico and Canada, called the USMCA, which Sanders opposes and Biden backs.

"I don't know that there's any trade agreement that the senator would ever think made any sense," Biden said.

Sanders said the agreements "were written for one reason alone, and that is to increase the profits of large multinational corporations."

With surveys showing a virtual tie in Iowa and a largely undecided electorate, all the candidates face mounting pressure to make an impression.

The debate stage was the least crowded since the debates began in June, with the Democratic National Committee's toughened polling and fundraising requirements to qualify eliminating other candidates.

Entrepreneur Andrew Yang, an Asian American who participated in last month's seven-candidate debate, did not make the cut this time, leaving an all-white field of debaters in a party that prides itself on diversity.

Agencies

Iran welcomes 'constructive' measures to save nuclear deal

TEHRAN

IRAN'S Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said Tuesday that Iran welcomes any constructive measure which aims at saving the 2015 nuclear deal.

"As in the past, Iran is fully ready

to receive any well-intended and constructive measures to salvage this important international deal, and it supports any initiative in this regard," Mousavi said.

"In the meantime, Iran clarifies it to all and particularly to three European parties of the deal that

any breach of vows, mal-intention and unconstructive measures will be responded in a serious and appropriate manner," said Mousavi.

Mousavi's remark is in reaction to the move adopted by Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday to trigger the dispute resolution

mechanism in the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

The European countries said that they took the step in response to Tehran's act to back off its nuclear commitments over the past months.

The Iranian spokesperson de-

nounced the Europeans' move as a "passive" step, saying that Iran has started the dispute resolution mechanism since one year ago, but "nothing new has happened in practice."

Xinhua

Ghosn: French envoy told me Nissan was turning against him

BEIRUT

FORMER Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn, speaking in Beirut after his dramatic escape from Japanese justice, said on Tuesday that the French ambassador had warned him shortly after his arrest that his own company was plotting against him.

"Frankly, I was shocked by the arrest and the first thing I asked is make sure Nissan knows so they can send me a lawyer," Ghosn told Reuters in an interview in Beirut.

"And the second day, 24 hours from this, I received a visit from the French ambassador who told me: 'Nissan is turning against you'. And this is where I realized that the whole thing was a plot."

Former Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa, who was forced to resign last year after admitting that he had received improper compensation, told a news conference hours after Ghosn's arrest that Ghosn had been

using corporate money for personal purposes and under-reporting his income for years.

The arrest of Ghosn, widely respected for rescuing the carmaker from near-bankruptcy, has put Japan's criminal justice system under international scrutiny.

The French Embassy in Tokyo did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nissan reiterated a previous comment, including that the carmaker "discovered numerous acts of misconduct by Ghosn through a robust, thorough internal investigation. The company determined that he was not fit to serve as an executive, and removed him from all offices."

It said that in addition to the Japanese prosecution, Ghosn was found to have committed "fraudulent" under-reporting of his compensation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission and that French authorities were investigating.



Among the practices now under the spotlight are keeping suspects in detention for long periods and excluding defense lawyers from interrogations, which can last eight hours a day.

"When he told me that 'two hours or three hours later, after your arrest, Saikawa went in a press conference and made his infamous statement

where he said, you know, I am horrified, but what I'm learning..." - so when he told me he made these statements, I said 'Oh my God this is a plot.'"

Ghosn, 65, fled Japan last month while awaiting trial on charges of under-reporting earnings, breach of trust and misappropriation of company funds, all of which he denies.

The one-time titan of the car industry said the alternative to fleeing would have been to spend the rest of his life languishing in Japan without a fair trial.

Ghosn said he had escaped to his childhood home of Lebanon in order to clear his name.

He noted that there were conflicting stories about his astonishing escape, but declined to say how he had managed to flee.

Tokyo prosecutors said his allegations of a conspiracy were false and that he had failed to justify his acts. The 14-month saga has shaken the global auto industry and jeopardized the Renault-Nissan alliance, of which Ghosn was the mastermind.

Japan's Ministry of Justice has said it will try to find a way to bring Ghosn back from Lebanon, even the countries have no extradition treaty.

Ghosn said the Japanese authorities were intent on preventing him from having a just trial. Agencies

AT the invitation of Myanmar's President U Win Myint, Chinese President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Myanmar from Jan. 17 to 18. It is Xi's first overseas trip this year, and the first visit to Myanmar by a Chinese president in 19 years.

The journey will start a new phase in China-Myanmar relations as this year also marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

China and Myanmar, two neighbors connected by mountains and rivers, enjoy a time-honored friendship. People of the two countries have regarded each other as "Paukphaw", meaning brothers, and people of Myanmar describe the friendly relations between the two countries as the "gold and silver road".

Despite different social systems, My-

China, Myanmar to forge closer relationship

anmar took the lead in recognizing the People's Republic of China.

The then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai visited Myanmar nine times. The relationship between the two countries has evolved from their joint implementation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence they initially advocated to the addressing of boundary issues left over by history through friendly negotiations, leaving behind a trail of widely told stories.

In recent years, the China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership has enjoyed sustained development with the strategic guidance of leaders of the two countries. Both countries have witnessed frequent

high-level mutual visits, enhanced political mutual trust, close economic ties, more personnel exchanges, in-depth cultural exchanges, solid progress in practical cooperation in various areas, and benefits deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

China and Myanmar are now working together to pave a "gold and silver road" in the new era.

The "gold and silver road" in the new era is a road of mutual trust and cooperation. President Xi Jinping met with Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi several times in bilateral and multilateral settings, and outlined the blueprint for the development of China-Myanmar ties.

The two countries enjoy close exchanges in various fields such as legislation, administration, justice, political parties, military, and people-to-people engagement, laying a solid foundation for bilateral relations.

China supports Myanmar in safeguarding its sovereign independence and territorial integrity, respects its independent choice of development path, and backs its national reconciliation and peace process. Myanmar gives firm support on issues related to China's core interests such as Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang.

The two sides maintain close communication and coordination in international and regional affairs, further

cooperation in mechanisms including China-ASEAN cooperation and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, and make positive contributions to promoting the development of each other and maintaining regional peace and stability.

The "gold and silver road" in the new era is a road of prosperity and development. China is Myanmar's largest trading partner and the most important investment partner.

Focusing on the joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), the two countries have seen deepening practical cooperation in recent years. They set up a joint committee for the

CMEC, and Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi serves as Myanmar's chairperson of the Belt and Road guiding committee.

With the joint efforts of both sides, China-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines and other projects have greatly benefited people's livelihood.

At the same time, progress has been made in pillar projects such as the Kyaukpyu special economic zone and the China-Myanmar border economic cooperation zone.

The "gold and silver road" in the new era is also a road of closer people-to-people ties. China and Myanmar have maintained increasingly active people-to-people exchanges with the further development of bilateral relations.

People's Daily

EU sets out trillion euro plan to avert 'climate crash'

STRASBOURG

THE EU budget chief said the bloc needs to invest dedicated funds to avert a "climate crash" as Brussels detailed how it planned to pay for a trillion euro push to cut net CO2 emissions to zero by 2050 and protect member countries dependent on coal.

The financial challenge for Europe is huge: the European Commission executive arm estimates that halving emissions by 2030 would require 260 billion euros of investment a year in the energy, transport and construction sectors.

"We need climate cash in order to avoid a climate crash," European Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn told Reuters on Tuesday.

Of the 1 trillion euros of the EU's 10-year investment plan, roughly half is to come from the EU long-term budget, the Commission said. This will trigger more than 100 billion in co-financing from governments.

It was unveiling details of its Sustainable Europe Investment Plan using public and private money for its flagship project: the European Green Deal.

Some 300 billion would come from private sources and another 100 from the EU's Just Transition Fund that is to help the EU's coal-dependent regions, such as Poland's Silesia mining region, make the transition to "green".

The EU is in the last stretch of talks on the size and spending goals of its next long-term budget from 2021 to 2027.

All EU countries except Poland agreed last month they should transform their economies over the next 30 years to not emit more carbon dioxide than they absorb, so as to limit global warming and resulting climate changes.

The deal came amid overwhelming support from Europeans who see irreversible climate change as the biggest challenge they are facing, more so than terrorism, access to healthcare or unemployment.

"I'm doing this in my grandson's future interest," Hahn, 62, said about his work on financing the EU's shift to a green economy.

STATE AID RULES

Poland did not subscribe to the 2050 emissions-neutrality goal, arguing its energy systems and economy were too dependent on coal and lignite to make the transition over that time. The Just Transition Fund is to address this problem.

"Yes, I think it will be enough (to convince Poland to join the 2050 climate neutrality goal)," Hahn said.

"It is very attractive because it gives them the opportunity of additional money, access to interesting financing," he said. The Fund is to "benefit territories with high employment in coal, lignite, oil shale and peat production, as well as territories with carbon-intensive industries which will be either discontinued or severely impacted by the transition", the Commission proposal said.

The money will go to areas producing the most CO2 industrial emissions, where job losses and the need for teaching new skills and will take into account the overall wealth of the country so that a region in need of transition in the EU's poorest Romania would get more money than a comparable region in Germany.

The total of 100 billion euros will come from a mix of sources and will mostly be a result of leveraging of 7.5 billion euros of input from the EU budget, EU guarantees and European Investment Bank loans, to attract private cash by covering the riskiest parts of an investment.

To increase financing options, the EU will also review its state aid rules by the end of this year, which normally prohibit governments from helping companies in trouble so as not to distort competition.

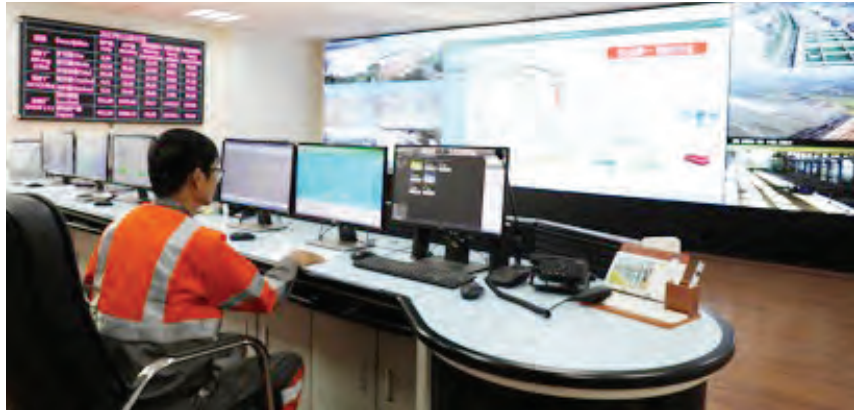
Governments will be allowed to spend on renewable energy, public charging infrastructure or waste recycling, support workers sacked from closed mines, invest in energy efficiency of buildings, help district heating or climate neutral production processes or the closure of coal-fired power plants.

As well as being a huge challenge, the commission sees a switch to an economic model not based on burning fossil fuels for energy as a great opportunity for European industry to shift to making environmentally clean, re-usable and repairable products based on renewable energy sources.

Agencies



A European flag flutters in the wind in front of the European Commission headquarters in Brussels. (File photo)



A technician works in the master-control room of Letpadaung copper mine.

China-invested Letpadaung copper mine brings tangible benefits to Sagaing Region, Myanmar

LETPADAUNG copper mine project in Monywa, Sagaing Region of Myanmar, as one of the demonstration projects under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has brought tangible benefits to Sagaing Region.

Operated by China's Wanbao Mining Ltd. and with a predicted production life of around 30 years, the Letpadaung copper mine is so far one of the largest copper hydrometallurgy projects in Asia.

Attaching high importance to its social responsibility, the Chinese company has endeavored to carry out community assistance and development programmes in the locality of the copper mine, creating an economic ecosystem featuring organic integration with the Letpadaung copper mine as the core.

"The Letpadaung copper mine has realized win-win results for five parties, including Chinese companies and their Myanmar cooperative partners, as well as the government of Myanmar, adjacent communities of the project, and employees in the copper mine, who have gained long-term and stable revenues and earnings from the project," said U Tin Aye, former chairman of Myanmar's Union Election Commission (UEC).

The project is of profound significance for Myanmar's national economic development, and the improvement of people's living standards, U Tin Aye told People's Daily.

Various equipment used in the Letpadaung copper mine is purchased from around the globe, and the technological level and the mine's capacity for processing and management are all among the best in the world. In addition, the amount of taxes paid by the project is also among the highest in foreign-funded enterprises in Myanmar.

The Letpadaung copper mine has realized high-quality development through promoting improvement in quality and efficiency. In 2018, the mine's output of cathode copper had exceeded 100,000 tonnes for the first time since it was put into operation, and the cathode copper yield of the mine reached 120,000 tonnes in 2019.

"The technology applied by the Letpadaung copper mine is recognized as the most environmentally friendly technology of copper hydrometallurgy in the world.

The project has gained international control qualifications from international certification authorities for all relevant processes. It can stand any test," said an executive of the mine.

The quality of products produced in

the Letpadaung copper mine has gained recognition from more and more countries as their understanding of the project increases with each passing day, stressed the executive.

In the mine lot, waste rocks are piled up neatly, and every slope is covered with trees, shrubs, and grass, which makes the slopes look like terraced fields if seen from a distance.

In order to maintain a good natural environment in the area, the Letpadaung copper mine project has carried out continued efforts to monitor such aspects in the project area and its surrounding communities as surface water, underground water, air, noise, and soil. New monitoring points are constantly added to the project with the improvement in the production facilities of the project.

According to executives of the project, the Letpadaung copper mine has invited international authoritative agencies in environmental assessment to formulate plans for environmental management and monitoring and reports on the environmental and social influence of the project.

The project has applied high international standards on environmental protection and strict environmental protection measures, endeavoring to reduce its impact on the environment, disclosed relevant executives of the project.

"Wanbao Mining Ltd. pays high attention to sustainable development. It has adhered to the principle of exploitation while reclamation, endeavoring to build a green mine. So far the company has reclaimed a total of 360,000 square meters of land, and the first batch of shrubs planted in the area have reached the height of a man," an executive at the mine lot told People's Daily.

At present, the number of Burmese employees in the project has exceeded 3,500, accounting for 90 percent of the total staff members in the project. The project has provided training in various professional skills for more than 8,000 people.

According to a Burmese assistant engineer in the project, his salary is far higher than the average pay level of the locality.

"My family is now building a new house, which costs about \$40,000. All the money is from my salary.

My friends all envy my opportunity to work in the Letpadaung copper mine. And the fellow students in my old school have asked me when the mine will start new recruitment and how can they be prepared for the jobs," said the assistant engineer.

People's Daily

China's trade with BRI countries booms in 2019

BEIJING

CHINA'S trade with countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) posted robust growth in 2019, revealing the resilience of the world's biggest trader against economic headwinds, customs data showed on Tuesday.

Trade with BRI partner countries totaled 9.27 trillion yuan (about 1.34 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2019, up 10.8 percent year on year, outpacing the country's aggregate trade growth by 7.4 percentage points, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC). In the 2014-2019 period, the total trade volume between China and BRI countries surpassed 44 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth of 6.1 percent. China has become the biggest trade partner of

25 BRI countries, GAC data showed. BRI countries' share of China's total trade approached 30 percent last year, up by 2 percentage points from 2018.

Zou Zhiwu, vice minister of the GAC, noted that alongside fast growth with its major trading partners like the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China has also seen its imports and exports expand rapidly with the BRI countries and emerging economies in Africa and Latin America.

"The Chinese economy has significant resilience, potential and room to maneuver. It is the same in terms of its foreign trade," said Zou, describing China's trading partners as "globally scattered" and "flowering in various regions." Zou attributed the solid trade growth momentum with the BRI countries to enhanced customs cooperation

and trade facilitation measures.

China has signed the most Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) agreements in the world to facilitate customs clearance for enterprises.

Among all the 42 countries and regions holding AEO agreements with China, 18 are BRI countries and regions, he said.

The country has set up seven fast customs clearance channels for agricultural products at borders with BRI countries including Kazakhstan, Vietnam and Mongolia and promoted the opening of China-Europe freight trains for mail service.

Zou also noted that Chinese customs signed 198 documents on inspection and quarantine cooperation in 2019, including 89 with B&R countries and regions.

Xinhua

Democrats add last-minute evidence to President Trump impeachment case before Senate trial

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS in the U.S. House of Representatives said on Tuesday they would include new evidence when they send formal impeachment charges against President Donald Trump to the Senate on Wednesday, seeking to expand the scope of a trial that will dominate Washington for the next several weeks.

Senior Democrats said they would include phone records and other documents provided by Florida businessman Lev Parnas when they make their case that Trump abused his power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate a political rival, Democratic former Vice President Joe Biden.

Parnas was an associate of Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who says Parnas helped him investigate Biden. The Ukraine-born Parnas has pleaded not guilty to federal campaign-finance violations in a separate criminal case.

The late inclusion of Parnas' records, which were only made available to investigators in the last few days, suggested Democrats were trying to further substantiate their case before it heads to the Senate for trial.

Trump became only the third U.S. president to be impeached when the Democrat-majority House last month approved charges that he abused the powers of his office and obstructed Congress in its investigation into his conduct.

The House was expected to vote yesterday to send the impeachment charges to the Republican-controlled Senate, kicking off a trial that could last through early February. It will also name the House lawmakers who will prosecute the case against Trump.

Those lawmakers will walk in a procession through the U.S. Capitol to the Senate to present the articles of impeachment to the secretary of



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) arrives for a Democratic Caucus meeting to discuss transmitting the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S. on Tuesday. REUTERS

the Senate around 5 p.m. EST (2200 GMT) on Wednesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office said in a statement.

The Senate is expected to acquit Trump, as none of its 53 Republicans have voiced support for ousting him, a step that would require a two-thirds majority in the 100-member chamber.

Pelosi had delayed sending the impeachment charges to the Senate in an unsuccessful effort to get Republicans who control the chamber to agree to include new witness testimony that could be damaging to the Republican president.

Republicans mocked Pelosi for the delay, saying it undercut her argument that Congress needed to impeach Trump because he was inviting foreign interference in the 2020 presidential election.

Democrats said the delay allowed new evidence to emerge through government records requests - and now, the material provided by Parnas.

Democrats said Parnas' phone included a screenshot of a previously undisclosed May 10, 2019, letter from Giuliani to then President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine.

"In my capacity as personal counsel to President Trump and with his knowledge and consent, I request a meeting with you," Giuliani wrote.

WITNESSES?

One of the most contentious issues that has yet to be resolved is whether to have witnesses in the Senate trial.

Democrats want to hear from current and former White House officials, such as former national security adviser John Bolton, whom they believe could provide insight into Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has resisted the idea of calling witnesses or digging up new evidence in the trial, saying his chamber should only consider evidence that has been collected by the House.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing and has dismissed his impeachment as a partisan bid to undo his 2016 election win as he tries to win re-election in November.

"It's just to try and smear this president because they know they can't beat him at the ballot box," White House spokesman Hogan Gidley told Fox News.

Talks on Libya in Moscow contribute to upcoming Berlin conference, Lavrov says

NEW DELHI

THE January 13 talks in Moscow on settlement in Libya were initially viewed as part of a peaceful settlement process that would continue at a conference in Berlin, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the Raisina dialogue 2020 conference in New Delhi yesterday.

"Unfortunately, the document was

not signed by everybody but it was signed by [Prime Minister of the Government of National Accord Fayezi al-Sarraj and [Chairman of the Libyan High Council of State Khalid] al-Mishri and as I said [Commander of the Libyan National Army Khalifa] Haftar and [Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives Aguilu] Saleh Issa said that they needed more time to consult. We never pre-



tended that this would be the final meeting to resolve each issue," Lavrov stressed.

rov stressed.

"We have been promoting this meeting in Moscow as a contribution to the conference in Berlin which will be held this coming Sunday," Lavrov said, noting that Russia had recommended that Germany should invite all Libyan parties to take part in it.

According to Lavrov, Russia is not overdramatizing the situation after

Haftar refused to sign a ceasefire deal and took a pause for consultations with the parliament.

"Haftar and [President of the Libyan House of Representatives (parliament) Aguilu] Saleh Issa said they needed more time to consult with the people. Saleh was saying that he is the head of parliament," Lavrov noted. "We don't overdramatize this situation."

Xinhua

CHINESE electricity companies have been working with local residents in Myanmar to help the latter tackle electricity shortages.

Of Myanmar's 10.88 million households, half have experienced electricity shortages and about 43,000 villages have yet to be connected to the national electricity network.

Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi had said that to improve people's livelihood, the first thing to do is to develop the electricity industry.

To increase electricity supply and develop the electricity industry is the priority task of the Myanmar government, as well as the urgent need of the country to boost economy and improve people's well-being.

U Thaung Tun, Myanmar's Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, ex-

China helps Myanmar solve electricity shortage

pressed that Myanmar is willing to accelerate implementation of cooperative projects with China in key fields such as electricity and transportation.

According to credible sources, currently about half of Myanmar is connected with electricity and the country is expected to achieve full electricity coverage by 2030.

With street lamps, the road connecting Mandalay, Naypyidaw and Yangon has become much busier than before.

"Myanmar's economy is constantly developing. To address electricity shortages, Chinese companies and their Burmese counterparts are conducting comprehensive cooperation in power source construction, power transmission and distribution, and elec-



Photo shows the project where Myanmar's northern state of Kachin is connected with a 230KV backbone project.

trication is an important part of the co-construction of the Belt and Road between China and Myanmar, said U Win Khaing, Myanmar's

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy.

Such cooperation is vital for the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), and will accelerate infrastructure connectivity of the whole region, the minister said, adding that Myanmar is willing to work with China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the CMEC to further China-Myanmar electricity and energy cooperation, achieve win-win outcomes and push bilateral relations for new progress.

U Win Khaing recently attended the opening ceremony of the Shwebo transformer substation in Shwebo of Myanmar's northwestern Sagaing region. The 230 KV power transmission line and sub-

station project was built by State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC).

It could deliver electricity from northern Myanmar to the demand centers in the southern part of the country and satisfy industrial, commercial and residential demands.

The transmission capacity of the double-circuit transmission line between the state of Kachin and the 230 KV power transmission line and substation project could reach 640,000 kilowatts.

Running nonstop with a full load in a year, the project could transmit 5.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

The project gives Sagaing economic and stable electricity supply and brings tangible benefits to local residents, said Chief Minister



Anger in Scotland after UK PM rules out new independence vote

LONDON

SCOTTISH First Minister Nicola Sturgeon hit back at British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday after he rejected paving the way for a new independence referendum for Scotland.

Prime Minister Johnson has written to the Scottish National Party (SNP) leader saying that she and her predecessor Alex Salmond had made a personal promise that the first referendum in 2014 would be a once-in-a-generation vote.

Scottish voters backed remaining as part of the UK by 55 to 45 in the 2014 referendum.

"I cannot agree to any request for a transfer of power that would lead to further independence referendums," Johnson said.

He said a further independence referendum would continue the political stagnation that Scotland has seen for the last decade.

"It is time we all worked together to bring the whole of the United Kingdom together and unleash the potential of this great country," Johnson told Sturgeon.

In Edinburgh, Sturgeon said Johnson's formal refusal of her request for a referendum to be held later this year was predictable but also unsustainable and self-defeating.

She insisted that Scotland will have the right to choose. Responding to Johnson's letter, Sturgeon said: "They know that given the choice the overwhelming likelihood is that people will choose the positive option of independence."

"It is not politically sustainable for any Westminster Government to stand in the way of the right of the people of Scotland to decide their own future and to seek to block the clear democratic mandate for an independence referendum," she added.

Sturgeon said she would set out the SNP administration's next move later this month and it would also ask the Scottish Parliament to endorse Scotland's right to choose.

Sturgeon's renewed demand for a fresh independence referendum was given a boost when the SNP made significant gains in last month's general election. The party won 48 of Scotland's 59 seats at Westminster.

Last month an opinion poll published in The Times showed support for Scottish independence had fallen. The new YouGov poll suggested 56 percent of respondents would say no to Scotland breaking away from the UK, with 44 percent wanting the split.

A previous YouGov poll carried out for The Times last September showed 49 percent in favor of independence and 51 percent against.

The latest figure shows more people are opposed to Scotland going it alone than in the 2014 referendum.

Xinhua

of Sagaing U Myint Naing.

Within two years, the number of hotels in Shwebo has exceeded 20. At night, the streets are illuminated and shops on both sides of the street are decorated in colorful lights, making the fruits displayed for sale more attractive.

"More and more people now like to take a walk, dine or go shopping at night, making the city livelier.

Now, electricity outages and circuit breaker tripping are a thing of the past. With stable electricity supply, I haven't used the electricity generator for a long time," said a local resident.

Built in 2004, the Shwebo Industrial Zone is home to about 200 companies, such as rice processing companies and home appliance manufacturers.

People's Daily



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018 file photo, members of the royal family gather on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, with from left, Prince Charles, Camilla the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth II, Meghan the Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry, Prince William and Kate the Duchess of Cambridge, as they watch a flypast of Royal Air Force aircraft pass over Buckingham Palace in London. In a statement issued on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, Queen Elizabeth II says she has agreed to grant Prince Harry and Meghan their wish for a more independent life that will see them move part-time to Canada. (AP Photo)

Questions of racism linger as Harry, Meghan step back

LONDON

WHEN accomplished, glamorous American actress Meghan Markle married Prince Harry in 2018, she was hailed as a breath of fresh air for Britain's fusty royal family. That honeymoon didn't last.

Now the couple wants independence, saying the pressure of life as full-time royals is unbearable. And a debate is raging: Did racism drive Meghan away?

When Prince Harry, who is sixth in line to the throne, began dating the "Suits" actress – daughter of a white father and African American mother – the media called it a sign that Britain had entered a "post-racial" era in which skin color and background no longer mattered, even to the royal family.

U.K. Labour Party lawmaker Clive Lewis, who like Meghan has biracial heritage, says the royal rift shows that Britain still has a problem with "structural racism."

"We can see it with Meghan Markle and the way that she's been treated in the media, we know that this is a reality of the 21st century, still," Lewis told Sky News. "After 400 years of racism you can't just overturn it overnight."

Frederick W. Gooding, an assistant professor of African American studies at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, said it would be "disingenuous" to claim race had not been a factor in Meghan's treatment.

"She was always going to be an outsider," he said. "There was always going to be this barrier because of her race."

From the start, some in the media wrote about Meghan using racially loaded terms. One tabloid columnist referred to her "exotic" DNA. A Daily Mail headline described her Los Angeles roots as "(almost) straight outta Compton" and claimed she came from a "gang-scarred" neighborhood. A TV host described Meghan as "uppity."

Meghan was criticized for everything from eating avocados – which the Daily Mail claimed fuel "human rights abuses, drought and murder" – to wearing dark nail polish, apparently an etiquette faux pas.

Morgan Jerkins, a senior editor at Zora, a Medium.com site for women of color, said that because Meghan was "an outsider, culturally, racially, and socioeconomically, she has been the royal family's scapegoat."

Others point out that Meghan is hardly the first royal to get a rough ride in the media. The press and the royal family have an intense and often toxic relationship going back decades. Harry's mother, Princess Diana, was snapped by paparazzi wherever she went. When she and Prince Charles admitted that their marriage was in trouble, her private life became public property.

Diana was killed in a Paris car crash in 1997 while being pursued by photographers. Prince Harry, who was just 12 when his mother died, said in October he feared "history repeating itself. ... I lost my mother and now I watch my wife falling victim to the same powerful forces."

After Diana's death, a chastened British press mended its ways – a bit. The media left young William and Harry alone in exchange for carefully staged interviews and photo opportunities as they grew up. That practice has continued with the three young children of William and his wife, Kate.

But in many ways little really changed. Royal stories still sell newspapers and generate clicks. That has meant intense – and even illegal – scrutiny. In the early 2000s, tabloid reporters hacked the voicemails of Prince William and royal staff members in pursuit of scoops.

Younger female royals are routinely judged

on appearance, demeanor and habits. Prince William's wife was relentlessly scrutinized for years: dismissed as dull, accused of being lazy for not having a full-time job, and dubbed "waiter Katy" before William proposed.

Still, Meghan's treatment has sometimes seemed harsher. Last year the Daily Mail ran photos of a pregnant Meghan cradling her bump under the headline: "Why can't Meghan Markle keep her hands off her bump?" Months earlier the same paper had described a pregnant Kate as "tenderly" cradling her bump.

British Home Secretary Priti Patel denied Meghan has suffered from racist media coverage.

"I'm not in that category at all where I believe there's racism at all," Patel, who is of Indian heritage and whose parents emigrated to Britain from Uganda, told the BBC. "I think we live in a great country, a great society, full of opportunity, where people of any background can get on in life."

But others say the media double standard Meghan faced is evidence that talk of "post-racial" Britain is wildly premature.

"Her treatment has proved what many of us have always known: No matter how beautiful you are, whom you marry, what palaces you occupy, charities you support, how faithful you are, how much money you accumulate or what good deeds you perform, in this society racism will still follow you," writer Afua Hirsch, author of the book "Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging," wrote in the New York Times.

That feeling was echoed by Hayley Oliver, a recent Virginia Tech graduate who wrote a college essay about how Meghan and other mixed-race women are treated in popular culture. She said Meghan had years of charitable work, including advocacy for women's healthcare and gender equality worldwide that preceded her marriage into the royal family.

"What about her in those roles?" said Oliver, who is also biracial and says she's inspired by Meghan for the stances she takes. "When you see someone who looks like you. ... it makes it easier to imagine yourself in that situation or the possibility of where you could go."

While Britain is by most measures less racist than it used to be, non-white Britons are still over-represented among the poor and imprisoned, and under-represented at the top of well-paid professions, including politics, journalism and the law. Britain's 2016 decision to leave the European Union – a move fueled in part by concerns about immigration – was followed by an increase in cases of racist abuse reported to police.

Meghan acknowledged in an October interview that she had been unprepared for the intense media scrutiny she would get as a member of the royal family. She told ITV journalist Tom Bradby that before she married Harry, "my British friends said to me, 'I'm sure he's great, but you shouldn't do it, because the British tabloids will destroy your life.'"

"And I very naively ... I didn't get it," she said. Unlike other members of the royal clan, Meghan and Harry have pushed back. As long ago as 2017, Harry criticized "the racial undertones of comment pieces; and the outright sexism and racism of social media trolls and web article comments."

Now the couple has had enough. They plan to move part-time to Canada, withdraw from royal media-coverage arrangements and seek financial independence. The queen has reluctantly agreed to let them become semi-detached royals in order to avoid a damaging family split.

The racism debate will rage on. Writing in The Guardian, British columnist Nesrine Malik said she doubted it would have much positive effect. AP

Group stage games in CAF Champions League show what is lacking here



Guinea's AC Horoya players pictured after they had featured in a recent 2019/2020 CAF Champions League game in Conakry. The squad leads the competition's Group B and are on course for cruising to the last four.

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

EXPOSURE to what football or music looks like in other countries is essential for local clubs or for that matter musical groups to fine tune their art to sharper performance, but learning is not an easy task in life. Once an individual, or group of performers, attain fame in what they are doing, making an all out effort to learn to attain higher standards more or less disappears, as there is little motivation for it. This way each sporting environment or musical space has its standards.

At the weekend local soccer viewers had ample time to sample the Guinean outfit Horoya AC who remained on course to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Total CAF Confederation Cup 2019/20 after picking a 0-0 draw away to Malian side Djoliba. It was at the Stade 26 Mars in Bamako on Sunday where the well drilled side remained top of Group B. The show that was availed to viewers showed that even where our clubs have inched to higher stages of CAF championships that could easily be attributed to luck, for we rarely ever field such outfits.

What was interesting in looking at the match was that it was even then a second tier competition from the CAF Champions League itself, but as it is often the case the difference wasn't quite noticeable. Often the first and second top sides in a country's premier league don't differ much in abilities, and more significantly, the match was testimony to what it means to be a second tier competitor from say Guinea or Mali, where the teams were drawn from. It is with performances of the sort that our top club sides suffer with nauseating regularity scores like 5-0 in away ties.

What was happening in the group matches as a whole, for instance how the draw takes Djoliba to eight points from four matches, leading the group and Horoya having to win one of their two remaining games to assure a place for themselves in the knockout stage illustrates the difference. It means that there was nothing unusual about either side as neither outfit has been winning all its ties. Nor was the match itself exceptional say at the semifinal stage to be of such a high standard.

Still it was noticed that the Guinean giants kept their run of

clean sheets in the group stages, going for the fourth game without conceding a goal as the back line successfully mounted a complete shut-out against the Malian outfit. Equally noticeable was that a veteran of Premier League soccer here, Horoya's Congolese forward Heritier Makambo was reportedly exciting in the opening quarter hour of the game. He was working his way to good positions down on the left but the cutting edge to get a goal was lacking. It means he is likely to be their best player there.

The report dwelt at some length on the player's exploits, as in the fourth minute, he 'did well to skip away from his markers before cutting back an inviting cross, but there was no one in the box to finish off. Two minutes later, he went on the same run but this time had a go at goal himself. However, his low shot missed the target by a whisker.' That he earlier played for city giants Young Africans SC implies that we also field good players but lack a system of building outfits.

The opening minutes weren't enough for the Congolese ace, as he was at it again in the ninth minute, finding some space on

the left before floating in a decent cross, but a team mate's header was over. The other side was also covered for its exploits, though the report says they had to struggle a bit in view of Horoya's grip on the game and especially their padlock defense, but for that aspect both defenses played their part. Were it a game of boxing Horoya would have won on 'points' but in soccer a goal has to be scored, remain without being leveled, for 'points' to rise.

Pundits at the local level affirm that it isn't just Makambo, who has played here, who featured in one of the two sides, and note can also be taken of others who have been signed by leading North African clubs, or earlier TP Mazembe, which has the same class of soccer. Going by scattered data on player recruitment and the level of soccer they play in other teams, it implies that the players we have can be primed or tuned to play that same level of soccer, but some resistance exists at certain points. Players don't wish for tactics that are costly in terms of energy and coaches wish to befriend players so even if they have better standards, they stoop to their level.

SportPesa Jackpot cash prize reaches over 400m/-

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

GAMING company, SportPesa, has this week announced the biggest Jackpot prize totaling 402,802,040/- with the 2020 season still in early stage.

SportPesa had previously handed over the biggest cash prize of 812m/- won by two people from Kagera and Mara.

The Jackpot had for the second time seen the game's winner receive over 260m/- in cash prize.

SportPesa's Chairman of Board of Directors, Tarimba Abbas, disclosed: "This is another opportunity for Tanzanians to bet via our company with the aim of winning this prize, a cash prize totaling 402m/- is definitely a big prize."

"The previous year was really good to us given we got Jackpot winners on two occasions and we boosted their sources of income. You can truly believe SportPesa is genuine once you see the

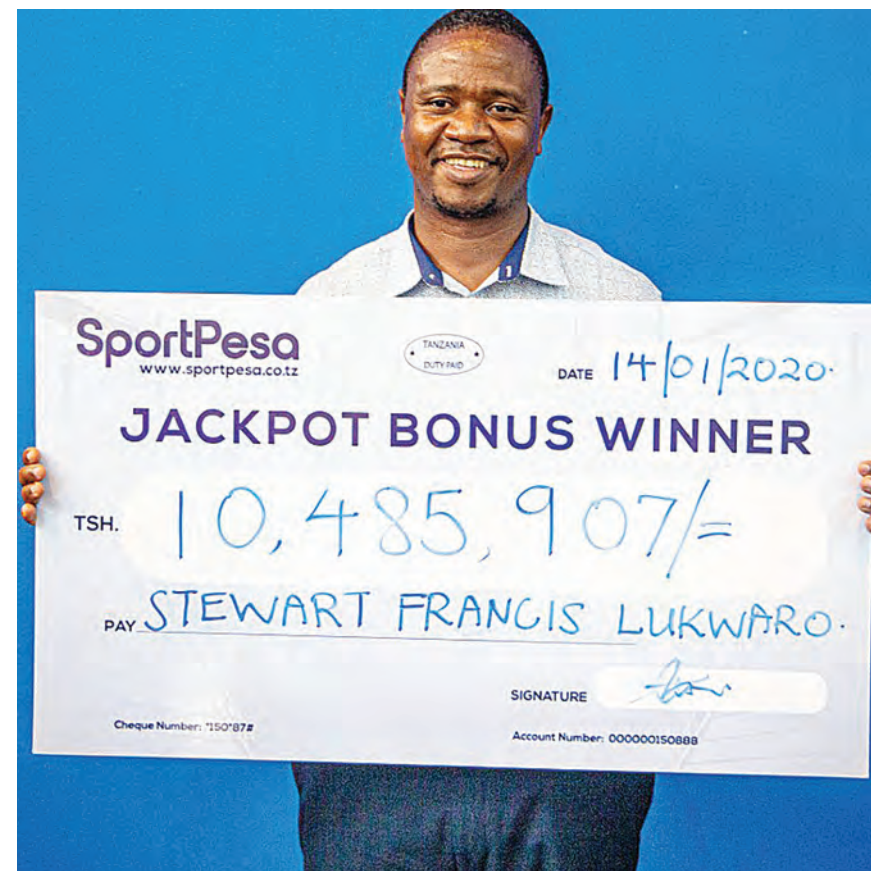
people who emerged as Jackpot winners. They have good houses and have set up businesses."

He added: "We at the end of last year launched a campaign dubbed 'Cheza Bila Bando' in which we presented the Tigo, Vodacom and Airtel subscribers opportunity to bet through SportPesa via either our application or our website without charges."

"I call on all Tanzanians to compete for the attractive cash prize given soccer is a sport which needs a person to be extremely skillful should he or she put right bets."

He disclosed a mobile phone user can take part in SportPesa Jackpot game by placing right bets on 13 games and any amount of cash prize.

Tarimba said a person who takes part in SportPesa Jackpot can as well get bonus once he put right bets on 10, 11 and 12 out of 13 games.



Stewart Francis Lukwaro, who emerged as winner of SportPesa Jackpot bonus holds a dummy cheque of 10,485,907/- after putting right bets on 12 out of 13 games in the betting game. The SportPesa Jackpot's cash prize has reached 402,802,907/- PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

Moo camp: Setien goes from cows to Barcelona

BARCELONA

QUIQUE Setien has said he is struggling to comprehend being handed the top job at Barcelona after spending Monday with the cows in his home village in the north of Spain.

Setien, who's been out of work since leaving Real Betis last summer, has replaced the fired Ernesto Valverde as Barca coach on a contract until 2022. He took training for the first time on Tuesday and will be in the dugout for Sunday's league game against Granada at Camp Nou.

"Not in my wildest dreams could I have imagined being here," Setien said in an introductory news conference. "It's all happened so quickly. Just yesterday, I was walking along beside the cows in my village; now I'm here training the best players in the world."

Setien, 61, has not taken the usual route to the top. In a nomadic career, he has coached Lugo, Las Palmas and Betis, among others. He has never won a trophy and his highest ever La Liga finish was sixth with Betis in the 2017-18 season.

However, he has won acclaim for the manner in which his sides have played football, which is why Barca turned to him.

"Honestly, I just could not imagine them going for me," he added. "I don't have an extensive CV, I've not won any trophies. The only thing I have, which I have demonstrated for many years, is this philosophy of football which I love."

"I have used that same philosophy wherever I have been. Look at my sides at Las Palmas and Betis, they played good football. Whenever I go to a new club, I only guarantee one thing: that they will play good football. I didn't know if that

would be sufficient to convince such a big club to give me an opportunity, but I am extremely grateful."

Valverde, who won back-to-back league titles during his time in Catalonia, leaves with Barca top of La Liga and safely through to the round of 16 of the Champions League, where they will face Napoli.

"That's not normal," Setien said. "In my situation, you imagine you will receive an offer from a team in problems and low in the table. I am very grateful for the work done by Valverde."

The dismissal of Valverde and the appointment of his successor has been criticised for the way it has played out in public. Barca's open pursuit of Xavi Hernandez -- who turned the job down over the weekend -- hung Valverde out to dry before he was eventually replaced by Setien on Monday.

Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu defended the club's decision to change coach midway through a season for the first time since 2003, when Louis van Gaal was sacked, but admitted things could have been handled better.

"We have known for a while that the team's dynamic and performances could be improved, even though results have been very good," Bartomeu said. "Obviously, I would have liked things to happen differently, though."

"During recent weeks we have spoken with different managers, including Setien. We'd spoken with Valverde many times, too. We are halfway through the season and we felt we needed a boost for what remains of the campaign. And, with that, we want to win La Liga, the Champions League and the Copa del Rey."

(Agencies)

'I don't know who Pogba is!' - Real Madrid president Perez

MADRID

REAL Madrid president Florentino Perez has dismissed speculation that the club are trying to sign Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba, joking that he does not know who the France international is.

Pogba has often been linked with a move to the Spanish capital, enduring a great deal of criticism since his big-money return to England from Juventus.

However, the Blancos chief is keeping his cards close to his chest and giving nothing away with regard to a possible pursuit of the World Cup-winning midfielder.

"I don't know who Pogba is," Perez said jokingly following Real Madrid's Spanish Super Cup victory over local rivals Atletico Madrid in Saudi Arabia.

It is possible that Perez's desire to cool any talk of pursuing Pogba is down to the emergence of talented young midfielder Federico Valverde.

Real Madrid's inability to land Pogba amid their summer spending spree has forced head coach Zinedine Zidane to use the 21-year-old more regularly this season.

The Uruguayan has made 21 appearances across all competitions

(Agencies)

Man U axe training camp over Middle East tensions

LONDON

MANCHESTER United have called off a winter training camp in the Middle East due to fears over tensions in the region.

United have often used the Nad Al Sheba Sports Complex in Dubai as a warm-weather base in recent years, and the Old Trafford outfit were set to visit the venue in the upcoming first ever winter break for Premier League clubs.

But United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer confirmed those plans have now been shelved in the wake of the United States' killing of Iran's general Qassem Soleimani.

The incident has triggered a tense political mood in the region and Solskjaer admits United won't travel to Qatar due to security concerns.

"If there's one thing that worries me, it's not on the football pitch," Solskjaer said. "It's other things that

so far and has taken his chance with both hands, impressing greatly and putting in a man-of-the-match display in the final against Atletico, despite his late red card for a last-man challenge on Alvaro Morata to preserve the result.

Perez has made no secret of his admiration for the young prodigy, insisting that he has what it takes to etch his name into Los Blancos folklore.

"[Valverde] will figure as one of the great stars at Real Madrid for years to come," Perez said.

Given the hefty fee that would likely have been demanded for Pogba's services, Valverde's emergence means that Real Madrid can turn their considerable financial resources elsewhere, potentially pursuing a move for Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe.

Los Blancos are second in La Liga on goal-difference alone and qualified as runners-up from their Champions League group to progress to the knockout stages of the competition, but still have not performed to the standard expected following the significant investment in the squad and will look to add further star power ahead of next season.

(Agencies)

worry me more.

"We were looking at the Middle East but that's definitely not going to happen."

Solskjaer indicated he would instead give his players some time off to spend alone during the winter break, which will follow United's home match against Wolves on February 1. "I'm going to give them a few days off, so I don't know where they'll all scatter around but we'll stay in Europe," he said.

Solskjaer sees the mid-season break, introduced this season, as being vital for his players after an intense run of games.

With United still competing on four fronts, Wednesday's FA Cup third-round replay against Wolves at Old Trafford will be their 15th game in 49 days, and the number will reach 19 in 66 days by the time they meet again at the start of February.

AFP

Five tasks facing Quique Setien at Barcelona

MADRID

QUIQUE Setien is charged with leading Barcelona to glory on three fronts this season after being appointed as Ernesto Valverde's successor.

Barca are top of La Liga and into the Champions League last 16, while they begin their tilt at the Copa del Rey against Ibiza next week.

However, club president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Tuesday that Setien had been brought in to give the team a mid-season boost and there are several improvements to be made.

Here, AFP Sport looks at some of the challenges facing the new Camp Nou coach.

- Tighten up the defence -

Barcelona have already conceded 23 league goals, which is the same record as Real Valladolid in 14th and almost twice as many as both Real and Atletico Madrid.

Their problem has been less about individual mistakes -- although there have been a few of those -- as a vulnerability to pace on the counter-attack.

Teams have had success hitting Barca on the break and Sergio Busquets has too often been exposed in front of the back four.

With Gerard Pique turning 33 next month and Samuel Umtiti still struggling for fitness, there may be a need for signings in the summer.

In the meantime, Setien, who is not known for his defensive principles, must find a way to tighten the team up.

- Get the best out of Griezmann -



Quique Setien

After joining for 120 million euros (\$135 million) from Atletico Madrid last summer, expectations for Griezmann were high, especially after the failed pursuit of Neymar.

But the Frenchman has shown only glimpses of his best so far in a Barca shirt, in part because he is yet to be played consistently in his favourite position.

To fit Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez into the front three, Valverde deployed Griezmann on the left and in that way, Setien may have had the problem solved for him.

Suarez's four-month absence with a knee injury could mean Griezmann finally gets his wish to play down the middle.

- Banish ghosts of Rome and Anfield -

Valverde and his team never

seemed fully to recover from dramatic Champions League collapses against Roma and Liverpool in the last two seasons.

At Anfield, Barcelona's players looked paralysed by the fear of a repeat of what had happened the year before and Pique admitted the memories quickly came rushing back.

Those weaknesses, including a susceptibility to conceding in streaks and a vulnerability under pressure, have often resurfaced this season.

In November, Barca shipped three goals in seven second-half minutes to lose to Levante while the two late goals conceded against Atletico last Thursday proved the final straw for Valverde.

Setien will have to finally cure his players of their mental block.

- Unleash a more attacking style -
Setien is a purist and his appointment should come as a relief to those fans, and perhaps players, who had grown tired of stodgy performances under Valverde.

Nostalgia for the free-flowing football played by Pep Guardiola's crop weighs heavy.

Yet the likes of Messi, Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele, Frenkie de Jong, Arthur Melo and Jordi Alba mean there is still no shortage of creative talent in the squad and Setien should enjoy matching them with his own attacking beliefs.

"Players enjoy football much more with the ball at their feet than running after it," he said last year, which should be music to the ears of Barca's players.

- Give youngsters a chance -

Setien has a reputation for giving youngsters an opportunity and he will be reunited with Junior Firpo, whom Barca bought after Setien helped him flourish at Betis.

But Firpo struggled for opportunities under Valverde, who seemed reluctant to give some of La Masia's talents any consistent minutes in the first team.

Ansu Fati has faded from view after exploding onto the scene at the start of the season while Riqui Puig's progress has stalled and Carles Alena and Juan Miranda have been sent out on loan.

Making the first team at Barcelona is a formidable task but the potential would appear to be there in the academy, if Setien is brave enough to find it.

AFP

PSG's "fantastic four" -- Can Neymar, Mbappe, Icardi, Di Maria work together?

BY JULIEN LAURENS, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS Tuchel didn't bother trying to hide his frustration. After all, he'd already prepared his answer and a nice rant to go with it. He was just waiting to be asked the question.

When quizzed about the possibility of seeing PSG's "Fantastic Four" -- Neymar, Kylian Mbappé, Mauro Icardi and Angel Di Maria -- playing together again, following their 3-3 draw with Monaco at the Parc des Princes on Sunday, Tuchel was ready. "After we beat Saint-Etienne 4-0 and 6-1, you all said, 'He found his structure, the fantastic four! He got it!' I never said it. Now, we drew with Monaco in a 4-4-2, so now what? What do we do? I always said that the problem was not about the structure but how we play."

It has been a while since the media saw Tuchel losing his cool like this, though he's right, of course. He never said that the winning formula for PSG was to play with its four superstars on the pitch at the same time. The debate around the Fantastic Four -- their compatibility, their chemistry, the balance of the team with all of them in it at the same time -- has been happening off and on all season, and it'll likely keep going until (at least) the Parisians' clash with Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League last-16 first leg in a month's time.

When Tuchel played them all together for the first time, against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu back in November, the excitement lasted just 20 minutes. They played in a 4-2-3-1 formation, with Icardi on his own up front and Di Maria, Neymar and Mbappé behind him, and it didn't really work. Back then, though, Neymar had just come back from injury, as had Mbappé, and it was probably the wrong game and wrong circumstance in which to try it. It was far more conclusive away at Saint-Etienne in Ligue 1, just before Christmas, with Mbappé and Icardi up front together in a 4-4-2 with Neymar on the left and Di Maria on the right. PSG won 4-0.

The latter game was also notably the first time we got to see them all together from kickoff and in this formation, and it was brilliant. Mbappé bagged a brace, Neymar set up two and scored one, and Icardi also got on the score sheet. There was a lot of off-the-ball movement, the quartet linked up well, and their sense of shared understanding was obvious. They did it again and -- even better -- a few weeks later against the same opponents but in the League Cup, running away 6-1 winners.



PSG's attacking quartet have enough star power and fire power to overwhelm any team, but does their collective presence run the risk of making them easy to beat, particularly in the Champions League? (Agencies)

It seemed as though the dream of a "Fantastic Four" was well and truly alive, playing together regularly and for each other as well as for the team. For Tuchel, nevertheless, it was a big U-turn. After the Real Madrid game, he was not interested. "It is not possible [to play them all together]," he said following the 2-2 draw in which the French champions fought back with two goals in the final 10 minutes. "Ask [Marco] Verratti or Marquinhos if they found it interesting to be the only two running in midfield. For me, it is not balanced enough at this level."

What changed Tuchel's mind? A week after the trip to Madrid, he had a chat with his squad. It was actually a big team meeting in which Tuchel explained that without more defensive commitment and efforts from the front four, he could not play them all together, to which the players, who want this formation -- in particular Neymar -- replied that they were ready to put a real shift in. The Brazilian again repeated his feelings to Tuchel and teammates following

Sunday's game that he believed PSG could play and win with the "Fantastic Four" as starters.

Sunday's match vs. Monaco was the first big test to see, if in a big game, the 4-4-2 (or, in its most attacking version, the 4-2-4) was viable. Naturally, the conclusion is yet to be determined. Like Marco Verratti says, PSG have "four of the 10 best players in the world" in their team right now. And of course, they will always create a lot of chances, score a lot of goals and be hard to defend against if they have Neymar, Di Maria, Icardi and Mbappé on the pitch at the same time.

Defensively, it is still a problem. Against Monaco, PSG were too open and their defence too exposed. They conceded too many chances and too many shots -- Neymar's third-minute goal became a 2-1 Monaco lead inside the opening 13 minutes -- and Tuchel was not happy. In private, he rued the lack of pressure on the ball both up front and in midfield.

Maybe the key for Tuchel is actually in the midfield and finding the

right combination of players to back the all-star quartet. Marquinhos and Verratti? Idrissa Gueye and Verratti? Gueye and Marquinhos? Room for Leandro Paredes, even? Against Monaco, the pairing of Verratti and Gueye showed its limitations. Neither of them is a natural holding midfielder, and to protect the Paris back four, Tuchel needs a player who stays deep and sits in front of the defence. In the first meeting with Saint-Etienne game, Marquinhos and Paredes were the two defensive midfielders, and they certainly have a more defensive profile than both Verratti and Gueye. The better balance of defensive discipline and playmaking is probably Verratti with Marquinhos, but whoever plays there will need some help from the front four tracking back.

Tuchel has never been the most maverick of managers, yet at PSG this season, he has become notably bolder in his tactics. Probably because, as he keeps saying, he loves Neymar, Mbappé, Icardi and Di Maria so much that he would find it hard to drop one of them for a big game. Not to mention the tantalizing fact that they can win a big game together almost out of nothing. He also knows, however, that he needs to win this season and that playing all four from the start against a top team capable of picking holes on the counter-attack is too dangerous.

Will being too bold and playing the "Fantastic Four" be Tuchel's downfall? Or will he sacrifice one of his superstars to be more solid and less adventurous? He might even mix the two and start with a safer 4-3-3, using the quartet as a group later in games like an impact substitution or a Plan B in a must-win game. Whatever he decides to do, don't expect this debate to stop for a while.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Five tasks facing Quique Setien at Barcelona

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National junior tennis team qualify for Africa Championship



Dar es Salaam junior tennis player, Wazaino Mutale, battles it out in the last year's edition of the BQ Open competition which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's national U-16 tennis teams have qualified for the Africa Junior Championship (AJC) which will be held in Morocco and Madagascar in March.

Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) chairman, Dennis Makoi, issued the comment at the climax of the East and Central Africa zonal junior tennis tournament which was held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

The tournament attracted eight teams from the zone and Rwanda emerged the overall winners with Tanzania emerging runners-up, while Kenya took third spot.

"I'm happy that we managed to secure second place and our U-16 and U-14 teams qualified for Africa Junior Championship (AJC) events which have been scheduled for March in Morocco and Madagascar, our focus now is to prepare the teams," he said.

He said national junior teams' coaches will soon meet to come up with a time table for preparations for the two AJC events.

Makoi also thanked the government, through Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, sponsors, coaches, organizers, parents, players and their respective clubs, for their contribution in the tournament which he described as very successful.

"In the East and Central Africa Zone, there is no tournament bigger than this one which we hosted at DGC. It is the best of the best as far as junior tennis is concerned," he said.

"I really thank everyone who has contributed to its success, the government, sponsors, organizers, players, parents, coaches and management of Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, they all did a very commendable job."

He said at the just ended tournament he has observed that local juniors lack international exposure and in an effort to improve the sport TTA will organize more tournaments so as to keep the players busy and help them gain more experience.

Makoi said TTA believes that with great investment in the juniors in terms of development, by the time they finish U-18 category, they could be competing with the world and rated among the top players.

"If we have more tournaments, it would give our players enough game time. Players from other countries are exposed to many tournaments and they do not have stage fright compared to ours, they are well prepared and know what it takes to win. The most important thing we need is to have more tournaments," he said.

He said there is also a need to invest in coaches, increase the number of tournaments the country hosts.

The TTA, he noted, will also monitor players especially those who are based outside the country with a view to seeing to it the youngsters are given an opportunity to go into training camps in Europe.

Simba SC faces Mbao FC test in VPL



Simba midfielder, Ibrahim Ajibu (C), attempts to dribble past Mbao FC's midfielder, Salmin Hoza (L), and defender, Asante Kwasi, in a past Mainland Premier League match, which was played in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, today face a stern test when they play away to Mbao FC in the league's game slated to take place at Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Today's game comes after Simba had lost 1-0 to Mtibwa Sugar in 2020 Mapinduzi Cup finals which was played in Zanzibar on Monday.

After the defeat in the hands of Mtibwa Sugar, there were dis-

content among Simba fans and supporters, led by the side's investor and Chairman of Board of Directors, Mohamed Dewji, who announced his resignation from the post.

However, Dewji rescinded his decision on Tuesday afternoon and pledged his commitment to the club.

"What happened to my account yesterday was unfortunate, 'Tuko pamoja' (we are together), we are going back to the league strong,

'Tunajipanga kwa ajili ya ligi' (We are preparing for the premier league)...Nitabaki kuwa Simba (I will remain Simba loyal supporter)," said part of Dewji's message on his Twitter handle.

The stand taken by Dewji has been described as a wake-up call to Simba to make sure that the club is winning this season's Premier League.

Information issued by Simba's information officer, Haji Manara, said the fo-

cus now is on the Premier League as the side aims at defending the title.

"We have forgotten the results against Mtibwa Sugar, but we have learned a bitter lesson, the focus now is on the Premier League and other games and I'm sure we will get good results," he said.

Of late Simba that have one of the expensively assembled squads on the local soccer scene, have been boasting of depth but are

lacking character, unity, fighting spirit and balance especially in defense.

This has led the team that have good individual players to be impotent especially when facing strong and well organized opponents.

Simba's head coach, Sven Vanderbroeck, is today expected to depend mainly on Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Clatus Chama, Francis Kahata and Jonas Mkude.

The combination of the five players could prove difficult to Mbao FC defenders who have been allowing many goals in recent league games.

Simba, the league leaders, have 35 points from 14 games and they have performed well in their recent games.

The defending champions beat Lipuli 4-0, they went on to command 2-0 victories over KMC FC and Ndanda FC respectively and thereafter settled for 2-2 draw with rivals, Young Africans (Yanga).

In their recent Premier League games, Mbao FC lost 3-0 to Lipuli FC, the former then lost 1-0 to Mtibwa Sugar and later on settled for 2-2 draw with JKT Tanzania.

Today's game against Mbao will not be easy to Simba considering that the hosts who are currently placed 14th with 18 points from 16 games are struggling in the league.

Mbao FC head coach Hemed Morocco said they are looking forward to a good game against Simba.

He said his charges have been preparing for the encounter and they hope for good results.

"We will play according to our game plan, we know Simba will come looking for points, but we are also looking for points, so I can predict it will be a good and difficult match," he said.

Mbao have reinforced their squad with the signing of three new players.

The three players are Omary Wayne from Ndanda FC, who has signed a two-year deal, defender Hussein Iddi from Mtibwa Sugar, who also signed a two-year deal, and central defender Mackyada Franco who joins the club on a six-month loan from Coastal Union.

Moro football club faces financial blues

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MOROGORO's Mkamba Rangers are expected to come up against Mbuni FC of Arusha in the Second Division League (SDL) clash at the latter's venue, Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium on Friday, but the former, based in Kilombero District, faces financial constraints that may affect their anticipated journey up north.

The Executive Officer of Mkamba Rangers, Aziz Mfayeka, affirmed over the phone that they can only spend a day in Arusha, thus the team will travel overnight for the SDL match, and as soon as they are through, they will return to Kilombero.

The Morogoro squad will have an entourage of 25 personnel, including players and officials.

The team management has been appealing to Kilombero District residents to support the players because it is the only way to see them through future SDL matches.

How the Morogoro players will fare against the Arusha-based army team, is something that is yet to be seen.

"Despite the problems, we are confident of beating the Mbuni FC because our players are fully prepared," the officer disclosed.

The game will be played at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in the city.

The ongoing SDL involving 22 teams is sub-divided in three groups - A, B and C.

Group A, in which Mbuni FC and Mkamba Rangers feature in, is topped by Eagle FC with 14 points, followed by Rufiji United and African Sports each with 13 points.

Mbuni FC, Dar City and Villa Squad, each with seven points, come next, while Mkamba Rangers have been placed seventh with six points and tagging the tail is Mpwapwa FC which only has a single point.

Group B is topped by Kitayosce FC of Tabora with 13 points, followed by Usalama FC of Manyara with 10 points in second slot.

For the Group C' it is Fountain Gate of Dodoma which leads the pack with 12 points, ahead of Tukuyu Stars with 10 points.



Bluefins Club swimmers in group picture in Dar es Salaam recently.

Bluefins swimmers set Morogoro tourney

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

DAR ES SALAAM's Bluefins Swim Club will compete in the Morogoro International School (MIS) competition scheduled to start on Saturday.

Bluefins, which last year won the second position in the season's National Junior Championships, will be made up of 24 boys and 11 girls of various age categories.

The club, as disclosed by its founder and head coach, Rahim Alidina, will compete in all events, namely Freestyle, Back-

stroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Individual Medley and Medley Relays.

Alidina mentioned the outfit's female swimmers as Aliyana Kachra, Zainab Moosajee, Maryam Ipilinga, Alexis Misabo and Aminaz Kachra.

Also in the list are Lina Goyayi, Muskan Gaiqwad, Filbertha Demello, Niharika Mahapatra, Yumna Hassan and Natalia Ladhia.

Boys' side comprises Mohammadhussein Imran, Kaysan Kachra, Sahal Harunani, Moiz Kaderbhai, Jay Govindji, Raihan Abdullatif, Hassan Harunani, Idris

Zavery, Isaac Mukani, Kabeer Lakhani and Salman Yasser.

Also in the list are Gervas Sayi, Delbert Ipilinga, Zac Okumu, Adam Patwa, Qais Kanji, Kahil Walli, Christian Fernandes, Avinav Mahapatra, Aaron Akwenda, Shuneal Bharwani, Enrico Barretto, Burhanuddin Gulamhussein and Rayyan Khan.

"Besides traveling with our top and experienced swimmers for this event, we have also decided to use this gala to give some of our young swimmers the opportunity to com-

pete and gauge their skills and get exposure," Alidina said.

He said some of their younger swimmers are just aged 6 and 7 and they will be competing in the U-8 category aiming at gaining experience.

Bluefins Club, which is renowned for producing talented swimmers from very young ages, is expected to do well at the gala after their performance in both the Junior and Senior National Championships recently in which the club finished as runners-up in both the events.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

