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KRA interdicts 75 staff linked to bribery, tax evasion

NAIROBI

After drama that included detaining some staff and searching their houses, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) on Friday fired 75 employees and handed them over to police for facilitating tax evasion.

Sixty two of the workers were arrested at the KRA's Times Towers headquarters in the afternoon in a fresh corruption purge meant to plug leakages that cost the country billions of shillings in tax revenues.

KRA, which is this year targeting a 40 percent growth in tax returns, has consistently missed its targets.

The reasons for this include tax-related misconduct such as theft, cheating in the declaration of return, collusion and soliciting bribes from tax cheats.

The authority, which recently established an Intelligence and Strategic Operations Department to combat tax evasion, cracked the whip on Friday after four months of investigations.

"The practices in question include facilitation of fraudulent clearance of cargo, fraudulent amendment of tax returns so as to help taxpayers evade taxes and the irregular issuance of Tax Compliance Certificates," the authority said in a statement.

The taxman said the bulk of the cases touched on staff based in Nairobi.



The authority, which recently established an Intelligence and Strategic Operations Department to combat tax evasion, cracked the whip on Friday after four months of investigations

Sixty one of those arrested were from the domestic taxes department and 14 from customs and border control.

Those arrested in Nairobi were taken to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) for questioning and are expected to be presented in court on Monday.

In 2018, KRA fired 85 officers and instituted 15 cases of lifestyle audits for its staff on suspicion of aiding tax evasion.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has set sights on businesses using the Internet to market and sell products in a renewed bid to reduce revenue leakage through tax evasion.

The taxman says some of the businesses, which have invested in online channels to provide services and drive sales were neither paying taxes nor filing annual returns.

"KRA would like to advise that unless income or supply is expressly exempt in the law, appropriate taxes should be paid," the agency said in a statement.

"KRA would, therefore, like to remind

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Villagers: Mengi will be special in our memories



City residents and motorcycle riders negotiate their way at a flooded patch along Morogoro Road at Jangwani area following a heavy downpour in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Rains: City drainage systems in rude test

By Getrude Mbago

THE ongoing rains have yet again exposed the wanting state of drainage systems in the city of Dar es Salaam as businesses came to a standstill for the better part of the past two days - with forecasts showing the downpour will continue during the weekend.

As it happens every long rains season, clogged drainage has created ponds in most parts of the commercial capital's central business district, making driving a hustle.

The Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) yesterday said that that rains will continue pounding today through



Many roads starting from those on the outskirts to the city centre, the Post Office area, were filled with water especially during the morning hours

tomorrow even as low-lying parts of the city, especially settlements along the Msimbazi Valley, already face an accommodation challenge.

Speaking to reporters, the TMA Manager for Forecasting Services, Samuel Mbuya said intermittent heavy precipitation was expected over some areas of Tanga, Coast, Dar es Salaam along with Zanzibar and Pemba islands for the next two days. The public should continue taking precautions as the rains may lead to a wave of water related diseases, he appealed.

A survey conducted by this newspaper in

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MPs: Adopt UN anti-torture convention

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A SECTION of members of Parliament yesterday demanded why Tanzania has failed to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT), saying the loophole allows people to suffer in police hands.

The convention is the most important international human rights treaty that deals exclusively with torture. It obligates countries who have signed the



treaty to prohibit and prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all circumstances.

The convention defines torture as any act by which severe pain or suffering, physical or mental, intentionally inflicted on a person for such as obtaining from that person or a third person information or confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person may have committed.

Standing on a supplementary question,

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Welcome home mzee, we will remember you forever.' This was the message the villagers displayed in a banner that received the hearse carrying Dr Mengi's remains upon arrival here for burial on Thursday

By Henry Mwangonde, Machame

THE late Executive Chairman of IPP, Dr Reginald Mengi held a special place in his home village where he was laid to rest on Thursday in an emotional ceremony.

Despite his status as one of Tanzania's richest people, residents here described him as their fellow village mate who mingled with everybody and treated people with utmost respect.

And with generous contributions the philanthropist gave towards socio-economic development of the community, Nkuu Sinda-Kisereni village in Machame East ward, Hai district of Kilimanjaro region is one of the places in the country where Dr Mengi's demise was felt with an exceptional intensity, and his legacy will be remembered forever.

'Welcome home mzee, we will remember you forever.' This was the message the villagers displayed in a banner that received the hearse carrying Dr Mengi's remains upon arrival here for burial on Thursday.

Villagers stood behind the banner as they received the funeral cortege at the main road and led the way up to his home with people jostling to participate in carrying the coffin, to welcome the departed village elder to final resting place.

To them, apart from his being the village's most



He was a symbol of Machame. We were very proud to have such a person in our village

famous and richest person, Dr Mengi was a good neighbor. He was a de facto representative of the villagers in the country and beyond who liked to engage them whenever he visited the village on various issues.

"Whenever he visited us, we knew it was time to visit his house, have a good time with him and tell him issues affecting the community," said Jonas Masha on behalf of his fellow villagers during the burial ceremony.

Entrance was however restricted during the burial ceremony, to ensure that guests and officials accompanying the body had adequate space for the ceremony. It happened that some of those who were barred outside the gate were the villagers who felt they deserved to be allowed in, Masha noted.

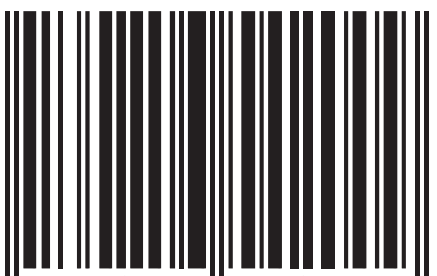
The villagers who missed the opportunity to be at the grave were unhappy that they failed to have access to the burial of a man whom they had access to in life but seemingly not in death, thanks to the status of those who attended.

They said they loved Dr Mengi and felt proud to introduce themselves as Kisereni villagers wherever they went in Kilimanjaro because he had made them proud.

"He was a symbol of Machame. We were very proud to have such a person in our village," said Masha.

Police had a tough time controlling the crowd who came in their large numbers to a village

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa receives a gift of Giraffe statue from Total Africa President responsible for marketing and service Stanislas Mittelman, shortly after premier graced the 50th anniversary of Total Tanzania Ltd in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

KRA interdicts 75 staff linked to bribery, tax evasion

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taxpayers that the self-assessment regime requires them to file and pay taxes." Firms with annual revenue of more than Sh5m are under the law required to register for value-added tax (VAT) obligation. This will see them charge the standard 16 percent tax on supplies, among other taxes, and remit the same to the taxman.

Those that generate less than Sh5 million a year are, on the other hand, obligated to pay presumptive tax at the rate of 15 per cent of the annual single business permit fee issued by a county government in a law enforced in January this year.

The taxman said earlier in the year it has invested heavily in intelligent

technological systems capable of spying on transactions by businesses and homes.

Online businesses do not, however, have physical addresses or legal structures in the jurisdictions they operate, making it easy to escape the taxman's noose as well as counties which issue business permits.

The KRA has singled out taxation of the emerging digital economy, a headache for global revenue agencies, as a major risk to meeting the Sh6.1 trillion target in the three-year period through June 2021.

"The digital economy ... comes with its own set of challenges, including new business models built on mobile and Web-based transactions," the

agency says in the corporate plan for the period. Also officers of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) on Monday arrested two Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) officials for allegedly soliciting a Sh1 million bribe from a trader based in Mwea, Kirinyaga County. Charles Rasugu, the EACC's central manager, said the officials sought the bribe in order to facilitate the hospital proprietor's tax evasion.

He identified them as George Kimani Gachuki, a revenue officer from Nyeri, and Stephen Okelo, whose position at their Embu office he could not reveal immediately.

Rasugu said that the trader, whom he did not name for legal reasons, contacted them with the complaint

about a week ago so a joint operation was launched.

"The hospital had tax arrears of Sh2.5 million and the two officials were [helping the] businessman to avoid paying. They are alleged to have advised him to pay Sh500,000 to the KRA, give them Sh1 million and be left with Sh1 million, he explained.

"They had already received a bribe of Sh550,000. We arrested them as they went to collect the balance," he told the Nation. He said it was Kimani who had gone to collect the balance of Sh450,000 when EACC detectives swung into action at about 3pm.

The two were taken to the Nyeri and Embu police stations for interrogation.

AGENCIES

Villagers: Mengi will be special in our memories

FROM PAGE 1

located some 50 plus kilometres from Moshi municipality.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who officiated at the burial ceremony described Dr Mengi as a special person and industrialist who will be remembered for the unique spirit he harboured against poverty and through that he spent his lifetime

encouraging and enabling others get out of the poverty trap.

On Wednesday, President John Magufuli, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, scores of public officials and a large crowd of city residents paid their last respects to Dr Mengi at Karimjee Grounds.

Dr Mengi who died on Thursday last week in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, was laid to rest next to the grave of his son Rodney Mutie.

Rains: City drainage systems in rude test

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various parts of the city witnessed road, bridges and houses especially in low-lying areas like Mkwajuni, Sinza Uzuri, Tandale, Jangwani, Boko and Msimbazi valley being badly flooded. Many shops remained closed for many hours on Thursday and Friday.

"There is no business today as homes, business frames are all filled with water. I also haven't reported to job today as it was difficult to come out and reach the highway... The situation is terrible," said Radhia Feisal, a resident of Boko, on the northern outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

The situation also affected some schools in low-lying areas like Msasani, causing havoc to teachers and school children. At Msasani Primary School in Kinondoni district, some classrooms were filled with water, inconveniencing the conduct of classes and disrupting attendance.

Many roads starting from those on the outskirts to the city centre, the Post Office area, were filled with water especially during the morning hours.

Hassan Rahim, a commuter bus driver plying the Tegeta to Posta route said the situation sounds an alert to the responsible authorities to take action over the poor drainage

systems and how to permanently fix them.

"It took me time in the morning to decide whether to take the bus, and opted to provide the services to help some residents who were rushing to their jobs... I think the major problem here is poor infrastructures especially drainage systems. The government should take this very seriously," he observed.

The rains also led to the suspension of rapid transit bus services for nearly two hours (from 11:40am-1:10 pm) thus causing passengers to crowd at major bus stops.

Every time it pours in the city, the story is the same: homelessness, losses of belongings and instances of drowning.

Extreme situations are not rare as in March 2015, where scores of people died after it rained heavily for days. Earlier in April 2014 as many as 10 people died after widespread flooding in the city.

The culprit, experts say, is poor or blocked drainage systems, tied to rapid urbanisation and unplanned housing settlements, often in flood plains and close to seasonal outlets to the sea that were rivers in better days.

An estimated 70 percent of city inhabitants live on informally constructed houses, land use data and demographic surveys affirm.

SNV-Tanzania embarks on a special project to increase incomes and improve livelihoods

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Netherlands based non-profit Development Organization-SNV-Tanzania has embarked on a special project aimed to increase incomes and improve livelihoods for over 18,000 rural women and youth in Kilimanjaro region.

Titled Transforming Agricultural Markets (TAM), the project will focus more on women and youth empowerment in the dairy sector and will be implemented in four districts of Kilimanjaro region. Policy advisor of the SNV-Tanzania, Renatus Mbamillo said here during a two-day special gala that aimed at promoting consumption of safe milk.

He said that the key objectives of the project are improving production and productivity of women smallholder dairy farmers, increasing the amount of income from dairy activities that is earned by women and their control over this income, and enterprise and employment creation for young people.

"Other key objectives include developing viable producer organizations with improved serviced delivery to their members, increasing knowledge sharing, stakeholder dialogue, and learning in order to influence an enabling environment for equitable and inclusive smallholder dairy development," he said.

According to him, the project will leverage innovations and best practices such as the introduction of biogas for cooking to save women time, and access for young people to employment in the dairy value chain through Service Provider Enterprises (SPEs).

"The SNV Tanzania is implementing the Transforming Agricultural Markets (TAM) project since August 2018 and ends in July 2020. The Project is funded by the Government of United Kingdom through the Department for International Development (UK-DFID) under its sister agency called UK-AID and the funds for the project is being managed by KPMG Dar Es Saalm Office in Tanzania," Mbamillo explained.

He further said, the TAM project is operational

in dairy and sunflower market systems for Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Dar es Salaam regions for the dairy market system; and Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa and Katavi regions for Sunflower Market System. "For the dairy market system the project works at two intervention areas which are functioning dairy cooperatives and harmonization of regulations for premises inspection and product testing/analysis; while for the sunflower market system the project works on enhancing governance on contract farming and women SMEs access to finance at the Local Government Authorities (LGAs), the 4 percent of the 10 percent of own source of revenue at LGAs."

For his part, Elias Mushi from the Capacity Building for Organizations (CABO), an organization that works in collaboration with SNV-Tanzania explained that, the theory of change for TAM project is that by working with citizens, private sector and government at national and sub-national levels on specific, actor-led system issues to produce data and facilitate stakeholder analysis, the project can broaden understanding, build consensus, and strengthen accountability relationships for collective action to make existing policies work at the local level, and to provide empirical and written evidence for national level policy dialogues and reforms.

Tom Oleska, the manager for the SNV-Tanzania, told the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira who graced the event that the project also aims at improving livelihoods of smallholder farmers and SMEs in dairy and sunflower market systems. "We also aims at increasing inclusive access to basic services (production, financial, capacity services) and strengthened business environment for SHFs and agribusinesses in dairy and sunflower market systems," he said.

"We also aims at increasing inclusive access to basic services (production, financial, capacity services) and strengthened business environment for SHFs and agribusinesses in dairy and sunflower market systems."



Residents of Mirerani township in Simanjiro district, Manyara region sort-out sweet potatoes in preparation of iftar during the ongoing holy month of Ramadan as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadei

MPs: Adopt UN anti-torture convention

FROM PAGE 1

Malindi MP Ali Saleh (CUF) wondered why the government has not ratified the convention which seeks to end all kinds of torture.

He argued that many people in the country suffer in the hands of police officers while in custody as the government has not ratified the treaty. "When shall Tanzania ratify the treaty and help reduce the ever increasing cases of torture in the hands of law enforcers in the country?" he asked.

His sentiments were echoed by Special Seats MP Aida Kenani (CHADEMA) who told the House that police officers torture people under custody to say the truth that they want.

"For how long shall we see innocent people suffering in the hands of the police and other authorities while the government has failed to take action?" she wondered.

In his supplementary question, Chonga MP Mohamed Juma Khatibu (CUF) also questioned the government's failure to ratify the international treaty, stressing that it is high time state authorities change in how they deal with people in custody.

He observed that torture continues in the country despite complaints from different stakeholders, underlining the need to adhere to human rights accords.

Earlier in the main question the MP sought clarification as in what circumstances the

police are allowed to torture people they have arrested or are still in police stations.

But in response, the deputy minister for Home Affairs, Hamad Masauni said Chapter 20(II) of the Criminal Procedure Act, states the procedure on arrest.

"This special chapter for arrests however does not allow police officers to torture any person under arrest or is in police station," said the deputy minister.

He said the Police General Orders (PGO) do not apply for torture and describe the best practices for police conduct. Any officer found to have tortured a person in custody or under arrest faces disciplinary action including being fired and taken to court, he added.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

'Plans underway to ensure availability of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs'

THE government through the Ministry of Agriculture has made plans to ensure availability of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs ready to be accessed by farmers, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Omary Mgumba said the government has directed two import companies, Premium Agrochem, OCP and Export Trading Group (ETG) to ensure that they have warehouse for fertilizer by July, 2019 and that their agents start supplying the farm input on time.

He said the aim is to ensure the availability for the agents to transport it easily, reducing the cost of transport as well as cost to farmers.

He made the remarks in response to a question by the Special Seats MP, Taska Mbogo (CCM) who had argued that while rainy season begins in September and October in Katavi region, farmers get fertilizer very late, sometimes up to November.

"What is the government doing to ensure farmers in the get fertilizer on time to avoid being left behind in the planting season?" she asked.

The deputy minister explained that through bulk procurement system to purchase dominium phosphate (DAP)

and UREA fertilizer, farmers will get the products on time.

He said through the system farmers will be able to access fertilizer on time and at cheaper price, controlling irregular price hikes by middle men.

Mgumba noted that the government has completed tender process for the importation of 280,000 tonnes of fertilizer whereby 170,000 tonnes is for planting and 110,000 tonnes is for growth enhancement through the bulk procurement system.

"The consignment is expected to reach the country by August, 019 and distributed to farmers in Katavi

region and other parts of the country by September, 2019" noted the deputy minister.

He added that the existing excess fertilizer in the country is also being distributed to farmers in different regions whereby by March, 2019, there were some 147,913 tonnes.



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (R) and China based Moutai Board secretary and member Wang Yan (L) together launching distilled Chinese liquor (spirit) dubbed Kweichow Moutai in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

'Zanzibar is facing a serious shortage of sand for the construction industry'

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

THE government in Zanzibar is conducting research on actual requirements of construction following concerns by members of the House of Representatives that sand was now in short supply.

Isle's Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri made the statement when responding to queries raised by members of the House of Representatives when speaking during the ongoing meetings in Zanzibar.

Mjawiri insisted on Isle residents to careful use the resource since the demand is high compared to its availability. He said the government has come up with special arrangements to control its extraction and use whereas one is required to apply for it through local government leaders.

"With this arrangement we have managed to control sand extraction from the previous 3,000 tonnes per day to 1,000 tonnes per day", said the Minister noting that sand extraction has limited to authorized sites only.

He told members of the House that there is no need to import construction sand. He said the research they are conducting will give a clear picture of the resource demand.

According to Majwiri the

government will have to conduct another scientific research before importing sand since there are some healthy complications which can be caused by mixture of sand.

"We must satisfy ourselves with where to get the resource. We cannot import sand before having scientific proofs that it will not have negative impact to the health of our people", he noted.

He however admitted that sand scarcity has contributed to delayed implementation of major development projects including those under the Ministry of Education.

"We are aware of some project delays which have been caused by limited availability of sand. These projects include construction of schools and class rooms", he noted.

Visiting sand extraction sites in February this year, Zanzibar President, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein attributed the shortage with ongoing unplanned excavation of the resource.

Sand in Zanzibar is mined at popular sites namely Pangatupu, Chechele and Kiombamvua.

He expressed worries that sand stock at the Pangatupu site was 50,000 tonnes and another 200 tonnes at the CheChele site. He said the remained stock will only be used for implementation of state-owned projects.

The President directed responsible ministries and permanent secretaries to

closely monitor the situation had already announced a taking into account that he ban on sand mining.

reach the country by August, 019 and distributed to farmers in Katavi



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CEoI) Implementation of 2020 UNHCR Refugee Protection and Assistance Projects in Tanzania CEoI - Ref. No: UNHCR/2019/001 - Tanzania; May 2019

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people.

In delivering its mandate, UNHCR also collaborates with more than 900 governmental, non-governmental, UN agencies and other partners, and this partnership is solid and expanding.

While host Governments have the primary responsibility for assuring protection and provision of basic services to refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR supports the Governments in discharging this responsibility in line with international protection standards.

UNHCR is physically present in Tanzania and supports the Government of Tanzania in the provision of assistance to refugees and asylum seekers also known as Persons of Concern (PoCs) through close collaboration with the UN-system in Tanzania and through partnership(s) with international / local organization(s) and other stakeholders based in Tanzania.

The purpose of this Call for Expression of Interest (UNHCR/2019/001 - Tanzania) is to solicit interest from existing or prospective partners that wish to participate in the UNHCR operation in Tanzania and contribute complementary resources (human resources, knowledge, funds, in-kind contribution, supplies and/or equipment) to achieving common objectives as agreed in a Project Partnership Agreement.

The partners to be selected through this CEoI are expected to manage the daily operational programme activities under UNHCR's overall guidance in line with the UNHCR global and operational strategic priorities, policies, procedures and guidelines.

Organizations that have the required technical and complementary attributes to UNHCR's capacities and resources for undertaking any of the below-mentioned Programme areas are invited to respond to this CEoI (Ref. No: UNHCR 2019/001 - Tanzania) by submitting a Concept Note/s on <https://www.unpartnerportal.org> latest by 9th June 2019. Registration on the Portal is pre-requisite for submission of concept notes. The Concept Note (one per programme area) must be clear and concise, not exceeding 3 pages and only written in English language. The programme areas are:

5. Education and Youth Empowerment
6. Protection of children, persons of specific needs (PSN), SGBV including Psychosocial and Legal support/assistance
7. Warehousing, Mechanical workshop, Fleet and Fuel maintenance and management
8. Various assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Dar es Salaam

Concept note template with brief description and background of each programme area and selection criteria can be found on <https://www.unpartnerportal.org>. Upon receipt of the Concept Notes, a UNHCR multi-functional Committee will review the concept notes in accordance with the pre-defined criteria. The applicant organizations will receive written notification of the outcome of the assessment before end of July. Instructions for any follow-up that might be required by the applicants will be provided in this response.

In case of need for clarifications or additional information, please contact landaoui@unhcr.org before 20th May 2019.

Please also consult UNHCR's website www.unhcr.org for more information on UNHCR and its global policy priorities.

National NGOs are strongly encouraged to participate and submit their concept note/s for this important call.

Issuing UNHCR Office

Contact Address

Signature, Representative

Full name and title, Representative

Name of UNHCR Office

Date

Implementing Partnership Management Committee
Chairperson. Call for Expression of Interest 2019

P. O. Box 2666, Plot 1658, Office Street, Mbagani,
Dar es Salaam

Ms. Chansa Kapaya, Country Representative
UNHCR Representation Office, Dar es Salaam

09/05/2019

NOTICE TO OUR ESTEEMED CUSTOMERS

SIM CARD RE-REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT

Dear Customer, TCRA in collaboration with Mobile Network Operators would like to inform you that, from 1st May, 2019 all subscribers are required to re-register their SIM Cards through biometric process (Fingerprints). Please visit our shop with your National ID or NIDA Number to facilitate the re-registration process to meet legal requirements.

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EU reiterates commitment to support govt towards industrialisation

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE European Union (EU) has reiterated its commitment to continue supporting the government towards achieving its industrialization strategy and middle income status by 2025.

European Union Charge d' Affaires to Tanzania, Charles Stuart made the remarks on Thursday in Dar es Salaam during the commemoration of the 69th anniversary since the signing of the Schuman Declaration which marked the birth of the EU.

The occasion was also attended by heads of diplomatic mission in the country, government officials, representatives from national and international institutions, as academic institutions, representatives of Non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations.

He said that Tanzania and EU has been partnering in ensuring high quality livelihood, peace, stability and unity, good governance, educated and a learned society.

He mentioned others as a competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits. He said the above mentioned matters have been worked together since that partnership began.

"Our trade and economic relations are maturing and are inspired by mutual interests. investment are coupled with transfer of knowledge, trade acknowledges that markets are growing in Africa not only as a source of raw materials but also trade and investment that pursue diversification

which adds value and regional integration", he noted.

"We started as a small group in the past 69 years and we have grown and we are likely to continue growing. This is not about enlargement but merely consolidation of our commitment to one another. As we contemplate our own future, we think too of cooperating with our partners as they evolve too," said Stuart.

He added: "Europe and Africa have close historical, cultural and geographical ties. Here in Tanzania, you can count on the partnership of the European Union not through charity but because we seek common goals".

According to him, EU serves as a body, just as the United Nations, that seeks common ground in the name of justice, equality, dignity and rights for all citizens.

"We value human beings, their rights and we value peace, democracy, freedom to talk, to share and to connect," Stuart explained.

"I believe that this partnership we have with Tanzania and its partners in the East African Community is precisely the kind of opportunity we have together to promote peace, prosperity, integration and security," he emphasized.

He that EU looks at its partners to cement and bind the existing destinies, values and interests.

"I believe we have true cause to celebrate the 44 years of partnership with the Tanzania and it is my sincerest hope and belief that the best is yet to come", he said.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge (3rd R) cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the Vodacom Tanzania Plc central zone new head office and modern shop in Dodoma city yesterday. Others are Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and Disabled Anthony Mavunde (2nd R), the firm's Central zone head of sales Grace Chambua (3rd L), public relations and communication head Jacquiline Materu (L), Dodoma District Administrative Secretary Edward Mpongolo (2nd L) and acting commercial director Linda Riwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kongwa to become Africa's 'liberation' centre-minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

KONGWA district in Dodoma region has been identified as the national 'liberation' centre whereby various infrastructures for the historic works, including those of the founding father, Julius Nyerere will be built, it has been learnt.

The deputy minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza told the National Assembly that in the implementation of heritage and liberation programme in Africa the government chose Kongwa to be the

main historic centre.

She made the explanations while responding to a question by the Mtera MP, Livingstone Lusinde (CCM) who had argued that since the government has relocated to Dodoma there was need to have a library of the works of Julius Nyerere in the capital city.

"Does the government sees it fit to have a library to showcase of works of the father of the nation which will be part of tourism for regional residents and beyond?" posed the MP.

Shonza in her response said basing on the importance of the two former

leaders, Julius Nyerere and Abeid Amani Karume, the government in 2004 passed a law that provide guidelines on how to store their historic activities and building of such centres.

She added that in 2011 the United Nations (UN) appointed Tanzania the coordinator of the heritage and liberation programme in Africa, which among others include the duty to store Nyerere's work and those of other leaders in the continent.

The deputy minister added that it is in the same spirit that UNESCO renovated studios of the former Radio

Tanzania Dar es Salaam (RTD) located along the Nyerere road in Dar es Salaam where several works of the father of the nation are found.

She said the government acknowledges efforts of other institutions that have stored several of the late president's works. She named some of the institutions as National Library in Dar es Salaam, National Museum in Dar es Salaam, the Butiama based Nyerere Museum, the National Archives office, the Nyerere Foundation, the national television TBC and ITV.



A city resident rides an overloaded tricycle commonly known as Guta along Sam Nujoma Road at Mwenge area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The baggage hinders him from rear view which is dangerous for his own safety. Photo: John Badi

Mwanza and Tanga to benefit from three-year 1.7bn/- project

By Correspondent George Sembony, Korogwe

OVER 25,000 elderly people in Mwanza and Tanga regions have reasons to smile after the commencement of a three-year 1.7bn/- project that aims at improving the group's health and well being.

To be implemented by the HelpAge International through the African Women Aids Group (Afriwag) in collaboration with the Magu Poverty Focus on Older People Rehabilitation Centre (MAPERECE), the project is set to benefit at least 13,052 male elders and 12,048 females.

The project which is funded by the American organization, Jersey Overseas Aid will be executed in the districts of Magu and Misungwi in

Mwanza Region as well as Korogwe DC and Tanga City council in Tanga Region.

Speaking at the launching of the project in Korogwe recently, the HelpAge International Project Manager, Leonard Ndamgotha said the project would also benefit 12,750 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 24 years and adults of the age between 24 and 59 years living in multi generational households on health ageing, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Geriatric Conditions (GC).

According to him, the specific objectives of the project include improving the capacity and awareness among Primary Health Care Workers (PHCWs), community institutions and community members in Tanga and

Mwanza to address the rising burden of Non - Communicable Diseases (NCD), GCs and SRH needs among older people, Youth and Young adults

"Others are to increase awareness among government official's health stakeholders and organisation working on NCDs and Sexual and Reproductive Health on age, gender and disability."

He further said the project also aims at increasing advocacy and in-country dialogue initiatives by Older people themselves to address the rising challenges of NCDs.

Activities envisaged under the project would include activities that focus on accelerating domestication and implementation of SDGs particularly SDG 3 and 5 to address inclusive Health and care for vulnerable groups

particularly Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPWDs).

"We also focus on increasing advocacy and in-country dialogue initiatives for inclusive health and care policy frameworks to address the rising burden of NCDs, geriatric conditions and SRH needs," he added.

Launching the project, the Tanga Regional Administrative Secretary, Zena Said commended HelpAge International for deciding to implement the project but cautioned against diverting funds for other purposes.

Hilal Elisha, the Chairman of Magu District Council said that the project would improve on work being done by MAPERECE in reducing fighting against elders' killings due to witchcraft beliefs and land conflicts.

Govt commends Total Tanzania for investments

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Mjajiwa has commended Total Tanzania Ltd for investing \$ 200 million (460m/-) in three years.

Majaliwa made the statement on Wednesday night when speaking at a gala dinner to commemorate the company's 50th anniversary in Tanzania which was attended by Energy Minister, Dr Medard Kalemani.

He said the oil company has since 2015 invested more than \$ 200 million through its services which includes importation and distribution of petroleum products such as diesel, petrol solar products and lubricants.

PM added that Total Tanzania Ltd has so far offered more than 800 direct and indirect employments to Tanzanians. The company contributes 25m/- each year through road safety programs, he noted.

"They have also constructed class rooms worth 45m/- health center at a cost 80m/- and donated 3,000 desks to different schools in Dar es Salaam", said the Premier noting the company has been supporting small scale entrepreneurs through its program dubbed "The African Start Upper Challenge".

He said six Tanzanians have benefited with the program whereas they were given more than 25m/- each to establish businesses. The program has been implemented in the country since 2016.

Prime Minister noted that the government has started to implement the 'blueprint' - a program for improving business and investment climate. Some of the issues considered in the blueprint are tax incentives to investors and business policy, the job which is done by a selected team of experts.

He called upon investors to consider establishing businesses in Dodoma since there are many opportunities including construction of industries, hotels and residential houses.

Earlier, President of Total Africa Marketing and services, Stanislas Mittelman said: "The Company is committed to fulfill its promises to participate and contribute to industrialization in Tanzania".

He said that Total is the leading partner in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline project EACOP, and that it invested over \$ 200 in the last three years through its recent acquisition of GAPCO Tanzania Limited that led to a triple in the size of its oil marketing and service network now reaching 100 petro-stations.

"Over the past years Total has demonstrated its commitment by continuing to invest heavily in Tanzania and the result is evidenced by our steady growth and diversification of our business operations in the country with focus on its downstream business in the importation, marketing and distribution of petroleum products through our network of service stations and general trade supplies", said Mittelman.

Total Tanzania contributes to country development through corporate social responsibility activities that are deployed yearly such as the construction of school classroom in Singida area, construction of toilets for primary schools in Ilala and Temeke municipal and road safety programs.

"They have also constructed class rooms worth 45m/- health center at a cost 80m/- and donated 3,000 desks to different schools in Dar es Salaam"

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PICTORIAL - TRANSPORT NIGHTMARE AS CITY RESIDENTS BATTLE FLOODING, MAJOR ROAD SECTION CLOSED



Cars and motorcycles negotiate the way on a flooded patch along Morogoro Road at Jangwani area following a heavy downpour in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi



Boiled groundnuts vendors and motorcycle riders negotiate their way on a flooded section along Morogoro Road at Jangwani area following heavy rains in the city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Tricycle riders or 'Bodaboda' gather at the Magomeni Mapipa Rapid Transit bus stop along Morogoro Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday looking for passengers after the Jangwani area was closed to rapid transit buses following a prolonged downpour and flooding. Photo: John Badi



A Land Rover involved in a road accident caused by mud along Madale Road from heavy precipitation in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi



Morogoro Road section from Magomeni Mapipa area in Dar es Salaam was closed yesterday as Jangwani area was flooded. Photo: John Badi



Heavy rains which pounded Dar es Salaam city and its environs yesterday caused traffic pile ups on many city roads, such as this one along Morogoro Road at Mbezi Mwisho area. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



City residents seek shelter in a booth surrounded by water at Jangwani area yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



Tandale kwa Mtogole residents remove water from a house following heavy rains yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Salary adjustment for public servants is a far-cry-minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE deputy minister for State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Waitara Mwita has called on the public servants not to 'cry' for salary increments, saying the government shall do so when financial conditions allow, saying the government will not make any adjustments to civil servants' remuneration packages.

He said according to Section E.9 (1) of the Standing Orders for the Public Service 2009's third edition, teachers have no right to ask the government for annual increment, saying it is the government jurisdiction to give or not give annual increment, depending on the availability of money.

Waitara said public servants including teachers deserve annual salary increment when budget allows, saying due lack of money, they have not received increment in 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2008/2009, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2016/17.

He added that considering the importance, the fifth government issued salary increment to all public servants including teachers in 2017/18.

Waitara was responding to a question by the Special Seats MP, Zainab

Mussa Bakar (CHADEMA) who had argued that teachers throughout the country entered contract with their employers, which among other things provide for annual salary increments every July.

"Since the government took office, teachers have not got this right, shall the government pay them or it has been forfeited?" she posed. She added that teachers have gone without pay rise for six or seven years.

The deputy minister explained that the government always provides various directives on teachers' interests, including annual increments basing on individual performances.

Mtambile MP, Masoud Abdalla Salim (CUF) on a supplementary question also argued that teachers and other public servants are likely to miss out in better retirement benefits since the government had not increased salaries for a long time.

"What is the government telling those who retired this year, last year and the others who are not in the new salary schemes?" he asked the deputy minister.

Waitara said that any public servants who deserve any right will get it even after retirement after all the due processes had been followed.



Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo (C) participates on the ongoing construction of the Kalambo district hospital, during his official visit on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE Minister Japhet Hasunga has directed a team of experts working on the draft of the agricultural laws to make sure the document is completed by July this year.

According to Hasunga the agricultural laws will bring solution to the many challenges that farmers and the sector is currently facing. He said to reach the targeted goals, there must be deadline for preparation of the document.

Tanzania needs agricultural laws - minister

He was speaking on Thursday in the country's capital—Dodoma at a meeting with the ministry management which was also attended by Deputy Minister, Innocent Bashungwa and Permanent Secretary, Eng Mathew Mtigumwe.

"Tanzania needs an agricultural law because currently we are using the agriculture policy which was enacted

in 2013. We also need to review the agriculture policy to make it more current", said Hasunga insisting the draft policy will be ready by end of this month.

Minister Hasunga explained that most of the laws that are now used by agriculture stakeholders are those enacted for various crop boards. He said the laws that govern crop boards

cannot provide solution to farmer's problems.

The government formed boards to managed cash crops such as coffee, sisal, cashew nuts, tea, cotton, sugarcane, pyrethrum and tobacco. The main food crops do not have boards although its contribution to the national economy is enormous.

Deputy Minister, Innocent

Bashungwa said the meeting was crucial since it geared to discuss strategies to improve the sector as well as finding solution the farmers' challenges.

Bashungwa noted that the agricultural policy should directly mention and recognize farmers cooperative unions and agricultural inputs.

Last year, President John Magufuli launched the second Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II) whereas among other things, the five-year plan will address critical constraints and challenges to sector performance and to speed up agriculture gross domestic product.

It is expected to improve growth of smallholder incomes and ensure food security by 2025. ASDP II will be implemented until 2023 for a total investment of 13.8trn/-.



TIB Development Bank Ltd director of managed funds, Lilian Mbassy (R) exchanges documents with managing director of Consumer's Choice Ltd, Frida Mlingi after signing a pact on implementation of the US\$1.2 million project dubbed: "Promotion of Bioethanol as a clean alternative fuel for cooking in Tanzania" in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Looking on is UNIDO Tanzania Resident Representative, Stephen Kargbo and other officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Local and foreign investors to invest in Kalambo waterfalls

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

KENYA's High Commissioner to Tanzania Dan Kazungu has called upon local and foreign investors to invest in the Kalambo waterfalls located in Rukwa region thus improve tourism sector in the country.

Kalambo waterfalls, the second highest uninterrupted fall in Africa after Tugela Falls in South Africa is located on the Kalambo River near the south-eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika on the Tanzania-Zambia border in Kalambo district.

The envoy who paid a visit to the area recently said that the falls had

huge potential which is yet to be fully exploited.

Kazungu said that investors can chip in and utilise the opportunity by constructing tourist hotels and other attractive areas for tourists to rest and spend time when they visit the waterfalls.

"As Tanzania is working tirelessly to improve tourism sector, it is better to put good strategies that aimed to improve special areas like this (the waterfalls)," he said.

Earlier, Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo said that his office was doing everything in its powers to ensure

tourism sector continues to record good performance by making sure that attraction areas like Kalambo waterfalls are well promoted and preserved.

According to him, the government through the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism had also embarked on a plan for heavily investment in marketing, hospitality and infrastructure to boost tourism in the country especially the southern circuit.

"Tourism is a very key sector that if well promote will transform lives and economy in the county," he said.

He however cited lack of airport as

among the challenges facing the region and tourism development saying that once constructed will help increase the number of tourism in the region and thus improve revenue collection and economy.

Tourism is the largest foreign exchange earner since 2012, contributing an average of \$2 billion annually, which is equivalent to 25 per cent of all exchange earnings, according to the government data. It also contributes to more than 17 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creating more than 1.5 million jobs, 500,000 of which are direct.

Addressing the impacts of climate change in the country

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

CIVIL Society Organizations (CSOs) have vowed to convene a dialogue with local government authorities as part of efforts towards addressing the impacts of climate change in the country.

Speaking during a one-day workshop on CSOs learning alliance on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam, Director for Forum CC, Rebecca Muna said local government authorities are potential in fostering the initiatives as they experience the impact of climate change directly.

She said Dar es Salaam is among other cities in the country that are overwhelmed by poor sewerage systems that fail to accommodate rain water thus ending on causing floods and destruction of infrastructures.

"To address the problem, we have decided to find a modality for having a dialogue with local government leaders in order to find a workable mechanism for addressing the impact of climate change," said Muna.

The director added that by working together they will both provide opportunity for CSOs and government to set plans, strategies, and priorities for implementation of climate change agenda.

According to her, working together will also help to increase the understanding of local government leaders on issues of climate change.

The workshop under the project titled "Accountable Climate Actions and finance Transparency Initiative (ACATI)" is implemented by Forum CC in partnership with European Union (EU).

It aims at strengthening the capacity of national and local CSOs to advocate and engage the government to act responsibly and collaborate in relation to environment and climate resilience.

It enhances the capacity of CSOs to mobilize communities, inform them of their rights to participate and demand for transparency and access to services from their respective local government authorities.

The workshop brought on board

various CSOs from Dar es Salaam to share experience and develop new strategies for working with government towards addressing climate change.

Masalu Luhula from Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) applauded the move saying it will help to foster the ongoing initiatives for addressing the impact of climate change especially in Dar es Salaam.

He said there is also a need for government and stakeholders to sit and review the environmental policy, identify the gaps and weakness that retard the initiative to control climate change and to amend it in order to yield better results.

"Dialogue among key players should be the first priority instead of confrontation," he insisted.

Sharing experience, program manager for Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) Deo Temba, said that local government authorities have been supportive to understand and respond on several issues that are raised by CSOs.

He added that the CSOs are supposed to provide awareness to citizen at grassroots level to understand the concept of climate change, its impact and how to control it.



To address the problem, we have decided to find a modality for having a dialogue with local government leaders in order to find a workable mechanism for addressing the impact of climate change

Why it is crucial for nation to produce skilled human power

ONE of the strategic components in fostering economic growth and technological progress is investing on human resource development. Skilled professionals engagement in all walks of life has the potential in creating new innovations, hastening technology transfers and creating job opportunities. The secret behind their progress is skilled human resource potential.

To this effect, every year Tanzania allocates a huge portion of its budget for the education, health and agriculture sectors. The government has given due emphasis to human development.

Every year, the country invests on human resource development and graduates new professionals. Establishing vibrant learning institutions has the potential to transform the country and create far reaching impacts on economic development. Hence, the country's higher learning institutions, apart from their key duties, have to give due attention to the transfer of technology and new innovations.

Universities shall be a place where fate-reversing skilled human power are created. Higher learning institutions have to conduct trouble shooting researches in the priority areas. Besides, learning institutions have to nurture the culture of conducting research and easing the country's bottlenecks.

Nowadays, those higher institutions, excluding private higher learning institutions, graduate over hundred thousands annually. Hence, new graduates are expected to spur the country's economic development journey. Without skilled human power, the nation could not speed up its developmental pace. Besides, Tanzania has planned to throw poverty into the dustbin of history, undertake economic transformation and become a middle income country by 2025. To do so, expanding higher learning institutions and producing human resource development have become a

prerequisite agenda.

Above and beyond these, the nation currently needs more technology transfer and various expertise to leap to industrial-led economy. Of course, all these ambitions are gradual processes, happen step by step but their importance is unquestionable. Ethiopia has to produce its own skilled professionals in very sector. To become a competitive country in the global arena, it needs innovators, problem solver citizens, confident individuals and job opportunity creators. Furthermore, to come up with capable task forces, providing them of high quality and standard education and support useful throughout their career of continuous professional development has a significant impact. Teaching institutions have to be equipped with modern teaching tools and other teaching aids. Information communication technology tools have to also be provided along with teaching aids. Moreover, teachers are the most important educational resource and critical determinants of quality education. They must be treated and respected. Teaching must be rendered an attractive career choice and must remain sufficiently attractive, in terms of salaries and conditions of employment, to retain the best teachers in the service.

The capacity and accessibility of modern technology nowadays is playing a great role in supporting the teaching and learning process.

Besides, quality environments for teaching and learning such as supportive tools, comfortable, safe and secure environment and appropriate facilities are so essential to encourage students' learning and to enable teachers to teach effectively. Quality ensuring environment will be created when institutions involve parents, students, teachers, school authorities and support staff in rendering education.

In sum, Tanzania needs skilled professionals to hasten its economic transformation.

Parents, teachers can play important role in moulding a student's career

IT is common to meet university students pursuing courses just because their parents dictated so or for the sake of acquiring a degree or diploma qualification. However, choosing a course to pursue after high school ought to be given due attention as it ultimately shapes to one's lifetime career.

This daunting process should involve the student, parents and teachers so that the final choice can harness the student's potential. Short of working together in making this decision has shown that many students end up in wrong fields.

Students should, therefore, be given great support in the first place to identify their passion in relation to their future careers. Parents and teachers have an important role in this process because they know the students pretty well," she says.

One education expert also says that students themselves should seek guidance to figure out what they are good at instead of simply doing what their friends or peers are pursuing.

Mentors have a big role in not only helping students to identify what they are good at, but ultimately shaping their future. They always encourage students, depending on their abilities, to live a life of significance, and this is exactly what children take from early childhood.

Although economic backgrounds sometimes hamper the students' career choices, career guidance helps overcome such challenges.

Counselors can help students with career decisions as well as other aspects of a student's life that might impact on career decisions.

Many students are discouraged by their financial status and the economic

background of their families. This is a common conception that needs the intervention of a career guide and mentor. Both assist one to be able to make the right choice regardless of their background.

Some students are more of science-minded while others are social-minded. Students should first recognise and acknowledge who they truly are. However, characterising tests should be given when they are in lower classes for them to choose the right subject combinations tailored towards their career dreams.

It's a teacher's responsibility to guide a student to realise what their potential is. As teachers, they should have that responsibility of guiding the students about what exactly is going on in real life. They should advise them to settle for what inspires them, and not necessarily what their colleagues are studying at the university.

There are some parents who still think their children must take up what they studied. This is old-fashioned and parents should give their children a chance to explore any field provided it promises a good future.

Schools should play a critical role in facilitating students' choices through counseling departments, open days where students get opportunities to learn about study programmes as well as guided tours to introduce the students to the outside world, among others.

There are many factors to consider when choosing a career, whether it is your first job or you are in the middle of changing careers. While this can be a difficult decision, it is certainly not an impossible choice to make when you have the right tools and resources.

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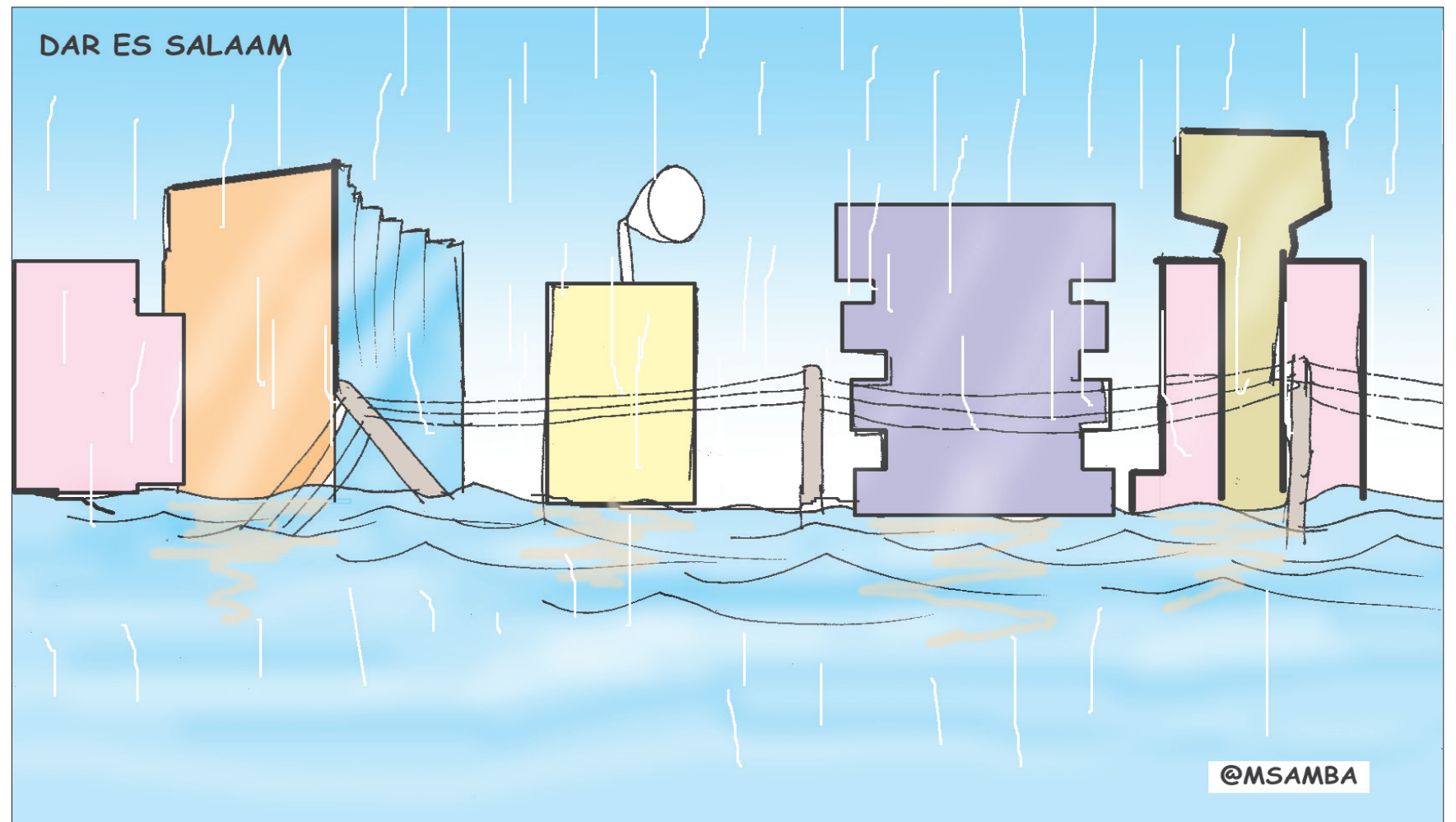
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Writing the 2019 elections: South Africa has a clear choice between progress and chaos

BY ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

THE question of trust is key. It has to do with the integrity of the next president, coupled with capabilities, credibility, perception, and various forms of capital to effectively lead South Africa out of the incredible omnishambles of the past 10-12 years. To understand this, you would need much more than that which can be quantified or explained rationally. It requires a leap of faith, with a firm grip on problems that beset the country, the region, the global political economy – and a deep well of power to beat the resistance to progressive change.

At the time of writing, South African voters have less than 36 hours to decide on whom to elect as their next candidate to lead government, and which party would represent their interests in the country's national and provincial legislatures. Even more so than Daily Maverick reported earlier in 2019, it has come down to personalities. It is, now, down to which of the Big Three leaders is most trustworthy: Cyril Ramaphosa, Mmusi Maimane, Julius Malema.

The question is this: Which of the three do you trust to lead South Africa deeper into times of global instability and uncertainty; of domestic social upheavals (sporadic land invasions or public service delivery protests); of political economic and financial risk (because of breaks in electricity supply); rampant crime and rising fear accompanied by a drop in confidence in the justice system; of systemic corruption; of the persistent threat of state failure; and a growing list of charges, accusations, indictments and complaints against political leaders? All things considered, the answer is Cyril Ramaphosa. Let us run over some ideas, and how this conclusion was reached.

Trust and everything that goes with it. The question of trust is key. It has to do with the integrity of the next president coupled with capabilities, credibility, perception and various forms of capital to effectively lead South Africa out of the incredible omnishambles of the past 10-12 years.

All of this starts with an honest and reflexive diagnostic on the state of public policy, experienced and respected policy-formulation, courageous implementation and monitoring and evaluation that are untrammelled by party-political or ideological rigidities.

Whoever leads the country over the next decade has to restore the country's standing and the moral authority, the

hope and promise of the Mandela and early Mbeki era had in Africa, in the global political economy and the institutions and organisations on which the multilateral system rests, while addressing the burning (sometimes quite literally) domestic social and political-economic problems.

The state has to be professionalised with an intense focus on capabilities. The state has to be cleansed of public servants who sit around and do nothing, sit on social media, who owe fealty to political leaders and who in the first place secured their jobs without being appropriately qualified or adequately skilled.

All of this has to be done while inquiries and investigations into State Capture, maladministration and low and high levels of corruption proceed towards the prosecution and possible prison sentences. There will be resistance from what is sometimes referred to in Turkey as the *derin devlet* or "deep state" a loose affiliation of deployed cadres across the state, including (especially) the intelligence service, public enterprises and functional intellectuals who serve functionaries of interest groups and parties; some performing as "revolutionaries" or "fighters", others as 9-5 labourers for "economic justice" – all of whom have made fulsome gains since Polokwane in 2007. Those that now make up the core of the *derin devlet* are essentially the second-wave cadres deployed after Nelson Mandela's presidency.

One danger that lurks, and that we have to keep in focus, are the intellectuals who are part of populist surges around "radical economic transformation," nationalisation of the South African Reserve Bank and land appropriation without compensation that smack of rapine and revenge.

These intellectuals generally play the relatively uninterrupted role of agents provocateurs, string-pullers, academic advisers and sponsors of otherwise meaningless educational rewards and certifications. While we may consider some of these populist positions as nominally progressive, it is difficult to ignore the umbilical links these organically linked intellectuals have with the rowdy romantic idealism of the revolutionaries and populists, and the almost ecclesiastic role they play.

Ramaphosa, Malema and Maimane. It is not too great a conclusion to reach that Ramaphosa is better placed (than Malema or Maimane) to achieve all of the above. His work as deputy chairperson of the National Planning Commission demonstrates his understanding of the complex and

highly intersectional nature of the problems that beset the country.

As president of the country has also shown his hand with the direct interventions he has made to clean up the state and public enterprises after he replaced Jacob Zuma. Given that South Africa is part of the global political economy (just restating that is bile-inducing, but it is worth doing) and the traction and respect he enjoys in the world – notwithstanding the foetid ogres in the party that he presides over – works in Ramaphosa's favour.

A very brief overview would show that soon after he replaced his predecessor, Ramaphosa dropped 13 Zuma loyalists from the Cabinet. He also replaced the boards of several state-owned enterprises and appointed new leaders to key state institutions such as the National Prosecuting Authority and the South African Revenue Service.

While Maimane would probably continue some of the improvements that Ramaphosa started, and that the ANC leader has pledged for the coming period, the DA leader does not seem to have the gravitas, nor does his party have the stated commitment to sustain the commitment to the transformation of society – beyond what liberal orthodoxy would allow. It is unfortunate that the DA remains fixated with the idea of meritocracy, which is usually blind to historical and structural inequities.

For better or for worse, the DA's white base will be the weak spot that everyone will prod and press. This weak spot will come under relentless pressure from the *derin devlet* (deep state) who would, from the inside, resist changes – especially reduction of the state's wage bill and professionalising the public service.

From the outside, populists would rework the emotive exhortation to "cut the throat of whiteness"; there would, quite possibly, be increased attempts to remove black people regarded as "coconuts" or its female leaders as "tea girls" – as Malema so ineloquently identified the former DA leader, Lindiwe Mazibuko. In short, the DA will not be allowed to govern – whether you like their policies or not, whether or not they bring measurable improvements to the lives of people. Malema has growing support, notwithstanding his rhetoric of revenge, violence and scapegoating. While he has insulted very many people inside the country – from journalists to politicians and public officials – he has "directed his venom" toward President Edgar Lungu, the Zambian Head of State, referring to him as a coward. Malema's politics of revenge, rapine and racial

scapegoating is well documented. Probably the lowest point of his frequent tirades was during a live radio broadcast during which he threatened to "put two tyres" on a caller to the radio station. The "necklace" is a reference to barbaric murders made famous by South African activists in the 1980s, when a car tyre, filled with petrol is placed around a person's chest and arms, and set on fire.

In any democratic society governed by a republican constitution, Malema would remain far outside the periphery of politics. Notwithstanding his politics of revenge, violence and support for almost biblical punishment – where children have to be punished for the sins of the fathers – he has growing support, even among the most respected of public intellectuals and respected figures in society.

This may be a clue to what seems like violent racial scapegoating, politics of revenge so well represented in history by Benito Mussolini and Idi Amin – a particular type of crypto-fascism that lurks immediately below the surface of the most respected South African politicians. With the support of "tactical voters" – who profess non-racialism, constitutionalism and democracy by day – Malema may get a lot of support at the moment when South Africa does not need someone so obviously dangerous to society.

It is on the basis of Maimane's weaknesses and the dangers that Malema represents, that a strong vote for Ramaphosa may provide South Africa with the leadership it requires for the next decade. There are two important caveats.

First, Ramaphosa may have to survive a palace coup and "redeployment" in the coming weeks and months while he rids his party of the seedy, odious and criminal types. Second, he has to steer clear of any coalition with violent populists such as Malema. At this stage, I would insert an informed opinion. It may not be obvious, given his dapper, debonair and generally savoir faire persona, but Ramaphosa is an African nationalist, and for that reason alone he could incorporate Malema in the ANC's future. It is not too grand a declaration to make that South Africa does not have another generation of time and people to implement policies that start with taking the country back to year zero – the way that most African countries started out (and are now trying to correct), and that Pol Pot and Mao Tse Tung went about restarting their societies. It is at that stage when everyone who will go to the polls on Wednesday, will regret that they voted for Ramaphosa

By Sandra Miller

BELOW the gloomy sky of Tripoli's Janzour neighbourhood, a woman steps out onto the terrace of her fifth-floor apartment and carefully hangs a damp collection of colourful laundry to catch the morning breeze. Across the street, barbed-wire walls block both her eyesight and the fresh air alike from falling upon the raggedy shirts and upside-down shoes hanging from the dirty walls inside Anjila detention centre, where more than a hundred refugees and migrants are locked within.

Outside, the team of MSF health workers that I have been with over the past six months arrives at the heavily guarded detention centre with medicine, supplementary food rations, and a carton full of notebooks. The day's objective: attempt to treat both the physical ailments and the vital mental health needs of refugee and migrant detainees. These people suffer from a variety of cases which are all exacerbated by the poor and inhumane conditions of their detention, but some of the most obvious are increasing bouts of fear, anxiety, insomnia and depression.

Over the past month, the longstanding physical and mental health concerns for people in detention have worsened as violent clashes - the third bout in seven months - have erupted in Libya's capital city. The fighting has endangered civilians across Tripoli's metropolitan area and put over 3,000 trapped refugees and migrants at imminent risk of being killed or seriously injured as indiscriminate shelling, gunfire, and airstrikes surround the detention centres.

As we enter the premises of Anjila and begin to prepare for the work ahead of us, a large group of some 80 men are taken out of an overcrowded cell and ordered by the guards to sit on the ground in rows of ten. Many of them look barely alive. With blank stares and faces void of emotion, their attention settles reluctantly upon on a young woman standing before them in a white vest with a red logo. Balkees Mgadami, a 24-year-old Libyan translator, speaks up with a calm but commanding voice that defies her fragile appearance.

"Good morning everyone. We are Doctors Without Borders."

Changing gracefully between Arabic, French, and English, my colleague ex-



More than medicine: A look at mental health needs in detention

plains that doctors, nurses, and mental health workers come to the centre every week to provide medical care. At the end of her introductory speech, she adds one easily overlooked but important point, "Today we will distribute notebooks and pens. If you have ideas, or drawings you want to make, that can help."

It is a simple enough gesture, but one that makes a world of difference to people who have gone through so much and now have so little freedom. Many

have experienced deeply traumatic episodes of torture while being held by human traffickers. Others have seen their loved ones drown before their eyes while trying to flee across the Mediterranean Sea, only to be intercepted and returned to Libya.

"People are overthinking, because they are kept in a place where they are doing almost nothing," says Hisham Sofrani, MSF social worker. "From a men-

tal health perspective, when you are blockaded in a new situation which is very hard, and you cannot see choices or options for you, you will keep flashing back to your past experiences, especially the negative ones."

Mental stimulation through writing, drawing, and games of tic-tac-toe can be a therapeutic means to help people express themselves and deal with the dangerous circumstances they are

confronted with on a daily basis. It can also help build social fabric among people in detention who all have different nationalities, ethnicities, and experiences. In detention, it turns out that the pen may be mightier than the sword and the pill combined.

"We're not saying it will be fine, but we are minimising the consequences of being detained. [We are trying to] empower people to show them the coping mecha-

nisms, the activities they can do to survive," says Sofrani. "The most important thing is to survive."

While medics examine patients for illnesses including respiratory tract infections, acute watery diarrhoea, scabies and tuberculosis, a small group gathers on a collection of floor mats off to the far side of the centre, where a counsellor talks about stress. Together, they discuss what causes stress, how it links to other problems like insomnia, and ways they and their friends can cope with it. Standing up, the group takes long breaths in and out and performs simple physical exercises. The group is attentive and some even reveal a smile; they start to look alive.

Afterwards, as the day's work in Anjila detention centre closes out, I watch uncomfortably as detainees are ordered back into their cell. In the end, people don't just need a doctor; they need attention. They need to know that someone, somewhere, cares about them and treats them with the dignity they deserve.

Throughout Libya, an estimated 6,000 refugees and migrants are currently held in official, state-run detention centres operated by the Libyan Interior Ministry. Many fled their homes in distant countries searching for safer futures, only to realise that extortion, torture, sexual violence, exploitation and forced labour were new dangers that awaited them in Libya and throughout their journeys. Having committed no crime, these vulnerable people are now held indefinitely in conditions that generally fall well below international standards and are detrimental to both their physical and mental health.

Since fighting erupted on 4 April, MSF has pled for the international community to evacuate refugees and migrants trapped near the conflict areas to the only place where they'll be safe - out of Libya. So far, only 455 people have been moved out of the country, while between 300 and 400 have been intercepted at sea, forcibly returned to Libya in violation of international law, and placed in the same dangerous conditions of detention.

Job dead versus job rich - the hidden treasures in the informal sector

By Toyin Olakanpo

TOYIN Olakanpo discusses the way forward to reap the benefits of the informal economy in Nigeria. The Gala Sausage Roll is synonymous with life in Nigeria. It can be said that if you have never heard of the Gala Sausage Roll then you have never been to Nigeria. The first Gala Sausage Roll was produced in 1962 by UAC Foods Limited and for almost 60 years now, it has been sold exclusively on the streets by street hawkers or by street vendors in small kiosks. You cannot find the Gala sausage roll in any grocery store - other than perhaps in small convenience stores attached to a few petrol stations.

The point of my reference to the Gala Sausage Roll is not a PR stunt but to illustrate the fact that a major player in the formal economy, UAC Foods, is reliant on the power of the informal economy to market and sell one of its most profitable products. This, you will find is true of other major players in the FMCG sector, eg. Unilever, Procter and Gamble, Promasidor. They all have unique products that are exclusively sold through the informal economy and will likely not survive without the informal economy. Similarly, before the age of mobile airtime top-up, MTN and other mobile telecommunication companies in West Africa relied solely on the umbrella stands and street hawkers to sell airtime - 90% of their profits.

The informal economy involves economic activities undertaken by organizations, and individuals which are not subject to full government regulations, i.e. have not been formally registered as a business concern with the Corporate Affairs Commission or workers who have no employment benefits and get paid without the usual tax deductions and pension contributions. As such, most of the business activities in this sector are usually cash based and outside of the radar of the tax man. Those engaged in the informal economy making a living include your local suya man, the photographer or DJ you

hire for your son's party; the lady who tailored your outfit for your friend's wedding, your barber, the private taxi driver, your domestic staff and gate man and all the street hawkers you see peddling wares on the streets of Lagos. Nine times out of ten, the university graduate who cannot find a job in the formal sector will end up in the informal sector "hustling." Did you hear of the young lady who graduated with a first class degree in Oil & Gas Management from a UK university and could not get a job when she returned back to Nigeria? She is now baking cakes for a living.

Indeed, the informal sector is growing jobs at a rate four times that of the formal economy (c. Nite Bhan 2018) and is offering more job opportunities and income generating opportunities than the formal economy especially for the skilled and the un-educated, yet this economic activity is not captured by any data. It is not captured in computing GDP and is not captured in our employment data either. The irony is that Nigeria's unemployment rate continues to rise because it is focused on the "job dead" formal economy and ignores the "job rich" informal economy which has been reported by the International Monetary Fund to represent over 60% of the Nigerian economy or just over \$240 billion dollars annually.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has given guidelines (Recommendation 204) to its member countries to start the process to transition the informal economy into the formal economy. Nigeria is a member country. This transition is being pushed by the ILO's core objectives to promote the creation of enterprise, provide decent work for all and to ensure that all workers are legally protected by labour laws. Taxation is seen as a key ingredient of formalisation.

I don't like reading stories about taxing the informal economy. I am not against taxation but how much is the average street vendor making daily that he should be taxed or your local hairdresser? One could argue that the



Toyin Olakanpo discusses the way forward to reap the benefits of the informal economy in Nigeria.

average man making a living in the informal economy is already been taxed through some levy or the other to the council collectors but we know that this "collection" hardly reaches the formal sector. What incentives can the government offer to see that this "collection" ends up in the formal sector? The truth of the matter is that the current tax environment in Nigeria is not suitable for the informal economy. What is needed is a simplified

and unified collection scheme similar to the Monotax in Uruguay which was set up to address small contributors in the informal economy - a transparent and fair system; but before we get to issues of taxation and establishing new tax laws, I think registration is the first step. Although some informal operators have associations and co-operative groups to which they are registered with, the structure in place is too subtle to make a national impact. To this

end I support a government initiative where those employed in or via the informal economy can be registered and identified and captured as part of the employment and GDP data. This could be spear headed by the Federal Government and implemented state by state. It is a start and a good place to start. It should be a participatory process involving key stakeholders with an understanding that the formal economy cannot exist without the informal

economy. It should be a process involving the set up of policies and practices that will support the informal economy including access to finance, public space and public services. It should be a process that recognises that more than 60% of the population are working in the informal sector contributing to the economy as a whole and running a sustainable and inclusive government dictates they must be included and not excluded.

Know the major 'players' of Liberia's ICT and telecommunications sector

By Darren Wilkins

THIS article was initially published in 2015. Today, I have chosen to edit and republish it because we have a new government with new players, even though the roles and functions of the institutions discussed in subsequent paragraphs still remain the same. As I did in 2015, attempt to provide some insight into Liberia's ICT and Telecommunications sector with particular focus on its constituents. My attempt here emanates from the fact that many Liberians do not know exactly who is who, or who does what in the sector. For example, I have heard people blame the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications for not penalizing GSM operators for not delivering certain services when this is a function of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA). And, some Liberians, including ICT professionals tend to mix up the responsibilities of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) with those of LIBTELCO's. So, today, permit me to provide some education that will enable Liberians understand the distinction in responsibilities and the roles and functions of the players in the sector. I will begin with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications since it heads the sector.

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications or MoPT is the POLICY MAKER and the HEAD of Liberia's Telecommunications and ICT sector. Within this ministry, there are three main departments: The Department of Administration; The Department of Operations; and The Department of Telecommunications and Technical Services. In addition to ensuring that the country operates an effective



and efficient postal service, the Ministry develops policies for the sector and oversees the GOL e-government program through the Chief Information Office (CIO) and the Project Management Office (PMO).

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) is the REGULATOR. It is the statutory regulatory body established to foster the provision of accessible and affordable ICT based telecommunications services for all Liberians. The LTA was created by the Telecommunications Act of 2007 (Telecom Act 2007). The LTA is governed by a five-person Board of Commissioners. These Commissioners

are appointed by the President for a tenured four-year period. The President designates one of the five appointed Commissioners to be Chairperson of the Commission. Within the LTA are several departments, each headed by a commissioner. They include the department of Administration and Legal Affairs; Department of Engineering and Technology; the Department of Government and Consumer Affairs; the Department of Licensing and Regulations; and the Department of International Gateway Management System.

LIBTELCO, formerly the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation is designated by the Telecommunications Act of 2007 as the NATIONAL OPERATOR. LIBTELCO provides both fiber (terrestrial and aerial) and wireless broadband last mile connectivity to its customers, majority of which is Government. Until recently, LIBTELCO had competitive advantage in the provision of broadband internet services since it has 20% shares in the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) submarine optical fiber cable system, and was the only

operator delivering broadband services through fiber optic cable connectivity. Ostensibly, that "de facto" monopoly is no more since other players have begun to engage and compete in this realm.

The Cable Consortium of Liberia (CCL) is a public-private partnership that was created by stakeholders in an effort to bring the first high speed fiber optic submarine cable to Liberia. It is also the manager of the ACE submarine optical fiber cable.

The Ministry of Culture Affairs and Tourism is the policymaking body of the broadcasting industry. In addition, MICAT in collaboration with the LTA is responsible to provide license(s) for television and radio broadcasting services.

GSM Operators/Mobile Network Operators and Internet Services Providers: Liberia has several GSM operators and fixed wireless providers that are competing for customers.

These operators and providers include: Lonestar Cell MTN, Orange Liberia, K3-Telecom, PowerNet, Moways, NasGlobal, et al. Lonestar Cell MTN is member of MTN Group which is a leading international telecommunications company operating in several countries in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Since the beginning of its operations in Liberia in 2001, Lonestar Cell MTN, has been an expansive telecommunications network in the country reaching all fifteen counties.

Orange Liberia was launched in the country in 2004 with a

vision to be the nation's leading service provider. The company has extended its coverage to other West African countries including Guinea and has been one of the few GSM operators that has provided many innovative products and services in Liberia.

CSquared: Originally referred to as "Google Project Link" is a conglomeration of four companies including Google, Convergence Partners, International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), and Mitsui & Co., Ltd. ("Mitsui"). CSquared is currently building a 200 KM metropolitan network in Monrovia. They are expected to operate as "Carrier of Carriers". By investing in a shared internet infrastructure and making it available to local ISPs and mobile operators, CSquared helps bring high-quality broadband access to Liberia.

Radio and TV Broadcast: Some operators in the broadcasting industry include the plethora of radio and television stations (national, local, community, etc). The Liberia Broadcasting System (State-Owned), DSTV, SATCOM, K3-Telecom, NanaSat, KWese, etc.

ICT firms: Liberia has several ICT firms that specialize in particular areas. There is MWetana which specializes in software and systems development; there's Sahara Technology Solutions which specializes in Open Source Software/Web development and integration as well as corporate training; there's HAK Technology which specializes in Web and software development.

Curiouser and Curiouser: The strange case of the 2019 elections

By Stephen Grootes

THIS has, by any standards, been a rather strange election campaign by the major parties. The ANC is riven with factionalism, the DA spends its time attacking other parties rather than putting its own message across, and the EFF is beginning to emerge as a force bigger than just one man, Julius Malema.

While the elections are now just two days away (and the results perhaps three or four), predictions are flying thick and fast. And the result itself will give good indications of how the country has changed, and in which direction it is likely to be going.

It is now becoming possible to examine the campaigns themselves, and how they have been received. This can give us some early clues as to the mood of the nation. A close examination of the campaigns, how they have landed, and how they are different from those in previous elections, may give important insights into what has changed in the country, even if the election results turn out to be well within current predictions. The first point to make is that this might well be the last election between only a few "big tent" parties.

It is becoming more and more clear that South Africans are splintering into different constituencies. The era of just a few big parties may be coming to an end. A party like the DA that used to represent minorities and some urban black people, now appears to be losing the force of gravity necessary to keep all of those constituencies in one tent. Some white voters appear to be moving towards the FF+, others may be attracted to the Capitalist Party of SA, still, others are tempted to give their vote to the ANC of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

This could well have an impact on the ANC in the longer run. It could also accelerate, because of the structure of our politics. The system of proportional representation means that very few votes are wasted (the only votes that are wasted are those that go to parties who don't get a seat, or have votes "leftover" in the seat allocation process). The fact that there has been a possible weakening of the authority of the centre also



Julius Malema

has an impact here.

And of course the situation within the ANC is such that it continues to appear that a split, or splintering, is imminent, the severity, timing and nature of it depending on how the contestation between Ramaphosa and secretary general Ace Magashule ends.

(Ace Magashule, obviously, being a figurehead for the forces loyal to Jacob Zuma and his "philosophy" of "governing" South Africa - ed)

Perhaps the next most important dynamic is the growth in the constituency attracted to radical change - which is a wordy way of saying that the Economic Freedom Fighters has clearly grown in support.

But perhaps more importantly than that, it has had an outside impact on the nature of the communication during this election. And that has changed the nature of the national debate itself. While Julius Malema was often labelled as "extreme", and seen as representing just a small group of people, that has surely changed.

He, and his party, now give the appearance of being part of the political establishment. This is probably a reflection of his clever use of the Parliament rules, and the leading role he and his fellow fighters took in the fightback against

former President Jacob Zuma.

Key to this has been what looks like the establishment of a national structure for his party. In the past, the EFF could give the appearance of a one-man party (the gender reference deliberate here - ed). Now it seems to be giving the appearance of a sustainable political force.

If this is reflected in the final voting tally, it could mean that the EFF is going to be an important part of any discussion in our politics for many years to come.

However, there is a note of caution that should be introduced here. Polling appears to still show that the party is concentrated in the north of the country, and in particular Gauteng and Limpopo. In places like the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal it is still battling to make headway and establish any kind of presence.

The appetite for extreme positions is also reflected in the air time that has been given to another person who claims to be radical, the Black First Land First movement, led by Andile Mngxitama. He still appears to be a part of some kind of "spoiler" initiative. He previously took money from the disgraced

PR agency, Bell Pottinger, and tried to protect the Guptas and Jacob Zuma.

But due to the extremist nature of his comments, and through the narrow interests of the Freedom Front Plus (which took his party to court in a bid to deregister it), he has received a lot of attention. This may, or may not, have had an effect of legitimising his message.

While these dynamics have been under way, another dynamic within the ANC has also been revealed for the first time in these elections.

In the past, the ANC has generally stopped the infighting and gathered itself around its leader during elections. When he was secretary general, Gwede Mantashe once said that he preferred to have two election cycles every five years because the campaigns helped to foster unity in the party.

That no longer seems to be the case. The sniping, the continual rumours around an alleged attempt to remove Ramaphosa from office, and of course the situation around Magashule, all of this has given the impression that it is a house properly divided.

And particularly, that the divi-

sions that led to its Nasrec conference and that outcome have not been healed.

This is likely to be most important dynamic after the election (presuming that the Institute of Race Relations poll is wrong and the ANC remains in power). It is likely that we will see these divisions spill over, perhaps as soon as the discussions around Ramaphosa's cabinet begin. This could well lead to much turmoil within the ANC, and a situation where there is little certainty. Much will depend on the Cabinet appointments, and whether Ramaphosa is seen to be able to assert his will or not.

It may well still be fair to say that the most important dynamic in South Africa is what happens inside the ANC, rather than the result of an election itself.

There is another dynamic which has become much more apparent in this election, which is related to the way the political parties discuss themselves. More and more, it seems, parties are attacking other parties, rather than concentrating on their own offerings. More parties are using negative campaigning rather than offering a version of the future.

There is plenty of evidence for this. The DA has thousands of posters claiming that a vote for the ANC is a vote for the EFF. While it has done this in the past (in 2009 it's final election poster blared the words "Stop Zuma"), it seems to have almost avoided discussing its own offering this time around.

Other parties have done the same, the FF+ simply uses the phrase "Slaan Terug" or "Hit Back". The EFF, while focusing on its core call, "Our Land and Jobs Now" has also spent time criticising other parties.

And of course, everyone has had a go at the ANC. The ANC for its part has also tended to focus on the other parties, perhaps to move the focus away from its own

internal problems. There are several reasons for this. Most of the big parties now have major problems in themselves. The ANC is involved in a battle royal between Ramaphosa and Magashule, the DA is embroiled in problems around race-based redress, and the EFF is battling perception issues stemming from their leaders' role in VBS scandal. Even the UDM, generally seen as clean, may now find it has to explain why it is still defending Mongameli Bobani's reign as mayor in Nelson Mandela Bay.

All of that said, this is important for the future.

It is unlikely that these parties will be able to resolve their problems. That means that our political conversation could soon devolve simply into a fight to prove that other parties are worse, rather than that one's party is better. In other words, we may find that only negative campaigning is used. In short, there will be a race to the bottom.

This is likely to deepen distrust among voters, with the net effect that fewer and fewer people vote.

And this is the other big dynamic in this election. Research by pollsters suggests that fully one-third of eligible voters won't actually cast a ballot on Wednesday. This is surely the highest proportion of people not voting in national and provincial elections since 1994.

While this also happens as democracies mature, in our case, with so many pressing problems, it is a bad sign that so many people are simply giving up hope in formal politics. This is storing up trouble for the future.

To look at all of these dynamics taken together, it is not an optimistic picture. All of these trends may well be negative in the longer run. However, there is still space for voters to speak, and for leadership to emerge after that. Certainly, it will take a massively surprising result to turn any of these trends around

PAS conducts special training for Bureau of Statistics (NBS) staffs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Pan African Statistics Programme (PAS) has conducted special training on national accounts statistics to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) staffs.

Speaking with the Guardian during the training held at NBS offices in Dodoma, PAS expert Bernd Struck said the training was part of the project's technical assistance to member states to build capacity in managing and compilation of national accounts statistics.

He said the four-days training only focused on three areas namely supply and use tables, institutional sector accounts and regional accounts "which were on the NBS agenda"

He explained that national accounts are done according to international standards, rules and guidelines therefore these types of training are important to make the country produce quality national accounts statistics.

"For your readers and other who are unfamiliar with this subject it is wise to inform them that there are set standards, rules and guidelines governing compilation of national accounts which made them interna-

tionally acceptable," he said.

During the training he said trainees were taken through presentations, practical exercises and discussing on "how we are doing in Tanzania and how it is done in accordance with the international standards"

He noted that national accounts statisticians are not producing statistics but are mainly users of economic statistics in their bid to produce national account statistics.

"A national account is basically between producers and users of economic statistics. We, at national accounts, do not produce data because we don't do surveys nor census but we use those data collected from our colleagues in economic statistics like trade, agriculture, tourism and the like.

He noted that training on national accounts statistics is not an easy task because they are a bit complicated particularly for those who are new to the subject.

On the team he worked with, Struck said: "With a mix of beginners and experienced ones it was somehow difficult for me to find a compromise not to be too boring for experienced ones and not too difficult to beginners but as you can see the program is going on well and interests both"

The PAS expert said his mission to Tanza-



Forum CC board chairperson Euster Kibona moderates during the workshop session on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) learning alliance that aims at strengthening national and local CSOs to advocate and engage the government to act responsibly and collaborate in relation to environment and climate resilience held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

nia serves to also learn the country's experience from previous project and further assess needs for assistance on these areas.

The main objective of the European Union funded program is to improve the production and dissemination of quality statistics in Africa, and to support the African Union (AU) members in strengthening its institutional capacity to provide comparable official statistics.

These comparable statistics are needed to support and strengthen integration process of African Union and measure African progress towards global goals.

Meanwhile, acting director directorate of economic statistics, Daniel Masolwa thanked PAS for supporting Tanzania in strengthening its capacity to produce quality statistics.

For the training on national accounts statistics, he said it has come at an opportune time because the department has received new staff

who "seriously needed such training".

"We have recently welcomed new staffs in our department so we have new and experienced staff in this course hence it benefited both of us. The mission has come at a right time" he said.

He said Tanzania was fortunate to have an expert like Mr. Struck who have gathered vast experience from both Europe and Africa on this specialty.

"National account is a very complicated subject matter with a very few experts who have African experience. Not every expert on this area can be helpful to developing countries" he said and added that it was therefore "an honour to get Struck who has vast experience with African environment.

Not every national accounts expert can train in Africa because Africa "we have more challenges than developed countries"

On the importance of the training, Masolwa

noted that having a well-trained expert in national account is crucial because national accounts statistics is key to various development and economic indicators.

"With national accounts statistics, it is where we develop ratios to GDP such as debt to GDP, development expenditure to GDP, tax collections to GDP, economic growth, and determine per capita income one of the SDG indicators" he explained.

He added that with national account statistics, the country can determine the size of the economy and can also identify contribution of every sector to the economy hence provides guidance to policy and decision-makers to make appropriate interventions to address various economic challenges.

"This training has added value in overall production of quality statistics but in particular has strengthened our capacity at national account department" Masolwa insisted.

Wanted: More funds for construction and maintenance of rural roads

By Correspondent Friday

Simbaya, Iringa

THE government has been challenged to allocate enough funds for construction and maintenance of rural roads to conserve the environment and facilitate transportation of agricultural produce.

Speaking yesterday at the ongoing workshop on soil and water conserva-

tion road engineers, Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) Environmental Officer Eng. Dr Veronica Mirambo, appealed for more funds from the central government since most of the rural roads were poor state.

The workshop is conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) with the support from the government of Ireland through its international development

agency—Irish Aid.

Eng Mirambo said the involvement of people in conservation efforts is vital to ensure protection of the roads.

She said such trainings will help conserve the environment especially the soil since road construction activities may affect the environment.

"The involvement of people at every stage of road construction will help conserve the environ-

ment. Their involvement makes them feel that it is their road and they are entitled to protect it", she said adding the move will also reduce vandalism.

She noted that soil and water conservation minimize soil erosion; controls water runoff and improve the fertility of the soil.

Tarura manager from Kilolo district council, Eng Asel Kajange said the soil and water conservation is of great importance to-

wards environmental conservation efforts.

He said the maintenance of rural roads is vital to rural people since most of them engage in agricultural activities and depend on the roads to transport their farm produce to market places. Eng Kajange insisted that funding of road projects is important because once the roads are impassable; people's economic activities are affected. He said that 90 percent of the roads in Iringa region are earth roads.

Eng Killian Haule is the Tarura Mnagaer in Kyela district, she said:

"the workshop on soil and water conservation along the roads has come at the time when road construction is one of the major factors contributing to environmental destruction".

He promised to use the acquired knowledge to educate Kyela residents on rain water harvesting and environmental conservation.

Dampu Ndenzako from ILO said they are implementing the soil and water conservation program for five years from 2017 to 2022. He said the program has two components namely Social Protection and Employment Intensive Investment Pro-

gramme (EIIP).

It is implemented in five countries including Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Vietnam. In Vietnam they are implementing the employment intensive investment while in Tanzania the organization implements the Employment Intensive Investment Program (EIIP).

Ndenzako noted that the EIIP project is a pro-poor investment policy strategy and addresses rampant unemployment and social protection deficits in targeted areas and contribute toward poverty reduction, social welfare and wealth creation.



Toys vendors display their merchandise while waiting for potential customers along New Bagamoyo Road at Kijitonyama Science area in Dar es Salaam this week. Photo: John Badi

SIDO, municipal councils urged to support small scale entrepreneurs

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilolo

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Avemaria Semakafu has called upon municipal councils to financially support small scale entrepreneurs through social welfare offices and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

Speaking during the launch of a special programme to empower youth in Kilolo district yesterday, Dr Semakafu said it was high time to empower young people economically so that they can directly contribute towards the country development.

The programme dubbed Integrated Programme for Out of School Adolescents (IPOSA) imparts young people with both, life and vocational skills to be able to employ themselves.

She challenged youth to grab opportunities in the agriculture sector especially avocado framing due to its demand within and outside the country. She said youth can also engage in cultivation of food crops as the markets are available across the country.

"We should think on how we will ensure value addition to our agricultural produce. These young people can easily graduate from poverty through agriculture", said Dr Semakafu applauding authorities in Kilolo district for establishing learning farms for various food crops.

IPOSA coordinator in Kilolo district, Martha Luambano said apart from empowering youth with entrepreneurship skills, they also impart them with life skills.

She said the targeted group includes those who completed primary school and those who completed secondary school but couldn't proceed to Advanced level secondary education.

Data from basic education statistics indicates that more than 30 per cent of the adolescents completing primary education do not continue with ordinary level secondary education.

Luambano added that the IPOSA programme is implemented in eight regions by the UK Department for International Development (UKAID) said that UNICEF is collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Institute of Adult Education.

Acting Kilolo district executive director, Philemoni Namwinda said they are targeting to reach 200 youth in the district.

Kilolo District Commissioner, Asia Abdallah called upon the residents to grab opportunities in the agriculture sector. She said there a number of opportunities in the fisheries and livestock sub sectors.

Director of the Institute of Adult Education, Michael Ng'umbi appealed for support from municipal councils to be able to establish entrepreneurship groups in future.

By Obinna Ezugwu

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari's penchant for elevating corruption as the sole, or at least, the main source of Nigeria's problems is already trite. But more importantly, it is a false narrative, apparently so. And the fact that otherwise educated people seem to buy into that narrative is an indictment on scholarship in the country.

Buhari had made slamming past PDP governments for failing to develop the country, because they were corrupt, his pastime since coming to power. And upon his reelection few days ago, he took another shot at the opposition party. Indicating perhaps that we are in for another round of blame games in his second term.

The president had said in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and publicity, Femi Adesina that: "PDP has not successfully explained to the country what they did with the money. There were no roads, no rail, no power. They said they spent \$16 billion on power, but where is the power?"

Nigeria is a theatre of the absurd. It is perhaps the only country where people happily live a lie, convinced in themselves that perhaps, someday, such lie will turn out to be truth. But a lie is a lie. And no matter how long one believes a lie, it cannot change to become truth.

Certainly, one of the greatest lies of Nigeria is the assertion that corruption - as often defined here - is the country's main problem.

Widely held is this falsehood that President Buhari's government has since elevated "fighting" corruption to the status of official government policy. So, they say, we must end corruption for Nigeria to make progress. But the irony stares everyone in the face.

Four years of fighting corruption - let's assume the farce going on is corruption fight - Nigeria has become worse off. All developmental indices have headed south. Standard of living has fallen. Nigeria has become the poverty capital of the world with about 90 million of its 180 million people living in extreme poverty. Job losses under Buhari have been massive. So, really, what could possibly be the basis for anyone to keep holding unto such logic?

But of course, since "fighting cor-



President Muhammadu Buhari

'No Mr. President, the problem is not corruption

ruption" which was supposed to solve the problems have only created more poverty, we are increasingly being made to accept that poverty is a virtue and being wealthy is some sort of vice. To be clear, the job of government, at the very basic, is to create prosperity, not to spread poverty.

However, before the champions of anti corruption cry blue murder. Let me make a few things clear. Yes, I agree that corruption constitutes a hindrance to Nigeria's progress. Corrup-

tion is bad, that's not debatable. And as much as possible, we must, as a country, make conscious efforts to put it in check.

Nonetheless, my problem with corruption in Nigeria has had to do with what people see as corruption. Of course, if you mention corruption, the mind of the average person quickly runs to political office holders stealing money. That's corruption, no doubt. But stealing is just an aspect of cor-

ruption and I dare say, it is about the least worrisome. The worst form of corruption is not stealing, it is nepotism.

It is using sentiment - be that ethnic or religious - to put square pegs in round holes. That's one corruption that destroys the fabrics of the society because it doesn't reward excellence. It is one that has helped to destroy Nigeria. And interestingly, it seems to be prevalent in the Buhari gov-

ernment.

I have always said that if I had a mechanic shop, I would be more inclined to hire a skilled mechanic who has a penchant for stealing money than a saint who cannot tighten or loosen a screw. The reason is simple: the thief will guarantee steady inflow of customers. And there are easy ways to put his stealing in check. The saint on the other hand, will ensure that the shop is out of business altogether

within the shortest possible time. Nobody will take his automobile to a man who cannot fix it just because he is a good man.

This brings me to another farce that has dominated the Buhari presidency: integrity. These days, I'm inclined to think that there is a certain physical possession of Buhari that is called integrity. Such that when people say that Buhari has integrity, it could be the same as saying he has a shoe or a car. Because ownership of such physical objects is definite and not dependent on character. If for instance, you have a car, you can rig elections and it doesn't change the fact that you have a car.

But that's not the point here. The point is, the idea that Buhari has integrity, and that such integrity - let's not dwell on whether or not there is such integrity - is what makes him the ideal president is hilarious.

No, what one needs to lead or to get anything done is skill and competence. I'm yet to see a football club or team going for a competition and instead of gathering the best football players available, brings together people of integrity. A team of players with integrity but cannot play football will lose massively to a team of skilled footballers who are all notorious armed robbers.

Really, life is quite simple and straightforward. Do the right things and you achieve the right results. But somehow, the Nigerian state seems to think it can circumvent this basic rule of nature by inventing and imposing its own rules on nature.

Running a country is pretty much like running a business. You put the best hands and they will deliver results for the benefit of all. No country can progress when the first consideration for appointment into position of responsibility is not competence, but religion and ethnicity. Nigeria's failure doesn't therefore, come as a surprise.

And the ugly truth is that the country will keep failing spectacularly and the rest of Africa will leave us behind. It is already happening.

Our beliefs, our undoing!

By Richard Maduku

THERE is a school of thought that wants African countries to copy something China is doing today.

It is not the way they are controlling their population. We may copy a modified version of it later but for now that should not be our priority.

In fact, there are other things we are going to copy from China in the near future after modifying them to suit our culture. But for now, it should be the many questionable beliefs that are accepted hook line and sinker by the majority in Africa.

It is suggested we purge our populations of these beliefs as China is doing to some of her citizens today through re-education. It doesn't have to be by confining such people inside fortified cities like prisoners as China is reported to have done.

Only a few thousand Africans are free from these beliefs anyway and so it won't be possible to quarantine all the rest of us.

People should remain in their homes and live their normal lives while the re-orientation is carried out through all the mediums of information available to us today.

To our school of thought, these beliefs are one of the main reasons nothing is working well in most African countries despite following the same processes that had worked for other countries.

For instance, fighting corruption especially in the public sector is one of the ways of lifting a nation out of poverty but Nigeria has been doing that for almost four years now without much to show for it.

In fact, Nigeria is actually sinking deeper into poverty since the All Progressive Congress (APC) government headed by General Muhammadu Buhari, a man reputed to have zero tolerance for corrupt practices assumed office and has been valiantly fighting corruption to the best of his abilities.

A new report by the World Poverty

Clock actually shows that since the APC government came into power in 2015, Nigeria has overtaken India (with a much higher population) as the country with the most extreme poor people in the world despite the avowed war on corruption! Mass education that removes a people from extreme poverty is also not working for us here in Nigeria.

Though we still have a long way to go in educating all our people especially those in the north, the modest progress we have made in the last thirty to forty years has not improved our lot proportionately.

Like the war against corruption, some would even swear it has lowered us deeper into the poverty pit. What with millions of university graduates roaming the streets looking for non-existent jobs!

Nigeria has enough people trained in petroleum, mechanical and electrical engineering but we cannot refine our crude oil and so we import at costs that are prohibitive as they are controversial.

We have vast arable land and a multitude of men and women trained to a university level in agriculture still we don't have enough food to feed ourselves and so we have to also import.

We have embraced democracy and religions that lifted other countries from poverty but ours has deepened and it seems we have been jinxed.

According to our school of thought, it is our questionable beliefs that are largely responsible for this state of affairs.

The first questionable belief on the list of the school of thought is the supernatural powers we attribute to witches and wizards.

There is hardly anything negative that befell us or anything we have done wrong that we don't blame on witches. They are behind everything that brings sorrow, pain and shame to us as individuals or as a group.

Deaths, sicknesses, insanity, impotence, bareness, crop failure, accidents, breakup of marriages as well as break-



down of cars (knock engine) or machinery, poverty, unemployment, failure at exam, drunkenness, wastefulness and other negative things too numerous to list in full here we blame on witches - usually from among our family members or neighbours.

Anybody who disagrees with any of these beliefs was usually suspected of also being a witch and in many cases such a person was avoided by many.

Suspected witches are still burnt in some communities up till today! According to our school of thought, this is one of the reasons nothing is working well for us in Africa especially in Nigeria.

The influence of native doctors

over the lives of a good majority of Africans is another reason processes that work well for others don't work the same way in many African countries.

We believe these native doctors have powers comparable to those of witches. But whereas witches are believed to have limitless power to do only evil, we also believe native doctors could do either evil or good depending on what the client wants and her preparedness to pay their bill.

To us, there is no sickness or condition that witches afflict us with (home problem) that a native doctor cannot cure or undo.

Instead of consulting orthodox doctors to prescribe what to take

to cure an illness or a condition, most Africans prefer the services of native doctors.

This is not bad per se but the problem is that a good number of them are quacks. They rarely turn anybody who consulted them away on the grounds that the ailment or the condition was beyond them.

They claim to have a cure for every illness including AIDS. They have led many to avoidable deaths because people believe in their claims of doing things scientifically deemed as impossible.

For instance, no soldier who has taken part in battles as an infantry man in a conventional

war will buy the crap about bullet proof charms. But most Nigerians will doubt the sanity of anyone who tells them that no charm can stop rifle bullets.

Most Africans especially Nigerians including highly educated persons, will also doubt the sanity of anyone who tells them that a native doctor cannot make one to become exceedingly rich overnight through some weird formulations or exercises.

From time immemorial, many Nigerians believe that one could get rich overnight through charms or rituals such as walking naked at midnight in the cemetery or in a forest while chanting prescribed incantations.

BUSINESS

EXPANSION

The Dubai schoolboy CEO with the world at his fingertips

DUBAI

SCHOOLBOY Aadithyan Rajesh has set his sights on becoming one of the world's leading entrepreneurs before the age of 30.

While many young dreams fall by the wayside as reality and maturity hits, the talented 13-year-old is well on the way to making his come true. For this isn't just any Dubai youngster thinking big - Aadithyan has already been heralded as the emirate's youngest CEO.

He started his software development at the tender age of 12, successfully juggling his business interests and his studies with a little help from his family.

But he will have to wait another five years before he can register it. Under UAE law, he cannot register the company until he turns 18. "It all started in 2010 when I came to Dubai," said Aadithyan, a year eight pupil at Elite English School. "At that time my father had an extra computer. I had a great fascination with it. I always had a machine with me because whenever I use computers I feel I have a best friend with me. Now, I'm having my own company." Aadithyan is speaking from his family's living room at a flat in Al Qusais, the unofficial headquarters of his company Trinet Solutions.

Born in Thiruvilla, Kerala, he moved to the UAE at age five and began to use BBC Typing, a children's typing website. By age nine, Aadithyan had designed his first app. At age 12, he launched Trinet Solutions with a neighbour and two schoolmates. They design apps, logos and websites for companies and have worked with a dozen companies since

launching in December, 2017. One friend has since repatriated to India and another moved to Ajman. In the meantime, he recruited his six-year-old sister Aaradhya who films him for his YouTube channel, A Craze. He earns pocket money by developing apps and branding for companies but much of his work is voluntary and inspired by what he sees around him. For his teachers, he developed a scheduling app. "When I saw teachers struggling to do that, I helped them."

When his family was affected by the Kerala floods last August, he used his YouTube channel to raise awareness among his 2,800 global subscribers and called on them to donate to the government of Kerala's distress relief fund.

Aadithyan is currently developing an android app that matches blood donors with those in need of transfusion. He hopes it will be picked up by local hospitals and clinics. At the same time, he is pressing ahead with a commercial app requested by a local company that publishes articles directly to clients.

People can be surprised to meet the boy behind the software. "Actually they think we are big teenagers and all," said Aadithyan. "But after seeing our website they are happy. I make my clients my families. If I do something for them, I'll be doing it to the best quality."

When asked how he balances work with his studies, he pointed to his mother. "She will tell you," he smiled. "I told him to pause it sometimes because education is the most important, no?" said his mother, Sreeranjini Rajesh.



Dubai schoolboy Aadithyan Rajesh started his own software company at the age of just 12, but it is just the start of his grand plans.

CENSURE

Uber raises \$8.1bn in IPO priced near bottom of range

NEW YORK

RIDE-HAILING company Uber raised \$8.1 billion in its initial public offering after pricing shares near the bottom of their marketed range. It will start trading publicly on New York Stock Exchange on Friday.

The firm sold 180 million shares for \$45 each, according to a statement. Uber had marketed them for \$44 to \$50 apiece.

Based on the amount of stock outstanding after the offering, the IPO price gives San Francisco-based Uber a market value of \$75.5bn, just below its last private market value of \$76bn. The fully diluted value, including restricted stock units and other shares, could be about \$82bn.

Uber has prioritised selecting shareholders - particularly institutional investors - that it thinks will hold on to the stock for a long time, according to a person familiar with the matter. The company is hoping to avoid the tumultuous first weeks of trading in rival Lyft, whose shares fell below its \$72 IPO price within days of listing and closed 23 per cent below that price on Thursday.

"We view Uber's conservative pricing as a smart and prudent strategy coming out of the box as it clearly learned from its 'little brother' Lyft, and the experience it has gone through over the past month," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said.

Even at the low end of the price range, Uber's listing is set to be among the 10 largest US IPOs of all time and the

biggest on a US exchange since Alibaba Group's \$25bn global record holder in 2014, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Still, it is a considerable climb down from earlier projections. Last year, bankers jockeying to lead the offering told Uber it could be valued at as much as \$120bn in an IPO.

That is partly because, after waiting a decade to go public, the most highly valued startup in the US is set to make its market debut amid less-than-ideal conditions. US stocks fell for a fourth day on Thursday, leaving the S&P 500 index on pace for its worst week of the year as trade tensions escalated between the US and China.

The pricing - and subsequent trading performance - will be closely watched

by the cavalcade of other tech startups that are expected to go public this year, including Slack Technologies, Postmates, Peloton Interactive and Airbnb.

Arun Sundararajan, a professor at New York University's business school, said that while going public will give Uber money to capture more of the transportation market, it could also push it to put quarterly targets ahead of its broader ambitions.

"The trillion dollar valuation will come if they can spend the next five to 10 years getting to that place where more is spent on Uber than on any other form of transportation," Mr Sundararajan said. "The trouble is that's going to require keeping investors at bay who are putting pressure on Uber to deliver earnings."

BOOZING

Kenyanans drink less than sub-Saharan peers

NAIROBI

KENYANS consume the least amounts of both recorded and unrecorded alcohol in sub-Saharan Africa, a new report said, coinciding with an intense government-led campaign against alcohol abuse.

The report dubbed 'Effect of Kenya's Alcohol Regulation Policies' shows that Kenyans consume 3.4 litres of alcohol per capita which is thrice less than the amounts Ugandans and Tanzanians take.

Consumption of formal (recorded) alcohol that includes beer, spirits and wines accounts for 56 per cent of the drinking population while informal sources (unrecorded alcohol) such as chang'aa and a host of other illicit drinks account for 44 per cent.

In neighbouring Uganda, alcohol consumption is 9.5 litres per capita while in Tanzania it is 9.4 litres per capita. In Rwanda, the consumption is nine litres per capita.

The low consumption of alcohol in Kenya

comes in the wake of government orders to crackdown on outlets in efforts to take excessive consumption among the youth and other productive members of the society. At least 12 out of every 100 Kenyans drink alcohol.

"It is very sad to note that we have more bars and clubs in the country than both primary and secondary schools combined. This is unacceptable and must be checked," Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i said last year. The intake rate in three neighbouring countries is nearly double the average consumption of alcohol per capita in sub-Saharan Africa that stands at 6.3 litres per year.

While Kenya remains stringent in its fight against illicit liquor such as chang'aa that has led to hundreds of deaths and permanent maiming of its labour force, Uganda and Tanzania have regulated traditional drinks increasing affordability among their citizens.

Among the varied mix of traditional liquor in Uganda are bushera and waragi while in Tanzania the masses drink mbege and komoni, among others. Some of the local brewers in Uganda and Tanzania have been licensed to produce the traditional drinks, unlike Kenya where the government continues to clamp down on the production of 'killer brews' that have led to deaths and blindness, denying the nation of the much-needed labour force.

The World Health Organisation defines recorded alcohol as one that is produced, distributed and sold under government control while unrecorded liquor is defined as one that is not accounted for in the national statistics on taxation as well as sold outside government control.

The report by Institute of Economic Affairs shows that Nigeria - the most populous nation in Africa with about 190 million people - leads in alcohol consumption at 13.4 litres per capita followed by its West

African neighbour Gabon at 11.5 litres per capita. Eswatini - formerly Swaziland - is third with 9.9 litres per capita followed by Uganda and Tanzania.

Effect of Kenya's alcohol regulation policies

Uganda, which leads in alcohol consumption in the East African region - is the biggest buyer of Kenyan-made alcohol providing a ready market for the surplus drinks made locally.

The country accounted for 69 per cent of Kenya's alcohol exports last year while the United Arab Emirates took 21 per cent. The rest went to Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and The Netherlands.

"Kenyan firms have a small but significant surplus of beer products and this presents a commercial opportunity for regional exports," the report reads in part.

Kenya, however, falls behind the rest of

Africa in access to pure alcohol with a consumption rate of 3.4 litres per individual lower than the continental average of 6.3 litres per capita highlighting the country's struggles to ensure quality and safe drink for the populace.

The country has in recent years sustained its fight on illicit brews following deaths of consumers. Taxation has also led to the high cost of alcoholic beverages. The government increased the tax on spirits by 14.3 per cent and duty on low-cost beers such as East African Breweries Limited's Senator Keg in 2017.

Tax collections from excise duty on alcohol products have increased by 105 per cent from Sh19 billion in 2012 to Sh39 billion at end of last year underlining the government's measures to curb illicit drinks from the market.

Beer accounted for the biggest chunk of the taxes collected, recording 71 per cent of the total excise duty on alcohol while wines and spirits had 29 per cent share last year.

ADVICE

Rwandan youth urged to take part in capital market

KIGALI

THE Rwanda's Capital Market Authority (CMA) has encouraged young people to make the most of the investment window through the local capital market.

This was during this week's Ministry of Youth's monthly YouthConnekt Hangout, under the theme 'National Employment Programme and Smart Saving for Self-reliance.' Theogene Kubahonyesu, a former winner of the annual Capital Market University Challenge whose saving club won about Rwf 1.1 million invested in stock, said were already reaping benefits.

He said: "Our company, BSA Group, started as a students' saving group and won the 4th edition of Capital Market University Challenge, we got financial skills and amazing prizes. Small amounts saved daily add up

to huge investments at the end. Many, including myself, have started saving a very small amount that 90% of youth afford."

Kubahonyesu said that, "We won over Frw1.1 million in Capital Market University Challenge, we did not use the money but as CMA teaches us the culture of saving and investing, we bought shares in some of the listed companies, after one year we invested in other businesses and as of now we have the business worth over Frw3 million and we still have shares in stocks."

The Communication Officer at the Capital Market Authority, Magnifique Migisha, addressing hundreds of students during the YouthConnekt Hangout Rwanda urged them to secure their financial future by saving and investing in the nation's capital market as there were various products that would be reasonably priced for the

Rwandan youth.

He encouraged them to take advantage of the available opportunities so that they can save and invest wisely in the capital market products. He stressed that "Besides understanding capital market products, the youth ought to be educated on the need to plan for their financial future ahead of time. CMA Rwanda is carrying out a number of public education initiatives meant to bridge the financial literacy gap, especially among young people by facilitating an interactive and educative forum to enable up-country youth to start saving and investing through the capital market."

YouthConnekt Hangout is an interactive multi-stakeholder platform, which connects young people to opportunities that exist especially in the private sector, where they can develop their entrepreneurial skills and get jobs to contribute to the country's development.



Rwandan youth listen to a stock market official in Kigali.

DISRUPTION

How women are shaping the farming industry

JOHANNESBURG

WHEN it comes to agriculture and farming in Africa, women have played a large role in shaping the future. As the continent moves forward, many believe that women are the key to transforming agriculture.

The exciting prospect of realigning the focus of agriculture in Africa to be on women means that there are going to be new ideas and thoughts and innovations! If you are venturing into the agricultural field, this is very exciting news!

One woman at a time

Kenyan fruit crops are currently earning an impressive high of ZAR41 per kilogram, and Zimbabwean farmers are no less profitable at ZAR42.12. South Africa's most profitable crop fetches an impossible ZAR224, 15 per kilogram, one of many signs that Southern Africa's agricultural industry is booming despite passing droughts in pockets of the region.

Those numbers are growing

thanks to a thriving export market, wealth of rich soil, and favourable currency conversions. Women make up a third of the industry's employment, and change makers are leading the charge.

Nonku Britton-Masekela is one of them. Her meagre R100,000 investment became a sustainable pilot project that turned her neighbours into business partners. The many keen thinkers working her land allowed her to use intercropping to keep pests at bay.

Limpopo farmer, Mahlatse Matlakana, is another believer in the South African concept of ubuntu. She donates a portion of her green pepper crops to her neighbours and employs purely from within her community. She also sells to key wholesalers across the country, nourishing the national economy and her own bank account.

Nairobi's Dr Rahma Adam is disrupting African agriculture on a grander scale. She hopes to enhance local gender democracy in Malawi, Kenya, and Mozambique.

These regions are as prone to sexism as the western world is, so she's researching and enhancing gender relations during agricultural production and marketing.

Her approach is a holistic one built around work relationships. She believes rural women have a crucial role to play in sub-Saharan farming. Gender parity is closing in Southern Africa's nations while export profits soar thanks to crashing currency values.

Profits and beyond

Africa's biomes and cities are packed together closely, giving you rural scenery a hop and a skip away from major urban centres. Mapaseka Dlamini prefers skyscrapers to mountains, so her Green Sky Rooftop Garden grows a large portion of her nation's gourmet greens using hydroponic systems right inside the metropolis.

Sub-Saharan Africa's urban growth rates are double the world average, so city-based agriculture is quickly becoming the norm. Lo-

cal produce is heavily in demand, having grown to US\$10.6 billion in revenue 2018.

Increase equality

Farming can be a lucrative profession and, therefore, a way for female entrepreneurs to close the gender pay gap. Becoming a female entrepreneur can also bring two incomes to a household. All this while you are still able to add to the productivity on the continent!

Policies in some countries are making sure that women have more access to land in order to start laying the ground work for women to earn more. If you are looking to go into farming, consider whether you will be given government support in order to buy your land.

Increase skills

Farming does require a certain amount of skills and knowledge. As women become trained in different farming techniques, the agricultural production on the continent will improve.

A lot of female farmers in Africa, however, still have limited access to land, this gives them limited access to markets. In order to give themselves a stronger bargaining position, many women across the continent are creating cooperatives. This is allowing them to pool resources and get better access to financing.

The benefits that are evident in giving more women access to agriculture and farming is gaining momentum continent wide. This promises to increase government and development agency support in a lot of countries.

Most importantly, though, women need to be included in the conversation about the future of agriculture in Africa. This can really come from including women in management position in agricultural organisations.

Supporting women

The gender gap in African agriculture is in the spotlight, so governments are making policy changes to support a more diverse workforce while NGOs work on encouraging female agriculture and entrepreneurship. Kenya's affirmative action policy gives 30% of its ministry tenders to female agricultural leaders.

South Africa's approach is more technical. It offers technology to support productivity in female farming, diversifying livelihoods while enhancing revenue. Zimbabwe's Agri-tech offers ZAR47 million in grants.

Africa's many policies and offerings represent an industry-wide trend. To stimulate sluggish economies, nations must encourage their most profitable trades. If Southern Africa has one asset to spur growth, it's rich soil, a feature that's only enhanced by its crop-friendly climates.

Women have a crucial role to play in agriculture, and Sub-Saharan African governments are clearing room for their growth in the sector. As the backbone of the rural economy, female farmers are closing gender pay gaps, but as nurturers, they're nourishing the industry as much as they are the land.



A female farmer attending her garden in rural South Africa.

CRISIS

Mugabe's tractors, trucks to be auctioned to pay off debts

HARARE

FARM tractors, pick-up trucks and combine harvesters from former Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe's dairy farm will go under the hammer to pay off debts, auctioneers announced on Thursday.

Mugabe, who ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years, owned several farms despite laws limiting individuals to one farm. He was ousted in 2017 following a brief military takeover and succeeded by former ally Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Mugabe and his wife Grace were accused of forcing off smallholders off the land to set up the Gushungo Dairy estate in Mazowe outside Harare as the couple built up a lucrative farming business.

Among more than 40 vehicles to be sold are four Toyota Hilux pick-up trucks, three Scania horse trucks and a Mercedes Benz C-class lim-

ousine.

Also for sale are Massey Ferguson tractors, 13 motorcycles and farm equipment, including four combine harvesters.

"Duly instructed by our most valued client we shall sell by public auction vehicles and farm equipment at Gushungo Dairy Farm on Saturday," the auctioneer Ruby Auctions said in a newspaper notice inviting bidders to the sale on the farm.

The privately-owned NewsDay daily this week quoted a sales executive at the farm bemoaning dwindling sales and saying the company was operating at 58% of its capacity.

Cassim Asani was quoted as saying worsening economic troubles in Zimbabwe had forced locals to cut back on buying.

Last month Mnangagwa said Mugabe, 95, was in Singapore for medical treatment and was expected back home mid-May.

MENTORING

Mother grooms daughter to take over her business

NAIROBI

CHARITY Kirigo's ambition is to end mass unemployment and poverty in Kenya by importing second-hand clothes, commonly known as mitumba.

Ms Kirigo is the founder and chief executive of Makrida Limited, an independent second-hand clothes business based at the ground floor of a building in Gikomba that also houses Stanbic Bank.

"We are basically selling second-hand clothes imported from Canada. The business was established in 2009. I had just left my nursing job at

Kenyatta National Hospital," she says. Her passion in the business, which she started partly because she no longer wanted to be employed, took a turning point when she realised that she could make between Sh15,000 to Sh20,000 in profit a week.

"When we started, the business was quite profitable. I was not actually having a big store such as this. I would start with about 20 bales and sell at once making about Sh20,000 in profit," she said. It is at this point that she went for a Sh3 million loan which she used to upscale her operations.

"The biggest move came a few years ago when

Stanbic Bank came on board to help finance our business at a small interest. They have so far advanced us hundreds of millions. This has kept our business afloat. It also gives us the desire to work extra hard," says the mother of three.

Today, Ms Kirigo's business has grown to redefine and reclaim excellence in the second-hand clothes business by offering customers high quality but affordable clothes. The business, which was only under her management when she started has also helped create employment opportunities to about five permanent staff and created hundreds of indirect jobs for young people.

"The team of employees I have are very dedicated people. I pay them between Sh15,000 to Sh50,000," she told Business Daily. The business sells a bale of jackets at Sh5,500. A bale of grade one shirts sells at Sh21,000 while one for men's shorts cost Sh8,000. Children's shorts go for Sh18,000 per bale.

"The bales come in containers. For us, we import about two containers per month, which costs us Sh2 million," says Ms Kirigo who reads the Bible and enjoys swimming during her free time.

She gets clients for her products mainly through referrals although she is planning to

leverage on the opportunities provided by social media platforms such Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to market her products.

The entrepreneur says that the low moments in her business includes poor sales in some months, when customers are few or when stocks run out. "Sometimes you end up going for a whole month without selling even a single bale," she said.

Going forward, in the next five years, she would like to hand over the business to her daughter whom she believes has the ability to take it to the next level. She is a looking forward to employing more staff on permanent basis.



Markrida Limited founder and CEO Charity Kirigo Kimani at her Gikomba Market shop in Nairobi on May 9, 2019.

BAILOUT

Billionaire Sawiris said to have helped Abraaj executive Abdel-Wadood post bail

NEW YORK

EGYPTIAN billionaire Naouf Sawiris is one of the guarantors for the \$10 million bail bond posted by former Abraaj Group executive Mustafa Abdel-Wadood in federal court in New York, the Wall Street Journal has reported.

Together with the private equity firm's founder Arif Naqvi, Mr Abdel-Wadood - as well as Sev Vettivetpillai, also a former managing partner - is accused by US prosecutors of inflating Abraaj's fund positions to US investors to attract more

capital.

Mr Abdel-Wadood's detention in New York last month triggered other arrests over the collapsed company. Mr Sawiris is executive chairman of Cairo-based Orascom Investment Holding. According to the paper, Mr Abdel-Wadood became acquainted with Mr Sawiris when they worked together in their native Egypt decades ago.

Mr Sawiris is the former chief executive of Orascom Telecom and the Sawiris family-owned Orascom conglomerate spans construction, tourism and manufac-

turing.

Mr Abdel Wadood joined Abraaj Group from Egyptian investment banks EFG Hermes, where he was chief executive for the UAE and prior to that, head of investment banking.

Before this, he co founded Sigma Capital and had spent eight years at the Orascom Group. He was also a founding board member of Orascom Telecom.

Mr Sawiris said through a spokeswoman that he provided real estate to help secure Mr Abdel-Wadood's bail. He didn't give details about the property. "He is a

longtime friend of mine and worked with me in the nineties," Mr Sawiris said. He was one of four bail guarantors for Mr Abdel-Wadood, the Journal said. The bond included an apartment in New York and a home on Long Island, owned by two of the cosigners.

Mr Abdel-Wadood will go on trial on November 4 and will be confined to a Manhattan apartment, thought to be one of the homes used to cover the bail requirements. Mr Naqvi, 58, remains in jail after winning bail because of failing to pay a £15 million security bond.



This photo taken on April 25, 2019 shows a flower bed themed "Belt and Road" in Beijing. (PHOTO / IC)

China refutes US' irresponsible comments against Belt and Road Initiative

BEIJING

CHINA rejected Thursday recent irresponsible comments made by a US official against the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), saying that the international community will tell who is stirring up trouble and who is trying to make a difference.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made the remarks at a press briefing in response to a question on reports that during a visit to the United Kingdom, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the BRI proposed by China violates other countries' sovereignty and urged Britain to be vigilant and voice its opposition.

"Some individuals in the United States have been continuously making irresponsible comments against the BRI, which reached a crescendo before the second Belt and Road Forum for Inter-

national Cooperation.

"But what was the result? More than 6,000 delegates from 150 countries and 92 international organizations, including over 50 delegates from the United States, attended the forum," the spokesperson said.

Geng said this is the international community taking actual actions to cast a vote of confidence and support in the BRI, and the best response to the words and actions of the United States.

Certain individuals in the US began to play the same old tune in the past few days, and continued to attack and smear the BRI, Geng said.

"I would like to remind them once again not to overestimate your ability of rumor-mongering, or underestimate other people's ability of judgment. If they wish so, they can continue talking the talk, but we will continue walking the walk."

Xinhua

United Nations urges strong public-private partnership in Africa's financial sector

ADDIS ABABA

EXECUTIVE Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Vera Songwe on Thursday emphasized the need to establish strong Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) to boost Africa's financial sector.

The ECA chief stressed that "the landscape of PPPs is not well defined and there is much work needed for both the public and private sector to understand the merits of PPPs. They must be defined accurately, and used well," an ECA statement quoted Songwe as saying on Thursday.

"Neither the private, nor the public sectors can finance development alone," Songwe (pictured) said, adding "There is need to understand blended financing and new asset classes as we address tensions within PPPs, which involve multiple coalitions, in order to fully maximize their usability in critical areas, including water and sanitation."

Songwe also stressed that there are success cases on the continent regarding public-private sector partnership.

"In the energy sector, PPPs have been done well and right. This now provides an opportunity for the private sector to replicate similar projects, based on lessons learned," she said.

Songwe also said the need for stability of PPP contracts and reasonable allocation of risks are the two major lessons over the years.

"Currently, risks in PPP projects tend to be heavily skewed towards the public sector," Songwe said.

"This imbalance needs to change with risks being adequately allocated between the two sectors, she said.

According to Songwe, ECA has set up the Private Sector and Finance Division, part of whose work is to support member countries in implementing PPPs.

"The Commission is encouraging countries to implement at least one or two PPPs, experience of which would provide them with knowledge and information on proof of concept before standardizing them," the ECA chief said.

Xinhua



Zambia launches new project to tackle climate change

LUSAKA

THE Zambian government on Thursday launched a project to address climate change issues in the southern part of the country.

The five-year project "Operationalizing the Landscape Approach for Biodiversity Benefits: Policy, Practice and People" is part of the International Climate Initiative funded by the German government and supported by the knowledge-led multi-

stakeholder Global Landscape Forum.

It aims to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity and alleviate poverty in Zambia's Southern Province, state-run news agency the Zambia News and Information Services quoted Southern Province Permanent Secretary Mwangala Liomba as saying.

"This project seeks to enhance the capacity of stakeholders to better identify trade-offs and synergies amongst competing land uses. It will address capacity challenges at the local level in

terms of knowledge, conflicting interests and organizational aspects, thereby enhancing landscape sustainability by empowering marginalized groups to participate in decision-making dialogue more effectively," Liomba said at the launch event.

The Zambian government called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, Liomba said.

Xinhua



Libya's eastern govt says it won't rule by force

PARIS

THE government in eastern Libya allied with forces attacking the capital does not want to rule the country by force, its foreign minister said yesterday.

The Benghazi-based government is allied with Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter's self-styled Libyan National Army, which controls most of eastern and southern Libya and launched an offensive in Tripoli, in the west, last month. Hifter's forces are battling militias loosely allied with a weak, UN-recognized government there.

"We want to put an end to the crisis, the war and divisions," Abdulhadi Lahweej told The Associated Press in Paris, where he was meeting with members of parliament, officials at the foreign and defense ministries, and business representatives.

"Our goal is not to rule or to establish a military government. We want a civil state based on institutions and human rights. We want a government that the Libyan people choose and we will approve of whatever the people choose," he said.

Hifter's opponents view him as an aspiring strongman in the mold of Moammar Gadhafi, whose overthrow in a 2011 NATO-backed uprising plunged the country into chaos.

Fayez Sarraj, the head of the Tripoli-based government, was also in Paris this week, where he met with President Emmanuel Macron as part of a swing through European capitals aimed at building support for his embattled government.

In an interview with France 24, Sarraj said Hifter's offensive was a "coup" that should be condemned internationally as "an attempt to take power by weapons, by force."

He added, however, that he was prepared to resume a UN-brokered peace process aimed at unifying the country. He also claimed to have reduced the number of armed groups in Tripoli from 115 to no more than five, all of which he said were integrated into the security forces.

Libya has been split between rival authorities in east and west since 2014, with each side backed by various militias.

Agencies

'Door remains open for DPRK to return to talks'

SEOUL

STEPHEN Biegun, US special representative for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) affairs, said Friday that the door remained open for the DPRK's return to negotiations.

Biegun made the remarks during his courtesy call to the Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, according to Seoul's foreign ministry. The US diplomat arrived in Seoul on Wednesday for his four-day trip.

The remark came a day after the DPRK fired two unidentified projectiles, presumed to be short-range missiles, from its northwestern region.

Five days earlier, Pyongyang also fired several short-range projectiles into the sea off its east coast.

Kang said the DPRK's recent projectile launches were an act that is of no help for the improvement of inter-Korean relations and efforts to defuse military tensions on the peninsula, expressing her worry about it.

The top ROK diplomat emphasized the importance for earnest dialogues between Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington for the complete denuclearization and the lasting peace settlement.

After the courtesy call, Biegun presided over a working group meeting together with Lee Do-hoon, the ROK's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, according to the Seoul ministry.



US Special Representative for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Stephen Biegun, right, and the Republic of Korea's Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Lee Do-hoon talk during their meeting at the foreign ministry in Seoul yesterday. (AP)

The working group was launched last November to coordinate between Seoul and Washington the Korean Peninsula issues such as denuclearization, sanctions and inter-Korean cooperation.

During the meeting, Lee and Biegun made in-depth discussions on ways to advance the complete denuclearization of and the settlement of permanent peace on the peninsula, sharing their assessment on recent situations, including the DPRK's projectile launch-

es.

The working group meeting was attended by ROK officials from the defense and unification ministries and the presidential Blue House, according to local media reports.

From the US side, participants were Alex Wong, US deputy assistant secretary of state for DPRK affairs, and Allison Hooker, director of the White House National Security Council for the DPRK.

Agencies

US attempts to resettle Kurds in Arab areas might trigger Syria's breakup

MOSCOW

The attempts taken by the United States to resettle Kurds in the regions historically inhabited by Arab tribes might cause Syria's breakup, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday after talks with Iranian counterpart

Javad Zarif.

"We strongly feel that the Syrian Kurds should enjoy their rights as a nation that has a lengthy history and that has lived in Syria over many centuries," Lavrov said.

"It is necessary that those areas inhabited by the

Kurds should remain their national heritage. The US attempts to resettle Kurds in the areas where Arab tribes have always lived historically is a very bad process and a direct way to separatism and the breakup of Syria," he added.

According to the Russian

foreign minister, the situation on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River cannot but cause concern, since foreign troops and special ops forces are stationed there, thus occupying that part of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Agencies

Guido allies seek out embassies after crackdown

CARACAS

TWO Venezuelan lawmakers sought refuge at foreign embassies in Caracas yesterday, as the government of President Nicolas Maduro cracked down on allies of opposition leader Juan Guaido who supported his attempted uprising last week.

The ex-head of the state intelligence service, Manuel Cristopher, the top Maduro government official to defect during the uprising, also spoke out for the first time on Thursday, urging Venezuelans to "build a new state" and combat corruption.

The moves came the day after authorities arrested Edgar Zambrano, the opposition-run National Assembly's vice president.

Richard Blanco of the Brave Peoples' Alliance party entered Argenti-



na's embassy yesterday, according to an Argentine foreign ministry source and a Reuters witness, while Americo De Grazia of the Radical Cause party sought refuge at Italy's embassy, according to three sources close to him.

Blanco, Zambrano and De Grazia were among 10 lawmakers stripped

of congressional immunity by the Supreme Court this week, which said the legislators should be investigated for crimes including conspiracy, treason and rebellion. Marianella Magallanes, another lawmaker, took refuge in the Italian embassy on Wednesday.

The opposition do not recognize the Supreme Court's decisions since they say Maduro has stocked it with his own supporters. The US government has threatened to impose sanctions on all of the court's members.

Venezuela's information ministry, Argentina's embassy in Caracas and Italy's embassy in Caracas did not respond to requests for comment.

"He (Blanco) is there as a guest; we can confirm that," an Argentine foreign ministry official said, on condition of anonymity.

Guaido invoked the constitution

to assume an interim presidency in January, arguing Maduro's 2018 reelection was illegitimate. About 50 countries, including the United States and much of Latin America, have recognized Guaido as the country's legitimate leader.

Maduro's government has so far avoided arresting Guaido, which would likely provoke a strong international backlash. But the recent measures suggest the ruling Socialist Party is seeking to isolate him by pursuing key political allies.

"We take it as a given that the regime is going to keep escalating its repression," Guaido said at a news conference, referring to Zambrano's arrest. He also called for Venezuelans to take to the streets on Saturday for fresh protests against Maduro.

Agencies

China revs up targeted financing support for real economy

BEIJING

CHINA'S total outstanding social financing rose 10.4 percent year on year to 209.68 trillion yuan, the latest central bank data showed.

The growth rate was the second highest in the past seven months, beating market expectation, Ma Jun, a member of the monetary policy committee of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), said in an interview with Financial News, a publica-

tion run by the central bank.

Rather than resorting to "a deluge of stimulus" to boost economic growth, China has been increasingly relying on what analysts described as a "drip irrigation" approach to channel funds into the real economy where the money is most needed.

Banks and other financial institutions have been encouraged to meet the financing demand of the real economy, in particular, cash-starved private and small firms, agriculture and

rural regions.

ORIENTED INDICATOR

The term social financing, introduced by China in 2010, refers to the volume of financing provided by the financial system, including banks, securities firms, insurance companies and other financial institutions, to the real economy within a certain period of time.

Different from monetary aggregates, or M0, M1 and M2, which tell how much liquidity the financial system provides,

social financing is usually a better indicator of depicting the financial resources channeled through the financial sector to the real economy.

"By monitoring this indicator, we can better grasp the dynamic balance between funding off risk and supporting the real economy, providing guidance for moving toward high-quality development," Sheng Songcheng, former head of the Statistics and Analysis Department at the PBOC said.

Central bank data showed that newly-added social financing stood at 1.36 trillion yuan in April, 408 billion yuan less than the same period last year.

"Newly-added credit usually falls back in April due to seasonal factors," said Ma, adding that the growth of newly-added social financing in the first four months was relatively rapid.

TARGETED POLICY

A closer look at the data showed that banks have stepped

up more targeted support, especially for small companies.

"Bill financing rebounded, which might be due to intensified credit support for small and micro companies," said China Merchants Securities in a research note.

China has been using a variety of monetary tools to adjust liquidity rather than resorting to across-the-board interest rate cuts or reserve requirement ratio (RRR) adjustments to provide funds to particular sectors.

On Monday, the central bank announced that it would apply a relatively low RRR, or the amount of money that banks must set aside as reserves, for some small- and medium-sized banks starting from May 15.

"The operating environment of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) has improved markedly since the beginning of this year, helped by supportive policy initiatives on multiple fronts," said CICC in a research report.

Xinhua



Australian Labor Party leader Bill Shorten speaks during the election launch in Brisbane on May 5, 2019. (AFP)



Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman of News Corporation, speaks during a panel discussion at the B20 meeting of company CEOs in Sydney on July 17, 2014. (AFP)

Australian opposition leader says Murdoch interferes election

CANBERRA

THE leader of the opposition Australian Labor Party (ALP) Bill Shorten has accused media mogul Rupert Murdoch of running a political campaign against him.

Shorten told Fairfax Media yesterday that News Corp Australia, Murdoch's publishing company in his native country, has become a political party.

"Not everyone in News Corp is the same, but some days they should just put that they're a political party, they should put 'written and authorized' on their front page," he said.

Shorten publicly clashed with the Daily Telegraph, News Corp's Sydney newspaper, on Wednesday after it ran a story accusing the Labor leader of manipulating the story of his mother's life to suit his political campaign on its front page with the headline "Mother of invention".

Responding to the Daily Telegraph's story on Wednesday, Shorten denounced it as a "new low", telling reporters that it was his mother's life that drove him into politics.

"I can't change what happened to my Mum. But I can

change things for other people. And that's why I'm in politics. That's why I'm asking to be your prime minister," he said.

Shorten called for multinational corporations such as News Corp to face greater tax transparency in Australia.

"More transparency about what these companies pay will wake people up," Shorten said. The ALP has promised measures to make multinationals "pay their fair share" of tax and close down loopholes "for the top end of town."

"A Shorten Labor government will provide a genuine cost of living relief for working Australians and pensioners, not multinational tax avoidance," the ALP's treasury spokesperson Chris Bowen told reporters on Friday, according to the Guardian Australia.

"We will keep taxes low by international standards, with Australia's tax burden to remain in the bottom third of comparable ad-

vanced economies," Bowen said.

The party also promised to deliver bigger budget surpluses than the government if it wins the May 18 elections.

Bowen outlined a policy to reduce tax breaks for landlords and some shareholders which they argue would save 154 billion Australian dollars (US\$108 million) over the next decade.

The ruling coalition warned the policies would harm the economy, condemning the policy as a high-taxing plan that would further depress the weak housing market that is weighing down economic growth.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said previous Labor governments had promised surpluses that had never materialized.

With the general election eight days away, local opinion polls showed that the ALP maintained a narrow lead over the incumbent Liberal-National Party coalition (LNP) on a two-party preferred basis.

Agencies

S. Africa's ANC leads after 80% of voting districts counted

JOHANNESBURG/PRETORIA

THE African National Congress (ANC) held a commanding lead yesterday in South Africa's parliamentary election with 80% of the voting districts counted, according to the electoral commission's figures.

The ANC led with 56.99% of the vote counted so far, while the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) was on 21.83% and the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) had garnered 10.1%.

South Africans voting in Wednesday's election for a new parliament and nine provincial legislatures expressed frustration at rampant corruption, high unemployment and racial inequalities that persist 25 years after the first all-races poll marked the end of white minority rule.

The poll was the toughest test yet for the ANC, which has ruled South Africa since the 1994 election. Nelson Mandela's former liberation party has not won less than a 60 percent share of the vote since it came to power.

The ANC was in the driving seat for the parliamentary race with more than two-thirds of the voting districts counted.

At the last election in 2014, the ANC won 62 percent of votes, the DA 22 percent and the EFF 6 percent.

The ANC had hoped to reverse or at least arrest a slide in support after its efforts to address racial disparities in land ownership, housing and services since the end of apartheid faltered. South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world, ac-



Mmusi Maimane, leader of the largest opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, speaks to the media as he visits the Independent Electoral Commission Results Center in Pretoria, South Africa, on Thursday. (AP)

ording to the World Bank.

Based on the latest results from the Electoral Commission, analysts predicted the ANC was set for a vote share of between 55-59 percent. A poor showing for the ANC would embolden opponents of President Cyril Ramaphosa and risk a potential challenge to his leadership, analysts have said.

"The ANC will be elected with a record low of 27 percent of the eligible population backing them, compared with 47 percent in 1999. This kind of dynamic is not a mandate nor an impetus to change," said Peter Attard Montalto, head of capital markets research at Intellidex.

"Willing to forgive"

The rand steadied against the dollar in early trade on Friday, with traders saying the currency would remain volatile as markets digest the poll results.

"As the ANC win is digested, markets will swiftly shift their focus to the subsequent actions of the ruling party, including the announcement of cabinet ... as well as policies relating to expropriation of land without compensation," said Bianca Botes, corporate treasury manager at Botes Peregrine Treasury Solutions.

With promises to fight graft, improve public services, put people into jobs and hasten land reforms, Ramaphosa won an internal party leadership election in December 2017, narrowly defeating a faction al-

lied with former head of state Jacob Zuma. Ramaphosa replaced the scandal-plagued Zuma as president of Africa's most advanced economy three months later.

But his efforts have been constrained by divisions within his own party, where some Zuma supporters still retain influence and oppose his agenda.

"People have shown they are willing to forgive the ANC," said Ronald Lamola, a member of the ANC's top governing body. "We are looking at a clear mandate for our policies."

The ANC achieved its best parliamentary election result in 2004 under former president Thabo Mbeki, when it won more than 69 percent of the vote. But its support fell under Zuma, and it lost control of big cities like Johannesburg, the commercial capital, in local government elections in 2016.

The party controls eight of the country's nine provinces. The DA has controlled the Western Cape since the 2009 vote.

The partial results showed ANC ahead in Gauteng province, where South Africa's biggest city Johannesburg and the administrative capital Pretoria are located, while the DA led in the Western Cape, home to Cape Town, where parliament resides.

Election officials said voting in general had progressed smoothly but that there had been isolated disruptions caused by bad weather, unscheduled power outages or community protests.

Xinhua

Lavrov told about differences between Russian, Japanese positions on peace treaty issue

MOSCOW

THERE still are significant differences between the Russian and Japanese positions on the peace treaty issue, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Taro Kono yesterday.

Lavrov (pictured) recalled that the current round of talks was taking place in accordance with a decision made by the two countries' leaders to step up dialogue based on the 1956 Joint Declaration.

"In accordance with these agreements, you and me have a serious task to make sure that bilateral relations reach a new level, which would facilitate the search for mutually acceptable solutions," he added.

"During the previous rounds of talks that took place in January and February, as well as during consultations between our deputies, the parties clarified their principal approaches and thoroughly discussed historical and legal aspects," he said.

"I hope that these talks and consultations allowed the parties to better understand differences in their positions. The differences are still rather significant," the Russian top diplomat pointed out. He was also hopeful that the meeting would make it possible for the parties to find ways to bring their positions closer.

According to the Russian foreign minister, it is important to thoroughly understand the situation "in order to have a realistic assessment of the prospects" for talks between Russia and Japan. "I look forward to continuing substantive and constructive discussions," Lavrov said.

Peace treaty issue

Since the mid-20th century, Russia and Japan have been holding consultations in order to clinch a peace treaty as a follow-up to World War II.

The Kuril Islands issue remains the sticking point since after WWII the islands were handed over to the Soviet Union while Japan laid claims to the four southern islands.

In 1956, the two countries signed a joint declaration on ending the state

Agencies

Delivering HIV vaccine piece by piece improves its killing power - study

WASHINGTON

SCIENTISTS at a U.S. research institute have developed an HIV vaccine delivery strategy that enhanced the protective immune response in a pre-clinical model.

The study published on Thursday in the journal Cell showed that delivering HIV vaccine in small doses over multiple days produced stronger immune response than administering it all at once.

HIV is a crafty opponent with decoy sites on its outer protein shell to confuse the immune system and nullify the vaccines.

The new strategy hinges on an antibody refinement mechanism in the body. Immune cells that make antibodies usually move to lymph nodes where they are selected for survival, leading to cells that make the most powerful antibodies for further rounds of refinement, according to the study.

"It's like physical training. You start off weak and then keep going back to the gym to get stronger," said Kimberly Cirelli, a postdoctoral researcher at



of war and restoring diplomatic and all other relations, however, a peace treaty has still not been reached. Moscow has stated many times that Russia's sovereignty over the islands cannot be called into question.

On November 14, 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Singapore and agreed that the two countries would speed up peace treaty talks based on the 1956 declaration.

The two countries' foreign ministers, Sergey Lavrov and Taro Kono, oversee the negotiations conducted by their deputies, Igor Morgulov and Takeo Mori.

The Joint Declaration said that the Soviet government was ready to hand Shikotan Island and a group of small islands over to Japan, adding that Tokyo would get actual control of the islands after a peace treaty was signed.

However, after Japan and the United States had signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security in 1960, the Soviet Union withdrew its obligation to hand over the islands.

A Soviet government's memorandum dated January 27, 1960, said that those islands would only be handed over to Japan if all foreign troops were pulled out of the country.

Agencies

Presidential hopeful Biden looking for 'middle ground' climate policy

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential hopeful Joe Biden is crafting a climate change policy he hopes will appeal to both environmentalists and the blue-collar voters that elected Donald Trump, according to two sources, carving out a middle ground approach that will likely face heavy resistance from green activists.

The backbone of the policy will likely include re-joining the United States with the Paris Climate Agreement and preserving U.S. regulations on emissions and vehicle fuel efficiency that Trump has sought to undo, according to one of the sources, Heather Zichal, who has

become Biden's informal advisor on climate change policy. She previously advised President Barack Obama.

The second source, a former energy department official also advising Biden's campaign who asked not to be named, said the policy will likely also be supportive of nuclear energy and fossil fuel options like natural gas and carbon capture technology, which limit emissions from coal plants and other industrial facilities.

A spokesman for Biden's campaign, TJ Ducklo, declined to comment on Biden's emerging climate policy or his advisors, but said Biden takes climate change seriously. "Joe Biden has called climate



change an 'existential threat,' and as Vice President was instrumental in orchestrating the Paris Climate Accord," Ducklo said in an emailed statement.

The approach, which has not been previously reported, will set Biden apart from many of his Democratic rivals for the White House who have embraced much tougher climate agendas, like the Green New Deal calling for an end to U.S. fossil fuels use within ten years. That could make Biden a target of environmental groups and youth activists ahead of next year's primary elections.

More than half of the crowded field of Democratic contenders, including

Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Beto O'Rourke, Cory Booker, Jay Inslee and Pete Buttigieg have backed the Green New Deal, and many have also called for a moratorium on drilling on federal land.

Biden has yet to comment publicly on the Green New Deal, and has said little about climate change in his campaign stops.

Referring to the outlines of Biden's policy, Varshini Prakash, the director of the Sunrise Movement, which has been pushing candidates to endorse the Green New Deal, said: "We are ready and willing to call out the insufficiency of policies like that."

Republicans, labor unions, and some Democrats have panned the Green New Deal as unfeasible in a country that has become the world's top oil and gas producer, and remains a major fossil fuel consumer.

The costs of ending the fossil fuel economy and transitioning to clean fuels could soar into the trillions of dollars, and would take decades, they say.

Zichal said Biden welcomes the heightened attention on climate change, but will ultimately take a more measured approach than the other Democratic candidates, one that picks up where Obama left off.

Agencies

SPORT



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, shoots over Denver Nuggets guard Gary Harris, center, and center Nikola Jokic, right, during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Thursday, May 9, 2019, in Portland, Ore. The Trail Blazers won 119-108. (AP Photo)

Blazers force Game 7 with 119-108 victory over Denver

PORTLAND, Ore.

THE shots were finally falling for Damian Lillard.

Lillard had 32 points, including 17 in the third quarter, and the Portland Trail Blazers staved off elimination to force a decisive Game 7 in their series with Denver with a 119-108 victory on Thursday night.

Lillard had been fairly quiet for the previous two games in the semifinal series, both Portland losses.

"I think over the course of the series, at least after Game 1, I just haven't seen the ball go in consistently enough," Lillard said. "My job is to stay aggressive, keep doing what I do, and tonight, shots fell."

The series now shifts to Denver, where the Nuggets will have a chance to make it to the Western Conference finals for the first time since 2009. Denver has been to the conference finals three times in franchise history.

The winner of Sunday's game will face the winner of the series between the Golden State Warriors and the Houston Rockets. The defending NBA champion Warriors have a 3-2 advantage in the series after a 104-99 victory on Wednesday night. Game 6 is set for Friday in Houston.

CJ McCollum added 30 points for the Blazers, who haven't advanced to the conference finals since the 2000 playoffs. Rodney Hood came off the bench with a career playoff-high 25 points and fans at the Moda Center drowned out his postgame on-court interview by chanting "Rodney! Rodney!"

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 29 points and 12 rebounds, while Jamal Murray added 24 points and 10 rebounds.

"We'll go back home, regroup, like we did for San Antonio, come back with energy and just be ready to play," Murray said.

Seth Curry's 3-pointer gave the Blazers a 101-88 lead with 7:24 left. Things got heated midway through the final period after Jokic was called for an offensive foul and the players got into a shoving match and had

to be separated. After a review, there were offsetting technicals involving Denver's Will Barton and Torrey Craig, and Curry and Zach Collins for Portland.

Lillard hit an off-balance jumper that put Portland up 106-93. The Nuggets got within 113-103 with 1:04 left, but Craig and Jokic fouled out and Portland closed out the win.

The Nuggets were in this situation before: They lost on the road to San Antonio in Game 6 in the opening round, forcing that series to return to Denver for the deciding game.

After Portland won the quadruple-overtime marathon of Game 3, Denver beat Portland at home to even the series. Then Paul Millsap had 24 points to spark Denver's 124-98 blowout of the Blazers on Tuesday night – and put Portland on the verge of elimination.

"I thought our Game 6 here in Portland was better than our Game 6 in San Antonio," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "Now we go home and have the best home-court advantage in the NBA."

Denver led by as many as 10 points in the opening quarter but Portland went on an 11-4 run to start the second quarter that closed the gap to 38-37.

After his 3-pointer gave Portland the lead, Lillard added a layup to extend it and Portland led 58-54 at halftime after outscoring the Nuggets 32-20.

Jokic's third-quarter 3-pointer briefly gave the Nuggets a 76-75 lead, but Lillard answered with his own 3 to reclaim it.

Lillard's sixth 3-pointer of the game put Portland up 83-78. He had 17 points in the third quarter alone and the Blazers led 87-80 going into the fourth.

Lillard was reminded after the game that he's never played in a Game 7 in his career.

"It's basically a game where only one team is going to make it out," he said. "It's your last opportunity to play, so facing elimination is what it is to me, and that's going to be my approach, just like it was tonight. The only thing is that it's going to be on the road. It's for our season. All the marbles."

AP

Hamilton tightens the gloves for battle with Bottas

BARCELONA

LEWIS Hamilton says he will be tougher on track to Mercedes team mate Valtteri Bottas now that the Finn is again leading the Formula One championship, even if relations would remain respectful.

The five-times world champion said after Bottas won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, the team's fourth successive one-two finish, that he had been "too friendly" at the start and "basically gave it to him".

Hamilton made clear to reporters at the Spanish Grand Prix on Thursday that Bottas would have to fight hard for position from now on.

"Ultimately, the core goal is for the team to finish at the top and I'm a team player," he said. "We're not going to be touching (cars), that's for sure. But in terms of giving up positions, that won't happen again," added the 34-year-old.

Bottas and Hamilton have two wins and two second places each but the Finn is a point

ahead by virtue of the newly-introduced point for fastest lap at the Australian season-opener.

Hamilton starts as favourite for Sunday's race, the first round of the traditional European season, as he chases his fourth Spanish Grand Prix victory with rivals Ferrari struggling to assert themselves.

The Briton, who has won the last two races at the Circuit de Catalunya, alluded to the internal strife that marked the years when he was partnered by now-retired 2016 champion team mate Nico Rosberg.

He assured reporters that was not about to be repeated.

"There's things that happen in the background that you won't know about," he said. "What's really important is that we pull together as a team. We've discussed it and hopefully rectified it and it won't spring up again."

"What happened before, an individual just continued to go down that route, but that's not what we have here."

REUTERS

Will Smith brings own fun-loving Genie to new 'Aladdin'



(Left to right) British director Guy Ritchie, and actors/cast members Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott, Will Smith and Marwan Kenzari attend the European Gala premiere of 'Aladdin' in London, Britain. (EPA)

LONDON

HOLLYWOOD star Will Smith was reluctant at first to play Genie in the live-action remake of Disney's "Aladdin" as it meant following in the big footsteps of late comedian Robin Williams who voiced the character in the 1992 animated film.

Smith, who shot to fame in the 1990s television series "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air," added a personal touch – and some hip hop and rap – to portray the energetic CGI-enhanced blue Genie who emerges from a lamp in a cave of treasures.

Speaking to Reuters at the musical film's premiere in London on Thursday, the 50-year-old actor and rapper said his first reaction about taking on the role was: "Hell no, no way."

"Robin Williams didn't leave much room to improve on the Genie. ... So I looked at it and the first thing for me was that it was going to be live action. I thought it could be a little different," Smith said.

"Robin Williams ... took his essentially stand-up persona and just infused his stand-up persona into the Genie. ... I was

like I could just use the extreme version of almost my 'Fresh Prince' persona to be able to infuse that into this wild character. I felt I'd be able to capture the nostalgia while at the same time being able to make something new."

The film follows the 1992 movie plot that saw poor street hustler Aladdin fall in love with headstrong Princess Jasmine, but director Guy Ritchie said the story "needed updating."

"We are half an hour longer and there's just a difference between an animated film and live action," he said.

"Somehow you can take broader strokes in the animated movies that you can't afford in live action. Jasmine was the principal character that needed evolving and developing."

That character is played by "The 33" and

"Power Rangers" actress Naomi Scott, who will also star in the upcoming "Charlie's Angels" remake.

"(Jasmine) finds her voice and she goes through a journey to find it. ... I want little girls to see that," she said.

Newcomer Mena Massoud, who starred in last year's "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan" series, plays the title role in the movie. Cast members said animals of all kinds and some 1,000 extras were involved in making the musical spectacle, which features original songs from the animated film as well as new tunes.

"Aladdin" is the latest live-action remake from Disney, which has revisited old animated films like "The Jungle Book" as well as "Dumbo" and will put out a new version of box-office hit "The Lion King" this summer.

REUTERS

Butler does it, leads 76ers past Raptors to force Game 7



Philadelphia 76ers' Tobias Harris (33) goes up for a shot against Toronto Raptors' Serge Ibaka (9) and Kawhi Leonard (2) during the second half of Game 6 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Thursday, May 9, 2019, in Philadelphia. (AP Photo)

PHILADELPHIA

JIMMY Butler lived up to his Jimmy Buckets nickname.

With "Jimmy! Butler!" chants ringing from the rafters, he helped Philadelphia force a seventh game against Toronto in the Eastern Conference semifinals, hitting big baskets in bunches and scoring 25 points in the 76ers' 112-101 victory over the Raptors on Thursday night.

"I play to win," Butler said. "Right now, this is what I have to do in order to give us a great chance at winning."

Game 7 is Sunday night in Toronto. The Milwaukee Bucks await the winner.

Kawhi Leonard, who scored 30-plus points in the first four games in the series, was finally tied up early by the Sixers and hit 29 points well after the game was out of hand.

Leonard and the Raptors had no answers for Butler and All-Star guard Ben Simmons. Simmons broke

through and scored 21 points – more than his combined total of Games 4 and 5 – and helped show the Sixers still had some fight after a brutal Game 5 loss. "It was amazing focus. Everybody was locked in," Simmons said. "We knew what was at stake."

Joel Embiid had played through a bad left knee and a stomach bug for most of the playoffs and the entire team had reason to be ill after the Raptors crushed the Sixers by 36 in Game 5.

"I knew I had to come in with high spirits," Embiid said. "If I've got to play 45 minutes and push myself out there, that's what I'll do."

Embiid had a burst of energy late in the third when he blocked a driving Leonard, and Simmons capitalized with a basket for an 18-point cushion. Embiid, who gingerly walked into the postgame press conference with his left knee packaged in ice, had 17 points and 12 rebounds in 35 minutes.

Embiid didn't do much early in

Game 6, but Butler and Simmons built some needed separation.

Butler about did it all, and showed in the first half why the free agent will command a max contract – \$188 million over five years – in the offseason.

Butler, disgruntled in Minnesota before he was traded to Philadelphia in November, scored 19 points in the half and all of them seemed worthy of the highlight reel. He took a bit of a trick shot when he rebounded his own missed jumper and was fouled by Kyle Lowry on an off-balance attempt. The basket was good and so was the free throw. Butler stole the ball from Leonard and capped the half with a fast-break dunk for a 58-43 lead.

"Game is simple. I shoot the ball when I'm open," Butler said. "Sometimes I shoot it when I'm not open." He forced his way open in the first half, making 9 of 15 shots in the first and he gave the Sixers the

confidence they needed to know another game wasn't going to turn into a rout. "He was all over that game," coach Brett Brown said. "The mood in the locker room, you could sense the serious side. They got the moment and I think he got it as much as anybody and led us."

Simmons was called out by Butler about the need to attack the basket and play more off screens to become the triple-double threat he was in the regular season and not the non-factor he was against the Raptors. Simmons did it all early (eight points, five assists in the first quarter) and the Sixers got the outside shots to fall – an early domination that happened even as Embiid was held scoreless until he hit a 3 early in the second quarter.

Simmons had no turnovers and six assists in 34 minutes.

"What he did today was lot of the reasons he was an NBA All-Star at age 22," Brown said.

AP

Arsenal wiser after last season, Aubameyang says after Valencia hat-trick

VALENCIA, Spain

ARSENAL striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang says the club have learnt from last season's mistakes in the Europa League after his hat-trick against Valencia sealed their progress to the final of the competition on Thursday.

A 4-2 win at the Mestalla gave Arsenal a convincing 7-3 aggregate victory over Valencia to take the London side to their first European final since 2006. They will face Chelsea in an all-English affair in Baku on May 29. Aubameyang, who signed for Arsenal from Borussia Dortmund in January last year, was ineligible for the Europa League last season when the Gunners fell at the semi-finals to eventual champions Atletico Madrid, failing to take advantage of a red card in the first leg and losing 2-1 on aggregate.

"We are through to the final and we are all happy," Aubameyang told Arsenal's website. "It meant a lot. I think we've learnt from last season and this year we didn't make the same mistakes."

It was Aubameyang's first hat-trick for the club and Arsenal defender Nacho Monreal praised him and his strike partner Alexandre Lacazette,

who provided the assist for the first goal and also got on the score sheet in the second half.

"We needed him and we needed Laca," Monreal said. "We're so proud of him because he's scored three goals in a semi-final."

"He's helped us a lot but it's not only him, it's every player. He scored a hat-trick, so we are all really happy for him."

Lacazette said Arsenal had to push on now and win the trophy to qualify for the Champions League next season with a top four spot and automatic qualification nearly out of reach after they picked up only four points from their last six games.

The north London club, who are fifth in the Premier League, require a win, an unlikely eight-goal swing and for fourth-placed Tottenham to lose on the final day to finish in the top four.

"We want to play in the Champions League and we want to win this trophy," Lacazette said. "We've played badly in the last month in the Premier League, so we have to be better now."

"We're going to the final, so we have to use this opportunity to win and go to the Champions League."

REUTERS

Aubameyang lifts Arsenal within one game of the promised land

VALENCIA, Spain

UNAI Emery's first campaign will be deemed a success or a failure based upon the 58th and final game of Arsenal's season.

After the dreadful performance in a 1-1 draw at Brighton on Sunday effectively confirmed that Arsenal would miss out on Champions League qualification through the conventional route, this hugely impressive 4-2 victory away at the Mestalla means they'll travel to Baku, Azerbaijan, later this month to face rivals Chelsea to earn a place in Europe's premier competition for 2019-20.

It was Emery's prowess in the Europa League that led to his appointment in the first place. His three straight triumphs with Sevilla between 2014 and 2016 made him an ideal candidate for the role, and while Arsenal's recent slump means their league finish is a disappointment, it's worth remembering that Arsenal started the campaign as very much sixth favourites for the top four.

The Europa League always seemed of huge importance to Arsenal this season, and Emery has successfully steered Arsenal through tricky ties against Napoli and Valencia, where Arsenal have taken two-goal first-leg leads away from home and not merely defended them, but added to their margins of victory.

This was a huge test for Emery, against the club with which he spent a four-year spell and made his name as top-level coach. The home supporters' welcome wasn't friendly, with anti-Emery chants as the Arsenal coach arrived, boos when Emery emerged from the tunnel and an electric atmosphere from the outset.

Initially, this looked like being a long night for Arsenal. Kevin Gameiro's opener arrived in just the 11th minute, then five minutes later, Rodrigo sent a fizzing half-volley narrowly wide of the far post from outside the box. It would have put Valencia ahead in the tie. Arsenal were hanging on.

But then Arsenal burst into life with a goal out of absolutely nothing. There was a clever touch from Alexandre Lacazette to provide the assist, but this was really all about the finish, swept into the net from outside the box, with the outside of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's right foot.

It was an unusual, elegant finish and contrasted sharply with his late miss against Brighton at the weekend, when he tried to engineer an outside-of-the-boot finish with an elaborate scissor-kick. In some ways, these incidents summarise Aubameyang, a prolific striker who nevertheless sometimes struggles to convert the easiest of chances.

On this day, he was clinical, but it wasn't just



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scores their third goal against Valencia during their Europa League semi final second leg match at Mestalla in Valencia, Spain on Thursday. (Agencies)

the goals that he and his strike partner earned praise from Emery for: "They are very good strikers, but I am proud of them because of how they worked defensively. We needed that today, and the big players can be good as strikers, but [I am happy] when their commitment is like today, defensively."

But this was his best performance in an Arsenal shirt. It was a game that suited him; with Valencia forced to do the running and Arsenal allowed to play on the counterattack, this meant Aubameyang could concentrate on using his speed into the channels. He and Lacazette rotated positions but positioned themselves wide rather than as a central strike duo, with Mesut Ozil prowling behind in a 3-4-1-2.

Aubameyang, as ever, missed chances. His headed effort from a corner was wayward, his left-footed effort after good interplay on the edge of the box was tame. But this always felt like his game. Toward the end of the first half, he sped down the right and cut the ball back for Lacazette, who swept a shot against the

outside of the post. It felt like Arsenal might live to regret that.

Lacazette can let his head drop after that type of miss, but Aubameyang always remains bright, lively and energetic, and it was his determination and ambition that created Arsenal's second, with Lacazette the beneficiary.

Aubameyang hesitated when confronted with Jose Gaya, knowing the full-back could match him for pace. And sure enough, his knock past the left-back was reached first by Gaya, but Aubameyang won back possession immediately, the ball fell to Torreira and he transferred it into Lacazette, who made no mistake. Aubameyang had successfully counter-pressed his own concession of possession. Valencia now needed four goals, and an onerous Mestalla started to empty.

The Gabon international wasn't finished, though. His second came from a classic near-post run across the opposition centre-backs to convert a low ball from Ainsley Maitland-Niles. The 21-year-old had spent the first half under

pressure as Valencia concentrated their attacks down his flank but ended the game having provided the most memorable moment of his Arsenal career to date.

And Aubameyang can say the same, after he completed his hat-trick with two minutes remaining, slamming the ball into the top of the net from a tight angle on the right. It felt like confirmation of his brilliance, the type of moment Thierry Henry used to provide away from home on European nights in that same No. 14 shirt – away at Inter, away at Roma and away at Real Madrid, to mention a few.

Those were all Champions League nights, and no Europa League game can ever be considered on the same level. But that, of course, is the whole point: Arsenal desperately yearn for a return to that competition, and on this occasion, Aubameyang looked like a Champions League player in a Europa League tie.

Another performance like that in Baku and Arsenal will be back in the big time.

(AGENCIES)

English clubs doing it tough in Europe, says Chelsea coach Sarri

LONDON

CHELSEA coach Maurizio Sarri said it was tough for English clubs to reach the end of the season in the sort of shape required to win trophies because they have to play so many more matches than their European rivals.

Despite the challenging schedule, Sarri's Chelsea became the fourth English side to reach a European final on Thursday when they beat Eintracht Frankfurt in a penalty shootout after their tie had finished 2-2 over two legs and extra time.

Chelsea will meet fellow London side Arsenal in the Europa League final on May 29 before Liverpool take on Tottenham Hotspur in another all-English final in the more prestigious Champions League in Madrid on June 1.

"It's not easy for an English team to arrive in the last month in a good condition physically," Italian Sarri said.

"We play more than other countries. We played match 61 today. It's a big difference with other countries."

Chelsea have the final match of the Premier League against Leicester City on Sunday then a friendly to play in the United States before earning 10 days' rest to prepare for the final.

"Here (in England) the level is very high," Sarri added.

"To get into the League Cup final (in February) we had to play Liverpool and Tottenham and then

played the best team in Europe, Manchester City. The Premier League is the best league in the world."

Chelsea lost that final on penalties but came out on the right side of Thursday's shootout at Stamford Bridge with Eden Hazard scoring the winning spot-kick.

Sarri said he had been unable to watch.

"I did not want to suffer," he said. Eintracht Frankfurt coach Adi Huetter, who had been hoping to take the German club to their first European final since 1980 when they won the UEFA Cup, said the disappointment was immense.

"The heads are hanging low," he said. "It was a dream to get to the final that did not happen."

Meanwhile, Eden Hazard says he will do everything in his power to help Chelsea win the Europa League later this month in what might be his final game for the Premier League club.

The skilful Belgian playmaker converted the decisive spot-kick in the 4-3 shootout win over Eintracht Frankfurt on Thursday that sent Chelsea into the final against fellow London club Arsenal in Baku on May 29.

The 28-year-old is expected to leave Chelsea at the end of the season after seven years at Stamford Bridge, with British media linking him with a move to Real Madrid.

"If it's my last game I will try to do everything for this club to win a trophy," Hazard told BT Sport.

REUTERS

Manchester United must invest wisely in transfer market - Solskjaer

LONDON

MANCHESTER United must take "smart" decisions when signing new players during the close season and nurture their youth players so they can compete in the Premier League next season, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

A brief resurgence under Solskjaer gave United hope of finishing in the top four but they failed to qualify for the Champions League after winning only two of their last eight games.

The 20-times league winners dropped down to sixth as a result and cannot finish higher than fifth on the final day. Solskjaer said player injuries in the final weeks of the season cost United a top four spot.

"We've got to recruit smart, we've got to keep bleeding the youngsters and we'll be fine," Solskjaer told MUTV at the club's end-of-season awards night.

"This club is huge and the media and everyone's criticising us as soon as they've got a chance. We got a few injuries and it's been

ups and downs for the last two months, but that's football.

"It's not like (playing the video game) Football Manager. You've got to deal with different stuff outside of football as well... But I've enjoyed it. It's a great challenge. I haven't gone to bed one night worrying about what's going to happen."

Defender Luke Shaw was named the club's player of the year but the English left back said he would trade the award for a successful season with the team.

"It's obviously nice for me but I'd rather win no trophies and have a better season as a team," Shaw said. "It's nice but we need to move on and focus on next season and what's to come."

"I think for me personally it's probably been my best season since I've been here. I would have rather it had been a better season for the team but it wasn't meant to be."

United host relegated Cardiff City on Sunday in their final game of the season.

REUTERS

Hazard sends Chelsea to UEL final ahead of probable exit

LONDON

EDEN Hazard was shot, knackered, spent. The Europa League is not his stage, not really; everybody knows that and it is one reason why, as Chelsea plugged along through their previous 15 outings in the competition, he had only been wheeled out for 228 minutes in total.

Here he had dragged himself through an entire two hours of Thursday's semi-final second leg, those whirring legs slowing up to eventually resemble paddles slugging their way through mud. The juice had run out; the ideas had really too. Eintracht Frankfurt had brought this tie to a knife edge and, with it, had put Hazard's grand finale on the line.

Stamford Bridge is Hazard's stage. It has been for seven years now, no matter what the competition. Hazard's fire has raged during that time, ever so occasionally dying down to merely a flicker.

He has slalomed his way to titles; bewitched his way to individual awards; carried dying teams on his shoulders; jinked into the club's pantheon of greats to such an extent that the drawn-out, opaque departure process he has undergone this season has drawn barely a murmur of disapproval from the stands.

But Hazard had never faced a situation like this. He had watched Cesar Azpilicueta miss in the shootout and give Eintracht one foot on the final. He had seen Kepa Arrizabalaga, wise to Martin Hinteregger's attempt to drill the ball down the middle, stand firm and wedge it between his legs.

He knew his time was coming when Goncalo Paciencia, his stuttering run-up postage stamped with inevitability, let Kepa save again. Now, he had his chance: one last shot for one last final; one last shot in front of the crowd that he adores and who have, with no need for encouragement, reciprocated that in bundles; one last moment of high drama to bookend the lightning bolts of sheer magic.

Hazard did not miss. Nobody seriously thought he would; that he would score was probably the nearest thing to a certainty on a wild, snarling night that swung this way and that. He sent Kevin Trapp the wrong way, perhaps grateful for the 10 minutes he had been given to



Chelsea's Eden Hazard scores a penalty to win shootout during their Europa League semi final second leg match against Eintracht Frankfurt at Stamford Bridge in London, Britain on Thursday. (Agencies)

clear his mind since the end of extra time.

It was a crisp, lucid finish; they usually are, and as most of his teammates flocked to mob Kepa, Hazard ran slightly behind, eyes trained on the Shed End's mass of part-relieved, part-delirious limbs.

"I always take my responsibility," Hazard said afterward. His responsibility was to score, whether or not this was his last kick of a ball at Stamford Bridge; but if he is indeed to leave Chelsea this summer, there is something else at play too.

He has helped them to hold their nerve domestically -- to a sounder degree than their rivals, in any case -- and quality for next season's Champions League. If he can send himself off with a second Europa League title, beating Arsenal in Baku and adding to the trophy won in 2012-13, then perhaps he can leave in the knowledge that a fractured club is finally beginning to heal.

Because, make no mistake, Chelsea's home is a complex, troubled place.

Five minutes before the end of normal time, Maurizio Sarri replaced Ruben Loftus-Cheek -- the scorer of their first-half opener but a diminishing influence as Eintracht clawed their way back into the tie -- with the fresher legs of Ross Barkley.

Ordinarily, it should not have been a

controversial move, but the disdain for Sarri, palpable since the winter, needed little excuse to rear its head even on what was, whether they liked it or not, Chelsea's biggest game of the season.

The boos rang out from all four sides; it was far removed from the expectant, supportive environment that might be expected when things were going to the wire against excellent opponents, but nothing about this season in west London has fitted preconceived notions.

Everything feels on thin ice here. Sarri has steered them to a respectable finish and might well top that with a European trophy, but his philosophy, his preference for method over indignant, us-against-the-world belligerence, simply does not seem to fit. When Eintracht's brilliant young striker Luka Jovic equalised after half-time, the tension was that of a crowd waiting to turn.

"Over the 120 minutes, we were the better team and had the better chances," the Eintracht coach Adi Hutter claimed. He was probably right: The substitute Sebastian Haller saw two extra-time efforts cleared off the line; and from beginning to end, it was only the visiting supporters -- surely the loudest, most inventive bunch heard at any top-level match in England

this year -- who seemed energised to offer unconditional support.

They and their vibrant team, which faces a breakup comparable to that of Champions League heroes Ajax, deserved more. But Chelsea themselves might lose a huge part of their modern identity come August. The chances of seeing anyone capable of such sustained brilliance as Hazard -- whose name was greeted with bellows of approval before kickoff as a flag bearing his image was passed along the Matthew Harding Stand -- gracing this turf in the foreseeable future are remote.

At least they could wring out every last drop here. It was Hazard who set up Loftus-Cheek's goal before, by his exacting standards, failing to match perspiration with end product. That was before he settled the issue, threw his shirt to the crowd and disappeared down the tunnel for what was surely the final time.

"In my mind, I don't know yet," he said, inscrutable as ever, when asked about his future. "If it is my last game [against Arsenal], I will try to do everything."

One last flourish could yet fix Chelsea and Sarri. But after delivering so poetically here, you wonder what more he could possibly do.

(AGENCIES)

SPORT

Aubameyang lifts Arsenal within
one game of the promised land

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas (3rd R), speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday on Spanish soccer club Sevilla FC's tour of Tanzania. Sevilla FC will take on Simba in the city on May 23. The gaming company has organized the event in cooperation with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF). Looking on (L-R) are TFF information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, the federation's Director of Finance and Administration, Cornel Barnaba, and Simba's information officer, Haji Manara. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

TFF unveils gate fees for Simba, Sevilla FC clash

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has unveiled entrance fees for international friendly match pitting domestic giants, Simba, against Spanish football big guns, Sevilla FC, to be played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 23.

The match, hosted by sports betting firm SportPesa, is set to kick off at 7pm.

Cornel Barnaba, TFF's Director of Finance and Administration, noted yesterday that fans wishing to watch the match from the VIP B seats will pay 15,000/- each, and each of the seats in the popular stands will cost 5,000/-.

"There will as well be Platinum area, which will cost 100,000/- for each of the fans...fans that will pay for the seats will moreover be transported to the venue from Serena Hotel, they will also be served food and drinks at the stadium and will thereafter be taken back to the hotel," Barnaba said.

He moreover appealed to fans to buy tickets for the game early on to avoid unnecessary inconveniences.

"The tickets will be sold at all Puma petrol stations in Dar es Salaam in which fans can buy tickets via Selcom cards, therefore fans should start buying the tickets early so they can not miss them," he stressed.

SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, disclosed the firm has moreover opted to host the game at the mentioned time to give every Tanzanian opportunity to watch it, as it will be played during the holy month of Ramadhan. "We know the duel will be played during the holy month of Ramadhan for that matter we have opted for a 7pm kick off and allow food vendors to sell iftar at the stadium so people can break fast before watching the match," he disclosed.

Sevilla are set to jet into Tanzania for an end of the season tour.

The club, which has won the UEFA Europa League on five occasions, will also visit various tourist sites in the country, as well as taking part in soccer clinics and seminars for football officials in the country.

It is the second time for SportPesa to bring a top European soccer club to Tanzania. The gaming firm had earlier brought English side, Everton, in 2017.

Alliance Girls' coach bemoans poor refereeing

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu Dodoma

MWANZA'S Alliance Girls' assistant coach, Sultani Juma, has expressed misgivings over referees that are officiating the ongoing Mainland Women Premier League, claiming they are biased.

Juma issued the comments after the match between Baobab Queens and Alliance Girls, played at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma last week and ended with Baobab Queens winning 2-1. The coach noted the league faces plenty of challenges but the event's referees have mostly been below par.

"I should honestly say this league is facing a lot of challenges. The referees have been faring poorly and it is extremely difficult to get referees for the matches," Juma disclosed.

"For instance we had yet to get the required number of referees during the pre-match meeting, referees who are based in this region had to oversee the match given the ones that were assigned for the duel staged a no show." He further pointed out a good number of participating teams are experiencing difficulties in meeting transportation costs.

Neema Paul netted two goals for Baobab Queens in the match, Leah Kamanda recorded Alliance Girls' goal.

Baobab Queens, therefore, have maintained their place in the league given they are occupying the eighth spot with 19 points.

In another development, Baobab Queen' chairperson, Inosensia James, has called on the sport's stakeholders and companies to back the outfit given it operates in extremely difficult condition.

Chess League set to climax next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

WINNERS of the inaugural Chess League will be known mid next month when the final games will be played in Dar es Salaam.

The Chess League, which is recognized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), has attracted 10 sides.

They are Bakertilly, Ahead Africa, Don Bosco, New Africa Hotel, Lake Oil, HS Computers, Specialized Engineering, My World Pre School, Flash Net and Kamal Steel.

Each team has played six games and Ahead Africa are leading by 10 points followed by Don Bosco that has also posted 10 points but with inferior marks.

Third-placed Kamal Steel has seven points, Flashnet has been placed fourth with six points.

My World Pre School is in the fifth spot with six points, sixth-placed Specialized Engineering has six points, Bakertilly has been placed seventh with five points. New Africa Hotel team and Lake Oil team come eighth and ninth respectively although either team has registered five points, while HS Computers are anchoring the table with no point.

The tournament's organizing committee, secretary, FIDE Master Hemed Mlawa said he is happy with competition in the tournament and expect more fireworks on the final day.

"The finals of the tournament will be on June 16, each team has so far played six games and on the final day each will play two games," he noted.

"It will be more entertaining as you can see the difference of points between all the teams is not that big, for now I can say each team stand a chance of emerging as champions."

He said best performing teams would be awarded trophies, medals and cash prize.

The league, he noted, targets to provide a mutually beneficial structure whereby chess players in the country may compete, learn, share ideas and promote the sport in a friendly manner and atmosphere.



My World Pre-School chess team's players (in yellow T-shirts) Asha Kondo, Sunday Manara and Candidate Master Nurudin Hassuji, take on Kamal Steel team's players (L-R) Hussein Ibrahim, Taher Hassuji and Mussa Mangula, during one of the Chess League's matches in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

Allegri's future in the air amid speculation on Conte return

MILAN

JUVENTUS has little to play for now, and coach Massimiliano Allegri is using his pressure-free time to think about his future.

The 51-year-old Allegri has won five straight league titles, four Italian Cups and two Italian Super Cups in five seasons at Juventus. However, the Champions League continues to elude the team, which reached the final in 2015 and 2017.

This was supposed to be Juve's year after it signed Cristiano Ronaldo, but the club lost to Ajax in the quarterfinals and Allegri said the disappointment is "worse this year than other times."

Allegri's contract expires at the end of the season.

"We need to analyze what has gone well and what has not gone well and plan the future," Allegri said. "Every year people say I'm leaving and then I stay. And this time we have the advantage of an extra month to plan."

Juventus visits Roma on Sunday before hosting Atalanta the following week. Both teams are battling for a Champions League berth. Atalanta currently occupies fourth place and the final qualifying position but has only three points more than Roma and AC Milan.



Senior national women cricket squad's Fatuma Omary bowls against Indonesia in an international friendly game, which was played in Thailand last year.

Tanzania in pursuit of ICC Women T20 Qualifiers final

By Guardian Reporter

SENIOR national women cricket squad will be out to make the most of its last chance for qualifying for the final of the ICC Women T20 Qualifiers, Africa, as it locks horns with Rwanda in the Group A duel at the Old Hararians Sports Club in Zimbabwe today.

The Tanzania girls will, however, not only need to grab victory over Rwanda but also pray the hosts, Zimbabwe, tumble to Nigeria in their last match, which will also be played today, if the East Africans are to book a place in the final, slated for tomorrow.

Zimbabwe, nevertheless, are strong favourites for progression to the final, given they have yet to lose a match in the Group A of the qualifiers, which also has Rwanda Mozambique and Nigeria.

Zimbabwe girls had, as of yesterday, been topping the Group A of the qualifiers with three wins in as many matches which have seen them collect six points and a net run rate of 5.617.

The Tanzania girls were positioned second with two wins and a loss, which have seen them record four points and a net run rate of 1.465.

They opened their campaign with a loss to Zimbabwe but then regrouped to record wins over Nigeria and Mozambique thereafter.

Although Rwanda have tied Tanzania on wins, loss and points, the former have been placed third as they have an inferior net run rate of -0.691.

Nigeria and Mozambique come fourth and fifth respectively in the group. Nigeria girls have recorded one win and two losses, which have seen them collect two points and a net run rate of -1.935.

Mozambique girls have lost all four matches to end their campaign with no point and a net run rate of -3.817.

In Group B, Namibia have already cruised

to the final, given they have won three matches to collect six points.

Uganda, Kenya and Sierra Leone have been placed second, third and fourth respectively in the group.

In today's match, experienced players, Monica Paschal and Fatuma Omary, will have to be in great form to catapult Tanzania to a much-needed victory.

The duo showcased scintillating displays to help their team record an impressive 10-wicket victory over Mozambique, with Fatuma nailing 26 runs not out and Monica notching nine runs not out.

Fatuma is currently placed third in the list of the event's top run getters, having recorded 97 runs in three innings and an average of 48.50.

She is trailing Zimbabwe duo of Sharne Mayers and Modeste Mupachikwa that have registered 167 runs and 121 runs respectively in three innings.

Monica has been placed ninth in the list with 70 runs in three innings and an average of 70.00.

The Africa regional qualifying tournament for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020, which started on May 5, is set to climax on Sunday.

The participating teams are Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda.

The tournament is looking to build on an excellent run of African qualifying events of late, after a dramatic U-19 tournament in Namibia, as well as the rapidly approaching Men's T20 World Cup, Africa Finals tournament in Uganda later this month.

Uganda are the defending champions for the women's tournament, having memorably held off Zimbabwe in Windhoek two years ago.

The hosts will be out to settle that score, and also to do well in front of their home supporters.

As women's cricket continues to flourish in Africa, it is tournaments of this nature that will ensure that the game thrives even further, and this is thus an important week for the region.

The group winners at the end of the week will contest the final, where the winner will seal passage to the Global Qualifiers.

The competition's champions will secure a place in both ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers 2019 and ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers 2020.

Fifteen teams across two regional tournaments are competing for top spot to continue their journey to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 and ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021.

Six teams competing in East Asia Pacific Qualifiers and nine teams taking part in Africa Qualifiers as Road to Australia 2020 and New Zealand 2021 continues.

The ICC Women's Qualifiers, East Asia Pacific started on May 6 in Vanuatu where 15 T20 internationals are played in the five-day tournament.

Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, PNG, Samoa and Vanuatu are all two steps away from the Australia T20 and New Zealand 50 over World Cups, and will be fighting for top spot to keep their hopes alive.

Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and hosts Zimbabwe are battling it out in ICC Women's Qualifier Africa from May 6 for the top spot to continue their journey.

The five regional tournaments act as a dual qualifier for the 27 teams in their pursuit for ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers places taking place in Scotland between 31 August and September 7 2019 where they will join Bangladesh, Ireland, Scotland and Thailand.

In the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2020 they will join confirmed teams Bangladesh, Ireland and Thailand.