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# Giraffe conservation launched as tall mammal enters red zone

At the moment, Tanzania has an estimated population of 30,000 giraffes but they are facing a number of threats, including diseases

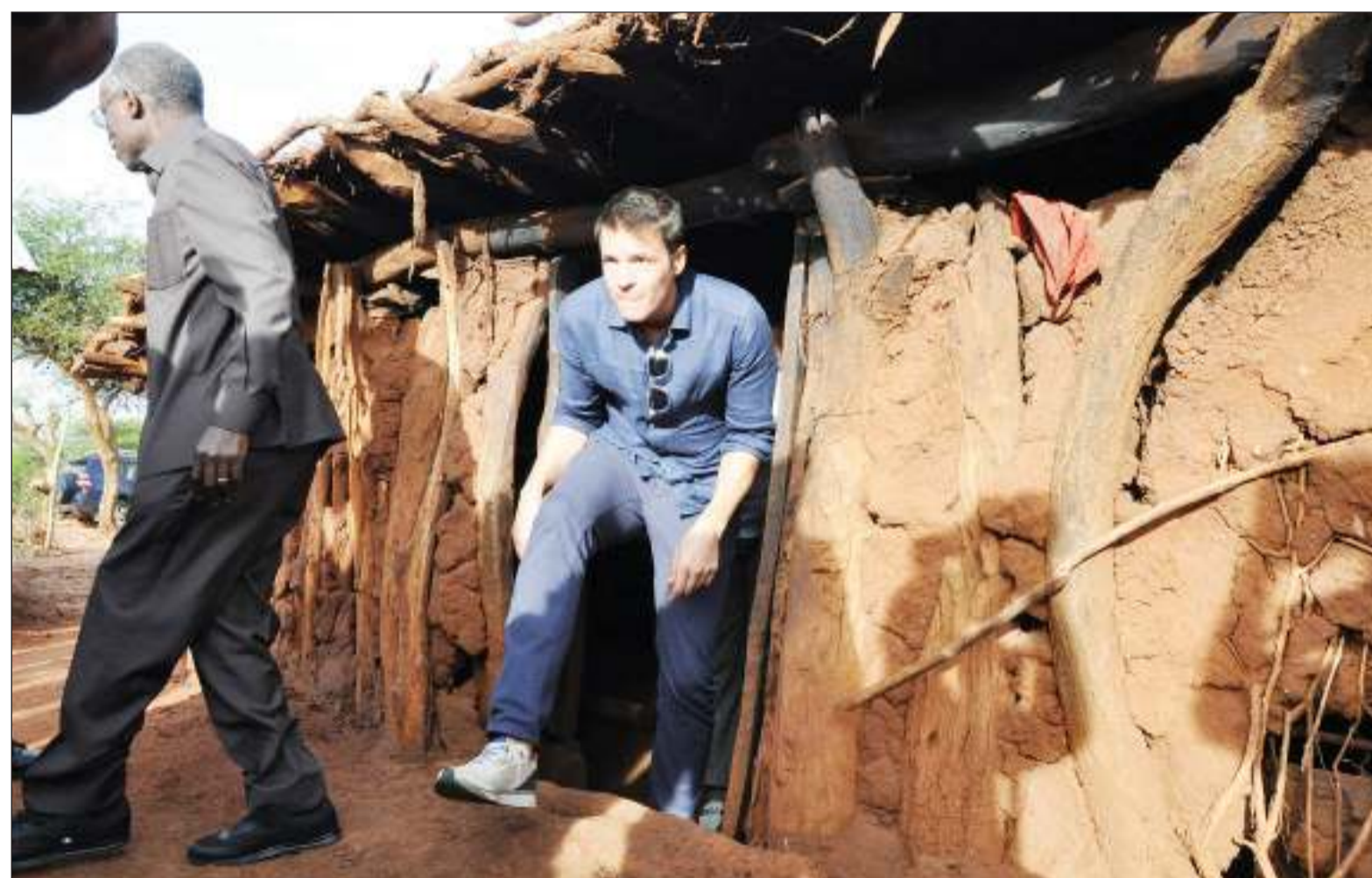
By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

**T**HE first National Giraffe Conservation Action Plan was launched here yesterday at a time when the majestic tall mammals are reported to be facing serious a danger of becoming extinct.

To be executed for five years from 2020 to 2025, the strategic plan includes among other things a countrywide census to establish the actual population of the wildlife species regarded as a key national symbol and whose future is being threatened by drastic changes in their natural habitat.

The inauguration of plan was graced by the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla during the 12th Scientific Conference organized by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) at the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC).

"At the moment, Tanzania has an estimated population of 30,000 giraffes but they are facing a number of threats including diseases," explained Dr Julius Keyyu, the TAWIRI director of research.



Michelle Zini of the World Bank's Tanzania office emerges from a traditional house belonging to Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) beneficiary Sophia Saragu at Laja village in Karatu District, Arusha Region, yesterday. Left is Tasaf executive director Ladislaus Mwamanga. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilelezi

## Sumaye calls it a day, opts out of Chadema

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye has announced that as from yesterday he was no longer a member of Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA).

He also said he has relinquished his position as a member of the party's top decision making organ.

He talked of the decision at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday where he covered various issues on the ongoing



party elections. Security was beefed inside and outside the hall where the press conference was held.

ence was held.

The meeting spurred considerable discussion in the media from the former prime minister (1995-2005) after he garnered 48 'No' votes out of 76 in the polls for Coastal Zone chairman. Party procedures provide that the poll be repeated.

Sumaye said what happened in that poll and his decision to take up forms to contest the party's national chairmanship against current chairman Freeman Mbowe leaves him without a credible reason to remain in the party.



## NGO gathers Lake elders to ponder child marriages, pregnancies, gender violence

By Guardian Correspondents, Mwanza

KATAVI Region is cited to be leading in instances of child pregnancies whilst Shinyanga Region leads in child marriages and Mara in gender-based violence (GBV).

This was indicated at a meeting of traditional elders from nine regions here yesterday that discussed how elders can contribute to solve the three challenges.

Statistics for 2015/2016 issued by the

**Gender-based expression of stigma and cruelty like beatings, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriages has been on the rise in the society and to eliminate them traditional elders have to be incorporated in the plan**

Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) show that Mara and Shinyanga Regions lead among 11 regions in having many GBV incidents, at 78 percent of surveyed households on average.

Other regions include Tabora (71 percent), Kagera (67), Geita (63) and Simiyu (62). Others are Kigoma (61 percent), Mwanza (60), Njombe (53) and Dodoma

**At the moment these infections have spread throughout the country, but so far we have yet to formally establish the causes though some infectious worms are suspected to be behind the two diseases**

Dr Keyyu described diseases currently affecting the tall mammals in the country as the 'Giraffe Ear Disease,' which originated from Mikumi National Park and the 'Giraffe Skin Disease' first reported in Ruaha National Park.

"At the moment these infections have spread throughout the country, but so far we have yet to formally establish the causes though some infectious worms are suspected to be behind the two diseases," he explained.

On his part, minister Dr Kigwangalla pointed out that other the other catalyst speeding up the giraffe's extinction is loss of habitats. "Human activities have encroached reserved

## Upkeep of refugees needs \$126m - UNHCR

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said it will need a total of USD 126m (more than 290bn/-) for the upkeep of refugees in various areas in the country.

UNHCR assistant operations officer George Okoth-Obbo told reporters on Tuesday the money the UN agency disposes is only a third of that amount hence they are asking other institutions to continue contributing.

In the tripartite agreement on Burundian refugees in the country - between Tanzania,

Burundi and UNHCR - it was agreed that refugees who were ready to return on their own accord should start doing so, but those who are not ready should stay and receive all services as per international laws and obligations.

"I like to use this opportunity to thank the Tanzania Government for continuing to help the refugees from Burundi, but also we have all agreed and signed the agreement on repatriating refugees who want to go back," said Okoth-Obbo.

He said up to now more than 79,000 refugees have been aided to go back in the period beginning May 2015.

**I like to use this opportunity to thank the Tanzania Government for continuing to help the refugees from Burundi, but also we have all agreed and signed the agreement on repatriating refugees who want to go back**

Statistics also show that Tanzania has given refugee status to 278,275 people out of whom 166,000 were from Burundi and who started entering Tanzania in April 2015.

In the tripartite agreement, refugees who registered will be aided to go back whereby 2,000 will be received in Burundi in groups of 1,000 each week.

During the signing ceremony Tanzania was represented by the Minister for Home Affairs Kangi Lugola while Burundi was represented by his counterpart Pascal Barandagiye. George Okoth-Obbo signed the agreement on behalf of UNHCR.

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# Kenyan police thwart al-Shabaab attack in border region village

GARISSA

KENYAN police said yesterday that they have foiled al-Shabab's aim to disrupt communication services and later carry out an attack in the northeast region of Garissa.

Mohamed Birik, northeastern regional commissioner said the militants suspected to have crossed from Somalia only managed to destroy a diesel generator that powers telecommunication mast after they struck at around 1 a.m. in Diiso village.

"I want to confirm that all our officers have been accounted for, not even one of them has also been injured or kidnapped as it is alleged by some quarters and on the social media," Birik said on phone.

"I want to appeal to people to kindly stop spreading rumors and unverified information because doing so only serves to create unnecessary tension and fear," he added.

Initial reports had indicated that the 21 police officers attached at the camp were missing and that the mast belonging to the mobile firm, Safaricom, had been completely destroyed.

Birik said that the militants' mission was to completely destroy the mast but a quick response by the security officers repulsed them.

A police officer attached to the camp who spoke in confidence said that their quick response saved the situation.

"Their (militants) intention was not only to destroy the mast but to completely overrun the police station and make away with ammunitions like they have done in other areas in their previous

attacks. Their timing was also at night thinking we will be deep in sleep but the fact that we are in border town has taught one lesson, that we remain alert at all times," said a police officer who declined to be identified.

Al-Shabab militants usually destroy telecommunication mast to disrupt police response and communication in the area before they could inflict harm on the locals.

Birik said that a team of security officers were already in the area to assess the situation noting that an operation involving a contingent of security officers was already pursuing the militants believed to have fled back towards the Kenya-Somali border.

"Our teams are already on the ground. Efforts are being made to pursue the militants. We have also stepped up operation along borders not only in Garissa but across the region," said Birik.

He allayed fears that the militant could be targeting to attack other areas noting that security officers across the region were on high alert especially as the festive season draws near.

"Kenyans should be rest assured that their security is well taken care off. Our officers are alert and working round the clock to ensure that Kenyans remain safe. Let everybody go about their normal business without fear," he said.

A number of security personnel have died along the border with Somalia as a result of the attacks some that include improvised explosive devices placed on roadsides by al-Shabab militants.



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, speaks at "Choose France", an event held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday evening to celebrate the June 2019 launch of the France Alumni Tanzania network. Students, alumni and private sector players used the chance, among other things, to share experiences and discuss job opportunities. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Giraffe conservation launched as tall mammal enters red zone

FROM PAGE 1

areas, reducing the wildlife territories," he specified.

He said Tanzania loses 400,000 hectares of forest cover annually, and the country has witnessed a 15 percent reduction of natural vegetation cover in the last decade.

Backed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its 'Promoting Tanzania's Environment,

Conservation and Tourism (PROTECT) program, the giraffe conservation initiative entails extensive research to find solutions to threats facing the tall mammals.

Through the PROTECT programme, USAID supports interpellations that seek to reduce threats to biodiversity such as human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss and wildlife trafficking.

The programme also empowers a wide range of

organizations to participate effectively in the policy-making process. It also seeks to build the capacity of institutions working with wildlife conservation and tourism, he affirmed.

Another targeted area is leveraging private sector investment in the wildlife tourism sub-sector and support local partners to implement conservation activities at a landscape scale.

The 12th TAWIRI Scientific

Conference, running under the theme 'Sustainable future for Tanzania's Biodiversity Conservation: The science behind priority, strategy and benefit,' addresses natural resource governance and infrastructure development.

It also examines human-wildlife interactions and land use profiles, wildlife diseases and ecosystem health, plus wildlife ecology and ecological interactions.

Other topics for

presentations include climate change and wildlife conservation, biodiversity inventory of flora and fauna, along with hydrology and wetland resources conservation.

Still other discussions will focus on wildlife habitat, range lands and invasive species, vegetation ecology and ethno-botany, as well as beekeeping and api-tourism (sustainable tourism in beekeeping areas).



Specialists from Saudi Arabia perform open-heart surgery on a child at Dar es Salaam's Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) on Tuesday. The Arab nation's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre on Monday launched a voluntary medical campaign for open-heart surgery and catheterisation for Tanzanian children from low-income families. The MNH operations began on Monday and will continue until tomorrow, with five performed until now - all successful. Photo courtesy of Embassy of Saudi Arabia

## Sumaye calls it a day, opts out of Chadema

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He said in the zonal chairmanship poll delegates at the electoral meeting were wooed by some party leaders to take up forms to contest for the chairmanship so that he fails.

"I have been forced to quit Chadema. From now I am no longer a Chadema member and will not join any political party. I will be ready to be used by any party including Chadema," he declared.

He asserted: "I love you all Chadema members and I have great faith in you. I thank you for the cooperation you gave me. I know many will be hurt by what your zonal leaders did and I forgive them."

Sumaye called on Mbowe to unite the factions that emerged from the party's elections before the polls climax on December 18, saying that those around him were tearing apart the party. After his speech reporters

escorted Sumaye up to the elevators after which he left the area followed by two police cars.

The party's Director of Ideology, Mobilization and Communications John Mrema said he was shocked by what the former premier said about the Coastal Zone polls and quitting the party.

It was the first time he heard of Sumaye's complaints and couldn't see why the matter wasn't reported before, he added.

## Dr Shein launches new fishing boat, vows to develop Isles fishing sector

By Guardian Reporter

RECOGNIZING that Zanzibar territorial waters have not been fully exploited by the fishing sector, the Seventh-Phase Zanzibar government has embarked on strategies to develop the sector.

Zanzibar president Dr Ali Mohamed Shein said this yesterday at a ceremony to launch a new fishing boat christened 'Sehewa 02' owned by Zanzibar Fisheries Company (ZAFICO), at Mtoni Verde Hotel in the outskirts of Zanzibar Town.

The event also saw the launch of three patrol boats owned by the

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries in the Fisheries Development Department.

Dr Shein said that the United Republic of Tanzania has 223,000 square kilometers of special Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that provides opportunities for investments in the fishing sector where all types of tuna and others fishes are in abundance.

He explained that there was still need to allow foreign fishing trawlers to fish in the territorial waters by special agreements as a way to benefit from ocean

resources.

Dr Shein said that fishing in the open sea is conducted by large trawlers with licenses from Territorial Waters Authority and an average of 100 trawlers fish in the area each year.

He said a total of 12,276.2 tonnes of various types of tuna was fished by trawlers from Taiwan, Oman, Seychelles, Korea, Thailand, China, France, Spain and Mauritius.

"Hence, he explained; "there is need to increase efforts for us to exploit our own resources so that we reap the fruits thereof instead of waiting to profit from the 'second

hand'."

He said his government has made reforms to ZAFICO and given modern equipment for the development of the fishing sector, and added that the former company established in 1974 known as "ZAFICO - i.e. Zanzibar Fisheries Corporation" with offices at Malindi was tasked to develop the fishing sector and increase fish catches for home consumption.

Hence his government decided to establish a new company 'Uvuvi Zanzibar' or ZAFICO - Zanzibar Fisheries Company through Act No 15 of 2013 as an important step in developing the fisheries sector.

## NGO gathers Lake Zone elders to ponder child marriages, pregnancies, gender-based violence

FROM PAGE 1

and Katavi both 50 percent.

Also out of nine regions leading in child marriages, Shinyanga leads with 59 percent of households where such an instance was reported, Tabora (58), Mara (54), Dodoma (51), Lindi (48), Mbeya (45), Singida (42), Morogoro (42) and Rukwa 40 percent.

Speaking to reporters, Lucy Tesha from UN Women in the anti-GBV division said the meeting brought together 225 elders from those regions to lend support to the government's efforts in the fight against GBV.

Gender-based expression of stigma and cruelty like beatings, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriages has been on the rise in the so-

ciety and to eliminate them traditional elders have to be incorporated in the plan.

The managing director of Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, Yassin Ally called on the elders to come out to shout down these acts and plead with the society to adopt customs and ways of upbringing that spur the country's economic development.

A participant at the meeting, Thobista Ibrahim from Geita said men are the main architects of child marriages, which leads to an increasing population of street children.

Another participant, Said Mwachange from Tabora commended the government for making big efforts in the fight against the perpetrators and taking legal action whenever they are found.



Former Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye, who later crossed over from the ruling CCM to the opposition Chadema as Central Committee member, addresses a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday to declare that he was quitting political activities and would remain "neutral". Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Dr Shein: Zanzibar has something to learn from Vietnam's development

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday said that he had learnt a number of issues from Vietnam from successes they have registered under the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).

Dr Shein (pictured) said this yesterday at the State House when he met with a member of CPV Central Committee's Secretariat Pham Minh Chinh, who was accompanied with delegation of CPV leaders.

The arrival of the party delegation is a result of Dr Shein's visit to Vietnam in 2012 through the invitation made by President Troung Tan Sang.

Dr Shein said that the southeast Asian nation has registered big success in different sectors -- economy, social and political; hence "Zanzibar will continue to learn from that country."

He commended the southeast Asian country for reinforcing relations with the ruling CCM and CPV.

He however said that the visit made by CPV top leaders is evidence that the 54-year-old relations between Tanzania and Vietnam remain strong.

The current relationships, according to Dr Shein are aimed at strengthening agriculture, education, fisheries, research and trade.

Dr Shein used the platform to call Vietnam investors to visit and invest in Zanzibar--the island with a wide-range of investment opportunities.

The Isles' leader commended Vietnam



for its efforts of encouraging mobile phone company--Halotel to come and invest in Tanzania's telecommunication industry.

Meanwhile, CPV leader, Pham Minh Chinh also commended his host for the development endeavours he had achieved since he came into power through the ruling CCM.

He said that his visit is part of strengthening the current relations between the ruling parties and the two countries.

## ETS ups excise duty collections by 34 pc in ten months

By Guardian Reporter

THE collections of excise duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) on various products have improved since the introduction of the Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS).

The first phase of the ETS roll-out was conducted on January 15, 2019 whereby stamps were

installed on 19 companies that produce alcohol, wine and spirits.

The second phase, which saw ETS being stamped on soft and carbonated drinks as well as bottled water, was rolled out on August 1 this year.

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) deputy commissioner

general Msafiri Mbibo said earlier this week ago that the taxman collected 77.8bn/- in excise duty on spirits and wines between February and October this year compared to the same period last year.

The amount represents 33.7 per cent increase compared to 58.2bn/- posted during a similar

period a year back.

Under the period of review, VAT on the same products (spirits and wines) went north by 30.6 per cent to 23.5bn/-.

Excise duty on soft drinks jumped by 8.7 per cent to Sh10 billion between September and October compared to what was recorded during the similar pe-

riod in the preceding year.

Under the period of reference, TRA registered a 19.5 percent increase to 14.1bn/- in VAT on the same products - soft drinks.

"This is just a beginning. We are optimistic as time goes on ETS system will provide a wider room for more revenue collection," noted Mbibo.

The government announced plans to adopt the ETS system in June last year, a move which saw a Swiss firm, Société Industrielle et Commerciale de Produits Alimentaires (SICPA) emerge the winner of the tender.

It afterward signed a deal with TRA for supply, installation and provision of supporting

software and hardware for ETS management system.

The TRA deputy boss said the taxman was doing all in its power to ensure all products in the market had ETS.

The efforts aimed at providing no room for flooding the market with cheap substandard products.

## TCC Plc Tanzania's Top Employer 2020: Certified excellence in employees' conditions

■ World-class dedication to the employee experience acknowledged for third consecutive year



The Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company (TCC Plc) business support specialist, Ilumbo Malaki (left), fleet technical advisor, Horombo Lamwai (middle) and Ramadhan Muhagama, driver (right) holding the JTI - Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company Top Employer Award after emerging the Number one Top Employer in Tanzania 2020 and the Top Employer in Tanzania and Africa 2020 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Johannesburg, South Africa**— Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company (TCC Plc) has once again confirmed its status as an employer that puts people first by enhancing its status as a Top Employer in Tanzania and Africa.

Building on its successes over the past two years, TCC Plc has been certified as the number one Top Employer in Tanzania 2020, and the Top Employer in Tanzania and Africa for the third consecutive year.

This achievement validates TCC's approach towards creating a positive environment for employees under well-established Human Resources (People & Culture) practices which aims to deliver exceptional employee's conditions.

Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company (TCC Plc) as a member of Japan Tobacco International (JTI) group of companies has been certified as the number one Top Employer 2020 based on the research conducted into the company's exceptional employees' conditions by the Top Employer Institute. Top Employers Institute is the global authority on recognizing excellence in people practices.

Organisations certified as Top Employers dedicate themselves to providing the very best working environment for employees through their progressive 'people-first' Human Resources (People & Culture) practices. This global Certification Programme has certified and recognised more than 1500 Top Employers in more than 118 countries across five continents.

Mark Phillips, JTI- TCC Plc Regional Human Resources (People & Culture) Vice President, who attended the ceremony, said:

This is a great moment for us at TCC Plc and JTI. This Top Employer Award is a seal of excellence, a recognition of effort and commitment of the dedicated team who took it upon themselves to be the best they can be and to do the best possible for their people. This award is a milestone it is not a destination. It is a page in JTI and TCC's story in Africa, and like so many stories it is a telling.

David Plink, CEO at the Top Employers Institute, said: "Recognizing our regional Certified Top Employers 2020 is an extremely proud moment for us all. This level of certification showcases the dedication to the consistent application of HR excellence on a regional level – an impressive commitment to enriching the world of work. Congratulations!"

## African Development Bank launches digital tool to help African youth learn to code

SHARM EL-SHEIKH

THE African Development Bank and technology firm Microsoft has launched the 'Coding for Employment' digital training platform, an online tool to provide digital skills to African youth, wherever they are across the continent.

The platform, launched at the 2019 African Economic Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, aims to promote a continuous learning culture among young people and build their capacity to shape the continent's future.

The high-level event drew heads of state and government, ministers and leaders from the private sector and academia to discuss how this new tool and other technological innovations could be used to spur development across the continent.

"The youth employment and skills development challenge is a complex issue that requires systemic thinking and bold partnerships ... to address the existing skills gap and link youth to decent and sustainable employment," said Hendrina Doroba, the African Development Bank's acting director for Human Capital, Youth & Skills Development.

"The skills training platform launched today is a testament to the impact that such partnerships can achieve and the Bank looks forward to strengthening similar partnerships."

The platform teaches technical courses such as web development, design, data science and digital marketing and will be constantly adapted to respond to market demand. It is accessible on mobile devices, even in low internet connectivity settings and has an affordable, easy-to-navigate, secured and private interface.

"A defining challenge of our time is ensuring that everyone has equal opportunity to benefit from technology," Ghada Khalifa, Director of Microsoft Philanthropies for the Middle East and Africa, said at the launch.

"Forward-thinking initiatives such as the digital training platform represent our commitment to helping drive the momentum needed. Though there is still much work to be done, we believe that through

dynamic partnerships such as these, we can help build a knowledge-based economy in Africa that leaves no person behind."

The Coding for Employment Program is a crucial part of the African Development Bank's strategic agenda to create 25 million jobs by 2025, and to equip 50 million African youth with competitive skills.

The Bank piloted the program in five countries (Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire) in partnership with The Rockefeller Foun-

datation and Microsoft and is currently developing 14 ultra-modern centers specialized in ICT and entrepreneurship skills trainings for youth.

The goal is to scale up the program to 130 centers of excellence across the continent over a 10-year period.

It will create nine million jobs by building synergies with the public and the private sector globally to deliver demand-driven, agile and collaborative skills to empower young people to become innovative players in the digital economy.

## Zanzibar gets 25bn/- dividend from Zantel, as e-services deepen further

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has received a 25bn/- dividend from Isles' main telephone services provider (Zantel), as use of the National ICT Backbone in the Isles bear fruits.

The Managing Director of the Zanzibar Communications Backbone, Eng. Shukur Awadhi Suleiman, said here the dividend from Zantel covered the period between 2013 and 2014, further explaining that the government was happy with increased use of ICT in providing services to the public.

He reported that since the Zanzibar President, Dr Mohamed Shein, called for stepped use of ICT in serving the public in 2011, virtually all government offices have been connected to the National ICT Backbone and sequel to that provision of public services have been modernized, efficiency has increased, government revenue has gone up and collection modernized.

Eng. Suleiman said Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) now provides online services, cutting down costs and increasing efficiency.

Some 24 health centres scattered in Pemba and Unguja, he said, were using e-services. For example, he said, patients getting radiology services in their district centres no longer travel to the Mnazi Mmoja Main Hospital in Zanzibar town because results are sent back to their home districts online.

He also said the Isles Office of Administrator General offers birth certificates on line.

"Applicants furnish districts with the needed details. The information is sent online to the headquarters for verification, saving time and cutting down costs," he said.

Eng. Suleiman also said that the same applied to services offered in the education sector.



**Applicants furnish districts with the needed details. The information is sent online to the headquarters for verification, saving time and cutting down costs**



Sergeant Esther Mbugura (L) of the Fire and Rescue Force briefs Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki (2nd-R) and other people on the use of fire appliances at a consultative meeting for investors and government officials held in Morogoro yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



### ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

#### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: SMZ/F0111/G/NCB/2019~20/03 FOR SUPPLY OF OFFICE FURNITURE

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for Zanzibar Revenue Board that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo of 16th September, 2019 and through **ZRB e-procurement Web Portal:zanrevenue.org/eproc/**.
- Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) has set aside funds from its Budget for the Financial Year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for supply of office furniture.
- Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidder for supply of office furniture as follows:-

S/n	Name of Goods	Quantity	S/n	Name of Goods	Quantity
1	Office Chairs	30 Pcs	2	Office Tables	20 Pcs

The above items constitute one (1) lot; the bidders must quote for all items and full quantities specified in the lot.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works, Consultant Service and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Commissioner - Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) P. O, BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar Tel: 255-24-2230639/2233041 Fax: 255-24-2233904 email: zrb@zanrevenue.org and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 8:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday except for public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling One Hundred Thousands (100,000/-). Payment should be by bank payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board through the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) ,A/C Name; Commissioner -Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000.Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: zanrevenue.org/eproc /.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of the bid amount in the format provided in the Bidding documents.
- All bids in one original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00hrs **Thursday 2nd January, 2020**. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the address below.
- Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Secretary  
Tender Board  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O, Box 2072, 2nd Floor, Room No: 209  
Mazizini- Zanzibar.

## TBS to register businesses electronically

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has said that starting this financial year (2019/20) it will start using electronic system for registration of various businesses in the country.

Acting TBS Manager for Northern Zone Nickonia Mwambene said this at a seminar with business people in Arusha Region that discussed on the procedure for registration of businesses.

Mwambene said the new system will cover business people all over the country who will have to register with TBS electronically instead of going to the bureau's head offices.

He said the new system will business

people to make payments for their licenses electronically, and added that the procedure will reduce bureaucracy and complaints experienced by them in the past. Mwambene said the government's aim to establish TBS law is to protect the security and health of the consumers and the environment, the step that builds confidence in the consumers on the quality and safety of foodstuffs and other items.

Opening the seminar, TBS Assistant Administrative Secretary, David Francis Lyamongi hailed TBS for the decision to educate business people on how best to run their businesses by adhering to the security and health of consumers.

He called on all District, Municipal

and City Councils in Arusha Region to cooperate with TBS to educate business people on the new registration system.

Meanwhile Arusha Region is to establish an investment desk that will incorporate all institutions dealing with registration of investors so as to reduce obstacles and bureaucracy in getting fast services.

The Arusha Region Trade Officer Nusu Franco said the seminar is one of the strategies to widen education to traders to enable them knowledgeable in various laws on conducting business.

Nusu said the TBS responsibility is to set national standards on goods, services and systems in the administration of quality in all sectors.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority Consumer Consultative Council (TCAA-CCC) acting executive director Debora Mlingo has a word with students of Mtwara's Bandari Secondary School at yesterday's launch of a TCAA CCC Students Club. The event was organised in the implementation of a strategy meant to raise air travel awareness among young people. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



NBC Ltd head of business Elvis Ndunguru (L) has a quick word with traders operating from Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone on the sidelines of a one-day business workshop held in the city on Tuesday. The event ran in tandem with the launch of the NBC Business Club for Dar es Salaam Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## France offers university courses in English to attract more international students

By Felister Peter

FRENCH Ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier has said his government focuses to lure more international students especially from Africa insisting more than 200 courses are entirely taught in English. "We want to maintain our status as a major host country and its aptitude to attract the best students in its institutions, whether they come from Africa, Asia or America. France is aware of all the high-level Tanzanian talents that will bring an asset to the international curricula of our many prestigious universities and schools," said the Ambassador.

He was speaking at the 'Choose France'

event to celebrate the France Alumni network in Tanzania held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. He noted that French government has this year sponsored 30 students to pursue studies at different France universities. He said France dedicates about 20 percent (Euros 10,000) of its national budget each year to support education. Ambassador Clavier said people chose to study in France due to a number of factors including culture and way of living. France is also chosen for the language since French is the official language of about 200 million people spoken in five continents. Speaking French provides privileged access to more than 47 countries in the world.

He said President Emmanuel Macron has set a target to attract 500,000 international students annually from 2017. Currently, there are 7,000 foreign students studying in France while this year alone, the country hosted 324,000 students. France is the 4th largest host country for international students in the world after US, UK and Australia, he noted. The Ambassador noted that they have organised the first French-Tanzania higher education fair to take place in Dar es Salaam next week whereas 10 French universities and Tanzanian universities will participate. At the event, he said, students, alumni and members of the private sector will meet different representatives of French

and Tanzanian universities to find professional opportunities and scholarships. Representing the France Alumni network in Tanzania, Salvius Duwe called upon fellow graduates to continue using their knowledge, skills and expertise to contribute to the country development. "We should be good ambassadors of France whenever we are, this will encourage many Tanzanian students to pursue their studies in France," said Duwe adding presence of the campus France Tanzania and its information centres at University of Dar es Salaam and State University of Zanzibar has resulted into many Tanzanians becoming aware of the opportunities in France.

## Sunflower oil processors call on govt to remove levies in production chain

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SUNFLOWER oil processors have suggested the need for the government to revise the Value Added Tax (VAT) charged in the sector to increase productivity. Processors said the tax has been proved a hindrance to the growth of the factories thereby giving room to foreign investors to penetrate into the sector. They were speaking on Tuesday at a meeting with the Agriculture deputy minister Omary Mgumba who visited Singida Region to inspect various agricultural projects. They appealed to the government to remove the levy from the whole chain of sunflower oil production and if possible to provide subsidy in the purchase of improved sunflower seeds and other inputs. "Sunflower is always in small supply and during harvesting season we find ourselves not alone, we have to bear stiff competition in securing the crop for extraction, and sometimes we deliberately lay our machines idle until when we have much sunflower because when we have adequate crop we can produce up to 300 tonnes of sunflower oil per day, while the machines have a capacity to produce 750 tonnes per day," said Nelson Mwakabuta, Public Relations Manager of Mount Meru Sunflower factory. Mwakabuta asked the government to provide farmers with seeds subsidy as well as increase production thereof, taking into consideration seed quality. He said traditional seeds yield bigger crop weight but have little oil. He said there is a type of traditional seeds such as Jupiter-chotara which yields 75-80 kgs per bag, but modern hybrid seeds yield between 60 to 65 kgs per bag. He said in shops hybrid seeds are sold at 7,000/- per kilo and added that last year a better quality of seed - 'Hisen 33' was brought into the country that is said to withstand both drought and heavy rains sold at 35,000/- per kilo, a price many farmers could not afford.

The Mount Meru Sunflower factory official said there have been unfair competitions in the market within some small sunflower extractors who do not pay any tax. The director of Singida Fresh Oil Mill Khalid Ally Omary asked the government to remove levies from the whole sunflower oil production chain in respect of local producers so as to bring about meaningful competition from importers of sunflower oil. He said they try their level best to go in tandem with the speed of the fifth-phase government but they are hindered by various government levies, and asked for temporary tax exemptions at least for importing essential equipment and spare parts for their factories. He said Fresh Oil Mill have a big sunflower oil extracting factory in Singida, but it has remained idle for the past three years due to failure to obtain tax exemption for importing vital spares. He said right now they have a middle-capacity plant producing 720 tonnes of oil per month and has employed 167 people but again, they are confronted by high VAT rates in the production chain, necessitating high retail price that cannot compete in the market.

## Saudi Arabian humanitarian aid and relief centre flags off campaign on heart surgeries in Dar focusing on children

By Guardian Reporter

SAUDI Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) on Tuesday launched a voluntary medical campaign for open-heart surgery and catheterisation for Tanzanian children from low-income families. According to a statement issued by KSRelief, operations are taking place from 02nd December 2019 till 06th December 2019 at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, where at the beginning of the campaign, volunteer doctors at the centre performed five open-heart operations, all of which were successful. "The volunteer medical campaign will target 30 Tanzanian children for open-heart operations as well as approximately 60 free cardiac catheterisation operations for children, participated by thirty medical volunteer specialists from Saudi Arabia's elite medical staff volunteers. Whereby, these children, from low-income families whom cannot afford to pay for private hospitals, will benefit from free medicines and medical supplies to alleviate their suffering and the suffering of their families. This medical campaign is part of the voluntary work carried out by the Centre to achieve the vision 2030 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and comes within the series of various voluntary campaigns funded and implemented by the Center in many countries under the guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. KSRelief was established by King Salman bin Abdulaziz in 2015 in the framework of the Saudi's efforts to alleviate the suffering of those in need worldwide. KSRelief has concluded a number of agreements with the UNHCR that aim at supporting refugees from Syria, Yemen and Rohingya. Since its establishment, KSRelief has helped 44 countries and spent \$3.25 billion on 1,011 projects. The centre mainly works to relieve people in conflict zones, especially Yemen. In Ramadan 2019, KSRelief has provided free food baskets to Muslims in 13 countries for a total amount of \$14 million



**The volunteer medical campaign will target 30 Tanzanian children for open-heart operations as well as approximately 60 free cardiac catheterisation operations for children,**

**JOB ADVERTISEMENT:**  
**IT SYSTEMS/NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR - (1 POST)**

Ker & Downey Safaris Tanzania Limited is registered Tanzanian Company under Companies Ordinance (Cap. 212) and a leading Hospitality company with its Operations in Arusha, Tabora Region, Shinyanga Region, Kigoma Region, Meatu-Simiyu and Mara Regions.

We are seeking a well-rounded, full time IT Systems/Network Administrator with at least 3yrs experience to join our IT Team. The candidate will be required to perform everything from basic employee help-desk support to creating and managing multiple VM Servers. The complexity and diversity of our hospitality industry, present endless opportunities to increase knowledge and apply problem solving skills.

The purpose of this position is to provide full IT System Administration support in design, installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of our network infrastructure, production servers and business workstations. The candidate is will be responsible for all production application servers.

**KEY RESULT AREAS / ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Design, deploy, manage, and troubleshoot Microsoft based server operating systems, Active Directory, and group policy
- Administrate Infrastructure, including firewalls, databases, malware protection software and other processes
- Design, deploy, manage, and troubleshoot backup, disaster recovery business continuity plan
- Upgrade systems and processes as required for enhanced functionality and security issue resolution
- Respond to and resolves help desk request
- Review application logs
- Deploy and test computer-related equipment
- Deploy, manage and troubleshoot Microsoft client based operating systems & SQL Database

**Experience and Skills:**

- Basic knowledge (including the ability to setup, configure, upgrade, manage, and troubleshoot) Cisco switches, firewalls, and load balancers using IOS, IOS-XE, and IOS-XR
- Basic Knowledge on programming language i.e. Visual Basic, C++, C#
- Experience with the following products: Cisco Catalyst Switch, Cisco CME
- Network security and threat protection
- Windows Active Directory administration
- Backup and business continuity administration
- Project management knowledge
- IT solutions deployment knowledge
- Design, deploy and manage network security and threat prevention plan

Applicants are invited to submit their CV's/Resume's and copy of certificates to HR Office through Reception (for hard copies) or via e-mail to: [Recruitment@tgts.com](mailto:Recruitment@tgts.com)

We offer equal employment opportunities to qualified men and women. If you are not contacted by HR Department within thirty (30) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful. Short listed candidates may be subjected to any of the following: competency assessment; physical capability assessment and reference checking.

Please forward applications before 10th January 2020.

**JOB ADVERTISEMENT:**  
**SALES & RESERVATIONS MANAGER - (1 POST)**

Mwiba Holdings Limited is registered Tanzanian Company under Companies Ordinance (Cap. 212) and a leading Hospitality company with its Operations in Arusha, Meatu-Simiyu and Mara Regions.

We are currently looking for Sales & Reservations Manager to be part of our team and provide support to all our tourist facilities and enhance Photographic Safari Experience.

**KEY RESULT AREAS / ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Overseeing all accommodation reservations for Mwiba Holdings properties ensuring that all reservations are loaded into reservation systems.
- Oversee bookings for all complimentary safari services including airport transfers, third party accommodation, flights, airport meet and greets etc. for all company's agents.
- Monitoring agent's emails trends and safari operations requests.
- Administering safari designing i.e. checking availability, booking, quoting, tailoring an itinerary, invoicing and monitoring confirmations.
- Take control of safaris by ensuring any inconsistencies during quoting and confirmation phase are resolved in a timely manner with agents as well as be available to solve any client issues arising while on safari.
- Developing safari rates, sharing and updating rates changes with the company's agents, advising the team on timing and charges for trip cancellation and familiarization (FAM) trips.
- Overall responsibility of day to day operations and running of LEX office i.e. in charge of reservation, LEX accounts, safaris and operations.
- Responsible for LEX office's administration by planning and approving of departmental duty roster, departmental leave and off days and ensure administration of ERS system and monthly staff report.
- Working closely with HR to motivate and provide leadership and counselling to all staff at all levels to ensure a well organised, motivated and efficient work force.
- Be part of recruitment for all LEX employees.
- Checking and approving all departmental imprests and, reviewing all invoices (third party including Northern Air, and park fee invoices against sales form.
- Have a passion for hospitality and the photographic safari industry.
- Actively seeking out new sales opportunities through cold calling, networking and social media

**PROFESSIONAL AND INTERPERSONAL DETAILS**

**Education:**

- A 3-years diploma/bachelor's degree in tourism or sales and marketing management from an internationally accredited tertiary institution.
- An advanced level of computer literacy with special focus on hospitality data use systems, as well as, Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

**Experience and Skills:**

- A minimum of 5 years of hospitality sales and marketing management.
- Ability to effectively listen, communicate and perform diplomatically with internal and external stakeholders, agents, guests and staff in all situations.
- High level of leadership skills as well as a team player who demonstrates the ability to build and develop successful department.
- Have the ability to work through periods of high demand and ready to work on weekends.
- Ability to maintain physical stamina.
- A passion for hospitality and the photographic safari industry.
- Have a positive attitude and the ability to think out of the box.
- Assertiveness, patient and possessing good organizational skills.

Applicants are invited to submit their CV's/Resume's and copy of certificates to HR Office through Reception (for hard copies) or via e-mail to: [Recruitment@tgts.com](mailto:Recruitment@tgts.com)

We offer equal employment opportunities to qualified men and women. If you are not contacted by HR Department within thirty (30) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful. Short listed candidates may be subjected to any of the following: competency assessment; physical capability assessment and reference checking.

Please forward applications before 27th December 2019.

## Forum identify challenges facing women entrepreneurs in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

LENDERS have been urged to advance more credit to women entrepreneurs in efforts to plug the existing finance gap.

A forum held in Kigali, Rwanda, which brought together stakeholders from various multilateral development banks, financial institutions and the private sector, was told that lenders need to overcome the perception that women entrepreneurs are high-risk borrowers.

'Gender champions' at the Global Gender Summit, underscored the benefits of banking on women entrepreneurs.

"We know that women are a good bet since they pay back and run excellent businesses, yet they are not getting financed. An important step is for multilateral development banks to offer credit guarantees to commercial banks as an incentive to intensify their lending to women entrepreneurs," said Dr Jennifer Blanke, African Development Bank Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development.

While acknowledging the progress that has been made in bridging the gender inequality gap in financing, experts however faulted the slow pace in the effort.

According to World Economic Forum data, if the current rate of progress is maintained, it will take at least 200 years to close the global pay gap between men and women.

Sakiko Tanaka, Asian Development Bank's Gender Lead, highlighted the increased awareness on the need for women's financial inclusion to achieve gender equality.

"There's more money coming in for gender equality. However, there are still major gaps globally," said Tanaka.

At the summit, it was noted that women face unique challenges such as difficulty in accessing collateral for financing, running smaller business in comparison to their male entrepreneur counterparts as well as blurred lines between women's personal and

professional finance expenditure.

Wendy Teleki, Head of the We-Fi (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative) Secretariat led six panelists in examining how financial institutions and multilateral development banks are employing innovation in a bid to expand women's access to finance.

Apart from risk-sharing intervention ventures such as credit guarantees to lenders, panelists said increasing women's financial literacy is pivotal to closing the gender gap.

Another major point of discussion at the forum was how to harness financial technology, alternative credit information, and online tools for financial services as a way to grow businesses owned by women.

Tesi Rusagara, the head of Kigali Innovation City, suggested the adoption of digital spaces as a key tool in addressing the financing gap. He noted that introduction of more services for documentation and online financing tools would be a great value addition for women.

John Wilson, chief operating officer of Equity Bank, echoed Rusagara's sentiments on the importance of technology but added that making lasting human connection with the customers is a key ingredient in bridging the gap.

"The need to close the gender gap is not about corporate social responsibility or charity. It's about business development by developing a proper set of financial and non-financial services," said Barbara Rambousek, Director for Gender and Economic Inclusion at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Despite the strides in other spheres of gender equality, there still exists a \$42 billion financing disparity gap between men and women in Africa, the summit heard.

Hitherto, in some developing regions of the world, women still face challenges such as getting basic documents like a birth certificate which are required by commercial banks for loan applications.



It is pineapples aplenty again in many parts of Tanzania, with both traders and customers having a good time - the latter, in particular, considering the affordability of the succulent fruit. This is at the popular Buguruni market in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Lack of quality data hampers participation of women in science - UN

By Gwamaka Alipipi

THE United Nations Women Representative to Tanzania, Hodan Addou has cited lack of investment in the production of quality data as having stalled development efforts and perpetuated stereotypes that affect participation of women in science and technology.

She made the remarks yesterday when wrapping up a three-day Data Tamasha, 2019 symposium organised by Tanzania Lab under the College of Information and Technology (CoICT) of the University of Dar es Salaam.

"At UN Women, gender statistics and women's empowerment is at the heart of our work through initiatives such as

the 'Make every woman and girl count', this initiative has created opportunities for us to work closely with National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania Mainland, the office of the chief government statistics in Zanzibar and other partners," said Addou.

She added that, the UN vision is to utilise diverse teams, partnerships and strategies to

address the gaps which exist in gender data, as well as to create a well-founded, reliable source of information for those working in the data.

She said that good quality and reliable data are essential in today's world where people need evidence to highlight inequalities, inform policies and designing of programmes and to

ensure that appropriate actions that address disparities are implemented.

"Involving women in our communities in the data collection processes is important, in many instances there are sensitivities we all need to be mindful of, particularly looking at the violence against women data," she said Addou.

Meanwhile, Co-founder of Tanzania Data Lab and Director for capacity development, Mahadia Tunga said that early career employees especially women are lacking skills on utilising data for better delivery at their jobs.

She said when data are used effectively they will bring the development within the country,

people will use data on creativity and finally rise income per capital.

"We believe that without data there is no visibility and without visibility there is no priority as data can shade light in hidden issues which can lead to change in people's lives, policies, decisions, especially when it comes to education," she said Tunga.



Agriculture deputy minister Omary Mgumba (L, gesturing) addresses cotton farmers at a Singida village at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

## EAC thanks Finland for keeping support coming

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community's Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko has applauded the existing cordial relations between the EAC and Finland.

Ambassador Mfumukeko made the remarks yesterday when he received credentials from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Finland to Tanzania, Riitta Swan, to also serve as Ambassador to the EAC. He welcomed the continued support from Finland saying it had enabled the to achieve its ambitious agenda. Mfumukeko also shared the steady progress made by the community in promoting integration through

the four pillars as set out in the EAC Treaty, namely the: Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation, adding that the achievements attained so far were due to political goodwill among the EAC Heads of State.

Speaking at the function, Ambassador Swan said that her appointment was part of her government's commitment to deepen its cooperation with the EAC, noting the significance of regional integration not only for East Africans, but as an important source of growth for the continent as well.

The Finnish envoy noted that there was a growing interest and knowledge about the EAC. She said that Finland views the trading bloc as an important

partner especially in efforts aimed at ensuring peace and security in the region. She expressed her country's interest towards supporting integration agenda particularly in areas such as peace and security, climate change, trade facilitation and gender issues.

Present at the accreditation ceremony were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure Eng Steven Mlote and other senior officials. EAC is an intergovernmental organisation composed of six countries in the African Great Lakes region in eastern Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Paul Kagame, the president of Rwanda, is the current EAC's chairman.

## Govt vows to support CSOs in execution of NPA-VAWC

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole

THE government has promised to provide full support to civil society organisations (CSOs) in the implementation of National Plan of Action of Violence against Women and Children.

NPA-VAWC is a five years National Plan started from 2017 to 2022 that has been developed by consolidating eight different

action plans addressing violence against women and children.

Social development officer from the ministry of local government and regional administration, Mwijina Lipinga made the commitment recently in Dodoma during the opening of annual reflection meeting on the implementation of the NPA that was organised by Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF).

The two-day meeting is the continuation of sixteen days of activism against gender based violence that was launched by Ummu Mwalimu, Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

She said during the time when the government was preparing the NPA all non state actors were involved so its implementation need joint efforts from both parties in

order to reach the intended goals by 2022 to reduce gender based violence by 50 percent.

She also lauded WILDAF management on how they coordinate more than 63 CSOs on the implementation of the NPA, adding that the spirit encourage the government that it is not alone in that matter. She said implementation of the NPA has reached two years now from 2016 so non-state actors

and the 'government must know the achievements that have been made so far and if there are any challenges.

"We government and CSOs are here for assessment of the implementation of NPA and exchange ideas on how to do it better, we must know what we have achieved so far and challenges we might face on its implementation so that we get solution on how to move for-

ward to end gender based violence against women and children," she said.

Meanwhile, WILDAF director, Anna Kulaya said NPA is a result of CSOs job well done to convince the government to put in place the plan after the increase of gender based violence all over the country. She said Tanzania is among four countries that implement NPA-VAWC, adding that some countries in Af-

rica will come to learn the success of its implementation.

"If NPA fail there would be no one to blame other than CSOs and the country at large and not the government so we must work together to make sure the plan succeed, we must show where there are challenges and suggest the way forward because our aim is to make this plan a success story," said Kulaya.



Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) director Lenin Kazoba makes a point at the ongoing Pan African Youth Camp at Weruweru in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday. The camp is organised by TYC and has brought together 60 youths from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Activist tells Tanzanians to consider PWDs when opportunities emerge

By Guardian Reporter, Kilimanjaro

TANZANIANS should consider involving people with disabilities in different opportunities and development endeavours, an activist has suggested.

Director of Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC), Lenin Kazoba made the call yesterday when speaking during the ongoing Pan African Youth Camp in Weruweru, Hai district, Kilimanjaro Region. "The disabled have a lot to offer if provided with more chances, encouraged and empowered," Kazoba noted in recognition of this year's World Disabled Day that is commemorated every 3rd December.

Involving 60 youth change makers from Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi the five days camp aims at building the capacity of youth to take part in development dialogues and mentor them to become active and effective citizens.

The TYC Director explained that it is a responsibility of each one to recognise disabled people as partners in development.

A participant, Lilian Munuo (23) who is disabled said efforts are needed for people to recognise the needs and rights of disabled individuals.

"People should step into our shoes first before jumping into conclusions about us," she said while referring to some stigma they face. Lilian who is an innovator and artist suffers from a rare condition called muscular dystrophy which leads to muscular weakness and shortening of muscles.

She said that apart from being included in development endeavours, architectures should consider putting friendly infrastructures for the disabled especially when constructing storey buildings.

Another youth, Colman Ndetembea said it is important to step up efforts to provide the country's disabled people with assistive devices, therapy and opportunities.

Colman showcased a unique multipurpose tool that can serve as a wheelchair, standing frame and a bed to help people with muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and spinal cord injuries. Earlier, assistant administrative secretary in Kilimanjaro Region (Administration and Human Resource), Bwai Biseko urged youth participating at the forum to utilize skills gained to impact productive sectors such as fisheries, livestock and forestry and change their countries and the region at large.

"A huge market can be created around these sub sectors," he noted while urging the youth to take advantage of existing regional groupings such as East African community, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to look for markets.

He cautioned them to always focus on standards and quality to compete at the international stage; work harder and change their mind sets.

TYC is a consortium of more than 120 youth NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), 249 youth enterprise groups and hundreds of youth individual members from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

This year's theme for the World's Disability Day was 'Promoting the participation of persons with disabilities and their leadership: Taking action on the 2030 Development Agenda'.

## TCRA sees surge in biometric registration as deadline nears

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

HEAD of the Northern Zone of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Eng Imelda Salum has said the number of people who appear for the Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards biometric registration is encouraging.

Eng Imelda said this when speaking at Magugu Bus Terminal in Babati District during the TCRA campaign dubbed: 'Auction to Auction' which is geared towards enhancing public knowledge and awareness on the ongoing biometric registration.

In this campaign, TCRA is working closely with mobile phone operators, police through cybercrime department, the National Identification Authority (NIDA) and immigration department.

Eng Imelda said: "We're encouraged with the number of people who come forward for national IDs from NIDA and register their SIM cards biometrically. I call upon more people to use this rare opportunity and register their mobile phone lines biometrically for smooth communications ahead of the deadline in December 31, this year."

She said that getting national ID is one thing and the entire exercise is aimed at

getting rid of dishonest telephone line users, controlling cybercrime and protecting Tanzanians against those abusing the telecom sector.

According to Eng Imelda, TCRA in collaboration with mobile phone operators and police through cybercrime department is well prepared to ensure that it reaches all owners of sim cards while capacitating them with essential communication education and addressing various challenges facing consumers.

"Our target was to reach as many people as possible. "We're encouraged with the number of people who turned up in the campaign," said Mabel Masasi, TCRA senior communication officer.

She said people should use the ongoing campaign as it also educates them on better and safe use of mobile phones.

The registration of SIM cards is mandatory under the Electronics and Postal Communications Act of 2010, and, under this law it is an offense to sell or distribute an unregistered SIM card, to use an unregistered SIM card, to fail to record sale of a SIM card and to provide false information or statement during registration.

In April this year, NIDA offered to facilitate biometric registration of mobile telephone numbers, which officially began on May 1.

### HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



### TANGAZO LA UUZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa zoezi la upimaji wa viwanja limekamilika na kuanzia TAREHE 3/12/2019 viwanja vitaanza kuuzwa kila siku za Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa katika eneo la wazi la Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 2 Asubuhi hadi saa 9.30 Alasiri.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni katika maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
NALA (Karibu na Chuo cha IFM na Kituo cha kupaki Malori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makazi 4,000/=</li> <li>Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=</li> </ul>
CHAHWA (Karibu na Ikulu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makazi 3,000/=</li> <li>Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=</li> </ul>
Mahoma Makulu (Nyuma ya Mji wa Serikali)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makazi 3,000/=</li> <li>Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=</li> </ul>
KIKOMBO (Karibu na Bandari kavu na Makao Makuu ya Ulinzi ya Taifa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makazi 2,000/=</li> <li>Makazi na Biashara 3,500/=</li> </ul>
MTUMBA (Karibu na Mji wa Serikali na Ikulu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ZONE I Makazi 8,000/= Makazi na Biashara 8,500/=</li> <li>ZONE II Makazi 6,000/= Makazi na Biashara 7,500/=</li> <li>ZONE III Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,500/=</li> </ul>

NB: Malipo yote yafanyike ndani ya Siku 90 baada ya kupata hati ya madai.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga simu namba 0714 785513.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:  
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,  
DODOMA

215541801



### VACANCY - SENIOR STAFF

Medical Science for Health (MSH) is a global nonprofit organization, partners with governments, civil society, the private sector, and health care workers to build resilient and sustainable health systems. Its mission is saving lives and improving the health of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health. MSH is looking to recruit 3 energetic and hands on Senior Staff for its currently projects that ends in 2021. All positions are based in Dar es Salaam with extensive travelling to programme sites across the Country.

#### 1. Clinical Services Advisor:

The Clinical Services Advisor will report to Project Director, and will closely collaborate with TSSP's other technical advisors to provide integrated technical advisory services in health information systems (HIS) and across other project work streams. S/he will also work under the guidance of the home office Technical Strategy Lead (TSL), and in close coordination with the donor (CDC), the MOHCDGEC, and project partners.

#### 1.2 Qualifications and Experience:

The minimum educational requirement is a medical degree. A master's degree in public health or equivalent qualification relevant to health or information systems is a plus; Minimum of 7 years of experience providing clinical services, particularly HIV/AIDS, in Tanzania. Experience with US government donor projects is a plus; Excellent understanding of the functioning of Tanzania health information systems.

#### 2. Sustainability Advisor:

The Sustainability Advisor will report to Project Director in her/his day to day work, and will closely collaborate with TSSP's other technical advisors to provide integrated technical advisory services across the project's work streams. The primary role is to advise TSSP to develop sustainability strategies by supporting all TSSP technical work streams (CLDS, SI, HRH, CQI) to integrate sustainability planning into all activities, develop respective transition and sustainability approaches and plan(s), and help the government implement them.

#### 2.1. Qualifications and Experience

A master's degree in computer science, information technology, information systems, business administration, economics, finance, or equivalent qualification; A combination of degrees in both information technology and business fields is strongly preferred; Minimum of 10 years of experience with progressively increasing responsibilities in the fields of health systems strengthening, health systems governance, information and communications technology, health informatics, business analysis.

#### 3. Strategic Information Advisor

The SI Advisor reports to Project Director and will lead the project M&E and learning activities, including: systems development and implementation, strategy and guidance document development, capacity building, quantitative and qualitative data analyses, program evaluation, routine program monitoring activities, and identification and dissemination of best practices to provide the needed advisory and capacity building support to the MOHCDGEC and PHIs and to meet the CDC development assistance goals in Tanzania.

#### 3.1. Qualifications and Experience

Advanced degree in epidemiology, public health, or related health, medical, or social science discipline; doctoral-level degree preferred. A minimum of 7 years of progressively responsible experience including provision of technical assistance to government agencies and/or to large international NGOs in developing and strengthening health systems. Proven capacity in designing and establishing M&E and data quality improvement systems and Good understanding of the Tanzania Health System, the National Health Management Information system. Experience working with the MOHCDGEC and the Tanzania government; and Experience working with CDC, PEPFAR, U.S. Government or other bi-lateral donors preferred.

#### Mode of Application:

If you meet the criteria set above, please write a one page letter summarizing how you fit the role, and with your update Curriculum Vitae, please send to [emaron@emarongroup.com](mailto:emaron@emarongroup.com) not later than 6th December 2019. Only shortlisted profiles will be notified. More details of MSH and the programs please visit [www.msh.org.tz](http://www.msh.org.tz)

## Agro-sector price rationality can unlock investment potential, jobs

**W**HAT began as realistic policy trends in the country is now starting to be affirmed as the pivot to a more harmonious socioeconomic policy mix and real prospects for job creation and poverty alleviation.

It was the refusal by President John Magufuli and reiterating that view in a number of occasions, and it is now being reflected in a new economic update from the World Bank. It is pegged on basic reforms.

The global lender says in the second installment of a two part annual economic update where general assessment is conducted on major developments in the economy, and then an intense regard is given to a particular sector. This time it was agro-sector investments which the lender has been tracking over the past half decade to take note of changes there. The update says that in creating jobs, it is agro-based investments which provide the key, and that seems to be true.

The update said that the country needs to take urgent steps to improve its agriculture sector policy, regulatory environment and investments if the country is to accelerate growth, create more jobs and reduce poverty.

While the report wasn't prepared in the weeks that have gone by since President Magufuli issued his position on maize prices and complaints that the price is too high, he actually hit the nail on the head. It is precisely such a move that reform requires.

What is even more noticeable about the issue is that the president didn't just make a corrective position or the Minister for Agriculture announcing that the government will not control prices.

He stated it as a matter of principle that peasants or farmers are free to set their own prices as they labour for

that product, like all other producers they will sell to who they obtain a better price.

It is a right that has usually been observed in the breach, stymieing agro-sector capital movement, investments, job creation and intensification of poverty.

When the World Bank update says current trends in agriculture offer a tremendous opportunity to catalyse private investment, both local and foreign, and raise the incomes of the poor, in the world of country director Bella Bird, that is more so now than a month earlier.

The reason is that agro-sector investments have been picking up since 2014 as the new update shows, but the price regime was clouded by fiat and only now is it being positively reiterated that the liberties of the peasants in market pricing will be observed.

One can say that reform economists wouldn't ask for more, as the market will do the rest once investors know they won't be price cramped again.

Thus it can be said that the latest update is in tandem with the latest policy initiatives, and therefore the country stands an even better chance of 'realising the potential of agriculture for inclusive growth and poverty reduction,' when even maize farming can keep youths in agriculture.

With climate change affecting neighbouring countries more intensively than Tanzania, chances of pulling back youths doing much less these days in urban areas than in the past are real, apart from a general rise in peasant incomes.

More intensive agro-sector investments from those retiring or moving profits to agriculture are also likely. Rising rural incomes will offer a base for industrial push, as the local market is important for sustainable industrialisation as well.

## More of relevant training vital in combating illegal migration

**S**ECTIONS of the media time and again carry reports of the arrest and arraignment of foreign nationals entering - and attempting to move across - our country illegally.

Many of them, believed to be Ethiopians or Eritreans, do so using perilous means of conveyance - hiding under the 'bellies' of trucks or tucked deep inside sealed ship containers.

There are several cases of some of these hapless people being found already dead, many from suffocation, hunger and thirst.

The situation is much similar in many regions of Africa and beyond - in Europe, Asia and the Americas. For instance, scores of Vietnamese citizens were last month found dead in a container on a ship in England as they were being 'smuggled' into that country.

US President Donald Trump was meanwhile once busy fighting it out with immigrants from Latin America to the point of erecting a wall along the Mexican border to ensure none crossed over.

In the Mediterranean, thousands of people from northern Africa have drowned in the past few years as they sought to cross into Europe in hazardous marine vessels, but thousands were successful, resulting in the most severe migration issue in Europe for centuries.

Just over three centuries ago, our ancestors were rounded up in Africa and shipped into America to work in plantations as slaves. Many resisted and some even jumped from the vessels and drowned in high seas rather than be transported to foreign countries. And now: people drown in the Mediterranean as they seek to make it to foreign countries, mostly apparently in a hunt for "greener pastures".

The migration issue is a complex one as it has political, economic, social, cultural and other aspects that call for a comprehensive approach based on openness, co-

operation and shared responsibilities if a lasting solution is to be found.

Some might be hard to agree that migration is the fashion of the future much like it has hitherto been critical in deciding the sustenance and survival of many people.

Although many years have passed since the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, trafficking in persons has now assumed even more alarming proportions than ever before and is considered as one of the most lucrative international crimes.

Many countries also take respect for human dignity and consideration for the interests of countries of origin and countries of destination as vital elements since migration is a phenomenon that keeps evolving.

It is also observed that mitigation measures now tend to be placed on the pursuit of criminal syndicates perpetuating the phenomenon while the plight of the victims, who suffer sexual and/or economic exploitation, is often taken for granted.

Even though instruments treated trafficking in humans as a transnational crime it must be approached from the point of view of human rights.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) last month signed a two-year agreement with the Tanzanian government relating to the provision of training meant to help immigration officers in the country become more knowledgeable on how to control illegal immigrants.

This is a hugely laudable effort, while the fact that the training is conducted at Tanzania's Zonal Immigration College at Moshi is added bonus for the country which should go into making efforts to tame the tide of illegal immigration and the various challenges it poses easier to manage.

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# Creating solutions to plight of people with disability crucial

By Vincent Houver in Geneva

**I**N conflict and emergency contexts around the world, persons with disabilities are among the most marginalised groups. Their unique protection concerns make them more vulnerable to abuse and during disasters their mortality rate is higher than the average affected population.

Globally, persons with disabilities are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population, but in many humanitarian situations this percentage can be significantly higher. In Syria, for example, the United Nations estimates that 27 per cent of the population has some disability.

These quantitative trends on persons with disabilities are important to acknowledge, but even more crucial is creating solutions to their plight.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and partner agencies have placed a renewed focus on better addressing the barriers that persons with disabilities face in accessing

services and participating in humanitarian interventions.

In July 2018, the UK's Department for International Development (DfID), the International Disability Alliance and the Government of Kenya co-hosted the first Global Disability Summit to mobilise the international community on disability inclusion.

The consensus: persons with disabilities have been hugely neglected, particularly in humanitarian settings, and more can be done to narrow this gap.

On that occasion, IOM, along with many partner organisations, made multiple commitments on disability inclusion. These included a sharper focus on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in delivering humanitarian aid.

However, beyond this, IOM committed to eliminating stigma and discrimination within our own ranks, collecting more accurate data on disability trends and taking specific measures to target women and girls with disabilities in our programming.

Since then, IOM has remained an important and dedicated actor in UN-wide efforts to turn commitments into action. The recently released UN Disability Inclusion Strategy is a landmark in this respect and should help transform the way we handle disability in the workplace.

Logically, the first steps we need to take are within our own organisation itself. We thrive in more diverse and inclusive work environments, all of which need to be accessible to all. In our attempt to attract and retain the brightest talent, IOM is stepping up its efforts to become a more inclusive recruiter and employer.

Meeting the specific needs of persons with disabilities in the workplace has become a top priority for staff welfare.

This represents a specific challenge to an organisation such as IOM which has offices worldwide, many in deep field locations which offer limited accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Of course, IOM's commitments extend beyond the workplace to include our

work with communities on the move. Several IOM programmes now systematically factor in disability inclusion as they undertake specific humanitarian activities, including camp management and shelter programming, in locations such as Nigeria and South Sudan.

Our global Displacement Tracking Matrix is also collecting specific data on barriers that persons with disabilities face, and this helps inform and influence aid delivery strategies across multiple sectors. Eventually, our hope is that better knowledge of the barriers and better adapted programming will make it much easier for persons with disabilities to access aid.

These approaches represent tangible actions towards "leaving no one behind". However, we also recognise that IOM may only be successful in translating commitments into meaningful action if it enhances cooperation with humanitarian partners, especially those with dedicated expertise in disability inclusion.

We fully expect these efforts to gain further momentum as we begin to implement the newly launched Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, to which our agency was a key contributor.

While these initiatives are valuable and positive steps in the right direction, real transformation in the way we understand disability inclusion requires more than strategies and guidelines.

It requires personal commitment from each of us to do more than pay lip service to the principle of inclusion. It requires championing by IOM managers, at global, regional and national levels. It requires solid evidence. It requires a new approach to our operations. It requires results.

**Vincent Houver is IOM Deputy Chief of Staff.**

## The other children have their legs, I have my wheels

By Liatile Putsoa in Wau, Sudan

**A** few bursts of laughter can be heard from the courtyard of Friendship Kindergarten and Primary School in Wau, a town in northwestern South Sudan.

It has just gone past 3 p. m. and, although the school bell sounded hours ago, some students are still on the school premises studying for the end-of-year examinations which start in a couple of days.

Among the group of students in the courtyard is 18-year-old Elia Batista Balash, who is in his final year of primary school.

As soon as we walk in, Elia gears into host mode and insists that we meet near the staff room where it is quieter and has some shade. The perfect gentleman.

Elia grabs the sides of his wheelchair and, accompanied by his friend, they come towards

us.

It is almost five years since Elia was first diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, a disease that affects the joints and muscles, which left him paralysed in both legs. He lives with his mother, who single-handedly supports him and his six siblings after the death of his father two years ago.

"Life has not been easy, but we are coping," says Elia. The teenager has never lost hope of returning to school. He aspires to become an engineer.

After he lost use of his legs, Elia was forced to stay at home for two years because he could not move. His family, struggling to make ends meet, could not afford to buy him a wheelchair to help him get around.

"I missed school, I missed my friends. I was very sad," a visibly dejected Elia said.

A local organisation based in Wau Town called Women Devel-

opment Group, gifted Elia with a wheelchair. This enabled him to return to school. The women's group has also been helping to pay for his school fees.

"I do not feel left out at school - the other kids have their legs, I have my wheels. Besides, the teachers like me because I never miss school and I am always punctual," says Elia with a giggle.

With ambitions of becoming an engineer, Elia said that during the two years that he was out of school he never lost hope that he would one day be back in the classroom learning to read and write.

A team from the IOM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene unit conducted household visits to communities in Wau, including Elia's, primarily to raise awareness on the handling of safe water and the importance of handwashing and best hygiene practices.

"My personal hygiene has

greatly improved after I received knowledge from the IOM team about washing my hands and not leaving food uncovered after using the latrine," said Elia.

In Sudan, a country that has been engulfed in a civil war since it gained independence in July 2011, access to services for persons with disabilities like Elia has been challenging.

Although a ramp was built at home and in school to help him move with ease, Elia admits that it is not always easy using his wheelchair because of the inaccessible environment in his community.

"I need a lot of energy to roll my wheels because the roads are not good. I worry that after I finish my exams and go to high school, I will have problems moving there," he says.

A savvy Facebook user, Elia said that he uses social media to chat with his friends when he is feeling down and wants an outlet. His work as a barber in the bustling market square in Wau during school holidays also helps to keep him busy and make money to help his family.

With examinations fast approaching, Elia remains upbeat, saying he is not feeling nervous. He still holds on to the dream of becoming an engineer.

"Sometimes dreams come true, sometimes they don't - but I trust that I will be lucky and realise my dream," he says.

**Liatile Putsoa is IOM South Sudan media and communications officer.**



# Lessons from distress

**A** COUPLE of days ago I had the good fortune of attending an entrepreneurs' Conference on Trade & Development.

Before inviting the keynote speakers, a few entrepreneurs were called upon to make short presentations on their businesses to not only market but also seek partnership with other entrepreneurs.

As expected, lots of businesses owners came up. I was thoroughly impressed by how lots of young people in this city have been able to identify opportunities in areas we often overlook, invested their time and resources, ultimately building enviable enterprises.

One particular man in his 50's caught my attention. He was easily the most active participant in conference. His businesses interests are in production, currently producing tomato sauce. He has tried his hand in manufacturing various products, injected substantial capital and failed a couple of times yet he never gave up or turned into a cynic like most middle-aged men would.

During the networking session, I walked up to him in an effort to learn more.

"Wisdom comes from being able to pick a lesson from every terrible life experience you go through and apply them in your own life encounters." He said to me.

These words have stuck with me

since then.

See, every single person goes through a rough patch. Hardships is simply part of life. Your winning streak could extend for months or even years. You are happy, in good health, business is great and the family is happy. Then someday your fortunes change for the worst.

Things you used to take for granted escape you. Your health deteriorates, you can't seem to agree with your significant other or family members on virtual everything, business environment gets tougher that you can barely afford to meet your recurrent expenditures. You work long hours, implement new strategies but nothing changes. Your life seems to be going down the drain.

Now most people turn to religion during such moments. Pray, fast and devote more time to whatever religion they profess. Others blame their streak of bad luck on mystical powers. Black magic, bosses, family & relatives are usually the first victims. If such problems persist a good number sink into depression, alcoholism, drug abuse or turn pessimistic, spreading negative energy like a virus.

Perhaps due to conditioning by the society, outrageous testimonies, fake happiness & success exuded on social media you feel obliged to hide news about your struggles and put on a mask of contentment. Being a whiner isn't attractive, however, thinking of life problems as a curse, punishment



or bad luck denies us the ability to learn from them. True wisdom comes from being able to look into the mirror and see your true

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self-devoid of the mask you try so hard to wear.

I have on several occasions taunted the importance of failing.

For a better part of the last hour, I have been revisiting all the painful experiences I have weathered in an effort to pick a lesson from each. It is unbelievable how I have been overlooking such a boundless treasure of wisdom.

Losing someone you care about teaches you that we are all on borrowed time so we should do right by everyone we care about.

The painful journey of recovering from losing all your savings while attempting to go enterprise teaches you that no matter how or what valuables you lose, you can always bounce back on your own two feet.

Becoming the laughing stock while on your first attempt to do public speaking makes you realize you didn't have to be born with certain skills to be great, with commitment and dedica-

tion you can learn absolutely anything and become prolific in it.

Spiraling out of control is meant to remind you that there is no shame in asking for help. That substance abuse, alcohol or meaningless coitus only provides a temporary reprieve to life problems. One has to face their demons head on if they are to break out of their psychological prison.

Getting depressed and lonely when you are the life of the party enlightens you to see through the facade and extend a helping hand to the friends going through tough times.

Since bad times and terrible experiences are bound to happen, you and I need to shift our mindset in order to stop viewing challenges as problems when they are courses on life that seek to teach us invaluable lessons that will eventually propel us to greater heights.

Today, you too should revisit the not so colorful experiences you have had in the recent past and isolate lessons from each one of them..

BY KAREN ALLEN

# Putting tech in its place

**W**HEN J Robert Oppenheimer, the man hailed as the father of the first atomic bomb in the 1940s, realised that the tool he had created was being put to devastating effect in Japan, he committed his later years to developing controls on nuclear proliferation. This serves as a useful reminder of the power of tech and the need to 'tame' technology, or at least retain a human dimension to its development and application.

Representatives from South Africa and 22 other states including the G5 are scheduled to meet this month to mull over these moral dilemmas as part of the United Nations General Assembly's Group of Government Experts on Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security.

Their task is to help devise norms for states on how they apply existing international law principles to developments in information and communications technology.

They must also determine whether the global community needs new rules of engagement or whether existing legal frameworks are sufficient. It's a tough task, not least because of divergent opinion between states on how to balance human rights, data security and privacy.

Given the growing digitisation of human relations, and people's seeming inability to 'opt out' of this new digital ecosystem, there is much talk about 'putting tech in its place'.

The current debate is about how to ensure that the human safeguards, controls and values that underpin the tech are not lost.

Our human-centred international order is designed to keep power in check and hold states and individuals to account. Autonomous-based technologies are disrupting that. For example, how do you hold a so-called killer robot or lethal autonomous weapon to account when things go wrong?

During the Iraq war of 2003 people watched in horror as a pre-programmed United States patriot missile battery, as part of a missile defence shield, took down a British Royal Air Force Tornado jet on an air base where I was embedded. It killed the aircraft's pilot and navigator who I had shared a coffee with just hours earlier. It was a dreadful 'accident'.

The plane was mistaken for an incoming missile and the pre-programmed machine reacted. This was before the days of artificial intelligence as we know it, and serves as a salutary reminder that machines cannot always distinguish the nuances that shape us as human beings.

In this digital age the need to consider a revision of the rules of the global game and how interactions take place



As human relations become digitised, the controls and human values that underpin tech must be saved. File photo

is no longer confined to state-on-state behaviour. It also touches on how industry, militaries, governments, armed groups, civil society and the media rub up alongside each other.

A recent conference in Stockholm was dominated by the question of how to ensure that at a time of increased machine autonomy, human control and decision making retains primacy in policymaking.

Among the vexing questions is what balance to strike between human and artificial intelligence. Specifically, how can we audit artificial intelligence, or subject it to the rule of law, when we increasingly rely on it to help in vital decision making?

The debate about putting the 'human dimension' back into tech focuses on questions of control. Surrendering complete control to machines in an era of artificial intelligence also affects the way government policy is conducted in peacetime.

The application of new autonomous technologies may determine policing or counter-terrorism strategies that decide whether based on our 'score' we are considered a threat, and determine who should be detained or targeted, and who not.

The algorithms already being used in decision making, including in decisions that help save lives, have a flip side which arguably intrudes on our privacy. They can help determine whether we are likely to reoffend, or display personality traits that mean we can be easily radicalised.

But machines can't read between the lines or operate in the grey zone of uncertainty. The international community is confronted with the challenge of setting limits to the amount of autonomy society is prepared to cede to machines while protecting human security. In terms of checks and balances, how do we define privacy both on an international and domestic level? Experts remind us that as technology has developed, so too have the legal definitions of what constitutes public and private space.

For African countries like South Africa that seek to centre human rights in their policy, there is a case for them to assert themselves at a time when states with divergent opinions on privacy and security are deepening their

business interests in Africa. At the Stockholm conference, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu, warned that the growing use of unmanned aerial vehicles or drones and increased autonomy could lead to perceptions of casualty-free warfare.

She also cautioned that 'the possibility of third parties with malicious intent interfering in control systems to incite conflict cannot be discounted.'

Without human controls Nakamitsu said, 'artificial intelligence in the digital space threatens to 'exacerbate political divisions ... even in the most benign of international environments.' So emerging technologies in the digital sphere may act as an accelerant to existing simmering tensions, leaving

governments unable to react as quickly as machines.

A recent report by the International Committee of the Red Cross warns that, '[Artificial intelligence] and machine-learning systems remain tools that must be used to serve human actors, and augment human decision makers, not replace them.'

In a world where the internet of things could enable a refrigerator or any other wireless domestic appliance to be remotely captured, weaponised and used to cause mass destruction, the need for human-centred technology grows more pressing.

**Karen Allen, Senior Research Adviser, Emerging Threats in Africa, ISS Pretoria**

# Lessons from Algeria on foreign terrorist fighters

BY MATTHEW HERBERT

OVER the past two and a half years, Algeria has convinced many of its citizens fighting in the Sahel to surrender. While this alone won't end the region's conflicts, for peacebuilding to succeed the presence of foreign fighters must be addressed. Algeria's programme shows a way of doing so.

The security situation in the Sahel is getting worse, as a network of conflicts driven by terrorist groups, insurgents and local militias spreads across Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Most combatants are from those three countries, with many fighting close to their homes. However, a small cadre of foreign fighters linked to al-Qaeda or Islamic State are also present. In the wake of Islamic State's losses in Syria, there are fears these numbers in the Sahel will grow.

Algerians in particular stand out for their involvement in the Sahelian conflicts. Their presence poses a security challenge for Algeria, and has led the government to institute a programme to demobilise Algerian terrorists in the Sahel. Since 2017 close to 200 Algerians, mainly active in Mali, have surrendered.

In exchange for surrendering, Algerian fighters are granted immunity from prosecution. Algeria reportedly coordinates with Mali and France to allow surrendering terrorists to move unmolested to rendezvous points in Algeria's southern provinces.

Algeria's approach to foreign fighters in the Sahel is part of a reconciliation strategy towards terrorists dating back to the country's 1990s civil war. This practical approach to deflating the power of terror groups achieved significant success in the 1990s and 2000s, leading tens of thousands of combatants to demobilise and reintegrate into society. While operationally effective, the strategy was and remains socially divisive within Algeria.

While much about the Algerian programme is opaque, the Algerian mili-

tary has released some information on 156 terrorists who have surrendered in the south. This includes names and assumed names, and the years they joined terror groups. Similar information exists on terrorists who were killed, captured or who surrendered in Algeria's north. This data underscores several salient points.

First, there is a divide between ageing terrorists in Algeria and far younger and more vibrant Algerian fighters in the Sahel. More than half of terrorists killed or captured in northern Algeria for whom data is available became involved in terrorism during the 1990s. Only 16 joined terrorist groups this decade.

Among those Algeria has demobilised from the Sahel, the trend differs significantly. Eighty percent joined between 2011 and 2016. Forty-one out of the 156 became involved with terrorist groups in 2012 alone. This suggests that most Algerians fighting in the Sahel are not long-time militants who were driven from their country into the Sahel. Instead they were new fighters pulled into the Sahelian conflict in the wake of 2011.

This timing partly reflects the conflict dynamics in northern Mali, which accelerated during these years, and the strong social and ethnic connections between southern Algeria and Mali that helped mobilise some Algerian fighters. However the arrest of 11 young men in north-western Algeria in November for trying to join Sahelian terrorist groups shows that the attraction of fighting in the Sahel isn't restricted to Algeria's south.

Rather there is continued susceptibility of some young Algerians to terrorist recruitment. Eschewing fighting within the country, or - as many Tunisians did - heading to Syria, most Algerian foreign fighters have headed south.

The second key trend is that even terrorists with significant experience are open to appeals to demobilise. Most of the demobilised fighters became involved with terrorist groups between 2012 and 2016, while few had



States must take responsibility for removing their nationals from conflicts raging in the Sahel. File photo

joined before 2011 or after 2017. Organisational disenchantment or exhaustion among more experienced fighters could have led them to accept the opportunity to demobilise.

Third, Algeria's programme has had a practical impact on the ground, though not enough to significantly alter the overall dynamics of Sahelian conflicts. Hédi Nsaibia, founder of Menastream, notes that demobilising Algerian foreign fighters has weakened the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb unit in north-western Mali, near Timbuktu. It has also impacted the Islamic State-linked Katiba Salaheddine in Mali, whose leader and asso-

ciates surrendered in 2018.

Even as terrorist groups hosting foreign fighting units have been weakened, inter-communal conflict and locally recruited militant groups have surged. This has obscured the Algerian programme's impact.

Finally, the demobilisation programme's impact on combat capacity of groups with many Algerian fighters is probably more significant than its numbers imply. Algerians are over-represented in the leadership of some Sahelian terrorist groups. The surrender of commanders can disrupt the capacity and unity of terror groups. Even non-leaders who have surren-

dered are experienced fighters with significant operational and institutional knowledge that's difficult to replace. While foreign fighters do not constitute the majority of combatants in the Sahel, they are part of the conflict ecosystem. Efforts to build peace through negotiation with local militants or tackling underlying conflict drivers won't fully end the conflicts as long as fighters remain organised and armed.

The challenge for Sahelian governments and the international community is how to address these combatants. Strategies focused on tracking and eliminating them - such as

those of France and the United States - aren't enough.

Ways to deal with the challenge of foreign fighters must be thought out and implemented as part of an overall peacebuilding strategy. Algeria's demobilisation efforts should be more closely studied by other states whose nationals have joined terrorist groups in the Sahel. By removing their nationals from the battlefield, these states can help reduce the duration and intensity of the conflicts raging in the region.

Dr Matthew Herbert, Senior Research Consultant, ISS

## Young conservationists make a difference in Southern Circuit

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE current trend of swift disappearance of Tanzania's natural treasures has prompted four committed youth in Lindi to volunteer in environmental conservation to restore the nature. Ramadhan, Nurdin, Asha and Tatu, say when the Sun emerges from the Eastern horizon, the main idea that comes in their head is to make new plans on how to revive the lost valuable forests, marine species and other life-giving support systems.

They started conservation work by volunteering, they received training and acquired knowledge and skills, including understanding that forestry and marine ecosystems do not only provide direct sources of livelihood particularly to the rural population but also makes significant contribution to Lindi region and the nation's socio-economic development.

In recent years, local and International organizations have created a new generation of spirited and committed youth environmental conservationists through their inspiring work in the southern regions of Tanzania, one of such organizations is WWF.

Their work has encouraged many youth to pull their efforts together to protect habitats and conserve threatened species.

Besides protecting wildlife and rare species, the youth have vowed to ensure conservation of the forest marine and coastal ecosystems are also boosted. Their conservation initiatives supported by local, district and government leaders have garnered attention and praise, not only from the local communities but also at district, regional and national level.

In Nanjirinji village, Kilwa district, every youth is a security guard of the forest resource following numerous benefits accrued from conservation of the village land forest reserve (VLFR) as a result of community based forest management (CBFM).

One of the pioneers of this conserva-

tion who is also a member of the Nanjirinji village natural resource committee (VNRC) is Ramadhan Chillinde. In an interview conducted recently, he said his participation in the CBFM is a result of self commitment and determination to rescue the environment which gives life from disappearing. He said the conservation work in the village has born multiple fruits. Mpingo Conservation Development Initiative (MCDI) and Kilwa district council under the support of WWF managed to set aside the village land forest reserve (VLFR) some years back. Then a committee was formed and preparation of management and harvesting plans started. When all plans had been put in place, they invited traders who started coming to their village to harvest forest products according to the plan. The harvesting plans had consent and permits of the district council. The revenues accrued from the forest products were used for community development activities such as improving community social services. For example, from 100 percent, five percent was given as dividend to the district council, another five percent for MCDI, 50 percent for development and improvement of social services such as water, school and health centre. The remaining 40 percent is used for conservation and management of the VLFR such as to cover patrol costs and other equipments like transport facilities.

"We have constructed three school classrooms, built office for teachers, we have also built the Village government office, constructed seventeen room-guest house, dug bore hole for the residents, bought pupils uniform, we also support 50,000 for each pregnant mother to buy labour equipments, we also provide each pupil who passes the examination to join secondary school 100,000/- to cover the school requirements. All these are benefits of forest conservation drive," he said.

Unlike other villages where the villagers cut down trees randomly and don't see the importance of conservation, in Nanjirinji, the villagers are



From left to right are Ramadhan Chillinde, Tatu Ally, Asha Ligambe and Nurdin Mbuji showing some documents on environmental conservation shortly after the interview with our reporter in Lindi recently. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

aware of the benefits and have all developed a culture of environmental conservation.

"Every villager is a security guard, if he or she gives information about illegal activity in the village land forest reserve, such good person will be awarded 20 percent of the value of the impounded forest products," he said.

He calls on other youth in the country to emulate this good example saying it is high time the youth and the general public realized huge benefit accrued from the CBFM and make life better.

Besides forest resource, People need to know that they also need to conserve something bigger and that is marine species. In some places, the marine ecosystem is unsustainably used.

In Somanga village in Kilwa district, things have changed. Thanks to youth efforts to sensitize and create awareness in the community. One of the

youth is Nurdin Mbuji who is currently involved in functions and activities of Beach Management Units (BMUs).

The BMU's regulates fisheries and poverty reduction among the fishers' communities in Somanga. WWF has empowered the local communities involved in the BMU to sustainably manage Octopus fisheries and help them increase household income and their economy. The residents have started to see the benefits. WWF has been supporting the roll-out of co-management practices in the Kilwa fishery, working with fishers and local community co-management structures such as the Beach Management Unit (BMUs) to develop management plans for the octopus fishery. Octopus fishing is the mainstay of small-scale fisheries in Somanga village.

"We usually convene the village meeting and other fishermen to discuss on how best we can manage BMU. We agree on plans to implement tem-

porary closures for three month so that the stock of octopus can recover. Temporary octopus fishery closures have played an increasingly important role in the management of the fishery across Somanga village and surrounding communities. Communities have increased production of the Octopus than before. This has also caused huge increase and wellbeing of the respective communities. This knowledge and skills have spread to other areas as well.

"Group of BMU is benefiting a lot, for every kilo, the group earns five shillings. For example, we harvested more than three tons recently and received more than 1.5m/ which is used by the community to improved social services such as contributing to the construction of the village health centres, school classrooms, and some of the money was used to support and rescue fisher men who happened to get accidents.

Between 200 and 500 women have benefited from the fishery value chain, there are some who ferry the fish products to the market and others are self employed. Nowadays Somanga has auction market which also provides revenues for the government and the district council.

"We commended WWF through SIDA Leading the change, we received more than 22.9m/ to improve fishery infrastructures including constructing a good market. The district council also under the leadership of the district commissioner and the Executive Director gave financial support of 4m/- to buy the area. Through the project, we have repaired the boat at 3m/- which we now use for conducting patrols.

Other benefits include fostering human rights as the villagers convene regular meetings to speak out on gender based violence and human rights. The meetings brings people from all walks of life. They are men and women, people with disabilities, and business community to talk openly on basic human rights.

So you can see the project has spillover effect to many people. One of the benefits is acquisition of knowledge and skills, education and women are aware of their rights and they know where to report GBV, he added.

However, he said more support still needed to adequately cover all costs such as expansion of patrols and market. In Mchakama village, Kilwa district comes another youth volunteer in forest conservation. This is a member of the village Natural Resource Committee Asha Ligambe.

Asha has been in the front row to create awareness and support the villagers' effort of conserving the entire village land forest reserve since 2011. Earlier on, the village had set aside 10 percent of the village land forest reserve to plant trees. The tree species being planted are Mnungunungu, Mkongo, and Mkanzazi. Of all the tree species, Mnungunungu also known as Erythrina is considered rare, it is very valuable, important and one of the oldest source of medicine.

# ILO calls on Africa to work towards human-centred future of work

By Special Correspondent,  
Abidjan

INTERNATIONAL Labour Organisation (ILO) Director-General, Guy Ryder, has called on African countries to seize the opportunities that exist on the continent to advance towards a human-centred future of work.

He was speaking at the opening of the ILO's 14th African Regional Meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which brings together the ILO's tripartite constituents representing governments, workers and employers from 54 African countries.

They will be reviewing the progress made in implementing the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and charting a course towards a future with decent work in the region.

Ryder referred to projections for economic growth in Africa that are higher than the global average; a 'demographic dividend' that will see labour force numbers rising to 60 per cent; the continent's unique potential for creating renewal energy; and opportunities for development that could be opened up by advances in technology.

"Africa has every reason to regard the future with confidence. Young, rich in resources, dynamic and creative, it offers possibilities which in many ways, do not exist in other regions. However,



ILO Director-General Guy Ryder addresses the opening session of the 14th African Regional Meeting.

as always, there are challenges."

Among these is the need to create twenty-six million jobs every year in Africa to meet the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Other challenges, he said, include a social protection financing gap amounting to 68 billion US dollars a year; economic, social and migratory pressures; and the impact of climate change and globalisation.

"What we seek is a future of work with social justice as the surest guarantee we can have of peace and prosperity in African and in the world. This is the

unfinished business of our 100 year old Organisation which we must take forward together."

During his speech, Ryder focused on the 'human-centred' approach outlined in the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work that was adopted at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in June 2019.

This 'human-centred' approach is based on investing in people's capabilities, the institutions of work that ensure that labour is not a commodity, and in decent and sustainable work, particularly in the green, rural and health care economies.

Ryder also outlined particular priorities for Africa as formalisation of the informal economy, which accounts for 80 per cent of the workforce, structural transformation of production, economic diversification and creating an enabling environment for the creation of decent jobs.

Others include tackling inequality and actions to promote full and equal participation of women in the labour force. He also called for accelerated action to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Compact on Safe and Orderly Migration, as well as promises made by governments to tackle climate change.

"We should not avert our eyes from the reality that in most aspects, the

international community is well off-track in delivering the 2030 Agenda and that the planet is fighting back hard in the war that we humans have abusively launched against it. And because decent work is so deeply involved in all of these challenges, we are, very clearly, called upon to do better."

Delegates will discuss the Director-General's report to the Conference on advancing social justice: shaping the future of work in Africa, with a view to formulating policy recommendations for inclusive growth and social progress.

The meeting takes place as the ILO celebrates its centenary and its 60th year since it established its first permanent presence on the African continent.

At the opening session Pascal Abinan, Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of labour and social protection was elected President of the 4-day meeting. Paul Mavimba (Zimbabwe) was elected Government Vice-Chair; El Mahfoudh Megateli, (Algeria) was elected Employer Vice-Chair and Francis Atwoli, (Kenya) was elected Worker Vice-Chair.

The meeting will also include a series of thematic panels on various issues related to the future of work in Africa.

## Quality statistics better management of forced displacement in Africa

By Janemary Ruhundwa

NOVEMBER 8, this year was the African Statistics Day (ASD)—a day which is celebrated every year to raise public awareness about the important role of statistics in all social and economic aspects of countries in Africa.

This year's theme was: "Everyone counts: quality statistics for better management of forced displacement in Africa."

This was in line with the African Union theme of the Year 2019 "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa."

The ASD 2019 theme was chosen to raise awareness on the critical importance of disaggregated statistics when responding to the core concept of the SDGs, "leaving no one behind."

It also brings to the attention of statisticians the plight of displaced persons on the continent and advocate for better management of migration and asylum statistics.

Africa hosts over one-third of the world's 70.8 million forcibly displaced population. Some of these are displaced within their home countries while others cross borders and become refugees or invisible irregular migrants in neighboring countries.

Whether regular or irregular, the displaced population becomes part of their temporary new homes. For the time they are in the host countries. Regardless of the international community support, the displaced people share resources, social services, and infrastructure with the host community.

Tanzania has been hosting refugees for the past 60 years. Most refugees in the country are in a protracted situation - some have been living in the country as refugees for over 40 years with their second and third generation born in Tanzania.

They are concentrated in the regions bordering their countries of origin in North-Western Tanzania, where they form a substantial part of the population. To address issues of broader and shared concern in refugee-hosting areas, such as environmental degradation, public health, and poverty reduction, considering refugee and displaced populations is essential.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets out not just to meet needs, but to reduce risk, vulnerability and overall levels of need. This provides a reference frame for humanitarian and development actors to contribute to the common vision of a future in where no one is left behind. The success of the SDGs depends upon ensuring meaningful progress for everyone. Yet, refugees are often left behind. They are among the most vulnerable people in the world and are often disproportionately exposed to the risks that many of the SDGs seek to address. Several of the SDGs are closely related to the specific challenges refugees face on a day to day basis. If refugees are not considered in national surveys or included in SDG progress reports, they risk being forgotten in the global pursuit of the goals.

Including migration and asylum statistics in national statistics would not only contribute to effective protection of the displaced populations, but also pave the way for a better way of supporting the host communities who share their resources with refugees. If not included in the national statistics and surveys, refugees are not considered in national and local government development plans, which in turn would not reflect the true needs and capacities in such areas, creating pressure on resources, social services, and infrastructure, which likely negatively affect the host communities. Inclusion of refugees in various national surveys may be useful in identifying refugee



Exim Bank's Tabora branch manager, Emmanuel Nkelebe (R), presents sanitary pads to Tabora Girls Secondary School student Naroka Mbaga in Tabora municipality earlier this week in implementation of an initiative by the bank meant to discourage menstruation-related stigmatisation in schools. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

capacities and skills that can properly be put into use while they enjoy protection in Tanzania. Data - even in its simplest form - can make a significant impact in decision making and perceptions. Such inclusion would also pave the way for effective area-based programming for both the government and the various national and international organizations supporting refugees.

Some countries within the continent include refugee households in national household and poverty surveys, which can inform policy responses.

In 2018, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics collaborated with the Office of the Prime Minister and the World Bank to conduct a refugee and host communities' household survey. The survey assessed the living conditions of the refugees residing in the country, and the communities that host them to inform policy and programming for the national refugee and host communities in Uganda. In Kenya, the 2013 Population Situation Analysis, incorporated refugees extensively. Tanzania has already taken significant steps by including refugees in the national

identification register.

This year's them of the African Statistics Day is an opportunity to reflect on how statistics can be used to improve displacement management. As African countries are working towards developing plans for the application of the Global Compact on Refugees, the importance of refugee-inclusive statistics cannot be overemphasized. There is always a concern that this kind of inclusion would become a pull factor for refugees and would discourage them from returning home when it is safe to do so. However, looked at from

a different angle, informed decision-making based on inclusive statistics is likely to respond to many challenges that are associated with refugee presence and pave the way to accessing durable solutions.

Janemary Ruhundwa is the executive director of Dignity Kwanza - a national NGO dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the human dignity of the marginalized and vulnerable populations for the attainment of social and economic development.

## African economic conference calls on policymakers to curb red-tape

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Economic Conference (AEC-2019) called on African policymakers on Tuesday to take bold steps to tackle red-tape and high startup costs in order to create decent and well-paying jobs for the continent's youth.

The call was made by African experts and policymakers attending this year's edition of the African Economic Conference, a flagship joint initiative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Af-

rican Development Bank (AfDB).

Adam Elhiraika, Director of Macroeconomics and Governance Division at the ECA, addressing the three-day conference, which runs until Wednesday, stressed the need to prepare young Africans for productive future work, emphasizing that African governments "should include in the educational curriculum action-oriented entrepreneurship modules for secondary, technical schools and universities."

"Governments and development partners must help young entrepreneurs to identify financial help schemes, including grant schemes for innovative ideas with multiplier benefits, revolving and guarantee funds," an ECA statement quoted Elhiraika as saying.

"Africa should work hard to make its cities engines of growth that in turn will generate employment for the youth and ensure there's equitable growth on the continent thus ensuring no-one

is left behind as enunciated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," Elhiraika added.

The AEC is jointly organized by the UN-ECA, AfDB, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) every year with an aim to discuss pertinent issues affecting the continent.

This year's edition of the conference, which is being held under the theme "Jobs, entrepreneurship and capacity development for African youth," also featured a session for young

African researchers to share their work and be the key proponents in shaping the future of the continent.

Charles Leyeka Lufumpa, acting Chief Economist and Vice President of the African Development Bank Group, said a lack of jobs for the bulging youth population has become a troubling socio-economic and political emergency that requires urgent, pragmatic and forward-looking solutions.

"It is troubling because joblessness could result in unrest and

conflict. Having a decent job is an essential part of human dignity, and joblessness could threaten our social fabric and cohesion," Lufumpa said.

The AfDB acting director also stressed that the Bank has several initiatives that have contributed significantly to youth empowerment across the African continent, notable among them is its Jobs for Youth Strategy to create 25 million jobs by 2025 and to equip another 50 million young people with a mix of hard and soft skills to in-

crease their employability and entrepreneurial success.

Egypt's Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, Sahar Nasr, also told the high-level continental gathering the need to address the challenges of jobs for the youth on the continent.

"Africa is the next development frontier and the youths will be the main drivers of our continent and our hope for a new continent," Nasr said, adding that "we need to think strategically and plan for the youths of today."





Thursday 5 December 2019

## Treasury commissioner says first Absa rebranded branch is good assurance

By The Banker Reporter

**T**HE opening of the first rebranded Absa Group physical branch in Dar es Salaam has sent a strong message to consumers in the market that Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited is here to stay.

Assistant Commissioner for External Finance at Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Mamelta Mtgawaba said in Dar es Salaam this week while opening the first Absa Group rebranded branch that following separation of Barclays Plc and Barclays Africa, many consumers were uncertain of what follows next.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate Barclays Bank Tanzania which in a few days to come will be known as Absa Tanzania for investing in this new and modern branch which is testimony that you are serious about continued investment in this country but also to grow your customer numbers," Mtgawaba said.

She pointed out that the new branch is also an important milestone in extending banking services to a bigger population in line with the government's policy of financial inclusion which targets to ensure that the majority of Tanzanians have access to formal banking services by 2025.

"This is the first impression branch as Barclays transforms into



Mamelta Mtgawaba, an assistant commissioner in the Finance and Planning ministry, cuts a ribbon in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday to launch the first rebranded Absa branch in Tanzania. Looking in (from-L): Barclays Tanzania board chairman Simon Mponji, BBT managing director Abdi Mohamed, Chinese Business Chamber chairman Janson Huang, BBT head of retail banking Oscar Mwafwagasi, and BBT head of communications and corporate relations Aron Luhanga. Photo courtesy of BBT

Absa as we expect to see improved services so that customers can continue to have confidence in the bank," the Treasury assistant Commissioner for External Finance noted.

Mtgawaba challenged Barclays Tanzania employees and man-

agement to live up to standards and market expectations because the journey to rebrand into Absa Tanzania is sensitive, unique and earth shaking.

"It has taken thorough research and massive investment to migrate to the new major

changes hence reaching this stage deserve congratulations to management and staff," she added while promising Treasury support to BBT as it transforms into Absa Tanzania which will be part of Absa Group of South Africa.

Speaking at the same ceremony, BBT's Managing Director, Abdi Mohamed said the new branch's opening signifies Absa Group Limited's commitment to the Tanzania market where it has operated for several decades.

"We are getting ready to change our name from Barclays Bank Tanzania to Absa Bank Tanzania which is in line with our parent company Absa Group Limited's decision to rebrand all its operations as announced in July 2018," Mohamed said.

He pointed out that the new branch has actually started the actual journey of change from Barclays to Absa particularly in Tanzania noting that in coming weeks, consumers should expect to see more of BBT branches, ATMs and some other branded assets take on the warm, vibrant red colour palette of the Absa brand.

"The change is part of one of the largest rebranding projects in Africa scheduled to be completed by mid-2020 and part of a broader, multi-country rebrand programme happening at group-level. Recognising the significant size of the task ahead, and in preparation to change our name, we started introducing Absa's warm, vibrant red colour palette on some of our assets, including bank branches and ATMs, to ensure we are fully ready by the time our legal name changes," he added.

## Graduate entrepreneurs trained at NIT creating self-employment, indirect jobs

By The Banker Reporter

UNIVERSITY graduates who have undergone entrepreneurship training at National Institute of Transport in Dar es Salaam are self employed but also indirectly employ hundreds others in the crowded job market.

Speaking when he officially opened the first innovation and entrepreneurship exhibition which brought together 50 entrepreneurs from higher learning institutions in the country earlier this week, NIT Deputy Dr Professor Prosper Mgaya said National Institute of Transport Entrepreneurship, Business and Innovation Centre (NITEBIC).

Dr Mgaya said that within a short of its operations, the NITEBIC has become popular with graduates because it encourages innovation as a way of promoting self-employment among educated youth who would otherwise crisscross the streets in search of jobs.

"NITEBIC aims to emancipate students in higher learning institutions from the thinking of being employed once they graduate, it helps stimulate and develop skills, change attitude and mind-set towards a flexible and pro-active stance to entrepreneurial thinking and behaviour," Dr Mgaya said.

"Our goal at NITEBIC is to act as an incubation and mentoring support centre for entre-



NIT deputy rector Dr Prosper Mgaya (R, foreground) listens to an entrepreneurial student at the first innovation and entrepreneurship exhibition held at NIT in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NIT.

preneurs among students in higher learning institutions. The centre encourages entrepreneurial skills adoption among students," he added.

He also said that the NITEBIC brings together 50 entrepreneurial students who seek to learn from each other as well start forming

their businesses while still attending university education.

On his part, NIT Rector Professor, Zacharia Mganilwa said, "Earlier this year, we launched the entrepreneurship centre, NITEBIC with an objective of motivating student entrepreneurs in higher learning institutions country-

wide to start running their own businesses while still at school."

He said during the launch of the NITEBIC that in addition to acquiring theory which at the university, students also get entrepreneurial skills which then enables them to become self employed once they graduate hence forgetting about seeking formal employment.

"Entrepreneurship is a necessity for all because it can help students from higher learning institutions to be more creative and have self-confidence in whatever they undertake business wise," he added.

One of the exhibitors who is from University of Dar es Salaam, Juliana Gilbert said that the entrepreneurship skills obtained during her studies have assisted her start her own business hence abandoning the notion of seeking employment.

"With my college mate doing a different degree course in business and computer engineering, we managed to establish an entrepreneurship firm called Matheostechnics which sells repairs, services computers but also its accessories," Gilbert said.

She also urged other higher learning institutions to pay attention to entrepreneurship training programs because they are a vital instrument to stimulating entrepreneurial thinking and change mindset.

## World Bank says Tanzania's GDP to grow faster in 2020

DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania's economy will grow 5.8% in 2020 compared with an estimated 5.6% this year, and growth will rise to 6.1% in 2021, the World Bank said on Tuesday.

The World Bank's 2019 forecast is lower than the government estimate of 7.1%, the second time this year its estimates have differed sharply from the government's. "World Bank staff estimates ... suggest that real GDP growth in 2019 will be 5.6%, up from 5.4% in 2018,"

the World Bank said in its Economic Update on Tanzania.

President John Magufuli's government has invested billions of dollars in an ambitious industrialisation drive that includes construction of a new rail line, revival of the national airline and a hydro-power plant.

But state intervention in sectors such as mining and agriculture has led to a drop in foreign investment in East Africa's third-largest economy. "Despite the recent recovery in exports, inflows are still lower than

historical averages," the World Bank said, adding that foreign direct investment had dropped by one-third, to \$1.0 billion from \$1.5 billion, between 2015 and 2018.

The government says the economy expanded by 6.9% in the first half of 2019 compared with 6.8% the previous year, driven by high public investment and exports, the bank said. Finance Minister Philip Mpango told lawmakers in June that the economy would grow by 7.1% in 2019, up from 7.0% in 2018.

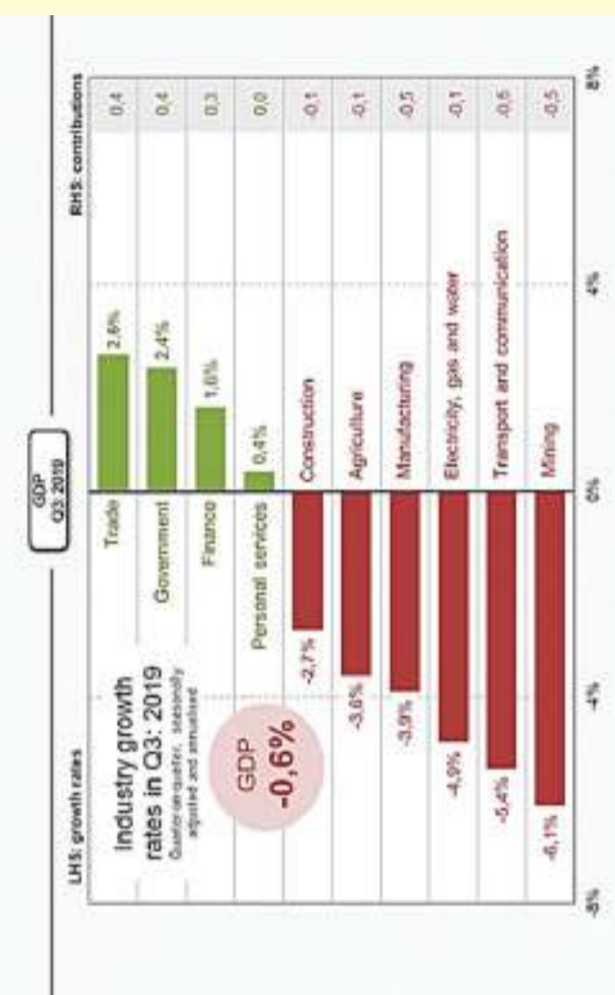
In July, the World Bank put Tan-

zania's 2018 growth at 5.2%. The International Monetary Fund has also reported lower economic growth figures than the Tanzanian government this year. In April, the IMF said "unpredictable and interventionist" policies were undermining growth, according to a leaked report seen by Reuters.

The World Bank warned on Tuesday that spending pressures expected as a result of next year's elections mean the country needs to strengthen its fiscal management. "Revenue forecasting is

weak, undermining budget credibility and resulting in accumulation of arrears and commercial domestic debt," the bank said in its report. The fiscal deficit has widened to 3.2% in 2018/19 from 1.9% of GDP in 2017/18, it added.

"The ambitious revenue target of 17.1 percent of GDP (in the previous fiscal year 14.0 percent was actually collected) and the higher budgeted spending may make it difficult to achieve the fiscal deficit goal of 2.3 percent of GDP in 2019/20," the bank said.



## South Africa's fourth GDP contraction under Ramaphosa's watch

NAIROBI

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on Monday signalled commercial banks to cut the cost of loans after it lowered its benchmark lending rate for the first time since May 2018 and weeks after the removal of the legal caps on borrowing charges.

CBK's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), sitting for the first time since Kenya lifted the cap on commercial interest rates on November 7, reduced the CBR rate to 8.50 percent from 9.0 percent, saying the economy was operating below its potential.

The lowering of the rate is expected to signal banks to cut lending rates to boost supply of credit and put money in the hands of consumers, which will in turn boost demand for goods and services. CBK says credit to the private sector grew by 6.6 percent in the year to October, compared to seven percent in the 12 months to September - which are both below the ideal growth level of between 12 and 15 percent.

"The committee noted the ongoing tightening of fiscal policy and concluded there was room for accommodative monetary policy to support economic activity," said Patrick Njoroge, the CBK Governor and chair of the MPC. Banks, which are yet to review the lending rates after the removal of the caps, can ignore the CBK signal to lower loan charges in an environment where the government is not controlling borrowing costs.

Habil Olaka, CEO of Kenya Bankers Association - the bankers' lobby group - reckons that lenders will consider other tools beyond the benchmark rate when pricing their loans, including government borrowing - which influences the cost of long-term deposits, which have an effect on borrowing rates.

"There are a number of benchmarks, the CBR being one of them; banks can use the T-Bill rates, or internal benchmarks as a base on which to price their loans," Mr Olaka said. Given his sentiments, T-Bill rates, which are influenced by the levels of government borrowing, look set to be the biggest determinant of loan rates.

Dr Njoroge remained optimistic that the Treasury would reduce borrowing, allowing money to flow to the private sector at lower rates to stimulate the economy. CBK said scrapping of the interest rate cap had removed one of the concerns the banking regulator had about cutting the benchmark. "This reform should restore the clarity of monetary policy decisions and strengthen the transmission of monetary policy," the bank said yesterday.

High-risk borrowers like individuals and small businesses face an increase in loan rates of up to three percentage points following the removal of the legal cap on commercial lending charges, KCB chief executive Joshua Oigara had said earlier.

He said removal of the cap would ease lending to small businesses but forecast that their interest rate will increase to between 15 percent and 16 percent, up from the current 13 percent. In the absence of regulation, interest rates are unlikely to breach the 20 percent level which prevailed before the introduction of rate caps in September 2016.

# Sido, NSSF set to offer loans to SMEs through Azania Bank

By Beatrice Philemon

**S**MALL Industries Development Organization (Sido) is in discussion with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to see how small and medium enterprises can access soft loans from the pensions scheme to stimulate economic growth of small industries.

Sido's Director General Professor, Sylvester Mpanduji said in Dar es Salaam last week that his institution has decided to seek NSSF partnership after discovering that small businesses have limited access to finance and thus seriously undermining their survival and growth.

"Right now we are in the final stage of negotiations with NSSF to provide loans to SMEs through Azania Bank while we provide guarantee," Prof Mpanduji said while noting that the loans being offered to SMEs will range between 80m/- and 300m/- each. To qualify for the loan, SMEs need to be

legally recognized by Sido which is the guarantor.

"Sido is open to everyone in Tanzania who wants loans to invest in small industries. All interested parties should visit Sido offices located in their regions across the country to access various services," he noted.

Apart from that he called on Sido's Managers across the country to visit SMEs in areas where they based to identify the main challenges, assess what they need and prescribe solutions as offered by Sido.

Elaborating on loans which Sido has offered entrepreneurs in the past, the Director General explained that since 2015, the organization had disbursed over 28.5bn/- to 21,211 small and medium size entrepreneurs across the country.

Out of the over 21,000 beneficiaries, 51 percent or 10,806 borrowers of over 13.2bn/- were women entrepreneurs. The loans were issued to entrepreneurs through the National Entrepreneurship

Development Fund (NEDF).

The main objective of the NEDF is to provide credit to small industries and small and medium size enterprises to enable them grow while generating income and taming poverty along the way.

Sido has been working with SMEs for over four decades now and it has been practically proved that growth and competitiveness hinges on effective delivery of capacity development services.

This is mainly done through facilitation to impact skills, attitude and knowledge by providing among others training, business management, and consultancy and extension services.

Small Industries Development Organization (Sido) is a parastatal organization which was established under the Act of Parliament No. 28 of 1973. The organization is mandated to plan, coordinate, promote and offer every form of services to SMEs.



SIDO director general, Sylvester Mpanduji.

# uKheshe, Mastercard target potential 11 million customers across South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

uKheshe, a locally developed financial inclusion platform, has further enhanced its offering to the unbanked by collaborating with Mastercard to enable informal traders, street vendors and casual labourers to accept digital payments through Masterpass, Mastercard's digital payment service.

The companies want to combine their expertise and reach to boost financial inclusion, "targeting the more than 11 million South Africans who are un/underbanked and remain stuck in a cash economy."

According to information supplied, backed by banking payments partner Nedbank, uKheshe enables people without bank accounts or smartphones to get paid in real-time through an uKheshe card, which features a Quick Response (QR) code linked to their cell phone number. To receive payments, their customers simply scan the QR code with any Masterpass-enabled app - including Snap-Scan and Zapper - and money is immediately transferred to their wallets.

Clayton Hayward, co-founder of uKheshe, said, "We designed uKheshe to provide the safest and most affordable way for these informal mer-



An uKheshe payment card on display.

chants and workers to accept digital payments from South Africans who are increasingly embracing cashless payments. The collaboration between our brands will continue to make a significant difference to micro-enterprises, enabling them to boost their incomes by

reaching new customers." The companies attest that all major banks in South Africa offer Masterpass, which enables customers to load any bank card into a secure digital wallet on their smartphone.

"Once loaded, these cards and the secure credentials as-

sociated with them are safely stored, enabling the customer to start transacting immediately without the hassle of entering these details each time they make a purchase. For small business owners and traders, Masterpass provides a more affordable alternative to

traditional Point of Sale devices, allowing them to offer a convenient digital payment option to their customers - the majority of whom are banked and are ready to use mobile payments," reads an excerpt from the statement.

Mark Elliott, division president, Mastercard Southern Africa, added: "We've all been there where you'd like to tip your car guard or buy a newspaper from a street vendor, but you don't have coins or any cash to do so. Through our partnership with uKheshe, we are making it easy for Masterpass users to pay anyone, from anywhere in a matter of seconds with the device in their pockets - the mobile phone. For the informal merchants and traders, we are able helping to connect them to the formal economy and build better futures." In October 2019 Airtel Africa and Mastercard announced a partnership to offer over 100 million Airtel Africa mobile phone users across 14 African countries access to Mastercard's global network.

More recently, in November 2019, FinTech firm Zazu Africa Limited (Zazu) has partnered with Mastercard to issue prepaid cards linked to the Zazu app. According to a statement released by Zazu, the mobile wallet allows customers (even those without a bank account) to send, receive and pay money digitally - but currently users can only make payments at select Zazu merchants in Zambia.

# SoftBank-backed Ola expects to begin London operations in weeks' time

LONDON

One day after Uber Technologies' future in London was cast in doubt, rival Ola said it had started signing up drivers in London on November 26 and will start service in the city within weeks.

Ola had been expected to begin its London business before the end of the year, but the company now expects a January launch, according to a source. The Indian ride-hailing company, backed by SoftBank Group, said it already served "millions" of customers in other UK cities since its rollout last year, including Liverpool, Birmingham and Bristol.

The company held "constructive conversations" with local authorities and would be "fully compliant" with rules set by transit authority Transport for London, Simon Smith, Ola's international head, said in a statement on Tuesday.

Market leader Uber was banned from London on Monday by TfL over concerns about customer safety, after its app was shown to be vulnerable to drivers faking their identities. The company said it will appeal, but the decision gave competitors an opportunity to muscle in on the negative attention.

In its statement, Ola said it would launch in London with driver facial recognition technology and systems to "eliminate misrepresentation". Uber said on Monday it would also bring a facial recognition system to London, but didn't say when. Ola, owned by ANI Technologies, is Uber's biggest rival in India.

The company won't be short of competition for riders in the lucrative UK market. Daimler-backed Bolt, formerly known as Taxify, relaunched in London in June around the same time French private-hire limousine operator Kapten started service in the British capital. Another competitor, Wheely relocated its headquarters from Moscow to London earlier this year.

Still, Ola should be Uber's biggest concern, according to analysts at Morgan Stanley. If reports are accurate, Bolt has only raised around \$190 million to \$280 million in funding so far, compared with the \$3.8 billion Ola is said to have racked up, analysts led by Brian Nowak said in June. "We believe Ola is arguably a greater threat if media reports of Ola's entry into London at the end of the year prove accurate," the analysts said at the time.

# China injects \$29bn liquidity into banking sector

BEIJING

China's central bank unexpectedly added liquidity to the banking system Friday to help lenders through the tax season, a move that analysts saw as a sign that larger-scale stimulus is unlikely in the near term.

The People's Bank of China offered 200 billion yuan (\$29bn) of one-year loans to banks Friday. It kept the interest rate unchanged at 3.25 per cent, showing restraint in monetary policy after this week's worse-than-expected economic data. Liquidity in the banking system is at a "reasonable, sufficient" level as the

operation offsets companies' need for funding to pay tax, the PBOC said in a statement.

The central bank also released a further 40bn yuan on the day, as a previously-announced reduction to banks' reserve ratios came into effect, taking the total injection to 240bn yuan. The authorities have refrained from adding cash via open-market operations for 15 straight days, citing ample liquidity.

The moderate injection indicates the central bank remains committed to restraint in monetary easing, even with the economy slowing further in October on weak investment and demand.

Policymakers this week loosened the capital requirements for investing in infrastructure projects, another incremental measure aimed at propping up output.

Earlier this month, the PBOC reduced the cost of 1-year funds to banks for the first time since 2016, seeking to calm markets nervous amid a plunge in government bonds and a slowing economy. "It's another operation of marginal easing, as the liquidity unleashed from the reserve ratio cut might not be enough to cover the funding demand during tax payments," said Peiqian Liu, China economist at

Natwest Markets in Singapore.

Ms Liu also pointed to a pattern that the PBOC has tended to conduct medium-term lending operations around the middle of the month since July - ahead of the announcement of the loan prime rate, the de facto benchmark interest rate for banks' new loans. The mid-month operation could become "regular" in the future, as the PBOC uses it as a tool to push the loan prime rate lower, she said. The yield on China's 10-year government bonds was little changed at 3.26 per cent, while the Shanghai Composite Index was flat as of the mid-day break.

MARKETTRENDS

# Banks see little 2019 earnings boost from repeal of rate caps

NAIROBI

Banks expect the removal of lending rate controls to have a minor impact on their earnings for the full year ending this month, noting that they were stopped

from re-pricing existing loans.

Scrapping of the rate caps became effective on November 7, 2019 after the Finance Act 2019 repealed Section 33B of the Banking Act. The changes included provi-

sions to maintain or lower the interest rate on loans already issued. This means that lenders can only charge higher rates on new loans or when existing credit facilities mature and need to be refinanced.

"We are pleased that the interest rate caps in Kenya have been removed, this change will only be applied prospectively and therefore the impact in 2019 is expected to be negligible," Arno Daehnke, the finance

director of South Africa's Standard Bank (which owns Stanbic Holdings) said in a conference call last week. The government had since 2016 limited the rates that banks can charge customers to four percentage points

above the Central Bank Rate.

This saw the maximum lending rate stand at 13 per cent by the time the lending controls were removed, with lenders expecting the process of re-pricing most

of the riskier loans upwards to take a few years.

While the law change gives banks freedom to set rates on new loans, they will do so under the watch of the Central Bank of Kenya which is keen on curbing a

sharp rise in lending rates. The regulator has asked banks to continue reporting data on their old and new loans to afford a comparison of the changes in their loan pricing.

# World Bank says fluctuations in global oil, gold prices bad for Tanzania's growth

By The Banker Reporter

VOLATILE global commodity prices and declining external demand have negatively impacted Tanzania's external sector, the World Bank has said in its latest Tanzania Economic Update report for 2019.

Released in Dar es Salaam this week, the TEU report stated that the country's external sector is particularly vulnerable to changes in the world prices of oil and gold. The benefits of falling oil prices in the fourth quarter of 2018 and a concomitant lowering of Tanzania's import bill have been reversed in the start of 2019.

"The cost of oil imports has risen by 8 percent in the year ending January 2019. Declining gold prices, reaching US\$1,202 an ounce in September 2018, have bounced back and recovered to almost the same level as in early 2018," the report said.

It further noted that the volatility, together with a drop-off in external demand from stagnating global growth, led to the value of exports falling by 4 percent in the year ending January 2019 and a widening of the current account deficit.

The report noted that as a result of

the oil and gold price volatility plus other factors, Tanzania's economy remained a better performer one compared to other Sub-Saharan African peers. "Although recovery in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) weakened in 2018, the outlook for faster growth is positive assuming reduced policy uncertainties and increased investments. Growth in SSA is estimated to have been 2.3 percent, dampened in part by slackening exports of several large oil exporters," the report added.

In 2019, growth is expected to pick up to 2.8 percent, mostly driven by higher growth in large economies like Nigeria and Angola but also in non-resource-rich countries. Current account deficits in the region, particularly in non-resource-intensive countries, are rising.

The report however questioned the country's growth data as published by National Bureau of Statistics saying World Bank staff estimates using high-frequency official data related to the expenditure side of gross domestic product suggested that growth in 2018 was 5.2 percent.

"Growth is lower than indicated by official statistics, but still more than double the SSA average of 2.3 percent. The estimate is based on application



Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango.

of the World Bank's internal macroeconomic model, including data related to consumption, investment and net trade," the TEU report whose theme is, "Transforming agriculture,"

noted.

The report further stated that the global economy slowed slightly in 2018, growing at 3.0 percent, and the trend is expected to continue downward

as advanced and many emerging economies slow.

"Growth in advanced economies is expected to reach about 2 percent in 2019, with growth in the United

States and China responding to strong domestic demand and supportive fiscal and monetary policies. In emerging and developing economies, uncertainty in global trade is contributing to an expected slowdown in growth to 4.2 percent as external demand ebbs, the cost of borrowing rises, and policy uncertainties persist," the report pointed out.

It also questioned Tanzania's GDP rebasing which was recently completed but there are concerns about the source data. The recent Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) GDP rebasing exercise produced significant changes in structural weights of the economy. In line with East African Community (EAC) harmonization efforts, NBS started the rebasing exercise in September 2017 to update the GDP base year from 2007 to 2015.

The rebased series was released in February 2019, producing a slight 2 percent increase in nominal 2017 GDP and significant changes in the structure of the economy. From the supply side, manufacturing and services activities now account for larger shares of economic activity, with the share of non-manufacturing industries declining, the report noted.

# Equity, CBA lose Sh490m in title deed fraud racket

NAIROBI

Commercial Bank of Africa, now known as NCBA, and Equity Bank stand to lose nearly Sh500 million through a title deed fraud racket after the Court of Appeal ruled that Co-operative Bank of Kenya has the right to a property used to acquire loans from the three banks.

Equity Bank, Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) and Co-operative Bank of Kenya have been laying claim on the single property in Riruta, which is registered in different names and was used to secure over Sh450 million in loans.

Three Court of Appeal judges ruled that CBA – which has been fighting for the title deed after Equity gave up the fight – had failed to prove that it had a right to the property when it sought orders stopping its auction by Co-operative Bank. The court noted that the banks appear to have been caught up in an intricate web spun by a fraudulent syndicate and hatched by the lenders' mutual customers.

"Similarly, in the absence of relevant documents, it cannot be said that the appellant (CBA) demonstrated on prima facie basis that the titles held by Wardpa and Kinjunje was parallel to the title held by Patrick Njuguna Kang'ethe," Justices Erastus Githinji, Fatuma Sichale and Otieno Odek said.

This now clears the way for Co-operative Bank to sell the property with Equity and CBA (now NCBA) left with losses that currently stand at Sh490 million inclusive of interest. Equity lost the fight for the property at the High Court and opted not to pursue the appeal, which was shepherded by CBA.

The suit brought to the fore a title deed racket that has seen lenders lose billions of shillings on non-existent security. Judges said that the circumstances surrounding the dispute between the three banks were fraught with fraud, which neither lender may be strictly responsible for as they all believed they held a first charge on the Riruta plot that measures approximately 0.2 hectares.

CBA moved to the Court of Appeal after High Court judge Samson Okong'o allowed Co-operative Bank to sell the land to recover its money. Evidence presented in court showed that on April 8, 2010, Patrick Njuguna Kang'ethe, Edward Njuguna and George James Kireru Kang'ethe, all trading as Patrick Kang'ethe & Sons, went to Co-op Bank and borrowed about Sh166 million. As security, they deposited an original title, which was registered in the name of Patrick on August 29, 1997. A legal first charge was duly registered against the title on September 10, 2010, and there were no other obstacles. The bank still has in its possession the original documents.



Central Bank of Kenya governor Patrick Njoroge.

However, on October 23, 2012, another original title with the same plot number registered in the name of Wardpa Holdings Ltd (WHL) was obtained by its directors: Edward, George and Gladys Njeri Kang'ethe. They went with it to CBA on March 24, 2013 and borrowed about Sh100 million and a legal charge was also registered against the document. The loan has since grown to Sh172.48 million. Through its lawyer William Kabaku, CBA said appropriate searches were carried out and there was no evidence of any other previous charge on the title. The bank, he said, still retains the original documents.

In May, 2014, yet another original title was obtained in the name of Kinjunje Gardens Ltd (KGL) whose directors are Patrick and his wife, Margaret Wambui Kang'ethe. They went to Equity on December 9, 2014 and took a Sh200 million loan. A legal charge was registered against the title on January 23, 2015. The loan has since risen to Sh318.8 million. Like CBA, Equity said it had carried

out searches and found no evidence of prior issues with the title deed. It is also in possession of the original documents.

The court noted that all the loans that were advanced on the security of Plot No.2289 were advanced to people who knew each other or were related and were working together in pursuit of the loans. The court added that it was also apparent that without the complicity of the office of the Chief Land Registrar, the transactions on Plot No 2289 would not have taken the trajectory they did.

In May 20, 2016, Co-op Bank instructed Leaky Auctioneers to advertise the plot for sale to recover the amount due in excess of Sh195 million. The family tried to block the sale by seeking an injunction in a case filed in Mombasa, but the matter was dismissed. The sale was readvertised and that is when Equity and CBA realised that it was the same security that had been given to them separately that was being sold.



Libra's 'testnet' has been running for five months and has already lodged 51,000 transactions.

# There are still be-Libras in Facebook's cryptocurrency

By Ahmed Ismail, CEO and co-founder of digital asset platform HAYVN

They say money makes the world go around. But, in the case of Libra, money makes the world go slightly hysterical. Politicians, central bankers, regulators, economists and business chiefs across the world have been brought into a state of frenzy by Facebook's proposed new digital currency.

Some say that Libra will hail a new era of financial inclusion for billions of the world's 'unbanked'. For others, Libra represents little more than a neoliberalism nightmare in which private enterprise seizes control of our monetary sovereignty. One thing is for sure: by triggering this frenetic debate, agitation and uncertainty, Mark Zuckerberg's goal of connecting the world is beginning to play out.

Given that a day in the life of Libra is the equivalent of a season of Game of Thrones – miss one week's episode and you have no idea what's going on – let's take a quick recap of where we are in the story so far.

To call it a fairy-tale would be an overstatement. Of the 28 founding members of the Libra Association, seven have now defected, touting concerns over the regulation and feasibility of the project. On the regulatory side, Facebook has faced formidable opposition from US lawmakers who claim that the currency will be used, among other things, to facilitate monetary laundering and terrorist financing.

It has faced even greater hostility on the international stage. In September, France and Germany made a joint decision to block Libra on the grounds that "no private entity can claim monetary power," and last year India took the general step of banning all non-sovereign cryptocurrencies. Then there's Facebook. Once the tech darling, the blue-faced social media giant is now caught at the centre of a web of privacy

scandals, data breaches, fake news, clickbait, violent content and electoral interference. Little wonder that so many question whether Facebook – last year voted the world's least trustworthy company – should be the champion of the first truly universal digital currency.

So yes, there have been more than a few bumps in the road. But is Libra treading the road of Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic dystopia or is it, in fact, on the road of yellow bricks walked by Dorothy and her faithful companions? Well, nobody quite knows. But we think there are good reasons to suggest that the situation isn't as bleak as the neigh-sayers would have you believe.

Let's first deal with the Facebook-shaped elephant in the room. Yes, Facebook has been mired in scandal, particularly relating to user data and privacy, but it is now tackling such problems head on across all of its platforms. In the case of Libra, this means that all transaction details and financial data will be kept completely separate from users' social media profiles. And let us not forget all of what Facebook can offer this project. It's financial muscle and enormous reach – with 2.5 billion active users, many of whom are located in the developing world – positions Facebook as perhaps the only company capable of delivering such a socially and economically ambitious venture.

We also think the widely-publicised Libra Association defections should be taken with a healthy pinch of salt. Four of the defectors are payments companies: MasterCard, PayPal, Stripe and Visa. Given that Libra has always posed to them an existential threat, it was fair to question their commitment from the outset. As such, their abandonment of the project is as unsurprising as it is calculated. Or, in the words of Libra chief David Marcus, "not great news in the short term, but in a way it's

liberating."

On the other side of the coin, Libra still has the support of 20 global brands, with another 1500 companies who have applied to join. Other big-named advocates include Foxconn founder Terry Gou and Bank of England governor Mark Carney, who has publicly criticised "slow and expensive" online payment systems.

As the head of a central bank, Mr Carney's support for Libra is somewhat surprising given the oft-stated contention that Libra undermines the monetary sovereignty of nation states. We wouldn't presume to know Mr Carney's true position on this issue, but it could be that he recognises the nature of this threat for what it really is: overhyped.

Firstly, the claim that Libra provides private companies with means to alter the value of currency is redundant since the majority of currency creation in the modern economy is already performed by private entities (i.e. commercial banks making loans) as made clear in a 2014 report by the Bank of England. Secondly, I would argue that Libra's 'stable-coin' design – backed by a basket of low-risk, real assets – offers less volatility than individual fiat currencies and is less able to be used by countries as ammunition in currency wars. In this sense, Libra offers a distinct advantage to traditional monetary policy.

And, for those that are set on extolling Libra's political clout, surely this represents America's best weapon against a Chinese government with clear ambitions to control the digital currency space and the technological might to back it up. A digital renminbi, which could be launched in as little as six to 12 months, could set China on a path to monetary supremacy. This is now one of the key arguments being made by Mark Zuckerberg, who has warned that, "if America doesn't innovate, [its] financial leadership is not guaranteed."

# WORLD

## House Democrats send Trump impeachment report to judiciary panel, setting up next stage of inquiry

WASHINGTON

THE Democrat-led House Intelligence Committee voted on Tuesday to adopt a report summarizing its findings from an ongoing impeachment inquiry against U.S. President Donald Trump, paving the way for the next stage of the fast-moving investigation.

Lawmakers voted 13 to 9 to allow the House panel chaired by Adam Schiff to hand over the report to the House Judiciary Committee, which is taking over the impeachment inquiry and is responsible for drafting any articles of impeachment against Trump.

The party-line vote came hours after House Democrats publicly released the report that called evidence of Trump's alleged misconduct and obstruction of Congress "overwhelming."

Republican Congressman Mark

Meadows, a Trump ally, quickly tweeted his response to the vote, calling Democrats' efforts "baseless and nakedly partisan." "Bottom line: Democrats can write what they want, but they can't provide any serious evidence supporting this latest conspiracy theory. And they know it," Meadows wrote.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing or a "quid pro quo." The White House has refused to cooperate with the impeachment inquiry, accusing Democrats of an unfair process. Steering the inquiry into a new phase, the House Judiciary Committee led by Democrat Jerry Nadler is scheduled to hear from four legal experts in the panel's first hearing on Wednesday.

Nadler has said they "expect to discuss the constitutional framework through which the House may analyze the evidence gathered in the present inquiry"



US President Donald Trump

and whether Trump's alleged actions "warrant the House's exercising its authority to adopt articles of impeachment."

However, neither Trump, who is in London for a NATO summit, nor his counsel Pat Cipollone will attend the hearing. In a letter to Nadler on Sunday, Cipollone said the White House won't participate in Wednesday's hearing, citing concerns that the House Judiciary Committee won't afford Trump "a fair process." House Democrats are conducting an impeachment inquiry into whether Trump abused his office by pressuring Ukraine into launching investigations that could benefit him politically.

Investigators are also examining whether the Republican tied a White House meeting or aid to Ukraine to those investigations.

Wednesday's report was a result of a months-long, Democrat-led investigation based on testimony from 17 current and former Trump administration officials who had offered their narratives of the White House's handling of its Ukraine policy.

The impeachment inquiry, initiated by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in late September, has found that Trump, "personally and acting through agents within and outside of the U.S. government, solicited the interference of a foreign government, Ukraine, to benefit his reelection," the report claimed.

There remain unanswered questions, and our investigation must continue," according to the 300-page report drafted by staff of the Democrat-led House Intelligence, Oversight and Reform, and Foreign Affairs Committees.

In a joint statement on Tuesday, Schiff and two other Democratic chairs alleged Trump's actions "have damaged our national security, undermined the integrity of the next election, and violated his oath of office." "They have also challenged the very core of our Constitutional system of checks and balances, separation of powers, and rule of law," the three Democrats said. "It will be up to the Congress to determine whether these acts rise to the level of an impeachable offense."

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham accused the report of reflecting nothing more than "frustrations" of Democrats.

At the end of a one-sided sham process, Chairman Schiff and the Democrats utterly failed to produce any evidence of wrongdoing by President Trump," Grisham said in a statement on Tuesday. "Chairman Schiff's report reads like the ramblings of a basement blogger straining to prove something when there is evidence of nothing." **Xinhua**

## Kremlin slams reports on Russia's alleged involvement in Georgian citizen's murder

SOCHI

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has dismissed the suspicions that Russia could have something to do with the murder of a Georgian citizen in Berlin as "totally groundless."

"There are no serious suspicions there, and there cannot be. What does that have to do with the Russian authorities? These are absolutely groundless assumptions," he told reporters commenting on German media reports claiming that the killer could have something to do with the Russian authorities.

At the same time, he doubted that the issue could somehow cast a shadow over a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel scheduled to be held in Paris on December 9 and spoil the atmosphere of the Normandy Four summit.

In general, Peskov (pictured) noted that the Kremlin was "unaware of the incident" in Berlin. "I have nothing to add. The probe is underway in Germany. We do not have any information whatsoever," he added.

On December 3, the Russian Embassy in Berlin likewise said it had no new data on the murder of a Georgian citizen in the German capital at the end of this past summer.

On Tuesday, some German media outlets, including the *Suddeutsche Zeitung* daily, reported that the German Prosecutor-General's Office would oversee the investigation. That is done when evidence indicates possible foreign involvement.

A 40-year-old Georgian citizen was killed on August 23. Later in the day, Berlin's Public Prosecutor's Office said that the suspect, a 49-year-old Russian national, had been detained. **Agencies**



## China 'leading the way' in fighting climate change - UN official

SAN JOSE

CHINA has become a role model in the area of combating climate change with science and technology, Edgar Gutierrez, special envoy of the United Nations (UN) Convention to Combat Desertification, told *Xinhua* in a recent interview.

China's efforts to fight environmental deterioration and improve sustainability make it "No. 1 example" for other countries, Gutierrez said, as representative of some 200 countries and organizations gathered in the Spanish capital of Madrid for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25).

China's achievements in reducing pollution and desertification are evident, said Gutierrez (pictured), also former environment minister of Costa Rica.

China is using its scientific know-how to make a change in the environment sector in the country, which is really inspiring for others, he said.

Gutierrez believes one of China's greatest achievements is its reforestation program, which is being emulated by many countries in other parts of the world.

"China has hundreds of thousands of people participating in this, planting trees in the desert,



using techniques that provide trees with the needed amount of water so they can then continue their natural process of growth," he explained.

"These are things that Africa is learning through the great Sahel

project. Saudi Arabia is going to launch a similar project, but China is leading the way," he said.

"It seems to me that China is giving us important lessons on how to combat climate change, and from a perspective of caring for the soil, biodiversity and especially people," said Gutierrez, adding, "we are learning from China."

The UN official said he has high hopes that the COP25, which opened on Monday and will close on Dec. 13, will mark "a step forward" in taking decisive actions against the greenhouse gas most responsible for global warming.

"We are short on time," he said, calling on countries to "be able to come to reasonable, viable agreements so ... we can begin to take firm steps," he said.

"2020 is the year that will define our future. The planet has already grown one degree Celsius warmer. If it warms another degree Celsius, we will be past the point of no return," he warned.

"We can't continue treating the issues of biodiversity, of land deterioration, of climate change as separate agendas. We have to pool our efforts and support countries so they take action," he added. **Xinhua**

## China firmly opposes US House approval of bill on Xinjiang-related issues

BEIJING

CHINESE Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying yesterday expressed China's strong indignation over and firm opposition to the passing of a bill on Xinjiang-related issues by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The so-called "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" deliberately smears the human rights condition in Xinjiang, slanders China's efforts in de-radicalization and counter-terrorism and viciously attacks the Chinese government's Xinjiang policy.

It seriously violates international law and basic norms governing international relations and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs. China is strongly indignant at and firmly opposed to it, Hua said.

"Xinjiang-related issues are not about human rights, ethnicity or religion, but about fighting violence, terrorism and separatism," said the spokesperson.

She said Xinjiang suffered gravely from extremism, violence and terrorism.

Faced with severe circumstances, the government of Xinjiang Autonomous Region lawfully fought violent and terrorist crimes while addressing the root causes.

Xinjiang hasn't seen a single terrorist attack over the past three years.

Those endeavors are endorsed by all 25 million people of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang, according to the spokesperson.

She added that the international community speaks highly of China's Xinjiang policy.

Since the end of 2018, over 1,000 representatives have visited Xinjiang in more than 70 groups, including officials from various countries, regions and international organizations, and people from the press, religious groups and academic circles.

They acclaimed that Xinjiang's experience in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization was worth learning from.

In March this year, the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation adopted a resolution that commended China's efforts in provid-



ing care to Muslim citizens.

In July, ambassadors of over 50 countries to the UN Office in Geneva co-signed a letter to the president of the UN Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, applauding China's respect and protection

of human rights in its counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts.

In October, at the Third Committee session of the 74th UNGA, more than 60 countries commended in their statements the tremendous human rights pro-

gress achieved in Xinjiang.

All those are strong proof that the U.S. accusations on Xinjiang-related issues are entirely against facts and the mainstream public opinion of the international community.

"We state our position clearly to the U.S. that Xinjiang is part of China, its affairs are purely domestic affairs that allow no foreign interference," she said, adding that the bill smears China's efforts in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, which only reveals America's double standards on counter-terrorism and further exposes to the Chinese people its hypocrisy and malicious intentions.

Hua said the Chinese government and people are determined to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests.

"We urge the U.S. to correct its mistakes at once, prevent this bill from becoming law, and stop using Xinjiang-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs. China will take further actions according to how the situation develops." **Xinhua**

## Macao sees bright prospects by integrating into national development

"THE biggest secret of Macao's success is its endeavour to stay committed to the basis of 'one country, well leverage the benefits of 'two systems', actively integrate into the national development, and made self-progress out of the support of its motherland," said Xu Jianhua, head of Department of Sociology of University of Macau, at a recent symposium.

During the past 20 years since the return of Macao to the motherland, the region has enjoyed rapid economic development, continuous improvement in people's livelihood, and long-term social stability.

The GDP of Macao has increased from over 50 billion patacas (about \$6.2 billion) in 1999 to more than 440 billion patacas in 2018, while the per

capita GDP of the region has risen from 120,000 patacas in 1999 to 660,000 patacas in 2018, a vivid example of leapfrog development.

The principle of "one country, two systems" has thrived with new dynamism in Macao since the region's return to China, and experts attribute such success to Macao's active integration into the national development, as well as its strict observation of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR)

Over the past 40 years, China's Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR have taken active part in the country's reform and opening-up and modernization, and meanwhile benefited greatly from the spectacular opportunities generated by

China's remarkable development.

Proactively integrating its own development into the development of the country generates important driving force for long-term prosperity and stability of Macao, and acting in strict adherence to the Constitution and the Basic Law has fundamentally guaranteed the development of rule of law of Macao, remarked Lin Wu, member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and director general of the Institute of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Development Studies, Sun Yat-sen University.

Integrated development and cooperation with the Chinese mainland is one of the most remarkable achievements of Macao since its return to China, Xu

said at the symposium.

"Macao's great achievements are the results of the region's efforts to venerate the order based on the Constitution and the Basic Law, maintain and carry forward the excellent tradition of loving the motherland and Macao, build and adhere to the consensus about improving people's livelihood by developing economy, and consolidate and promote the advantages of its well-established history and culture," Deng Zhonghua, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, explained at the symposium.

According to experts, with the support of the Chinese central government, Macao SAR has well served as a bridge in attracting foreign investment

and boosting the "going global" strategy since its return to the motherland, playing an important and unique role in the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Besides, the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao SAR have jointly formed the constitutional basis of Macao SAR, which not only serves as the legal foundation of the democracy and autonomy of Macao, but also effectively stimulates the dynamism of Macao's economy, politics, and culture.

The ongoing construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which represents a new endeavor to boost the integration of Hong Kong and Macao into the development of the country and further promote the

implementation of the "one country, two systems" principle, enjoys great prospects.

Wu Mei, an associate professor at the Department of Communication of University of Macau, has found through sampling statistics that primary and secondary school students of Macao have clear and objective knowledge and high level emotional identity of the history and culture of China, and showed behavioral intention of integrating into their motherland.

To draw on the successful experiences of the practices of "one country, two systems" principle in Macao and further enrich and develop the principle is the new situation and task for the development of the region in the new era. **People's Daily**

## EU climate leadership in doubt as bloc set to miss 2030 goal

MADRID

THE European Union said yesterday that it will likely miss its target for reducing greenhouse gases by 2030, dealing a blow to the bloc's efforts to be a leader in the fight against climate change.

The European Environment Agency said existing measures put the EU on course to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide and other planet-warming pollutants by 30% in the next decade compared with 1990 levels.

Currently, the 28-nation bloc aims for a reduction of 40% by 2030, and some leaders have called for this target to be raised to 55%, with a long-term goal of ending virtually all new emissions by 2050.

"Recent trends highlight a slowing down of progress in areas such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, industrial emissions, waste generation, improving energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy," the agency said in a report. "Looking ahead, the current rate of progress will not be enough to meet 2030 and 2050 climate and energy targets."

The report was released as officials from almost 200 countries meet in Madrid for UN climate talks. The EU's new executive Commission is expected to present its long-term plan for tackling global warming - dubbed the European Green Deal - next week.

Environmental campaigners said the EU should step up its efforts to ensure that the aim of the 2015 Paris climate accord of keeping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century remains possible. "Current EU leaders are the last generation that can prevent the climate breakdown," said Wendel Trio, director of the campaign group Climate Action Network Europe.

Trio noted that the European Parliament recently declared a symbolic "climate emergency."

"Citizens want them to act now, and not in 30 years," he said. The European Environment Agency report said that "there is still a chance to meet the longer-term goals and objectives for 2030 and 2050" if countries ratchet up their efforts, adding that this will require tackling politically sensitive issues such as fossil fuel subsidies.

A separate study published Wednesday by a group of international scientists found that both the European Union and the United States saw emissions drop 1.7% from 2018 to 2019, but China saw a 2.6% increase and India had a 1.8% rise. **Agencies**

## Recent trends highlight a slowing down of progress in areas such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, industrial emissions



# US double standards on human rights, democracy expose its hypocrisy

THE US signed into law the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 in an attempt to blatantly bolster rioters and violence and interfere in China's internal affairs.

It goes against international laws and the fundamental principles of international relations and exposes the double standard and ugly hegemony of the US side.

The Chinese government and the Chinese people are strongly opposed to such actions, echoed by everyone around the world who stands with justice. The intentions of the US to create chaos in Hong Kong by signing the bill are blatantly obvious as it has nothing to do with human rights or democracy. Its purposes also run counter to the principles of human rights and democracy.

After Hong Kong's return to the motherland, the practices of "one country, two systems" principle have proved to be successful as HKers are entitled to unprecedented democratic rights.

Some US politicians turned a blind eye to this and even intentionally defamed and sabotaged the place, while ignoring the violent acts of radicals in the past few months and confusing right from wrong.

The rioters have damaged buildings, set fires, paralyzed traffic, at-

tacked police and harmed citizens yet violence-plagued Hong Kong has been portrayed by these same politicians as "a beautiful landscape" in their eyes. They have become cheerleaders of criminals that any civilization and legal society would not tolerate.

Some US politicians shout the slogans of "human rights" and "democracy" loudly, accusing other countries of violating human rights, but they actually turn a blind eye to the serious human rights problems in their own country.

One glaring example is the humanitarian catastrophe created by the sudden change of the US immigration policy on its southern border.

Tens of thousands of refugees have been forcibly separated from their children, who have been locked up in squalid, cramped rooms, enduring hardships that wreak havoc on their young hearts.

Then there's the racism, gender discrimination, gun violence and violent law enforcement. Countless human rights issues are deeply rooted in the US society and there is no hope of solving them under the political polarization of American society.

What highlights its hypocrisy of "human rights" and "democracy" is its repeated bullying tactics to resist or threaten UN and other NGOs from



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam

monitoring its own human rights situation, or even quit the UN human rights council. The US, with its stained human rights track record, has taken on an air of sanctimonious dignity, brandishing the so-called "human rights" baton, and deliberately distorting the truth.

In the name of freedom and democracy, the US interferes in other countries' internal affairs. Although the US often vows to boost "diplomatic" and "human rights" ties with other countries and regions, it is really serving its own national interests under the guise of helping others achieve freedom.

The democracy and human rights advocated by the US have only brought

wars and chaos to countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. As a result, many people have lost their lives or been forced to flee their homeland.

The chaos also nurtures the quicker spread of extremist organizations like the Islamic State (IS).

Facts have proven that the US is a disrupter of international rules and order, a troublemaker for human rights causes around the world, and the mastermind behind many humanitarian disasters.

Now, the US side is up to the same old tricks in Hong Kong by promoting its double standard human rights and democracy stand.

The Hong Kong-related bill is full of pride and prejudice, intimidation and fright. Its nature is to undermine Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, sabotage the "one country, two systems" principle, and compromise the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

However, the US side is doomed to fail since its sinister conspiracy will be brought to light in time. The US hegemonism will only make the Chinese people more cohesive and united.

Hong Kong's future is and always will be in the hands of the Chinese people, including patriotic Hong Kong residents. No force can ever stop China from realizing national rejuvenation.

People's Daily



## South Sudan official calls for political solutions to boundaries dispute

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan has urged parties to the September 2018 peace deal to seek a political solution to disputes related to demarcation of boundaries for the country's states.

Martin Lomoro Elia, cabinet affairs minister on Tuesday said the Pre-Transitional National Committee is making progress towards an amicable settlement of disputes revolving around geographical size and autonomy of the states.

"We are going to divide these states, among ourselves as parties and there are states that will be run by the opposition parties and there are states that will be ruled by the incumbent government," said Lomoro (pictured).

He spoke at an Intergovernmental Authority on Development consultative meeting where he reiterated Juba's commitment to end civil strife and chart a new beginning.

"So what we are trying to do is to have a temporary solution to form the government and assign a permanent body that will study the issue of boundaries and number of states and then submit to permanent constitutional making process as stipulated under chapter six of the agreement," said Lomoro.

"We should give the people of South Sudan the right to decide whether they want a federal system of government and the number of states," he added.

Xinhua

# Beijing's position on new INF Treaty finds full understanding in Moscow - Kremlin

SOCHI

BEIJING'S position on a new Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty finds full understanding in Moscow, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

The Kremlin spokesman thus commented on US Presi-

dent Donald Trump's statement on a new INF Treaty.

"Beijing's position finds understanding in Moscow, about which our president numerously spoke," Peskov said.

"Its essence is that if we speak about the ruins of the INF and the need to make up for it with something else, then

one cannot raise the issue of only Beijing's participation. In the first place, it is necessary to speak about the West European countries, in which intermediate- and shorter-range missiles are also deployed," the Kremlin spokesman said.

In this regard, proposals by French President Emmanuel

Macron look more appealing for Moscow, Peskov said.

"A new treaty is needed because the old document no longer exists to our regret and not at our initiative," the Kremlin spokesman noted. "We cannot exist in the conditions of vacuum when nothing regulates such an important aspect

from the standpoint of international law as the issue of strategic stability," Peskov said.

Trump reiterated his numerous expressed idea that a new treaty should be signed instead of the dismantled INF and that the signatory states should also include China, apart from Russia and the

United States.

"Trump earlier spoke that he allegedly had information that China was not against that. His data were immediately dismissed by Beijing, which said that China is absolutely not going to do that," the Kremlin spokesman said.

Agencies

# Japanese aid agency chief killed in Afghanistan, Abe shocked

TOKYO/KABUL, Afghanistan

A JAPANESE physician and aid worker in eastern Afghanistan died of his wounds after an attack yesterday that also killed five Afghans, including the doctor's bodyguards, the driver and a passenger, a hospital spokesman said.

Japan Prime Minister Abe said he was shocked at death of Tetsu Nakamura.

"I was shocked that he had to die this way," Abe told reporters, adding that the Afghan people had thanked Nakamura, head of Peace Japan Medical Services, for his contributions.

The attack in Nangarhar province targeted Nakamura as he was heading to the provincial capital, Jalalabad, according to the provincial governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani.

Nakamura was seriously wounded and was reported to be in critical condition immediately after the attack. He underwent surgery at a local hospital but died while being airlifted to the Bagram airfield hospital in the capital, Kabul, for further treatment, said Gulzada Sangar, the hospital spokesman.

Nakamura had headed the Japanese charity, Peace Medical Service, in Nangarhar since 2008. He came to Afghanistan after a Japanese colleague, Kazuya Ito, was abducted and killed.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, the second in as many weeks targeting aid



In this Aug 28, 2008, file photo, Tetsu Nakamura (far right), executive director of PMS Japan, participates in a memorial service for Japanese aid worker Kazuya Ito at the governor's house in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. (AP)

workers in Afghanistan.

The Nangarhar governor, Shah Mahmood Meyakhail, expressed his condolences, saying that the people of the province were all saddened over Nakamura's death and remain thankful for the services the Japanese physician provided for them for over a decade.

The Taliban, who along with the Islamic State group, operate across the province, denied involvement in the attack. Their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted that the insurgent group "has no con-

nection" to Wednesday's attack and does not consider the Japanese charity a target in the holy war the Taliban are waging to create an Islamic emirate.

Nangarhar police said they were searching for the attackers, who fled the scene, and that an investigation was underway.

In late November, an American working for the United Nations mission in Afghanistan was killed and five Afghans, including two staff members of the mission, were wounded when a grenade hit a UN

vehicle in Kabul.

On Monday, a gunman opened fire on a vehicle in Kabul, killing two intelligence officials and wounding three others. No one claimed responsibility for that attack, but both the Taliban and the IS affiliate have been behind such attacks.

The Taliban control or hold sway over nearly half of Afghanistan, staging near-daily attacks that target Afghan forces and government officials but also kill scores of civilians.

Agencies

# Iran's Rouhani calls for release of innocent, unarmed protesters

DUBAI

PRESIDENT Hassan Rouhani called yesterday for the release of any unarmed and innocent people who were detained during protests against gasoline price hikes, after two weeks of violent clashes.

The unrest, which began on Nov. 15 after the government abruptly raised fuel prices by as much as 300%, spread to more than 100 cities and towns and turned political as young and working-class protesters demanded clerical leaders step down.

"Religious and Islamic clemency should be shown and those innocent people who protested against petrol price hikes and were not armed ... should be released," Rouhani (pictured) said in a televised speech.

Iran's clerical rulers have blamed "thugs" linked to its opponents in exile and the country's main foreign foes - the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

"The aim of our enemies was to endanger the existence of the Islamic republic by igniting riots in Iran ... But America and the Zionist regime (Israel) lack political wisdom about Iran and Iranians," said chief commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Hossein Salami in a televised speech. Tehran has given no official



death toll, but Amnesty International said on Monday it had documented the deaths of at least 208 protesters, making the disturbances the bloodiest since the 1979 uprising that swept Shi'ite clerics to power.

A lawmaker said last week that about 7,000 protesters had been arrested. The judiciary has rejected the figures.

The Intelligence Ministry said last week that at least eight people linked to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been arrested during the unrest, which was snuffed out last week by a security crackdown.

The struggle of ordinary Iranians to make ends meet has become harder since last year when U.S. President Donald Trump

withdrew the United States from Tehran's nuclear deal with six world powers and reimposed sanctions that have further crippled Iran's oil-based economy.

"If America lifts the sanctions, we are ready to talk and negotiate, even at the level of heads of the 5+1 countries (major powers)," Rouhani said.

In reaction to Washington's "maximum pressure", Iran has gradually scaled back its nuclear commitments and has warned of further distancing from the pact if Europeans fail to shield Tehran's economy from U.S. penalties.

Washington has ruled out lifting sanctions unless Iran further curbs its nuclear work, ends its ballistic missile programme and its regional proxy wars.

THE US president signed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act into law. In the name of human rights and democracy, this bill is full of prejudice, arrogance, intimidation and threats. It represents gross interference in China's internal affairs, which is a grave provocation against all Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots. The US exposed its robber face and hegemonic nature to the world.

Anyone who upholds an objective and impartial position has seen that what Hong Kong is facing today is not the so-called issue of human rights and democracy at all, but the problem of rampant violence and serious threats to the freedom and rights of Hong Kong citizens.

Some American politicians, however, turn a blind eye to

# Resolutely counter the hegemonic actions of the US

the crimes committed by the radicals. They turn black into white while neglecting truth and viciously denigrating the Chinese central government and the HK-SAR government. They arbitrarily point fingers at China's internal affairs.

They have blatantly met the separatist leaders several times and openly endorsed anti-China troublemakers in Hong Kong. They shamelessly criticize the Hong Kong police, who have enforced the law with utmost restraint while showing no mercy in tackling demonstrations in their own country.

They totally disregard the public demand for ending violence and chaos and restoring order in the Hong Kong community while

pushing forward Hong Kong-related law.

The US exercised "long-arm jurisdiction" through its domestic laws. The provisions have provided a shelter for the rioters, put obstacles in the HKSAR government's efforts to stop violence and end chaos, and intimidated the righteous people safeguarding law and order.

The aim is to fan the flames, and embolden the rioters to commit crime without scruples and endanger personal and property safety of the public.

The world has seen US double standards, which reveals the ugly face of hypocrisy. Such hegemonic actions of the US have trampled upon international law and basic norms governing

international relations. The world will agree that such practice is beneath contempt.

Under the guise of so-called "human rights," the US outrageously trampled on international law and basic principles. Its reckless and repeated interference in other countries' internal affairs heavily imperiled many developing countries and regions.

To grab the biggest profits, US politicians have made an all-out effort to stir up unrest and plotted "color revolutions" worldwide.

To maintain their hegemony, they have practiced "long arm jurisdiction" and exerted extreme pressure in every corner of the world, throwing many countries

and regions into stagnation and turmoil. The world, in their eyes, seems to date back to human's uncivilized era when power was justice.

The logic of US hegemony is doomed to fail, and playing with power will not succeed. In today's world, the basic norms of international relations such as sovereign equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs are deeply rooted in people's hearts.

The US has long been detested by the international community for its hegemonic behavior of playing power politics.

This time, they have grossly interfered in China's internal affairs in an attempt to destabilize Hong Kong and restrain China's development, which will only end up

with having a dose of their own medicine.

On issues of principle involving national sovereignty, security, and development interests, China will never succumb to any external pressure.

If the US is still obsessed with the outdated cold war mentality and hegemony, and insists on playing with power on Hong Kong, China will resolutely take countermeasures.

If the US goes further and further down the wrong path, China have enough confidence and strength, firm resolution and will to follow this path to the end. The US must bear all consequences.

As the Chinese saying goes, those who follow the trend will prosper, and those who go

People's Daily



Salome Phiri of Zambia (L) is challenged by Emeliana Mdimu of Tanzania during the 2019 COSAFA U-20 Women Championship final at Wolfson Stadium in Port Elizabeth, South Africa recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAMUEL SHIVAMBU

## Sober challenges in Africa that require funds too

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

IT has lately come to light that the FIFA top boss, Gianni Infantino, intends to raise the absolutely staggering amount of one billion dollars so as to address the continent's lack of adequate number of top-notch football stadia.

While not wishing to grumble discontentedly about the rights and wrongs of FIFA president Gianni Infantino's indisputably bold and generous gesture to support African football, this writer still cannot help but feel rather dreary about other areas of pressing concern in continental football which could do with a hefty slice of the one billion dollars financial pie which FIFA plans to proffer to Africa to boost the continent's admittedly insufficient number of quality football stadia.

Indeed, right off the top of my head, I can hastily think of several problem areas in continental football almost all at once which could greatly benefit from an infusion of hard cash.

One challenge that looms large on the continental landscape is the seemingly insoluble problem of maladministration in African football.

Indeed, in the interests of succinct speech, maladministration can simply be defined as the spectre of bad governance which has haunted African football for donkey-years now.

Horribly, the intractable problem of bad governance comes in a wide array of differing and deeply frustrating forms.

These various guises include corruption, an almost self-destructive penchant to foster internal conflicts both within the hierarchies of clubs and national football federations and a gross negligence of various challenges confronting African football like the women's game for example.

Another major ill which has caused Africans no end of embarrassment, especially during august tournaments like 'the mother of them all', the football world cup' has sadly been the recurring nightmare of national team players failing to receive their bonuses by football governing bodies on the continent before prestigious championships like the world cup officially kick-off.

Clearly, this indifference to the rights of players on the part of football federations on the continent has time and again led to some memorably shameful episodes at previous world cups for all Africans, episodes in which the players have even ominously threatened to go on strike if their bonuses were not paid ASAP, which is basically short for 'As soon as possible'.

Doubtlessly, many of us on the continent would breathe a huge sigh of relief if we could be certain that African teams and football federations would cease to air their dirty linen in public at ensuing world cup tournaments.

And thankfully, one hardly needs to be a neurosurgeon to see that if a portion of the one billion dollars that FIFA intends to raise for Africa could be devoted to ensuring that 'bonus-gate' never happens at world cups, then the likelihood of such scandals recurring at subsequent world cup competitions will automatically decrease as well.

Thus, let us end this commentary at the juncture from which we really started to delve into this subject.

Few would pillory FIFA's expressed aim to raise an eye-popping one billion dollars to build more stadia across the continent.

However, it is this writer's hope that at some point down the road, other deficiencies in African football will receive the funding that is so desperately needed.

## Manara, Mayay raise 24m/- for Arusha soccer team

BY CORRESPONDENT MARC NKWAME

SIMBA and Yanga are never exactly friends when it comes to soccer, they however might be friends when it comes to joining hands to support an army soccer squad.

In that respect, Simba Sports Club's information officer, Haji Manara, and former Yanga and national team midfielder, Ally Mayay Tembele, laid their teams' differences aside when they were in Monduli where they joined hands to train the army team in Monduli.

The football personalities conducted the training for Tanzania Military Academy (TMA) Stars, a team at the army institution base during the occasion to recognize the side's impressive displays in various district

soccer tournaments, which have helped the squad win promotion to regional soccer tournament.

The ceremony to crown the TMA Stars team went hand in hand with the training seminar as well as fundraising efforts to boost the army squad's coffers as it will compete in better and bigger leagues.

Both Haji Manara and Ally Tembele donated 1m/- to the army team.

"Simba Sports Club will also support the TMA Stars in contributing another 1m/- but I will personally also bring sports equipment to the team," Manara said.

He again promised to organize some matches for Simba to play against the army team in future.

## Mwakyembe lauds Kili Marathon for promoting sports tourism

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

MINISTER for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, has lauded organizers of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon for promoting sports tourism in the country and called on other local marathons to follow suit.

He made the remarks during a special meeting with organizers of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon after a successful launch of the marathon last month.

The minister was the guest of honour in the launch after which he decided to call the organizers for a brainstorming session to among other things discuss ways of promoting athletics in the country.

The Kilimanjaro Marathon organizing committee was represented by Chief Organizer John Addison, CEO of Wild Frontiers who developed the Kili Marathon idea, Aggrey Marealle, CEO of Executive Solutions Ltd PR/Event Coordinators and John Bayo, Race Director. All are the marathon founder members.

In view of the participation of nearly 11000 runners from 58 nationalities in the Kilimanjaro Marathon, minister Mwakyembe stated the need for closer cooperation between his ministry and the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources to create synergies for both sports and tourism development.

"The Kilimanjaro Marathon has promoted sports tourism to a great extent as participants are able to do a lot of tourism around Kilimanjaro region and other parts of the country where there are various tourist attractions," he said.

Mwakyembe disclosed that athletics does not just have a health benefit, but it is also a major foreign exchange earner for Tanzania.



Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe (C), and the Director of Sports in the ministry, Yusuf Singo (L), with the organizers of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon after a brainstorm meeting hosted by the minister to discuss ways of promoting athletics in the country. Others (L-R) are the Executive Solutions CEO and local coordinators of the Kilimanjaro Marathon, Aggrey Marealle, the race's Chief Organizer and CEO of Wild Frontiers, John Addison, and the Kilimanjaro Marathon Local Race Director, John Bayo. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

The minister called upon all marathon hosting regions to ensure they maximize the economic benefits of the marathons by creating cultural and other social activities for locals and tourists in the days before and after the marathon events which will result in week long activities boosting local economies and creating jobs.

He also expressed his delight at how marathons were mushrooming in almost every region but emphasized the need to have clear rules and criteria to ensure smooth events and tasked the Director of Sports in his ministry to ensure this.

The minister also stressed the need to view sports not just as having a health benefit but also as a serious economic activity and potentially a major

foreign exchange earner.

The Kilimanjaro Marathon sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42 km, Tigo-21 Km, Grand Malt-5km.

Water table sponsors include Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Barclays Bank and official suppliers include Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWorld Security, Precision Air and CMC Automobiles.

Meanwhile, Mwakyembe also lauded organizers of the Kilimanjaro Marathon for agreeing to help the John Steven Akhwari race off the ground as the race is set to take place in June next year.

The race organizers are working with other key stakeholders, Athletics Tanzania (AT) and the local organizing committee of the event, the John Steven

Akwari Foundation, to put various criteria in place and help with the skills transferal process to ensure that this event is a success.

The approach moreover gears towards seeing to it the race starts to gain the recognition it deserves in honour of the great man who is recognized by the Olympic Movement as representing the spirit of the Olympics that is courage and determination.

Speaking on behalf of the organizer, Marealle lauded Mwakyembe for his tremendous support over the years adding that his support of the event over the years has given not only the organizers, but the sponsors and various stakeholders' great credibility in terms of their association to the event.



Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Pindi Chana, joins Tanzania's COPA Coca-Cola U-16 team to celebrate after beating Kenya in the semi-final of the COPA Africa tournament taking place in Thika, Kenya. Tanzania booked a spot into the final after beating Kenya 5-4 in penalty shoot outs and are set to face Zimbabwe in the final today. (Photo: Cprrespondent)

## Tanzania cruises to COPA Africa tournament final

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT, THIKA,

KENYA

TANZANIA'S COPA Coca-Cola U-16 boys' football team has closed in on the COPA Africa competition's top honour, knocking hosts, Kenya, out of the last four of the event.

The Tanzania squad booked a place in the final, breezing past Kenya in the penalty shootout of the gripping last four clash which took place at M-PESA Foundation Academy venue yesterday.

It was not an easy win for Tanzania outfit, which is coached by Abel Mtweve, given Kenya put spirited displays up to the last minute of the game to force it to the spot kicks.

The game had to be settled by the spot kicks given the squads were locked to a barren draw after the regular time.

The Tanzania players showcased impressive performance although they did not register a goal during the regular time.

Tanzania team's keeper, Chuma Ramadhani, saved one penalty out of the Kenyans' penalties and helped his squad stay in advantageous position.

Tanzania squad's penalties were converted by Mohamed Rai, Edward Bernard, Nyerere Paul, Frank Stephen and Innocent Mtoi.

Kenya converted four penalties. The eventual winner will come up against Zimbabwe,

who recorded 4-2 victory over Zambia in the semi-final, in the final today.

Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Pindi Chana, visited the team prior to the last four encounter and urged the youngsters to see to it they come out victorious.

Pindi expressed sincere regards to Coca-Cola Company for hosting the tournament, which targets to promote soccer talents from grassroots.

She disclosed: "I'm so happy to have been told that this competition has brought together 10 teams from several parts of the continent. It is an important event that will help our youths scale great heights in football."

Mtweve, speaking shortly after the last four clash, disclosed: "Our target had since the start been deploying counter attacks, we have though opted to defend for a long time."

The team's head of delegation Vitalis Shija, who as well serves as national inter-secondary schools games (UMISSETA) vice-chairman, congratulated the squad for playing their hearts out in the semi-final and called on them to lift the silverware.

Despite Zimbabwe proving they are a good side, Mtweve is adamant his youngsters are in great shape and ready to get the better of their opponents.

The coach insisted he is optimistic his youngsters will come out victorious.



Megan Rapinoe didn't attend the Ballon d'Or ceremony but her deserved award was the talk of Paris even as Messi won his sixth prize. (Agencies)

## Rapinoe wins Ballon d'Or but is so much more than a soccer star

PARIS, FRANCE

MEGAN Rapinoe, the second-ever winner of the women's Ballon d'Or given to the best player on earth, had better things to do than pick up her award in Paris on Monday. "Bonsoir everyone!" she called out cheerily to the theater packed with dinner jackets and ballgowns, in a video that looked as if it was recorded in the corner of her Seattle living room.

She apologized for not making it over: "It's a bummer." Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Virgil van Dijk were among those who had shown up to applaud her, yet her snubbing of the ceremony seemed fair enough: judged by her off-field as well as on-field impact, she may be soccer's biggest icon today.

A really good icon arrives at just the right moment in history. We're living in an era when women, sexual minorities and non-white people are saying we won't be treated as second-class humans anymore. Certain men in the traditional ruling class reply we get to decide that. And into that battle walks Rapinoe. Her expressive face, uninhibited humor and sense of style make her an ideal spokeswoman for almost any cause, and as an activist she's an update on past stars of her sport.

The face of American soccer 20 years ago, Mia Hamm, "was sort of a gateway to the world becoming used to female soccer players," says Gemma Clarke, author of *Soccerwomen*. "She was marketed as wholesome, as the girl next door." By contrast, adds Clarke, Rapinoe wouldn't have been accepted as an icon "even five years ago."

Now 34, Rapinoe spent most of her career just short of front-rank status. Yet even without the protection of stardom, she never shied away from unpopular causes. She campaigned for prisoners' rights on behalf of her brother, Brian, who has been in and out of prison with drug problems. A former white supremacist with swastika tattoos, he watched many of his sister's triumphs from behind bars.

In 2016, she became the first white American athlete to kneel during the national anthem in solidarity with the anti-racism campaigner and NFL player Colin Kaepernick. "It took guts. It could have ended her career," says Clarke. The U.S. Soccer Federation responded by banning the act of kneeling. Meanwhile, Rapinoe and her girlfriend, WNBA star Sue Bird, were "normalizing a lesbian relationship" in American public life, notes Brenda Elsey, coauthor of *Futbolera: A History of Women and Sports in Latin America*.

But Rapinoe's joint careers as athlete and activist reached their crescendo this summer. If the U.S.'s victory at the World Cup in France was expected, her domination of the tournament wasn't. She hasn't been the best female player of her era, but she peaked when it mattered. "She's a big-time player," says the USWNT's coach Jill Ellis. Rapinoe's confidence -- exemplified by her trademark arms-outstretched celebration, known as "the Rapinoe" -- was a rejection of old-style submissive femininity,

and particularly stunning coming from a working-class woman.

Rapinoe dared take on Trump, the candidate who had swept most voters in her rural northern Californian hometown -- including her own father. She promised she wouldn't be visiting the "[expletive] White House" if the U.S. became world champions. "Megan should win first before she talks!" tweeted Trump. A few days later she'd not only won her second World Cup, but also the Golden Ball for best player and Golden Boot for highest scorer.

Rapinoe has called herself "a walking protest" and her advocacy of the U.S. team's lawsuit for equal pay was another feet-first leap into one of the social issues of 2019. Her own career had almost been cut short by gender inequality: four years ago, she tore her ACL while practicing with the USWNT on a grass field in Hawaii so bad that it was lined with plastic-covered sewer plates. "Equal pay!" the crowd in Lyon chanted after the Americans defeated the Dutch in the World Cup final, a chant that's resounded through stadiums across the National Women's Soccer League this year. But the USWNT's lawsuit shines a light for women beyond sport, and beyond the U.S. too.

In modern sports, activism is usually treated as a potential distraction. Speaking in platitudes or sponsor-fed slogans is considered the professional thing to do. Even some of Rapinoe's teammates on the national team seem to take that view. They talked about wanting to "stay in their bubble" during the tournament, says Caitlin Murray, author of *The National Team*, about the USWNT. Rapinoe's spat with Trump threatened to pull them out of it, but the furor didn't distract them; equally, it seemed to energize her.

Rapinoe is more than a professional: she is a performer. On the pitch she'll joke with the referee, banter with opponents, or acknowledge a fan, says Murray. "She always looks like she's having fun." Her irreverence seems to help her stay loose on the field, and lets her relax a potentially overstressed locker room.

Wowing the world has left her little time for her Seattle club, Reign FC: her stats for this season are no goals and no assists in just 333 minutes of play. But then, she's made for greater things, like further investment in women's soccer. In a video celebrating her Ballon d'Or, her father mused: "I don't know where you go from here: the best player of the universe?" In fact, her international playing career may culminate with next year's Tokyo Olympics, but that would surely just unleash her onto a new path, or maybe various paths. "At this point she's so popular that she could do almost anything," says Elsey. It's easy to picture her running for political office, but that feels perhaps too tritely obvious for her.

"That's the thing about the greatest icons," says Clarke. "There's really nobody to compare them to."

(Agencies)

# Messi's Ballon d'Or-winning form might not be enough for Barca

BY GRAHAM HUNTER, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

ON the subject of Lionel Messi, let me take you back to Sunday, Oct. 6, at Camp Nou.

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner he might now be, but at that stage, his season had already been scarred by injury, disappointment and defeat. Plus, it had been revealed that, shockingly, he could walk away from Barcelona -- for free -- in June. It was already the eighth week of term, and Messi had started only one La Liga match, played a total of 90 minutes domestically and been defeated at Granada.

That October night, Barcelona were 3-0 up by the 78th minute, but their No. 10 hadn't scored or created any of the goals.

Messi jogged up and launched a curling free kick into the top left corner of Tomas Vaclik's goal, over the head of Daniel Carrico, who'd retreated to the goal line. It was a single, gleaming moment of Messi magic peaking through the unrelenting gloom that had dogged him since July, when Argentina lost the semifinal of the Copa America to Brazil, and the little genius was, quite ludicrously, sent off during the third-place game against Chile.

However, take note.

From Oct. 6 until now, we've witnessed the kind of behaviour that not only guaranteed Messi the Ballon d'Or again (voting closed in early November) but also underlined his status as one of the most special men ever to pull on football boots. From that day until this, Barcelona have scored 21 times and surged to the top of both La Liga and their Champions League group, and Messi has either created or converted 17 of those goals.

Now let me take you back a couple of weeks before that sublime free kick: Messi breaks down just before half-time against Villarreal. TV camera microphones catch him saying to the club's physio: "I can't break down again. I can't break down."

He's on the side of the pitch, desperately hoping that the inner thigh massage he has been given can clear the muscle pain and he can resume. To his left (injured and dropped, respectively) Ivan Rakitic and Samuel Umtiti loom over him in the front row of the Camp Nou stand, but they're watching the match. Right behind him is his personal aide-de-camp, Pepe Costa, who has been inseparable from Messi for many years. His face is like thunder; he knows the agony his friend and client is suffering.

But I think people misinterpreted Messi's sentiments that night. To many it sounded like, and was interpreted as, a personal lament.

Given how he has hoisted a confused, confusing and inconsistent Barcelona onto his shoulders since his return against Sevilla, it can retrospectively be understood as him stating, out loud in anguish to the night sky, that he feared that if he were seriously injured, having been out for weeks with a calf problem, by the time he returned, his team's season would be in tatters.

Jump to the Wanda Metropolitan on Sunday and the magnificent way Messi, who knew by then that he was the Ballon d'Or winner, chose to celebrate his coronation by spearing Atletico Madrid through their soul.

Don't for a second think that his mind had drifted 24 hours forward to the ceremony in Paris, but nevertheless, Messi played extremely strangely. When he trudged around the Metropolitan pitch, he looked more disaffected than mentally dissecting Atletico.

Remember that phrase Pep Guardiola used about Messi conducting mental X-rays of surrounding gaps and opportunities while he strolled around the playing surface? This wasn't that. He miscontrolled, he chose his route with the ball mistakenly more often than not, and he gave possession away such that he was forced to race back three quarters of the pitch to try to correct his error. Like it or not, this was an off night for Mr. Ballon d'Or.

By now you know that he eventually



Lionel Messi's peerless form of late culminated in another Ballon d'Or win. (Agencies)

remedied that -- and spectacularly so. But what the world's first six-time Ballon d'Or winner did, and how he produced the executioner's touch in Madrid late on Sunday, was extremely illuminating.

Recently, I interviewed Antoine Griezmann. Not only is he not buckling under the responsibility of unlearning one skill set and relearning another, but he is also completely sure that he's on target, given how tough he anticipated the process would be. Although by his own admission he is shy, not likely to try to inveigle his way into the Messi-Luis Suarez circle of trust, Griezmann is also quite clear that he has the mean determination and work rate to earn the respect and acceptance of the two senior men of war up front for Barcelona.

To help complete this puzzle and to further our understanding of Messi and his fiefdom, just take those themes from Griezmann and build them into your appreciation of Barcelona's past two games.

On Wednesday, Barcelona thumped Borussia Dortmund with their three principal strikers, Argentinian-Uruguayan-Frenchman, Griezmann is also quite clear that he has the mean determination and work rate to earn the respect and acceptance of the two senior men of war up front for Barcelona.

There's nothing outright negative about the statement, but it's a clear signal that helping Griezmann integrate, feel confident, score goals and turn a duopoly into a trident as they did with Neymar is far down the list of priorities. It was a touch patronising, but there you have it.

So back to Sunday.

By the time Thomas Lemar has made his lame attempt at a cross-field diagonal ball to release Vitolo and Sergi Roberto has cut it out by heading it down to Frenkie de Jong,

Messi is about to receive the ball with five minutes left. Oddly, the Dutchman either notices his team leader and in-house genius and deliberately ignores him at first or De Jong is fixated on the idea of a long diagonal ball to his left in order to release the French World Cup winner and thus doesn't see the infinitely easier pass to Messi, who's about 25 metres away, as opposed to 50.

Messi waves his arms in the air, signifying both a desire to get the ball now and a disbelieving frustration (make that astonishment) that he hasn't been given it instantly. You've likely seen what happens next.

While Sergi Roberto's dummy run into the box takes one defender away and tricks Thomas Partey into a 180 he didn't need to make, Messi cuts left, across the front of the penalty area, and has the ball at his laser-controlled left boot. Atleti are in deep, deep trouble.

What looms in front of him -- and I honestly mean it couldn't have been more obvious if there were a yellow brick road to follow or a celestial, fluorescent sign with the words "Give. The. Ball. To. Griezmann." -- is a super simple chance to slide a pass into the Frenchman's path. He is open beyond belief. After he was harangued, whistled and abused all night, it would have been storybook of storybooks had the loathed Griezmann scored Barcelona's winning goal past Jan Oblak.

But Messi isn't even interested.

The one-two pass he plays with Suarez is executed superbly, but it's the more difficult option, and instead of a little shunt of the ball into Griezmann's scoring zone, the Argentinian and Uruguayan have taken the opportunity into a more crowded, potentially more threatening area. Of course Messi scores -- with barely a backlift of his left boot, with such a powerful parabola that Oblak is still leaping at full stretch when the Puma-branded sphere stretches the netting behind him.

It was a moment to justify all those who'd already voted for Messi for the Ballon d'Or ahead of Virgil van Dijk, who said he thought the award belonged to Barcelona's Argentinian

(despite his team's defeating Messi's team 4-0 at Anfield last spring -- how amazing a point of view is that?) It was a moment to make the ultra-competitive Diego Simeone stop, shrug, applaud in honest admiration and shrug again, as if to say: "Can't argue with genius." It was a moment to understand Griezmann's predicament.

Messi and Suarez, so long as they are athletically able to, take care of business. They view it as their responsibility; they are willing to donate a goal to Griezmann when the serious heavy lifting is already done. It's like parents who do the driving but are willing to ride along with their learner's-permit-toting kid on Sundays. Griezmann's task is to mix patience with aggression and do special enough things that Messi & Suarez Inc. are shocked into offering a junior partnership rather than a salaried post.

We are in December. In terms of points, determination, physical well-being and lifting the only trophies so far available to him, Messi, and by definition Barcelona, couldn't have achieved a great deal more. Whether this momentum is sufficient to beat Real Madrid at Camp Nou in a fortnight, whether it's sufficient to power Barcelona past the European pretenders who play heavy-metal football in March and April, whether this precarious role for Messi running, dribbling and scoring with a good number of teammates on his back is sufficient to win trophies, we will have to wait and see.

You'd suspect not.

Just to return to the point, Messi knew it that day in September when he lay injured, distraught and fearful on the turf at Camp Nou against Villarreal. Without him for a long spell, Barcelona would not collapse but would, slowly, be exposed as mere mortals. As it is, he's having to do so much heavy lifting, to creak under such responsibility, that the individual trophies inevitably come his way.

But La Liga and the Champions League? They look far more out of reach than Barcelona's various points totals suggest.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Messi's Ballon d'Or-winning form might not be enough for Barca

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup rocked by withdrawal



CECAFA Secretary General, Nicholas Musonye

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

THE Democratic Republic of Congo national team, Leopards, have become the third side to pull out of the 2019 Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Senior Challenge Cup. The two-time Africa Nations Championships (CHAN) holders were set to compete for the first time in the regional football tournament as a guest team after 10 years.

They were pooled alongside Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia in Group B of the tournament that kicks off in Uganda on Saturday.

According to multiple media reports from Democratic Republic of Congo, the country's government declined to finance the Leopards trip to Uganda forcing the team's withdrawal.

CECAFA Secretary General, Nicholas Musonye, had said

they had allowed DR Congo to return to the tournament in the absence of Rwanda and also to increase competition.

On Monday, Ethiopia had also confirmed its withdrawal from the tournament due to lack of finance. However, the Ethiopian Federation (EFF) did not forward any reason for decision.

The EFF has also confirmed that it will not be part of the CECAFA U-17 Women Challenge

Cup that is also hosted in Uganda.

The Walya Antelopes, as the Ethiopian national team is known, were meant to face Uganda, Eritrea and Burundi in Group A of the tournament.

Rwanda was the first country to pull out of this year's edition of CECAFA Senior Challenge cup for what was cited as lack of budget.

Besides the senior team's withdrawal, Rwanda has also

this year missed the CECAFA U-20 Cup held in Uganda and CECAFA Senior Women Challenge Cup hosted in Dar es Salaam.

Ethiopia and DR Congo withdrawal has reduced the number of participating teams to ten which might force the CECAFA Local Organizing Committee to revise the fixtures.

CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup which is widely considered as the oldest football tournament in Africa was not held last year.

The tournament's future is, moreover, increasingly in doubt as member states call for its improvement while others are questioning its relevancy in light of several developments including CHAN, expansion of inter-club competition and change in football calendars.

Senior Challenge Cup 2019 groups:

**Group A:** Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea

**Group B:** DR Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia

**Group C:** Kenya (defending champions), Mainland Tanzania, Burundi, Djibouti.

The top two teams from each group and the best two losers will qualify for the quarter-finals.

**5 EATV**

**TODAY @ 18:00**

**THURSDAY**

11:00 DADAZ (live)  
12:00 Mpya  
15:00 FUNGIKA  
16:00 Bongo Hits  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 Bongo Hits

**eNewz** is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

**eastafrika RADIO**

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

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Mexime open to coaching Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

COACH Mecky Mexime is reportedly open to joining Young Africans (Yanga) should the Dar es Salaam-based club decide to approach him.

In a local radio interview, the Kagera Sugar head coach said would not hesitate to work with Yanga should any job become available at the club.

"They have not approached me. However, I am a coach, moving from one team to another is very normal in our line of work. I am open to a coaching role with Yanga," Mexime said.

Yanga are yet to replace Mwynyi Zahera who was sacked last month. Charles Boniface Mkwasa is currently in charge of the team.

Mkwasa has not been given a timeframe for how long he should expect to serve as an interim head coach.

On Monday, Yanga were held to a one-all stalemate against KMC FC and with Yanga's next league game being against arch rivals, Simba, some fans have called for the reinforcement of the technical bench.

Asked whether he would be happy to leave his head coach role and serve the Dar es Salaam giants as an assistant coach, Mexime responded.

"I am ready any time to work at any capacity as long as the money is right. Even if it is serving as dishwasher at the club, I will embrace the work. Let the come and we will talk," he said.

The former Mtibwa Sugar head coach and player has been linked with the Yanga job in recent seasons and it remains to be seen whether the club management will attempt to finally lure him to Jangwani Street outfit this time.

After last season's struggles where Kagera Sugar avoided relegation through the play offs by edging out Pamba, Mexime has rediscovered his mojo by stringing good results that have pushed them to second place on the table.

His stock has since risen up and he has been constantly linked with a move away from Kagera Sugar.

Reports suggest that he was being considered for a job with KMC FC and Polisi Tanzania.

KMC are without a head coach after parting ways with Jackson Mayanja following poor results in the Vodacom Premier League.

Meanwhile Police Tanzania are reportedly on the hunt for a coach with the squad facing inevitable loss of Selemani Matola who is finalizing a move back to Simba.

Nine head coaches in the Vodacom Premier League have either faced the axe or vacated their positions so far.

If Mexime and Matola get their wishes, domestic football lovers will be in for another coaching merry-go-round before the first half of the season.

## Caravans' cricketers prolong winning run in DRCC Caravans T20 tournament

By Guardian Reporter

CARAVANS' cricketers have stretched their winning run in this year's DRCC Caravans T20 Cup, beating rivals Aga Khan SC by three wickets in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The eventual winners' spirited showing in the pulsating Group A clash, which took place at Leaders Club venue, helped them come out with the crucial win and boost their search for a place in the knockout stage.

Caravans, the competition's defending champions, chose to bowl after they had won the toss, limiting their opponents to 119 runs all out in 19.2 overs.

Aga Khan SC got off to an impressive start in the innings, thanks to their top order batsmen's scintillating showing.

Openers, Jitendra Gariya and Arslaan Premji, scored 27 runs and 23 runs respectively and Khalil Rehemtullah, who batted at number three, posted 20 runs.

Gariya ended with four fours in his spell, Premji notched a six and Rehemtulla ended with two fours.

Aga Khan SC were pegged back with an early dismissal of key all-rounder Riziki Kisetu, considering he was dismissed by Caravans' Gokul Das with paltry three runs to his name.

Harsheed Chouhan, Yash Desai and Vipin Abraham attempted to steady the ship after they had notched 14 runs, 11 runs and 12 runs respectively.

Batting collapse the team faced in



Alliance Insurance Company Chief Executive Officer, Sunder Nayak (C), and his wife, present man of the match prize to Gokul Das of Caravans after the squad had confronted Aga Khan SC in the Group A's clash of this year's DRCC Caravans T20 competition at Leaders Club venue recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

the closing stages of the innings proved costly.

Caravans' bowler, Gokul Das, had an impressive bowling figure, ending his spell with seven wickets and leaking 15 runs in four overs.

His scintillating showing was vital in the outfit's efforts to

frustrate the opponents' attempt to finish the innings with a massive total.

Needing 120 runs to notch victory, the defending champions had a somewhat wobbly start in their innings, given young opening batsmen, Mohamed Omary and Ivan Ismail, did not stay

long at the crease.

Ismail posted 14 runs, which included two fours and a six. Omary recorded 15 runs, which included three fours.

The side's search for successful chase was dealt a blow, given two key batsmen, Kassim Nassor and Jitin Singh, made their way

back to the pavilion in quick succession, recording nine runs and seven runs respectively.

Das, nevertheless, stepped at the crease to steady the ship, nailing 30 runs not out, which consisted of a four.

Das' stellar all-round exploits deservedly won him man of the match prize.

Sreejith Kumar, the squad's skipper, later on forged partnership with Manoj Kumar, helping their team live up to expectations for the loss seven wickets in 18.4 overs.

Sreejith and Kumar had notched 23 runs and 10 runs respectively, helping their outfit command three wins in three outings.

Caravans have, in the process, brought Aga Khan SC's unbeaten spell to an end.

Aga Khan SC were boasting of victory in two outings heading to the clash with Caravans.

Caravans Club has hosted the tournament, which is held annually, under the auspices of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), targeting to promote the game at the domestic level.

This year's competition's sponsors include Petrofuel, Alliance Insurance, Grand Restaurant, Colourflex, RAS Logistics and SBC through Pepsi brand.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

