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JPM promises prompt action as inmates cry out for justice

The head of state promised to work on the issues raised by the inmates, saying he was touched because he believes that not all those who are in prison are criminals

By Guardian Reporter

CRIES for justice yesterday greeted President John Magufuli at Butimba Prison in Mwanza as inmates narrated grievances, ranging from bribes, delayed cases, twisted charges, wrongful imprisonment and violence within the facility.

Convicts as well as accused persons remanded at one of Tanzania's biggest correctional facilities grabbed the rare opportunity to meet the Head of State, appealing for his intervention in their quest for justice.

Although the principles of separation of

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Cotton farmers from Shinyanga Region, Mwanza Region and Igunga District in Tabora Region wait for their turns to sell their produce at a Shinyanga factory, amid reports of Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) facing delays in accessing money for the transactions. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



Three in 10 East Africans undernourished, says UN

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE number of people going hungry in the world has increased for the third year running with East Africa hardest hit, a new report published yesterday by the United Nations shows.

Prepared by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, the report noted that reaching the target of zero hunger by 2030 is "an immense challenge."

More than 820 million people worldwide are not getting enough food, with the situation most alarming in Africa, the report indicated.

Africa "has the highest rates of hunger in the world" and the rates are rising in some of the continent's sub-regions, it stated.

"It is estimated that over two billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food, including 8 per cent of the population of North America and Europe," reads the report.

The report dubbed 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)' said that in East Africa more than three in 10 of the population are undernourished.

Across the continent, "in addition to climate and conflict, economic slowdowns and downturns are driving the rise.

"Since 2011, almost half the countries where rising hunger occurred due to economic slowdowns or stagnation were in Africa," it affirmed.

While hunger remains widespread, obesity continues to rise in all regions. Africa and Asia are home to nearly three-quarters of all overweight children worldwide, largely driven by consumption of unhealthy diets.

The causes are to be found in

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Why GBV remains a hard nut to crack countrywide

By Henry Mwangonde

LACK of well-researched, data on gender-based violence (GBV) derails efforts to curb the ever increasing vice with the government now set to establish one-stop centres to ease information gathering in accordance with global standards.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of an international workshop on planning and implementation of prevalence surveys on violence against women, Health Deputy Minister Dr Faustine Ndungulile said GBV is triggered by factors like social norms and practices.

Dr Ndungulile said various interventions employed by the government and other stakeholders are held back by challenges such as limited resources to cover the whole country, hence some cases go unreported.

But in areas where resources are available, it is possible that cases can be reported more than once, making available data unrealistic and unhelpful in effective planning and execution of interventions.



He said increasing the generation of quality data will be a game changer in efforts to end the violence that women and children face

"Violence is a reality for many women and children in Tanzania and the rest of the world. The latest demographic and health survey for Tanzania (2015/16) shows that four in ten women have experienced either physical or sexual violence in their lifetime," he said.

He said increasing the generation of quality data will be a game changer in efforts to end the violence that women and children face.

The level of partnership in the area of ending violence against women reflects the need for regular generation of data to support governments to reform laws and policies and design of national programmes that can foster the creation of environments of free gender-based machinery.

That would help to improve administrative data through improved reporting and tracking mechanism of GBV incidences from different actors based on already established indicators, he further noted.

For her part, World Health Organization (WHO) country representative Dr Tiget Ketsela said

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PPRA saves 37bn/- via cautious procurement

By Aisia Rweyemamu

The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has saved 46.9bn/- in two years that would have been lost due to poor procurement procedures.

PPRA Chief Executive Officer Leonard Kapongo (pictured) said this at the 7th Public Procurement Conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Government money was saved during the 2016/17 and 2017/18, financial years when PPRA was conducting an investigation to identify violations of procurement procedures.

Kapongo said the saved money was due to non-

payment of contractors and service providers who would have been paid contrary to procurement procedures.

In addition, PPRA is faced with various challenges as some institutions do not provide cooperation during investigative exercises, he said.

"Failure by government institutions to effectively supervise the implementation of procurement agreements is a factor that affects value for money in rendering public services," he stated.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration

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President John Magufuli leaves Butimba Prison in Mwanza city yesterday shortly after having an audience with inmates. Photo: State House

JPM promises action as inmates cry for justice

FROM PAGE 1

powers do not allow the head of the executive to interfere with the judiciary directly, the outpouring of lamentation lifted the lid on apparent miscarriage of justice in correctional facilities.

The Head of State promised to work on the issues raised by the inmates, saying he was touched because he believes that not all those who are in prison are criminals.

"I am your leader and I fear God. I ask you to be patient as I work on the issues you've raised. I have heard you well and I am going to work on the challenges," he promised.

President Magufuli said there are hundreds of drummed up cases in the country and ordered relevant authorities to work on the same so that they are concluded as soon as possible.

"Let me tell you one thing: my government does not want to see people being imprisoned. But for that not to happen, you have a duty not to commit crime," he said.

President Magufuli spoke after listening to narrations of alleged miscarriage of justice from a number of inmates who had an opportunity to speak during the impromptu visit.

Hashim Kijuu who is a former councilor said he is a victim of twisted charges because he was arrested while selling diesel suspected to have been stolen but was charged with murdering a person he did not even know, which means he cannot be bailed.

Kulwa Hemedi who said he knew Kijuu by the time of their arrest, said he was nabbed in 2017 while selling diesel and taken to one of the police stations in the region.

"While at the police station officers there demanded that I give them 1m/- which I didn't have. I offered them 200,000/- but they declined. I was surprised to be charged in court with murder," he said.

Thomas Nyagombe who is being remanded at the facility alleged that

insecurity is rampant at the facility and is overseen by officers, who are supposed to ensure order.

Nyagombe further alleged that at one time a prisoner died while the warden watched without taking action.

"An inmate died as this officer sat without taking action. We ask that you take action against him," he told the President.

Samwel Daudi who said he has been incarcerated for nine years complained that cases take too long to conclude, alleging that it is corruption that leads to such delays.

Shukrani Mango appealed to President Magufuli to pardon those who were convicted of petty crimes so that they regain freedom and engage in productive activities as law-abiding citizens.

Before leaving the facility, the Head of State told the facility's management to ensure that those who spoke out are not harassed in anyway.

"If anything, be friends," he told the officers.

To ensure that the bond is created between the officers and the inmates, President Magufuli pledged to bring three cattle to be slaughtered at the facility alongside 15 sacks of rice.

"I want both wardens and inmates to eat together," he said.



Before leaving the facility, the head of state told the facility's management to ensure that those who spoke out are not harassed in anyway

PPRA saves 37bn/- via cautious procurement

FROM PAGE 1

and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo, directed that serious measures be taken on anyone involved in the loss of government funds, including refunding it.

The minister said boards of

directors and officials of government institutions are directly involved in ensuring that the rules, regulations and procurement procedures are effectively followed.

The minister acknowledged the challenges facing PPRA, including shortage of staff and the problem

of buildings that caused PPRA to spend a lot of money to pay for the rent, promising to work on the problems.

Earlier, the Acting Chairman of the PPRA Board, Professor Sufian

Bukurura said they faced a shortage of human resources thus affecting the

implementation of their duties.

Prof. Bukurura said the budget deficit is another challenge that makes PPRA fail to carry out its duty effectively. The entity is annually forced to conduct inspection of 100 government entities out of 500, due to financial challenge, he told the minister.

Three in 10 East Africans undernourished, says UN

FROM PAGE 1

the economic system: Hunger has increased in many countries where the economy has slowed down, especially in middle-income countries. In addition, economic crises aggravate food shortages caused by wars and climate shocks.

Carlo Petrini, international president of Slow Food and ambassador of the Fame Zero programme for FAO, commented: "For the fourth year running, the report shows a worsening situation, which means that we are seeing a trend.

"It seems incredible that in 2019 Homo sapiens is still struggling with the fight against hunger, and even more incredible to see that we are losing! Slow Food has been involved in this fight for many years now, and the picture that emerges today from the new edition of the UN report calls for further commitment, with strength and urgency."

"The report also tells us that the problem is not the quantity of food

globally available, as the agro-industry multinationals claim, but its availability for those in disadvantaged economic and social conditions. It is a matter of denied rights and nothing to do with increasing production.

"We therefore need bolder policies from governments all over the world to combat poverty, inequality and marginalization, policies that adopt and promote an agro-ecological, inclusive and socially equitable model of food production."

See also features on hunger on pages 9 and 11



PPRA is faced with various challenges as some institutions do not provide cooperation during investigative exercises



Petrobena managing director Peter Kumalilwa (L, with microphone) welcomes Anthony Mavunde (with jungle hat), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment), at the weekend to inaugurate the harvesting season in a 20-hectare farm belonging to Agri-Ajira group of Kilosa District in Morogoro Region. The company has been extending various forms of support to young graduates of the Sokoine University of Agriculture. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WASHINGTON

AMONG the 26 people killed at a hotel following a terrorist attack in southern Somalia Friday was Hodan Nalayah, a television journalist who returned from the diaspora to help locals build a better life.

Nalayah was trying to change the narrative of reporting about Somalia, which she considered "mostly negative," according to Siad Ali, the director of outreach for Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar and a relative of Nalayah.

"She was not a fan of promoting politicians or talking about the politics," Ali told VOA. "Her uniqueness was reporting the positivity of Somalia and the people of Somalia, from Somalia to diaspora. So that has attracted thousands of youth throughout Somalia, and to see the good side of

Journalist who returned to native Somalia to help local people killed in hotel attack

Somalia and the prosperity side of Somalia."

Nalayah also thought she could impact the lives of the young Somalis who were not receiving an education.

Late last month, she visited her home town, Las Anod, where her family opened a school for 150 nomadic children. The family also opened a library for young children to learn painting, reading and storytelling, the first of its kind in the country.

People don't have lots of opportunities, education is poor, no jobs," she told VOA Somali at the opening of the library.

She said this would change if Somalis from the diaspora returned and helped

their country.

"Every Somali person who is listening to me, the country needs you," she said. "Your people are in need, they are hungry...hungry psychologically. If you have a little bit in the diaspora come back, build a hospital if you are a doctor, teach if you are a teacher," she said.

Hodan Nalayah was born in Somalia but spent most of her life in North America. Her family moved to Edmonton, Alberta when she was just eight years old in 1984, and later moved to Toronto. After working in American radio and TV, she returned to Canada and launched a show called Integration, that focused on the Somali-

Canadian community.

But last year, Nalayah moved to Kismayo after meeting her new husband, Farid Jama, a former politician-turned businessman.

On April 21, Nalayah communicated with her friend and VOA Somali reporter Sahra Abdi Ahmed. She reported that life in the Somali coastal city was good.

"I married the love of my life from Kismayo," she wrote. "He is three generations [here in] Kismayo and was a former minister. Farid Jama is his name. I never thought I would enjoy [living] here so much."

AGENCIES

Why GBV remains a hard nut to crack countrywide

FROM PAGE 1

improving the quality and availability of data on violence against women (VAW) has been a priority for WHO for over 20 years, as part of the work to prevent and respond to such conditions. It is now high on the international agenda, particularly in response to Sustainable Development Goals.

"In the WHO African region, there are still some gaps in data availability, as well as a very high prevalence of physical and or sexual in intimate Partner Violence (37percentm).

"Therefore the workshop and the follow up activities are critical to support the efforts of countries towards addressing existing gaps and ensuring the production of sound data that can contribute to a robust evidence-base

and inform policies and programmes to address violence against women," she stated.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from nine countries to discuss existing guidelines, principles and recommendations for the implementation of actions on GBV prevalence focusing on areas including planning to data collection and analysis.

In her remarks, Junca Plazaola Castano, data specialist from the Violence Against Women policy division at UN Women headquarters in New York said that data collection was critically important because GBV information is sensitive and carries ethical and safety recommendations to take into consideration.



Students expecting to enrol at institutions of higher learning in Tanzania and elsewhere seek details at the Global Education Link pavilion of the Universities Week exhibition at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how to make it for studies abroad. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

University graduates challenged to focus on self-employment

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilosa

DEPUTY Minister in Prime Minister's Office tasked for Labour, Employment and Disabled Persons Antony Mavunde said here recently that college graduates will do themselves and the nation a big service by using their knowledge to employ themselves and create jobs for others.

He was speaking here at the launch of paddy harvesting season at a 50-acre paddy farm that belongs to Agri-Ajira Group of young smallholders in Kilosa district who were sponsored by Petrobena East Africa Ltd that agriculture stood a better chance to transform their lives.

He also praised Petrobena, a local distributor of Yara fertiliser and farm inputs, for backing Agri-Ajira Group to the hilt. The group has a modern paddy farm that creates direct and indirect jobs for Kilosa residents.

"I commend and praise this company under the leadership of Peter Kumalilwa for trotting on the government path. You are doing the needful to make Tanzania a middle-income nation by 2025," he said, adding that the company is focusing on promoting and reforming agricultural sector's performance so that the sector generates enough quality crops and creates jobs for people, especially the youths.

Mavunde also lauded Agri-Ajira

Group members, who include college graduate, for showing the way. He called on college students countrywide to desist from chasing imaginary jobs or selecting jobs on the market.

He said Tanzania's ambition to become an industrial nation will remain a distant dream if farms will produce insufficient and poor-quality crops for local industries.

Kumalilwa thanked the minister for visiting the farm, saying that such high-level visits to farming groups motivates members and make unemployed youths see sense in engaging in farming. He also thanked Morogoro Regional Commissioner Steven Kebwe for being sincere and practical in helping jobless

and desperate youths.

He said Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has also shown interest of supporting the group formed by graduates from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). "We are very proud of you honourable deputy minister for taking time and giving us words of encouragement. We are confident in you," Kumalilwa explained.

SUA graduate Samweli Kitila said the group's achievements were hard-won and thanked the company for its unflinching support. "We overcame different challenges until we met Petrobena officials who have made our dreams come true. It wasn't easy," he said.

Village executive risks trouble over finances

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

KALAMBO District Commissioner, Julieth Binyura yesterday ordered police to arrest and put him under custody for 24 hours Mau village executive officer, John Ndasu over alleged embezzlement of funds.

The VEO is allegedly to have spent over 1m/- that was paid by entrepreneurs to get the special identity cards.

President John Magufuli ordered issuance of special Identification cards (ID), will make it easy for Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to identify them.

The identification cards were distributed on November 10, 2018 to all regional commissioners during a meeting, which involved President John Magufuli, TRA management and regional commissioners in Dar es Salaam.

The DC noted that some dishonest government officials at village and ward levels have been misusing the monies collected from entrepreneurs' IDs, insisting stringent legal measures will be taken against them. She said the district has embarked on an exercise to inspect all the entrepreneurs and local government officials to know the exact number of IDs issues and funds collected.

The district Administrative Secretary, Frank Schalwe said the VEO was arrested over embezzlement of funds.

He said: "We have reports indicating that a good number of entrepreneur IDs have been issue but the officials have failed to deposit money in bank accounts".

Schalwe added that the VEO will remain under police custodian until the monies are deposited in the bank. He said district depends on

the funds to implement a number of development projects.

Kalambo District Executive Director, Msongela Palela warned public servants from spending public funds for personal needs, insisting they will all be tracked and punished according to country laws.

At least 670,000 petty traders with less than 4m/- capital across the country will be given the IDs.

The initiative comes following what the President said as many challenges that petty traders have been facing even after the TRA was told not to harass them over taxes.

"I have told the TRA several times not to harass food vendors and hawkers as their capital is little to be taxed, but still TRA officials continue to harass them", said President Magufuli.

He said each region will have 25,000 ID cards and the exercise will be ongoing.

The President also said that given the expense incurred in printing the ID cards, each entrepreneur will have to part with 20,000/- to get it.

President Magufuli also called upon the petty traders to find better places to conduct their businesses.



I have told the TRA several times not to harass food vendors and hawkers as their capital is little to be taxed, but still TRA officials continue to harass them



Bertha Chilosa, a member of an irrigation scheme association for small-scale farmers at Dakawa in Mvomero District, fields questions from journalists who toured her farm yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Magufuli orders timely arrival of ship equipment

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed permanent secretaries in the ministries of communication, finance, works and transport to ensure the required equipment for construction of ships in Lake Victoria arrives in the city by July 20, this year.

He gave the directives yesterday when he inspected the ongoing construction of a marine slope, and renovation of MV Victoria and MV Butiama in the Lake Victoria. He insisted the government has allocated 152bn/- from tax payer's money to improve transport services in the Lake Zone.

He insisted on the permanent secretaries and contractors to communicate regulatory and ensure availability of relevant documents for the release of containers from the port. He said the 56 containers loaded with construction materials should reach Mwanza by

July 20. The President order the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) manager to give employment priority to employees currently working at the project.

This came after one of workers, Kasim Rashid told the President that their payments are low compared to their daily duties.

The project at Lake Victoria cost 22bn/- whereas the renovation work is expected to be

completed by March 2020. Competition of the project will ease transport to residents of Mwanza and Kagera regions.

Speaking during the signing of four contracts for the construction of a new ship, marine slope, and renovation of MV Bukoba and MV Butiama in the Lake Victoria, President Magufuli explained that the new ship will cost 88.7bn/- and will be completed in the next 24 months.

The new ship is expected to carry 1,200 passengers and 400-tonne cargo.

The 100-metre-marine slope will cost \$ 15.8, equivalent to 35.9bn/-.

The renovation of MV Bukoba and MV Butiama will jointly cost about 27bn/-. During his speech President Magufuli explained that the projects are meant to improve transportation in Lake Victoria by increasing capacity and quality of the vessels.

LOSS OF PASSPORT



LEONILA DEGUZMAN SERUHERE announce the loss of her Passport number AB 668867 which was issued on 2014. Whoever finds it, kindly report to the nearest Police Station. REF NO: KW/RB/4586/2019

PLOT FOR SALE

The following surveyed plots with title deeds situated in Mbezi Area, Kinondoni Municipality are available for sale in one lot of 12,169 sqm.


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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY



TENDER No. AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/12 LOT 1 FOR SUPPLY INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF NORTHERN FENDER FOR KOJ

Wednesday 17th July, 2019

Section I: Tender Invitation

- This invitation for Bids follows the **General Procurement Notice** for the year 2018/19 which appeared in the **Guardian** of 27th August, 2018.
- Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has set aside funds in its 2018/2019 budget to cover for **TENDER NO. AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/12 LOT 1 FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF NORTHERN FENDER FOR KOJ**.
- TPA now invites sealed tenders under **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures specified in the **Public Procurement Act No 7 of 2011 (Goods, Works, Non-Consultancy Service and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446**.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the **Director of Procurement and Contracts, TPA – One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, located at Sokoine Drive, Near TRA Long Room Building P. O. Box 9184, Dar es Salaam** from 09.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of the tendering document and additional sets may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TZS 100,000.00**. Payment should be either by banker's cheque or cash payable to the Director General. **Control Number for purchase of the tender should be obtained at Cashier Office located at Bandari Tower, One Stop Centre Building 31st Floor**.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** in the format provided in **Section IX** of this tender Document. Insurance Bonds will not be accepted. Tenders not accompanied by a tender **Securing Declaration** will be rejected.
- All Tenders dully completed in **one original plus one copy** should be submitted in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked "**TENDER No. AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/12 LOT 1 FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF NORTHERN FENDER FOR KOJ**" and addressed to **Secretary, Central Tender Board, TPA Tower One Stop Center Building, Sokoine Drive P.O. Box 9184, Dar es Salaam** or deposited in the Tender Box which is in **TPA One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, located at Sokoine Drive, Near TRA Long Room Building**, before the deadline for submission of bids.

Pre bid meeting will be held on **Friday 26th July, 2019** at TPA – One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, Conference Room located at Sokoine Drive at **10.00 a.m.**

- The deadline for submission of tenders shall be **Friday 09th August, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.** local time; thereafter all tenders will be opened publicly in TPA – One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, Conference Room. Bidders and/or their Representatives who wish to witness the opening are welcome to attend.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- Note that Tanzania Ports Authority is not obliged to accept the lowest or any Bid.

Director General,
Tanzania Ports Authority,
P.O. Box 9184,
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
Tel No: +255 022 2111 315
Fax No: +255 022 2112 678,
E-mail: dg@ports.go.tz

MNH doctors preparing for transplants of bone marrow

By Henry Mwangonde

Preparations for the provision of bone marrow transplant services at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) have received a boost after its experts began specialised training on managing and handling patients.

Trainers from the Oxford University Hospital (OUH) who are in the country are training MNH doctors on systematic anti-cancer treatment and bone marrow transplant treatment in readiness for the beginning of provision of the services.

Speaking at during the opening of the training on Monday, MNH head of teaching, research and consultancy Dr Faraja Chiwanga who spoke on behalf of the Executive Director Prof Lawrence Museru said cancer treatment remains a big burden that has not very well being addressed in the country.

Particularly the haematological cancers whose treatment is associated with bleeding and sepsis, and require transplant for cure," she said.

According to Dr Chiwanga per year, MNH receives 120-140 adult patients with conditions whose treatment requires chemotherapy administration and subsequent bone marrow transplant.

"This may be a tip of ice-berg in the overall burden at MNH and in Tanzania as many of the patients may not make it to MNH to be diagnosed, and many still would perhaps be diagnosed in other referral hospitals," she said.

She said MNH has resolved to change its practice, and decided

to treat such conditions locally, and contribute to the efforts of the Government of Tanzania (GoT) to reduce referral abroad.

According to her, this was a starting project in many similar endeavours between MNH and OUH, which will include capacity building in care provision and research.

MNH announced some weeks ago that it will start offering bone marrow transplant later in the year.

The first batch of experts are scheduled to complete specialized training abroad by end of next month.

MNH has in recent years enhanced its capacity to provide major services whereby the first was Cochlear implant, radiology intervention and now kidney transplant.

The hospital first launched kidney transplant services and later in the year sent its experts for training on conducting liver transplants.

The kidney transplant was the second achievement in a row by the hospital after a successful cochlear implant surgery in June 2017.

The move reduces costs of liver transplant by 50-percent. One successful transplant costs about 100million/- that is for treatment in India which is regarded as the cheaper destination.

"This may be a tip of ice-berg in the overall burden at MNH and in Tanzania as many of the patients may not make it to MNH to be diagnosed, and many still would perhaps be diagnosed in other referral hospitals"



Residents of Mgama village in Iringa Region adorn Dr Inmi Patterson (C), Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Tanzania, with a kitembe at the weekend. This was in their appreciation of efforts by the US government that have enabled the provision of potable water in the village. The residents are beneficiaries of the USAID-funded Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) project. Dr Inmi Patterson was in the region on a visit of projects supported by the US. Photo courtesy of US Embassy

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has warned all those who invested in ranches owned by the National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO) to pay back their debts before serious actions are taken against them.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel made the remarks in Dodoma when he addressed more than 100 investors at NARCO head office in Dodoma.

He said the investors owe about 7bn/- for investing in various ranches owned by NARCO.

"Pay the money, and those who will not pay shall not invest again and at the same time we will drag them to court," he said.

Prof Gabriel called upon companies

Narco investors urged to pay off debts

which owe NARCO more than 1bn/ to pay on time to enable it improve other ranches that are in bad state currently.

He also urged NARCO to invest in its ranches for improved infrastructure including communication networks and security within the ranches.

In October last year, NARCO entered into new investments agreements with livestock enterprises after a review of the previous contracts signed some ten years ago that proved not beneficial to the development of the sector and the nation at large.

The new agreements now called for accountability from both sides saying the focus was to ensure that the sector contributes fully to the economy.

NARCO entered into agreement with small scale cattle enterprises in 2007 with a plan to empower them expand their capabilities to commercial ranching.

The company decided to carry a review of the all the contracts in collaboration with the Treasury registrar, the Attorney General's office as well as the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Livestock is a key agricultural sub-sector in the country. About 36-percent of farm households are engaged in livestock-keeping, one percent as pure livestock farmers and 35percent as crop-livestock mix farmers.

Despite Tanzania being among African countries that have large

numbers of livestock, it is yet to tap the potential.

Tanzania is the third country in Africa in having a large number of cattle after Ethiopia and Sudan.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Tanzania had 25.8 million cattle by early October 2015. The problem is that regions which have larger numbers of livestock in the country have no many large meat processing plants.

Despite being rich in cattle, Tanzania is yet to meet its meat demand of 450,000 tonnes as its production is 350,000 tonnes annually.

NBS indicates that in December 2015, Tanzania had only four meat plants – three of them located in Arusha.

Spartanburg-based globalbike continues to empower rural Tanzanians - director

By Guardian Reporter

THE Spartanburg-based nonprofit globalbike has continued to work with female led cooperatives to develop their own bike shops and to train women to be entrepreneurs and bike mechanics.

Globalbike executive director, Erin Mahaffey said recently that the organization has taken steps in recent years to develop sustainable systems and practices that can help Tanzanians get the most value from globalbike.

"We empower them to best utilize this bike inventory to build their own businesses and serve their own communities," Mahaffey said adding that's what they are focused on."

Since its founding, globalbike has connected people to things they need like jobs, healthcare and fresh water – through bicycles.

Ask Betsy Neely Sikma, a member of Spartanburg-based globalbike's Board of

Directors, who just spent the better part of two weeks traveling between rural villages in the shadow of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro said that globalbike's programs have laid a solid foundation to help raise the standard of living for some of the country's poorest people.

"My trip to Tanzania was a chance to see the impact the nonprofit's efforts is producing in first hand", she said noting the villagers are already doing what needs to be done.

Skima said: "Out of all the places I've traveled in my life, and I've been lucky enough to travel many places, however the people in Tanzania were the warmest and the most welcoming".

She stated that what started off as a kind of bicycle-focused philanthropy effort more than a decade ago has grown into something more.

"The transportation infrastructure is a huge issue there," Sikma said. "So if you need

a bike for a day, to go fetch water for your kids or to visit a clinic, these bikes open up access to that."

With her husband and two young daughters, Sikma pedaled and drove her way across the rural landscape of Tanzania from June 27-July 7, stopping in villages and bike shops along the way.

"It's about empowering these women to become full owners and managers," Sikma said.

"So they're retaining all these profits for themselves and their communities, but there's also a labor-saving piece to this puzzle as well. If something that once took you an entire day to do – like travel to get water – if you can now do it in under a couple of hours, that's freeing up so much time you can put towards something else", said Skima.

"The power of connection and the difference collective impact can make in communities. In Tanzania, these are traditional patriarchal societies, but you're

seeing women who can come together and make a real difference in their communities", Sikma said.



Out of all the places I've traveled in my life, and I've been lucky enough to travel many places, however the people in Tanzania were the warmest and the most welcoming

UN-Norwegian project all set to support South Sudan peace initiatives

JUBA

A joint United Nations, Norwegian project will support efforts in South Sudan aimed at the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement signed in September 2018 by the government and various opposition groups.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the government of the Royal Kingdom of Norway announced that a \$28.3 million worth project known as Governance and Economic Management Support (GEMS) will provide support to institutions created by the revitalized peace agreement and improve service delivery during the transitional period due to commence in November.

The project, Norwegian Ambassador to South Sudan Lars Andersen said, will also support efforts aimed at reconciliation as well as building trust among the people of South Sudan and also do the same for stabilization process.

"The Governance and Economic Management Support Project and the additional contribution to the South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund will support the implementation of the peace agreement in two different ways: one is by providing support to stabilization efforts and various activities to reconcile communities and to build resilience; and, through GEMS, provide key institutions in the Government with the capacity they need to transform the public service and to provide government functions that can deliver on the peace agreement," Lars Andersen said.

United Nations Development Programme's Resident Representative in Juba Kamil Kamaluddeen said it is imperative to support the R-ARCSS institutions in terms of capacity-building and enhanced service delivery so that the people of South Sudan enjoy peace at last.

"Strengthening the right institutions with the right systems and capacities to deliver services to the people, with quality and integrity, is key to ensure that the future the people of South Sudan desire – of peace, stability and prosperity – is achieved," he said.



Strengthening the right institutions with the right systems and capacities to deliver services to the people, with quality and integrity, is key to ensure that the future the people of South Sudan desire – of peace, stability and prosperity – is achieved

Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

- **Nusu Lita (500ml) – TSHS. 500/=**
- **Lita Moja na Nusu (1.5L) – TSHS. 1,000/=**
- **Bei Hizi Elekezi ni Kwa Nchi Nzima**
- **Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro ni Maji ya Kuaminika Kila Siku**

Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayoijua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO
DRINKING WATER



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

PCCB urges voters to shun illegal, immoral activity during civic polls

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has warned local government leaders and candidates of the coming civic polls to shun illegal and immoral activity. Bribery and other illegal activities will be taken against them.

PCCB head in Mbeya regions, Julieth Matechi told journalists yesterday that the anti-corruption body is determined to control corruption in the coming elections. She said there has been a tendency of some candidates bribing voters to be elected.

She said that PCCB is well prepared to ensure no bribes are reported at all the stages of the civic polls.

"We want to ensure a free and fair election. We want Tanzanians to elect leaders of their choice and not being influenced by gifts and money", said Matechi during a press conference held at her office.

She insisted that they will not allow any of the candidates to give gifts and money to voters. She said such acts are considered unlawful because they are geared at convincing people to vote for a particular candidate.

"We call upon residents to report to us any bribery incidences within their specific areas for the culprits to be punished in accordance with the law", she said.

She however informed that PCCB officers in the region had in between April and June this year conducted investigations in a number of projects where they revealed violations of

procurement rules and missing documents for some of the projects.

She said that PCCB received audit reports from the district council, courts, cooperative unions, land department, public institutes, prisons, health department, private sector and natural resources department.

While in Geita region on Monday at an event to inaugurate a housing project for members of the Force, President John Magufuli told the police force to begin earnest preparations as Tanzania heads into elections.

Tanzanians will vote in civic elections later this year, before the 2020 General Election.

President Magufuli is expected to seek re-election for his second and constitutionally last five-year term in office.

Magufuli said the police force should get prepared to exercise its duties during the elections.

The President said: "I want to emphasize the importance of preparedness by the police force, especially during this time when our country is going into civic elections later this year, and to the national election next year."



I want to emphasize the importance of preparedness by the police force, especially during this time when our country is going into civic elections later this year, and to the national election next year



PAVEMENT CHOKED: With pavements literally invaded by small traders, pedestrians find no option but to share Dar es Salaam's busy Msimbazi Street with motorists and other road users yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpocho

Look beyond hunger, says UN as one in four lack access to healthy feeding

By Thin Lei Win

More than 2 billion people lack access to healthy food, putting them at risk of health problems - and many of them live in North America or Europe, the United Nations said on Monday, urging governments to "look beyond hunger".

More than a quarter of the world's population now struggles to eat "safe, nutritious and sufficient food", according to the U.N.'s State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report.

That includes about 8% of people in Europe and North America, according to the annual study, which for the first time includes people affected by "moderate food insecurity" as well as outright hunger.

"We need to look beyond hunger," said Cindy Holleman, senior economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the report's editor.

"If we just focus on hunger, we're going to be missing a lot of the growing problems we're seeing."

Moderate food insecurity affects people who have had to reduce the quality or quantity of what they eat due to lack of money or other resources.

It can lead to obesity as well as stunting - a condition that permanently affects children's mental and physical

development.

The findings show governments need to pay more attention to different aspects of food availability instead of just focusing on producing more, said the director-general of the FAO, which compiled the report with four other U.N. agencies.

"Governments are very much oriented to the production side. They believe that if there is food available, people will eat. In a way, that's not true," Jose Graziano da Silva told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"We are not looking at the distribution, the markets, the behaviour of the people, the culture of the people."



We were anticipating big hunger in Asia. Now, we are anticipating a big crisis due to the rise of obesity. And this trend takes more time and is more complex (to resolve) than hunger

The new data reflects the fact that there are now more obese people in the world than hungry ones - although it also shows that the number of hungry people increased in 2018 for the third year running.

Hunger is on the rise in most of Africa, in parts of the Middle East and in Latin America and the Caribbean, the report said.

"Furthermore, economic shocks are contributing to prolonging and worsening the severity of food crises caused primarily by conflict and climate shocks," it added.

The report said there were 822 million obese people in 2016, the most recent year for which figures were available, when 796.5 million were undernourished. Nutritionists have said obesity figures are likely to have increased further since then.

"Obesity is out of control," said Graziano da Silva, who likened the situation to the beginning of the Green Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s when high-yielding seeds, fertilisers and irrigation helped stave off famine in hungry parts of the world.

"We were anticipating big hunger in Asia. Now, we are anticipating a big crisis due to the rise of obesity. And this trend takes more time and is more complex (to resolve) than hunger."



Terms of Reference Consultancy on Competency needs and Skill gap analysis in light of the current Labour Market SOS Children's Villages Tanzania

1. Background

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a Local Non-Government Organization (NGO) affiliated to SOS Children's Villages Kinderdorf International, a worldwide childcare organization that work to protect and care children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing it. Established 74 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International currently has children's villages and other program in 135 countries around the world. Globally it runs two major programs namely, SOS Family care program (SFC) at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Program (FSP) supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991 and runs Children's Villages in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Zanzibar and other programs in Iringa rural, Mufindi, and Pemba.

Specifically, SOS CV Tanzania works to create a world where the society cares for children in need, help them to shape their future, and participate in the development of their communities. For over 27 years that SOS CV has been working in Tanzania, its core business has been to provide care for the children that have lost parental care and those at risk of losing parental care. The children that SOS CV Tanzania cared over the years are transforming into young men and women who need jobs and/ skill sets that will enable them to become self-reliant and marketable to the demands outside. At the moment, there are over 1,655 young people between the age of 14 and 25+ currently participating in our programs in the 7 locations according to the program database (June 2019).

SOS CV Tanzania seeking competent and highly experienced consultant to identify the gap in skills/competencies which make young people who participate in SOS CV Tanzania's programmes across selected locations (Mwanza, Arusha, Mufindi, Iringa, Pemba, Unguja and Dar es salaam) less competitive in the youth market and to recommend market-driven ways in which SOS CV Tanzania can address these gaps. Upon successful completion of the study, SOS CV Tanzania intend to use the findings and recommendations' to develop effective interventions to address identified gaps in the youth labour market in Tanzania.

In 2016, SOS Children's Villages adopted Strategy 2030 and has put the most disadvantaged children at the heart of it, with the central message: 'No child should grow up alone'. The strategy directly relates to the SDGs in key areas such as poverty, inequality, education, health, social and child protection, and decent work.

2. Objectives of the Study

Consultancy Objectives

The primary purpose of this assignment is to study, from a gender perspective, the youth labour market in Tanzania, the youth who are participating in the SOS CV Tanzania's programmes, and the members of the SOS CV Tanzania staff team who are implementing youth development programmes in order to:

- Identify sets of skills/competencies which are marketable in the youth labour market,
- Determine actual sets of skills/competencies among young people who are participating in SOS CV Tanzania's programmes,
- Identify skill/competency gaps among these young people,
- Establish the level of capacity among staff members to address the identified skill gaps among young people, and
- Recommend market-driven, practical ways in which SOS CV Tanzania can address these gaps and provide participating young people with effective career guidance.

3. Consultancy Scope

This consultancy work shall involve three main activities. The consultant shall:

- Analyse the current youth labour market in Tanzania in general and in selected SOS Tanzania's programme locations to identify marketable skills/competencies, high potential growth sectors and employment trends where the government and other actors are creating decent employment. More specifically, this will involve:
 - Assessing and identifying existing types of jobs and marketable skills/competencies;
 - Determining constraints and barriers faced by vulnerable young people in entering and remaining in the labour market; and
 - Analyse the most viable value chain that could help beneficiaries (boys and girls) generate income and access market.
- Analyse the current level of skill/competency among young people in the programmes in selected locations and identify the gaps/needs and interest among them.
- Analyse skills/competencies which members of the SOS CV Tanzania's programme staff team need or require to successfully address identified skill/competency gaps among young people who are participating in SOS CV Tanzania's youth programmes.

4. Methodology

The tools and specific methodological approach will be discussed and agreed between SOS CV Tanzania and the consultant. However, in executing this assignment the consultant is expected to use a mixed methodology;

- Review of secondary data, including the program documents and existing reports;
- Interviews with the young people (in school and out of school) and graduates, government ministries, private companies, and service providers;
- Participatory and consultative: the consultant shall conduct these assessments in consultation with the government line ministries, business community representatives, youth groups, skilled and employed youth, NGOs working on youth issues;
- Data collection (field): the consultant will use a mix of key informants' interviews, focus group discussions, and market observations to respond to the objectives outlined above.
- Field visits and field observations.
- A collective participatory feedback session (involving the management)
- Any other method which is relevant to this assignment.

The consultant will work closely with the Program Director, Gender Officer and Youth Focal Person, Human Resources Coordinator & Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator.

5. Time Line and Work Plan

The consultancy will be carried out between August-September, 2019, over a period of 30 days ending 13th September, 2019.

6. Key Deliverables

It is expected that the Consultant will produce the following deliverables:

- Work plan for undertaking the labour market analysis and skill gap assessment; detailing the methodology including the main research methods, the sampling framework, proposed sources of data, procedures for data collection and analysis. The proposed tools will be discussed and by SOS CV TZ before data collection commences.
- Present tools and context and provide advice on how best to capture and analyse data.
- Labour market analysis and skill/competency gap analysis findings.
- A participatory workshop to share findings;
- Presentation material for dissemination of the process and findings;
- A draft and final report which should include the Youth development and Empowerment Strategy (next 3 years) and a Capacity Development Plan
- A summary of recommendations to be used for the planning and future programming.

7. Person specification

SOS CV Tanzania aims to contract a consultant with experience of conducting labour market analysis and skill gap assessment for young people and staff especially for large INGOs or other institutions engaged in care and development work. The consultant should have the following skills and qualifications;

- Advanced University degree from an accredited academic institution preferably Economics, Social Sciences, Business Administration, Statistics or related field.
- Strong background and experience in conducting research and produce analysis.
- A minimum of 10 years progressively responsible experience in the relevant field.
- Strong facilitations skills and hands-on experience of working in participatory ways with young people.
- Technical expertise in analysing the youth labour market in Tanzania and the ability to draw strong and valid conclusions.
- Good report writing skills are essential
- Ability to present challenging findings from the participatory gender audit and analysis with actionable propositions to move forward
- Excellent command of oral and written Swahili and English.

Interested candidates should submit their CV with a technical and financial proposal in sealed envelope before 30th July, 2019:

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
National Office
White Star Tower (ground floor)
Kiko Avenue, Mikocheni
P.O. Box: 80462,
Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.

Plea made to govt to address rise in cases of violence targeting children

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

The government has been challenged to come up with innovative ways of addressing the escalating incidence of violence against children that continues to ruin the image of the country.

Country Director for Save the Children in Tanzania, Peter Wolfs made the statement over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the event to mark 100 years of existence of the organisation in Tanzania.

He said violence in Tanzania should not be tolerated as the government has got all means of tracing and tackling the incidences by using the police force.

The Director said: "Children, deserve their rights to be protected from all forms of violence as well as to be provided with essential health care services," he said.

He said that Save the Children in Tanzania will continue to work in its seven key thematic areas by advocating for better practices and ensuring that children voices are heard.

"We will continue to provide life-saving healthcare, protection and quality education to children globally and in Tanzania specifically," he added.

By partnering with like-minded organisations and the government, Save the Children is already delivering and will continue to deliver results at scale for children in this country.

"In 2018, we reached over 844,020 people in Tanzania through our core initiatives in areas of health, nutrition, education, child protection, child rights governance, food security, livelihoods and emergencies," he said.

Acting Director, Child Development in the Ministry of Health, Community

Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Mwajuma Magwiza said the activities that have been done by Save the Children has enabled to facilitate the government plans to ensure the protection of a child.

"Violence to children can be ended through individual perception and mindset change. The government has three years strategic plans 2017-2021 that focuses on three thematic areas for protecting children," she said.

"We believe that violence against children will be ended one day through the existing collaboration with stakeholders," she added.

Magwiza insisted that it is the responsibility of the entire society to make sure that they are all working to protect children from the risk of violence.

She said: "I am proud of being part of the driving force in changing laws or practices for improvements of children lives. Save the Children is doing a number of initiatives in 11 regions of Tanzania including Zanzibar".

Child Rights and Governance Specialist from Save the Children Tanzania, Neema Bwaira, added that the collaboration and support that the organisation is getting from donors, the government and partners is much treasured.

Save the Children has been working in Tanzania since 1986 with activities prior in Pemba. It is guided by its 2030 global ambition for children which aims to inspire three key breakthrough including survive; to prevent child deaths from preventable causes, learn; meaning access to quality education and protection of children from violence.



Jenipher Siriwa, a student of Dar es Salaam's Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, demonstrates how to operate the solar tracking system she is credited with having developed. She said it rotates automatically, depending on the direction of the sun. This was at the Universities Week exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities now in progress at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TEMESA appeals to govt and private sector to clear debts

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronic Services Agency (TEMESA) in Kilimanjaro region has appealed to the government and private sector institutions to clear their debts with the government agency so that it can improve the quality of its services.

Speaking with stakeholders from various government and private institutions during a meeting that was aimed at improving the agency's relationships with customers and

discuss how to improve the quality of services, TEMESA, regional manager in Kilimanjaro, Eng Ferdinand Mishamo explained that the institution has so far improved the quality of its services.

"As part of efforts to improve the quality of our services in the region, we have established new substations in Same and Hai districts for on transit vehicles", he explained.

The regional manager also explained that TEMESA do collaborate with other private mechanical and electrical institutions in exchanging skills to

improve the quality of their services to ensure quality services.

Paul Mushi of Moshi Zonal Court explained that, there is high need for the government agency to keep records of their customers for sustainable customer care.

"There is a challenge at TEMESA office especially in record keeping, customers' record should be kept as well as the vehicle's mechanical problems", he said adding the agency is now improving its services.

Rombo District Executive Secretary, Rombo Abubakary

Assenga appealed to the government mechanical and electrical agency to have vehicle inspectors in other boarder districts like his district to avoid unnecessary government expenditures like taking a vehicle to Moshi for inspection and taking it back to the district.

The meeting was attended by various stakeholders from all district offices in Kilimanjaro region, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Kilimanjaro region, police force, and the TPC sugarcane factory officials, among others.



TPB Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (L) presents 200 bags of cement to Rukwa regional commissioner Joachim Wangabo in Sumbawanga at the weekend. It was described as contribution by the bank towards the construction of Sumbawanga District remand prison. Looking on are the bank's PR and Communications head, Noves Moses, TPB Bank Sumbawanga branch manager Damas Joseph, acting Rukwa regional prisons officer George Millega and the prison's in-charge, Philemon Mruutu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB), African Institute for Mathematical SciencesNext Einstein Initiative (AIMS-NEI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen education, training and research in mathematical sciences in Africa.

Speaking during the signing ceremony on Monday at the bank's headquarters in Abidjan, Thierry

AfDB, AIM-NEI sign MoU to improve education, training and research in mathematical sciences

Zomahoun, President and CEO of AIMS said: "Africa must not sit on the sidelines as others create technology and we consume it. If we want to leverage artificial insemination (AI) and other cutting edge technologies and compete

globally, we must train researchers and engineers who create the equations and algorithms that create transformative technologies. That's what we are doing at AIMS".

African Development Bank Vice President for Agriculture and Human

Development, Jennifer Blanke stressed the strong partnership between the bank and AIMS-NEI.

"The MOU gives us a framework for the operationalization of the partnership," she said.

The partnership sets the framework

for collaboration between the two institutions on enhanced mathematical research and innovation in key areas of the continent's development challenges.

It will also facilitate the design and implementation of new projects and

Health stakeholders project new cancer care programme worth US\$15 million

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Aga Khan hospital is planning for a comprehensive cancer care project in the country that will allow renewed focus on cancer care covering all stages from prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and home care.

The project worth \$ 15 million is being jointly funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Aga Khan Development Network, (AKDN), Tanzania Resident Representative, Amin Kurji said this yesterday when speaking at the celebration to mark the 62 anniversary of His Highness Agha Khan's ascension to the Ismaili Imam, held in Dar es Salaam.

He added: "Through a public private partnership, the project will involve the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza."

Kurji has also expressed appreciation to the government of Tanzania for creating enabling environment for private investors in the social development work.

The representative said: "The government and the people of Tanzania have made substantial

economic strides in recent years and they are to be congratulated for these achievements".

According to Kurji, for over a century, the AKDN has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Tanzanians in areas of poverty alleviation, food security, education, health care, economic development and cultural restoration.

Speaking at the event, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Minister, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said the friendship between the Ismaili Imam and institutions and the government of Tanzania is very old and constructive.

Prof Kabudi has congratulated the strong investment made by Aga Khan especially in health and education sector which has improved the life of millions of Tanzanians.

Residents' representative and Prof Kabudi expressed their commitment to building the existing partnership between AKDN and the government of Tanzania.

"Through a public private partnership, the project will involve the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza."

programmes and further cooperation in events related to science and technology.

Over the past 15 years, AIMS has contributed massively to the advancement of mathematical sciences for human capital development in Africa.

Their interventions have been in advanced training at post-graduate level, basic research, industry for educational outreach and high-level policy dialogue.

By Guardian Reporter, Chamwino

Minister Jafo instructs Chamwino authorities to complete Uhuru hospital construction within scheduled timeframe

SELEMANI Jafo, Minister of State in the President's (Regional Office Administration and Local Government), has given a six-month ultimatum to authorities in Chamwino district to complete construction of Uhuru Hospital.

The hospital is constructed by SUMA JKT, a company under the National Services.

He gave the directive shortly after visiting the construction site whereas he was impressed with the progress made since his last visit in June 16th this year.

"I am impressed with the construction progress as the earmarked area (40 kilometers) has been cleaned and fenced. You must ensure that

construction of the Uhuru hospital is completed within six months", said Jafo.

The minister insisted that the hospital should construct the hospital as per required standards, adding that the facility has to start providing services early 2020.

He however insisted on public servants to improve provision of services and stop the 'business as usual' syndrome. He said completion of the hospital will improve provision of medical services in Chamwino and nearby districts.

The project's Architect, Daneil Mwakasungura from the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA), who is also the project consultant said the initial contract signed between TBA and SUMA-JKT will cost 3bn/-.

He said the project will be implemented in phases whereby the first phase will involve construction of a two storey building including an outpatient building, X-ray room, laboratory, clinic, children ward and women wards. He said the facility will have special building offering dental medical services.

"We are only waiting for SUMA-JKT to give us a schedule on how the project will be implemented especially in the first phase. We will make sure the job is

completed by January 10th 2020," said Mwakasungura.

Mwakasungura informed the minister that the Uhuru hospital will resemble the one in Tunduma district with some few added features. He said the second phase implementation will begin as soon as they receive funds from the central government.

He said the second phase construction will include the emergency department, wards and the intensive care unit (ICU).

Project Supervisor from SUMA JKT in Lake Zone, Onesmo Njau insisted the

company will complete the job within the set deadline.

Construction of Uhuru hospital followed directive from President John Magufuli that funds that were to be used for the 2018's Independence Day celebrations be directed to the project.

President Magufuli ordered 995,182m/- allocated for Independence Day commemorations to be used on constructing the hospital.

He then directed regional and district leaders to mark Independence Day by doing activities such as sweeping streets or hospitals.

I am impressed with the construction progress as the earmarked area (40 kilometers) has been cleaned and fenced



A small trader hunts for customers for his home-made kitchen and environmental cleanliness items, as captured along the Tegeta stretch of Dar es Salaam's Bagamoyo Road yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Over 500 Tanzanians benefit from free artificial limbs offer

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 550 Tanzanians have been provided with free artificial limbs by the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) with support from BMVSS—a non-profit organisation based in India.

MOI Executive Director, Dr Respicious Boniface said this on Monday when speaking at the closure of a 42 days camp for people with limb complications that was organised by MOI, Indian High Commissioner in Tanzania and the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ministry.

"We appreciate the support from Indian specialists for their tireless work. They have volunteered to assist Tanzanians in need of artificial limbs", said the Executive Director

commending MOI specialists for making the exercise a successful.

Dr Boniface noted that most people lost their legs in road accidents and diabetic complications. He said currently there is a growing demand for artificial limbs in Tanzania.

He called upon Tanzania drivers to adhere to traffic regulations to reduce the number of road crashes. He also called upon Tanzanians to do body exercises to avoid non-communicable diseases such as diabetes.

Dr Boniface said that MOI has signed an agreement with the BMVSS Jaipur institute of India for the exchange of experts as well as improving service provision.

During the signing, MOI was represented by Dr Boniface while BMVSS was represented by Dr Devedra

Raj Mehta, founder of the institute. Witnessing the event was Chairman of the Board of Trustees from MOI, Prof Charles Mkonyi and BMVSS Director of Operations, Satich Mehta.

"This agreement will help to improve services at MOI and enable many Tanzanians in need of artificial limbs especially those from low income earning families to access them easily," he said.

BMVSS Director of Operation and International Relations, Satich Mehta said they will in future train MOI specialists in India.

"Experts from MOI will be trained in India for more than two months. This training will enable them provide similar services to many Tanzanians across the country," said Mehta.

Sunflower farmers cite high seed prices as hindrance to increased productivity

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

SUNFLOWER farmers in Iringa and Njombe regions have expressed concerns over high sunflower seed costs saying it is the main barrier to their success in improving the crop.

Speaking to The Guardian soon after the completion of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Exhibition in Iringa, the farmers said that access to seeds and high prices are hindering them to use improved seeds. They said most of them use non-improved seeds hence low yields.

Esta Mkula, a farmer at Idingilimuny village in Wangingombe district said the higher seed prices have been denying farmers' access to quality seeds and at the same time affecting their harvests.

He gave an example of Hysun 33 seed, which is sold at 35,000/- per kilogramme which can be sowed in a half acre and if a farmer is to grow one acre you must use two kilogrammes of the same for 70,000/- compared to local seeds which are sold at 15,000/-.

He added that, although the seeds are resistant to diseases and they can be grown anywhere, they are sold at price that is not affordable to majority of farmers.

Despite the challenges of the price he has called upon farmers in the country to embrace modern farming practices by using modern seeds.

He said many farmers in Kilolo districts and other areas use local seeds that take long time than the improved ones.

The farmers have been linked through Care International Tanzania through the Sunflower project dubbed (ALUTA) which brings them together by providing them with proper sunflower farming training.

For his part, the Care International Tanzania Technical Partnership Manager Frank Kasubiri called upon the farmers to form groups to overcome the seed challenge.

He said ALUTA's sunflower project aims to increase income and livelihoods for smallholder farmers and other market operators by enhancing long-term relationship and equity in sunflower value chain actors, access to hybrid seed and good business environment for donors' and thus contribute to economic development in Iringa and Njombe region.



JOB VACANCY

CLINICAL DIRECTOR AT PASADA, DAR ES SALAAM

PASADA (Pastoral Activities and Services for people with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese) is a Tanzanian faith-based organization operating under the umbrella of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es salaam. It is a social and health services provider that began in 1992. PASADA opened a dispensary in 1994 and since then has grown rapidly to meet the exploding demands of the HIV pandemic in the five districts of Dar es Salaam region and 5 Districts of Coast region. The catchment area has a total population of 6 million people out of which over 30% live below one USD per day. PASADA reaches the poorest of the poor infected and adversely affected by HIV and AIDS.

PASADA provides them with a comprehensive range of services along the continuum of care including social, medical, and limited material relief. Although operating under the aegis of the Roman Catholic Church, the services offered by PASADA are available to all individuals without discrimination of any sort and for over last 2 decades free of charge. Additionally, educational programs are carried out at community level with the objective of reducing stigma and discrimination and promoting behavioral change, thereby limiting the spread of the virus.

PASADA is in need of a Medical Director to perform various clinical, supervisory and administrative duties as per the herein under arrangement:

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Proposed duties for the Medical Director

- 1 Develop new initiatives to support the strategic direction including long-term goals and objectives to achieve the successful program outcome
- 2 Ensuring program and project results are achieved in a timely manner, efficiently and economically
- 3 Develop work plan to support programs and participate fully in evaluation framework to assess the strengths of the program according to set targets and identify areas for improvement, setting and implementing strategies to achieve project results.
- 4 Oversee and supervise the day to day project activities in support of patient care at PASADA clinics
- 5 Participate in relevant meetings with donors and other partners/stakeholders
- 6 Take lead in supervising and monitoring implementation of program objectives and planned activities.
- 7 Review and evaluate programs/projects challenges and successes and adopt and apply consistently best practices and strategies to achieve program and project goals
- 8 Prepare reports on the program/project for management, donors, and stakeholders including, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual progress reports
- 9 Addressing and responding technical queries from donors, government and stakeholders
- 10 Participate in capacity building of program staff
- 11 To ensure all activity reports reaches the Executive Director's office before the stipulated dead line.
- 12 Ensure all occupational health and safety standards are followed by staff
- 13 To ensure there is harmonious effort that reinforce collaboration with other departments
- 14 To ensure department staff respect and follow all work ethics. This is not limited to; punctuality, filling of time sheets and absence from work place as stated in the employee work contract.
- 15 To work in collaboration with heads of TB, PMTCT, Laboratory, Data, Reception, Pharmacy and Outreach sections toward achieving departmental and organization goals
- 16 To ensure departmental action and leave plan is followed accordingly
- 17 To ensure financial requisitions related to the department are followed
- 18 Coordinate and monitor professional development through CME and other formal trainings
- 19 To coordinate clinical mentorship activities for staff in ART, PMTCT and TB programs
- 20 To advise the Executive Director of PASADA on new ideas and technology changes that may have impact in daily clinical work
- 21 To ensure quality of care is offered according to PASADA standard operating procedure. This is not limited to proper diagnoses, Laboratory investigations, medication, referrals, follow up and Education to clients.
- 22 To transcribe the PASADA-clinical standard operating procedures and ensure the documents are periodically updated.
- 23 To perform any duties as assigned by the Executive Director of PASADA

QUALIFICATION

Education and experience

- Postgraduate degree equivalent of Masters Degree or PhD in Public health
- A background with Degree of Medicine is an added advantage.
- Skills in program and project management
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills
- Program and project data analysis, interpretation, dissemination and make evidence based decisions to improve performance
- 5 years in donor funded program management, 3 years at a senior level

Personal attributes

- Pro-active and innovative attitude
- Ability to work independently
- Strong team leader and player
- Strong organizational skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

How to apply:

All applications letters with detailed curriculum vitae, photocopies of certificates, transcripts and names of two referees and day time telephone number for confidential contact should be sent **NOT LATER** than **15th August 2019**, only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. The contact address is;

The Executive Director,
PASADA,
P.O. BOX 70225,
Dar Es Salaam
E-mail: recruitment@pasada.or.tz

Physical Address: Within the Catholic Church Compound opposite Police Chang'ombe.

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Wanted: More extensive research on depression and suicide in Africa

SUICIDE is the act of intentionally causing one's own death. Mental disorders, including depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, personality disorders, anxiety disorders, and substance abuse—including alcoholism and the use of benzodiazepines—are risk factors. Some suicides are impulsive acts due to stress, such as from financial difficulties, troubles with relationships, or bullying. Those who have previously attempted suicide are at a higher risk for future attempts. Effective suicide prevention efforts include limiting access to methods of suicide—such as firearms, drugs, and poisons; treating mental disorders and substance misuse; proper media reporting of suicide; and improving economic conditions. Even though crisis hotlines are common, there is little evidence for their effectiveness.

The most commonly used method of suicide varies between countries, and is partly related to the availability of effective means. Common methods of suicide include hanging, pesticide poisoning, and firearms. Suicides resulted in 828,000 global deaths in 2015, an increase from 712,000 deaths in 1990. This makes suicide the 10th leading cause of death worldwide.

Approximately 0.5 per cent of people die by suicide. In a given year this is roughly 12 per 100,000 people. Three quarters of suicides globally occur in the low and middle income countries. Rates of completed suicides are generally higher among men than among women, ranging from 1.5 times

as much in the developing world to 3.5 times in the developed world. Suicide is generally most common among those over the age of 70; however, in certain countries, those aged between 15 and 30 are at the highest risk. Europe had the highest rates of suicide by region in 2015.

There are an estimated 10 to 20 million non-fatal attempted suicides every year. Non-fatal suicide attempts may lead to injury and long-term disabilities. In the Western world, attempts are more common among young people and among females.[16]

Views on suicide have been influenced by broad existential themes such as religion, honour, and the meaning of life. The Abrahamic religions traditionally consider suicide as an offense towards God, due to the belief in the sanctity of life.

Many African countries are struggling with high suicide rates, for which there are no simple explanations. However, one thing is evident: There is a lack of professional help and comprehensive research into the causes.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), however, Kenya is not the only African country struggling with high rates of suicide. In Nigeria or Ivory Coast, the figures are even higher than in most European countries, the US or China, with more than 15 suicides per 100,000 inhabitants per year. Africa should do more extensive research on depression and suicide in Africa in order to draw definite conclusions and to be able to tailor prevention strategies accordingly.

Avocados becoming increasingly decisive as an export commodity

THE avocado (*Persea americana*) is native tree with probable origin in south central America but grows well in Tanzania and Kenya. It is very nutritious with a high protein and oil content and is now becoming increasingly important as an export crop. The fruit is nearly sodium free, rich in potassium dietary fibre and vitamin B6, C, D and E. It is eaten as fresh fruit, in salads, soups, ice cream, also used to make avocado oil, perfume and avocado paste.

The avocado (*Persea americana*) is classified as a member of the flowering plant family Lauraceae. The fruit of the plant, also called an avocado (or avocado pear or alligator pear), is botanically a large berry containing a single large seed.

Avocados are commercially valuable and are cultivated in tropical and Mediterranean climates throughout the world. They have a green-skinned, fleshy body that may be pear-shaped, egg-shaped, or spherical. Commercially, they ripen after harvesting. Avocado trees are partially self-pollinating, and are often propagated through grafting to maintain predictable fruit quality and quantity. In 2017, Mexico produced 34 per cent of the world supply of avocados.

On the western flank of Kilimanjaro, a dirt track leads to a once esteemed German coffee farm. The mountain's slopes in northern Tanzania have long been renowned for quality arabica coffee beans, but here commercial coffee hasn't been produced in a long time. Instead tens of thousands of pear-shaped avocados are ripening under the equatorial sun.

Africado is one of Tanzania's first commercial avocado farms and the first to export its fruits abroad, including to the UK, the Netherlands and France.

Production is rising fast and with the European market increasingly saturated with South American avocados, China could become its

next export frontier. For hundreds of local people, avocado farming has replaced the coffee farms as a source of livelihood. British farmer, James Parsons, spotted the potential for growing avocados in this high-altitude region more than a decade ago. In 2007, after 15 years of working on a large coffee farm in neighbouring Kenya, Parsons set out to convert the former German coffee farm into an avocado farm.

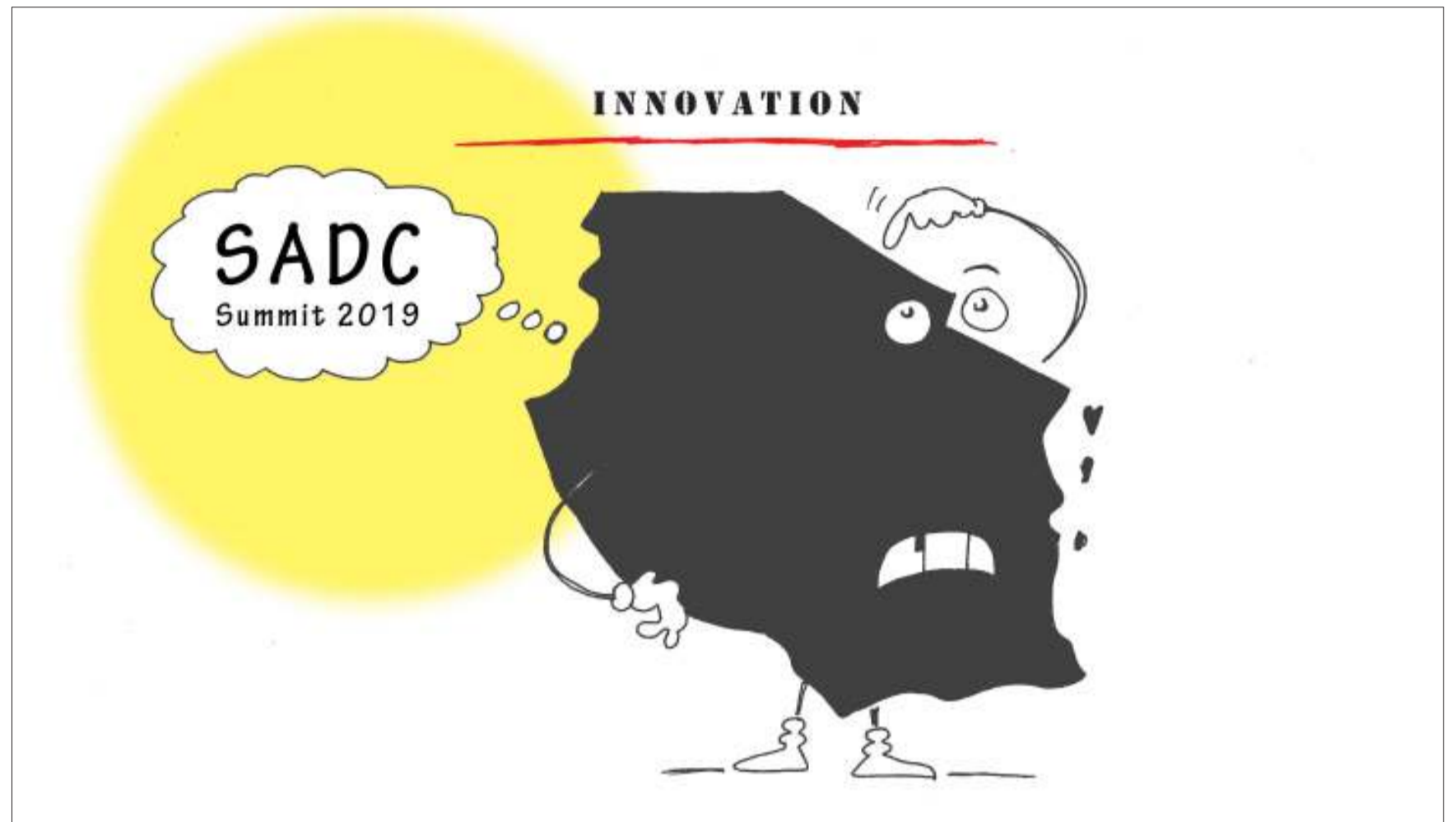
The 137-hectare site had long fallen into disrepair. Overgrown shrubs and bushes had spread across the land, surviving coffee trees were diseased and the roof of the old farmhouse was full of holes. Years of price volatility, nationalisation in the 1970s and poor management from local co-operatives had led to the farm's collapse. Tanzania's Kilimanjaro region is one of the country's largest sources of freshwater. "If you can store it, there is heaps of water here," Parsons says.

Improving the quality of the soil through mulching techniques has also played a crucial part in enabling the farm to reduce its water footprint and its use of fertilisers. With efforts to use less water, also comes efforts to reduce waste.

Every year, around 20 per cent of the avocado production unsuitable for exports is sent to Kenya to be processed into oil that's often used for cosmetics. The rest is packaged on site and will reach consumers' plates about 30 days after being picked.

In 2018, Africado exported 3,000 tons of avocados to Europe - about half of Tanzania's production - including to the shelves of Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Ocado in the UK.

In 2010, Africado launched a small-holder scheme selling local people subsidised seedling trees, from the farm, with a guarantee that it will buy their production in return. Nine years later, the initiative counts more than 2,000 small-holder farmers across a 200 kilometre radius.



Shifting accountability and duty: Women's rights are human rights

By Special Correspondent

THE government of Liberia Must Act in Accordance to its Constitutional mandate as the primary duty bearer to prevent, protect and end all forms of sexual and gender based violence in Liberia. The Liberia Feminist Forum, other women and human right groups in Liberia are concerned over the rise in reported cases of rape, sexual abuse, forceful initiation, cruel public torture, and other forms of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), harmful traditional practices and injustice against women, girls and other marginalized groups in Liberia. We are, once again, calling on the Government of Liberia and its mandated institutions (i.e. Justice, Gender, Internal Affairs, Education, etc.) and relevant stakeholders to recognize that sexual and gender based violence is a violation of the fundamental human rights of women and girls in Liberia. Failure to act on SGBV as a national priority is consequently facilitating the tragedy we continue to face each day and every week with media reports of violations, abuse and trauma faced by women, girls and marginalized persons across the country. The prevalence of violence against women and girls in our society is enabled by the culture of impunity and a sociological imperative that says women and girls must suffer rights' violations as casualties of society's stability, peace and security. We continue to see women rights and SGBV as donors' issues rather than engage on SGBV a national development priority; hence the lack of accountability and investment in the access to justice system. It therefore remains, our clarion call, that the Liberian Government uses its role and responsibilities as enshrined in our constitution and national laws to invest and enforce a non-negotiable position on women rights and gender equality in Liberia.

In 2019, in just three months (January - March), there were 803 cases of SGBV reported by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (June 2019 Press Briefing) of which about 82% were rape/sexual assault including gang rape cases. This is just in three months. While we can attribute the rise in cases to increased awareness of rape and SGBV and utilization of the national referral pathway program, we are also aware that the data represents an underreporting of cases given that most cases reported are of minors (representing more than 90%). As such, the data does not fully account for sexual violence and abuse perpetrated towards young and adult

single women, married women, and women directly intimidated or lack of economic independence and or perceived threats and stigmatization prevent them from coming forward or pursuing their cases. We are also aware that criminalization and discrimination against persons of different sexual orientation and gender identity prevents many men and boys, especially as survivors from reporting their cases and accessing much needed social services. We are even deeply troubled that recent media reports of the tragic loss of lives of young women such as the late Odell Sherman not only highlight the continuing error being faced by thousands of women and girls but how the gaps in the justice system deny and impede access to justice for victims, survivors, their families and their communities. Of the 803 cases reported, only 9.5% went to court and barely five cases saw convictions. Majority of perpetrators (about 72%) had yet to be arrested!

It is also important to state within our analysis of the current context, our position as the Liberian Feminist Forum given how often calls for accountability and justice shift towards feminists and women rights activists, seeking our outrage rather than the Government as the primary duty bearer. "Where Are the Feminists?" "What Are the Feminists Saying?" "Where is their Outrage?" The Liberian Feminist Forum (LFF), established in 2014, with the overall goal of advocating for the transformation of all social relations of power that exploit, oppress and marginalize any set of people. As such, the LFF provides critical feminist positioning on human rights issues in the country, challenging patriarchal gender and social norms, beliefs and practices in the Liberian society that threaten the rights of women, girls and marginalized groups such as sexual minorities and women living with HIV and AIDS.

We do this through advocacy, knowledge production and movement building, leveraging opportunities to advance the full realization of the rights of women, girls and persons marginalized because of their gender, ethnicity, health status, sexual orientation, etc. In line with our feminist analysis, we take an unapologetic and political stance with survivors and solidarity with families of victims of rape and other forms of SGBV in pursuit of access to justice. Our actions, analyses and work however do not negate nor shift accountability on SGBV to the very people demanding an end to the systematic marginalization, oppression and violence.

Since 2017, LFF and women and

human rights groups have mobilized against the attempts to circumvent access to justice such as the attempted rape law amendment and repeatedly called on the Government to fix the justice system. Prior to that, LFF and women and human rights groups organized and advocated for the passage of key legislations such as the Domestic Violence Bill, Gender parity, criminalization of FGM, violence free education for girls; and access to stigma free sexual and reproductive health rights and services. These actions were to ensure a stronger legal framework and adequate mechanisms in place to reduce vulnerability to SGBV in Liberia. More recently, mobilization around Times Magazine and Propublica "Unprotected" report on sexual abuse at More Than Me Academy reinforced our position on the critical need for improving the justice system to protect Liberian women and girls from violations in the first place. For the last eight months (beginning October 2018), LFF and women and human rights activists have worn black on Thursdays in continuation of our protest demands on the state to conduct a full independent investigation, institute measures such as a national policy across private and public institutions for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. With the release of the Local Advisory Board Panel's commissioned report affirms our concerns, we remind the Government to review our demands and take actions to ensure accountability for survivors, students and their families as a result of the gross failure of MTM and its leadership in protecting their students from SGBV. The most recent media report on Soltiamon School's punishment and abuse meted against a female student unfortunately becomes another terror we encounter as a result of lack of attention to our demands.

While we remain resolute in our calls for justice and an end to SGBV in Liberia, we would like to state categorically that the Government of Liberia remains the primary duty bearer accountable to protect its citizens, prevent violations of rights, and ensure access to gender responsive, timely and unbiased justice when rights are violated. We therefore, once again, call on the Government to do the following as our comprehensive demands to address SGBV as a national priority. SGBV cannot be the norm in Liberia and we can not continue to witness the continuum of the denial of rights, dignity and humanity of women and girls in Liberia.

Pass the Domestic Violence Law and fully ban FGM and all traditional practices that harm a woman's right

to a life of dignity, bodily integrity and sexual autonomy.

Strengthen the judicial system for evidence gathering and speedy trial and increase capacity and resourcing of the Women and Child Protection Unit of the Liberian National Police. We need to also see the trained technicians in place to operate the donated DNA machine and an increase in the number of judges at Circuit Court E. We further demand critical and timely investment by the Government of Liberia to establish a forensic investigation mechanism that addresses both the current backlog of SGBV cases and the increasing reports of sexual abuse and murder across Liberia.

Improve response to survivors of SGBV and families of victims. This should include financial support to improve the number and functionality of safe homes and provision of psychosocial support and care services for survivors and families of victims. In many of the reported cases, survivors and/or families of victims face ostracism and have to move out of communities and lose their primary source of livelihood in pursuit of justice.

Improve access to quality gender responsive public services, i.e. education, health and energy (electricity). People living in poverty rely on public services and women, people living with disabilities and other marginalized groups are vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation when these services are not accessible, affordable, privatized or sensitive to the gender specific needs of women and girls. This includes charging of fees for access or related services of education, health, water, and sanitation especially women and girls already experiencing poverty.

Protect the Right to education without sexual harassment, exploitation, discrimination and abuse. To enforce the Teachers' Code of Conduct in all schools and the institutionalization of an anti-Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy in all institutions including state agencies, INGOs and NGOs. Support the rollout of a comprehensive sexual education curriculum in schools to protect the women and girls' rights to their bodies and the choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

Protect the Right to work under conditions marked by decency and equality without sexual harassment and exploitation, discrimination and abuse. To ensure full ratification of the recently adopted International Labor Organization (ILO) convention to prevent violence against women in the workplace and enforcement of anti-sexual harassment and discrimination policies within the Decent Work Act.

'It's incredible seeing humankind losing war on hunger'

By Special Correspondent

THE State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), which is the result of collaboration involving FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNICEF and WFP, was presented yesterday in New York.

The United Nations study provides an updated estimate of the number of people suffering from hunger around the world as well as the rates of child stunting and wasting and adult and child obesity.

This report offers an important estimate of progress towards the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Zero Hunger and, according to data in the report, this goal appears increasingly out of reach.

After decades of steady decline, the trend in world hunger - as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment - has slowly increased since 2015.

More than 820 million people in the world were still going hungry as recently as last year, and it is estimated that over 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. The number includes 8 per cent of the population of North America and Europe.

The UN is convinced that the causes are to be found in the economic system, with hunger having increased in many countries where the economy has slowed down, especially in middle-income countries. In addition, economic crises aggravate food shortages caused by wars and climate shocks.

Faced with this alarming picture, Carlo Petrini, international president of Slow Food and ambassador of the Fame Zero programme for FAO, commented: "For the fourth year running, the report shows a worsening situation, which means that we are seeing a trend."

He elaborated: "It seems incredible that in 2019 Homo sapiens is still struggling with the fight against hunger, and even more incredible to see that we are losing! Slow Food has been involved in this fight for many years now, and the picture that emerges today from the new edition of the UN report calls for further commitment, with strength



and urgency."

Petrini said the report also shows that the problem is not the quantity of food globally available, as the agro-industry multinationals claim, but its availability for those in disadvantaged economic and social conditions.

"It is a matter of denied rights and nothing to do with increasing production. We therefore need bolder policies from governments all over the world to combat poverty, inequality and marginalisation, policies that adopt and promote an agroecological, inclusive and socially equitable model of food production," stated the Slow Food executive.

Slow Food International is a global, grassroots organisation founded in 1989 to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, counteract the rise of fast life and combat people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from and how our food choices affect the world around us. Its head offices are in Bra, Italy.

Since its beginnings, Slow Food has grown into a global movement involving millions of people in over 160 countries, working to ensure that everyone has access to good, clean and fair food.

It believes that food is tied to many other aspects of life, including culture, politics, agriculture and the environ-

ment - and that, through their food choices, people can collectively influence how food is cultivated, produced and distributed, and change the world as a result.

Eddie Mukiibi, a Ugandan agronomist and member of Slow Food's International Executive Committee, commented on the plight of Africa as the continent still most affected by the scourge of hunger.

"The 3,207 agroecological food gardens that Slow Food has created in 35 African countries are now a small but significant contribution to the problem of malnutrition, a positive model of community participation and organisation coming from the grassroots level," he said.

He added: "Above all, it is an easily replicable model: with our own strengths (relatively few compared to those of institutions and governments), we have managed to create over 3,000 gardens. And each of these gardens contributes in many cases to preventing individuals from adding to the already dramatic figures that today the UN has given us."

Through the Slow Food gardens project in Africa, 1,585 projects in schools and 1,622 projects in communities have been created so far for a total of 3,207 active gardens.

These involve about 305,000 students (half of whom are female) and over 40,000 adults (72 per cent women). The gardens are a clear sign that Africans are committed to tackling the hunger and malnutrition problems from within.

"Slow Food gardens are additional sources of food for communities as well as educational and cultural tools for all those involved," noted Mukiibi.

He added: "They increase the quantity and variety of fresh food available for self-consumption, reducing dependence on the market for seeds and nutrition supplements."

"The rediscovery of local plant ecotypes - more adaptable to the local ecosystem - and the reintroduction of their cultivation can also be fundamental to ensuring the resilience of communities facing the negative effects of climate change," he added.

According to Mukiibi, a food system based on a wide variety of cultivated plants is in fact stronger not only because it makes it possible to overcome the problems that can affect some plants in every season, "but also because it ensures a healthier and more diverse diet and a healthier environmental context for the garden."



Cartoonists seek UNESCO support on demand for recognition of their rights

By Bhavya Dore

MORE than 200 cartoonists have signed a declaration seeking the recognition of cartooning as a fundamental right. The declaration was submitted to UNESCO officials in Addis Ababa during the World Press Freedom Day conference on May 3.

French independent cartoonist Xavier Groce coordinated the 'Addis Ababa declaration', as they called it, which included signatories from more than 20 countries.

The two-page document outlined the intrinsic and unique value of cartooning, claiming that the art is increasingly under the threat of censorship globally.

Emphasizing the value of cartooning in society and the crucial role of the cartoonist in a democracy, the group made a case for recognizing it as a separate right, aside from the right to free expression that is already enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Examples of cartoonists under siege have emerged from across the world, including Aseem Trivedi in India who was charged with sedition in 2012, the French cartoonists who worked at the satirical paper Charlie Hebdo who were killed in 2015 and the penal provisions passed in Rwanda last year forbidding humiliating cartoons about government officials (though it was recently repealed).

The declaration asserted that "the freedom to draw is a fundamental right", called on member states to "open processes of discussion and reflection on 'the right to satire and irreverence'", and suggested that UNESCO designate an International Day of Cartooning.

Their final request sought that the UNESCO General Directorate "transmit this declaration to the international community at the next UNESCO General Conference".

"If UNESCO takes up this topic and transforms it into an official resolution, it could be a strong marker on the international level so that in all countries press cartoonists are respected and one accepts the idea of humour, satire and irony," said Groce, an independent French cartoonist who contributes to Le Monde's online site.

"There is something specific about press cartooning and, so far, it is not well understood. We want to emphasize that we can have irony, make fun and we do not accept taboos," added Groce.

The declaration was supported by Cartooning for Peace, an international organisation of editorial cartoonists founded in 2006 under the patronage and honorary presidency of former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

"People should recognize that our work is important for democracy," said Nadia Khiari, a Tunisian cartoonist who began cartooning during the 2011 revolution, and a signatory of the declaration.

"When a cartoonist is not able to work in their country it's because there is a problem. We contribute to freedom of speech and democracy like a barometer, and we feel less lonely when we are organized," she added.

Signatories included cartoonists from India, Belgium, Spain, Algeria, the US, Israel, Mexico, Turkey and Switzerland. The declaration was handed to UNESCO following a panel discussion on artistic freedom and unfettered expression.

"The enemy of cartooning is not just the law; it is self-censorship, even at the level of the editor or the media house. Laughter is the best protest," said Zunar, a Malaysian cartoonist whose real name is Zulkiflee Anwar Haque and who has been arrested five times for his work.

Although freedom of expression is already enshrined by the UN as a fundamental right, the cartoonists hope that the specific recognition of their art will provide an additional focus.

"It is in our interest for cartoonists to be protected by giving it a special category. It will be important in the years to come," said Brandon Reynolds, a South African cartoonist for the Sunday Times, one of the signatories.

More recently, last month, the New York Times decided to stop running cartoons in its international edition and a Canadian cartoonist had his contract terminated by a newspaper group following a controversial cartoon. However, in both cases the publishers said the decisions were unrelated to any specific cartoons or cartoonists.

Some of the cartoonists at the conference expressed some of their challenges as well as ways to deal with them, with Khiari saying: "The best thing to do when you have problems as a cartoonist is to contact associations that defend human rights and freedom of speech."

She pointed out that editorial cartoonists could consult Cartooning for Peace - which she is a member of - which has been monitoring threats to and helping raise global public awareness on attacked cartoonists.

Another member of the organisation said they were in the process of drawing up a manual for threatened cartoonists that is likely to be out by the end of this year.

"My advice to cartoonists who face threats because of their work is don't stop, because if you stop, that is what your aggressor wants," said Zunar.

Zunar added: "Keep using cartoons to tell the truth. But at the same time make sure you do homework to get the correct facts about the issues in your cartoons. By doing so, you can defend your work."

• A dispatch by International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

Investigative journalism conference points to new challenges in Brazil

By Kalinka Iaquinto

AMIDST intense political polarisation, media layoffs and attacks on the press, the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism (Abraji) held the 14th International Conference of Investigative Journalism from June 27 to 30 in São Paulo.

"The world is inflamed and when you throw more fuel on it, it only gets worse," said podcast Mamilos co-founder Cris Bartsis during a panel on 'Covering politics without fomenting polarisation'.

The way out, according to Bartsis, is to focus the conversation on people: "We have to build bridges among those who think differently, rather than prove points."

The question is how to do this in practice. In the case of Mamilos, the solution has been to invite people who think differently to discuss a variety of subjects face to face. At the end of each programme, people realise that there are more similarities than differences between them, he said.

However, this is not the only way out. The way the public reacts to the media has changed. In the past, the interactions were manifested in objections, complaints and lawsuits, but today the reality is different.

With the use of social media, the dissemination of news - whether true or not - is virtually immediate. And, while there is no weight or responsibility in doing so, access to technology has enabled everyone to communicate practically whatever they think.

In Brazil, there have been frequent cases in which journalists are attacked and have their private lives - and the lives of those close to them - exposed on social media.

Last year, after publishing an article uncovering a WhatsApp campaign paid for by businessmen against the Workers' Party, Folha de S. Paulo jour-



Analyst Patrícia Campos Mello had her cell phone hacked.

Messages were sent from her phone in support of the then-presidential candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, and her life and her daughter's life were threatened.

A veteran of armed conflict reporting, Campos Mello suddenly found herself accompanied by a security detail in the middle of São Paulo, which she recounted during a panel on 'Journalism under attack'. In the same panel, journalist Constança Rezende spoke for the first time about the disinformation spread by the Brazilian president, accusing her of seeking to destroy him and his family.

According to Pierpaolo Bottini, coordinator of the Press Freedom Observatory of the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB), Brazilian criminal law is the solution to separate crime from harsh criticism against journalists.

The lawyer argued that reaction to these actions ought to be immediate and recommended that victims save screenshots of offences and threats, notate the record in a notary's office and make a complaint to the police and public prosecutors to initiate an inquiry.

Bolsonaro's attacks on the press and journalists are commonplace. The

Anhembi Morumbi University in São Paulo, where the Abraji Congress was held. Photo courtesy of Kalinka Iaquinto

president of Brazil has a strong media presence and has been spreading the idea that "the press lies".

"I do not agree with that statement. By generalising, you end up creating turmoil," said retired general Carlos Alberto Santos Cruz, former minister-secretary at the Office of President Bolsonaro, in an open interview with journalists Julia Dualibi and Daniel Bramatti, on the first day of the conference. For Cruz, the use of the internet without accountability "creates chaos and hampers governability". Yet, he was reserved in criticisms of the Bolsonaro government.

During a panel on 'Press and Bolsonarism: The challenge of covering a government that stigmatises journalism', former Veja magazine journalist Thaís Oyama submitted that the Bolsonaro administration favours those in the media it trusts.

One example cited by fellow panelist Nelson Sá, a Folha de S. Paulo journalist, was in respect of the breakfast events held by the president with professionals who cover the government palace - which cannot be recorded or photographed.

"Bolsonaro has become smarter, more cunning; he doesn't miss the opportunity to smear, slander and offend.

You know the impact that his popularity has," said Oyama.

Fernando Barros e Silva, editorial director of Piauí magazine and host of the podcast Foro de Teresina, meanwhile argued that the current administration was characterised by resentment. And he warned: "We can't fall into the trap of treating the government the way it wants to be treated. The solution is serious journalism."

Barros e Silva also cited the recent investigation published by The Intercept Brazil, which revealed impropriety in the car wash corruption crusade - known as Lava Jato - that weakened the Workers' Party and created the conditions for the election of Bolsonaro.

The executive editor of The Intercept Brazil, Leandro Demori, agreed with Barros e Silva and underscored flaws in the way the Lava Jato was reported. "Without press coverage, the Lava Jato would not have happened," he said, adding that The Intercept Brazil's investigation should serve as an opportunity for media professionals to evaluate how they have been working in recent years.

• A dispatch by IJNet, a project of the International Centre for Journalists.

Rwanda prepares the foundations for climate-resilient cities

UNITED NATIONS

HOW do you plan a resilient city? A city that can withstand climate change impacts, and the natural disasters that it produces at increased frequencies. And how do you protect the city, its individuals and communities, its business and institutions from either the increased flooding or prolonged droughts that result? It's a complex question with an even more complex solution, but one that the central African nation of Rwanda is looking to answer.

"Urban resilience means preventing disasters, and planning ahead in order to cope with them in an efficient way," says Rwanda's National Roadmap for Green Secondary Cities Development.

The roadmap, which was developed by the government with assistance from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in 2016, provides guidance for the development of six climate resilient secondary cities in the country. It also outlines how they can grow sustainably while also contributing to Rwanda's national urbanisation strategy, which according to the roadmap is to "achieve 35 percent urbanisation by 2020 for each of the secondary cities".

What is a green city?

Rwanda, along with its development partners, hopes to soon implement the first stage of the dynamic plan that will kick off in Nyagatare, a district that borders Uganda in the northeast. On Thursday, Jul. 11, environmentalists, private sector stakeholders and government officials convened for a workshop in Kigali to discuss the integration of green growth in Rwanda's secondary cities.

While large cities are often known for waste, pollution and bad urban planning, Nyagatare will be a far cry from this. Nyagatare will be a green city not only because of the lush, hilly landscape in which it sits, but because the city itself will be built along the lines of a green economy. It will be net zero carbon (by 2050), resource and waste efficient and have a green economy, which aims to offer high quality employment to its residents.

Also key is improved water efficiency—which includes installing water effi-



Environmentalists convened in Kigali to discuss the integration of green growth in Rwanda's satellite cities. Photo: IPS

cient plumbing fixtures, rainwater harvesting systems, wastewater treatment in buildings, and the reuse of treated wastewater for flushing and other secondary applications etc.—green public spaces, green transport modes and buildings constructed from eco-friendly products.

Nyagatare will be the first of six districts to be developed under the "Readiness and preparatory support to implement Green City Development Projects in Rwanda's Secondary Cities", which operationalises the national roadmap and which is being implemented by the government, and the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA) in partnership with GGGI.

The establishment of the secondary cities is a key part of Rwanda's priority to tackling climate change. Rwanda was awarded 600,000 dollars by Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the project, which will not only protect the environment but will consolidate the land use in the six districts, according to Jean Pierre Munyeshyaka, the senior associate for Green Urbanisation at GGGI Rwanda.

"The chosen cities were part of districts that showed signs of development but they were not ready for green growth. That is why we did this project and submitted this project to GCF to help them build conscious-driven green development," Munyeshyaka

told IPS.

All districts have been strategically chosen because of their population size, geographic location and contribution to the country's economy. The other districts are Muhanga, which is close to Kigali; Huye, which is considered the country's knowledge centre and is home to the National University of Rwanda and the National Institute of Scientific Research; Musanze and Rubavu, which are tourist destinations and close to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda respectively; and Rusizi district, which borders the southern DRC and is the location of one of the country's three major lake ports.

Munyeshyaka explained that the secondary cities will be run on renewable energy and be built to ensure low carbon emissions. There will also be easy-to-use public roads and transport, easy access to markets and health centres. He explained that when more people spent less money to travel to hospitals or markets, it meant they could save more and use their money for other things, such as business development etc.

Rapid economic and urban growth

The hilly, fertile, and relatively non-resource rich nation of Rwanda has made great strides in economic growth over the last decade, its 8.6 percent growth in 2018 was listed as the highest on the continent, according to the World Bank.

But it is also one of the most densely-populated countries on the continent with almost 12.2 million people living in a nation the size of the U.S. state of Maryland. That's approximately 445 people per square kilometre, according to Rwanda's 4th Population and Housing Census Projection.

And while Rwanda has been called one of the "least urbanised" countries on the continent, with only 18 percent of its population living in cities, its urban population growth rate "is 4.5 percent, which is well above the world average of 1.8 percent", according to the roadmap.

"Rwanda, although predominantly rural, has been urbanising rapidly, from a half-million urban residents in 1995 to more than three and a half million today,"

according to Ilija Gubic, a senior urbanisation and infrastructure officer with GGGI in Rwanda and Dheeraj Arrabothu, a GGGI green building officer who helps the Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) promote green urbanisation in Rwanda.

No growth without green growth

Faustin Munyazikwiye, the deputy Director General of REMA, the national designated authority mandated to facilitate coordination and oversight of the implementation of the national environmental policy and the subsequent legislation, said any sustainable development project in the country needs to think in terms of a green economy.

"We have seen and we are aware that our country is under immense risk when it comes to climate change. For that matter, we have identified six cities to start with readiness and preparation. We will equip them with necessary infrastructures that will resist any harm to climate change," Munyazikwiye told IPS.

According to a USAID climate change risk profile on Rwanda "rising temperatures, more frequent and intense heavy rains, and potentially increased duration of dry spells threaten Rwandan agriculture". Some 70 percent of Rwandans are employed in the agriculture sector, which accounts for 50 percent of the country's export revenue.

Munyazikwiye was speaking during the Jul. 11 workshop on implementing green growth strategies of the Nyagatare master plan.

During the workshop, staff from various government and private entities were trained on how to include green growth and climate resilience in project concepts and taught how to engage with the GCF for climate finance and green investment opportunities in Rwanda.

Green growth success dependent on private sector partners
"Private sector is absolutely the

key. At the end of the day there is limited public funds in the world. It is actually the private [sector] that has to step in to help reach climate change goals and [get] implementation process running," Inhee Chung, Rwanda Country Director for GGGI, told IPS.

She explained that aside from getting the private sector on board with the concept of a green economy and getting it to invest in eco-friendly products like building materials and other innovations that will be used during the development of the secondary green cities, GGGI have also been focusing on integrating the community to help them understand the shared vision.

"For us green growth does not just mean only the environment. It actually means growth with the people. Environment, people and economy, they are all interlinked because if one is excluded sustainability isn't really achieved, this is why we make every step inclusive," she said.

Much of the area earmarked in Nyagatare district for the secondary city is inhabited by middle income families.

Parfait Karekezi, the Green and Smart Cities Specialist at the RHA, the agency responsible for urbanisation, whose mandate includes responsibility for settlements and building construction, told IPS that while previous expropriation of land for other projects was done without considering existing land tenants and by removing a poor families to make way for large projects, this time around it will be different and families will be given housing that is equivalent in value to their property.

"Rwanda has an opportunity that may be unique in Africa - to harness urbanisation to its full potential," Sally Murray, a country economist at the International Growth Centre, states in a paper on urbanisation and economic growth in the country.

And it seems that Rwanda is on its way to doing just that.
IPS

Can the peace-trade equation stabilise the Horn?

BY SHEWIT WOLDEMICAHEL AND SENAI WANDEMARIAM

THE launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 7 July at the African Union (AU) summit in Niamey, Niger, has created the largest free trade zone in the world for 1.2 billion people with a gross domestic product of around US\$3.4 trillion.

Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou hailed the AfCFTA as "the greatest historical event for the African continent since the creation of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963". The AfCFTA agreement, signed by 54 of the 55 AU member states and ratified by 26 of them, aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, expedite regional and continental integration, and enhance competitiveness in industry.

If fully implemented, the deal could deliver more than economic dividends - it could contribute to peace and security in Africa through inter-state economic interdependence. Its dispute settlement mechanism could also enable amicable resolutions to trade related disputes among African countries.

Implementing the deal faces daunting challenges though, many of which are related to peace and security issues. This is most pronounced in the Horn of Africa.

Except for Eritrea, all the countries in the Horn have signed the agreement. The region's geo-politics, including the securitisation of borders, political instability, illicit cross-border trade and financial flows, as well as underdeveloped infrastructure and human capital, are the main challenges.

Instability within states will pose the greatest difficulty to regional trade. Somalia and South Sudan have been experiencing protracted civil wars, while both Sudan and Ethiopia are undergoing political reform that has destabilised the countries in recent times.

Securitisation of borders in the Horn will also create obstacles for free move-



The process of implementing Africa's free trade deal could create conditions for countries to coexist peacefully. File photo

ment of goods and people as envisaged by the AfCFTA. The border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which was initially opened after their July 2018 rapprochement, has been reclosed. There is also a military presence on both sides of the border.

Similarly, Sudanese troops have since January 2018 been deployed along the Eritrea-Sudan border. Sudan's Transitional Military Council deputy chairman Lieutenant-General Mohammed Hammad Dagalo and Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki said the border would reopen when they met on 2 July, but trade is yet to officially resume.

The Eritrea-Djibouti border has also been closed since 2008 as a result of a border dispute between the two countries. Although their leaders met briefly in September 2018 and promised to resume relations, trade between the two

nations seems unlikely soon.

Security along the Ethiopia-Somalia border remains tight owing to Ethiopia's fear of an al-Shabaab attack. Sudan and South Sudan also have an ongoing territorial dispute over their oil-rich border, especially in the Abiye region.

The other challenge facing the AfCFTA is the extent of illegal trade in the region mainly due to porous borders and a lack of coordinated border security.

Cross-border cattle raiding and illegal livestock marketing exists along the Ethiopia-Kenya, Ethiopia-Djibouti and Ethiopia-Somalia borders.

Other high-value export commodities, such as gold, khat, charcoal and sugar, are also illegally traded along these borders. Revenue

from such trading has been used to finance armed groups. Trafficking in small arms and light weapons is prevalent along the Ethiopia-Sudan border. Large-scale contraband trafficking undermines legitimate cross-border commerce, especially the security of small- to medium-scale traders.

Other problems in the region include illicit financial flows and money laundering, the hoarding of considerable sums of cash owed to speculation, counterfeiting money and an active black market for foreign exchange.

These transactions are related to trafficking in people and goods, financing insurgent groups and grand corruption. Partly in reaction to these factors, Eritrea abruptly changed its currency in 2015, while

Ethiopia introduced strict regulations and confiscation of foreign currency in 2018.

Recognising these challenges, AU Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said in Niamey that it would be a 'delusion to talk of trade and development without peace and security'. While true, the statement represents only half of the peace-trade equation. The 'chicken and egg' relationship between peace and trade means that as much as peace is needed to boost trade, so too is trade an ingredient for establishing and sustaining peace.

Through the AfCFTA's implementation processes, countries in the Horn could potentially create conditions that would enable them to coexist peacefully. A good exam-

ple is the Ethiopia-Djibouti relationship. Both have invested more than US\$15 billion for road and rail connectivity. Ethiopia uses the Djibouti ports for 95% of its foreign trade and has invested heavily in them. Djibouti's trade with Ethiopia accounts for more than 80% of its GDP, including electricity and water imports from Ethiopia.

This mutual dependence would pressure the two countries to amicably resolve disputes that arise in their foreign or trade relations. The nations have never engaged in zero-sum relations and proxy wars through supporting armed opposition groups to destabilise each other. Proxy wars - which have at times defined relations between Horn countries, such as between Eritrea and Ethiopia - have been a major source of instability in the region.

Djibouti and Ethiopia have also invested heavily in securing trade routes and infrastructure, streamlining their customs procedures, legal and regulatory frameworks and establishing a single border post.

The region has the potential to effectively implement the AfCFTA, with dividends for peace and security. Trade disputes among Horn countries that might arise as the deal is activated could be resolved through its dispute settlement mechanism. Those responsible for this mechanism must recognise the challenges covered here, and the region's peace and security dynamics. This is especially so given that one of the Horn's most devastating wars, between Eritrea and Ethiopia, had trade relations at its heart.

Shewit Woldemichael, Researcher, PSC Report, ISS Addis Ababa and Senai Wandemariam, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Eritrea

Wiping out hunger in Africa could call for just US\$5 billion

• Nearly 60 million children across the continent go to bed on empty stomachs

By Feike Sijbesma

EFFORTS to alleviate the constant cycle of droughts, poverty and war have caused new problems. The biggest of these is a crippling dependency on food aid that is undermining much of the continent's efforts to feed itself.

UN figures show that more than 250 million people in Africa - one in five - are undernourished, making them vulnerable to disease, deficiencies and developmental stunting that stops them reaching their full potential. It has to change.

Richer donor countries need to show they are serious about helping to eradicate malnutrition and hunger by ripping off the bandage of food aid. This sounds counterintuitive, but donors need to invest in agriculture and local food manufacturing instead so that African countries can become self-sufficient. But this requires a bold new approach funded by public-private investment.

Local food projects exist, but few are capable of scale.

The answer lies in initiatives such as Africa Improved Foods (AIF). Started two years ago in Rwanda, it is the first big public-private partnership in Africa to specifically address malnutrition and hidden hunger.

In one year of operation, and with an investment of only \$70m (£55m), it has already helped more than two million people to avert malnutrition. AIF purchases locally grown maize and other crops from more than 24,000 smallholder farmers - mostly women - at set prices that guarantee a predictable income for them. These crops are locally processed in a factory in Kigali, where a nutritious "super cereal" is produced for mothers and young kids in the region.

An independent study commissioned by the IFC (International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group) and conducted by the University of Chicago estimates that from 2016 to 2031, AIF will generate \$756m for the people of Rwanda. If this initiative was replicated just 75 times, we could

achieve lasting food security in Africa.

Can we put a price on eradicating hunger? Based on the AIF example, it could cost as little as \$5bn. To put this in context, official aid to Africa was \$29bn in 2017, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Yet hunger is once again rising, wiping out almost a decade of progress. Millions remain in poverty and their prospects are poor.

Importing staple foods into the continent when 60% of the population still lives on the land is madness by any measure. We can do better. It is time for a new approach, one that creates locally produced food for a local population.

This is not about the world saving Africa. Real and profitable business opportunities exist, all the way along the supply chain from farmers to the market. Investing in Africa's food security is socially responsible, too. Governments must also play their part, committing to sourcing food locally and re-



ducing costly imports.

Investing in agriculture would bring other benefits. Enhanced regional economic security would reduce the factors that trigger displacement and war. Aid agencies such as the UN's World Food Programme could use surplus crops from African farmers to supply conflict zones. A regional food network could get food to drought-hit regions such as the Sahel faster and more efficiently.

Greater food security would also address the poverty and despair that drive so many Africans to migrate, risking - and in many

cases losing - their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

Famines grab headlines, but malnutrition robs children of their future. It has irreversible effects. If children don't get the right nutrients and vitamins early in the first 1,000 days of life, their brain development is impaired and they grow up stunted - shorter, weaker and with learning difficulties that severely limit their potential as adults.

Food aid does not help fight malnutrition because the bulk of it comprises calorie-rich but nutrient-light carbohydrates such

as maize meal. It doesn't prevent stunting or other serious health issues such as anaemia. It can even make countries poorer because ill people cannot work and need more health care. According to the Global Nutrition Report, better nutrition could deliver at least \$16 for every \$1 invested in the local economy, simply by improving general health.

Food security in Africa is an achievable goal. Private companies need to step forward to invest in that brighter future. Together with local farmers and governments, we can eradicate hunger in Africa.

China hosting Africa military leaders as new alliance forms

BEIJING

BEIJING is hosting African military leaders for a week-long summit aimed at strengthening China-Africa military relations, with discussions expected to mainly focus on peace and security across the continent.

The Defense Ministry kicked off China-Africa Peace and Security Forum on Sunday with the presence of African defense ministers and military chiefs in Beijing.

High-ranking military attaches and army representatives from virtually all African countries are attending the event.

"The main point of the forum will be more technical and specialized exchanges," said Wang Hongyi, a researcher from the Institute of West Asian and African Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Security cooperation between China and Africa is what African

countries have requested, something the United Nations has promoted and, of course, it is also conducive to protecting Chinese interests in Africa," Wang added.

The security forum is being held as China is also strengthening its investments across the continent, through the multi-trillion-dollar

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, which is also known as the "new Silk Road."

The trade infrastructure project, which is also on the agenda in the summit, announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013, envisions the construction of railways, roads and ports across the globe

to connect China by land and sea to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The plan, however, has many critics, who believe the project could bury African nations under debt to China, calling it Beijing's "debt trap."

Beijing says when it comes to

"the debt problem, there really is not that much Chinese debt in Africa."

China's growing military presence in Africa has already prompted the United States to take countermeasures amid a long-running trade dispute between Washington and Beijing.



With no customer for his soft drinks forthcoming, a small trader takes a nap at his roadside open-air 'kiosk' in Dar es Salaam's Ijala municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mozambique begins second dose of anti-cholera vaccination

MAPUTO

BRIGADES from the Mozambican Health Ministry on Monday began to administer a second dose of cholera vaccine to people living in parts of the central province of Sofala that were struck by cyclone Idai in March.

According to a report on the independent television station STV, the target is to give the oral vaccine to 850,000 people over the age of one in the city of Beira, in Buzi, Dondo and Nhamatanda districts, and selected areas of Muanza and Cheringoma districts.

The purpose is to guarantee the immunity to

cholera of people living in the cyclone-hit areas, avoiding fresh outbreaks of the disease, particularly during the next rainy season, which begins in October.

Ilesh Jani, the general director of the National Health Institute, told reporters that, by taking two doses of the vaccine, people will be protected from cholera for about five years. Taking one dose alone only gives protection for six months.

"From the public health point of view," he said, "if, in these districts, we manage to vaccinate 80 per cent of the population with two doses, then we can be relatively tranquil about the occurrence of cholera outbreaks for the

next five years. The vaccination campaign lasts until Friday, and involves 350 brigades formed by 1,600 professionals, who will work in fixed points such as hospitals, and in mobile teams that will visit schools, markets, and other places where large numbers of people gather.

Jani stressed that vaccination is a complementary measure. The main key to fighting cholera remained ensuring that water supplies are clean, decent sanitation, and other basic individual and collective hygiene measures.

The outbreak of cholera immediately following cyclone Idai affected about 6,700 people, eight of whom died.

Ethiopia plans for spending increase

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIAN Finance Minister Ahmed Shide introduced on 10 June the government's budget for fiscal year 2019/20, starting on 8 July, which included spending of \$ 13.48 billion, a 1.6 percent increase from the previous year.

He also highlighted the country's vulnerability to current foreign-exchange shortages in his speech as well as importance of value addition and further private-sector participation in the economy.

The Ethiopian finance minister highlighted that it was impossible to achieve the 11 percent growth envisaged in the government's growth and transformation plan during 2018/19 given the country's disappointing export data. Growth is expected to have reached 9.8 percent instead.

The need to reduce non-performing loans and attract further foreign investment and aid to Ethiopia are necessary to generate the sufficient funds for the USD13.48-billion budget.

An aim is also to reduce the share of the agricultural sector in GDP, while maintaining sufficient food supply to the country. Overall, 63.3 percent of the capital budget is allocated to the agriculture sector, education sector, roads, water sector, healthcare, and urban development.

The government intends to allocate 33.9 percent of the total budget to capital expenditure, focusing on the completion of existing energy and infrastructure projects.

Ethiopia's administration managed to reduce government spending by 34.1 percent during the last fiscal year. Efforts to increase tax revenue will be high on the agenda during 2019/20 as last year's tax revenue performance was below target due to structural problems.

Furthermore, around 74 percent of revenue collection is targeted to come from tax revenue in FY 2019/20.

Additionally, the aim is to restrict the spread of business loans with regards to the country's foreign-currency debt consolidation; instead, there is a great deal of interest in using non-performing loans.

The country's exports continue to underperform. Weaker growth primarily in coffee exports and other agricultural goods was the main driver of the dip in exports during the course of the last fiscal year.

Ethiopia's export base remains largely exposed to externalities due to its still strong dependence on agricultural commodity exports, contributing to the economy's foreign-exchange shortages.

Consequently, it is essential for the country to continue to diversify the export base. Long-term export growth is expected to benefit from increased production levels in the manufacturing sector, including particularly the textile and automotive industries, which last year witnessed significant foreign investment growth.

Improving value addition in the manufacturing sector is expected to remain challenging amid the foreign-exchange reserves limitations. Manufacturers continue to report difficulties in accessing foreign exchange as part of buying production inputs, which ultimately pushes prices up.

Retail trade is currently driving the service sector and the urgency to diversify the economy remains challenging in the near term, causing vulnerability and weakness in the country's export performance.

Figures for the first quarter of 2019 suggest that domestic investment as well as export growth slowed. Additionally, government spending slowed during the last fiscal year to 34.1 percent annual growth.

The finance ministry anticipates a 6 percent depreciation of the Ethiopian birr in financial year 2019/20. The likelihood of a further devaluation of the birr to raise export growth to compensate for a slowdown in public investment's contribution to GDP growth will depend on the success in attracting further foreign investment to the economy.

The battle to stay alive as a female journalist

By Madeline Roache

TEN years ago, journalist and human rights activist Natalia Estemirova, 51, was abducted from her home in Grozny, shot dead and dumped in the neighbouring Ingushetia.

No one has been prosecuted for the murder.

Estemirova had been reporting on the torture, disappearances and murders of people in Chechnya, and she knew there was a risk to her life.

Two years earlier, her friend Anna Politkovskaya, a journalist and prominent Kremlin critic, was shot dead in her apartment building in St Petersburg.

In a joint statement published in the Washington Post on Monday, women Nobel Peace Prize laureates and winners of the annual Anna Politkovskaya Award – given to female journalists or human rights activists in conflict zones on behalf of RAW in War – wrote that “no adequate investigation into Natalia’s murder has taken place, nor has anyone been brought to justice for her killing”.

Amnesty and Human Rights Watch are also among the organisations who have raised the alarm on the anniversary.

They have urged Russia to take action.

Mariana Katzarova, the head of RAW in War, who was close to both Estemirova and Politkovskaya, said Estemirova stood up to the Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov during a meeting in Grozny in 2000 in which he threatened to kill Politkovskaya.

“I met them both just a couple of hours after this meeting. I saw Anna crying for the first time. It was a miracle that they left safely this time. All because of how brave Natalia was.”

In 2007, Estemirova became the first recipient of the annual Anna Politkovskaya Award for her work in Chechnya.

“It’s never been a more dangerous time to be a journalist and human rights activist,” said Sarah Clarke, head of Europe and Central Asia at ARTICLE 19, an NGO defending the freedom of speech.

Threats against journalists are at their highest level in a decade, she said.

Dozens of journalists are killed every year around the world in war zones or countries with weak rule of law, where perpetrators are brought to justice in one out of 10 cases.

Female journalists and human rights



activists face greater threats.

A 2018 report by the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF) found that two-thirds of female journalists and media workers have experienced physical, sexual and/or online abuse. Twenty percent of women did not report the incident, more than half of this group said they did not think it was important enough or that anything would be done.

Hostility towards journalists is becoming normalised around the world, amid a global rise of “strongman” populist leaders around the world who routinely demonise journalists, said Clarke.

“With the rise of populism, institutions such as the judiciary, police and investigative bodies, that are supposed

to protect journalists have weakened,” she added.

US President Donald Trump calls media “the enemy of the people” and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has branded some journalists as “traitors”.

This rhetoric is “extremely dangerous because it paves the way for threats and violence which can ultimately lead to assassinations”, said Clarke.

The lack of protection for journalists and activists in conflict zones threatens to keep human rights abuses hidden.

Kholoud Helmi, a Syrian journalist and co-founder of the newspaper Enab Baladi, was forced

to flee Syria in 2013. She left her hometown of Daraya, a suburb of the capital Damascus.

“Leaving was not a choice,” said the journalist and the 2016 recipient of the Anna Politkovskaya Award.

The previous year, four of the paper’s founders were arrested by the Syrian authorities, one of whom was killed under torture in a detention centre.

Helmi helped to create Enab Baladi in 2011 as a platform to expose the atrocities committed by President Bashar al-Assad’s government.

“There were no international media organisations in Syria to re-

port on what was happening. The regime persecuted them and the state-owned media only reported the regime’s point of view,” she said.

Women made up 75 percent of the paper’s founders.

“We were able to write about what it’s like giving birth in the middle of conflict and what it’s like for a mother when her son goes missing,” said Helmi.

Women risked their lives to distribute the paper in Syrian cities.

“We were able to pass unrestricted through checkpoints as the guards usually didn’t search women,” said Helmi.

She was, however, stopped by security forces several times and knew well she was standing between life and death.

“The demand for these stories and the fact that my friends had lost their lives gave me courage,” she said.

In 2013, she and other Enab Baladi founders started their journey to Turkey, where they continue to work today. The paper continues to cover news from all over Syria through reporters spread across the country.

In danger from Pakistan to Malta

In Pakistan, where a conflict between the Pakistani military and armed groups has killed thousands of people and uprooted millions in the country’s north-western regions since 2004, journalists and activists are increasingly under attack.

The authors of the joint statement on Natalia Estemirova wrote that they are “gravely concerned” about human rights activist Gulalai Ismail, who was forced into hiding since she was charged under anti-terrorism legislation and banned from leaving the country last June.

Ismail was targeted after speaking out about the government’s inaction over the rape and murder of 11-year-old Farishta Mohmand in May.

“The war economy has snatched humanity out of this society. There has been a startling increase in sexual abuse and murders of children thanks to the brutalisation of society. War increases the crime of sexual assault,” Ismail

tweeted in May.

In 2018, Human Rights Watch wrote that counterterrorism laws continue to be “misused as an instrument of political coercion”, including against journalists and activists, and “many defendants are denied the right to a fair trial”.

Women are not only targeted in conflict zones.

In October 2017, Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, 53, was killed in a car bomb attack. No one has been prosecuted in connection with the attack.

Her death was believed to be connected with her work in exposing Malta’s links with the Panama Papers document leak, which revealed the identities of wealthy individuals and public officials with offshore holdings.

The Maltese government, a member of the Council of Europe and a party to the European Convention on Human Rights, had “fallen short on all national and international standards in investigating Daphne’s death”, said Clarke. “None of the politicians that Galizia wrote about were interviewed. That’s extraordinary,” she added.

Clarke is “extremely concerned” to see that the cycle of abuse against female journalists in Malta is repeating itself.

Caroline Muscat, the founder of the investigative online outlet Shift News who has carried on with some of Caruana Galizia’s investigations, has increasingly faced death threats and online harassment.

“It shows us the Maltese government has learnt nothing.”

The authors of the joint statement wrote: “The international community appears powerless to prevent the attacks and the killings, and to provide protection and safety to those facing grave danger.”

Political will is the most essential way to keep journalists safe, said Clarke.

Without it, women journalists and activists are forced to risk their lives for refusing to let human rights abuses go untold, for writing the truth.

Agencies

Pompeo’s new ‘Human Rights’ Commission is up to no good

NEW YORK

THE Trump administration appears to be trying to find moral footing for the president’s discriminatory policies. Last week, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo formally announced the creation of a “Commission on Unalienable Rights.”

Its stated purpose, according to a notice published in the Federal Register in May, is to provide “fresh thinking about human rights discourse where such discourse has departed from our nation’s founding principles of natural law and natural rights.”

The Trump administration’s actions and words – from threatening International Criminal Court judges and prosecutors, pulling out of the U.N. Human Rights Council and severing relations with its independent experts, to cozying up with authoritarian leaders and advancing xenophobic policies that defy international law – have made it abundantly clear that the administration has zero interest in being a global champion of human rights. This commission isn’t fooling anyone.

We know that references to “natural law and natural rights” are code words used by the religious right and social conservatives to advance anti-LGBTQ and anti-women’s rights agendas. We also know that members of the new commission have troubling anti-LGBTQ and abortion rights records.

And based on the Trump administration’s record, there is good reason to believe the commission is intended to redefine universal human rights to fit the administration’s twisted and troubling worldview, with the clear and first target being the State Department’s long-standing work to



advance the rights of LGBTQ people, women, and other vulnerable populations across the world.

In defending the commission in a recent op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, Secretary Pompeo charged that human rights advocates have created “new categories of rights” that “blur the distinction between unalienable rights and ad hoc rights granted by

governments.” And that the commission will “ground our discussion of human rights in America’s founding principles.”

That’s a load of nonsense. Secretary Pompeo speaks of long-standing international human rights norms as if he’s demonstrated a single iota of respect for them, and as if those norms

are incongruent with defending human dignity and democratic values.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) – which Secretary Pompeo names as a foundational document that will be examined by the commission – is grounded in democratic values of equal rights, justice, and

the right to self-determination.

It establishes the modern international human rights framework that provides the legal and moral authority to hold governments and other perpetrators accountable for human rights violations – a framework that the Trump administration seems bent on dismantling.

What Secretary Pompeo fails to understand, or perhaps acknowledge, is that this modern international human rights framework is made up of the very same traditions and values that also guided America’s democratic origins.

In fact, all too often in our modern history, it is the U.S. – irrespective of the political party in power – that has failed to live up to the UDHR, including the UDHR’s promise of economic justice.

Different groups throughout American history, including indigenous peoples, enslaved African people, and women, among others, have all been the victims of America’s double-standard.

When the United States has wavered on its commitment at home and abroad, it is the UDHR in many cases that has provided the framework to hold our country’s leaders accountable.

That’s because the full spectrum of rights enshrined in the UDHR are preordained by well-recognized democratic values, traditions, and principles, including the founding principles of our democracy.

The world has now witnessed the human costs of the Trump administration’s atrocious disregard for these basic human

rights and democratic values: the inhumanity of family separation and detention, the discriminatory Muslim ban, the upended lives from the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the revival of the racist ‘War on Drugs,’ numerous attempts to roll back advances in LGBTQ equality, trampling on the rights of women, and illegal restrictions on the rights of asylum seekers.

Having had it with the world naming and shaming under the international human rights framework, the administration appears to be trying to find moral footing for President Trump’s discriminatory policies with the announcement of this commission.

Make no mistake: Pompeo’s commission is a dangerous initiative intended to redefine universal human rights and roll back decades of progress in achieving full rights for marginalized and historically oppressed communities.

It is likely to use religion as grounding to deny human dignity and equality for all. It will undermine the existing State Department’s well respected and legally-mandated Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Affairs.

And it will be a waste of taxpayer dollars, which would be better spent on implementing U.S. human rights treaty obligations and putting an end to Trump’s era of human misery and assault on our humanity.

We won’t let him get away with it.

IPS

RELIEF

TPB Bank makes 1bn/- payment to Govt, with board chair promising sustained growth

By Guardian Reporter

ONE of the country's oldest banks, TPB Bank Plc made 17.2bn/- pre-tax profit last year of which Treasury as main shareholder received 1bn/- while other minorities got 200m/- with Board Chairman, Dr Edmund Mndolwa pledging sustained growth.

Established in 1925 as Tanganyika Post Office Savings Bank, TPB has continued to make billions in shillings for the past three years. Dr Mndolwa and TPB's Chief Executive Officer, Sabasaba Moshingi told Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango in Dodoma this week that

sustained growth is one of the goals of the bank.

"Although we have experienced challenges since acquiring Twiga Bancorp and Tanzania Women's Bank over a year ago, profitability has remained to be our goal," said Dr Mndolwa who promised Dr Mpango that TPB board, management and staff will continue to work hard to sustain growth.

He said since 2017, TPB has been paying dividend to Treasury because of the good performance hence enabling the government to finance its development projects. Dr Mndolwa paid tribute to the bank's customers



TPB Bank Plc board chairman, Dr Edmund Mndolwa (R) hands over a dummy cheque for 1bn/- to Finance minister Dr Philip Mpango as dividend to Treasury at a ceremony held in Dodoma earlier this week. Photo courtesy of TPB.

and the government for continuing to support the Dar es Salaam based lender.

On his part, Moshingi said commended Bank of Tanzania for continued support whenever TPB needed regulatory assistance which has contributed to sustained growth and profitability. "The Central Bank's decision to hand us Twiga Bancorp and TWB gave us confidence to work hard and maintain profitability for our shareholders," the CEO stated.

He said apart from focusing on its core business of banking, TPB also invests in community projects

as part of its corporate social responsibility. "The aim of our corporate investment in communities is to give back to the people who support our business," Moshingi noted while unveiling that in 2018, TPB allocated 200m/- for such projects.

In his remarks, Minister Mpango commended TPB for continuing to pay dividend to Treasury saying the good performance was a result of sound management of the state owned bank. "Your performance as one of the best performing banks in the country has proved that public companies can compete with private firms

in the market," he noted.

He urged the bank's staff, management and board to keep going with the impressive performance promising to give them support as they look set to post another impressive performance this year based on 2019 first half results. With 77 physical branches across the country, TPB is among the market's largest commercial banks by network. The bank's minority shareholders include the government of Zanzibar, Tanzania Posts Corporation, Workers Compensation Fund and Public Service Social Security Fund.

Amazon offers \$10 to Prime Day shoppers who hand over their data

WASHINGTON

AMAZON.COM Inc has a promotion for U.S. shoppers on Prime Day, the 48-hour marketing blitz that started Monday: Earn \$10 of credit if you let Amazon track the websites you visit.

The deal is for new installations of the Amazon Assistant, a comparison-shopping tool that customers can add to their web browsers. It fetches Amazon's price for products that users see on Walmart.com, Target.com

and elsewhere.

In order to work, the assistant needs access to users' web activity, including the links and some page content they view. The catch, as Amazon explains in the fine print, is the company can use this data to improve its general marketing, products and services, unrelated to the shopping assistant.

The terms underscore the power consumers routinely give to Amazon and other big technology companies when using

their free services. In this case, Amazon gains potential insight into how it should tailor marketing and how it could stamp out the retail competition.

"This data is often used for training machine learning models to do better ad targeting," said Bennett Cyphers, a technologist at the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation. "But in the U.S., there aren't really restrictions on what you can do with this kind of data."

Amazon already has more than

7 million customers using its assistant via Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox, according to data published by those web browsers. Other companies offer similar shopping tools.

While another technology known as tracking pixels shows Amazon information from visitors to roughly 15 percent of the top 10,000 websites, the assistant lets Amazon follow a smaller set of users from page to page, Cyphers said.

Amazon's combination of

tools still pales in comparison to data collection by Alphabet Inc's Google, which has tracking pixels on most web pages.

Amazon did not discuss how it uses the data it gathers via the assistant for any unrelated purposes, but a job listing for an affiliated team known as Browser Integration Technologies says the group's influence "spans across advertising and marketing, pricing and selection."

"Customer trust is paramount

to Amazon, and we take customer privacy very seriously," a company spokeswoman said, noting compliance with the assistant's privacy policy, which says data collection is for websites that users visit "where we may have relevant product or service recommendations."

The policy also notes that customers can disable certain features of the assistant, and that Amazon only links browsing data to an individual's account when the assistant is in active use.

U.S. lawmakers have recently increased their scrutiny of Silicon Valley's data collection practices. A bill introduced in the Senate last month proposed requiring that big platforms disclose what information they gather from users and how much that is worth.

"When a big tech company says its product is free, consumers are the ones being sold.

These 'free' products track everything we do," said Republican Senator Josh Hawley in a statement announcing the bill.

NEW PRODUCT

Dar market waits for debut appearance of new-make bulldozers

By Beatrice Philemon

THE latest brand of bulldozers, New Generation CAT excavators will be unveiled in Dar es Salaam today offering contractors fuel efficiency and more power.

Mantrac Tanzania Limited which is the agent of the bulldozer said the new series of CAT excavators has increased productivity of up to 45 percent, fuel consumption reduction of 25 percent and lowered maintenance costs by 15 percent.

Senior Application Specialist for Africa and Middle East, Gary Martin said the New Generation CAT excavators are in the sizes of 320GC, 320 and 323 will largely boost the growing construction industry in the market.

"We have decided to introduce new excavators in the Tanzanian market because we have listened to demand by our customers in Africa, Middle East and Tanzania on what they

need to improve their efficiency," Martin said.

On his part, Mantrac Tanzania's Machine Sales Manager, Butwa Sanga said in readiness of the new machines entering the market, the company has already trained 30 operators from major clients across the country who will likely purchase the excavators.

"The new series boasts the industry's highest level of standard and are equipped with latest technology gadgets such as camera to assist operators," Sanga said. He said the new machines will gradually replace the existing ones which are being phased out by the manufacturer.

"Right now construction companies which purchase our equipments will get all spare parts right here in Tanzania where serving will also be done," he added. Currently Mantrac Tanzania has branches in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Mtwara and Mwanza where customers can get the equipment.



Mantrac Tanzania product support supervisor Matiko Bugumia (L) briefs journalists on the New Generation of Caterpillars that will be launched in Dar es Salaam today. Others (from-L) are Gary Martin from CAT, Mantrac East Africa business manager Moataz Taha and a Mantrac machine salesman. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

INTERVENTION

CBK pushes for lower mobile loan fees

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has stepped up talks with banks to lower the cost of mobile phone-based loans amid claims they are saddling borrowers with expensive debt. CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge said the discussions go beyond the interest on loans to processing charges and

facilitation fees.

KCB (KCB M-Pesa), Commercial Bank of Africa (M-Shwari), Equity Bank (Equitel), Co-operative Bank (M-Co-op Cash) and Barclays Bank of Kenya (Timiza) are some of tier-one commercial lenders which offer instant mobile loans.

The pricing of some of the mobile phone-based loans includes a huge component of fees, which is

outside regulatory control. "This is a bit more complicated. The issue is not just to look at it as interest rate component, but other charges as well. The charges are not part of that interest cap thing," Dr Njoroge said.

M-Shwari, introduced by Safaricom and Commercial Bank of Africa in 2012, charges a "facilitation fee" of 7.5 per cent on credit

regardless of its duration within a month. KCB-Mpesa loans include a one-off 2.5 per cent loan negotiation fee.

Banks and other mobile phone-based lenders are currently able to skirt a government cap on interest of four points above the central bank's benchmark interest rate, which now stands at nine per cent – capping loans at 14 per cent.

A 7.5 per cent M-Shwari loan equates to an annualised interest rate of 90 per cent. The shortest loan repayment period is one week. "This is where we are working with banks ... to go beyond the law. You have seen how we have been doing things in terms of customer centricity, the way they have to relate to their customers," Dr Njoroge said.

We have decided to introduce new excavators in the Tanzanian market because we have listened to demand by our customers in Africa, Middle East and Tanzania on what they need to improve their efficiency,

OBSERVATION

Lack of confidence, poor management hurdles faced by owners, managers of small businesses

By Guardian Reporter

LACK of confidence in cash handling and poor business management are major hurdles haunting growth and development of small businesses in Tanzania.

NMB Bank Plc's Eastern Zone Manager, Baraka Ladislaus said on Monday when winding up financial training of business owners and managers in Kibaha, Coast region, that the bank which has given loans to some of the businesses has observed the shortfalls over a long period of time.

"What we advise business people is that they should not mix capital or income from their businesses and personal money for daily expenditure," Ladislaus said stating that their financial literacy and business management training is aimed at addressing such shortfalls.

"This training session is meant to also ensure that small businesses don't become bankrupt but rather grow into big businesses which contribute to economic growth," he added while explaining that failure by business owners to separate themselves from

their shops or offices leads to collapsing.

One of the businessmen who attended the training, Hussein Hussein requested the bank to reduce conditions for lending to petty businesses so that they can qualify to get funding needed to grow their ventures.

Hussein said cumbersome banking procedures and stringent conditions such as the need for collateral have driven away many small business owners who would otherwise benefit from such loans.

"Our only request is that bank managers should reduce the bureaucracy," he urged.

Another businessman, Mohammed Mkopo urged the government and financial institutions to accept petty traders identity cards issued recently by President John Magufuli as genuine collateral to allow them borrow.

"In the past, lenders used to demand for receipts obtained from district councils after paying taxes as collateral to give us loans but now we have much better identification which should automatically allow us access to easy borrowing," Mkopo argued.



One of the businessmen from Coast Region speaks at an NMB Bank meeting held at Kibaha on Monday. Photo courtesy of NMB.

DISMISSAL

Zambia President fires Finance minister, replaces her with bank deputy governor

LUSAKA

ZAMBIAN President, Edgar Lungu, has fired the country's Finance Minister and replaced her with the central bank's deputy governor responsible for operations.

The Zambian leader said via Twitter on Monday, "I have appointed Bank of Zambia deputy governor, Dr Bwalya Ngandu, as Finance Minister." He also nominated Ngandu to Parliament, saying he was "confident that Zambia's next phase of econom-

ic development" will be managed well under him.

On Sunday evening, Lungu's office thanked the outgoing Treasury head, Margaret Mwanakatwe, for her service during her tenure. No reasons have been given for Lungu's decision to fire Mwanakatwe.

A panel of economists at FocusEconomics expect GDP growth in Zambia to grow by 3.4% this year, saying a "challenging external backdrop will likely cause export growth to slow and, in turn, an overall loss of

momentum this year" for Zambia's economy. The new Zambian Finance Minister is expected to hit the ground running to address systematic and economic challenges hobbling Zambia.

Ngandu holds a PhD in Applied Psychology from Cranfield University in the UK. Reports from Zambia show that Lungu has "challenged the new Finance Minister to settle Zambia's mounting debt" obligation.

Investment experts at Rich Frontiers said on Monday Zambia was battling to "shrink a fis-



President Lungu congratulating the newly appointed Minister of Finance, Dr Bwalya Ngandu

cal deficit that amounted to 7.5% of GDP" in 2018. In May this year, ratings agency, Moody's downgraded Zambia's credit rating from Caa1 to Caa2, which is described as a bad grading for investment.

Moody's explained that under the Caa2 rating essentially means that a country's "external and liquidity pressures (are) impairing government ability to service debt over medium-term" and also raise the "probability of default" over the near term outlook.

Moreover, said FocusEconomics analysts, "price pressures are expected to climb and weigh on private consumption, while concerns remain elevated over the economy's ability to finance its hefty external debt burden and the risks they pose to wider" macroeconomic stability.

RESPONSE

Nestle finds new way to make chocolate without adding sugar

BERN

NESTLE has found a way to create chocolate without adding any sugar, relying on leftover material from cocoa plants for sweetening as consumers look for natural and healthier fare.

The food company is using a patented technique to turn the white pulp that covers cocoa

beans into a powder that naturally contains sugar. This fall in Japan, Nestle will start selling KitKat bars with 70% dark chocolate under the new recipe, which doesn't include any added sugar, the Vevey, Switzerland-based firm said. Until now, the pulp has never been used as a sweetener for chocolate, and usually it's thrown out.

Nestle could use the same process to make milk or white chocolate in the future, Alexander von Maillot, head of Nestle's confectionery business, said in a phone interview.

The food and beverage industry is under pressure from consumers and governments alike to make healthier products amid rising obesity and diabetes rates. Nestle's move may

bolster its position as a leader in the industry, and it comes three years after finding a way to alter the structure of sugar to make it sweeter food more in lower quantities. The world's largest food company plans to use the pulp technique for other confectionery brands in additional countries next year.

Nestle's new 70% dark chocolate will have as

much as 40% less sugar than most equivalent bars with added sugar. Nestle's existing dark chocolate KitKats have 12.3 grams of sugar per serving.

The sugar reduction is incidental, not a focus," de Maillot said. "It's more about a novel way to produce chocolate and use the best of the cocoa pod."



Tongaat's CEO, Gavin Hudson

DIGITISATION

Tongaat CEO seeks to freeze payments on R11bn of debt

DURBAN

TONGAAT Hulett is asking 10 lenders for a break from payments on as much as 11 billion rand (\$790 million) of debt so it can recover from the impact of having to restate accounts, according to Chief Executive Officer Gavin Hudson.

The embattled South African sugar maker is spending about R1bn a year servicing the borrowings and is looking to negotiate a freeze by the end of July, Hudson said in an interview at Tongaat's 19th century Durban headquarters, an old farmhouse surrounded by sugarcane fields. The company is in the process of selling assets and cutting costs to strengthen the balance sheet, he said.

"Tongaat is not a quick fix, but we are considering all options," said Hudson, a former SABMiller executive who took the top job in February. "We could potentially generate about R800 million to R1

billion on disposals, depending on a few things, including getting the right buyers," he said.

Hudson's task is to rescue a company that asked for its shares to be suspended in June after finding that financial results for the year through March 2018 can't be relied on. Tongaat has said South African police are investigating an unnamed former executive for his role in the crisis, which involved booking profit on certain transactions before they were finalised, two people with knowledge of the matter said last month. Tongaat Shares Suspended After Slump

The crisis at the sugar maker bears some resemblance to the financial crisis that has engulfed South African retailer Steinhoff International Holdings NV, albeit on a smaller scale.

The owner of Pep stores throughout Africa and a stake in Mattress Firm of the US is stuck in critical talks with lenders

some 19 months after the scandal broke, and says a group of employees led by ex-CEO Markus Jooste inflated profits and asset values.

Tongaat's Hudson and his team meet daily in a "war room" to discuss the restructuring of core businesses including sugar, starch and property-development units, he said.

"We have been implementing cost cuts, from reducing head count to the sheets of paper being used in the printers," the CEO said. Tongaat isn't yet planning a rights offering, though that option is always on the table, he said.

The overall headcount will be reduced by about 2%, or as many as 600 people, mainly by removing layers of management and closing offices in South Africa, Hudson said. Businesses identified for disposal include packing plants in Botswana and Namibia and game farms in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, he said.

RELAXATION

US firms may be allowed to restart Huawei sales in weeks

NEW YORK

THE US may approve licences for companies to re-start new sales to Huawei in as little as two weeks, according to a senior US official, in a sign President Donald Trump's recent effort to ease restrictions on the Chinese company could move forward quickly.

Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker, was added to a Commerce Department list in May that prohibits US companies from supplying it with new American-made goods and services unless they obtain licences that will likely be denied.

But late last month, after meeting with Chinese president Xi Jinping, Mr Trump announced American firms could sell products to Huawei. And in recent days, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said licenses would be issued where there is no threat to national security.

Mr Trump's reversal, and rapid implementation by the Commerce Department, suggests chip industry lobbying, coupled with Chinese political pressure, may well reignite US technology sales to Huawei.

Two US chip makers who supply Huawei said in recent days they would apply for more licenses after Mr Ross' comments. They asked to remain anonymous. A customer response management company and a firm that simulates

cross-sectional radar for Huawei are also likely to file applications in the coming days, according to Craig Ridgley, a trade compliance consultant in Washington.

Out of \$70 billion that Huawei spent buying components in 2018, some \$11bn went to US firms including Qualcomm, Intel and Micron Technology. "Since there's no downside, companies are absolutely submitting applications, as required by the regulations," said Washington lawyer Kevin Wolf, a former Commerce Department official.

A Huawei spokesman said "the Entity list restrictions should be removed altogether, rather than have temporary licenses applied for US vendors. Huawei has been found guilty of no relevant wrongdoing and represents no cybersecurity risk to any country so the restrictions are unmerited.

US companies can currently sell goods in order to maintain existing networks and provide software updates



US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

to existing Huawei handsets, but are prohibited from making new sales of American-made goods and services.

Furthermore, not all US sales to Huawei hinge on government approvals of licence requests. Some US chip makers sales to Huawei

may not need licences because their products could be beyond the scope of US export controls since many are manufactured abroad with few US components.

US officials have sought to clarify the new policy in recent weeks, saying they will allow sales of non-sensitive technology readily available abroad if national security is protected. But they have also reiterated that Huawei remains on the entity list, and relief would be temporary.

The US semiconductor industry has been lobbying for broader relief, arguing that US security goals should be advanced in a way that does not undermine the ability to compete globally and retain technological leadership. Suppliers want to be allowed to provide customer service support for chips they build and sell overseas, or the approval to ship new American-made equipment to Huawei and its subsidiaries

around the world. Still, it is unclear which products will be granted licences. Some US suppliers sought clarity at a conference the Commerce Department held in Washington this week. One manufacturer's representative was told by the senior US official that licences could be granted in two to four weeks at the conference on Thursday.

The person, who did not want to be identified, said the official did not delineate the criteria for licence approvals, but she came away believing they would be made on a case-by-case basis, at least at first, as the agency seeks to form more broad opinions. When asked about the guidance from the senior official, a Commerce Department spokesman said the agency is "currently evaluating all licenses and determining what is in the nation's best national security interest."

ACQUISITION

British private equity firm Actis due to manage two Abraaj funds

LONDON

BRITISH private equity firm Actis acquired the rights to manage two funds previously run by the now defunct buyout firm Abraaj, the company said on Monday.

Actis, which manages \$12 billion in assets, had been manoeuvring since January to take over Abraaj's funds and said it was invited to step in to provide a solution that was acceptable to investors, known as Limited Partners (LPs), of the two funds and liquidators of Abraaj.

"We are pleased that investors have entrusted us with the stewardship of their portfolio and our focus is now on delivering on our plan to drive value on their behalf," Andrew Newington, Actis' chief investment officer said in a statement.

Under the agreement, Actis is taking over the management rights of the \$1.6 billion Abraaj Private Equity Fund IV and Abraaj Africa Fund III, it said in a statement. The deal includes investments in 14 portfolio companies across the two funds, bolstering Actis' operations in Africa and the Middle East.

Abraaj Africa Fund III focuses on investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Abraaj's APEF IV, also known as Fund 4 or Fund IV was set up to invest in greenfield projects, privatisations, growth

capital opportunities and buyouts in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and the Levant region.

Arif Naqvi, the founder of Abraaj and five other senior executives of the firm are alleged to have raided Fund 4 to plug shortfalls, obligations and meet due payments, according to an indictment issued by the US Southern District of New York. The 78-page charge sheet claims the largest target of Abraaj's systematic misappropriation of investor money was Fund 4. According to legal documents seen by The National, Abraaj allegedly misused as much as \$300 million from the fund.

Investors in Fund IV included members of royal families in the Arab world, high-net-worth individuals, pension funds, US banks, Hamilton Lane and Falcon Flight among others.

Abraaj, which claimed to have managed almost \$14bn in funds, was forced into liquidation in June of last year after a group of investors, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Opic), a US government agency, commissioned an audit to investigate the alleged mismanagement of money in its \$1bn healthcare fund.



Andrew Newington, Actis' chief investment officer

REGULATION

Facebook to wait for green light before launching currency Libra

WASHINGTON

FACEBOOK said on Monday it would not proceed with the launch of its Libra cryptocurrency until regulatory concerns are addressed, as the US Treasury secretary took the unusual step on of saying he had serious concerns it could be used for illicit activity.

David Marcus, who oversees Facebook's blockchain efforts, planned to tell Congress that Libra is not being built to compete with traditional currencies or interfere with monetary policy.

"The Libra Association, which will manage the [Libra] Reserve, has no intention of competing with any sovereign currencies or entering the monetary policy arena," Mr Marcus was due to say on Tuesday, according to prepared testimony released by the Senate Banking Committee. "Monetary policy is properly the province of central banks."

"Facebook will not offer the Libra digital currency until we have fully addressed regulatory concerns and received appropriate approvals," he said.



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

I T V

SATURDAY 13 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 12:00 Mapishi
- 12:30 Series rpt: Iris
- 14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko
- 15:15 Igizo rpt: Ahadi
- 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
- 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Ahadi
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
- 21:30 Kesho Leo
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

SUNDAY 14 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidíngo
- 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
- 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: More than pain
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Mjue zaidi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:00 Bongo Movie: More than pain 2
- 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

MONDAY 15 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Igizo: Ahadi
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Kimya Milele
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 HABARI
- 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Kesho Leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:00 Insta Bet
- 22:15 Series: Iris
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 16 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Shamsham za pwani
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Shamsham za pwani
- 11:25 Igizo: Mtego
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Series rpt: Iris
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru

- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 The great queen Seonduk
- 19:00 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Tanzania yetu
- 21:30 Chetu ni chetu
- 22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 17 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Korean: The Great queen-Seonduk
- 11:15 Jagina
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
- 13:00 Dakika 45
- 14:00 Series rpt
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Igizo rpt: Ahadi
- 19:00 Ijue Sheria
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
- 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Uongozi
- 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 22:15 Series: Iris
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 18 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu

- 10:30 Igizo: Kivuko
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Igizo: Kivuko
- 11:15 Kipindi maalum: Uongozi
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 13:30 Tanzania yetu
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Series rpt: Iris
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 19 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 14:15 Series rpt: Iris
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima joto

SATURDAY 20 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mashindano ya kimataifa ya karate- live
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Ahadi
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
- 21:30 Kesho Leo
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

SUNDAY 21 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Mashindano ya kimataifa ya karate- live
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:00 Bongo Movie: Tanzaniaite
- 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

WORLD

Over 820 million people hungry in 2018 - UN report

UNITED NATIONS

WORLD hunger is on the rise in absolute number and more than 820 million people were hungry in 2018, a UN report said on Monday.

After decades of steady decline, the trend in world hunger, as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment, reverted in 2015, said "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019" report launched at the UN headquarters in New York.

While the ratio remained largely unchanged in the past three years at slightly below 11 percent, the absolute number of people who suffer from hunger slowly increased, reaching 821.6 million in 2018, it said.

The 2018 figure compared with 811.7 million people in 2017, 796.5 million people in 2016 and 785.4 million people in 2015.

The report was produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organ-

ization (WHO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme.

According to FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva who spoke at the launch, this year, the report used a new indicator - the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) - to measure the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity.

While severe food insecurity is associated with hunger, people experiencing moderate food insecurity face uncertainties about their ability to obtain food and have been forced to compromise on the quality or quantity of their food.

FIES shows an estimated 2 billion people have experienced moderate or severe levels of food insecurity, amounting to 26.4 percent of the world population.

In a geographic breakdown, hunger is on the rise in almost all subregions of Africa, where the prevalence of undernourishment has reached 22.8 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. The



Jose Graziano da Silva (R), Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), holds a copy of the newly launched report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019", at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday. (Xinhua)

Caribbean also sees a high level of hunger, which stands at 18.4 percent.

In Asia, despite great progress in the last five years, Southern Asia is still the subregion where the prevalence of undernourishment is highest, at almost 14.7 percent, followed by Western Asia, at over 12.4 percent.

Looking across regions, the undernourished population is distributed unevenly, with the majority living in Asia - more than 500 million. The number has been increasing steadily in Africa, where it reached almost 260 million people in 2018, with more than 90 percent living in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the launch of the report, UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said, "Using new data from UNICEF and WHO, we were able to report for the first time on low birthweight, which is a key risk factor for death, as well as stunting, lower IQ and a higher risk of being overweight, obese and one day developing heart disease or

diabetes."

The report said one in seven newborns, or 20.5 million babies globally, suffered from low birthweight in 2015, and no progress has been made in reducing low birthweight since 2012.

Moreover, the number of children under five years affected by stunting, by contrast, has decreased by 10 percent in the past six years, but still 149 million children are stunted.

Hunger is on the rise globally, and so is obesity in almost all countries, contributing to 4 million deaths globally, the report said.

The prevalence of overweight is increasing in all age groups, with particularly steep increases among school-age children and adults.

One reason behind the trend, the report said, is that most school-age children do not eat enough fruit or vegetables, regularly consume fast food and carbonated soft drinks, and are not physically active on a daily basis.

Xinhua

Plan for economic zones to aid foreign companies' growth

CHINA released a document to guide the development of National Economic and Technological Development Zones, vowing to introduce more high-quality foreign investors to the zones and give them support in access and financing, another solid move to realize the country's reform and opening-up commitment amid an escalating China-US trade war.

It vowed to improve the quality of investment in the development zones and give priority to multinational companies' regional headquarters, research and development (R&D), finance, procure-

ment, sales, logistics, settlement and other functional institutions, read a document on the website of the State Council, China's Cabinet, on May 28.

China currently has a total of 219 National Economic and Technological Development Zones, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

Dong Dengxin, director of the Financial Securities Institute at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology, told the Global Times on May 28 that the move, which marks a new round opening-up and development of China's National Economic and Technological

Development Zones, is in line with the nation's financial opening-up policy and industrial upgrading efforts. "Before, we mainly attracted foreign companies seeking low-cost labor in these areas. Now, as China aims for high-quality economic development, its focus has turned to R&D centers and high-technology foreign companies," Dong said, adding that simplified application procedures will also attract more foreign capital.

From release of a shortened negative list to offering foreign investors pre-established national treatment, China's opening-up pace is

picking up, Dong said.

Foreign investment projects will be given preferential policies in accordance with law, the document said. Local governments will get more autonomy to provide support for private capital and foreign investors in access, investment, financing and service facilitation, according to the document.

China is set to open its market wider to the world, and unswervingly push forward its high-quality development model, no matter how much pressure the US will exert on China, Dong said.

According to the document, Chi-

na will also release differentiated polices in the development zones in the midwest and northeast areas of the country, and it will offer more support to foreign companies that undertake certain projects and play significant roles in perfecting industry chains in these areas.

"In this way, some labor-intensive industries in eastern cities could be transferred to the less-developed areas. With their low labor costs and cheap land prices, they would be better choices than Vietnam and India to take over these industries," Dong said.

Global Times

Japan sees no talks soon on its export curbs to ROK

TOKYO / SEOUL

JAPAN doesn't see a quick resumption of talks with the Republic of Korea (ROK) on export restrictions for materials vital to its tech sector, as a deadline approaches for Tokyo to step up curbs on its neighbor.

Economy Minister Hiroshige Seko told reporters yesterday that export controls were not a matter for international organizations.

His comments came the day after ROK President Moon Jae-in called for jointly commissioning an investigation by an international organization, saying Japan had chosen materials needed for "the core elements of the Korean economy's competitiveness."

Japanese Prime Minister



Shinzo Abe's government has said its move stems from concerns about ROK's control over sensitive materials and that it could make a decision as soon as July 24 on whether to remove Seoul from a so-called "white list" of trusted export countries treated as presenting no risk of weapons proliferation.

The first face-to-face discussions between Japan and ROK about the export controls on Friday exposed deep divides between the two US allies, with each side providing dif-

fering accounts of what was said.

ROK has been stepping up pressure on Japan to withdraw the newly imposed trade controls, which require approvals for all sales of certain materials used in many high-tech products.

Moon said Monday the measure threatens to shatter economic cooperation between the neighbors and could damage Japan more than ROK. Moon accused Japan of abusing its leverage in trade to punish ROK over their historical dispute.

The Abe government argues it must impose new licensing requirements on ROK purchases of three specialty production materials to ensure they don't fall into the wrong hands.

Japan says the three ma-

terials subject to its export control measure can only be sent to trustworthy trading partners. Japanese officials have suggested there may have been transfers of sensitive materials from ROK to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a violation of UN sanctions on the DPRK. Seoul has dismissed as groundless such a view and proposed a UN investigation on it.

Seko rejected Moon's comments. "From the beginning it was clearly stated that this review was for national security purposes, to appropriately implement export controls," Seko told reporters. "It has been consistently explained from the beginning that this is not a countermeasure and yesterday's remark from President Moon was not on point."

Agencies

'No cooperation or business dealings' with US companies involved in arms sales to Taiwan, says spokesperson

BEIJING

THE Chinese government and companies will not cooperate or have any business dealings with U.S. companies involved in arms sales to Taiwan, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday.

"Chinese people always honor their words with real actions," spokesperson Geng Shuang said at a press briefing without adding any further details on the sanctions.

China earlier said that it will impose sanctions on U.S. companies involved in arms sales to Taiwan following the United States' announcement of a plan to sell weapons worth 2.22 billion U.S. dollars to Taiwan.

The arms sales to Taiwan by the United States severely violated the international law, the basic norms of international relations, the one-China principle and the three joint communiques between China and the United States, and undermined China's sovereignty and national security, Geng said.

"In order to safeguard national interests, China will impose sanctions on U.S. companies involved in the arms sales to Taiwan," he added.

Xinhua

Kenyan forum sets stage for renewed African counter-terrorism strategy

NAIROBI

THE Pan African counter-terrorism summit in the Kenyan capital here set the stage for reorganization of initiatives aimed at containing a security threat that is rapidly evolving on the continent.

High-profile delegates who attended the forum from July 10 to 11, including United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, agreed that African countries must devise new strategies to revitalize the war against terrorism.



DANGEROUS Foothold

The UN chief said in his opening remarks that international terrorist networks continue to gain foothold in Africa, hence the need for concerted efforts to degrade them through adequate funding, political stability, rule of law and engagement of women and youth.

"For terrorism to be defeated, it is essential that African counter-terrorism is holistic, well-funded, underpinned by respect for human rights and most importantly backed by strong political will," said Guterres (pictured).

He hailed innovative counter-terrorism initiatives that focus on enhanced cross-border intelligence sharing and involvement of youth and women to educate communities on the dangers of violent extremism.

More than 1,497 delegates, including political leaders, policymakers, security experts and peace advocates, attended the Nairobi forum to discuss best practices that should be adopted to re-energize the fight against terrorism in Africa.

Kenyatta said Africa must speak boldly and with one voice, adding that African countries should leverage robust military campaigns, good governance, inclusive development and empowerment programs tailor made for vulnerable demographics in order to win the fight against terrorism.

"These measures require extensive support in terms of funding, logistics, legal frameworks and multilateral cooperation," said Kenyatta, adding that African countries should deploy more resources to counter recruitment of youth by militant groups.

He said that grassroots-based campaigns against violent extremism as well as empowerment of vulnerable youth through education, skill development and employment, are key to containing the spread of violent ideologies in Africa.

Kenya partnered with the UN to convene the Pan African forum, in a bid to chart a new beginning in the war against terrorism and violent extremism that have wreaked havoc on a continent hailed as the next frontier for growth and transformation.

AFRICAN SOLUTION

Vladimir Voronkov, under-secretary-general of the UN Counter-Terrorism Office, said the forum injected fresh momentum to promote an African-led solution to a security challenge that transcends borders.

"The conference demonstrated the importance of African-led and African-owned counter-terrorism efforts that are strengthened by the solidarity and collective responsibility of the international community," said Voronkov.

He said the UN will help African countries strengthen their capacity to disrupt terrorism financing and recruitment of fighters through early detection.

Voronkov said the UN is mulling the establishment of an inter-agency platform in Kenya and other African countries to facilitate the exchange of biometric data on foreign fighters.

"We intend to establish an annual counter-terrorism dialogue between the UN and African regional bodies to help initiate practical steps to address the scourge of terrorism," said Voronkov.

EMPOWERING YOUTH

African states should enhance sharing of best practices that are required to rejuvenate anti-terrorism fight against a backdrop of shrinking external support.

Policymakers and experts who attended the Nairobi summit said that successful and home-grown counter-terrorism strategies like community policing, cross-border intelligence sharing and robust action on illicit financial flows should be scaled up.

Martin Kimani, director of Kenya's National Counter-Terrorism Centre, said enhanced vigilance combined with punitive legislation and empowerment of disadvantaged youth should inform the next phase of the war against violent extremism in Africa.

"We should exhaust the legal, diplomatic and financial tools at our disposal to achieve the goal of an African continent that is resilient to the threat of terrorism and radicalization of its youth," said Kimani.

Unlike brute force, inclusivity, fidelity to the rule of law and access to equal opportunities could prove more effective in defeating terrorism in Africa, said Khamneje Hassan, director of the Horn International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Xinhua

Top Iran diplomat says talks on ballistic missiles possible

DUBAI

IRAN'S foreign minister has suggested for the first time that the Islamic Republic's ballistic missile programme could be up for negotiations with the US, a possible opening for talks as tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington over the collapsing nuclear deal.

Mohammad Javad Zarif offered an initially high price for such negotiations - the halt of American arms sales to both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, two key US allies in the Persian Gulf.

But the fact that he mentioned it at all potentially represents a change in policy. The country's ballistic missile program remains under control of the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which answers only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The comment comes as Iran continues its own high-pressure campaign over its nuclear program after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord over a year ago.

Recently, Iran has inched its uranium production and enrichment over the limits of its 2015 nuclear deal, try-

ing to put more pressure on Europe to offer it better terms and allow it to sell its crude oil abroad.

However, those tensions also have seen the US send thousands of additional troops, nuclear-capable B-52 bombers and advanced fighter jets into the Mideast. Mysterious attacks on oil tankers and Iran shooting down a US military surveillance drone has added to the fears of an armed conflict breaking out.

Zarif (pictured) brought up the ballistic missile offer during an interview with NBC News that aired Monday night as he's in New York for meetings



at the United Nations. He mentioned the UAE spending US\$22 billion and Saudi Arabia spending US\$67 billion on weapons last year, many of them American-made, while Iran spent only US\$16 billion in comparison.

"These are American weaponry that is going into our region, making our

region ready to explode," Zarif said. "So if they want to talk about our missiles, they need first to stop selling all these weapons, including missiles, to our region."

Trump during his time in the White House has pointed to arms sales to the Mideast as important to the American economy, so it remains unclear how he'd react to cutting into those purchases.

Zarif's comments marked the first time an Iranian official has mentioned even the possibility of talks on the Iranian missiles.

Since its 1979 Islamic Revolution

and the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran, Iran has faced a variety of economic sanctions. That has cut into Iran's ability to buy advanced weaponry abroad. While Gulf Arab nations have purchased advanced fighter jets, Iran still relies on pre-1979 US fighter jets, as well as other aging Soviet MiGs and other planes.

Facing that shortfall, Iran instead invested heavily into its ballistic missile program. That's both due to sanctions and the memory of the missile attacks launched by Saddam Hussein during Iran's bloody 1980s war with Iraq.

Agencies



Visitors watch robots dance at the China International Big Data Industry Expo in Guiyang, capital of Southwest China's Guizhou Province, on May 28, 2019. (File Photo)

Big data technology poised to boost BRI markets

A GROWING number of overseas and Chinese companies are strengthening cooperation in the big data industry under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as corporate representatives said the high-tech industry would offer them more opportunities and enable them to share the dividends of the digital economy.

During this year's China International Big Data Industry Expo in Guiyang, capital of Southwest China's Guizhou Province, domestic and foreign representatives told the Global Times on May 28 that the BRI, which was proposed in 2013, has entered a new stage, and they look forward to expanding cooperation to tech-driven sectors from traditional industries such as infrastructure.

Big data helps the logistics industry transform and upgrade and it is a vital contributor for the sector to go global, said Xu Qiang, vice president of Mangbang Group, an internet freight service provider based in Guizhou.

"Under the BRI, we have actively been cooperating with overseas enterprises. We are developing platforms in several foreign languages such as Vietnamese and Russian," Xu told the Global Times.

He said more cooperation in the global markets will come as the firm stands ready to cooperate and share data resources with overseas counterparts under data security rules prescribed by the Chinese government.

Embracing opportunities that have emerged from the BRI, China would like to make joint efforts with the world to drive global digital development in industries like the internet,

big data, artificial intelligence, cloud computing and smart cities, Wang Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, said Sunday, May 26 at the opening ceremony of the expo.

The country will also properly respond to challenges of big data development in law, security and governance to let more countries and people share the achievements of industrial growth, according to Wang.

"We are looking forward to pursuing cooperation in e-commerce business with Chinese companies," Petr Jiricek, business development manager of Czech-based Proficio, told the Global Times.

"It's my first time to come to Guiyang. We talked with some wine companies that agreed to cooperate with us," he said, noting that opportunities brought about by the growth of big data industry will drive more cooperation between Chinese and Czech companies.

Cooperation in the manufacturing sector under the BRI will be a focus between Chinese and overseas companies, Liu Yang, executive vice president of the Guizhou Chamber of Commerce in North America, told the Global Times.

Cooperation in big data and artificial intelligence can be brought to the BRI markets through manufacturing projects from Chinese firms, as many of them have applied such technology to enhance production and management, Liu said.

Global Times

Over 40 warships to take part in Russia's Main Naval Parade

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Main Naval Parade in St. Petersburg and Kronshadt on July 28 will involve 43 warships, 41 aircraft and more than 4,000 personnel, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said at the ministry's conference call yesterday.

"It [the parade] will take place in St. Petersburg and Kronshadt on July 28, on Navy Day. It will involve 43 combat ships and 41 aircraft furnished with the latest armament. More than 4,000 servicemen and Young Army Movement members will be involved," the defense chief said.

Naval parades will also take place



at the main naval bases of the Russian Fleets and the Caspian Flotilla in Severomorsk, Baltiysk, Sevastopol, Vladivostok and Astrakhan, and also in the Syrian port of Tartus, Shoigu said.

"Overall, more than 150 combat

ships of various classes, about 80 planes and over 15,000 personnel are set to take part [in naval parades]," the defense minister said.

An increasing number of foreign guests attend Russia's naval parades with each passing year, Shoigu said.

This time, 26 foreign delegations will attend the naval celebrations. China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines will send their combat ships to Russia's naval parades, the defense chief said.

The military orchestras of Thailand and Vietnam will also take part in Russia's naval celebrations. They will perform together with the consolidated orchestra of the Russian Navy.

Agencies

Membership milestone is world's vote of confidence in AIIB

BEIJING

THE Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has expanded its membership to 100 with the approval of the African newcomers of Benin, Djibouti and Rwanda at the fourth annual meeting of the bank's board of governors held in Luxembourg over the weekend.

The fact that the AIIB has almost doubled its membership in just three years is a vote of confidence of the international community for the multilateral financing body's efforts to boost sustainable development worldwide.

Asia now faces an estimated 8-trillion-U.S. dollar investment gap for infrastructure, according to the Asian Development Bank. The AIIB is designed to help fill that huge funding gap for developing countries worldwide.

Since the start of its operation in January 2016, the China-initiated global lending body, with a focus on empowering sustainable infrastructure development and boosting cross-border connectivity in Asia and beyond, has approved 46 projects worth 8.5 billion dollars in 18 members, like improving urban infrastructure and services in slums of Indonesia, and upgrading power system in Bangladesh.

As the bank is striving to deliver its promise, it is also working hard to live up to its commitment to the highest standards of governance, enhanced transparency and accountability. When assessing investment goals, the bank has, as always, taken three factors into consideration: financial viability, ecological sustainability and the projects' potential to improve living standards.

To make sure that the loans go to where they should be, the institution has been devoted to supervising the use of funds and offering assistance to curb corruption. It has also been trying to reach the high bar of boosting development while protecting the environment at the same time.

As a result, Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch, all three of the world's leading rating agencies, have rewarded the AIIB with triple-A ratings for two consecutive years in 2017 and 2018.

In the eyes of many Western critics, the AIIB was born a rival for the post-war West-led global financial arrangement, whose pillar bodies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are still playing a key role in providing loans and kick-starting development around the world.

The AIIB intends not to overturn or replace the current rules-based international financial governing system, but to render it more effective and resourceful, and integrate itself as part of the global system.

While the IMF and the World Bank have voiced their support for the bank and want to join its efforts, the AIIB has also been trying to accomplish its goals through close cooperation with other banking institutions and private sectors, like the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Xinhua

Renewing racist criticism, Trump says many agree with him

WASHINGTON

DEFIANT In the face of widespread criticism, US President Donald Trump renewed his belligerent call for four Democratic congresswomen of color to get out of the US "right now," cementing his position as the most willing US leader in generations to stoke the discord that helped send him to the White House.

Content to gamble that a sizable chunk of the electorate embraces his tweets that have been widely denounced as racist, the president made clear that he has no qualms about exploiting racial divisions once again.

"It doesn't concern me because many people agree with me," Trump said Monday at the White House. "A lot of people love it, by the way."

The episode served notice that Trump is willing to again rely on incendiary rhetoric on issues of race and immigration to preserve his political base in the leadup to the 2020 election.

There was near unanimous condemnation from Democrats for Trump's comments and a rumble of discontent from a subset of Republicans – but notably not from the party's congressional leaders.

Republican Sen Mitt Romney of Utah, the party's White House nominee in 2012 and now one of the president's most vocal GOP critics, said Trump's comments were "destructive, demeaning, and disunifying."

Far from backing down, Trump on Monday dug in on comments he had initially made a day earlier on Twitter that if lawmakers "hate our country," they can go back to their "broken and crime-infested" countries.

His remarks were directed at four congresswomen: Reps Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. All are American citizens and three of the four were born in the US.

"If you're not happy in the US, if you're complaining all the time, you can leave, you can leave right now," he said.

The president's words, which evoked the trope of telling black people to go back to Africa, may have been partly meant to widen the divides within the House Democratic caucus, which has



US Rep Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY, speaks as, from left, Rep Rashida Tlaib, D-Mic., Rep Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., and Rep Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass, listen during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington on Monday. (AP)

been riven by internal debate over how best to oppose his policies.

And while Trump's attacks brought Democrats together in defense of their colleagues, his allies noted he was also having some success in making the controversial progressive lawmakers the face of their party.

The president questioned whether Democrats should "want to wrap" themselves around this group of four people as he recited a list of the quartet's most controversial statements.

The four themselves fired back late Monday, condemning what they called "xenophobic bigoted remarks" from the president and renewing calls for their party to begin impeachment proceedings.

Trump "does not know how to defend his policies and so what he does is attack us personally," said Ocasio-Cortez.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who said Trump's campaign slogan truly means he wants to "make America white again," announced Monday that the House would vote on a resolution condemning his new comments.

The resolution "strongly condemns President Donald Trump's racist comments" and says they "have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color."

The Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, said his party would also try to force a vote in the GOP-controlled chamber.

Trump, who won the presidency in 2016 in part by energizing disaffected

voters with inflammatory racial rhetoric, made clear he has no intention of backing away from that strategy in 2020.

"The Dems were trying to distance themselves from the four 'progressives,' but now they are forced to embrace them," he tweeted Monday afternoon. "That means they are endorsing Socialism, hate of Israel and the USA! Not good for the Democrats!"

Trump has faced few consequences for such attacks in the past. They typically earn him cycles of wall-to-wall media attention. He is waging that his most steadfast supporters will be energized by the controversy as much, or if not more so, than the opposition.

"It's possible I'm wrong," Trump allowed Monday. "The voters will decide."

The president has told aides that he was giving voice what many of his supporters believe – that they are tired of people, including immigrants, disrespecting their country, according to three Republicans close to the White House who were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Trump on Monday singled out Omar, in particular, accusing her of having "hated" for Israel, and expressing "love" for "enemies like al-Qaida."

"These are people that, in my opinion, hate our country," he said.

Omar, in an interview, once laughed about how a college professor had spoken of al-Qaida with an intensity she said was not used to describe "America," "England" or "The Army." Agencies

Kremlin says Putin's conversation with Macron not on agenda but can be quickly arranged

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has no plans yet to meet or to talk on the phone with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, Kremlin spokesman told reporters yesterday. He added that phone conversations can be arranged quite quickly and easily, if necessary.

"No meetings are being planned for the near future. As for [telephone] conversations, they can be arranged in a very short time frame - within some hours," the spokesman said.

On Monday, French President Emmanuel Macron said he was going to discuss Iran's compliance with the terms of the nuclear agreement with the country's president, Hassan Rouhani, and to hold talks on this topic with Russian and US Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump in the coming days.

According to the French President, the main thing today is "to preserve the nuclear agreement and create conditions for a useful dialogue with Iran not only on the nuclear dossier, but also on regional issues and ballistic [missile] is-

sues."

Iran nuclear deal

In 2015, Iran and six international mediators (the five member states of the United Nations Security Council - Russia, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and China - and Germany) agreed on the final Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for the Iranian nuclear program.

Tehran pledged to produce no weapons-grade plutonium, to have no more than 300 kg of uranium enriched to 3.67% for a period of fifteen years, reequip its nuclear facilities and use them exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Tensions over Iran's nuclear program exacerbated after Washington unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018 and slapped US economic sanctions on Iran's oil exports.

Exactly one year later, Rouhani stated that Tehran suspended part of its obligations under the nuclear deal and gives other participants two months to return to its implementation.

Agencies

CHINA'S financial supply-side reform and opening-up, which the government is committed to pushing forward amid a complex internal and external environment, is the key in elevating the industry's global competitiveness, mitigating global uncertainty and sustaining the Chinese economy, regulatory authorities and industry insiders said at the Tsinghua PBCSF Global Finance Forum 2019.

Supply-side reform key to competitiveness

Tsinghua University PBC School of Finance (PBCSF) was the organizer of the forum.

"China is facing a more complicated internal and external environment now, but uncertainties also come with opportunities... China needs to continue opening up and opening up further, which not only mirrors our responsibility [as a world major powerhouse] but also could serve as a driver in the sustainable development of Chinese economy," Zhang Xiaohui, dean of the Tsinghua PBCSF, said at the forum's opening ceremony.

The high-level forum, themed "financial supply-side reform and opening-up", was held in Beijing from May 25 to May 26, aiming to collect suggestions from domestic and foreign scholars to contribute wisdom on the hot issues of China's financial reform.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, Qiu Yong, president of Tsinghua University, said China is on a historic mission to widen the opening-up of the financial sector in two ways: enhance the global competitiveness of China's financial sector and improve its capabilities to participate in global financial governance.

So far, China's financial opening-up has achieved fruitful results in such sectors as shareholdings of foreign entities, setting up new institutions, expanding business scope, bank

card clearing, credit rating and nonbank payment, Chen Yulu, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, China's central bank, said at the forum, while detailing China's commitments in widening financial opening-up.

But there is sustainable room for further policy maneuvering, industry insiders pointed out.

Currently, foreign investment only accounts for 2 percent of China's A-share market and 2.9 percent of the country's bond market while foreign-invested banks represent a mere 1.6 per-

cent of all commercial banks in terms of assets, and foreign insurance companies make up 5.8 percent, said Guo Shuqing, chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, in a speech prepared for the forum.

Echoing Guo's opinion, an industry report issued at the forum also showed that China is a country with a big financial base, but it is not yet a financial power.

As of the end of 2018, China's financial industry had assets of 268.24 trillion yuan (\$38.92 tril-

lion), and the added value of the financial industry accounted for 7.68 percent of GDP, ranking relatively high on the global stage, according to the China Financial Policy Report 2019. But still, the scale of financial services trade is quite small in China, with a persistent trade deficit, and the financial markets at home and abroad have not been fully connected, the report showed.

Meanwhile, China's financial system's supervision system, market structure, innovation and service level are not in line with the high-quality develop-

ment demand of its economy, Zhang said. "Only by accelerating the agenda of supply-side reform could those problems be solved."

Future measures
"China's financial opening is a general trend which won't be paused or reversed," said Guo.

He noted that foreign-invested institutions that have sound market reputation and credit records and that specialize in risk management and control, credit rating, consumer finance, old-age insurance and health insurance are especially welcomed in China to help innovate financial products and spur market vitality.

Global Times



Former senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, head coach, Emmanuel Amunike

TFF believes coach Amunike had no ammunition or faith in Taifa Stars

By Michael Eneza

ANGUISH was visible in some circles at the precipitated departure of ex-Taifa Stars head coach Emmanuel Amunike, but it is hard to say it was a surprise, given the way organizational football at club or national team level often 'restarts' after a tournament debacle.

Letting the head coach leave is testimonial to lack of faith in his ability to turnaround the team, to reach a different level of performance, and on the other hand, simply a penalty for poor performance. In the current set up, it is easier to believe that the issue is penalty rather than turnaround strategy, as that is far off.

There is a pending game against Kenya that is likely to serve as a warm up match to take a hard look at Taifa Stars, with a new technical bench that is at least blameless, of individuals who up to now have put up credible performances in their stations of engagement.

That includes interim head coach Etienne Ndayiragije and assistants Suleiman Matola and Juma Mgunda, where it is the new coach who appears to have a sort of clean sheet in his coaching experience so far.

The others are being brought up, or promoted as possible stand in for a future leading role in the side.

Despite some sort of impressive role in leading regional sides including current stint with Azam

FC, strictly speaking Ndayiragije is way below any professional standing in comparison with the CV of the former head coach. For instance views differ as to how far playing at the top level is a plus for coaching, and indeed what the books say about individual soccer ability and the capacity to coach.

Playing soccer is in the first place instinctive so there is a world of difference as to how someone who knows the game from the inside looks at players, assesses their relative strengths.

Still, the fact that so many people who have not played at premier league level, let alone the national side lead clubs and make decisions on registration suggests that clarity about the game or players does not depend on playing abilities.

Other factors come into play, for instance the capacity to sympathize rather than criticize, or ability to push players to work harder rather than go at their own pace.

Ability to coach is also an interactive engagement between a coach - and a foreign expert for that matter - and how he perceives his environment, not just imposing his will.

If one may hazard a personal assessment

of Amunike, the preliminary point is that he is not the sort of coach to push players with shouting and jumping on the sidelines, or for that matter in his coaching, presumably.

He is of quiet demeanor, which means he offers counsel to a player as to how to approach his task, but things like the player's fitness level and social outings would in that sense scarcely occupy his mind.

Such matters are cultural at base, where a player has an environment to please or enchant and from which he tests appreciation on a day to day level, etc.

But when it comes to the strict business of whether Amunike was a success or a failure, the issue is the usual story of a half full versus a half empty cup, in which case for those who appreciate the fact that he is the first coach to take the national sides to the finals, take the matter as a half full cup.

Those who focus on not having obtained a point in the three matches in the finals are drawn to a half empty cup, and they constitute the top decision makers at the Tanzania Football Federation. But the minister, Harrison Mwakymbe appeared to have his substantial reservations.

In that sense it is an open field as one can't insist on TFF being wrong on that point as even the former head coach knows that in football there is always the need to restart, sweep the board and put the chips into place again.

Ordinarily it is the coach who takes the blame, and at most he may earn auxiliary payments for breach of contract or termination ahead of schedule, as coaching is a job in which one is hired in order to be fired. One scarcely retires, like genius Sir Alex Ferguson.

One thing that even the minister may agree, for lack of a more visible public personality who has expressed misgivings about the sacking of Amunike, is that the Nigerian coach did not have much on his sleeves that can turn around Taifa Stars.

If the issue is candid soccer counsel that enables players to realize their potential, he did that well that is why they succeeded to make it to the finals, cahn caha, but if it is to put in new discipline, training systems and perhaps discipline, that is a different matter altogether.

The trouble is that this may not be the TFF angle all the same but putting in place a local coach, they call him an indigenous coach, where all sorts of trouble could soon be coming our way, restart at the bottom or remain there.

The French would say the sacking of Amunike opens the way to a storm, 'Bonjour les degats,' welcome to the mayhem!

Tanzania's CHAN squad: Winners, losers from Ndayiragije's

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TAIFA Stars face the Harambee Stars in the first round of the African Nations Championship for home based players on July 28, with the second leg set for August 4 in Nairobi.

Interim head coach Etienne Ndayiragije has named his Taifa Stars squad and there were a number of surprise decisions. We look at the winners and losers from the Burundian gaffer first Taifa Stars squad selection.

Winner: Paul Ngalema

In the past many Tanzanians fans and critics have accused coaches for picking players based on the clubs they play for rather than form. But Paul Ngalema is proof that Ndayiragije does pay attention to those outside the biggest clubs in the Tanzanian Premier League.

The former Simba defender has been in very good form for Lipuli, playing his part in the Iringa based relative success that saw them reach the Federation Cup final.

Ngalema who has since moved to newly promoted Namungo has a lot of competition for places in the Taifa Stars squad, but there is no telling what the well-built man could do if given a chance against Kenya.

Winner: Juma Kaseja

At 34, the goalkeeper probably assumed his international career was over but Ndayiragije who worked with him at KMC FC last season has handed



Senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars

the keeper an unlikely recall.

It is now seven years since the last time he was in between the posts for Tanzania - against Mozambique in an African Cup of Nations qualifier which ended in penalty shootout defeat - prior to the 2019 AFCON finals Ndayiragije had called for his inclusion but his predecessor, Emmanuel Amunike had other opinion.

In light of his 13 clean sheets last season Kaseja deserves this chance. Whether Ndayiragije will field start him ahead of the default number one, AishiManula is another matter.

Winner: Salim Aiyece

Sometimes good club form is not enough to earn you an international call-up. Sometimes you need a lucky break - or an injury to go your way. In Aiyece's case the absence of foreign based striker has helped his case this time.

With 18 strikers to his name last season, a tally that was only topped by Meddie Kagere, many followers of the league thought he at least deserved an inclusion in Amunike's provisional squad. This is his time to prove his doubters though he faces stiff competition from veteran John Bocco and the recalled Shaban Chilunda.

Winners: Tanzania fans

While many believe Ndayiragije is not a magician who will suddenly turn Taifa Stars into world beaters, they are still happy that he has included players that were marginalised by his predecessor.

Whether he genuinely sees them as very important or

not, Ndayiragije's decision to recall Ibrahim Ajib, Jonas Mkude, Salum Abubakary and a first call for Paul Godfrey has earned him public approval from all the three big clubs. Simba, Yanga and Azam have a combined total of 18 players in the squad.

Loser: Mohamed Hussein

Last season, Tshabalala, as the short and skilful defender is still fondly referred to by many despite dropping the nickname, fought for his place and became Simba number one choice at left-back while also earning a return to the Tanzania National set-up.

His exclusion at a crucial time when he faces a battle for a place with Gadiel Michael who has crossed over to Simba from Young Africans is a tricky affair. It could be a chance for him to strengthen the faith Simba coach Patrick Aussems has in him or could raise question mark on his ability as the first choice left full back for Simba.

Loser: Ally Mtoni

Tanzania football fans were left divided after Amunike chose Ally Abdulkarim Mtoni 'Sonso' in his Taifa Stars final squad for AFCON. The well-built defender inclusion and now exclusion is a big major talking point.

Perhaps he will unfortunately be remembered as the face of Amunike's controversial selection though his recent movement to Young Africans shows he is quite a good defender.

Dar now to host Kitenge fashion show Saturday



Director of Arts Development at Tanzania Arts Council (BASATA), Vivian Shalua (L), speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a fashion show for Kitenge attire which will be held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds on Saturday. Looking on (L-R) are Tanzania Federation of Arts and Crafts (TAFCA) president, Adrian Nyangamalle, and prominent fashion designer, Ally Rehemtullah. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT GETRUDE MPEZYA

By Guardian Reporter

A FASHION designing company Ally Rehemtullah, which is under prominent designer Ally Rehemtullah, in cooperation with Chinese firm, Hightech Wear and Flygle, is set to host a fashion show that will involve models and designers that will come up with various designs for Kitenge attire.

The show will take place at the Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Rehemtullah noted the show gears towards promoting Kitenge attire as well as strengthening cooperation

between Tanzania and China's people on fashion designing.

"This show will bring together almost 40 fashion designers that will showcase various Kitenge designs," he added.

"We have decided to cooperate with the Chinese Company in hosting this show as they are the major suppliers of the Kitenge attire in Tanzania and the rest of the continent."

He disclosed his firm has joined forces with the company to embark on the initiative in an effort to boost cooperation between fashion industry stakeholders in Tanzania and their counterparts that are outside the country.

"The Ally Rehemtullah Company feels this event will motivate people to embrace Kitenge attire, considering every

participant, ranging from tailors to Kitenge manufacturer from China, will speak to the press on Tanzania's creativity in Kitenge attire designing," he disclosed.

He noted the participants will moreover promote tourist attractions that are found in Tanzania.

Hightech Wear and Flygle Tanzania's spokesman, Aaron Tian Zhonghua, noted the firm, which has invested in various countries in Africa has opted to do the same in Tanzania.

Zhonghua disclosed they have as well chose to join forces with Rehemtullah to boost the fashion market via Kitenge attire.

Director of Arts Development at the Tanzania Arts Council (BASATA), Vivian Shalua, disclosed; "This show targets to motivate investors to open factories in the

country, as well as promoting and valuing Kitenge attire, which will be produced in various designs."

She noted the show moreover gears towards bringing designers closer to the Kitenge manufacturers from China, as well as giving the latter opportunity to learn more about Tanzania.

Vivian added China fashion industry stakeholders and other guests from various countries will attend the show.

The situation, she disclosed will go a long way in promoting Tanzania at the international level and help the society know the value of Kitenge attire, which is popular in Africa.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, will be the show's guest of honour.

Africa change World Cup qualifying format for 2022

CAIRO

AFRICAN teams will contest a final playoff round in their World Cup 2022 qualification campaign, a system last employed for the 2014 tournament, the Confederation of African Football has decided.

Qualifiers for the next World Cup in Qatar will be divided into three stages with two rounds of knockout ties on either side of league competition, officials said.

The 28 lowest ranked sides on the continent will first contest a knockout round over two legs, with the 14 winners advancing to the group stage.

The 28 include Madagascar, who reached the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals last week.

The winners will join the 26 highest ranked sides in a 40-team, 10-group pool phase that will be played over 18 months.

The group winners will then be drawn into five playoff ties over two

legs with the victors qualifying for the World Cup. The first leg is hosted by the lower ranked country.

For the 2018 finals in Russia, there were two preliminary rounds to cut the field down to 20 countries, who then contested the five places for Africa in a group competition.

The changes come despite no alteration in the number of World Cup places for African teams.

FIFA have left each continental confederation to decide its qualifying format for the 2022 World Cup and set its own date for the preliminary round draw.

CAF have not announced the date of draw but officials told Reuters on Monday it would be in Cairo at the end of the month.

Africa's World Cup qualifiers will overlap with qualifiers for the next Africa Cup of Nations in 2021 but a suggestion to combine them was rejected by CAF's executive committee.

REUTERS

VAR causes handball confusion in Nations Cup

CAIRO

THE introduction of the VAR has brought confusion to the Africa Cup of Nations with Algeria's coach saying he cannot understand what constitutes accidental or intentional handball after three contentious incidents in the semi-finals.

Algeria's 2-1 win over Nigeria and Senegal's 1-0 extra-time victory over Tunisia both featured handball incidents, one of which has led to Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly - one of Africa's top players - missing Friday's final through suspension.

VAR has only been used since the quarter-finals of the competition and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has brought in two European referees to support the system based on their experience with it.

"We had a meeting before the tournament with the referees and they explained to us more or less how it works. I still don't understand the decisions...handball, whether it's voluntary or not voluntary, this is what I don't understand today," Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi said.

Algeria were leading Nigeria 1-0

when Oghenekaro Etebo's shot struck Aissa Mandi's arm.

Play continued for nearly one minute before there was a break, the incident was reviewed and Nigeria were awarded a penalty which Odion Ighalo converted nearly four minutes after the offence took place.

Mandi did not seem to move his arm and may have been sighted as he was standing behind Ighalo who ducked at the last minute.

Meanwhile, Tunisia had one penalty awarded and one revoked for handball against Senegal, who were also given a penalty for a foul. Both spot-kicks were missed.

In the first incident, Ferjani Sassi's shot was blocked by Koulibaly who turned his back as he slid into the path of the shot which struck his elbow.

The referee awarded a penalty and booked the Napoli centre back who will miss the final through the accumulation of yellow cards.

However, when a Senegal player's headed clearance ricocheted off Idrissa Gueye's elbow in extra-time, the referee initially gave Tunisia another penalty before overturning his decision after reviewing video footage. **REUTERS**

Sunday Kayuni: Cursed AFC Leopards will never win the Kenyan Premier League title

KIGALI

TANZANIAN coach Sunday Kayuni has explained why AFC Leopards will go without winning the Kenyan Premier League (KPL) title.

Kayuni was the coach when Ingwe won their last KPL trophy in 1998 and since then the club have struggled to keep up with rivals Gor Mahia taking the lion's share of KPL titles.

Without mincing words, Kayuni has now told Goal in an exclusive interview he cursed AFC Leopards when he was fired by the then chairman, the late Francis Chahonyo, adding they can only start winning titles if they apologise and pay him his outstanding arrears.

"It is true I cursed AFC Leopards and they will never win the KPL title again. Even if they sign Jose Mourinho or Pep Guardiola, they will not win the league," Kayuni told Goal at the on-going Cecafa tournament in Rwanda.

"I was fired like a dog and chased away and the pain I went through during that period was very hard to take. It was very unfortunate all this happened after I had helped the team to win the title and it will remain their only title."

Kayuni explains after winning the league crown in 1998, his moves to sign more players to beef up the squad were thwarted after the late Chahonyo allegedly duped the new players with bouncing cheques as sign-on fees.

"My intentions for AFC Leopards were very good, I joined the team after they had played four matches in the season and went on to guide them to the title finishing top while Mumias Sugar came second," continued Kayuni, who now works as a technical advisor for the Cecafa committee.

"With the league win giving us the chance to play in Caf Champions

League and also Cecafa tournament, I pleaded with the top officials at the club to sign more players.

"I settled for seven new signings but what happened next, all the players did not ever play for AFC Leopards as what they were paid for as sign-on fees did not reach their pockets, the cheques issued to them bounced.

"It was a difficult situation for me as I was forced to recall the other players whom I had already released. Some agreed to come back and others had already signed for other clubs.

"We went to Cecafa and drew all our three matches and thus bowed out of the tournament. And this is where the problem started as Chahonyo demanded to know why we had failed to make it from the group stages.

"Despite my explanation, Chahonyo decided to fire me on the spot and my efforts to get paid my dues never materialised as the same Chahonyo ordered for my arrest, saying the hotel I was putting in, I was yet to pay bills, and all this was previously being paid by the club.

"I was later arrested with orders from the club bosses and taken to a police station where I stayed for at least two days before the High Commissioner for Tanzania came to my rescue.

"When I came out of the cells, I tried again to push for my money but nothing came out, I decided to go back to Tanzania and cursed the team. They will remain without KPL trophy for as long as they don't apologise to me.

"It is a long story which I cannot explain to the end but for now my curse for the team still remains."

Ingwe will be seeking for a better outing when the Kenyan Premier League (KPL) season kicks off on August 31.

(Goal.com)

Despite thrilling games, why has Egypt not embraced AFCON?

By Nick Ames, ESPN.com writer

AT any other time, it might have been the moment that held the whole world's attention. In the final minute of Algeria's Africa Cup of Nations semifinal against Nigeria in Cairo, Riyad Mahrez stood over a free-kick 22 yards out, puffed out his cheeks, stepped back and prepared to make history...

The Manchester City forward whipped a vicious shot around the wall and into the top corner, giving his country a first appearance in the final since 1990 and sending the Algeria fans, many of whom had used every mode of transport imaginable to make it to the game, wild. Nigeria had no time to even restart the game.

It was outstanding drama; genuine knife-edge football won by an unforgettable intervention by a top Premier League player. Yet, even during a day when tennis (Wimbledon men's final), cricket (World Cup men's final) and other events (F1 grand prix) understandably jostled for attention, there was a sense Mahrez's bolt from the blue should have travelled further.

The knockout stages of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations have contained heart-stopping theatre, but the awkward question is: how many people really know about it?

The fact certainly seemed to escape most people in Cairo, a city of 20 million people who largely ignored Sunday's semifinals, despite Egypt only having been awarded the hosting rights six months ago. Official attendances are yet to be released but 30 June Stadium, where Senegal prevailed in their own gripping semifinal tussle with Tunisia via Dylan Bronn's extra-time own goal, was clearly 25% full at best; Cairo International Stadium - the 70,000 capacity venue where Mahrez worked his magic - was no more crowded despite the best efforts of those passionate Algerians.

It would have taken some supreme sleight of hand for the TV camera operators to hide the banks of empty seats and, for a tournament that is struggling to take a foothold in the news cycle, it was not a good look.

Friday night's final between Senegal and Algeria has all the ingredients to be a classic. Algeria, whose 10,000 fans from the semifinal will be bolstered by many more (some of whom may even charter boats across the Mediterranean Sea), may feel as if they are playing at home. But they will need the Egyptian public to help create an atmosphere - to make this



Algeria celebrate their win but there were large parts of the stadium empty. (Agencies)

appear like an occasion worth watching to the wider world. On present evidence the Local Organising Committee (LOC) faces a battle to fill the ground.

Nobody from the LOC was available for comment to ESPN on Monday morning but Egyptians have, throughout the past month, provided numerous anecdotal reasons for their reluctance to attend games.

Perhaps the most obvious is, of course, that their national team flopped in the round of 16, buckling under the pressure and falling to a limp defeat against an unremarkable South Africa side. Many fans had bought quarterfinal tickets but the majority stayed at home when Bafana Bafana, not Mohamed Salah and company, faced Nigeria.

But the gripes have been more widespread. Fans don't casually attend games outside those of their own nation. Travel around Africa is also expensive and difficult, making large visiting contingents the exception rather than the norm.

Any Egyptians who would have fancied taking in a game or two have faced battles many feel are insurmountable. Tickets for the final begin at \$30; semifinal tickets be-

gan at \$18. But the average monthly salary in the country is only around \$133 and it is a stretch to ask ordinary, working people to part with that kind of cash.

Prices earlier in the knockout stage began at \$12; better, but still requiring deep pockets. "The prices are far bigger than a typical Egyptian would pay to attend a football game, especially one not involving the national team," Fady Ashraf, a prominent local journalist tells ESPN FC. "It'd be a big, big chunk of money for them and it's the main reason for the low crowds."

Holding both semifinals on the same evening, at stadia 10km apart - Algeria's match beginning 40 minutes after Senegal vs. Tunisia - was hardly conducive to allowing supporters to binge on football either. Journalists looking to cover both games found that, at best, they were forced to miss the first half-hour of Algeria vs. Nigeria.

If the crowds outside either stadium had been bigger then the feat would have been impossible - and, even if fans had tried to dash between the two, the regimen of security checks required outside the second fixture would have kept them queuing out-

side throughout.

Then there is the Fan ID system, which is designed to ensure tickets are not touted and do not fall into the hands of troublemakers. It provides a series of hurdles completely unsuited to football in Africa, where sophisticated ticketing systems are rare, and entails a degree of bureaucracy and box-checking that puts off all but the most dedicated or web-literate.

"Many people have dealt with it but there has also been a degree of laziness that has put people off the process," Ashraf says. Objections have also been raised to the scale of personal detail required for supporters to sign up, in a country whose state feels omnipresent.

Speak to Egyptians on the street and the theories are endless: a common, and compelling, one is that the authorities would rather stadiums remained virtually empty than risk filling them with Ultras, given the football scene's tragic recent past. The scars of the Port Said tragedy in 2012 still run deep. Perhaps it is better, after all, to make sure the tournament runs smoothly even if the cost is a clutch of near-vacant stadia.

Senegal to miss stalwart Koulibaly in Cup of Nations final

CAIRO

SENEGAL moved a step closer to a maiden Africa Cup of Nations title with their semi-final victory on Sunday but will be without key defender Kalidou Koulibaly against Algeria in Friday's title decider.

The imposing centre back, who is regarded among the best in European club football, was cautioned for a second time in three matches after conceding a penalty in Sunday's 1-0 semi-final win over Tunisia in Cairo and will be suspended for the final.

"It's a shame we will be without Kalidou, he's vital in this team, a player who gives us a lot. We will also be playing for him," midfielder Pape Alioune Ndiaye told reporters after the extra-time triumph at the 30 June Stadium.

Koulibaly, who plays in Serie A for Napoli, was struck on the elbow by a fearsome shot by Ferjani Sassi as he turned his back, attempting to get his body in the way of the shot.

It was utter bad luck for the 28-year-old but there would have been a measure of relief when Sassi then botched the subsequent spot kick.

Minutes later Senegal missed a penalty of their own and the game then went into extra time where a bizarre own goal from Dylan Bronn settled a match distinguished by the high number of foibles. Senegal coach Aliou Cisse saw it differently after his side booked a place in the final for only the second time.

"The match was incredible, it will remain in the annals of African football," he told the post-match news conference.

"It's the charm of football, this excitement. We cannot control anything at all."

It will be a second final for Cisse, who was captain when Senegal made their only previous appearance in 2002 to lose on penalties.

"There is a pride at getting to the final. It had been 17 years since we got this far, since my generation in 2002," Cisse said.

"Our philosophy is to take a game at a time and try to play the best football to erase the disappointment of 2002. It's a dream to win the title not only for me, but for all the Senegalese people.

"We are close to realising this dream that we could not achieve in 2002."

Meanwhile, on the eve of Nigeria's Africa Cup of Nations semi-final against Algeria, defender Kenneth Omeruo warned his team mates not to give away free kicks on the edge of the penalty area.

Four minutes into stoppage time of Sunday's match, with the score at 1-1 and Nigeria looking in better shape to face extra-time, they did exactly that, giving Riyad Mahrez a pot at goal from his



Kalidou Koulibaly

favourite position just to the right of the centre.

There was a sense of inevitability as the winger curled the ball around the wall and into the net to give Algeria a 2-1 win and end Nigeria's dream of a fourth title.

Throughout the tournament, Nigeria's inexperienced team have been plagued by individual mistakes and carelessness.

Their nearly gifted minnows Burundi the lead in their opening match, lost their final group game to Madagascar 2-0 after an awful mix-up in their defence gave their opponents an early goal and had to come from behind to beat Cameroon after more mishaps.

"We have to avoid these mistakes," said coach Gernot Rohr ahead of the quarter-final against South Africa.

Even so, there are plenty of reasons for optimism. Rohr has brought stability to a team which, after winning AFCON in 2013, astonishingly failed to qualify for the subsequent two tournaments in 2015 and 2017.

The team which started Sunday's match had an average age of only 24.7 and they have shown impressive powers of recovery throughout the finals.

"We have to work much more, we are young, our midfield is the youngest one, and (Wilfred) Ndidi, (Oghenekaro) Etebo and (Alex) Iwobi, they have to learn tactically, they have to make a better communication," said the German. "But they will do it."

Much could depend on how the club careers of the players progress.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Despite thrilling games, why
has Egypt not embraced AFCON?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Brooks Koepka

Five Tigo Customers win trip to Egypt to watch AFCON finals

By Guardian Reporter

TELECOMMUNICATIONS Company, Tigo, will fly five of its customers on an all-expenses paid trip to watch the final of the Africa Cup of Nations in Cairo, Egypt through the firm's promotion, dubbed SOKA LA AFRIKA.

The lucky winners of the trip, Kaunda John Petro, from Zanzibar, Mohabe Noah Senso, (Dar es Salaam), Jafari Abdallah Zitto, (Tanga), Shabani Msafiri James (Dar es Salaam), and Lukundo Samuel Sikombe, (Arusha).

They leave on Wednesday to watch the final match between Algeria and Senegal which is scheduled for this weekend in Cairo.

Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, said this is the second batch of winners completing the list of 10 customers to be awarded with return tickets to Egypt to watch the grand finale of the African Football Tournament.

The first batch of winners were awarded a trip to Egypt to cheer our senior national team, Taifa Stars during first round of matches.

She added that, the SOKA LA AFRIKA promotion will continue until August whereby customers will win cash prizes 100,000 daily, 1 million weekly and 10 million monthly.

For customers to participate in the SOKA LA AFRIKA promotion and stand a chance to become millionaires, all they need to do is send a keyword SOKA to 15670 or visit www.tigosports.co.tz to answer soccer related trivia questions.

"I encourage our customers to continue participating in this promotion to stand a chance to win cash prizes.

The more you participate and answer soccer related questions, the better chance you stand to win," she said.

She disclosed that, by the end of promotion, over 100 lucky winners will walk away with varying cash prizes.

SOKA LA AFRIKA promotion, is part of Tigo's initiatives to show gratitude to its customers for using Tigo services and products.

It is also an innovative platform aimed at giving customers access to information about African football in a fun and interactive manner.



Tanzania's Azam FC defender, Said Gaddafi (L), challenges midfielder Yema Wana of Bandari FC of Kenya in this year's Kagame Cup match which took place in Rwanda recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC knocks TP Mazembe out of Kagame Cup last eight

By Guardian Reporter

KAGAME Cup defending champions Azam have kept on staying in pursuit of title defense, cruising to a hard fought 2-1 win over Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s TP Mazembe in the last eight duel that took place at the Stade Kigali in Rwanda yesterday.

Azam wasted a free kick on the edge of TP Mazembe penalty area on the third minute.

The Tanzania outfit's left fullback Bruce Kangwa's effort was blocked by TP Mazembe defenders.

TP Mazembe went close five minutes later in which a fierce right foot shot by forward Giovanni Ipamy went inches over Azam's crossbar.

TP Mazembe began to attempt controlling the proceedings later on, as they won two corner kicks that were however foiled by Azam defenders. Mazembe continued to put pressure on Azam as defender Michel Mika

pounced on a rebound and unleashed a shot that went inches over.

Ipamy put Mazembe 1-0 up on the 22nd minute, beating Azam keeper Razak Abalora with a header from within the area off a Zola Kiaku center.

Forward Iddi Selemani levelled matters for Azam on the 27th minute after he had connected home with a right footer from within the area, off a poor clearance by a Mazembe defender. Abalora had to stand firm between his posts during the closing stages of the stanza to smother two efforts TP Mazembe made.

The opening stanza ended with the two teams netting a goal apiece.

Azam went 2-1 up on the 69th minute, thanks to forward Obrey Chirwa's header off Oscar Masai's pinpoint center, which went past Bakula. TP Mazembe survived a scare in the latter stages of the game, in which Bakula failed to properly clear Michel Mika's back pass.

Mazembe defender had to quickly react to frustrate Azam forwards' efforts to make the most of the mistake. Azam defenders were forced to opt for solid defending during the closing to keep their opponents at bay.

TP Mazembe were strong favourites for qualification for the last four, given they had plenty of quality and experienced players.

They also progressed to the last eight in a grand fashion, cruising to a resounding 6-1 win over South Sudan's Atlabara in Group A of the competition.

TP Mazembe ended second in the group, which was led by Rayon Sport.

Uganda's KCCA FC was set to confront Rayon Sports of Rwanda in the second of the knockout stage's match at the same venue.

Two last eight matches will take place today. Rwanda's APR will lock horns with AS Maniema of DRC, whereas Green Eagles of Zambia will come up against Kenya's Gor Mahia.

Koepka banks on caddie's local knowledge

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland

AMERICAN Brooks Koepka believes he has a "big advantage" in this week's British Open in the form of his local-born caddie who grew up playing on Royal Portrush.

Such is four-times major winner Koepka's belief that caddie Ricky Elliott can give him valuable "inside info" on the course that he even ignored a practice round invitation from Tiger Woods.

Elliott was a promising young amateur player, winning the Ulster Boys' and Ulster Youths' Championships but struggled when he turned professional and switched to caddying in the U.S.

But he remains a well-known figure in Portrush and while he has spent the past six years travelling the world on Koepka's bag, his parents Pat and Martha still live in the town and his brother Peter is the owner of a golf shop in nearby Coleraine.

The Open is being held at Portrush for the second time – 68 years after the only other occasion the Northern Ireland venue held the major.

That means few players have the intimate knowledge of the links course that Elliott possesses.

"Luckily my caddie has played this golf course I can't tell you how many times, so that's a big advantage," Koepka told a news conference on Tuesday.

"Every hole I just step up on, (I say) 'You tell me what to do, you've played it more than anybody.' So just let him figure it out."

Woods, who has never played Portrush, said he had tried to set up a practice round with Brooks but got nowhere.

"I texted Brooksie, congratulations on another great finish. What he's done in the last four major championships has been just unbelievable. To be so consistent, so solid," Woods said.

"And I said, Hey, dude, do you mind if I tag along and play a practice round? I've heard nothing," he said with a grin.

Koepka may have won four majors in the last two years, including a second straight PGA Championship at Bethpage Black in May, but he said the large crowds at practice have been more focused on his hired help.

"I probably hear more, 'Ricky! Hey, Ricky, what's going on?' than anything. I'm sure he'll have quite a bit of friends and family out. It will be a special week for him, for sure," he said.

It would be even more special if he happened to pick up the bonus for Koepka's first Open.

"There would be nothing cooler. Put it this way, I don't think when he grew up that he ever thought there would be an Open Championship here. And to top it off, I don't think he ever thought he'd be a part of it," Koepka said.

"And to be caddying and to be able to win one here would be – he'd be a legend, wouldn't he? He already is. But it would be cool to see him win."

REUTERS

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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TODAY @11:00

DADAZ.

WEDNESDAY DADAZ.

10:59 Jikani Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kuroso
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
20:00 EPL REVIEW
21:30 Mid Week Movie

DADAZ This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica 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