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TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2019

## NATIONAL PG 2



**NEW BOOK SEEKS TO BOOST COOPERATION**

## NATIONAL PG 3



**ILO, IGAD FOR EA COMMON MARKET**

## NATIONAL PG 4



**ZANZIBAR IMPROVES TAX COLLECTIONS**

## NATIONAL PG 6



**NEMC WARNS PLASTIC BAGS VENDORS**



## Civic polls roll brings in 68 per cent of voters

By Guardian Reporter

SOME 15.5 million Tanzanians out of an estimated 22.9 million eligible voters have already registered to vote in the civic polls slated for next month, equal to 68 per cent.

The Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jaffo (pictured) said yesterday that Coast region leads with 473,639 registered voters, which is 80 per cent of its total estimated voters.

It is followed by Dar es Salaam with 2,064,820 (77 per cent) and Tanga with 823,194 (76 per cent).

Other regions that have done well with over 60 per cent registration rate are Mtwara with 530,523 registered voters, Lindi (353,649) and Iringa (381,134).

"This is a result of a sustained sensitization campaign carried out by regional commissioners, district commissioners and other officials at the grassroots level," he said, noting that the figures are as of early Tuesday.

Jaffo mentioned Mpanda, Mlele, Kibiti, Ngorongoro, Songwe and Mbozi as the only districts that have registered 95 per cent of the targeted voters

On the other hand regions with a much slower pace in the exercise are Kilimanjaro with 446,954 (48 per cent), Kigoma with 555,856 (53 per cent) and Arusha with 551,614 (59 per cent).

Jaffo mentioned Mpanda, Mlele, Kibiti, Ngorongoro, Songwe and Mbozi districts as having registered up to 95 per cent of the targeted voters.

On the other hand, Moshi municipality, Arusha City, Msimbo, Kigoma, Mbeya City and Musoma districts had registered voters below 50 per cent.

"I appeal to regional, district, ward as well as

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# Lake Zone schools, pupils 'grab' all top 10 spots in Std VII exams



A Mandera (Coast Region) portion of the all-important highway linking Chalanze in Coast Region and Segera in Tanga Region - and leading all the way to Tanga, Moshi and Arusha and beyond - undergoes rehabilitation, as found at the weekend. It was so badly damaged by recent rains that it was temporarily closed to vehicular traffic for quite some time, leaving thousands of motorists and passengers stranded. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Dr Msonde said yesterday that a total of 759,737 out of 933,369 who sat the examination this year have passed, which is equal to 81.5 per cent

By Guardian Reporter

SCHOOLS and pupils from the Lake Zone Regions of Mara, Mwanza, Kagera Shinyanga and Geita have grabbed the coveted top ten slots in the primary school leaving examination results released yesterday.

The outcome announced in Dar es Salaam by the executive secretary of the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) Dr Charles Msonde has Francis Gwaji from Paradise Primary School in Geita Region on top, followed by Victor Godfrey, Aziz Yassin and Goldie Hihayum all from Grayaki Primary School in Mara.

The ranking also shows that the top 10 schools category in the country was dominated by schools from the Lake Zone

The fifth spot was taken by Daniel Ngassa from Little Primary School, Shinyanga, whereas Hillary Sarehe Nassor from Peacealand Mwanza, settled for the sixth spot.

The seventh position went to Mbelele Dalali Mbelele from Kwema Modern - Shinyanga, while Derick Eliakim Lema from Musabe - Mwanza was number eight nationwide among boys.

The ninth and 10th spot were taken by Athanas Herry Sekuro from Paradise and Aaron Robert Mabuga from Kwema respectively.

The ranking also shows that the top 10 schools category in the country was dominated by

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## Morogoro rains leave 11 people dead

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

ELEVEN people have died from the ongoing rains in various areas in Morogoro Region, including children aged between nine and 16 years.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander SACP Wilbroad Mutafungwa said that among the dead were five pupils at Nyachiro Primary School who drowned in Mvaha River in Kibogwa Ward, Matombo Division, in Morogoro District.

He said the incident occurred on Saturday around 16.30 hours at Nyachiro village, naming the deceased as Neema Rajabu (10), Latifa Khalid (9) both Std 2 pupils; Munila Khalid (11) of Std 3 and Omary Khalid (14) whose bodies were found.

The body of another pupil, Zanisha Adam (9) of Std ii is yet to be found and efforts are still going on involving the police and the Fire Brigade to find it

The body of another pupil, Zanisha Adam (9) of Std 2 is yet to be found and efforts are still going on involving the police and the Fire Brigade to find it.

SACP Mutafungwa said Saidi Rajabu (11) survived with injuries, as after seeing the water level of the river rising he managed to run away, hurting himself while doing so.

Others who died are pupils from Kibwaya Primary School in Mkuuyuni Ward, namely Rajabu Issa (11) and Shabani Msimbe (15), after drowning in a pond of water as they were struggling to swim.

Other pupils who also lost their lives are Karimu Athumani (13) and Hussein Hassan (14) of Ulundo Primary School who drowned swimming in Ngerengere River.

## New Manufacturer of the Year awards criteria released

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) yesterday released stringent criteria it used in selecting winners of the 14th Presidential Manufacturer of the Year awards who will be feted in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CTI Executive Director Leodegar Tenga (pictured) said the manufacturers' apex body employed assessment criteria including ethical performance, health and safety precautions as well as gender balance.

Other criteria include technological



performance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) exposure and export performance.

Tenga said that upon submission of the participation forms, CTI appointed assessors who visited the respective industries for the purpose of making physical verification of the information provided in the completed forms, based on the set criteria for selecting winners.

"We were impressed by the increase in participation since the decision to participate requires high level of commitment to transparency and code of conduct, as the competition entails allowing assessors to access deep information about an industry

of which many would not wish to offer," he explained.

Tenga said the number of participants has increased from 47 last year to 61 this year, a sign that manufacturers are ready for an industrialized economy which is founded on a transparent and open pillar.

The selected winners will be awarded during the Business Dinner to be graced by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, representing the Confederation's patron, President John Magufuli tomorrow.

Tenga stated that the main objective of the awards is to raise the standard of

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## CTI gives new Manufacturer of the Year awards criteria

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business and practices and promote sound corporate governance in Tanzania. The awards also seek to pay tribute and recognize the pertinent role of the industrial sector's contribution to the national economy.

Since its launch in 2005, the competition has been one of the best avenues for corporate entities to improve the quality of their products and services to the

public.

The assessment exercise was carried out by an independent consultant who at the end of the competition provided a report showing results of assessments, which then is made available to all participants. "This enables participants to benchmark their business operations with their peers and see their strengths and weaknesses to help them to improve," the director added.

## Civic polls roll brings in 68 per cent of voters

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village leaders to continue sensitizing citizens to register in the three days that have been added for the exercise," he said.

The minister also warned against multiple registrations, saying that legal action will be taken against those who intend to vote more than once. He asked security organs to be alert and take legal action in case of such attempts.

He reminded the public that multiple registration

and voting more than once is a criminal offence, punishable by a jail sentence of up to one year or a fine of 300,000/- or both.

"Voters are free to go through the register in their areas and if they notice that someone has registered more than once, they should report them to authorities for legal action," he emphasized.

The registration exercise which started on October 8th is slated to wind down tomorrow.

## DR Congo to start using J&J Ebola vaccine in November

KINSHASA

HEALTH authorities in Democratic Republic of Congo will introduce a Johnson & Johnson Ebola vaccine next month in the country's eastern provinces, to counter the current outbreak, they said.

The J&J vaccine will complement another vaccine manufactured by Merck, which has been administered to more than 225,000 people. It requires two injections eight weeks apart, unlike the Merck vaccine, which requires a single shot.

A first batch of 500,000 doses of the J&J vaccine should arrive in Congo next week, the authorities said in a statement. The inoculation process will start in Goma in early November and then be extended to other provinces.

Congolese health authorities had announced the deployment of the vaccine last month, but had not specified when the campaign will take place.

Since it first started in August 2018, the Ebola outbreak has killed more than 2,100 people, second only to the 2013-16 outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,300.

Since the Ebola epidemic struck in the north-east

of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) one year ago, almost 600 of around 850 children who have caught the virus have now died, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported in August, this year.

"The news that the total number of deaths has now passed 2,000, out of more than 3,000 cases, should act as a rallying cry for us all to step up our efforts to defeat this terrible disease and end this outbreak," the Agency's statement said.

"As the numbers continue to grow, it is vital to remember that each one of these cases is somebody's child, a son or daughter; a mother, father brother or sister," the announcement read. "Each of these deaths leaves a family not only in mourning but also scared and worried about their own exposure to the disease."

UNICEF noted recent breakthroughs in finding successful treatments highlight that "for the first time, we now have the means to both prevent and treat Ebola." Recent media reports show the disease is no longer incurable, with scientific advancements promising to tame outbreaks and boost survival rates.



Confederation on Tanzania Industries (CTI) executive director Leodgar Tenga (2nd-R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on this year's edition of the Presidential Manufacturer of the Year Awards (PMAVA) expected to be held in the city tomorrow. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## Lake Zone schools, pupils 'grab' all top 10 spots in Std VII exams

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schools from the Lake Zone.

The schools in their descending order are Graiyaki and Twibhoki from Mara, followed by Kemebos from Kagera, Little Treasures from Shinyanga, Musabe and Tulele from Mwanza.

Others in the same order are Kwema Modern from Shinyanga, Peaceland and Mugini from Mwanza, as

Rocken Hill from Shinyanga completes the Top 10 list.

This is not the first time schools and pupils from Lake Zone cling to top ten slots. It has actually been a trend in recent years. Even last year, six pupils from the Lake Zone-based schools made to the list of the ten best performers in the Standard Seven National Ex-

amination results.

Dr Msonde said yesterday that a total of 759,737 out of 933,369 who sat the examination this year have passed, which is equal to 81.5 per cent.

He said 395,738 of those who passed were girls, which is 80.87 per cent whereas 363,998 were boys (77.72 per cent) showing an improvement in perfor-

mance by 3.78 per cent.

In this year's results, performance in Kiswahili, English, Science and Social Studies showed improvement ranging between 1.83 and 6.86 per cent compared to 2018. Dr Msonde noted that performance in Mathematics has however dropped by 1.05 per cent compared to the previous year.

Kiswahili was the best

performed subject with an average of 87.25 per cent whereas English recorded the least performance with an average of 53.21 per cent.

The NECTA CEO named Grace Manga of Graiyaki Primary School in Mara as the best candidate, followed by Francis Gwagi from Paradise Primary School in Geita and Loy Kitundu of Mbezi Primary School in Dar es

Salaam. The best performing schools were from Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Iringa, Kagera, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Simiyu, Njombe and Coast Region.

NECTA released the Primary School Leaving examination results for 2019 which was sat last month, with Lake Zone schools taking up all the top 10 spots in the boys' category.



Workplace Health Without Borders board member Lydia Renton conducts training for Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) inspectors in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Education deteriorating in Africa – Ibrahim Index

By Guardian Reporter

SINCE the beginning of the first ten-year implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063 in 2014, average continental performance in Education has deteriorated, shows the latest African Governance Report released yesterday by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

While indicators show access to all levels of education is increasing, a decrease in the quality of education and the growing mismatch between the education system and job market requirements have led to a decline in the performance of education, says the report.

"Four out of the five worst-scoring countries in education in 2017 are fragile states, such as Chad, Libya, Central African Republic and Somalia," it reads in part. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)'s absence of undernourishment indicator also registered a continental average decline since 2014.

DRC, Gambia, Madagascar and Nigeria have all deteriorated since 2014 while IIAG's citizens' dissatisfaction with basic health services has grown over in the past decade. "According to available data, there are 17 skilled health workers per 10,000 people in Africa, versus over 117 per 10,000 in the US," reads the report.

Though progress is being made, women's political representation indicator remains the lowest scoring IIAG indicator in gender at the continental level.

IIAG's Promotion of Socio-economic Integration of

youth indicator has deteriorated since 2014 while laws on violence against women IIAG's indicator score also remains low, according to the report.

The IIAG's Human Trafficking indicator has experienced a large deterioration since 2014, the report shows. "Despite progress, unconstitutional changes in government are still a reality on the continent, while Agenda 2063 aims at zero tolerance," it reads.

Agenda 2063 is a 50-year strategic framework with the main objective being to guide Africa's development for the next half-century and to achieve the vision of The Africa We Want.

Agenda 2063 is aimed at being Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming the continent into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

African leaders aimed at redirecting the focus from Africa's struggle against apartheid and the attainment of political independence for the continent towards inclusive social and economic growth and development, regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security.

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## Morogoro rains leave 11 people dead

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The Morogoro RPC said the incident occurred on October 5 at around 12 noon at Ulundo village, Mikese Ward in Morogoro district.

Another tragic incident occurred on October 13 at Mindu Dam in Morogoro municipality when Jabiru Chris, a fisherman and resident of Manzese, died after falling into the dam as he was fishing.

It is claimed the death is attributed to the canoe from which he was fishing, as it lost balance and started sinking.

RPC Mutafungwa said yet another tragic incident happened on October

6 at around 10.00 in the morning at Kipera, Tungi Ward in Morogoro municipality when Yasin Ally (50) lost his life after falling into a pond of water he was swimming in.

The RPC said that in

another development two people, named Ramadhani Mkuku and Frank Daud died at Kilombero Sugar Factory K2 after falling in a pit that receives molasses - a viscous sugarcane byproduct after

the refining process at the factory.

He said the incident occurred on Monday when the two were trying to steal the molasses, during which they slipped in and drowned.



# Mbeya leaders 'roam' the streets to mobilise people to register for upcoming local polls

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

ALL government functionaries here spilled out into the streets here to mobilise people to register themselves for the next month's civic polls.

The Director of Mbeya City Council James Kasusura was in the streets on Monday visiting street corners for bodaboda drivers and touts at main bus stand and asked the youths to go and register themselves.

He asked the bodaboda drivers to abide by the law so as to silence those who say they are a mere bunch of hooligans and instead show that theirs is just another respected occupation.

Kasusura said people who are qualified to register are those of 18 years of age or more and residents of the areas they live, without regard to party affiliation.

He wanted them not to pay attention to those who say one must produce a voter registration card to register, as that

was not true.

Vice President of Bodaboda Drivers Association at the main bus stand Augustino Mwamanda said as of now a big percentage of association's members have registered themselves to vote.

He said they will ensure come the last day all association members will be registered as it is their constitutional right.

Mwamanda said association members are mobilizing themselves in various issues including the adherence to the laws governing their occupation.

Some agents for political parties said after the government extended the registration period, wananchi have continued to flock to registration centres to register themselves.

One of them Grace Lamson ambaye an agent for Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) from Forest area said the exercise was progressing well in her area.

She said the response has been unanimous after the extension of registration period.



Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe addresses journalists at the opposition party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the ongoing countrywide registration for the local government elections due next month. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# SADC: New project to improve SMEs in South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania launched

By Getrude Mbogo

A new project which is aimed to improve Small Scale Entrepreneurs (SMEs) activities in the countries of South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania has been launched.

The project among other will focus more on identifying major challenges facing SMEs, providing training and enabling them access the markets in the Southern African Development Community

(SADC) member states.

Dubbed "Small Business Ecosystems Analytics Platform", the project will be implemented by four organization namely Catalyst for Growth (C4G) in South Africa; SEDIT and Dalberg in Tanzania and BongoHive in Zambia.

Speaking during the launch of the project in Dar es Salaam, senior Economist from National econom-

ic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Edwin Chrisant said that SMEs are the key to a country's economic growth and their success can help reduce poverty, improve health of families and communities, raise literacy and educational levels, and empower women.

He commended the project saying that its implementation will be supporting the government's efforts of improving trade and busi-

ness in the country.

Chrisant said that it was high time for Tanzanians to unleash their production energy and creativeness so as to grab the market opportunities available in SADC member states the country's development.

According to him, NEEC is well prepared to ensure that it empowers people economically and promote investment in the country.

For his part, Sifiso Ndwandwe, the executive director of the South African based organization- Catalyst for Growth said that the project started as pilot in South Africa and has now expanded to Tanzania and Zambia.

He said that under the project, local originations working to support business development will be capacitated to enable them help SMEs to grow their business, link

them to finances and markets.

"Through this, we will witness individual SMEs improving their management and entrepreneurship skills to manage profitable businesses," he added.

He explained that "the platform is a mechanism to drive collaboration and evidence-based planning and decision making for all stakeholders in the SMME support ecosystem in each country and across

the region, so that resources are directed towards innovative support interventions that work."

Filbet Samabagi, executive director SEDIT Tanzania said that "We will be working tighter with other ten organizations that support business development in the country to indent and train SMEs on better ways of improving their products to grab SADC markets."

# ILO and IGAD in Arusha to learn about E. African Common Market

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Labour Organization intend to borrow a leaf from the East African Community's Common Market.

That came to life during the ongoing conference which addresses the issues of 'Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance in the IGAD Region,' a meeting which is currently taking place in Arusha.

Alexio Musundo is the Addis Ababa based, director of International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and Special Representative to Africa Union and EAC. He said the meeting creates a platform to address ways of handling movement of people, labour and capital.

"We intend to make migrants enjoy life and feel at home in countries where they move to work," explained Mr Musundo adding that they intend to influence policies in various countries so that movement of people can follow the right channels.

Delegates attending the four-day meeting are also discussing ways of 'Improving Opportunities for Regular,' Labour Mobility,' and in respect to that, representatives from ILO and IGAD wants to learn a few things from the EAC common market, regarding the proposed free movement of people, capital and labour.

The Executive Director for East African Trade Unions Federation (EATUF) Caroline Khamat Mugalla, pointed out that when people migrate from one country to another it is usually to look for opportunities, usually jobs.

"They are not criminals and it is wrong to label them as illegal immigrants on their own continent; it is therefore our duty to protect their interests," said Ms Mugalla, adding that the federation itself has 4.5 million members.

Moving from one country to another, seeking greener pastures was described to sometimes prove to be dangerous among Africans, when proper arrangements con-

cerning residence, work permits or contracts aren't handled properly.

Dan Okanya is the coordinator of East Africa Employer Organization and is on view that most countries do not have regional labour migrant policies and some only have the document in draft.

"We are now here to exchange expertise and share ideas on how ILO, EAC and EGAD can work together to advocate for free movements of labour among member states," added Okanya.

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is made up of eight member states with a total population of 221 million between them and covering a surface area of 5.2 million square kilometres.

It was stated during the conference that for many years, the region has been affected by a combination of protracted conflicts, political instability, environmental degradation and food insecurity, which has led to poverty and underdevelopment of the region.

The region generates more refugee movements than any other area in the world; at the same time, high levels of cross border trade and temporary flows across borders are indicative of the socio-economic interdependence of these areas.

The countries in the region are also simultaneously origin, transit and destination for migrants and refugees, who are increasingly using the same routes. While data on labour migration is scarce, the majority of migratory movements are within the IGAD region or to neighbouring regions.

These flows are based in part on historical and cultural ties, as well as current global dynamics of supply and demand for workers.

Cognizant of these, IGAD and its member States have taken steps to manage and address the issue of migration in the region. The Protocol on Free Movement of Persons is enshrined in the 1996 Agreement Establishing the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).



Filbet Sambagi (L), Social and Economic Development Initiatives of Tanzania's executive director, speaks at the launch of an Africa Small Business Ecosystems Analysts Platform project in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Catalyst for Growth executive director Sifiso Ndwandwe (R) of South Africa, Dalberg director Steve Kisakye (2nd-R) and Tanzania's National Economic and Empowerment Council senior economist Edwin Chrisant. Photo: John Badi



**We are now here to exchange expertise and share ideas on how ILO, EAC and EGAD can work together to advocate for free movements of labour among member states,**

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**EVALUATION OF UNFPA'S FAMILY PLANNING INTERVENTIONS IN TANZANIA**

**Introduction**  
Evaluation at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serves three main purposes, it: (a) Demonstrates accountability to stakeholders on performance in achieving development results and on invested resources; (b) Supports evidence-based decision-making by providing credible information to support decision-making by management on planning, budgeting, implementation and reporting as well as improvement of policies and programmes; and (c) Provides important lessons learned, expanding the existing knowledge base on how to accelerate implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). UNFPA evaluations apply the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) definitions, principles and norms.

**Evaluation Objectives**  
The specific objectives of the evaluation are two-fold:  
1. Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and suitability of UNFPA's family planning interventions towards meeting Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar goals; and UNFPA's Corporate Strategy transformative results.  
2. Propose and outline effective family planning interventions that UNFPA should take forward in support of family planning programmes in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, which are grounded in UNFPA's comparative advantage and its ability to deliver results.

**Qualifications:**  
The evaluation will be conducted by an institution. The institution must have a good track record and extensive experience in planning and conducting evaluations, particularly in the field of health.

**Duration of the consultancy**  
The duration of the consultancy is expected to last no more than 24 working days with scheduled payments over a period of two months. The study is expected to commence late October 2019.

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The Request for Quotation (RFQ) template and Terms of Reference (TOR) in reference to this Consultancy are posted on UNFPA Tanzania Country Office website accessible at: <http://tanzania.unfpa.org>. Within the site the **RFQ N° UNFPA/PROC/RFQ/2019/017** and TOR can be found at <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/request-quotation-rfq-n%C2%BA-unfpa-proc-rfq2019017>. Interested firms or institutions can send their application documents i.e. technical and financial proposal to [tanzania.office@unfpa.org](mailto:tanzania.office@unfpa.org).

**The deadline to submit application documents is 30 October 2019 (5 pm Tanzanian Time).**

*UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer.*





Former Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority (Dawasa) production and distribution director Aron Joseph, who has now been promoted to Moshi Water Supply Authority director, elaborates to female film actors who toured water projects in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Mbeya business body partners with SNV in fighting various challenges

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

BUSINESS community in Mbeya region has thanked the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) for initiating partnership with them to improve the functions of business councils in the region, saying the procedure will assist in solving various challenges they were facing.

They said so on Monday at a meeting attended by business councils' members from all of the region's districts, including government officials, the private sector and SNV officials who are implementing the project in the developing of marketing system for sunflower (TAM).

Mbeya regional trade officer Stanley Kibakaya said the business councils have been facing various challenges including financial, and sometimes don't meet for deliberations.

He said some of the members elected to the councils have no experience to enable them in gainful discussion, instead they end up complaining to the government in not implementing its promises.

He said after realizing that he decided to address SNV for assistance to improve the councils' environment, the request which was approved by the Dutch organisation.

He added: "When President John Magufuli met with business people at State House in Dar es Salaam some of them issued complaints that ought to have been addressed at the regional level and solutions found thereto but they decided to take them to the president because the business councils were inactive."

On his part, the executive officer of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) in Mbeya region Emile Malinza said the big challenge facing the business councils at regional and district levels was financial constraints as the government does not allocate funds for their operations.

He said if the councils are inactive, challenges facing the business sector were not solved in time hence the whole sector fails to develop.

On his part, the policy advisor in the TAM project Renatus Mbamililo said SNV decided to cooperate with the government in improving the business councils after receiving a letter from the office of the Mbeya Regional Commissioner asking them to do so.

He said SNV is implementing the project from UK Agency for International development (UKAID) whose money is managed by KPMG.

# Dr Shein: Zanzibar has improved tax collections

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said his government is collecting its revenue with great success and that all what it collects is well spent - the government does not have any problems in expenditure.

He said in the last financial year Zanzibar attained 71 economic growth and the expectation is to grow up further due to the increase of economic activities in the Isles.

Dr Shein who is also the chairman of Zanzibar Revolutionary Council was speaking on Monday at

a meeting with government officials and other leaders at Wawi Cloves Extraction Factory in Wawi Pemba.

Elaborating on government revenue, Dr Shein said when he took office in 2010 the government was collecting 13.5b/- revenue per month whereas currently it collects 65.7b/- per month, and added many of the government commitments are implemented from own sources but called for more efforts to collect more.

He said despite these efforts there are some business people who evade paying tax and stressed that all governments in the world are run

through taxes.

Dr Shein also used the occasion to stress the need of paying tax with receipts issued thereon as without receipts the government may lose its due revenue.

On the issue of inflation, Dr Shein said for Zanzibar the rate is low, and added that when he took office the rate was 18 percent and was going day by day and now it is in single digit, while prices for basic commodities have gone down substantially.

He said even though some business people engage themselves in smuggling, efforts are being made to ensure Zanzibaris live well.

He also emphasized that there is every reason for Zanzibar to have free medical services including medical examination and called on the Ministry of Health to supervise this and take action against all who may be found to be cheating, and prosecute them under economic sabotage.

Dr Shein used the occasion to explain deliberate efforts by the government to ensure Micheweni District increases its endeavours in ensuring the availability of safe, clean water and promised that by the end of this year in Zanzibar Town and its environs, including Stone Town the water problem will be past history.

He also called on the gathered leaders on the need to listen to people who go to their offices to seek services or with problems because one quality of a good leader is to listen to those he serves.

On the question of corruption he called on the leaders to fight the vice in their work places but also congratulated them for working in harmony.

Dr Shein also talked on government strategies put in place to ensure it implements well its policies including the reduction of their official trips, conducting of seminars, meetings and sitting allowances, and advised them to conduct such gatherings in

government halls instead of private hotels.

He also used the event to thank leaders and members of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) including SMZ leaders for good reception accorded to him.

Dr Shein also congratulated the Minister for Agriculture, Natural resources, Livestock and Fisheries Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri for ensuring the success of the ongoing World Food Day celebrations at Chamanangwe in Pemba.

On the issue of maintenance of peace he said he was glad CCM is involved in ensuring the country

remains peaceful as without peace economic activity would come to a standstill.

Earlier the Minister of State, the President Office and Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Council Issa Ussi Haji Gavu welcomed the President to talk to the leaders.

On his part, the Minister of State, the President's Office Regional Administration and Special SMZ Departments Haji Omar Kheir congratulated President Shein for his decision to come to Pemba and talk to the leaders and on their behalf he promised to implement his directives.

## Govt set out to improve data collection, analysis systems in health sector

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has acknowledged that lack of effective data collection and analysis system which is critical for supply of essential medicines is one of the major challenges facing health sector in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the three-day Health Supply Chain Summit 2019, deputy minister for Health, Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile said the government is now engaging stakeholders to mobilize resources to improve such a system.

This year's summit is themed "Future of Tanzania Health Supply Chain Performance; Driven by Data and Innovations."

Dr Ndugulile said that in Tanzania, the supply chain landscape is characterized by a number of government and non-governmental partners working to designs, oversee and implement various components to improve the medical commodities supply chain.

He noted that quality data in supply chain management is key to ensuring that medical commodities are available in health centres on time.

He underscored the need for stakeholders to work together as a team to support the government's agenda which include improving data collection and analysis in health supply chain management.

"It is high time we work together to ensure that we improve data, capacitate our departments from national to lower level to be able to predict the actual needs of essential medicines. We need to ensure that all relevant systems are well linked to communicate for better supply of the health commodities. This has remained challenge to most of our health centres," he said.

Dr Ndugulile further said that the

government has been putting more emphasis on financing of the health sector on both accessibility and health delivery to the people.

"We have improve the Medical Stores Department (MSD) by ensuring that we provide it with all key need such as transport to make sure that medical commodities reach health facilities on time for better provision of health services," he said.

For her part, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative, Jacqueline Mahon said also hinted on the importance of strengthening collaborations and partnerships towards having an improved health supply chain management in the country for sustainable development.

She noted that a stronger health supply chain will contribute to a stronger health care delivery system which in turn contributes to the well-being of the population and hence more productivity, less medical expenses and eventually better environment for development.

Government chief pharmacist Daudi Msasi added that the government was finalizing a guideline to ensure that there is good flow and supply of medical commodities in the country.

"We are now focusing more on quality of data, creating strong systems to monitor medical commodities supply chain for better health services," he added.

Commenced yesterday, the summit will be conducted for three days bringing together over 300 health experts and stakeholders with the aim of seeking best ways of improving health commodities supply chain in the country.

The summit will also look and discuss more on the most notable challenges facing the promotion of data use and innovation in Tanzania and promising opportunities leverage these tools towards improved health supply chain performance.



Tigo's North Zone manager Lilian Mwalongo moves to test-drive a new car at the launch of the Tigo Fiesta 2019 Quiz promotion in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Environmental pollution, climate change pose threat to pollinators

By Guardian Correspondent

ENVIRONMENTAL pollution, an increased demand of land for agriculture and invasion of alien species and climate change are some of identified causes of decline of butterflies and moths in East Africa.

According to a research done in Eastern Arc Mountains in Amani Natural Reserve, there have been changes in the abundance of butterflies and moths with a greater number of species showing significant declines.

Most of the ecosystem in East Africa particularly Tanzania are facing threat including challenges in land use, environmental pollution, invasion alien species and climate change.

Project Principal Investigator of the Assessment of Lepidoptera Pollinators Species Diversity Data in East Africa, Adelaide Sallema said

Wild butterflies and moths are contributed to food security and support ecosystem services but there is concern on the decline of the same pollinator species.

"The butterflies and moths play a greater role in food production through pollination hence we need to conserve them," she said.

Adelaide who is also a Senior Curator at the National Museum of Tanzania said information on species identity, status and diversity, role in pollination, abundance and population trends is scarce.

Speaking at the Data Dissemination Meeting held in Dar es Salaam recently she said for East Africa Region data is urgently needed to facilitate combined use of economic, socio-cultural and holistic valuation of pollinator gain and to provide information for the management of and the decision making about pollinators and pollination.

"The need for the wild pollinator data is critical in the region particularly in Tanzania for long-term monitoring of both pollinators and pollination process," she said.

Dr Easter Kioko from the National Museum of Kenya said that implementation strategies such as participatory monitoring, public awareness and sharing of pollinators information are critical to reverse this decline.

This cannot be done without data to understand current status of pollinators, threats affecting pollinators species and how to manage agriculture and wild landscapes for the survival of the pollinators for securing pollination.

"Information on species identity status and diversity, role in pollination, abundance and population trends is scarce she said adding that we need to have data to make decisions."

This issue has gained national and regional attention last year as three East African countries Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya had launched a three year project to promote pollinators focusing on status and trends in butterflies and moths population.

Dr Kioko who is also the Project Coordinator said the project aims at estimating abundance of butterfly and moths populations and related plant species in Eastern Arc Mountains in Tanzania and Kenya and Mabira Forest in Uganda where butterflies and moths populations are predicted to be abundant, and other areas where lack of habitat provides lower abundance.

The project also links capacity building on the best practices in collections, digitalization, mapping, publishing and sharing information focusing on the hawk moths and butterflies in the Eastern Arc Mountains and the surrounding farmlands



# Sagcot urges farming and stakeholders to protect environment in nine regions

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot) has urged collaborators in transforming agriculture in southern highland regions to protect environment at all costs.

In two documents—green print and blue print, the institution calls on farmers and partners to protect the environment because, the institution says, “sustainable life is dependent on healthy environment.” Sagcot has a department that oversees protection of environment in the corridor entrusted to it.

Sagcot’s environment protection expert, John Nakei, said the institutions deliberately established Green Reference Group to ensure agricultural activities do not hurt environment. The blue print focuses on activities undertaken in the

corridor, and the green print “reminds all participants that agriculture must be friendly to environment and inclusive,” he explained.

The green reference group draws members from six ministries, the private sector, financial institutions, cooperatives and non-governmental organizations, Nakei explained.

“We expect all our partners to ensure their activities do not harm environment and do not harm present and coming generations. To achieve this goal we must have farmers and people at the centre of all the activities,” Nakei explained.

He also said the group has recently issued another document entitled ‘Inclusive Green Growth Guiding tool’ to guide the corridor’s prospective investors, so that they remain abreast of what they are

expected of in dealing with all sub-sectors of the agriculture sector and ensure investment remains people-centred.

The group was conceived because the corridor entrusted to Sagcot is geographically a big part of southern Tanzania and its agriculture potential is hugely significant. Sagcot argues that in order to unleash that potential is it critical to ensure development is done in a responsible manner.

Sagcot Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Kirenga explained that the group’s authority and activities cover other parts of Tanzania, far beyond Sagcot’s region because, he said, the aim is to protect environment.

Currently Sagcot’s activities cover Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa, Katavi, Morogoro, Pwani and Ruvuma regions.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges greetings with NMB Bank chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi in Lindi municipality on Monday shortly after celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the passing of Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere and the climax of Uhuru Torch Race. The bank was this year one of the main sponsors of the cross-country race. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Tanzanians who studied in China resolve to attract Chinese investors

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS who studied and lived in China have pledged to use their contacts with Chinese personalities and institutions to attract Chinese investments into Tanzania.

Speaking at the end of the annual general meeting of the China Alumni Association of Tanzania (CAAT) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the association’s president, Dr Liggyle Vumilia, said one of the convention’s resolutions was to ensure CAAT and its members work with all Chinese parties to attract investment inflows to Tanzania.

“There are plenty of trade opportunities that await exploitation. It is our duty to use our knowledge to exploit them, build national economy and reduce unemployment,” he said adding that the association will ask people who studied and lived in China to identify the opportunities, work on them and ensure Tanzania benefits from Chinese knowledge, experience and technology to enhance Tanzania’s goal of becoming a middle-income industrial nation by 2025.

Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, thanked CAAT for developing and increasing good relations that were started and cultivated by founding fathers of the two nations: Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Chairman Mao ze Dong. She said China treats Tanzania as a strategic location for her investments in Africa.

“This is an important occasion in promoting good relations between the two countries. Current opportunities should be exploited to overcome challenges,” she said.

Former ambassador to China, retired Lt. General Abdulrahman Shimbo, encouraged people who studied and lived in China to work closely with CAAT, to review opportunities and challenges and bring forward news ideas with a view promoting investments and trade between Tanzania and China because, he argued, living outside one’s country broadens and enriches one’s exposure and experience.

# Dar-based marketing firm offers six-month training, mentorship programme to help Tanzanian exporters

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM-based marketing firm is holding a six-month training and mentorship program for 15 exporters from across the country.

Organized by CoSo Marketing & PR Company, the program which started yesterday in Dar es Salaam is geared to support new exporters and export community to acquire managerial, technical and trade capacity as well as understand the current global export trends to give Tanzania a competitive edge.

Speaking at the official launch of the program, firm’s coordinator and the creative director, Sekela Mwambuli said that such ‘school export’ programmes contribute positively to the growth of the non-traditional export sector.

She said the programme presented many opportunities for exporters, adding that the sector holds the key to Tanzania’s export diversification drive.

Sekela said: “We’re aggressively implementing the company export strategy with the objective to increase the contribution of indigenous in export. There is the need for all of us to put in more effort to ensure that the sector’s growth is doubled and sustained.”

According to her, the marketing firm has embarked on a re-branding exercise to properly position it to provide the needed support to exporters to become competitive and engender economic transformation.

“The Company is poised and ready to create a new compelling positive image to undertake

strategic planning processes to be able to present the Made in Tanzania products to the world,” Sekela said.

Commenting on the importance of the export marketing fundamentals programme, she said that CoSo Marketing plans to make the programme sustainable and be of support of exporters and importers in and outside the country.

Sekela said the institution would scale up marketing training programmes for exporters to enhance capacity and ensure they met required standards in the global market.

She said CoSo Marketing was always ready to develop training modules to meet the needs of product associations and identified groups of persons.

For her part, Peter Lanya, Chairperson for Tanzania Exporters Association (TANEXA) said building the skills and capacities of new and existing exporters is very critical if the country’s goal of increasing export returns was to be achieved.

He said exporters needed to be schooled on recent trends and changes in the export market in order to remain competitive and also help the country to grow its export base.

Among the topics being treated are Export Marketing Research, Product Planning and Product Adaptation, Legal Contracts and Negotiations, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Specification and Export Procedures and Documentation to name just a few.

He expressed the hope that the six months program would provide the opportunity to contribute towards a much stronger sector.



Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Until no child has AIDS.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

“Sometimes in life there is that moment when it’s possible to make a change for the better. This is one of those moments.”  
-Elizabeth Glaser

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a global leader in the fight against pediatric HIV and AIDS, working in 19 countries and supporting close to 6,000 sites around the world to prevent the transmission of HIV to children, and to facilitate access to services for those already infected. Today, because of the highly successful work of the Foundation and its partners, pediatric AIDS has been virtually eliminated in the United States. With a growing global staff of over 1,000—nine of 10 who work in the field—the Foundation’s global mission is to implement prevention, care, and treatment; further advance innovative research and to execute strategic and targeted global advocacy activities to bring dramatic change to the lives of millions of women, children, and families worldwide.

### Position Details

Job title:	Technical Officer TB services
Job grade:	Grade 5
Reporting to:	Senior Manager TB services
Location:	Arusha (1), Tabora (1),

### Roles Summary

The Technical officer TB service is a highly committed, self-motivated and result oriented individual. S/he will support council’s project coordinators and respective CHMTs to translate, coordinate and supervise implementation of EGPAF’s USAID Boresha Afya TB and TB/HIV technical area, towards effective and sustainable implementation. S/he will provide regional level technical assistance, mentorship and supervision of the EGPAF supported TB and TB collaborative activities, including designing and supporting implementation of innovative approaches to ensure high quality and integrated TB and TB/HIV collaborative activities across the supported councils, and facilities. S/he will assure an effective collaboration with various technical officers, regional project managers and Councils project coordinators, while providing guidance and technical assistance to RTLCs and DTLCs in line with the government of Tanzania (NTP) guidelines. The Technical officer TB services will lead and advise the project office team including project managers and project coordinators on documentation and sharing of best practices in TB and TB/HIV collaborative activities in their respective regions

### Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Leading and coordinating TB and TB/HIV collaborative activities in the region and A

### Required Qualifications

- MD or BSC Nursing from recognized University, Master’s degree will be added advantage
- At least 3 years of proven experience in program management and implementation of TB and TB/HIV programs in developing countries, including supervision and reporting

### Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Knowledge and experience in TB and TB/HIV program management
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Creative imagination in designing interventions using Quality Improvement principles

### Position Details

Job title:	Technical Officer – HIV Testing Services TO – HTS)
Job grade:	Grade 5
Reporting to:	PMTCT/HTS coordinator
Location:	Arusha (1), Dodoma (1), Kilimanjaro (1), Manyara (1) and Singida (1)

### Job Summary:

The Technical officer HTS is a highly committed, self-motivated and result oriented individual. S/he will provide regional level technical assistance, mentorship and supervision of the EGPAF supported HTS activities including designing and supporting implementation of innovative approaches to ensure provision of high quality HIV testing services in both the community and the facility. S/he is responsible to ensure effective implementation of community index testing, focused PITC at facilities, PrEP and Recency testing in their assigned USAID Boresha Afya supported region. The technical officer HTS will lead and advise the project office teams on documentation and sharing of best practices in community index testing and HTS in general. S/he will report to the PMTCT/HTS coordinator. S/he has the role to support implementation, monitor and provide support to assigned programmatic aspects under HIV testing services as stated below.

### Essential Duties and Responsibilities

#### HIV Testing Services

HTS Technical officer is responsible for overall HIV testing activity within region with focus on community index testing as well as facility index testing and optimized PITC on identification of new HIV cases and ensuring PrEP and recency testing are well implemented according to the national guideline. Ensure directives from donor through Technical supervisors are well and widely shared and implemented at facility and community levels.

#### Community index testing

- Mediate between community and facility index-testing providers on the implementation of community index testing.
- Provide technical assistance and support to community testers and volunteers working on the community index test on daily basis
- Monitor implementation of community index testing and ensure weekly reporting of the entire index testing cascade.
- Conduct weekly index testing data review for updating testing outcomes at the facility and obtaining list of new index contacts to be traced and tested at the community.
- Support and monitor implementation and reporting of community index testing and linkage of all clients identified positive through community testing.
- Provide implementation progress update against specified community index testing of the facilities in in the assigned region on weekly and monthly basis
- Provide input for quarterly narrative report on implementation and progress of community index testing activities including lessons learned.

- Proactively, establish the system for the identification and referral of HIV infected clients from community based index testing.
- Conduct supportive supervision with CPCs and district HTS focal person to identify challenges in the implementation of community index testing.

#### Focused facility PITC

- Provide support and monitor implementation and reporting of HIV Testing Services (HTS) specifically index testing, optimized PITC and linkage of all clients identified positive using linkage case management (LCM) approach.
- Provide input for quarterly narrative report on HTS activities implemented in the facilities supported.
- Strengthen the system for identification and referral of HIV infected clients from all entry points including community based testing.
- Support the implementation and monitoring of testing cascades to ensure continuum of care from focused HIV testing for case identification until linkage to treatment (initiation of ART)
- Work close with facility CTC providers for elicitation of index contacts to plan for facility and community testing, document and report follow up outcome

#### PrEP

- Support and monitor implementation and reporting of PrEP activities at both facility and community settings as per the guidance in the implementation plan.
- Provide input for quarterly narrative report on PrEP activities conducted in the supported region.
- Support the implementation and monitoring of PrEP activities to ensure fidelity of implementation as per the WHO guidelines.
- Conduct regular supervisory visits to follow up on the implementation of PrEP activities, documentation of challenges and lessons learnt and reporting.
- Ensure proper documentation and reporting are done accordingly using the available tools

#### Recency testing

- Support and monitor implementation and reporting of Recency testing in clients identified through focused HIV testing interventions from community and facility settings.
- Provide input for quarterly narrative report on Recency testing, to include progress of implementation and lessons learned during the course of implementation.
- Review documentation of recency testing outcomes in the supported region.
- Ensure proper documentation and reporting are done accordingly using the available tools

#### Build capacity of facility and community teams on HTS, PrEP and recency testing

- Provide technical support to facility and community HTS providers in implementation of community index testing, focused PITC, PrEP and recency testing activities
- Facilitate quarterly HTS experience sharing meetings for HTS providers to discuss HTS, PrEP and recency testing performance and promising practices.
- Ensure availability of up to date HTS guidelines, SOPs, registers and reporting formats in all facilities and testing areas.
- Provide inputs and follow up on action plans for improving focused HTS specifically community index testing, PrEP and recency testing during data analysis and monitor its implementation.
- Supervision of community HTS providers

#### Documentation of best practices of focused PITC, PrEP and recency testing program components

- Identify and write on best practices and success stories.
- Document challenges and suggest action to be taken while implementing HTS, PrEP and recency testing activities in the supported regions.
- Provide inputs for HTS, PrEP and recency testing during development of detailed proposals for application and reapplication for USG funding and for other donors.
- Share and disseminate lessons learnt from regions.

#### Undertake any other duties as assigned by the supervisor

#### Required Qualifications

- Degree or advanced diploma in medicine, nursing or related field with relevant national registration
- Master’s degree in public health or related field is an added advantage
- At least 2 years of experience working in public health programs/ services
- At least 2 years of experience in implementation and management of HIV testing and linkage to ART or related clinical and public health programs
- Experience in writing reports, best practices and lessons learnt

#### Knowledge, skills and Abilities

- Excellent command of English and Swahili languages in written and oral communication.
- Experience in basic computer applications such as MS Word, Excel, Power point and internet
- Ability to work under pressure and tight deadlines

#### HOW TO APPLY

EGPAF is an equal opportunities employer and the position is open to all. Qualified candidates should submit a CV, cover letter and relevant certificates explaining how the experience detailed in the CV will contribute to the requirements of the position and references to EGPAF. Submissions to be sent to:

The Senior Human Resource Manager,  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation,  
P.O. BOX 1628,  
395 Ursino Park, Mwaikibaki Road, Morocco  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Or e-mail: [recruitment.tanzania@pedaids.org](mailto:recruitment.tanzania@pedaids.org)  
Closing date: 23rd October 2019

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



## Govt to pay 315m/- to help maize farmers tame losses

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

THE Government has said it intends to pay all 156 maize farmers a total of 315m/- following losses allegedly from Rukwa Cooperative Union (RCU).

The Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga gave the promise at the weekend when speaking to members of Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) in Kalambo district during his one-day official visit in Rukwa region.

The payments will involve farmers in Mwimbi division within four wards - Mambwe Kenya, Ulumi, Mkombo and Mwazyie and arose from 622.69 tons of maize bought by Muzia Amcos that was given agency status by the government to purchase crops from farmers on August 8 2017 on understanding that of paying them within three weeks from the date of weighing, but were not paid until now.

He said: "Since the case is in the courts the government cannot interfere and instead as we still wait for the completion of the case I direct the three institutions in my ministry to contribute money to pay the farmers."

He said the institutions include the ministry itself for failing to address the issue in time, Cooperative Development

Commission as supervisors of the cooperative unions, who also failed to address the issue; and finally the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA).

Hasunga said since the fifth-phase government will afford to let down its wanchi, it has come out to the rescue the farmers. He said the government has decided to pay the farmers their money so that they continue with their farming activities and when the case is completed it will get its money back.

He directed the assistant Registrar of Cooperative in Rukwa region to prepare the list of the farmers to be paid and to ensure no ghost names on the list.

On his part, the Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has congratulated the minister for the decision to pay the farmers their money as it will ensure they continue with their farming activities.

He said from the decision of the ministry other legal steps including legal action against the RCU officials will continue.

Earlier, reading a statement about the issue the Muzia Amcos secretary Geofrey Mbatia said in addition to the farmers complaints he thanked the office of the Regional Commissioner for close cooperation during the duration of whole saga.



Bajaji taxi riders wash their vehicles yesterday on a road in Dar es Salaam's Jangwani area rendered impassable by floodwaters resulting from recent rains. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## NEMC warns vendors selling water packed in plastic bags

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) yesterday counselled vendors of drinking water packed in translucent plastic bags that they are selling suspect water and in banned bags.

NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka told journalists who are following up implementation of the government's ban on plastic carriers that in relation to that issue NEMC was expected

to promote entrepreneurship but also ensure the law was observed in order to protect people's health and environment.

"Our council's duty has to dimensions: one, to promote strictly government policies in order to enhance people's welfare and two, to observe strictly the law. We give necessary support to entrepreneurs as a way of promoting government's industrialisation and trade policies but we also have to ensure all entrepreneurs observe the laws of the land. We cannot

mince words on this," Dr Gwamaka emphasised.

The MD said people selling water or other items in plastic bags must go to offices of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and be told the right materials to use for their businesses.

In Dar es Salaam petty traders are retailing suspect water popularly known as 'kandoro' using banned plastic bags.

Dr Gwamaka said in implementing the government's ban, NEMC regularly reviews various aspects

surrounding the ban and then decides on what to do when it was opportune to do so.

"We are very sympathetic to struggling vendors who are selling clean water and other items. But the message we are sending now is that those using banned plastic bags are unwelcome; this is illegal, uncalled for and should stop henceforth," he warned adding that Vice-President Samia Suluhu Hassan had in the past also warned on the illegality of bags and their use.

He hinted that NEMC inspectors were visiting areas to see whether or not the laws were being observed. Culprits risk fines or imprisonment or both, he cautioned.

Dr Gwamaka also warned producers and distributors of carriers that to do not meet standards set by the TBS that they were also breaking the law. He said explained that cargo with suspect carriers were being held at the Dar es Salaam port because they were imported without observing the law and meeting set standards. He

said a plastic bag must carry the name, trade mark and address of the producer, a TBS logo and must not be less than 70GSM.

NEMC's Director of Legal Department, Bernard Kongoza, explained that users of the banned bags risk arrest by police. "We are working very closely with the police at district level. So violation of government order will lead to arrest by police to allow prosecution. We are appealing to all people to observe instructions that are issued by NEMC because that water

is highly suspect and is being sold in banned bags," he said.

This is the second time producers, importers and distributors of suspect carriers are warned. A week ago the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), George Simbachawene, warned that distributors of dubious carriers risk legal action and, further, the unwanted bags would be confiscated and destroyed.

He gave distributors 14 days to remove the bags from circulation.



Britam Insurance member of staff Wakuru Julius (L) has a word with Zuhura Mtambo on the importance of insurance cover. This was during a sensitisation programme conducted in Dar es Salaam yesterday in collaboration with Engen Ltd. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## SADC develops regional mobile money platform

HARARE

THE Southern African Development Community (Sadc) region is working to introduce a mobile money transfer system for the bloc.

Mobile money has evolved as a utility to provide financial services largely to the unbanked population.

According to Zimbabwean banker and chairman of the SADC Payments Scheme Management Body Andrew Mugari:

"We are running a pilot to enable customers to transfer funds to any SADC country using mobile phones which will bring further convenience to the customers in the SADC region.

"Two banks, ZB Bank in Zimbabwe and Zanaco in Zambia as

well as Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Mukuru and Terrapay in South Africa as well as Airtel in Malawi are involved in the pilot tests.

"Once successful, we will roll-out to all member regional banks and MNOs and this is part of a financial inclusion strategy in the region."

Financial services market analysis firm FinMark Trust, has since developed Mobile Money Guidelines to assist SADC Member States with principles to facilitate the harmonisation of their legal and regulatory frameworks for mobile money, in support of greater financial inclusion and market development in the SADC region.

Currently customers are able to transfer funds real time to any SADC country using the SADC Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) sys-

tem. Zimbabwe has 14 banks on the SADC RTGS system, previously called SIRESS and it has the highest number of banks on the platform followed by South Africa with 11 banks.

The current settlement currency is the rand but the system is open to other regional currencies.

The region is also working towards including the US dollar on the platform.

In total there are 83 banks on the SADC RTGS platform and more banks are joining.

"The major benefit to customers is that they get same day value and therefore we urge customers in Zimbabwe to make use of this system.

"When they approach banks, they should request that their pay-

ments go through the SADC RTGS system.

"We are also working towards making the platform very cheap for customers when they make cross border transactions," said Mr Mugari.

SADC commercial banks met in Angola earlier this month to discuss issues on how to enhance the regional RTGS platform.

The SADC Payments Scheme Management Body derives its mandate from the Finance and Investment Protocol which was signed by SADC Heads of States in Maseru, Lesotho, in August 2006.

The SADC payments project seeks to promote payments regional integration and harmonisation.

## Book sets it sight on boosting of China-Tanzania cooperation

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

A NEW book has been launched highlighting the opportunities and challenges facing the cooperation between China and Tanzania with proposed ways to solve the obstacles.

The book titled 'The Challenge to China-Tanzania relationship' is authored by Tanzanian and Secretary General of Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association, Joseph Kahama.

The book was launched by CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Philip Mangula who said the book has been written at a time when the government put more efforts to strengthening trade and economic diplomacy with other nations to help Tanzania become a semi-industrialized Middle Income Country.

He commended Kahama for penning a new book that elaborates the past, present and future of China-Tanzania cooperation and gives a Roadmap of how the relationship can be improved by looking at the past, copying existing structures and arrangements that both countries have with other countries," he noted.

He said majority of Tanzanians have very good ideas and thoughts but they don't put it in writings.

"Joseph has helped us our history between China and Tanzania to be well documented for the current and future generations and I believe the book will be reading with future generations," he noted.

For his part, the author of the book, Secretary General of Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association, Joseph Kahama added that the book discusses the current China-Tanzania relationship, its past and offer a suggested roadmap on how the relationship could be driven in the future.

The relationship is an opportunity that offers a unique and special platform to engage, enhance and strengthen friendship between these two countries.

The relationship goes beyond politics and the economy, china has funded different projects to the Tanzanian economy and the sector that are beneficiaries of this relationship are health, education, culture, defense (Military), business and investments, agriculture, transportation and most recently tourism and various other services.

He said the relationship between these two countries have been excellent and of utility to both countries and both countries depend on each other and work solidly together on a plethora of issues and they do this with unshakable commitment.

According to him, the book elaborate on areas that both countries need to work on to improve engagement and their relationship, drawing parallels with initiatives that China has with other African countries.

Also the book looks at the space occupied by China with regards to the Tanzanian economy, its

projects and investments in the country, it looks at the benefits of such projects to the country but also some pitfalls.

Also the book looks at the impact that China and Chinese have had in the Tanzanian society, the areas of focus are education, culture, health and construction of social development infrastructure such as soccer stadiums and also some hard infrastructure projects such as construction of roads, bridges and water projects.

Apart from that the book shows that there are some challenges that need to be addressed while the Roadmap of the book also looks at the past and present forms and character of the relationship, knitting them together to see how they can be used to improve and build a better and more beneficial relationship going forward.

Elaborating on what can be instituted or mainstreamed to improve the existing relationship Joseph said, Tanzania and China need to build more institutional linkages between the two countries.

In comparison to competitor countries like India, UK, Tanzania and China have less institutional linkages.

"The book recommends that both countries look into this space of instituting and creating more joint institutes, Commissions, Organizations, Committees and Chambers spanning all important sectors such as economy, trade, banking and financing, education, science and technology as well as Arbitration Boards," he noted.

Also Tanzania with Chinese assistance must jointly increase efforts at attracting more serious private investors from China to invest in sectors and areas where Tanzania is negatively impacted in its balance of trade with China.

Those goods imported by Tanzania must be manufactured in Tanzania.

For her part, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke added that because of his understanding and love for China and his sense of responsibility of maintaining the friendship between China and Tanzania Joseph has written this book from the perspective of a participant and promoter of China-Tanzania relations which consists of sufficient research and in-depth thinking.

"The Challenge to China-Tanzania Relationship to enhance cooperation and mutual benefits" has comprehensively and systematically elaborates the past, present and future of China-Tanzania cooperation.

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr Joseph Kahama and the organization for their outstanding work," she noted.

I hope that more experts and scholars will join in the research work and give their insight on China-Tanzania Cooperation.



## EU extends and extra 9m Euro in support of FAO's promotion of farming practices on African continent not disrupting nature

By Guardian Reporter

EUROPEAN Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, and Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Qu Dongyu, Monday signed a new agreement which will see the EU provide an additional €9 million to support the UN agency's work in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

In particular, the funding will boost the efforts of countries in the targeted regions to bring about sustainable changes in agricultural policies and practices to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and natural resources.

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu stated: "Our support for more biodiversity and better quality food is decisive for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Agriculture and biodiversity are strongly intertwined.

The agricultural sector depends heavily on biodiversity, yet it is also a contributor to biodiversity loss.

This new programme will help overcome the socio-economic and political barriers that prevent countries and farmers from adopting ecosystem-based agricultural practices and approaches to biodiversity and chemical management."

Commissioner Mimica said: "Nature is under threat - the world needs more sustainable agricultural practices that boost food security, poverty reduction and economic growth, while preserving the planet's precious natural resources. I am very glad to be announcing this additional funding just two days before World Food Day. It is a further example of the EU's firm commitment to work with its ACP partner countries on these very aims."

Patrick I. Gomes, Secretary General of the ACP Group of States, said: "I welcome this new project, which is of great importance for ACP countries. Conserving biodiversity and reducing the pressure on natural resources and ecosystems, while also tackling climate change, has never been more important for our diets, our health, our planet and our survival."

Today's contract is part of a broader EU support programme promoting environmental sustainability in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries via stronger environmental governance and the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements like the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The programme will also address some of the most unsustainable practices in agriculture, such as the use of highly hazardous pesticides, and scale up ecosystem-based practices and approaches that favour natural pest control and protect pollinators and other beneficial organisms.

Examples include agro-ecosystem-based approaches, organic agriculture, land restoration and landscape management, agroforestry, integrated pest management, pesticide risk reduction and the conservation of local crop diversity.

Partnerships with the private sector and civil society will act as drivers towards more sustainable agricultural systems. In addition, regional and national institutions will be able to do more to design and implement agricultural policies that enhance biodiversity, while at the same time maintaining production and profitability.

### Background

The gradual loss of vegetative cover due to poor land management practices has led to a dramatic degradation in land and water resources - and, in the most extreme cases, to desertification. Intensive farming patterns put additional pressure on natural resources, with global trends such as climate change, urbanisation and population growth adding to the problem. Each year 12 million hectares of land lose their productive capacity due to drought and desertification.

This capacity-building programme for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States is the product of a partnership between the European Commission, the ACP countries, the UN Environment Programme and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

It builds on the achievements of previous cooperation between the EU and ACP countries. It has reached over 3 200 beneficiaries from 35 ACP countries, including government officers, civil society, the private sector and rural communities.

The programme's first two phases have mainstreamed environmental management issues within institutions and national development plans in a large number of ACP countries.

For instance, the programme has supported the disposal of tons of obsolete pesticides and strengthened pesticide risk assessment procedures in several ACP countries. It has positively influenced global dialogues on the need for good governance and policy coherence to protect biodiversity.

As a result, the agriculture sector has been able to implement more effectively the relevant conventions on biodiversity and chemical and waste management. At the same time, a strong case has emerged around the need for a more joined-up approach to addressing agriculture's environmental impact.

This programme will therefore deliver important outcomes on biodiversity preservation, contributing significantly to global efforts ahead of the upcoming Conference of Parties of the CBD (COP 15) in 2020, and establish a robust foundation for an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## TANZANIA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



### INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTRONIC AUCTIONING

(Made under regulation 8 of the Wildlife Conservation [Tourist Hunting] [Amendments] Regulations, 2019)

Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) invites applications from qualified applicants for the allocation of Tourist Hunting Blocks through electronic auctioning (e-auctioning). Currently, there are 24 vacant hunting Blocks within Game Reserves (GRs), Game Controlled Areas (GCAs) and Open Areas (OAs) that are immediately available for e-auctioning. Eligible hunting companies can be allocated up to five (5) hunting blocks each, which shall be of different categories. Auctioning will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

#### 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALLOCATION OF HUNTING BLOCK (S)

According to the Wildlife Conservation Cap. 283, no person shall be considered for allocation of a hunting block unless:

- He has a company registered with the Registrar of Companies within Tanzania intending to engage in hunting of animals;
- At least one of the Directors has five (5) years experience in Wildlife based business and Conservation in Tanzania; and
- The company meets requirements of Section 39(3)(a) of the Wildlife Conservation Act.

#### 2. TENURE OF OWNERSHIP OF HUNTING BLOCKS

The tenure of ownership of hunting blocks shall be ten (10) years for Category I and II hunting blocks and 15 years for Category III blocks. The Minister shall on the fifth year of the tenure of ownership of a hunting block, determine the continuity of the tenure. The Minister's decision shall be based on:

- the annual performance assessment and the evaluation of the hunting block utilization; and
- the full performance of the company allocated a hunting block to be carried out in the fourth year of the tenure, which shall take into account the annual assessment and the evaluation criteria prescribed in the regulation.

#### 3. MODE OF APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Applicants will complete an online registration at <http://portal.mnrt.go.tz> through the appropriate e-form provided. After successful registration an applicant will be assigned an auto generated username and password sent via their registered e-mail addresses to enable them to access the e-auction portal.
- Applicants will then select hunting blocks they intend to bid, which will automatically generate an e-invoice for the applicant to pay a non-refundable application fee based on the block category being applied for (see table below).

Application fees as per categories of hunting blocks

S/N	Category of Hunting Block	Fees in USD
1	I	5,000
2	II	2,000
3	III	1,000

- Only successful applicants will be permitted to participate in e-auctioning of hunting blocks, which will remain open for a period of seven consecutive days.
- A bidder will use his/her username and password to access the bidding dashboard and bid according to the information specified on the bidding interface.
- A bidder will remain anonymous.
- Bids will be automatically ranked, the contents of which will be encrypted.

#### Bidders will:

- Assign a fee and compete only on pre-selected hunting block(s)
- Log in the e-auction system more than once during bidding
- Be notified automatically on new bids as they are placed, together with their corresponding prices, so that they will be able to track their rankings in the course of bidding.
- There shall be a reserved price for each category of hunting blocks, which will set a minimum price of value per category.
- Any party shall not disclose identities of bidders during the course of auctioning.
- All invalid bids submitted shall be rejected with a message explaining reasons for a rejection.
- Bidders shall not provide any additional information or clarifications related to the auction that may distort competition; and where necessary, such information shall be availed by TAWA.
- Users shall be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all particulars associated with their accounts.
- An e-auction award shall be based solely on ranking of prices, such that the allocation is awarded to the highest successful bidder.
- No bid may be withdrawn after the completion of bidding process.
- Bidders will only be allowed to increase their bidding prices

during the auctioning process.

- A successful bidder shall pay 25% of the highest price reached within 12 working hours after closure of the auctioning.
- The remaining 75% shall be paid within 14 days from the date of the closure of auctioning, failure of which will lead into cancellation of the offer and forfeiture of the 25% of the fees paid.
- A successful bid price shall be the annual hunting block fee which shall be paid annually based on the calendar stipulated in the tourist hunting regulations

#### NOTE:

Only successful bidders will be issued with a Hunting Block Allocation Certificate by the Minister. Should you need any further information or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit the following offices:

**1. Conservation Commissioner**  
**Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority**  
**Dar es Salaam Road-Kingolwira Area**  
**TAFORI Building**  
**P O Box 265**  
**MOROGORO -Tanzania**  
**Tel: +255 23-2934204**  
**E-mail: cc@tawa.go.tz**

**2. e-Auction of Hunting Blocks Help Desk Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority**  
**Phone: +255784 999191; +255717187156;**  
**+255754043280**  
**E-mail: e-auctionhuntingblocks@tawa.go.tz**

#### TOURIST HUNTING BLOCKS AVAILABLE FOR AUCTIONING

S/N	Hunting Block	Area (sq.km)	Grade	Protection Status	Ecosystem
<b>CATEGORY I</b>					
1	Kizigo GR (E) 2	1281	I	GR	Ruaha-Rungwa
<b>CATEGORY II</b>					
2	Inyonga G.C.A. (W)	2212	II	GCA	Katavi-Rukwa
3	Inyonga G.C.A. (C)	2068	II	GCA	Katavi-Rukwa
4	Mlele G.C.A. (S)	1265	II	GCA	Katavi-Rukwa
5	Moyowosi G.R (N 1)	1608	II	GR	Malagarasi-Muyovosi
6	Moyowosi G.R (N 2)	1633	II	GR	Malagarasi-Muyovosi
7	Msimba G.C.A. (E)	2122	II	GCA	Katavi-Rukwa
8	Msimba G.C.A. (W)	2130	II	GCA	Katavi-Rukwa
9	Kizigo GR (E) 1	1194	II	GR	Ruaha-Rungwa
10	Moyowosi/Njingwe G.R 1	1810	II	GR	Malagarasi-Muyovosi
11	Moyowosi-Njingwe G.R 2	1717	II	GR	Malagarasi-Muyovosi
12	Muhesi GR	2669	II	GR	Ruaha-Rungwa
13	Lwafi-Nkamba GR	2441	II	GR	Katavi-Rukwa
<b>CATEGORY III</b>					
14	Chunya O.A (E)	730	III	O.A	Katavi-Rukwa
15	Ituru Forest (O.A)	2088	III	O.A	Ruaha-Rungwa
16	Litumbandyosi O.A./Gezamasua	2823	III	O.A	Selous-Mikumi
17	Lukwika-Lumesule GR.	427	III	GR	Selous-Mikumi
18	Msanjesi GR	604	III	GR	Selous-Mikumi
19	Piti O.A. (E)	2184	III	OA	Katavi-Rukwa
20	Ruvuma O.A.	584	III	OA	Selous-Mikumi
21	Liparamba G.R	616	III	GR	Selous-Mikumi
22	Mwantisi O.A (S)	1110	III	OA	Selous-Mikumi
23	Mwantisi O.A. (N) and Furua	1388	III	OA	Selous-Mikumi
24	Muhuwaesi G.C.A.	1545	III	GCA	Selous-Mikumi

#### Issued by:

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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
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## Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too

FOOD is any substance consumed to provide nutritional support for an organism. It is usually of plant or animal origin, and contains essential nutrients, such as carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, or minerals. The substance is ingested by an organism and assimilated by the organism's cells to provide energy, maintain life, or stimulate growth.

Historically, humans secured food through two methods: hunting and gathering and agriculture. Today, the majority of the food energy required by the ever increasing population of the world is supplied by the food industry.

Food safety and food security are monitored by agencies like the International Association for Food Protection, World Resources Institute, World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation, and International Food Information Council. They address issues such as sustainability, biological diversity, climate change, nutritional economics, population growth, water supply, and access to food.

The right to food is a human right derived from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), recognising the "right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food", as well as the "fundamental right to be free from hunger".

Most food has its origin in plants. Some food is obtained directly from plants; but even animals that are used as food sources are raised by feeding them food derived from plants. Cereal grain is a staple food that provides more food energy worldwide than any other type of crop. Corn (maize), wheat, and rice - in all of their varieties - account for 87 per cent of all grain production worldwide. Most of the grain that is produced worldwide is fed to livestock.

Some foods not from animal or

plant sources include various edible fungi, especially mushrooms. Fungi and ambient bacteria are used in the preparation of fermented and pickled foods like leavened bread, alcoholic drinks, cheese, pickles, kombucha, and yogurt.

Vegetables are a second type of plant matter that is commonly eaten as food.

These include root vegetables (potatoes and carrots), bulbs (onion family), leaf vegetables (spinach and lettuce), stem vegetables (bamboo shoots and asparagus), and inflorescence vegetables (globe artichokes and broccoli and other vegetables such as cabbage or cauliflower).

World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16 October in honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 1945. The day is celebrated widely by many other organisations concerned with food security, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The World Food Day theme for 2014 was Family Farming: "Feeding the world, caring for the earth"; in 2015 it was "Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty"; in 2016 it is Climate Change: "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too", which echoes the theme of 2008, and of 2002 and 1989 before that.

World Food Day was established by FAO's member countries at the organisation's 20th general conference in November 1979. The Hungarian delegation, led by the former Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Food Dr. Pál Romány, played an active role at the 20th session of the FAO Conference and suggested the idea of celebrating the WFD worldwide. It has since been observed every year in more than 150 countries, raising awareness of the issues behind poverty and hunger.

## Wildlife trade shortcomings are regulatory, ethical issues

CONCERNS about the condition of wildlife conservation are always plentiful in the West, with activist organizations closely following what is taking place on the ground. Their researches and updates form the background of global deliberations on the issues, for instance to prepare and observe how countries implement agreed rules on wildlife trade. Their work has preponderant weight in what happens in the wildlife sector worldwide, and conditions policy as well.

This implies that any new report surfacing from the major international wildlife conservation NGOs makes ripples and each of these imprints on the ground affects the mood in which wildlife trade is conducted. It means we also need to take stock of what we hear from time to time to put our heads together as to where we stand on the issues. Otherwise the country is caught unawares as word goes around on what is wrong, or lack idea or suggestions on the issues.

That is why a new report which has purportedly found out that both legal and illegal trade is detrimental to the conservation of Africa's iconic wildlife is quite interesting, or intriguing. It emanates from a London-based NGO, World Animal Protection and was published to coincide with World Animal Day, and it examines the condition of wildlife trade in near-threatened species known as the Big 5 and a new acronym, Little 5 most-in-demand species. It raises some disturbing questions on how trade in those species impacts their conservation.

There are observations on hunting the Big 5 that can be confined to the proper attention of conservationists, as they relate to the discomfort

that animals are likely to experience, and in certain cases, how many will be alive at the end of that journey. As the trade basically revolves around pets kept in private zoos in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, questions of losses by death of the caught animals is basically a trade issue. Not many will see it as ethics in the first place.

The Big Five at issue are considered to be threatened with extinction if hunted in substantial numbers, namely lions, leopards, rhinoceros, elephants and the Cape buffalo. Yet numbers that we hear from many areas, especially for crocs and even elephants means they are quite numerous. They attack villagers, etc.

The tone of the new report has a rather disturbing aspect to it, namely the idea that wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, is damaging the conservation of wild populations through unsustainable harvesting, species loss and the spread of disease. The clear implication is that it is better to do away with wildlife trade as a whole, and indeed the conditions in which this trade can be carried out is a bit confused, with the country losing billions of shillings in revenue as a result. There is no inkling if stopping wildlife trade in 2016 was tied to a conditional.

Local wildlife and especially bird breeders have lost revenues and failed to pay loans, lost markets in foreign countries because of a fiat to stop exporting bird species and a number of others. When they are bred in captivity that means their wildlife conservation situation is not affected, in which case they can be sold like other products. If there are shortcomings of sensitivity or undue cruelty to animals, surely they can be sorted out by inspections, certification?

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## For South Africa, climate adaptation, economic growth can go hand in hand

IN September, I visited South Africa with my fellow Elders Graça Machel and Gro Harlem Brundtland, where I had the honor of meeting President Cyril Ramaphosa in Cape Town. We met the President and members of Parliament to learn more about the ambitious health reforms currently being debated across the country.

It struck me during our discussions that many aspects of the debate on Universal Health Coverage are pertinent to another crucial, interconnected topic that is also a priority for the South African government.

That is, how to best advance economic growth in South Africa. Sustainable economic growth is a multifaceted challenge that requires the consideration of a number of issues such as national health, climate change and equal access to opportunities.

After all, a healthy society is a productive society. Conversely, you cannot have a growing economy if your workforce is incapacitated or diminished by poor health. And if the state cannot guarantee a healthy climate - in every sense of the word - in which labour and business can thrive, any form of sustainable growth will prove elusive.

All this explains why climate change is an inescapable factor when we talk about economic growth, and why sustainable growth models need to be based on policies that cut emissions and keep temperature rises below the critical 1.5 degrees level cited by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

### Leaders are facing daunting challenges ahead

When Mandela launched The Elders 11 years ago in Johannesburg he knew that justice, peace, human rights and development would all amount to nothing if we literally cannot breathe the air and our planet is rendered uninhabitable.

As a former President of Chile, I also know all too well the daunting challenges facing leaders and civil society at a national and local level,



especially in a difficult economic climate when public funds are scarce and problems are plentiful.

At the same time, we also live in times of great connectivity and hope. Rapidly developing technology and better access to information gives us the opportunity to forge a better, fairer and greener future for all.

We have a critical window, one that is rapidly closing, to harness these new, innovative technologies to the power of the state and international bodies, and develop radical policies and growth paradigms to keep to the 1.5 degree target.

Such measures need to be based on the understanding that globalisation has transformed economic models, supply chains, labour markets, industrial relations, and migratory flows, all of which have an impact on how economies can respond and adapt to climate change.

Any successful strategy to our shared global problems needs to adopt a holistic approach, ensuring the poorest in our societies are not left behind.

Climate action must be integral to economic growth

South Africa continues to be a major emitter of greenhouse gases with emissions that are 43 percent higher than the global average. The energy sector contributes to 81.7% of the country's emissions. There must be, therefore, a particular urgency when it comes to considering how to advance economic growth in a way that not only prevents further emissions of greenhouse gases but actively decreases South Africa's carbon footprint and coal reliance.

I strongly believe that in the future, we will judge

generations of children suffered when authoritarian leaders turned our countries into dictatorships, isolating us from the rest of the world and denying our fundamental rights. Young South Africans and Chileans today live in democracies, but they still face a blighted future if current leaders do not act now to prevent even more dramatic and damaging impacts of climate change on our societies and economies.

### How can this be done?

I believe it is time for South Africa and countries across the Global South to take the initiative and show leadership, by building climate resilience into infrastructure investments and moving to renewable energy. This has to involve a fundamental shift away from coal, however central this may once have seemed to the nation's economy. Coal continues to play a significant role in South Africa's energy consumption, accounting for 91% of electricity and employing more than 100,000 people.

The Elders have always made it a priority to emphasise that the transition to the low carbon economy must be a just one; I wholeheartedly salute the struggle and sacrifice that mineworkers and mining communities played in the long struggle against apartheid, and the vital stake they have in today's South Africa.

It would be a grotesque injustice if these people were to be thrown on the scrapheap, as we have seen in other industrialised countries that closed their mining industries in previous decades. However, it would be equally unjust and dishonest to pretend that coal can continue to play a profitable role in the national economy.

As countries like China and India switch their energy mix to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement, coal's viability as an export item is becoming more and more untenable. Due to changes in global coal markets in terms of lower demand and prices meant that between 2013 and 2017, South Africa lost approximately \$60 billion in future earnings from coal exports. These trends will not reverse themselves any time soon.

As a result, South Africa needs a "just transition" out of fossil fuels that provides for new employment and investment opportunities in mining areas, and education and training so workers' skills can be redeployed in new, green and sustainable industries.

The Just Transition Pathways process offers the potential for such a transformation. In my experience, just as we managed the transition from dictatorship to democracy in Chile, it is critical that those who will be most affected by the change, the families that rely on coal for their income, are consulted as a core part of the process.

### Drawing inspiration from Mandela's struggle

Ethical leadership inevitably requires taking tough decisions in the knowledge that the benefits may not be truly felt until many years after the end of your own lifetime. Nelson Mandela understood this intimately, as did the other heroes of the liberation struggle, many of whom sacrificed their lives so their children could enjoy a future of peace, justice and dignity.

Sustainable economic growth, by its very definition, cannot come at the expense of our planet, nor can it result in the impoverishment of many hundreds of thousands of workers. This is an immense challenge that South Africa faces, as indeed every country in the world does. However, it is also a time of hope and resilience, not despair, as we look to invest in a future that places climate resiliency and sustainable growth side by side.

We need to draw inspiration from Mandela's struggle and work together to tackle the threat of climate change, and bequeath a world of plenty and harmony to our children and grandchildren, capitalising on this sense of urgency whilst we still can.

In South Africa and in Chile,



# Village committees, NGOs and district team up on tree harvesting, forest conservation

By Beatrice Philemon

**A**FTER discovering that deforestation in unreserved forests especially on village lands is very high, Kilolo district in Iringa region has come up with a new Sustainable Harvesting Plan for timber and charcoal production.

Shifting cultivation, charcoal making, livestock grazing and bush fires are the major causes of forest destruction in unreserved forests in many parts of the district.

Kilolo District Forest Officer, (DFO) Aigen Mwilafi said this in an interview while briefing journalists on what has been done to reduce deforestation in Kilolo district.

"Before local communities invaded the unreserved forests for agricultural activities, livestock grazing, with bush fires and charcoal making, the situation was very good in our district. The forest was fully covered and getting rains, but now the district has lost large forests."

He said the Sustainable Harvesting Plan is a five year plan developed by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) with support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

During implementation, the district shall work in partnership with Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRC), the District Harvesting Committee, the District Forest Manager (DFM) and villages where tree harvesting will be conducted.

According to the DFO, the presence of this harvesting plan in Kilolo district will help in addressing the challenge.

"We have decided to come up with a new harvesting plan after discovering that most of the un-reserved woodland resources in the village lands are being harvested without the presence of harvesting plans and this leads to widespread deforestation and woodland degradation in the district."

Right now harvesting trees for charcoal making and timber production must be done by registered businesses.

"All charcoal producers and businessman will be required to show us business registration documents or a valid business license if he want to engage in charcoal trade or timber production," he stated.

During implementation, the applicant will be required to submit the charcoal harvesting request to the Village Executive Officer and the village executive officer will submit that application to District Harvesting Committee.

The District Harvesting Committee will determine if the applicant will be permitted to cut trees for charcoal making or timber production.

"Everyone wishing to be involved in



**Kilolo District forest officer Aigen Mwilafi (in black jacket) exchanges views recently with members of village natural resources committees on how to take care of tree seedlings planted in a nursery at launda in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

the felling of trees in un-reserved forests on village land will be required to send applications to the village executive officer as well as show a business license that allows him/her to do charcoal trade," he elaborated.

He expressed that thanks to the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) to have developed a new Sustainable Harvesting Plan for Kilolo district, as it will in turn help them to protect forests and help sustain people's dependence on forests.

He said that promoting good governance includes transparency, accountability and participation, thus promoting equitable benefit sharing. It involves promoting ecologically sustainable harvesting of forest products including timber, fuelwood and charcoal, which are the main objectives of the district harvesting plan.

Other objectives are promoting free, prior and informed consent for communities and promoting revenue generation from sustainable harvesting of charcoal and timber for local governments, including villages.

Also during implementation, villagers will be trained on how to conserve forests and so far about 52 villages in Kilolo district have been exposed to forest conservation basics.

Although TFCG has helped them to develop a new Sustainable Harvesting Plan they still need more donors or stakeholders who can support them with a total of 300m/- to conduct Forest Resources Assessment in areas where trees have been cleared for different activities.

Out of those funds, about 100m/- will be used for restoration in areas where trees have been cleared.

Furthermore, the district is now looking for stakeholders who can support them to develop a new Participatory Forest Management model on general lands so that later on these areas can be converted to Village Land Forest Reserve, along with developing by-laws for forest management in those areas.

In a bid to reduce deforestation across the district, Kilolo district in collaboration with TFCG has established a tree nursery of indigenous trees that will be used for restoration in areas where forests have been cleared for agricultural activities and help people earn income.

So far a total of 13,900 indigenous tree seedlings have been grown in the nursery and will be distributed to the people to restore areas where forests have been cleared.

Khaya anthotheca, Albizia lebbek, Vitex keniensis tree, Markhamia lutea, Acrocarpus fraxinifolius and avocado trees are the main indigenous tree seedlings that have been planted in the nursery.

The district official lauded TFCG for embarking on this project, saying it will help the district save the forest from disappearance.

The main goal was to encourage local villagers to take part in saving protecting forests and reduce pressure from the forest reserve and unreserved forests, especially on village land.

Highlighting measures taken to reduce deforestation in unreserved forests and other areas, he said right now people in these areas are being trained on other income generating activities which are friendly to the environment such as beekeeping, fish farming, tree planting and embarking on livestock keeping for pigs, goats and cattle.

Also people are trained on forests conservation and right now are well informed on the dangers of cutting down trees. They are now aware that when they conserve forests they will be addressing climate change and reduce deforestation.

Local villagers have formed a patrol team to combat deforestation in the forest reserves. According to DFO, so far a total of 42 groups have already received 7791 modern beehives to enable them engage in honey production and earn income instead of destroying unreserved forests for shifting cultivation, livestock grazing, bush fires and charcoal making.

The villagers were given modern beehives as an alternative source of income other than depending on forests.

Four villages at Ukwega ward in Kilolo district have embarked on goat farming while six villages at Kimara and Ukwega ward were pursuing pig farming.

Similarly, three villages at Ukwega ward have embarked on fish farming while 16 villages in Masisiwe ward have

taken up a tree planting project.

The district has started a special programme to distribute tree seedlings in primary and secondary schools to enable pupils plant the seedlings in schools while others give them to the parents to plant them on their farms for timber production and other benefits.

So far seven primary schools and three secondary schools in Kilolo district have received tree seedlings and planted them in the school compound.

The district trains pupils on seed sowing, lifting the young seedlings from the seed beds, seedling care, how to prepare seedlings nursery and take the seedlings out of the seed beds and transplant them into a nursery, including transplanting of seedlings to polythene tubes.

About 94 Village Natural Resource Committees have been trained on forest management and conservation so as to develop by-laws for forest harvesting in Village Land Forests Reserves.

So far Kilolo District has a total of 123,734.74 hectares of natural forests and among those a 9760 hectares area is managed by the district.

Also the district has a total of 49,667.86 hectares of village forest reserves and about 64,292.64 hectares of unreserved forests.

Large areas of forest have been cleared by people in six villages at Kimara ward, so due to this impediment, right now villagers are being trained on the importance of conserving the forests. They have been given seeds for planting to restore vegetation and also earn income.

For his part, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group's Acting Executive Director, Emmanuel Lyimo, said that the plan is not only the first of its kind in Kilolo District but in the whole of Tanzania.

The scope of this harvesting plan focuses on procedures for harvesting charcoal only in un-reserved forests on village land and it focused on charcoal due to lack of enough of tree species for timber in Kilolo district.

Also the plan includes detailed descriptions of how it should be implemented, particularly with regards to how the district and TFS should work with villages and includes estimates of sustainable harvesting, broken down by the village.

The harvesting plan was developed by a team from Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), representatives from the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and Kilolo District Council.

The assignment was part of the activity of the project on reducing charcoal's threats to biodiversity, by government mainstreaming of sustainable charcoal production in energy-sector policy tools, funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).



## China and US push forward relations along the right track

**T**HE substantial progress achieved by China and the US after a new round of high-level economic and trade consultations indicates that the willingness for reaching an agreement and for cooperation between the two countries is on the rise.

Under the guidance of the important consensus reached between the heads of state of the two countries, the negotiation teams of China and US conducted candid, efficient and constructive discussions on economic and trade issues of common concern from October 10 to 11 in Washington D.C.

The two sides made substantial progress in such areas as agriculture, intellectual property rights protection, exchange rate, financial services, expansion of trade cooperation, technology transfer and dispute settlement.

They also discussed arrangements for future consultations and agreed to work together towards a final agreement.

A healthy and steady China-US relationship serves the interests of both countries and the world at large, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He conveyed Chinese President Xi Jinping's message to US President Donald Trump.

The Chinese president said he hopes that the two sides will work together to advance China-US relations based on coordination, cooperation and stability, manage differences on the basis of mutual respect, and expand cooperation for mutual benefit, so as to bring their relations forward along the right track.

For his part, Trump asked Liu to convey his cordial greeting to Xi, and said that he is pleased to see that the US-China trade negotiations have yielded "substantial phase one" progress, which is a great thing for both nations and the world at large.

Properly handling the China-US trade relationship is good for China, for the US, and also for peace and prosperity of the world, noted the Chinese vice premier, who is also chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue. Liu's proposition showed the endorsement of the US side during the trade talks. The world is waiting to see whether China and the US can make unremitting efforts to realize such consensus.

Economic and trade issues between China and the US were gradually accumulated in the past decades. China should not be the only party to blame, nor can all the problems be resolved overnight through any single means.

As an ancient Chinese saying goes, a long journey can be covered only by taking one step at a time. Now that China and the US have agreed to move on step by step. This means both sides are trying to seek common ground while shelving differences and take constructive actions in a pragmatic and rational manner.

The uncertainty caused by China-US economic and trade frictions over the past year has added to the difficulty of the already sluggish world economy. After all, any serious strategic miscalculation between great powers could make conflict and confrontation a "self-fulfilling prophecy".

The international community is looking forward to communication and expression of goodwill between China and the US, rather than roadblocks or escalation of frictions.

That is why the positive message from the latest round of China-US high-level economic and trade consultations has not only uplifted the market sentiment of the two countries, but also led to favorable changes of various indicators in the global market.

This emerging deal "would represent the biggest step by the two countries in 15 months to end a tariff tit-for-tat that has whipsawed financial markets and slowed global growth", said Reuters.

The world is very much looking forward to the realization of the US' public statement that "we are very close" to ending the trade war.

Only cooperation remains the right choice for China and the US, and only win-win results lead to a better future. In this regard, the two countries should make every effort to ensure that their bilateral relationship develops along the right track.

At this moment, the consensus reached between the two heads of state during their meetings in Argentina and Osaka is particularly important for the world.

In Buenos Aires, they agreed to expand cooperation based on reciprocity and mutual benefit and manage differences based on mutual respect, so as to jointly advance China-US relations with coordination, cooperation and stability as the defining features, and not to impose new additional tariffs, and instructed the economic teams of both sides to step up negotiations toward the removal of all additional tariffs and reach a concrete deal that is mutually beneficial and win-win.

More than half a year later, the two presidents said at the G20 Osaka Summit that China and the US would resume trade talks, and the US side promised not to add new tariffs on Chinese imports.

As an old Chinese saying goes, honoring a promise carries the weight of gold. China and the US should meet each other halfway and properly address each other's concerns on the basis of equality and mutual respect in accordance with the principles and direction set by the two heads of state, so as to promote the sound and steady development of bilateral economic and trade relations and constantly improve the well-being of the people of the two countries and the world at large.

**People's Daily**

# Escalating hunger in Africa calls for more global efforts on food security

NAIROBI

**P**ETER Muganda and his elderly peers who reside in the low-income suburbs of Zimbabwe's capital Harare, could be facing starvation were it not for food ration provided by the government and donor agencies.

The 75-year-old pensioner who lives with his wife and three grandchildren, has benefitted from monthly donation of 20 kg of maize by the state to cushion him from hunger that is on the rise in Zimbabwe amid climate shocks and economic downturn. "I have been receiving maize since May this year and it has ensured that my family takes a meal each day," Muganda told Xinhua.

"It is not enough but at least we have somewhere to start from." Muganda's homeland, which was for decades described as Africa's breadbasket, has not been spared hunger which threatens to roll back economic and social gains in the world's largest developing continent.

The latest Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee Results indicates that about 5.5 million people in Zimbabwe face food insecurity, as scanty rains and erratic weather patterns have caused a negative impact on crop harvests and livelihood prospects.

Zimbabwe is not alone in shouldering the hunger burden that continues to weigh heavily on African countries despite concerted efforts to accelerate their socio-economic transformation.

Africa remains the epicenter of hunger with the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 report indicating that out of the 2 billion people suffering from food insecurity globally, about 676 million are from the continent.

The report released in July by UN agencies attributed rising hunger in Africa to poverty, extreme weather events, conflicts and global economic volatility.

Hunger is continuing to rise steadily in almost all subregions in Africa. In Eastern Africa in particular, nearly a third of the population is undernourished, according to the report.

The eastern African region had 133.1 million undernourished people in 2018, followed by western and southern African regions that had 56.1 million and 5.3 million malnourished people respectively, the report said.

Meshack Malo, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Country Representative in South Sudan, told Xinhua that climate change, instability and underinvestment in the agriculture sector are partly to blame for the hunger crisis in Africa.

"That is why we are emphasizing that peace is fundamental to eradicate hunger in Africa," said Malo, adding that Africa requires visionary leadership and adoption of climate resilient agriculture to overcome famine.

South Sudan and Somalia, which have borne the brunt of conflicts, displacements and natural calamities, are yet to overcome hunger and mal-



**People carry food rations donated by the World Food Program (WFP) at the Malakal Protection of Civilians site in Malakal, South Sudan, June 19, 2019. (Xinhua)**

nutrition that have disproportionately affected women and children.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional economic bloc, said in early September that about 6.1 million people in South Sudan or half of the country's population and an additional 2.1 million people in Somalia were grappling with acute food shortages.

"Investments in climate adaptation, conflict prevention and sustaining peace will save lives and livelihoods, reduce structural vulnerabilities and address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition," IGAD said in a statement.

The Greater Horn of Africa that covers countries including Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti and South Sudan at the moment has an estimated 27 million people facing food insecurity, according to recent assessment by the IGAD.

The 23rd Assembly of African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government

that took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2014 adopted a sweeping declaration on achieving the vision of a hunger-free continent.

During the summit, African leaders renewed their commitment to allocate at least 10 percent of national budget to agriculture and enact policies that aim to improve post-harvest management, value addition and market linkages.

Policymakers and experts agreed that African countries can seize the moment and turn the hungry continent into a prized breadbasket.

Abdoulaye Bio Tchane, Benin's minister of state for planning and development, told Xinhua that adopting new agricultural technologies, regional cooperation, policy reforms and investments in school feeding programs is key to achieving zero hunger in the continent.

Benin like many countries in the Sahel region is yet to overcome the hunger crisis with UN statistics indicating that a tenth of the country's 12 million population are food insecure.

Guy Mesmin Oyila Adoua, the World Food Program (WFP) representative in Benin, said that streamlining agricultural value chains from production, harvesting, storage and marketing could reduce the hunger burden in the greater Sahel region.

While hunger and malnutrition continue to harm many African countries, progressive leadership and policy reform are offering a silver lining.

**Xinhua**





## Men need psychosocial support: It's just like all other needy people do

By Special Correspondent

**I**n the aftermath of a crisis, it is common for the humanitarian community to focus on vulnerable persons of concern, and typically they are children, women and persons with disabilities.

Men are often thought of as not needing any psychosocial support. Community centres like child-friendly spaces are often designed to welcome females and children.

On a fateful night in October 2018, a married 50-year-old and father of six was at his home in Eastern Wollega (central Oromia Region of Ethiopia) when internal conflict broke out in the adjacent Benishangul Region and soon spread to his town.

It all happened suddenly and was extremely violent. The man witnessed people getting killed as he - along with his family - were escaping the area, hoping to leave the violence behind.

Once in the relative safety of a nearby town, and he thought the situation had calmed, the man decided to venture back to his village. He was planning to retrieve some of his family's belongings and check in on his herd of 20 cattle.

He was frozen in shock seeing his house burnt to the ground and all his belongings gone. To make matters worse, some of the perpetrators were still on his property.

The poor man ran for his life and managed to outrun his pursuers, reaching a nearby forest, where he hid for several days without food or water. When he thought it was safe to leave the forest, he found his way to an internally displaced persons (IDP) site where he was eventually reunited with his family.

He is among the 390,000 adult men who were displaced during the conflict which displaced more than 2.3 million people last year. Since then, he has struggled to recover from the distress he suffered.

"I felt completely destroyed, and even though I'm doing much better now, I doubt my life will ever be the same after what we went through as a family," the man narrated.

Even in the relative safety of living in a collective site, food was scarce while land, livelihoods and all belongings were forever lost. Also, the pain of not being able to provide for his family - which he did before - was almost unbearable for him. There were even times when his family had to live under an open sky and fell severely sick under harsh weather conditions.

After the incident, the man

had become overwhelmed by the situation, had practically no energy left, became isolated and restless with poor sleeping patterns, and even attempted suicide to end the feeling of helplessness.

"I felt like I was carrying the whole world on my shoulders for not being able to support my family the way I wanted to. I felt useless, ashamed and guilty for not addressing their needs," he said.

His wife talked him out of his suicidal thoughts and, upon attending an awareness session organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for people with psychosocial needs, he was referred for additional counselling for seven weeks.

As weeks went by, the man gradually regained his hope and mental strength, started to lose the feeling of always being negatively judged by his family and surroundings, and started to focus on what he could do instead of what he couldn't.

Following sessions with IOM's trained counsellors using their survivor-centred approach, he is now in a much better mental space and has recovered sufficiently without having to resort to psychotropic medication, a treatment that he declined. In fact, he has started working again in the fields using the support of IOM's other emergency relief projects.

Slowly but surely, the psychosocial support counselling sessions helped restore the man's desire to live fully again by reactivating his personal resilience and by helping him dig deeper to find his inner strengths.

As he pieces his life together with his regained belief, he serves as an example of how it is important to recognize that there is no gender or age divide in requiring or providing psychosocial support.

"The need for psychosocial support for men, and appropriate services for them, is often undermined by humanitarian organisations and donors," said Stéphanie Duvergé, Mental Health Psychosocial Project Coordinator for IOM Ethiopia, adding: "But men are as mentally affected as the rest of the community when it comes to displacement, and services should be inclusive."

Duvergé said the commemoration of World Mental Health Day (October 10) last year included the sharing of the global message that 'Anyone Can Be Affected, But Everyone Can Heal', adding that this year's message - 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide' rightly highlighted this concern.

An IOM dispatch filed from Addis Ababa.

## Know of knife-less, bloodless, ultra-precise spine surgery...?

By Dr Kenneth K. Hansraj and Agencies

**T**ODAY - October 16 - is World Spine Day. It is doubtless an excellent day on which to tell the story of microtechnology influencing knife-less, bloodless, ultra-precise minimally invasive spine surgery.

The future is now. In the operating room, spine surgeons utilise the best strategies, including bloodless spine surgery, minimally invasive spine surgery, advanced bone grafting techniques such as Bone Morphogenetic Proteins.

These experts harvest stem cells for use in surgery, spinal navigation to assess instrumentation placement, use of intraoperative computerised tomography (CT) or computerised axial tomography (CAT) scans, use of ultra-modern operating room tables, and spinal cord and nerve monitoring. They are always looking for new strategies to do better.

There is a surgical electrocautery tool called the Colorado micro-dissection needle (Stryker CMF, Kalamazzo, MD), and I have never stopped using it.

This needle consists of a tiny tip which creates high current density current for haemostasis (or blood control) at low power settings.

The ultra-fine tool affords surgeons the opportunity to make a skin incision without a standard steel knife. Typically, the skin incision is made at 10 Watts. Deeper incision at the level of the fascia is at 20 Watts. Deepest spine incisions are conducted at 30 Watts.

According to Physiopaedia, a fascia is a layer of fibrous tissue or a structure of connective tissue that surrounds muscles, groups of muscles, blood vessels, and nerves, binding some structures together, while permitting others to slide smoothly over each other.

This tool provides a unique opportunity to stop bleeding in minimally invasive ports. For example, in kyphoplasty surgery, the approach entrances are 2 mm or so and can be precisely made by the needle. If there is bleeding, then with conventional treatment a suture may be required.

Simply put, kyphoplasty is one of the



procedures used to treat painful vertebral compression fractures in the spinal column.

The Colorado micro-dissection needle is most apt at stopping any bleeding from these small port holes. Therefore, there may be no need for a suture - that is, stitching.

Using the Colorado micro-dissection needle allows for more precise dissections. Typically, spinal needles are placed before surgery to mark the locations of spinal vertebral bodies as identified by intraoperative x-rays.

Therefore, this affords the surgeon the opportunity to operate between needles. Smaller incisions are achieved by tugging the skin proximal and distal, allowing for more visibility of the operative site.

The Colorado micro-dissection needle routinely leads to significantly less blood loss. The ultra-fine, ultraprecise needle leads to stopping blood vessels especially efficiently and delicately.

With conventional technique when we revise and remove a standard lumbar scar from an old operation, it is not unusual to lose 300 mL of blood.

With the Colorado micro-dissection needle, no blood is lost. Similarly, with conventional technique, massive redo operations routinely cause greater than 1,000 mL of blood loss.

## 'Strengthening Africa's data landscape key to meeting SDGs'

Dakar/London

**T**HE African Governance Report, published yesterday by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, draws on data from the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG).

It also shares new insights on progress towards the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It points to where policy efforts can be focused to tackle current governance challenges, and highlights the urgency of addressing the 'data gap' in Africa to ensure that progress can be assessed and shortfalls addressed.

This is a critical time as Africa prepares to enter the last decade of the 2030 SDG Agenda and is halfway through the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

Overall Governance scores in the IIAG, the most comprehensive dataset on African governance, point to a strong correlation with performance in the Africa SDG Index, underscoring the importance of good governance to sustainable development in Africa.

Reviewing the themes with the highest overlaps between both Agendas and the IIAG - Access to and Quality of Education, Health and Nutrition, Women and Youth Inclusion, Prosperity and Economic Opportunity, and Security, Justice and Strong Institutions - the report highlights priority areas to address.

Quality of education needs to be addressed, while aligning education with market needs can also be advanced if governments and partners take a closer look at prioritising active engagement with the private sector, to assess the requirements of the job market.

In health, special attention should be paid to the availability, quality, affordability and capacity of health services, while also tackling food security.

For prosperity and economic opportunity, the report notes that governments and partners should look at diversifying economies, accelerating progress in infrastructure - specifically physical transport, electricity and ICT - increasing investment in the rural sector, and strengthening regional integration, to make efficient progress.

Important correlations between IIAG measures are outlined to help

create a more conducive environment for achieving development targets. For example, access to electricity shows a strong correlation to performance in both health and education.

Crucially, a concerning picture of data challenges emerge across the continent. Almost half of the targets for Agenda 2063 are not directly quantifiable and so far, fewer than 20 per cent have an indicator to measure progress.

On average, fewer than 40 per cent of the indicators for the SDGs have sufficient data to track progress accurately on the continent.

The report highlights that over half of the data source types on SDG indicators on Africa are estimation, modelling or global monitoring.

In particular, only one third of data sources on SDG indicators on Africa are from direct country sources. The ability to monitor progress towards development targets in Africa is compromised.

Since the adoption of both Agendas, coverage and frequency of publicly available data for key data categories in Africa have declined. Critically, one of the areas that have seen large deterioration on average is population and vital statistics.

Further, only eight African countries have a birth registration system that covers 90 per cent or more of the population over the last ten years (2009-2018), and only three have a death registration system that covers 90 per cent or more of the population.

The paucity of such vital data is in striking contrast with population growth - Africa is expected to be home to 1.68 billion people by 2030.

Without accurate and complete vital statistics, it is impossible to implement effective solutions to any development challenge and to deliver for citizens.

Since 2008, little average improvement in statistical capacity has been made, according to IIAG data. This issue is compounded by low levels of independence of national statistics offices.

The report calls for sound data for governance in order to ensure inclusive development: the 'missing SDG'.

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said: "We welcome

Prevention is decisive, which is why people are encouraged to take steps to be kind to their spines.

Populations in under-served parts of the world often have no access to conventional healthcare resources to care for spinal pain and disability. Often relying on traditional healers, even those seen in hospital are often only given anti-inflammatory medication.

Dedicated spinal health professionals do not exist in many parts of the world, so education and self-help are key. Even in high-income countries, back pain afflicts millions of people, resulting in an enormous impact on industry and the economy.

World Spine Day is organised by the World Federation of Chiropractic on behalf of the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health.

Practically everyone on the planet understands back pain, as it's the leading worldwide cause of disability. The spine endures a lot of wear and tear over the course of a lifetime, but knowing how to care for your back can prevent serious pain and disability.

It was with this in mind that World Spine Day was launched to educate the public about spine conditions - and inspire them to become more active in their own health.

The Day, which is part of Bone and Joint Decade Action Week, was formally launched by the World Federation of Chiropractic in 2012, with the goal of raising awareness about spinal health and spine disorders.

To accomplish this, people across the globe participate in special educational events and activities to boost their knowledge about back and neck pain.

**Dr Kenneth K. Hansraj is an American spinal and orthopaedic surgeon specialising in cervical, thoracic and lumbar procedures. He is based at The Vassar Brothers Medical Centre in the Hudson Valley, New York. He e-mailed his contribution to this piece to The Guardian for publication. E-mail contact: drken@drken.us**

### THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



continued efforts to improve governance, which is crucial to achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals," adding: "However, we are deeply worried by the inability to accurately monitor progress against these targets on the continent."

He elaborated: "Data are an essential foundation for effective policy-making and resource mobilisation. Without data, we drive blind - policies are misdirected and progress on the road to development is stunted. We must all act urgently to close the 'data gap', if indeed we aim to leave no one behind."

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation was established in 2006 with a focus on the critical importance of leadership and governance in Africa, by providing tools to assess and support progress in leadership and governance.

IIAG provides an annual assessment of the quality of governance in African countries and is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance.

With ten years of data to draw from, the IIAG is well positioned to measure trends in governance, providing in-depth analysis on how the quality of governance has changed over the

past five years (2013-2017) within the context of the last decade (2008-2017), and what has or could be key to Africa's transformation.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation releases a new Index dataset with updated scores, ranks and trends every two years, while publishing an annual IIAG African Governance Report, focused on African governance trends and challenges. The next dataset update will be released in October 2020.

The IIAG contains analysis across 102 indicators from 35 independent African and global data institutions to cover all 54 African countries in the areas of Safety & Rule of Law, Participation & Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunity and Human Development.

The Africa SDG Index is produced by the SDG Centre for Africa and Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It ranks countries on a scale from 0 (the worst score) to 100 (the best score).

The Index provides an overall performance score and a score for each of the 17 SDGs.



# Meet Saul Mwame, a Tanzanian student leading struggle for inclusive education

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SAUL Mwame, a 20-year-old high school student at DCT Mvumi Secondary in Dodoma, Tanzania's capital city, stands at the forefront of a fight for inclusive education for diverse learners – including those with disabilities.

Mwame co-founded the Connections-Based Learning (CBL) club in January 2019, to advocate especially for visually-impaired learners, because he saw his visually-impaired classmates struggling without adequate support. Mwame also started the club to help sensitize all students to those with special needs.

Mwame found inspiration for the club after reading a book about CBL, "an approach to teaching and learning that leverages the connected world," and meeting CBL book author in Uganda.

In an interview with Global Voices, Mwame explained how he got started: "I started CBL ... after observing that fellow students with special needs lack cooperation. So, this was the way to sensitize cooperation so that visual-

ly-impaired students can have access to academic materials ...to help them achieve their goals."

DCT Mvumi Secondary is one of the only schools in Tanzania with its own visually-impaired unit to support students with visual impairment or full blindness. The 10 or so visually-impaired students at Mwame's school have access to Braille machines (a system of raised dots used by visually-impaired people to decode text) and can take notes in Braille through dictation with the help of classmates.

But most visually-impaired students in Tanzania do not have access to school textbooks and learning materials that use Braille even though there's a Braille printing press in Dar es Salaam, the capital.

In a short period of time, the club has amassed 38 members who meet on the weekends to receive life skills training and entrepreneurial education workshops. Volunteers from the club also conduct events at local schools to teach life skills to students with visual impairments and other special needs, pending available funds.



Saul Mwame, from Tanzania, speaks at the United Nations during a session focused on education, Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mwame has been doing disability advocacy work since 2016 when he established Building Africa's Future Foundation:

### Making learning more 'friendly' for all

A recent study conducted by HakiElimu, a Tanzanian nonprofit education organization, found that even in schools deemed "inclusive," the learning environment was still not very friendly for students with visual

impairment. Very few schools exist in Tanzania specifically for people with disabilities of any kind.

Tanzania has joined a global movement to create inclusive, quality education for diverse learners, including students with disabilities. In 2004, it introduced a national disability policy that emphasized the need for a conducive learning environment for people with special needs, and the Ministry of Education adopted it in 2009.

Yet, schools still face several chal-

lenges in terms of inclusive, quality education. The government has worked to improve teacher training and build schools specifically for students with disabilities.

But the HakiElimu report revealed that many students still face unqualified, incompetent teachers and inadequate teaching materials for visually-impaired learners.

### An award-winning advocate

Mwame was born in Kibaigwa, Tan-

zania, and comes from a poor family. He said he faced a lack of cooperation from his community in his vision for better learning environments for visually-impaired students.

### But advocacy is his calling.

The responsibilities and destiny of our nation is upon the youth. How do we as youth prepare for it?

As a Global Youth Ambassador for Tanzania through TheirWorld, an education nongovernmental organization, Mwame committed to campaign for two years specifically on Sustainable Development Goal 4: inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

In 2017, Mwame represented Tanzania at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Sustainable Development Goals even focused education.

To honor his hard work, Mwame won the 2019 Princess Diana Award, given to young people who make a positive impact in their communities. This award has motivated Mwame to work harder.

Sometimes people do not understand and appreciate what you are doing, especially when you get such an award, they still don't care! But, for sure, this has made me understand that there are people who see what I'm doing and I want to put more effort to connect with different people [in order] to bring developments [to] my community.

Mwame believes in the power of connections to help him achieve his vision. These connections have given Mwame the courage to continue as a leader and advocate for diverse learners in Tanzania.

# Study tracks first incursion of poachers into 'pristine' African forest

By John Cannon

ELEPHANT poachers are using logging roads to infiltrate some of the last remaining pristine forests in Central Africa, according to a study published in July.

The study's authors also revealed that logging, even done selectively under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines, alters wildlife habitat and behavior. The research, published in the journal *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, examined how these changes altered the habitat for western lowland gorillas (Gorilla gorilla gorilla) and central chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes troglodytes).

It turns out that the impacts are

"quite different" for each ape, said David Morgan, a conservation scientist at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo and the paper's lead author.

Working with the logging companies and local officials, Morgan and his colleagues picked out the intact forest landscapes (IFLs) – defined as areas 500 square kilometers (193 square miles) or larger without signs of human use – on satellite maps in Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park and an adjacent, FSC-certified logging concession in the northern Republic of Congo. They then identified, counted and measured the sizes of plants in plots both inside intact forest landscapes and in logged areas.

The team also estimated how

easy it was for humans to access the study area based on the roads cutting through it, and they incorporated the observations of the presence of humans from local search teams and wildlife patrols.

The goal was to provide a window into the current state of the habitat for gorillas and chimpanzees as well as changes coming down the road.

"With this type of data, we can start to think about distance from roads, what the tree resources are and how those changes are going to affect them long term," Morgan said in an interview. The IUCN lists western gorillas as critically endangered and central chimpanzees as endangered.

Central Africa's once-vast tracts

of unbroken rainforest have dwindled precipitously in recent decades, primarily due to logging. A 2017 study found that Central Africa lost about a tenth of its IFLs between 2000 and 2013. Alongside the thinning and clearance of these forests has been a startling uptick in the expansion of logging roads throughout the area. Ecologists calculated in a 2019 paper that the length of roads in the Congo Basin in 2018 was more than two-and-a-half times what it was in 2003.

The comparisons of logged areas and IFLs revealed little difference in the numbers of chimpanzees and gorillas between the two habitats. However, they found that the shift in the mix of plant

species present did change the apes' foraging tendencies.

Their analysis provided further evidence that these changes to the forest affect the animals differently. Previous research led by Morgan suggested that gorillas stand a better chance of coping with selectively logged forests than chimpanzees because their diets are more flexible and they aren't as territorial.

In this case, Morgan and his colleagues learned that chimps built their nests closer to the ground in logged areas than they did in IFLs, a change not observed in gorillas. That could, Morgan speculated, increase the chance of spreading disease in a population, though that wasn't something the team

looked at in this study.

Most concerning was the discovery that elephant poachers had begun to make their way into the dense IFLs in the logging concession and in the park, likely aided by a proliferation of logging roads nearby. The illicit ivory trade has pushed the forest elephant (Loxodonta cyclotis) population in the Congo Basin into a nosedive. Between 2002 and 2011, researchers tracked a 62 percent drop in the numbers of the smaller cousin to Africa's savanna elephants, which many scientists now recognize as a distinct species.

Morgan and other ape researchers have been studying this area since the late 1990s, es-

pecially the Goulougo Triangle, which forms the southern tip of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park.

When the research first started, Morgan said, "There were no signs of people in that area."

"That was kind of the red line," he said of the Goulougo Triangle. "You can't let places like this become open to poachers. We have to do all we can to protect that."

To do that, the authors highlight the need to incorporate these types of biodiversity assessments that look at the long-term changes to habitats and the impacts on wildlife when plotting out where to set aside land for conservation or protected areas.

# Higher temperatures driving alarming levels of hunger - global index report

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE climate crisis is driving alarming levels of hunger in the world, undermining food security in the world's most vulnerable regions, according to this year's global hunger index.

The annual report, a ranking of 117 countries measuring hunger rates and trends, shows progress since 2000 but warns that the world still has a long way to go to reach the zero hunger target agreed by world leaders by 2030.

The report is published as a series of committee on world food security meetings take place in Rome in the run-up to world food day on 16 October. The findings show levels of hunger are "serious" or "alarming" in 47 countries and "extremely alarming" in one: the Central African Republic.

Rates are categorised as "alarming" in Chad, Madagascar, Yemen and Zambia. Nine countries have worse scores today than in 2010 – the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Venezuela, Yemen, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Lebanon and Oman.

Data is lacking for several countries – Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Libya, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

The authors acknowledge an overall global decline in poverty and increased funding for nutrition but argue that current action and spending will not meet the global sustainable development goals or World Health Assembly nutrition targets.

Dominic MacSorley, CEO of Concern Worldwide, co-sponsors of the report with Welthungerhilfe, said that pro-

gress towards zero hunger by 2030 is now "under threat or is being reversed".

"Approximately 45 countries are set to fail to achieve low levels of hunger by 2030," he said. "Conflict, inequality, and the effects of climate change have all contributed to persistently high levels of hunger and food insecurity around the world."

The report finds that the number of undernourished people across the globe is increasing. The rise has been biggest in countries in Africa that are south of the Sahara and affected by conflict and drought.

Extreme weather events are putting food production and security in jeopardy and the risk is expected to increase. Food production is likely to fall due to higher temperatures, water scarcity, greater CO2 and extreme weather events. Yields of maize and wheat are already declining.

### Advertisement

It is estimated that the global food system contributes 21-37% of total human-related emissions. Loss of food after harvesting and before reaching the retail level is estimated at 14% globally, meaning a proportion of food production is likely to exacerbate the climate emergency without even contributing towards food security or nutrition. Current climate commitments are projected to result in 3-4 degrees of warming by 2100, and increased climate pressures could lead to further conflict, according to the report.

The authors conclude that what is needed is a profound shift toward sustainability, with changes in values and behaviours and a fairer global balance



of power.

In her foreword, the former president of Ireland Mary Robinson said: "With the number of hungry people rising from 785 million in 2015 to 822 million in 2018, we can no longer afford to regard the 2030 agenda and the Paris climate agreement as voluntary and a matter for each member state to decide on its own." Instead, she called for "the full implementation" of both to secure "a liveable world for our children

and grandchildren".

"This requires a change of mindset at the global political level," she added.

Responding to the report, Lawrence Haddad, executive director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, said that the poor quality of diets is at the heart of malnutrition and also has a critical impact on greenhouse gas emissions and natural resource use.

He too believes that global systems must be

reformed as nutritious foods are simply out of the reach of billions of people, either because they are not available or are too expensive.

"To change this we need to transform the food systems that low and middle income people depend on – and that means supporting the growth of small and medium food businesses that already produce and market nutritious foods," he said.

He too believes that global systems must be

# Weakening of wildlife protections signals trophy hunting ban crucial to saving Africa's Big Five

By Priscilla Feral

THE recent decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granting permits to hunters to bring trophies of lions and rhinos back to the country and the Trump administration's weakening of the Endangered Species Act, which puts threatened animals in peril, as well as a mixed bag of results from the most recent

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Geneva, signals an urgent need for the passage of a Connecticut bill that would ban the import of the body parts of Africa's most majestic wildlife. Africa's "Big 5" species – elephants, lions, rhinos, leopards and giraffes – are under increasing threats to their survival.

The population of elephants has declined by 90 percent in the past century, with losses attributed to the commodification of elephants for their ivory, and skin. This is in addition to the challenges they face from habitat destruction and climate change. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has elevated the threat level of giraffes to "vulnerable to extinction," estimating that giraffes have undergone a 36-40 percent decline in population over the past 30 years. Only about 97,500 giraffes remain in Africa, compared to more than 150,000 in 1985. Additionally, there are fewer than 23,000 lions left in Africa, according to a recent study by the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford.

Yet Botswana has reversed a ban on elephant hunting, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at its most recent convention has doubled the amount of South Africa's black rhinos that can be hunted.

Add to this the loosening of restric-

tions by Trump's Department of Interior on trophy imports, and the survival of these species looks bleak. Just recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized a permit for a U.S. trophy hunter to import the skin, skull, teeth and claws of a Tanzanian lion – the first permit issued since lions gained protections under the ESA. The agency also granted a Michigan man a permit to import the skin, skull and horns of a rare black rhino – which IUCN has listed as critically endangered – killed in Namibia on a \$400,000 hunting safari.

Yet, Connecticut continues to allow trophy hunters to bring these body parts back to this state, for no other purpose but to show off as stuffed remnants of a struggling species.

Trophy hunters, the majority of whom come from the U.S., like to peddle the theory that they are saving species by killing them and that without the big bucks they spend on hunting safaris in Africa, there'd be no money to protect these species from poachers or for other conservation efforts. This argument is fundamentally flawed in that trophy hunting in itself creates a market for elephants, lions, leopards, rhinos and giraffes, thus spurring poachers to engage in the illegal trade of their body parts.

The funding argument also falls short because studies show less than 3 percent of revenue from hunting safaris ever gets through corruption to flow back to African communities. In fact, just this month, the Zambia Community Resource Boards withdrew their signatures to all hunting permits and pledged to stop all future trophy hunting because they said their communities have not been given their share of hunting revenues and fees, and their anti-poaching staff members had not been paid their salaries.



# Driving industrialisation agenda: That value chain development approach in Ulaya, Kilosa

By Gerald Kitabu

THE fifth phase government is geared towards achieving the goal of a middle-income economy focusing on industrialization as the key driver towards achieving this goal. This approach has been highly emphasized by his Excellency Dr. John Magufuli, president of the United Republic of Tanzania as he made it clear that industrialization will be a key priority of his administration. The movement in this new pathway has been calling for increased investment in different sectors of the economy agriculture being one of them. Amongst all sectors of the country's economy, agriculture is seen to be the primary one given the fact it employs more than 75 percent of the country's population. In addition to this, it is quite obvious that the move towards industrialization (especially in the processing sub-sector) will spur increased demand for raw materials which basically are produced in the agriculture sector. This being the case, it is of great importance that there should be enormous investments in this primary sector in order to improve livelihoods of many Tanzanians and in the meantime spur quick development of the industrial sector of Tanzania's economy.

According to BMZ project coordinator Donasian Severine, for the agriculture sector to be able to play this key role in transforming the country economy and livelihoods of majority of citizens, then there should be movements to improve the overall chain of activities along agricultural value chains. This has been through the value chain development approach which focused on promoting advancement in both upstream and downstream value chain activities through strengthening links among different actors and stakeholders found at different stages of these chains. This approach has proven to be successful since it amongst others ensure holistic, inclusive; and sustainable ways of achieving desired goals especially those targeting the sustainability of community development interventions.



Producer group members from Mhenda village while in a group picture with the project team after participating in the sunflower harvesting activity in their lead farmer demonstration plot.

For several years now, a number of different governmental, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private organizations have been focusing on this value chain approach in view of not only promoting increased household income but also ensuring food availability for different Families especially those employed in Agriculture. One of them is World Vision Tanzania (a Christian Humanitarian aid, relief, development, and advocacy organization) which since its start in 1981 has been implementing different value chain development approaches in effort to promote community development and improved livelihoods. Of recent, the NGO has partnered with World Vision Germany and the German Government (through the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development) in one of these efforts to promote improved livelihoods. The outstanding partnership focuses on developing rice and sunflower value chains and as key drivers towards ensuring food security and poverty reduction among small holder farmers in Ulaya division located in Kilosa, Morogoro. The focus of the project has been improving all value chain activities ranging from access and use of farm inputs. With a project that has operated for less than

10 months, the partnership has managed to touch the lives of not only numerous beneficiaries participating in the two selected value chains but also other actors found along these chains. With keen understanding of the raising demand of raw materials by different paddy and sunflower processing firms the project managed to sensitize small holder farmers to increase production of these crops through amongst others increasing farm sizes as well as modernizing their farming operations.

Through these sensitization activities a total of than 1197 smallholder farmers (in three wards of Ulaya Division) cultivated a total of 734.3 acres of sunflower and 400.55 acres of paddy respectively.

Ulaya ward Councilor Kennedy Matokeo commended the project saying he has seen tremendous shifts in terms of cropping behaviour as more farmers cultivated sunflower in the 2018/2019 season compared to previous seasons where only few were cultivating the crop.

In addition to sensitization activities, the partnership in col-

laboration with other institutions like the Ilonga Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute managed to facilitate different capacity building workshops and practical learning programmes (within and outside Kilosa) that aimed at capacitating smallholder farmers in Ulaya to conduct their overall farming activities in a business oriented manner.

This entailed improving productivity, post-harvest loss management, linkage with input suppliers, financial institutions as well as establishing good networks with the marketing and value addition sections of the two chains.

For instance, the project managed to connect farmers to different companies, factories/processors and seed firms including the Agriculture Seed Agency of Tanzania in efforts to create mutually beneficial linkage that will promote improved operations along the chain.

In an interview, Board Member, Zombo Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society Mwanahamisi Athumani said that all these interventions have led to clear advancements in terms of

agricultural modernization at the farm stage as well as improved post-harvest loss management, value addition and market access for different farm produce. For instance, she said, before the launch of this project it was very difficult for farmers to access improved seeds and other farming technologies essential for increasing their production but the situation is different now.

Citing for the 2018/2019 cropping season, about 95 percent of all farmers that cultivated sunflower used two types of improved seed varieties from accredited suppliers one being Msimba seed agency. Furthermore farmers employed improved agronomic practices in conducting their farming activities and all these led to increase production compared to previous years. On average sunflower production per acre increased from 4/5 bags/acre before the project to 8/9 bags/acre after implementing above mentioned interventions. In general terms, during the last farming season Ulaya community managed to register more than 130 tons of sunflower seeds ready to be sold to different buyers. This is envisioned to generate more than 108 million Tanzania Shillings of crude revenue to the more than 1147 farmer who operate in 40 producer groups.

Commenting on the project, lead Farmer from Madudumizi village, Ramadhan Mbalu said that that through collective selling, more than 15 tons of sunflower seeds have been sold to buyers in Morogoro, Dodoma and Iringa regions creating a large supply hub for raw materials required by numerous processing facilities that produce edible sunflower oil. "I am one of the most blessed, when the products we farm get market, our hopes for the coming season and life is enlightened and very high" said Saidi Kidongo a farmer in the area. The remaining amount is hopefully going to be sold to other buyers most of which market has already been secured.

However, it was clearly identified that sunflower performed very well compared to rice as a

result of harsh weather conditions that were experienced during the paddy cropping season which is slightly different with that of sunflower.

We live in a world controlled by commerce so if Tanzanians (especially youths) understand opportunities presented to us at various levels of value chain such as inputs supply, production, processing etc. and put our effort, we work to resolve the inefficiencies thereby curbing the problem and creating win-win advantage. Industrializing Tanzania should be looked at in that window as well since agriculture value chains will always serve as enablers of the industrial production and at the same time advancements in the industrial sector will create market for agricultural products," said Mwanahamisi.

The Federal Government of Germany has seen this as important and has funded this project (Sustainable Value Chain for Food Security and Poverty Reduction Project in Ulaya) in efforts to attain community development especially children well-being. "We are humbled by the good heart of the donor countries; their generosity promotes social economic development," she added.

World Vision has a vision of ensuring life in all its fullness to children and improving agriculture production serves as a key driver to attain this as majority of Tanzanians depend on this sector. In line with this, these interventions play a significant contribution in catalyzing the current movements towards industrializing Tanzania as we've seen the case with the BMZ Ulaya Value Chain Project in Kilosa-Morogoro.

This being the case, it is of paramount importance that there should be continued investments in different agricultural values chains if Tanzania is to reach its industrialization goal.

This is so since investing in a primary sector like agriculture touches the life of most citizens and hence enabling them to improve their income levels will quickly spur the move towards the desired middle income economy.

# Ramaphosa sees South Africa's future lying in Africa

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's future lies in Africa whose faster growth will bring very real material benefits for the country, President Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

"The economies of the African continent are together growing at a rate far greater than our own, and we need to see the opportunity that such growth presents for our economy and for our people," the president said in his weekly nationwide address from the Desk of the President, a copy of which was emailed to Xinhua.

It is for this reason that South Africa has embraced the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), he said.

The AfCFTA will be a game-changer, both for South Africa and the rest of

the continent, Ramaphosa said.

The AfCFTA, which aspires to create a tariff-free continent that can grow local businesses, boost intra-African trade, spur industrialization and create more jobs, will become the world's largest free trade zone by the number of countries, covering more than 1.2 billion people, with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.5 trillion U.S. dollar.

The time is right for a new era of intra-African trade, where African countries no longer look abroad for the products and services they need, but to other countries on this continent, Ramaphosa said.

In so doing, they will be helping to establish new African industries, create African jobs, open up new markets and steadily turn Africa into a power-



house of global production, said Ramaphosa.

"With our relatively established manufacturing base, our developed road, rail, port and energy infrastructure, and our deep financial markets, South Africa is well-placed to make use of the opportunities a free trade area could provide," said Ramaphosa.

When South Africa takes over chairship of the African Union (AU) in a few months, the country will have a great responsibility to guide the implementation of the AfCFTA, he said.

"We will need to work to turn aspirations into action," he said.

Ramaphosa stressed the need for African countries to put in place all the rules, regulations and mechanisms needed to make such a free trade area work.

"But we will also need to invest in the infrastructure that we need to move goods from one African country to another, and that we need to produce such goods in the first place," he said.

While South Africa is undertaking a massive investment drive, it is also encouraging investment in other parts of the continent, said

the president.

"We do so in pursuit of the shared African vision of Agenda 2063, but also because we know that South Africa cannot prosper unless Africa as a whole prospers," he said.

South Africa's commitment to developing Africa through greater integration is not merely sentimental or ideological, Ramaphosa said.

"African integration is overwhelmingly and undeniably in our national interest," he said.

Ramaphosa linked his country's future with Africa at a time when South Africa's relations with some African countries were challenged by xenophobic violence in the country.

"The recent public violence targeting foreign nationals has challenged our efforts to build stronger ties with other African countries," Ramaphosa said.

At least 12 people, including foreigners and South Africans, were killed in the violence that hit parts of the country last month.

These attacks, fueled by misinformation spread on social

media, provoked much anger in different parts of the continent leading to threats against South African businesses and diplomatic missions, Ramaphosa said.

South Africa, officially the Republic of South Africa (RSA), is the southernmost country in Africa. It is bounded to the south by 2,798 kilometres (1,739 mi) of coastline of Southern Africa stretching along the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans; to the north by the neighbouring countries of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe; and to the east and northeast by Mozambique and Swazini (Swaziland); and it surrounds the enclaved country of Lesotho. South Africa is the largest country in Southern Africa and the 25th-largest country in the world by land area and, with over 57 million people, is the world's 24th-most populous nation. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. About 80 per cent of South Africans are of Bantu ancestry, divided among a variety of ethnic groups speaking different African languages, nine of which have official status. The remaining population consists of Africa's largest communities of Whites, Asian (Indian), and multi-racial (Coloured) ancestry.

South Africa is a multiethnic society encompassing a wide variety of cultures, languages, and religions. Its pluralistic makeup is reflected in the constitution's recognition of 11 official languages, which is the fourth highest number in the world. Two of these languages are of European origin: Afrikaans developed from Dutch and serves as the first language of most coloured and white South Africans; English reflects the legacy of British colonialism, and is commonly used

in public and commercial life, though it is fourth-ranked as a spoken first language. The country is one of the few in Africa never to have had a coup d'état, and regular elections have been held for almost a century. However, the vast majority of black South Africans were not enfranchised until 1994. During the 20th century, the black majority sought to recover its rights from the dominant white minority, with this struggle playing a large role in the country's recent history and politics. The National Party imposed apartheid in 1948, institutionalising previous racial segregation. After a long and sometimes violent struggle by the African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid activists both inside and outside the country, the repeal of discriminatory laws began in the mid-1980s.

Since 1994, all ethnic and linguistic groups have held political representation in the country's liberal democracy, which comprises a parliamentary republic and nine provinces. South Africa is often referred to as the "rainbow nation" to describe the country's multicultural diversity, especially in the wake of apartheid. The World Bank classifies South Africa as an upper-middle-income economy, and a newly industrialised country. Its economy is the second-largest in Africa, and the 34th-largest in the world. In terms of purchasing power parity, South Africa has the seventh-highest per capita income in Africa. However, poverty and inequality remain widespread, with about a quarter of the population unemployed and living on less than US\$1.25 a day. Nevertheless, South Africa has been identified as a middle power in international affairs, and maintains significant regional

**THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT**

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

**WORD FIT**

3 Letter word: EGO, AGO, AID, NOD, NON, IVY, EID  
 4 Letter word: FIFE, ADAM, STAB, LOAN, STAN,  
 5 Letter word: ELECT, RISER, ANVIL, TEASE, MALAY  
 ROUND, ROUST, SITES,  
 6 Letter word: AFFAIR, MODEST, DELAYS,  
 7 Letter word: ALFAFA, ANAEMIA, MODESTY,  
 8 Letter word: GUARDIAN,

**CROSSWORD**

Clues: Across  
 1. Forward movement (8)  
 6. Covered in water (5)  
 7. Set off, begin (5,3)  
 9. Very angry (5)  
 11. Difficult experience (6)  
 12. Video cassette (4)  
 13. Writing instrument (3)  
 14. Liberty (7)  
 18. Pointed end (3)  
 20. Small animal resembling lizard (9)  
 22. Sweet cooked dessert (3)  
 23. Holy person (4)  
 24. Secret plots (7)  
 25. Tale (5)

Clues: Down  
 1. Chief city of Russia (6)  
 2. Follow twisting route (7)  
 3. Criminal organization (5)  
 4. Japanese unarmed combat (6)  
 5. Domesticated animal (5)  
 8. Remaining sign (5)  
 10. Blue-gray metallic element (8)  
 14. Third largest country in Europe (6)  
 15. Used to rub out writing (6)  
 16. Curtains (6)  
 17. Reward (4)  
 19. Worship (6)  
 21. Small dry particles (4)

Yesterday's Solutions



## SUPPORT

## Barclays extends 10.7m/- grant to finance six girls' vocation training course

By Francis Kajubi

SIX lucky girls received a grant of 10.7m/- from Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited to cover their training at Vocational Education and Training Authority

BBT's Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aaron Luhanga, said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that the grant will cover tuition fees, accommodation at VETA, and prescribed text books and other learning materials.

"Barclays is committed to volunteer, engage and play part in giving back to the community with the aim of empowering youths through skills acquisition," Luhanga said. He said the pan-African leading lender has a policy of supporting education in communities by targeting vulnerable groups such as girls with poor backgrounds.

"We're all about bringing possibilities to life as we support initiatives that help up skill, empower people and play part to change lives and solve communities' challenges," he added while giving assurance that BBT will continue to invest in areas with a positive impact in the society.

The bank's Corporate Director, Brian Kaleru added that the partnership with VETA has been initiated from a business aspect that the bank has with Pact Tanzania, a not for profit organization working on improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS.

"We have been working with Pact Tanzania for quite some time now. Since the organization is well established in working on improving lives of vulnerable groups especially youth,

it was logical that we collaborate in coming up with beneficiaries who are in real need of support," Kaleru said.

According to him, currently the bank has been operating in Tanzania for the past 19 years with a network of 15 branches and 62 ATMs country-wide. The bank is now part of Absa Group Limited after Barclay Plc sold its majority stake in 2017.

Pact's Country Director, Marianna Balampama paid tribute to BBT saying their joint efforts and mutual partnerships has led to sustainability and prosperity to vulnerable groups in the country. She said the four girls are from Dar es Salaam while two are from Dodoma.

Balampama said Pact is working with civil society organization in 81 districts and 24 regions of the country in implementing a five year KizaziKipya Program funded by United States Agency for International Development which ends next year.

"Since last September to August this year we have helped 3,497 youth to get sponsorship for vocational training courses. From this September to August next year we expect to reach out to another 17,000 youths through the program," she noted.

On his part, Mashaka Kassara, VETA Short Courses Coordinator, said the authority has capacity to enroll 1,200 short term students and 15,000 long term course students across the country each year. Kassara said 80 short courses are offered at VETA which has been working with Pact Tanzania since. "VETA is there to provide knowledge and skills to youths so that can get employed or engage in self-employment," stated Kassara.



National Museum of Tanzania attendant Ayubu Madenge (L) briefs entrepreneurs who visited the place to mark Nyerere Day last week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

## COMMEMORATION

## Dar entrepreneurs praise Nyerere's legacy of peace as good for business

By Correspondent, Beatrice Philemon

A legacy of peace and unity left behind by Tanzania's Founder Father, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere is the reason behind the country economic success as businesses can operate smoothly.

Over 300 Dar es Salaam based women entrepreneurs under their organization known as Peace and Education Organization visited the National Museum of Tanzania to see some of Mwl. Nyerere's artifacts to mark 20 years since his death in 1999, that the deceased leader's legacy lives on to date.

"Peace means in the country because then development activities can take place while business and economic activities prosper," said the group's Vice Chairperson, Dora Temba. Temba said peace, unity and stability which Mwalimu touted for many decades while in power and even after retiring has

enabled the country to witness sustained economic growth for decades.

"Without peace and stability businesses cannot operate and grow, companies cannot survive and engage in productivity while consumers in the market will not be available to buy the goods and services," she noted.

She pointed out that Tanzania has also witnessed growth of the tourism industry because of peace and stability without which foreign nationals will not come to the country. "Tourism is thriving because of our unity, peace and stability which are national treasures left behind by Mwalimu," she underlined.

She said despite the fact that Tanzania is endowed with a lot of natural resources, instability could have not allowed tourism to flourish let alone allow economic productive activities to go on. "As members

from Kimbilio Letu in Pair International Network and Peace Education organization, we decided to come and visit the National Museum to remind ourselves of Mwalimu Nyerere's legacy in pictures and artifacts covering his life history," she added.

On his part, KIPINET's Policy and Planning Manager, Charles Sabinian said in order to honor Mwalimu Nyerere, the group has come up with batik clothing that was handed over to Mama Maria Nyerere as a souvenir gift for the late statesman.

"We have also carved a wood sculpture of Mwalimu that will be presented to President John Magufuli in honour of Mwalimu's legacy," Sabinian said. Mwalimu Nyerere who ruled Tanzania between 1961 and 1985 when he voluntarily retired, died on October 14, 1999 at Saint Thomas Hospital in London aged 79.



Barclays Bank Tanzania's Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aaron Luhanga.

## FAIR-TRADE

## Cocoa farmers look for bigger bite out of chocolatiers' profits

ABIDJAN

Chocolate makers are facing an ultimatum – either support a contentious plan to raise the pay of impoverished farmers, or risk a halt to programmes that sustainability-conscious consumers increasingly demand.

West African neighbours Ivory Coast and Ghana, where more than 60 per cent of the world's cocoa is grown, are becoming frustrated by the slow uptake of a strategy adopted in July to levy a \$400-a-ton premium to help improve growers' pay. This week, they threatened to suspend programmes that chocolate makers rely on to certify that their beans are not grown in protected forests or with the forced labour of children.

Chocolate makers cannot claim that they're sourcing cocoa sustainably and at the same time hold back their support for a plan that will considerably improve the livelihoods of small-scale

producers, said Yves Kone, the managing director of Ivory Coast's industry regulator, Le Conseil du Cafe-Cacao, known as the CCC. The sustainability programmes only serve a small number of farmers, while the new price mechanism will benefit all growers, according to the CCC.

"We cannot pretend that we are working with the farmers, investing in sustainability and refusing to pay the farmer," Kone told reporters Friday in the commercial hub of Abidjan. "Sustainability is also paying farmers and working together."

Ivory Coast and Ghana's price plan is designed to raise the average price for their cocoa from next October to at least \$2,600 per ton, of which farmers will be paid about 70% after deducting costs. New York cocoa futures for delivery in December have averaged \$2,372 per ton so far this year.

Analysts are questioning whether

the plan will work because companies aren't able to hedge the premium. The incentive of higher income will also entice farmers to grow more than what the market may need, often on land cleared in protected areas, and destabilise prices further.

Ivory Coast had 16 million hectares (40 million acres) of forests in 1960, but this has fallen to 3 million hectares in 2018. Ghana is losing its forests at a faster pace than any other country in the world, according to Global Forest Watch.

"The problem here is they're going to encourage more production of the bad kind," said Edward George, an independent cocoa expert. "There's a real danger of overproduction and also unsustainable and damaging production."

Without the sustainability programmes, chocolate brands cannot guarantee that the cocoa they buy is

not impacting protected areas and grown without child labour, said Sergey Chetvertakov, an analyst at IHS Markit's Agribusiness Intelligence. "Such statements are demanded by consumers."

Some chocolate makers have already pledged to buy cocoa at the premium rates. "We are absolutely committed to both buy with the living-income differential and to invest in our sustainability projects," Mars Inc. said by email. "We will comply with the new programmes put in place," according to Hershey Co.

The cocoa regulators are reviewing all certification and sustainability projects for the current season and make an announcement on their "continuation or discontinuation" at a World Cocoa Foundation Partnership meeting scheduled later this month in Berlin.

Such programmes continue to be successful in helping farmers to improve their income "without political interference," said Eric Bergman, a commodities broker at Jenkins Sugar Group Inc. Their suspension as a way to enforce the new price plan "is a short-sighted way of attempting to help farmers."

## GRAVY-TRAIN

## Almost three-quarters of a billion rand spent on MPs' housing in past 10 years

PRETORIA

The three parliamentary villages, its upkeep and transport have cost South Africa almost three quarters of a billion rand over the two previous parliamentary terms.

In a reply to a written Parliamentary question on Monday, Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille revealed that the total cost incurred by the government for the three parliamentary villages during the terms of the Fourth and Fifth Parliaments - from 2009 to 2019 - is R743 788 400.04.

The parliamentary villages house MPs in Cape Town when they attend committee meetings and sittings within the

parliamentary precinct during the year. The costs in De Lille's reply includes bus transport, water and electricity, rates and taxes, village management, construction of new buildings, maintenance of buildings, purchasing of new furniture and appliances, and any other expenses.

The question was asked by DA MP Willem Faber, who also wanted to know whether De Lille has considered providing each MP with a housing allowance instead of accommodation. "The responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is to provide accommodation to Government Departments and Members of Parliament, amongst others, in terms of its mandate.

Any request for allowances to public office bearers must be made to the Independent Commission for Remuneration of Public Office Bearers," read De Lille's response.

**Transport**

According to the reply, the total cost incurred by the government for all three parliamentary villages - Acacia Park, Pelican Park and Laboria Park - for transport was R38 570 345 for the Fourth Parliament (2009-2014) and R35 997 143 for the Fifth (2014-2019).

**Municipal services**

The total cost in terms of the municip-

pal services and rates of the three parliamentary villages during the Fourth Parliament were as follows: Laboria Park: R7 875 171.81; Pelican Park: R6 470 925.33; and Acacia Park: R12 836 995.19

For the Fifth Parliament, it was: Laboria Park: R12 185 225.49; Pelican Park: R22 328 442.08; and Acacia Park: R50 959 085.40

**Employment of officials**

"The parliamentary villages are managed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure through officials who are employed full-time and render the required services," read De Lille's reply. For the Fourth Parliament, the cost re-

lating to the employment of the officials amounted to R8 053 472.75 and for the Fifth Parliament, it was R13 102 467.25

**New access buildings**

During the Fifth Parliament's term, the building of new access buildings at the three parliamentary villages amounted to R35 550 947.07.

**Maintenance**

The maintenance of the buildings took the largest chunk over the 10 years. For the Fourth Parliament, De Lille provided the figure of R300 000 000, and for the Fifth, the three villages combined cost R162 454 497.67.

**New furniture and appliances**

During the Fourth Parliament's term, the government spent R6 422 237 on new furniture and appliances, while this figure was almost five times more for the Fifth Parliament, which amounted to R30 981 445.

In another question, Faber asked De Lille "whether her department intends transferring the village to the City of Cape Town for housing development purposes since it already has an operating school, pre-school and sport and recreation facilities." "Acacia Park is currently used by members of Parliament and Sessional officials," De Lille answered.



## BILATERAL-TRADE

# Tanzania-China garment 'expo' stated for middle of next month

By Guardian Reporter

A follow-up meeting of Tanzania-China Shandong Trade Forum which took place in Dar es Salaam last September will be held next month and will also include a garment wholesale festival.

In a statement yesterday, East Africa Commercial and Logistics Centre Chamber of Commerce (EACLCCC), said the main purpose of the festival is to imple-

ment some of the cooperation agreements reached by the two countries business delegations.

The statement said as the government is working hard to build a strong economy which will make it possible to become a middle income country by 2025, the EACLCCC is working to bridge trade ties with China.

"The Chamber of Commerce will directly communicate with the manufacturers hence breaking a cartel of middlemen.

links in the business field, improving the efficiency of business operations and reducing operating costs of businesses," said Cathy Wang who is Chairperson of EACLCCC.

Wang said that dozens of garment manufacturers from China and Dubai have been invited to participate at the event and meet with the local practitioners who will directly communicate with the manufacturers hence breaking a cartel of middlemen.

Goods that will be showcased will include men's wear and women's clothing, shoes and hats, belts and accessories, babies' and children's clothing as well as handbags and backpacks. The garment festival will also provide an online platform with live broadcast where merchants.

"There will also be an offline clothing exhibition and live television show, clothing operators can carry out business exchange

with clothing manufacturers on the spot and at the same time have a more intuitive understanding of the exhibitors," she added. The auction will enable the buyers to connect with the manufacturers and select the goods needed to bid for.

According to latest figures from Tanzania Investment Centre, China is the largest foreign investor in the country with cumulative investments worth \$5.963 billion by 2017.

## CONCERNS

## Kenya's debt passes Sh5.9 trillion mark

NAIROBI

Kenya's total public debt load edged closer to the Sh6 trillion mark in the first week of this month even as it emerged that 44 new foreign loan agreements have recently been put before Parliament for approval, or are under negotiation.

Total domestic debt is at Sh2.836 trillion while the total external public liability was Sh3.066 trillion – making a total of Sh5.902 trillion. However, this did not factor in external debt that may have been incurred between July and this month, which could bring the total to at least Sh6 trillion.

Just last week Parliament also approved the increase in debt threshold to Sh9 trillion as part of its efforts to ensure that the Treasury is able to meet its annual Budget going forward. As at the end of the 2018/19 fiscal year in June, the total public debt as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP) was 55.2 percent with the gross amount at Sh5.8 trillion.

The Treasury insists that the debt, which it says it assesses with a 20-year forward outlook, is still sustainable as long as it is below the threshold of 70 percent of GDP.

"Kenya's debt ratios show external debt is within sustainable levels for a country rated as a strong performer. The debt sustainability indicators show that Kenya faces a moderate risk of external debt distress," said the Treasury in its preliminary Budget for the next fiscal year.

"Total public debt as a proportion of GDP remains well below the Lower-Middle Income country debt sustainability benchmark of 70 percent of GDP in present value terms. Overall, debt sustainability analysis indicates that public sector debt continues to be sustainable although Kenya's current external debt risk of distress categorisation has moved from low to moderate," said the Treasury.

The biggest increase in Kenyan public debt in recent years has come from China and also multilateral lenders such as the World Bank. Citi Global Markets analysts said that Kenya – alongside Angola, Ethiopia and Congo – is among the countries in Africa that has received the largest disbursements from China.

"The China-Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University research efforts show that from 2000-2017, Chinese disbursements to Africa from various sources totalled \$143.4 billion ... Of this total, the reality is that the bulk was committed to a relatively small group of countries: Angola (\$19.2 billion), Ethiopia (\$13.1 billion), Kenya (\$9.8 billion) and Republic of Congo (\$7.4 billion)," said Citi.



NBC's acting Retail Banking Director, Benjamin Nkaka, speaks to some of the children of the bank's clients on benefits of 'Chanua Account' and Educare Insurance at a function held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of NBC

## RISK-COVERAGE

## Bank backs opening of children's account

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to inculcate a saving culture among kids, National Bank of Commerce has introduced a 'Chanua Account' for the group and is now urging parents and guardians to open one for their off-springs.

The account which is accompanied by an Educare Insurance cover also assures kids of their school fees and other educa-

tional expenses cover once the parents or guardians are dead of become impotent after injury.

NBC's acting Retail Banking Director, Benjamin Nkaka said in Dar es Salaam yesterday at an event organized for the bank's customers and their children, that the two new products have been launched during the ongoing customer service week commemoration to emphasise their importance.

"Chanua Account with and Educare Insurance are guaranteed solutions to children's education, when parents are alive, dead or totally disabled. I advise parents to make use of these products for a better future of their kids," Nkaka said.

He noted that the two products will also give parents and guardians relief as they will start investing a little for their kids' future hence guaranteeing

them a bright future regardless of their failure to settle such expenses.

"NBC has been changing each passing day by using various mechanism and products to serve our customers in addition to having a broad network of branches, we also have introduced NBC Kiganjani which enables customers to access various banking services through their mobile phones," he added.

The NBC Director further pointed out that to ensure that the bank serves a broader network of clients especially those in rural areas, it has established a large network of agents offering almost all banking services.

"But we have also entered into partnership with Tanzania Posts Corporation that allows our customers to access banking services at all post offices throughout the country," Nkaka noted.



Total public debt as a proportion of GDP remains well below the Lower-Middle Income country debt sustainability benchmark of 70 percent of GDP in present value terms. Overall, debt sustainability analysis indicates that public sector debt continues to be sustainable although Kenya's current external debt risk of distress categorisation has moved from low to moderate," said the Treasury.

## PENALTY

## 50 companies blacklisted after EOH finds almost R1bn in fake work and overbilling

JOHANNESBURG

EOH [JSE: EOH], one of the largest IT service providers in Africa, has reported a large loss as the cost of fraudulent transactions with the public sector piled up.

Large write-offs, in part due to the fraud, have contributed to its net asset value falling almost 70% to R1.957bn in the past year. Earlier this year, EOH was barred from reselling Microsoft software licences in SA amid reports that a whistleblower filed a complaint with US market authorities about alleged EOH corruption in a SA department of defence software deal. Three top executives have since resigned.

The JSE-listed company then tasked law firm ENS to investigate R1.2bn in suspect transactions, primarily in EOH's dealings with the public sector. On Tuesday, EOH said in an update to shareholders that the amount has since been reduced to R935 million and includes:

EOH has blacklisted and suspended payments to 50 implicated enterprise development partners. Some of these companies have initiated legal challenge-

es against EOH, which the company will "robustly oppose."

'Small group'

A small group of individuals in the public sector team were responsible for the fraud, EOH said. The investigation has also identified various opportunistic incidents of theft from EOH, and a number of individuals have been dismissed. EOH has filed criminal charges against former staff members, and wants to recover losses from those implicated.

It has also provided information to



The company is focused on removing any culture of hierarchy and fear which dissuades employees from speaking up and voicing important issues related to the business." On Tuesday, EOH reported that for the year to end-July, its revenue fell almost 3% to R11.791bn, while its headline loss tripled from 546c a share to 1 681c.

the Hawks and the Financial Intelligence Centre. In response to the fraud, the company says it has introduced stricter rules, including for commission payments, gifts and other incentives. The use of sales agents or middlemen is now prohibited when bidding for contracts.

"The company is focused on removing any culture of hierarchy and fear which dissuades employees from speaking up and voicing important issues related to the business." On Tuesday, EOH reported that for the year to end-July, its revenue fell almost 3% to R11.791bn, while its headline loss tripled from 546c a share to 1 681c.

"The ongoing weakness in the macro-economic environment, the ENSAfrica investigation and the reputational impact of Microsoft cancelling its licence reseller agreement as well as the delay in infrastructure projects in the NEXTEC business has led to depressed revenues and margin pressure for the 2019 financial year," EOH said. Gross debt, meanwhile, fell by approximately R500 million to R3.167bn, as the company started selling some of its assets.



NMB Bank Plc's acting Chief of Wholesale Banking, Aziz Chacha speaking to corporate clients during an executive network meeting of the bank's clients as part of activities to mark customer service week in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of NMB.



SETBACK

# US oilmen struggle to fill roles due to immigration crackdown

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico oil man Johnny Vega laid out his predicament as his crew hoisted pipes from a well during the biggest oil boom in U.S. history.

The son of a Mexican guest worker, Mr Vega cannot find enough legal workers to meet demand for his oil well service rigs. There is no shortage of Hispanic and Latino immigrant workers without work permits he could hire in Lea County, New Mexico – the second-biggest oil-producing county in the United States.

But Mr Vega says he wants to play by the rules, not least because of a heightened risk of company audits by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under President Donald Trump. As a result, he has equipment that could be generating \$700,000 a month standing idle in his yard.

“They’re demanding more rigs, more swabbing units, but you don’t have enough employees,” said Mr Vega, who runs Mico Services, which has annual revenue of around \$17 million. “It’s a lack of a system to get legal workers, to have more of a workforce to pull from.”

Employers like Mr Vega in the Permian Basin oilfields of New Mexico and Texas say they feel caught between Trump’s support for their industry and his policies focused on tougher immigration enforcement.

It’s a dilemma faced in other sectors of the US economy that depend on foreign workers after ICE reported surges of between 300 to 750 per cent in worksite investigations, audits and arrests in its 2018 fiscal year.

Visas for temporary jobs in sectors like agriculture and hospitality have increased during the Trump administration. Oil companies complain of difficulties gaining work permits for immigrant oil workers, who do not qualify for temporary visas.

The Permian Basin, by far the most productive oilfield in the United States, has

helped make the country a net exporter of oil. Its output growth has recently slowed, but production is still at all-time highs. The number of rigs drilling for oil in New Mexico hit a record 115 in early October and labour shortages are felt most keenly in service companies like Mr Vega’s that help keep the oil flowing.

The Permian Basin needs about 15,000 more workers, and is currently meeting demand met by paying overtime and shipping workers in and out, according to data from the Permian Strategic Partnership alliance of 19 energy companies.

Thousands of immigrants, mainly from neighbouring Mexico, have thronged to the decade-long boom. They often fill the hardest and most dangerous jobs few Americans want, such as using heavy equipment to lift oil well tubing or lay pipelines.

For Bob Reid, immigrants provide a solution to labour shortages and a chance for boom-bust oil towns like Hobbs, New Mexico to build a more stable future. “The problem is a broken system that’s preventing them from coming in legally in a way that allows them to pursue a path to citizenship,” said Mr Reid, head of the JF Maddox Foundation, a Hobbs charity.

In Lea County, Hispanics and Latinos now account for as much as 70 per cent of the population, compared with 40 per cent 20 years ago, based on county school enrolment and other data. About two years ago, ICE stepped up operations in the Permian area, according to Lea County employers.

“I know people, my peers, that have been hit by immigration audits, and they were told, specifically, that the Permian Basin was targeted because of the vast amount of workers that were coming here,” said Finn Smith, president of Hobbs-based Watson Hopper, a provider of oil rigs and other equipment. ICE did not respond to requests for comment on its Permian operations.

Two companies in Hobbs, the largest city in Lea County, were recently audited: Mesa Well Services and paving contractor Ramirez & Sons, according to a person with knowledge of the situation and a Ramirez & Sons official.

Mesa Well officials were not available for comment. Ramirez & Sons senior superintendent David Gallegos said the company was paying around \$40,000 in legal fees to apply for work permits or US citizenship on behalf of five of the employees laid off after the audit.

“They’re worth fighting for,” said Mr Gallegos, a Republican New Mexico state representative, of the long term employees who had bought homes in the area. ICE operations, and Trump’s threats of raids, have left



Johnny Vega (left), the president and CEO of Mico Services, has equipment lying idle that could generate \$700,000 per month because he says he cannot find enough workers.

many immigrants in Lea County fearful. Some bolt from job sites at rumours of ICE activity, said Maria Romano of New Mexico-based immigrant rights group Somos Un Pueblo Unido.

More companies are using

the government’s E-Verify immigration background checks to vet new hires, said Ms Romano, whose organisation helps immigrants get on a pathway to citizenship. “It’s now getting very difficult here for anyone who isn’t

documented,” said Juan, an unemployed pipeline worker who entered the United States illegally 11 years ago and asked that his last name not be used to protect his identity.

About a third of all immi-

grants in New Mexico and Texas lack valid working papers, according to a Pew Research Center study based on 2016 US census data. Hobbs Mayor Sam Cobb says he is frustrated by the failure of political leaders at a national level to create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants he generally finds to be hard-working and law abiding.

“The very people who have suffered from that are the people who are here growing our community, adding to the economic welfare of the community,” said Mr Cobb, a Democrat, sitting in his office surrounded by paintings of oil wells and cowboys. Yet plenty of employers in Lea County still hire undocumented workers.

“What we do is we don’t ask,” said Lorena, a Mexican

immigrant whose family has built up a small oilfield services business. She estimated that more than 90 per cent of her employees were Mexican immigrants and that only 5 to 10 per cent had genuine working papers. Her last name was not used to protect her identity.

Mr Vega’s labour woes are pushing him to reorient his oil well service business towards hiring out his equipment. “We have to rely on some of these immigrants, in this neck of the woods, to produce the workforce that we’re needing,” said Mr Vega, who said he supports Trump “100 per cent” but wishes he would “tone down” his rhetoric against immigrants. “Why not allow them to be documented?”



## ISIDÍNGO

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
STARTING 7:30 PM



**SATURDAY 12 Oct**

- 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
- 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
- 11:45 Series rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 15:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 15:15 Igizo: Utelezi
- 16:00 Mr Tanzania
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Kumbukumbu ya Mw Nyerere
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Shangweka
- 21:15 Kipindi maalum: Wajibu
- 21:30 Kesho leo
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

**SUNDAY 13 Oct**

- 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: Mrs Zinduna
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Mr Tanzania
- 16:45 Igizo: Utelezi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Biko
- 21:10 Mizengwe
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:15 Bongo Movie: Kishikwambi
- 00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot

**MONDAY 14 Oct**

- 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
- 10:00 Kumbukizi ya Mw Nyerere
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 13:00 Kumbukizi ya Mw Nyerere
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Kipindi maalum: Kumbukizi ya Mw Nyerere
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:00 Insta Bet
- 22:15 Series: The Slingshot
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 CNN International

**TUESDAY 15 Oct**

- 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
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Shamsham za pwani
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Shamsham za pwani
- 11:30 Shangweka rpt
- 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 Kipindi maalum rpt: Wajibu
- 14:15 Series rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
- 18:55 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari

- 21:00 Tanzania yetu
- 21:30 Chetu ni chetu
- 22:15 Series: The Slingshot
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

**WEDNESDAY 16 Oct**

- 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 drama: The great Queen Seondok
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
- 11:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
- 13:00 Dakika 45
- 14:00 Series rpt: The Slingshot
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe
- 18:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo
- 19:00 Ijue Sheria
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
- 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti maalum
- 22:15 Series: The Slingshot
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 CNN International

**THURSDAY 17 Oct**

- 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 rpt: Utelezi
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Igizo rpt: Utelezi
- 11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt

- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Tanzania yetu
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Mr Tanzania Rpt
- 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
- 00:00 The Base
- 01:30 CNN International

**FRIDAY 18 Oct**

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 09:00 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 Mr Tanzania rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru -live
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

**SATURDAY 19 Oct**

- 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
- 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
- 11:45 Series rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 15:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 15:15 Igizo: Utelezi
- 16:00 Mr Tanzania
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Pigo la moyo
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Shangweka
- 21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Wajibu
- 21:30 Kesho leo
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

**SUNDAY 20 Oct**

- 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: Mrs Zinduna
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Mr Tanzania
- 16:45 Igizo: Utelezi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Biko
- 21:10 Mizengwe
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:15 Bongo Movie: Kishikwambi
- 00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot

COMPETITIVENESS

## UAE clings to regional top spot in brand value rankings

DUBAI

The UAE is the most valuable brand in the Middle East and also retains its top 20 spot in a global ranking of 100 nations, a new report from consultancy Brand Finance found.

The UAE’s nation brand value grew 3 per cent from \$707 billion (Dh2.6 trillion) in 2018 to \$730bn, according to the Nation Brands 2019 report which analyses countries’ brand value. Saudi Arabia also retained its position in 21st place, while the US led the ranking overall, followed by China in second position and Germany in third.

“This year’s results show the Middle East nations are persevering through to rival the traditional nation brand powerhouses of the West,” said David Haigh, chief executive of Brand Finance. “In the run-up to Expo 2020 next October, we see the UAE leading the pack ahead of its GCC neighbours.”

Brand Finance gives countries an overall “brand strength index” score based on dozens of data points across three key pillars: goods and services, investment and society. A nation’s brand value is then calculated based on a hypothetical

royalty rate, which is applied to the country’s gross domestic product to determine brand-related GDP streams.

China recorded tremendous brand value growth of 40 per cent to \$19.5tn, narrowing the gap behind long-standing leader the US, despite the trade war between the two countries. The US recorded a brand value growth of 7 per cent to \$27.7tn, a difference between the two nation brands of \$8tn, compared to \$12tn last year.

Among the top 10, Japan’s brand value grew by 26 per cent, taking fourth position after Germany. It also overtook the UK, whose brand value grew less than 3 per cent from last year. India made the largest jump within the top 10, from ninth to seventh position, with a 19 per cent increase in brand value to \$2.6tn.

“With the Western world seeing a real crisis of leadership on both sides of the Atlantic, the developing world is catching up,” Mr Haigh said. “Bolder, more agile, increasingly innovative African, Middle Eastern, Asian and Latin American nation brands are racing ahead at breakneck speed, poised for further growth in the years to come.”



## US demands Syria ceasefire, slaps sanctions on Turkey over incursion

WASHINGTON/BEIRUT/ANKARA

PRESIDENT Donald Trump imposed sanctions on Turkey on Monday and demanded the NATO ally stop a military incursion in northeast Syria that is rapidly reshaping the battlefield of the world's deadliest ongoing war.

Trump, who gave what critics say was a de facto green light for Turkey's assault by ordering U.S. forces away from the conflict area, requested the ceasefire in a call with President Tayyip Erdogan.

"The United States of America simply is not going to tolerate Turkey's invasion in Syria any further. We are calling on Turkey to stand down, end the violence and come to the negotiating table," Vice President Mike Pence told reporters.

Trump also announced plans to reimpose steel tariffs on Turkey and immediately halt negotiations on a \$100 billion trade deal.

The move was quickly criticized as too little, too late by the top Democrat in Congress.

"His announcement of a package of sanctions against Turkey falls very short of reversing that humanitarian disaster," said U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Turkey aims to neutralize the Kurdish YPG militia, the main element of Washington's Kurdish-led ally, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which has been a key U.S. ally in dismantling the jihadist "caliphate" set up by Islamic State militants in Syria.

Ankara regards the YPG as a terrorist group aligned with Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

Russia-backed Syrian forces on Monday took rapid advantage of the abrupt U.S. retreat in Syria to deploy deep inside territory held by U.S.-backed Kurdish forces south of the Turkish frontier. Washington had announced plans for a full withdrawal from northern Syria less than 24 hours earlier.

Washington's Kurdish former allies said they invited in the government troops as an emergency step to help fend off the Turkish assault, launched on Wednesday after what the Kurds called a U.S. betrayal.

The Syrian army deployment is a victory for President Bashar al-Assad and his most powerful ally, Russia, giving them a foothold in the biggest remaining swath of the country that had been beyond their grasp.

They will now face Turkish armed forces along a new front line hundreds of miles (km) long.



A Syrian army soldier is seen in the town of Tel Tamer in northeast Syria, in this handout released by SANA on Sunday. REUTERS

Syrian state media reported the army entered Manbij, a town that had been controlled by a militia allied to the Kurds. Earlier, it pushed into Tel Tamer, a town on the strategically important M4 highway that runs east-west around 30 km (19 miles) south of the frontier with Turkey.

State television later showed residents welcoming Syrian forces into the town of Ain Issa, which lies on another part of the highway, hundreds of miles away.

Ain Issa commands the northern approaches to Raqqa, former capital of the Islamic State caliphate, which Kurdish fighters recaptured from the militants two years ago in one of the biggest victories of a U.S.-led campaign.

Much of the M4 skirts the southern fringe of territory where Turkey aims to set up a "safe zone" inside Syria. Turkey said it had seized part of the highway. An official of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said clashes were ongoing.

### U.S. STRATEGY UNRAVELING

The swift Syrian government deployments underscored how suddenly the strategy the United States had pursued in Syria for the past five years had unraveled. Washington said on Sunday it was

pulling out its entire force of 1,000 troops, which had provided air support, ground assistance and training for Syrian Kurds against Islamic State since 2014.

Trump said U.S. troops would remain at a small garrison at Tanf in southern Syria "to continue to disrupt remnants" of Islamic State. But the base would do little to support operations elsewhere in the country.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, better known for his backing of Trump, joined his critics to express concern over the Syria pullout, saying it would "invite the resurgence" of Islamic State.

"Such a withdrawal would also create a broader power vacuum in Syria that will be exploited by Iran and Russia, a catastrophic outcome for the United States' strategic interests," he said in a statement.

A U.S. official said on Monday a diplomatic team working to help stabilize territory captured from Islamic State had already pulled out. U.S. troops were still on the ground but early phases of their withdrawal had started, the official said.

Two other U.S. officials have told Reuters the bulk of the U.S. pullout could be completed within days.

Agencies

## Trump lawyer Giuliani was paid \$500,000 to consult on indicted associate's firm

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, was paid \$500,000 for work he did for a company co-founded by the Ukrainian-American businessman arrested last week on campaign finance charges, Giuliani told Reuters on Monday.

The businessman, Lev Parnas, is a close associate of Giuliani and was involved in his effort to investigate Trump's political rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, who is a leading contender for the 2020 Democratic Party nomination.

Giuliani said Parnas' company, Boca Raton-based Fraud Guarantees,

whose website says it aims to help clients "reduce and mitigate fraud", engaged Giuliani Partners, a management and security consulting firm, around August 2018. Giuliani said he was hired to consult on Fraud Guarantee's technologies and provide legal advice on regulatory issues.

Federal prosecutors are "examining Giuliani's interactions" with Parnas and another Giuliani associate, Igor Fruman, who was also indicted on campaign finance charges, a law enforcement source told Reuters on Sunday.

The New York Times reported last week that Parnas had told associates he paid Giuliani hundreds



of thousands of dollars for what Giuliani said was business and legal advice. Giuliani said for the first time on Monday that the total amount was \$500,000.

Giuliani told Reuters the money came in two payments made within weeks of each other. He said he could not recall the dates of the

payments. He said most of the work he did for Fraud Guarantee was completed in 2018 but that he had been doing follow-up for over a year.

Parnas and Fruman were arrested at Dulles Airport outside Washington last week on charges they funneled foreign money to unnamed U.S. politicians in a bid to influence U.S.-Ukraine relations in violation of U.S. campaign finance laws. The men were preparing to board a plane to Europe.

According to an indictment unsealed by U.S. prosecutors, an unidentified Russian businessman arranged for two \$500,000 wires to be sent from foreign bank accounts

to a U.S. account controlled by Fruman in September and October 2018. The money was used, in part, by Fruman, Parnas and two other men charged in the indictment to gain influence with U.S. politicians and candidates, the indictment said.

Foreign nationals are prohibited from making contributions and other expenditures in connection with U.S. elections, and from making contributions in someone else's name.

Giuliani said he was confident that the money he received was from "a domestic source," but he would not say where it came from.

Agencies

## African exporters eye upcoming Chinese import expo to expand business

NAIROBI

AS the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) is less than a month away in Shanghai, expectations are high that the event will continue to stimulate Africa's exports growth.

Kenyan companies, which participated in the event last year, have been quite an example as to how the Chinese consumption market is helping Kenyan exporters expand their business, and why they want to continue utilizing the Chinese market to gain more export earnings.

Citing data by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the East African nation's Business Daily reported earlier this month that China bought Kenyan goods worth a record 7.48 billion shillings (74 million U.S. dollars) in the first six months of the year, up 74 percent on year, driven by farm pro-

duce exports. Coffee, specialty tea, cut flowers and avocados are some of the farm produce which continue to gain market access to China, it reported.

The Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya revealed recently that more than a dozen Kenya-based companies, including those from the agriculture and food as well as tourism sectors, will participate in the second CIIE.

Cui Chaojie, general manager of Botanic Diamond in Kenya, is busy planning the firm's participation in the upcoming trade event.

Cui wants to bring more original African products to Chinese consumers. Cui said he had met many buying agents in the first edition of the CIIE last year.

Relying on the steady buying channels acquired from the CIIE, Cui also opened a shop in Shenzhen and built a cross-border ware-



house in Hong Kong last year.

Cui said that the sales volume of moringa products of his company doubled this year, among which the selenium-rich moringa tea is the most popular product.

George Kiondo, acting chief executive officer of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), told Xinhua that the expo helps KNCCI members

to be exposed to opportunities in China.

"I can confidently say exhibitions are good for the economic and social growth of Kenya. Currently, Kenya is a net importer and to boost our manufacturing, we need such events for exposure.

Through the event, Kenyans can learn aspects of manufacturing especially value addition and build capacity so that they can produce more," he said.

Sanny Ntayombya, head of communications and marketing at Rwanda Development Board also told Xinhua earlier that five Rwandan companies have already registered for the expo, and products to be exhibited are mainly coffee, pepper and handcraft.

"Having Rwandan companies participating in China, which has a huge market of over 1.3 billion people, is a golden opportunity to showcase Rwandan exports to

the Chinese market. It's a market which we are looking at trading more with," Ntayombya said.

"The China International Import Expo is being dubbed by some experts as the newest approach in global trade," said Edward Kusewa, economics lecturer at St. Paul's University in Kenya, adding that the expo also demonstrates China's drive for greater openness.

"There will be a boost in the number of countries trading with China including Africa.

The most striking trend in the direction of imports will be an increase in the number of countries whom China will buy from," Kusewa said.

According to China's commerce ministry, over 3,000 enterprises from about 150 countries and regions will participate in the second CIIE, which is scheduled to run on Nov.5-10.

Xinhua

## Death toll rises to 64 in wake of Typhoon Hagibis ripping through Japan

TOKYO

EMERGENCY crews in Japan are continuing to search for more than a dozen people still missing on Tuesday after Typhoon Hagibis ripped through Japan over the weekend causing widespread damage and killing at least 64 people.

Blackouts continue to affect many areas, Japanese industry minister Isshu Sugawara said, confirming yesterday that the number of households without power stood at 34,000.

Sugawara said that in hard-hit Chiba prefecture, 16,000 homes remain without power, with 12,000 homes in Nagano prefecture also affected.

Utility firms have said it could take as long as one week before all the homes are back on the grid and receiving electricity safely.

Water supplies have also been knocked out in some regions, with 133,000 homes in 13 prefectures, still without running water, the health ministry said.

The powerful typhoon has also led to severe flooding, with failing levees affecting nearly 50 rivers in 66 areas across Japan, with the situation compounded by emergency services still unable to gain access to some areas due to extensive flooding.

Japan's public broadcaster NHK said that including the Chikuma River in Nagano Prefecture, located north of Tokyo, the catastrophic typhoon caused at least 200 rivers to overflow, adding to flood damage across wide areas.

Along with power and water supply issues, the typhoon also triggered around 150 mudslides across the country, Japanese infrastructure ministry said.

At a disaster task force meeting convened on Tuesday, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the government will have access to reserve funds, and if deemed necessary will compile a draft a supplementary budget to cover the immense amount of reconstruction work necessary in the wake of the damage caused by Hagibis. "It is urgent to provide adequate support for the victims. There are concerns that the impact on life and economic activities will be prolonged," the prime minister also said in parliament.

As the government and rescue officials continue to assess the full extent of the damage, officials are warning people to avoid swollen rivers and be vigilant for further landslides that could occur any time, but particular under rainy conditions.

More than 200 public schools remain closed for the day, including in Nagano, where the Chikuma River burst its banks, wreaking havoc in the area, local officials said.

Transportation services have largely returned to normal, although disruptions on the Shinkansen bullet train services between Tokyo and Kanazawa will continue owing to numerous trains and carriages being inundated by floodwater in a rail yard in Nagano Prefecture. Xinhua

## Kremlin says Putin did not discuss Persian Gulf security organisation in Riyadh

RIYADH

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin did not discuss during his visit to Saudi Arabia the initiative of creating an organization for ensuring security in the Persian Gulf, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"No, they did not discuss this initiative," Peskov said. Speaking at the Valdai International Discussion Club in early October, Putin stated that Moscow suggested setting up an organization involving Russia, the United States, EU member-states and other countries to solve the problems the Persian Gulf was facing.

Putin recalled that Russia came up with the concept of ensuring collective security in the Persian Gulf this July. The Russian leader noted that given the volatile and unpredictable situation in the region, the idea was topical.

Putin offered to put aside differences and mutual claims and to establish an organization for security and cooperation in the region "basically from scratch, which would include the Gulf States and which could involve Russia, China, the US, the EU, India and other interested states as observers."

Agencies



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center left, and Saudi Arabia's King Salman, right, attend the official welcome ceremony in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Monday. AP

## Xi-Modi meeting further cements China-India relations

AT the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in the southern Indian city of Chennai on October 11 for the second informal meeting with Modi.

The Indian Prime Minister tweeted in Chinese, English and Hindi, respectively, to welcome President Xi's visit and express hope that the informal meeting will further cement India-China relations.

Informal meetings between the Chinese and Indian leaders have become a new model for high-level exchanges between the two countries. Xi and Modi held their first informal meeting in the

central Chinese city of Wuhan in April last year. The meeting enhanced the mutual understanding and friendship between the two leaders.

Since then, the two countries have comprehensively promoted exchanges and cooperation in various fields, properly controlled relevant differences, and brought their relations onto a new stage of steady progress.

The current world is experiencing changes unseen in a century. The strength of Eastern countries continues to rise while that of Western countries falls, and the focus of the world economy and strategy has shifted from Europe

and the Atlantic region to Asia and the Pacific region.

China and India, both developing countries and important emerging economies, as well as the only two countries in the world with a population of one billion, face common development opportunities and realistic challenges. Both countries intend to make use of positive factors to follow the trend of the time.

At the same time, unilateralism and protectionism are mounting and the risks and challenges for developing countries have risen. The cooperation between China and India not only

contributes to each other's national development, but also helps safeguard the common interests of developing countries and promote the process of multi-polarization and economic globalization.

The talks between Xi and Modi have enhanced mutual understanding, drawn a beautiful blueprint for China-India relationship development in the future, and injected stability and positive energy to the world full of uncertainties.

The leaders of the two countries have conducted in-depth communication on overarching, long-term and

strategic issues concerning the development of bilateral relations. During the Wuhan meeting, President Xi proposed a basis and three key points for developing China-India relations. He called on the two sides to correctly analyze and view each other's intentions with a positive, open and inclusive attitude, pointing direction for bilateral relations.

The Chennai meeting has elevated China-India relations into a new phase under the guidance of high-level exchanges. China and India should respect each other, learn from each other, and work together to achieve

common development and prosperity, and realize the great rejuvenation of the two civilizations.

China respects neighboring countries to choose development paths based on their own national conditions. The country insists on not interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and not imposing its will on them.

In terms of China-India cooperation, China has always been concerned about the feelings of India. Both as ancient civilizations with several thousand years of history, China and India have carried on their exchanges and mutual learning till this day.

People's Daily



# UK's Brexit proposals fall short, need deal by day end

LUXEMBOURG

BRITAIN'S latest proposals on the terms of its departure from the European Union are still not enough for an agreement and a legal text is needed by the end of yesterday for a deal to be agreed at a leaders' summit this week, three diplomatic sources said.

Relaying comments made by the EU's Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, at a meeting of the bloc's ministers in Luxembourg, they said that if the Tuesday deadline was missed then talks would have to continue after the Thursday-Friday summit.

"We need to land this tonight," an EU official told Reuters.

However, British Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay struck a more positive note as he arrived in Luxembourg for talks with ministers from the 27 countries that will remain in the EU.

"The talks are ongoing we need to give them space to proceed," he told reporters. "Detailed conversation are underway and a deal is still very possible."

The main sticking point to reaching a deal before the Oct 31 scheduled

date for Britain's exit is customs and security arrangements for the border between EU member Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland - the only land frontier between the EU and the United Kingdom after Brexit.

Barnier said earlier that while an agreement was still possible this week, it was still possible and it was "high time to turn good intentions in a legal text".

Finland's EU affairs minister, Tytti Tuppurainen, said the EU must prepare for a no-deal and a third extension of the tortuous divorce process.

"All scenarios are open," she said, adding that leaders at the summit would discuss pushing back the departure date beyond Oct 31.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a leading figure in the 2016 referendum in which Britons opted to leave the EU, has pledged to take the United Kingdom out of the bloc on that day whether or not a withdrawal agreement has been reached.

But the British parliament has passed a law saying the country cannot leave without an agreement, and Johnson has not explained how he can



European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier

get around that.

Malta's EU minister, asked if he would bet on there being a Brexit deal this month, said: "I would not."

Deal, no-deal, delay

As ministers met in Luxembourg, British Brexit negotiator David Frost was starting another round of negotiations with the EU's executive European Commission in Brussels. Britain was due to make new proposals in an attempt to break the Brexit deadlock, RTE said.

There was no comment from Johnson's office and the British mission to the EU declined to comment.

A British government source said separately that new texts have been shared repeatedly with Brussels during talks.

The main obstacle is around customs, with London proposing that Northern Ireland stays in the UK customs area but that EU tariffs are applied on all goods crossing from mainland Britain to the island.

Businesses would be eligible for a refund if it turns out their goods stay in Northern Ireland under the plan, which the EU has many doubts about, saying the system is too complicated, untested and not detailed enough at this stage.

The EU believes the only possible deal to be had at the summit is a return to a solution - already rejected by Britain previously - of keeping Northern Ireland in the bloc's customs union.

It would require a major shift from London and Johnson will face his factious parliament at a rare Saturday session after the summit.

Deal or no deal, the EU believes another delay to Britain's Oct 31 departure date will be needed. Extension options range from as short as an extra month to half a year or longer. The other EU states would need to agree unanimously to grant it.

"Time alone is not a solution. However, if a significant political change takes place in the UK then that could potentially justify a discussion on an extension if we were asked for it," France's Amelie de Montchalin said.

Agencies



## Jailed Catalan separatist leader says new referendum unavoidable

BARCELONA

THE Catalan separatist leader hit by the heaviest jail sentence by Spain's Supreme Court for his role in the region's failed secession bid told Reuters a new referendum on independence was unavoidable.

Oriol Junqueras, the Catalan regional government's former deputy leader, said in emailed answers to questions that the prison sentences imposed on him and eight others on charges of sedition only made them and their movement stronger and more determined.

The court on Monday slapped the longest prison term, 13 years, on Junqueras. The convictions sparked protests across the region.

"What I'm sure of is that this conflict is to be resolved via ballot boxes ... we are convinced that sooner or later a referendum is inevitable because otherwise, how can we give a voice to the citizens?" he wrote from prison, adding that he did not regret having organized a referendum in 2017.

Agencies

## Wikileaks founder Assange probably tortured in UK detention, Lavrov says

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov believes in the possibility of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange being tortured while in pretrial detention in the United Kingdom.

The Russian top diplomat made the statement in a Rossiya-24 broadcast on Monday night, commenting on the latest scandal surrounding Wash-

ington's recent publication of a confidential transcript of a phone conversation between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Vladimir Zelensky.

"You can see how one-on-one conversations are being treated in Washington: they are trying to make some terrible sins out of them. But, in this case, many questions arise regarding the freedom of access to informa-



tion," he said.

"By making this principle an

absolute truth, as Democrats on the Capitol Hill are trying to, they should also lift charges against [former NSA contractor] Edward Snowden, release Julian Assange and stop resorting to torture, to which he, by the look of it, is subjected while in the UK detention."

Speaking about the transcript controversy in the US, the Russian foreign minister noted the importance of one-on-one

contacts in diplomacy.

"In any case, I believe that one-on-one meetings is when you can look someone in the eyes and understand how ready he is to be sincere. I always have respect for those who express their sincerity without any detriment to the interests of their nation, which he obliged to protect," Lavrov continued. "On one hand, this may sound quite paradoxical. That's a difficult

combination, but I assure you that it works."

Lavrov added that he is always ready to both one-on-one talks and talks among delegations, depending on the accepting side's wishes.

Assange founded the WikiLeaks portal in 2006 to publish classified information about the activities of a number of governments, including that of the United States. Agencies

## China, Nepal draw new blueprint for bilateral ties in new era

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his Nepali counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari jointly announced to establish a strategic partnership of cooperation between the two nations featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity in the spirit of solidarity and win-win cooperation.

The announcement was made when Xi made a two-day state visit to Nepal from Oct. 12 at the invitation of Bhandari.

This visit marked Xi's first state visit to the country and also the first visit to Nepal paid by a Chinese head of state in 23 years. The historic visit has drawn a blueprint for the bilateral relationship between the two countries in the new era at strategic level and from long-term perspective, taking China-Nepal ties to a new height.

China and Nepal are good friends sharing mutual respect and trust, good partners for mutually beneficial cooperation, good neighbors benefiting from people-to-people exchanges and good brothers who always stand alongside each other, wrote President Xi in a signed article published on Nepali newspapers ahead of his trip to the country.

The solid foundation of the China-Nepal friendship and the sincere expectation of Xi's visit from all walks of life in Nepal could be seen everywhere during the visit, whether in the welcome ceremony with national characteristics, the grand welcome banquet or in the red welcome arches specially built for his visit and the welcom-



China's President Xi Jinping and his Nepali counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing during the Belt and Road Forum gathering. Photo: AFP

enhanced their friendship.

The two countries' decision to lift bilateral ties follows the principle of equality, harmonious co-existence, ever-lasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation. It further deepens strategic communication and political mutual trust between the two countries and will bring new development opportunities for them.

To broaden practical cooperation with Nepal, China's important development partner in South Asia, is an important goal of Xi's visit.

He proposed that both sides should carry out all-round cooperation and encourage exchanges in various areas to develop a Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network across the Himalayas.

Meanwhile, he stressed the importance of the synergy of development strategies, enhancement

of connectivity, promotion of trade and investment, stronger people-to-people bond, cooperation in law enforcement and multilateral coordination regarding bilateral relations.

Xi also called on both sides to strengthen cooperation in governance, promote the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Nepal's national strategy of building a land-linked country, carry out capacity and investment cooperation, speed up the construction of China-Nepal cross-border economic cooperation zone and enhance education, tourism and sub-national exchanges.

Xi's proposals presented a promising future of bilateral cooperation and won positive responses from the Nepali side.

Nepal appreciates China's diplomacy of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness with neighboring countries and is willing to actively participate in building the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to realize its vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali".

No matter how external circumstances change, Nepal's friendly policy toward China as well as the development of their friendly relations will remain unchanged, said Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, revealing Nepal's strong confidence in the China-Nepal relations.

China appreciates Nepal for its firm adherence to the one-China policy and its staunch support for China on issues concerning China's core interests. People's Daily

## Mozambique goes to the polls in vote that tests peace deal

MAPUTO

POLLS opened across Mozambique yesterday, with 13 million voters registered to cast ballots in presidential, parliamentary, and provincial elections seen as key to consolidating peace in the southern African nation.

Parties' acceptance of the election results is a key test of the ceasefire signed in August between the government and the opposition Renamo rebels after years of skirmishes following a 15-year civil war that killed an estimated 1 million people.

The ruling Frelimo party, which has governed since Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975, is expected to be returned to power. President Felipe Nyusi, who voted as polls opened, is expected to win a second term in a vote where in security and political tensions might keep some people from the polls.

Nyusi (pictured) urged Mozambicans to avoid violence - a week after police acknowledged that several suspects in the murder of prominent local election observer Anastacio Matalave were police officers, leading to condemnation from some international vote observer groups.

The president can claim credit for the US\$25 billion Mozambique Liquid Natural Gas project, part of efforts to tap substantial deposits of natural gas,



in the devastating Cyclone Idai earlier this year.

The country of nearly 30 million people on the Indian Ocean was hit by Idai and, weeks later, Cyclone Kenneth, raising fears about what climate change would bring to the sprawling coastline in the decades to come. Hundreds of thousands of people are still recovering from the storms and hunger is a growing concern as months remain before the next substantial harvest.

Insecurity also poses a growing threat. At least 10 polling centers were not opening in northernmost Cabo Delgado province as Mozambique's election authority said it could not guarantee safety from attacks by shadowy Islamic extremists, who have killed more than 400 people in the past two years. That means some 5,400 people are not able to vote.

Vote counting will start after polls close at 6 p.m. local time and preliminary results are expected Wednesday, with full provisional results before the end of the week.

A runoff will be held if no presidential candidate wins a majority of the vote.

For the first time Mozambicans are also electing provincial governors, a key concession to Renamo. Previously all governors were appointed by the ruling party.

Agencies

## German security services want more powers to fight extremism

BERLIN

GERMANY'S security services said yesterday they're seeking greater powers to fight the kind of far-right extremism behind last week's synagogue attack, including requiring internet companies to report illegal hate speech to police.

A 27-year-old German man previously unknown to police confessed to carrying out the attack in the eastern city of Halle in which two people were killed Wednesday.

The suspected gunman, identified by prosecutors only as Stephan B. due to privacy rules,

allegedly built the firearms he used with the help of online instructions, posted an anti-Semitic screed before the attack and later broadcast the shooting live on a popular gaming site.

In response to the attack and previous incidents, German officials have called for more officers to be devoted to tackling far-right extremism and a greater focus on online platforms they say are increasingly being used as a means of spreading far-right radicalism and linking up with like-minded people in a way already seen with Islamist extremism.

Thomas Haldenwang, who heads the BfV domestic intel-

ligence agency, said the attack in Halle and similar shootings in Texas, New Zealand and Norway showed the need for security services to get better tools to tackle online extremism. In particular, he called for authorities to be given permission to install monitoring software on suspect's devices so as to read their encrypted communication.

Holger Muench, head of the Federal Criminal Police Office, said online threats and acts of violence are creating a "climate of fear" in Germany that is deterring people from volunteering for public office.

"Right-wing crimes threaten our democracy," Muench said. "The situation is serious."

The country is still reeling from the killing of Walter Luebcke, a regional politician from Chancellor Angela Merkel's party, who was shot dead at his home in June. Luebcke had vocally supported Merkel's welcoming stance toward refugees in 2015 and the suspect in his killing is a far-right extremist with a string of convictions for violent anti-migrant crimes.

Muench said his agency has identified 43 far-right extremists who are considered to constitute a serious threat, an increase of about a third since the start of the year. Overall, authorities say there

are some 12,700 far-right extremists in Germany "prepared to use violence."

He called for a bundle of measures including greater scrutiny of online hate postings, extending the period of time that security services can store data on possible extremists and for those who create and distribute lists of political enemies to be prosecuted.

He also proposed that an existing law requiring platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to swiftly remove illegal hate speech should be expanded to force them report such content to police.

Muench suggested his office could be a central point of contact dealing with online hate crimes in the same way it already does for child pornography.

Further proposals include creating a special unit to investigate possible extremists in the police and other government departments, and a crackdown on known far-right groups.

Security officials are particularly concerned that the 'new right' - groups that include factions within the Alternative for Germany party which entered the federal parliament two years ago - are providing the intellectual fodder for extremists.

Authorities are still investigating whether the suspect in the Halle shooting had ties to any known groups or individuals. At least five people watched the attack live as it happened, suggesting they may have known it was going to take place.

The suspect failed to force his way into the synagogue as scores of people inside were observing Judaism's holiest day, Yom Kippur. He then shot and killed a 40-year-old German woman in the street outside and a 20-year-old man at a nearby kebab shop before fleeing. He was later arrested in Zeitz, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Halle. Agencies





Simone Biles of the United States shows her five gold medals she won at the Gymnastics World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019. (AP)

## After record world medal haul, Biles a face of 2020 Olympics

STUTTGART, GERMANY

NEXT stop Tokyo for Simone Biles.

With Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps both retired since the last Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the U.S. gymnast will be the face of the games for much of the world.

In gymnastics, no one else comes close. Biles won five of the six gold medals at last week's world championships and broke the all-time record of 25 medals by any gymnast, male or female.

"She's just above anything else that we have seen in the sport," five-time Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci said of Biles on Sunday, praising "the domination that she has toward all the other gymnasts that competed here."

Biles has not just got the talent. She's got the character of an Olympic star.

There's the laser-like focus on training, the same easygoing humor which endeared the world to Bolt, and – crucially in the modern era – a savvy social-media style.

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said Sunday that Biles' star status would make gymnastics a must-see event at the Tokyo Olympics.

"You can have legends confirming their status as we have just seen with Simone Biles, this amazing performance there on the beam, but you also have new stars," he said. "Gymnastics has all the ingredients to be top another time, I must say. A top Olympic event in Tokyo."

Despite its dispute with Biles over the scoring for her new double-double beam dismount – its grade was lessened in part so as not to encourage less-skilled gymnasts to attempt the risky move – the International Gymnastics Federation knows Biles is crucial to the sport.

Labeling her "wonder woman" and "a hero," FIG president Morinari Watanabe is keen for

Biles not to retire after the Tokyo Olympics. "I hope she will continue after 2020, because she is an excellent athlete," he said Sunday.

Biles is certainly the only athlete who could pull off her look in training at the U.S. nationals in August. She caused a stir with a leotard bearing her surname and a goat's head picked out in sequins, a nod to "Greatest Of All Time."

Few disagree, but Biles hasn't yet won everyone over.

"There's no need to turn her into some unbeatable queen. If I was 15 years younger, I'd definitely take the fight to the American," the Russian gymnast Svetlana Khorkina said in comments on the Russian Olympic Committee website Thursday.

Khorkina won 20 world championship medals between 1994 and 2001 and held the women's record until Biles overtook her Tuesday.

One record is likely to remain out of Biles' reach, however. Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina won a record 15 Olympic medals between 1956 and 1964. Biles won five Olympic medals in Rio de Janeiro, and could add six more next year in Tokyo, but appears highly unlikely to stick around until the 2024 Olympics.

However, there's another record to aim for. Matching her world championship performance from last week would make Biles the first female gymnast to win five gold medals at a single Olympics, and the first female athlete to do so in any sport since East German swimmer Kristin Otto in 1988.

After Biles pioneered a new beam dismount and triple-double on the floor this season, her coach Laurent Landi says he favors refining her existing routines for the Olympics over adding yet more upgrades.

"I can find plenty of (upgrades), but you need to be realistic and only the medals count at the end," he said. "We don't need to show off everything we can do."

AP

## Hamilton sees F1 title race going on beyond Mexico

LONDON

LEWIS Hamilton expects he will have to wait beyond Mexico, the next race on the calendar and one that could be a struggle for his Mercedes team, to secure his sixth Formula One world championship.

After finishing third in Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix, with his lead over team mate and now sole rival Valtteri Bottas reduced to 64 points, the Briton is finally in a position to wrap up the title.

Hamilton assured reporters he was in no hurry, however.

"For me, it's never been a case of always wanting to rush things," he said.

"I think Mexico is generally our worst race of the year because of the way our car is set up and it's going to be a tough one for us. The last few have been pretty shocking, even though we've won the title there."

"I don't anticipate it (the decider) will be Mexico. I think we will be battling for a good few races."

Hamilton won his 2017 and 2018 titles at Mexico City's Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, which returned to the calendar in 2015 for the first time in 23 years.

There is no real doubt about who will be champion, just a case of when.

"Lewis will win it. Doesn't matter which race. I don't think it matters for him, does it? It wouldn't matter to me," said Ferrari's four-times world champion Sebastian Vettel, second on Sunday.

With four races remaining, there are 104 points to be won when the extra point available for fastest lap is taken into consideration.

After Mexico on Oct. 27 it will be 78 and then, following Texas a weekend later, 52.

Hamilton needs to score 14 points more than Bottas in Mexico but he has done that only once this season – in Hungary when he won and the Finn was eighth.

Mercedes, who clinched the constructors' title for the sixth year in a row on Sunday, have had eight one-two finishes in 17 races.

Hamilton and Bottas finished fourth and fifth in Mexico last year. In 2017, the champion was ninth while his team mate was second but in 2016 the Briton won in Mexico City.

The team's worst race of 2019 so far was Germany, with Hamilton ninth and Bottas a non-finisher.

REUTERS



Eliud Kipchoge

## Kipchoge does Africa proud

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

LAST Saturday was just another normal, run-of-the-mill weekend day set aside for us all to gain a much-needed reprieve from the rat race.

An accurate description, right? Not exactly. Indeed, something close to a re-invention of the wheel in the men's marathon was achieved last Saturday on a rather grey and overcast afternoon in Vienna by one Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya.

Already regarded as one of the greatest marathoners of all time even prior to his titanic exertions last weekend, Kipchoge more than amply lived up to his top billing by becoming the first athlete in sporting history to run the daunting 42 kilometers marathon race in under two hours which was a really barrier-smashing feat of pure sporting magic.

Indeed, Kipchoge's mighty strivings have rightfully captured the imagination of numberless people around the world, most especially us, his fellow African brethren.

Unquestionably, the sheer enormity of Kipchoge's athletics tour de force has gladdened the hearts of the record-breaker's

fellow Kenyans, Tanzanians, Ugandans, Nigerians, and Zimbabweans among countless other Africans on the continent and even much-further afield than that.

Doubtlessly, the Kenyan marathoner, Eliud Kipchoge's name will now be immortalized in international sporting lore alongside a select and exclusive band of sportsmen whose breathtaking and fantastical exploits still inspire awe today.

Top off this pantheon of seemingly timeless sportsmen extraordinaire is the current President of Liberia, George Weah, who was the veritable scourge of defenders during his trailblazing career.

Indeed, at the outset of the 1995-1996 Serie A season, Weah was one of AC Milan's hyped up, highly touted new signings and naturally, the huge Liberian attacker was especially eager to make his mark on top flight Italian football.

However, come the end of that historic 1995-1996 Serie A campaign, Weah had definitely more than just made his mark.

Thanks to his consistently splendid displays all-season long, Weah deservedly carted home three coveted individual gongs

which were: the FIFA World Player of the Year, European Player of the Year and as the final cherry on the cake, the African Player of the Year to boot.

It marked the first time in history that an African star had picked up both the European and World Player of the Year accolades and all in the same season too.

Let us move on. Kipchoge's sterling feat can also be compared favorably to the gob-smacking and utterly memorably perfect '10' score that the teenage Romanian prodigy 'Nadia Comaneci achieved after completing her gymnastics floor routine at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

In other words, Comaneci remarkably achieved perfection at those Montreal Games in 1976.

Thus, as it can be seen, Kipchoge's achievement which definitely served up a 'wow' moment can only be likened to the profoundly impeccable showings of a few sporting immortals.

This just goes to show that Eliud Kipchoge's unforgettable achievement is truly staggering in nature.

## LeBron James: Rockets' Morey 'wasn't educated' on China tweet

LOS ANGELES

LEBRON James believes Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey "was either misinformed or not really educated on the situation" regarding the potential consequences of his actions when he tweeted in support of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests.

In his first public comments since the Los Angeles Lakers returned home from a strange weeklong tour of China immediately after Morey's incendiary tweet, James' lengthy answer to a question about whether Morey should be punished for his tweet didn't appear to specifically address the merits of Morey's support of Hong Kong sovereignty.

The Lakers superstar instead characterized the international incident caused by Morey's tweet as a cautionary tale about the power of social media.

"Yes, we do have freedom of speech," James said. "But at times, there are ramifications for the negative that can happen when you're not thinking about others, when you only think about yourself. I don't want to get into a word or sentence feud with Daryl Morey, but I believe he wasn't educated on the situation at hand, and he spoke. So many people could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually. So just be careful what we tweet and what we say and what we do. Even though yes, we do have freedom of speech, it can be a lot of negative that comes with it."

When asked to clarify his

thoughts, James went further.

"I believe (Morey) was either misinformed or not really educated on the situation, and if he was, then so be it," James said. "But I have no idea. That's just my belief. When you say things or do things, you're doing it and you know the people that can be affected by it, and the families and the individuals and everyone that can be affected by it. Sometimes things can be challenging as well. Also sometimes, social media is not always the proper way to go about things as well. But that's just my belief."

A Rockets spokesperson didn't immediately respond to request for comment Monday night on James' remarks.

James' comments set off swift reaction on social media, with many listeners perceiving his comments as criticism of the democracy movement in Hong Kong. James addressed the issue again in two tweets before the Lakers' preseason game against Golden State at Staples Center.

"Let me clear up the confusion," James tweeted. "I do not believe there was any consideration for the consequences and ramifications of the tweet. I'm not discussing the substance. Others can talk about that. ... My team and this league just went through a difficult week. I think people need to understand what a tweet or statement can do to others. And I believe nobody stopped and considered what would happen. Could have waited a week to send it."

James didn't play, but watched from the bench when the Lakers



hosted the Warriors on Monday night, just two days after they returned home from their bizarre trip to China.

A typical NBA preseason promotional swing through Shanghai and Shenzhen became something else when Morey tweeted in support of the Hong Kong protesters while the Lakers were in the air on their 13-hour flight to China.

The Lakers landed amid outrage in China with Morey's since-deleted tweet and the NBA in general. The league and Chinese authorities decided to hold no media availability or community events with the Lakers or the Brooklyn Nets, their opponents.

The Lakers passed their week in China in public silence. Although the exhibition games weren't canceled, the league claimed it would be unfair to ask players and coaches to speak on

the delicate geopolitical argument in which they found themselves involuntarily enmeshed.

So the players spent most of the week in hotels or on the court, with two NBA Cares events, a fan event and other public appearances all canceled by the league or the government. Several companies and state-run offices reportedly severed their ties with the NBA over Morey's tweet and the league's response to it.

The Lakers and Nets also met with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. James said he was happy with Silver's handling of the controversy, which led to criticism of the commissioner from supporters on both sides of the Hong Kong movement.

"It was a tough situation for Adam as well, to put out a fire that he didn't start," James said.

When asked about his thoughts on the political side of the events in China, James echoed Warriors coach Steve Kerr's belief that he didn't know enough to comment on the situation.

"When I speak about something, I speak about something I am very knowledgeable about, something that hits home for me, something that I am very passionate about," James said. "I felt like with this particular situation, it was something that not only was I not informed enough about, I just felt like it was something that not only myself and my teammates or our organization had enough information to even talk about it at that point in time, and we still feel the same way."

AP



## Lyon snub Wenger and Blanc in favour of Garcia

PARIS

LYON have announced Rudi Garcia as their new head coach, preferring him to Laurent Blanc and Arsene Wenger, while Jose Mourinho turned down a meeting with the club, sources have told ESPN.

Garcia, 55, became the front runner after impressing in his presentation and agreeing to take over the existing staff.

Ex-Arsenal boss Wenger was also interested in replacing former boss Sylvinho, who was sacked last week after just two months in charge, but was never invited to meet the Lyon hierarchy formed of chairman Jean-Michel Aulas, sporting director Juninho, Aulas' advisor Gerard Houllier and legal director Vincent Ponsot.

Blanc came much closer to getting the job, having had two long meetings with the club. The former Paris Saint Germain manager was the favourite to become the new head coach but wanted to employ a large backroom team of his own, including two assistants and a fitness coach.

Lyon wanted someone capable of working with the existing staff in place, which was ultimately a deciding factor that stopped the club reaching an agreement with Blanc.

Mourinho, who has been out of a

job since leaving Manchester United in December, was offered a meeting by the club to discuss the position but turned it down.

The Portuguese manager had exchanged text messages with chairman Aulas over the role but rejected further discussions.

Former Guingamp and Bordeaux manager Jocelyn Gourvennec was also interviewed for job but was deemed to lack experience.

Garcia comes a surprise choice as head coach, having recently managed Lyon's rivals Marseille amid concerns among fans that he did not do enough at the Velodrome to deserve this chance.

Marseille failed to qualify for the Champions League under Garcia, finishing fifth, fourth and fifth again, despite big investments in stars such as Dimitri Payet, Mario Balotelli, Kevin Strootman, Florian Thauvin, Luiz Gustavo, Adil Rami and Steve Mandanda.

Garcia did manage to guide Marseille to the Europa League final in May 2018, but IOM were beaten 3-0 by Atletico Madrid in Lyon.

The French boss also had spells at Lille, Saint-Etienne and Roma.

(Agencies)

## Paratici rules out Cristiano Ronaldo leaving Juventus

TURIN, ITALY

JUVENTUS sporting director Fabio Paratici insisted superstar Cristiano Ronaldo will not be leaving the Serie A champions anytime soon.

Ronaldo is contracted to Juve until 2022 following his blockbuster €12million transfer from Real Madrid last season, however, there have been rumours that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner could leave Turin.

The 34-year-old scored 21 Serie A goals and 28 across all competitions last term, while he has four goals in 2019-20.

Asked about Ronaldo - who scored his 700th competitive goal in Portugal's 2-1 Euro 2020 qualifying defeat to Ukraine on Monday - Paratici dismissed the possibility of the veteran forward leaving Juventus before his contract expires.

"He is very focused on his current objectives, I do not believe in the slightest that he will leave at the end of the season or later," Paratici said.

"He is under contract: we are very happy with him and he is happy at

Juventus."

Juve - seeking their ninth successive Scudetto - have been linked to Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic.

However, Juve have no plans to invest in January following the off-season arrivals of Matthijs de Ligt, Aaron Ramsey, Adrien Rabiot, Danilo and Merih Demiral.

"We will not make moves in January," Paratici said. "The roster is complete and it is one of the best in Europe."

While there might not be any new signings forthcoming, January could see a number of departures at the Italian champions.

Mario Mandzukic is yet to feature for Juve this season and has been heavily linked to Premier League giants Manchester United.

"We decided to give him a moment of peace because there was the chance he would be moving to Qatar, which then did not materialize," Paratici said. "Now we will decide together what the best solution will be in January."

(Agencies)

## Modric airs Bale hope as Real Madrid transfer talk rumbles on

ONDON

LUKA Modric considers Gareth Bale to be an "amazing player" and is hoping to see the Welshman remain at Real Madrid for the foreseeable future.

Transfer talk continues to rage around a prominent figure in the Spanish capital who is never far from heading for the exits in the eyes of some onlookers.

The summer window of 2019 was dominated by speculation regarding Bale's future, with lucrative moves to China and England mooted for the former Tottenham star.

In the end, the deadline passed with no deal being done.

Bale has earned game time under Zinedine Zidane, having previously been frozen out, and has played his way back into the hearts of some supporters who once wrote him off.

Modric believes the 30-year-old can play an important role for Madrid, both in the remainder of this season and the 2020-21 campaign.

The Croatian midfielder told reporters after facing a club colleague in Euro 2020 qualifying: "He is an amazing player and very important for the team."

"He is showing that this season. Hopefully he will stay this season and the next seasons as well."

Bale scored a spectacular solo goal against Croatia to earn Wales a 1-1 draw on Sunday, but both he and Modric

ended the contest nursing knocks which will concern their club side back in Spain.

"I didn't see Gareth afterwards because I was also injured. We will see if I am okay. I am hopeful he will be okay," Modric added.

"He's an important player for Real Madrid and hopefully it's nothing and it is just cramps. We will see."

Bale has made seven appearances for the Blancos this season, recording two goals and collecting one red card.

He has figured in domestic and European action, with Zidane's side looking to make progress at home and abroad.

They are currently perched at the top of the Liga standings, two points clear of arch-rivals Barcelona, but have collected just one draw from two Champions League outings so far.

Modric added on the challenges facing a team that have delivered four European successes for himself and Bale: "It's still the beginning of the competition but we have a few more games left."

"We are good enough to overcome this bad start and qualify for the next round."

Madrid will be back in action on Saturday away at Real Mallorca, before then taking in a crucial trip to Galatasaray and a visit to Barcelona for the first Clasico encounter of 2019-20.

(Agencies)

# Ukraine reach Euro 2020 as racism blights England win in Bulgaria

ARIS

UKRAINE booked their place in Euro 2020 after squeezing past Portugal as Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 700th career goal on a night stained by Bulgaria fans racially abusing England players while their side were hit for six in Sofia.

Andriy Shevchenko's unbeaten team are through to next summer's finals with a match to spare as Group B winners thanks to first-half goals from Roman Yaremchuk and Andriy Yarmolenko, which meant that Ronaldo's 72nd-minute penalty wasn't enough for Portugal.

Ukraine join Poland, Russia, Italy and Belgium in the multi-host tournament which kicks off in Rome on June 12, with Shevchenko - who scored 48 times for Ukraine in 111 matches - proving a similar success on the bench as he was on the pitch.

Second-placed Portugal's fate is still in the balance, with Serbia just a point behind them with two matches remaining after they beat Lithuania 2-1.

Portugal dominated the second half and pulled one back when Ronaldo blasted home the spot-kick to make it 700 goals for club and country, but they couldn't find an equaliser despite some good chances.

"There are days like these, when the ball just doesn't want to go in," said Portuguese midfielder Danilo. "No need to do the maths now: we just need to win the next two games to reach Euro 2020."

Group A leaders England still have to wait for their place at the Euros despite hammering hapless Bulgaria 6-0, but the focus of attention was again on the stands as the home fans caused mayhem with racist chanting that twice caused the match to be halted.

It was another England match blighted by racism from opposition fans after England's black players were targeted with monkey chants during their 5-1 win at Montenegro in March.

- Racism mars England win -

The level of abuse from a section of the Bulgarian support led the English Football Association to demand an investigation from UEFA, asking European football's governing body to open a probe "as a matter of urgency".

Tyrone Mings was one of those



Turkish players perform the controversial military salute after drawing with France amid diplomatic tensions between the two countries (AFP Photo)

targeted on his England debut, and he said that stopping the game did have the desired effect of reducing racist abuse in the second half.

"We made the decision at half-time to come out and play the game which we thought was the right decision," said Mings. "If anything else happened, we would have taken appropriate action."

England led 2-0 through early goals from Marcus Rashford and Ross Barkley when play was first stopped and an announcement made to supporters that the game could be suspended the abuse continued.

Once restarted, England quickly made it 3-0 through Barkley before a second stoppage, with Croatian referee Ivan Bebek holding discussions with players and coaching staff from both sides.

Raheem Sterling then netted twice either side of half-time before Harry Kane

rounded off the scoring to take England to the brink of qualification.

Gareth Southgate's men have now scored 26 goals in 6 qualifying matches and are four points ahead of third-placed Kosovo with two matches to play.

However Kosovo's 2-0 win over Montenegro means England need a win from one of their remaining two matches to ensure qualification.

- Ayhan denies France -

France also missed a spot in the Euros when Kaan Ayhan's leveller snatched a point for Turkey in a match played against a backdrop of diplomatic tensions after Paris condemned Ankara for its military offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria.

Substitute Olivier Giroud headed France in front on 76 minutes at the Stade de France. Ayhan nodded home six minutes later - and celebrated with

a military salute in front of the Turkish supporters - to leave Didier Deschamps side waiting.

"We did what we needed to win the match based on the play and number of chances. They didn't have many but put away a set-piece," said Deschamps, whose team lost 2-0 to Turkey in June.

"We should have been more clinical even if it's still a good point. We're still on track and need to finish to job in November."

Turkey remain top of Group H above the world champions on the head-to-head rule. Although France can qualify for the finals with a win at home to Moldova next month, Turkey would clinch their place by avoiding defeat against third-placed Iceland, who are four points back after beating Andorra 2-0.

AFP

## Bulgaria-England halted under UEFA racism protocol

SOFIA, BULGARIA

ENGLAND'S 6-0 Euro 2020 qualifying win against Bulgaria was temporarily halted during the first half of the Group A fixture in order to warn supporters that the match could be abandoned following racist chanting in the Vasil Levski Stadium.

Match referee Ivan Bebek instructed the stadium PA announcer to broadcast the message - the first step in FIFA's three-step protocol when dealing with such incidents - after England defender Tyrone Mings complained of being the subject of racist chanting in the 22nd minute.

Bulgaria supporters in the crowd were seen directing monkey chants at England players, doing Nazi salutes and holding up shirts with the UEFA logo and the text "No Respect" - a reference to the European governing body's "Respect" campaign aimed at curbing racism in the sport.

England manager Gareth Southgate then alerted the fourth official, Mario Zebec, who passed the information on to the referee.

The message, delivered in both Bulgarian and English, called for a stop to "racist behaviour" with the warning that the game could be abandoned if there were further outbreaks.

The match then continued, but play was stopped again on 41 minutes, when Southgate was involved in another lengthy discussion with the referee.

Following the match, Southgate told the BBC: "It's been an incredible few days really. We had to prepare for this eventuality. The most important thing was the players and staff knew what we were going to do and were in agreement."

"Nobody should have to experience what our players did. We followed the protocol. We gave two messages - one that our football did the talking and two, we stopped the game twice."

"I have to give credit because the referee communicated with us all the time. You heard the stadium announcement on

the first instance. In the second instance, we could have walked off but the players were very keen to finish the first half and talk it through.

"Not one player wanted to stop, they were absolutely firm on that."

Bulgaria manager Krasimir Balakov insisted he didn't hear the abuse and doubled down on his prematch claims that racism is not a problem in Bulgaria.

"It's a very delicate subject," said former midfielder Balakov, who said England has a bigger racism problem than his own country.

"I do not think there is a single person in Bulgaria who would say that racism is something pleasant. But at the same time, it is very strange how this topic is interpreted in football. I have heard absolutely nothing [during the game]."

Mings, who had been handed the start and was earning his first England cap, took the whole thing in stride, saying afterwards: "It was a great occasion, I made my debut, slightly overshadowed by a few disappointing chants. It was quite clear to hear on the pitch, but I think we showed a great response and showed a great togetherness and hopefully let football do the talking."

"Yes absolutely. I think it [stopping the game] was effective. There was an announcement so whatever the protocol was and the correct steps taken definitely helped. We made the decision at half-time to come out and I felt it was the right decision."

"Everybody was consulted - us, management, staff players, we all made a decision that we were happy to go out."

Bulgarian captain Ivelin Popov was seen talking to fans through the metal fence at half-time and a number of people were seen leaving the stands.

The game was already being played in front of a reduced crowd after UEFA ordered a partial closure due to racist behaviour by their supporters in June's qualifiers against the Czechs and Kosovo. England forward Marcus Rashford took to Twitter following the match to thank England supporters and to praise the actions of Popov, crediting him for the courage it took to stand up in the face of the abuse.

Following the match, England FA chairman Greg Clarke told ITV: "I was up in the stands with some of the FA staff and we were watching the game and heard a sound which sounded like monkey

chanting, we can't be sure.

"I came down and heard some more at the side of the pitch and saw some activity by a group of people dressed in black by a corner flag and it was appalling. I checked the team was OK and that Gareth was OK and the second half went ahead on that basis."

"We were told by officials that 50 people - the people in the corner - were thrown out at half-time. I asked why the other issues were not dealt with and they said they were isolated incidents not mass incidents and the protocol deals with mass incidents."

The FA also released the following statement after the match: "The FA can confirm that England players were subjected to abhorrent racist chanting while playing in the EURO 2020 qualifier against Bulgaria. This is unacceptable at any level of the game and our immediate focus is supporting the players and staff involved."

"As we are sadly aware, this is not the first time our players have been subjected to this level of abuse and there is no place for this kind of behaviour in society, let alone in football. We will be asking UEFA to investigate as a matter of urgency."

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Taifa Stars' friendly with Rwanda timely preps for CHAN qualifiers - Ndayiragije

## SPORT

Ukraine reach Euro 2020 as racism blights England win in Bulgaria

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## Mwakinyo to take part in international non-title bout November

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

TANZANIA'S professional boxer Hassan Mwakinyo is set to take the ring to trade punches with Philippines boxer, Any Tinampay, in an international non-title fight in Dar es Salaam on November 29.

The 10-round, Super Welterweight fight will be preceded by supporting fights involving domestic and foreign boxers.

Speaking in a press in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Mwakinyo pointed out he has shown willingness to participate in the fight given he is ready for a new challenge.

"I thank my sponsors, SportPesa, and my promoter, Jay Msangi, for organizing this fight, I have prepared well for it and I'm continuing to shape up for it given I do not want to let boxing followers down," he said.

He disclosed he believe the bout will be tough and full of challenges, given Tinampay is a successful boxer and is rated second in Philippines behind Manny Pacquiao.

Msangi pointed out preparations for the bout are in place, noting the National Sports Council has approved it.

"The bout will be held at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on November 29. We cherish this fight as a national event because Mwakinyo represents the country," he added.

He noted there will be five undercards prior to the main fight, slated to start at 9pm.

He appealed for firms to sponsor the bouts.

"We expect the fights will be broadcast live by television stations. There are television stations in Kenya and Philippines that have requested to telecast the bouts live," he disclosed.

The fight will be taking place seven months after Mwakinyo had come out victorious in another international non-title fight in Kenya.

Mwakinyo rose to prominence following his victory over British boxer, Sam Harrington, in an international non-title bout held at the latter's backyard.



Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**T**AIFA Stars' interim head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has said his squad's international friendly match against Rwanda has helped him prepare his players well for the Friday's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifying game against Sudan.

Taifa Stars will play Sudan at El Merriekh Omdurman Stadium in Khartoum in the second leg of the second round of the qualifiers for the tournament, which has been designed for players plying their trade in do-

mestic leagues.

Taifa Stars and Rwanda, nicknamed Amavubi, settled for a 0-0 draw in the international friendly game, which took place in Kigali on Monday.

The coach issued the comments after the goalless draw with Rwanda at Kigali Stadium.

He said he used the match to try different formations, new tactics and give time to new players in his squad.

He said he is optimistic that his side will do well away to Sudan.

"It was a good game and I'm impressed with the way my players played, yes we did not score any goal but I'm happy with the way we played, as you saw in the

game I gave playing opportunities to many newcomers," he said.

During the match, monitored on a local Television station, hosts Amavubi started brightly, controlling possession for much of the first half but Taifa Stars keeper Metacha Mnata was always available to keep the hosts at bay.

In the second half, coach Ndayiragije made some substitutions which saw Stars look organized as they were playing with a purpose but they still failed to find the opponents' back of the net.

Taifa Stars lost 1-0 to Sudan in the first leg of the CHAN qualifiers, which took place in Dar es Sa-

laam.

The Friday match is a must win for Stars as the aggregate winners of the tie will secure their spot in the 2020 CHAN finals which will be held in Cameroon.

The senior national team need nothing but a win to guarantee their second appearance in CHAN finals.

Coach Ndayiragije is reported to have said Tanzania can beat Sudan at the latter's backyard, the same way the former did to Kenya in the first round of the competition's qualifiers month ago.

The Burundian tactician said he has watched the videos of his side's first leg clash with Sudan and he has improved on the mis-

takes his team committed during the first leg at the National Stadium.

He said Taifa Stars still stand a chance of making it to the finals despite losing the first leg at home.

"If we lost at home, then we can turn the tables and beat Sudan away, the same way we did against Kenya in the first round," he said.

The coach said he has told his players not to be the first to concede as the situation will give them a tough time.

"All we need to do is not concede first. If we do, then our chances will be slim. But we have a good squad and we will see what kind of results we can get away," he said.

## Tigo Fiesta thrills Sumbawanga revelers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

BONGO Flava artistes thrilled revelers in this year's music festival, known as 'Tigo Fiesta 2019 Saizi Yako', which took place at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga District, Rukwa over the weekend.

Thousands of music fans in the district and the surrounding areas were treated to entertaining show the artistes staged in the festival.

The Tigo Fiesta 2019 Saizi Yako took place in Sumbawanga with a view to giving the district's residents entertainment they rarely enjoy.

A host of domestic musicians that had been lined up for the festival staged show, with each of them taking the stage with new style depending on how the musician had prepared for the festival.

Prominent artistes that include Ibrahim Mussa 'Roma Mkatoliki', Bonaventura Kibogo 'Stamina' and Emmanuel Elibariki 'Ney wa Mitego' took the stage and entertained the revelers with a series of their well-known songs, winning applause from the revelers.

Said Chege and Heri Samir 'Mr Blue' were also in the list of popular artistes that thrilled the revelers with impressive performance, performing old and new songs.

Female artiste Maua Sama also put impressive performance in the 'Tigo Fiesta 2019 Saizi Yako', singing several songs which sent the music lovers wild.

Popular musicians, namely Barnaba Elias, Joh Makini, Marioo, Jay Melody, Jorii and Badest, as well performed in the festival.

Sumbawanga District Commissioner, Halfan Haule, pointed out the Tigo Fiesta 2019 Saizi Yako helped the area's youths earn plenty of cash, as they had short term employment.

Haule noted Rukwa residents tremendously benefitted from the festival by, among others, boosting their businesses following the presence of a lot of music followers.

He disclosed: "The Tigo Fiesta has again taken place in my district, the youths have got employment, a section of them have boosted their businesses as a lot of people have come from various areas to enjoy



Bongo Flava musician, Maua Sama, performs with her dancers during a recent edition of an annual music festival, known as Tigo Fiesta, in Iringa.

the event."

"There has been an increase in opportunities in various services that include accommodation, food and transport, therefore we believe the festival will next year continue offering opportunities," he disclosed. Sumbawanga Urban Constituency Member Parliament, Aeshi Hilaly, pointed out he had

five years ago attempted to use his influence to convince the coordinator the 'Fursa' platform, Ruge Mutahaba, who passed away early this year, to include Rukwa in the Tigo Fiesta schedule given the district's residents and their fellows in neighbouring regions were keen on being part of the event.

He said although he had offered

the advice, it was not easy for the festival's organizers to act on it given they had feared they will get few cash from entrance fee.

The organizers' fear, though, was put to rest considering there has been huge turnout of music lovers in the Tigo Fiesta every year.

"Rukwa has changed a lot, the area is no longer the one a person had seen in the past, any person who will visit the district will see a lot of changes in people's lives and development," he disclosed.

Tigo Tanzania's Southern Zone Director, Henry Kinabo, pointed out the Tigo Fiesta has been quite unique this season because the participating artistes have been much more creative.

He noted Bongo Flava followers in Sumbawanga and the neighbouring areas were treated to thrilling performance given they enthusiastically cheered at every song that the musicians performed.

He pointed out the Tigo Fiesta has been presenting a variety of opportunities to Tanzanians, which include nurturing up-and-coming artistes.

## Moshi Khalsa retain trophy in Nyerere Memorial hockey tourney

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

HOSTS Moshi Khalsa confirmed their supremacy in this season's Nyerere Memorial hockey competition, given they retained the event's trophy after cruising to 5-0 rout of Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) squad of Dar es Salaam in the final in Kilimanjaro on Monday.

The winners have in the process laid their hands on the competition's silverware for the ninth consecutive time.

It took the defending champions barely three minutes of the thrilling, well-attended final which took place at the Sikh Union Complex to find TPDF squad's back of the net.

Moshi Khalsa thereafter netted four more goals to put the match beyond TPDF squad's reach.

The clash's guest of honour, Evelyn Mmary, Moshi East Division Officer, applauded Moshi Khalsa for maintaining their supremacy in the competition.

"I am here to represent Moshi District Commissioner, Kippi Warioba, and on behalf of him I recommend the role played by the Sikh Union Club of Moshi for their good initiative," she disclosed.

"Apart from commemorating our Farther of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the competition also promotes hockey in the country," she said.

Sports Secretary of Sikh Union Club of Moshi, Kanwalpal Singh Kalsi, disclosed apart from commemorating the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, this year's tournament also geared towards commemorating 550th birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikh religion.

He further added that the tournament is organized by the Sikh Union Club of Moshi, in collaboration with Tanzania Hockey association (THA).

He further disclosed 10 teams battled it out in the competition.

The squads are Kilimanjaro's Moshi Khalsa, Kili Vijana and Moshi School

Team, Zanzibar's Nyuki and KMKM, TPDF squad from Dar es Salaam, Tanga Stars and Annadil Burhani from Tanga, Arusha

Twigas and Black Tigers from Arusha.

In 2018, Moshi Khalsa clinched the tournament's trophy, thrashing

TPDF 3-1 in a pulsating final.

The two squads, once again, renewed their rivalry in this year's final.

This season's Nyerere Memorial tournament was staged from last Friday to Monday.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

DON'T YOU DARE EVER LET ME DOWN!

