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TANZANIA

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Butiku calls for dialogue on justice, civil liberties

'Declare the nation as in danger since locusts defy pesticides'

NAIROBI

A TOP agricultural official from Kenya's Wajir County has urged the national government to declare the locust invasion that is wreaking havoc in several parts of the country a national disaster.

This is after it emerged that more swarms of locusts had been spotted in parts of Wajir South on Thursday evening even after the government had carried out aerial spraying in the devolved unit.

"We have all seen the effects of this invasion and I think it's time the



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presses a button to launch ultra-sound services at a Kizimkazi Dimbani village health facility in Zanzibar's South District yesterday. He is on a three-day official visit to the Isles. Photo: PMO

THE fight for civil liberties in the country must be done through dialogue and other non-violent means and not the contrary

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE Executive Director of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (MNF), Joseph Butiku, has called on Tanzanians to continue fighting for justice, more democratic space and freedom of the press, saying such liberties cannot be served on the platter.

Addressing journalists and media stakeholders here yesterday during a symposium on building a peaceful nation as the country moves towards general election in October this year, Butiku argued that freedoms are not easily granted but fought for.

The MNF CEO challenged journalists in particular to be at the forefront of the agitation

Justice does not come easily; however, it is gained through dialogue guided by wisdom

MPs want education on agro-conservation

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water have advised the government to review laws and policies to pave the way for conservation agriculture as a means of enhancing farm productivity and food security.

The committee said that conservation

The government will make sure conservation agriculture is practiced by farmers by putting in place enabling policies and laws

agriculture— a set of soil management practices that minimize the disruption of the soil structure, composition and natural biodiversity—has proven potentiality to improve crop yields, while improving the long-term environmental and financial sustainability of farming.

Committee chairman Mahmood

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Japan maps out natural gas outlays beyond Dar pipeline

By Aisia Rweyemamu

A NEW study has recommended the establishment of natural gas stations in parts of Tanzania that have not been reached by the pipeline to ease access to and boost consumption of the clean energy.

Speaking during the unveiling of the draft report of the Natural Gas Utilisation Master Plan in Dar es Salaam, Energy deputy minister Subira Mgalu (pictured) said the study has found that it is possible to distribute gas countrywide without having the pipeline in place.



The research conducted by the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan (IEEJ) established that it is possible to construct stations in various parts of the country for the gas to be transported there from areas with infrastructure and distributed for domestic, industrial as well as vehicle consumption.

Phase one of the study was undertaken in Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Tanga regions, with the study an integral part of the strategy to implement the natural gas utilization master plan.

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MPs want education on agro-conservation

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Mgimwa (Mufindi North, CCM) made the remarks here yesterday during a meeting bringing together committee members and agriculture stakeholders to discuss strategies to enhance conservation farming as part of efforts to combat climate change effects.

The stakeholders included the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) and the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACTN) that work to provide small and medium scale farmers with the environment, knowledge and practical experience to help them successfully adopt conservation farming and conservation agriculture practices.

"We are likely to increase productivity through conservation farming because farmers will harvest enough even without using so much fertilizer. With conservation farming we will be consuming organic food because farmers will avoid the use of fertilizers", said Mgimwa.

"The government will make sure conservation agriculture is practiced by farmers by putting in place enabling policies and laws," he stated.

Hanang MP Dr Mary Nagu (CCM) said farmers in her constituency have shifted from conservation farming and adopted modern farming practices which require fertilizers. She said experts need to educate rural Tanzanians on the importance of conservation farming as many of them are not practicing it.

"We need to go back to farmers and educate them on conservation farming because they have all shifted to modern farming methods. Agricultural experts must promote conservation farming to protect the soil," she said.

Musoma Rural MP Prof Sospeter Muhongo (CCM) said farmers are massively using fertilizers hence the need to educate them on the adverse impacts of fertilizers in soil. He said farmers need to be educated on how they can enrich the soil without fertilizers.

ACTN executive secretary Saidi Mkomwa insisted on the need to shift from current farming practices to conservation agriculture, using modern farming tools.

He affirmed that agricultural practices in the country damage the soil hence the need to protect it for future generations.

Efforts are needed to enhance food security as many people are moving into urban places and will depend on food from rural areas, he said, noting that by 2030 there will be 35m people living in urban areas.

"We have massive uncultivated land, but we also produce very little from the total cultivated area. We can harvest much for food and business if we start engaging in conservation agriculture," the agro-sector activist emphasized.

Some regions which were famous for maize production are no longer producing the same amount due to damaged soil associated with the use of fertilizers, he added.

Court halts Auditor-General recruitment

NAIROBI

The Employment and Labour Relations Court has suspended recruitment of an Auditor-General pending determination of a case filed by activist Okiya Omtatah.

The position of the Auditor-General is currently vacant as Edward Ouko's term expired in August 2019. There was a recruitment last year but the selection panel could not nominate three people for appointment by the President, saying none qualified.

Following this report, the Public Service Commission (PSC) said the government decided to re-advertise the vacancy.

Omtatah then sued the panel, noting it reported that candidates met technical requirements including academic qualifications, but scored poorly in tests for independence, diplomacy and tact, which were key considerations.

AGENCIES

Govt to build 43 technical colleges countrywide - minister

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government is investing nearly 100bn/- towards the construction of 43 new technical colleges across the country, with the one being planned in Dodoma to serve as an exemplary training institution.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha said here when speaking during the occasion to lay a foundation stone at Kikuletwa hydro-electric power centre, which is the country's first and advanced training facility and research base which doubles as college as well as centre for churning electrical power through the use of the gravitational force of flowing water.

He stated that the state was

aware of the importance of technical training in empowering the youth for self-employment, productivity and essential skills, thus the government is focusing on this end.

"While we are doing everything possible to create employment among young people, it is also important to facilitate them to become self-reliant and create their own jobs based on skills earned from technical training," Ole Nasha maintained.

The government of Norway is collaborating with Tanzania, in the development of the auxiliary Kikuletwa power station located in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, making it the country's alternative electricity churning plant as well as center for provision of hydro-electric power production training centre.

The envoy of the Royal Norwegian embassy in Tanzania ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen lauded Tanzania's initiative in investing into technical studies, pointing out that by year 2030 the world population will be in need of 600 million jobs, a problem that can only be solved through technical training.

"In line with that Norway will continue to support the Arusha Technical College and also the Kikuletwa power project," she assured.

Previously the acting Rector for ATC, Eng Masudi Senzia revealed here that for many years the country has been sending its hydro-power technicians to study in Zambia or overseas but now that the Kikuletwa facility is in place, it will be the turn for the overseas experts to come to study here in

Tanzania.

Fields of training at the Kikuletwa hydropower facility, according to the acting Rector include; hydropower plant operations and maintenance, domestic electrical installation, plumbing and pipe fitting and masonry brick work.

The Arusha Technical College views that while other alternative sources of energy are being introduced worldwide, hydro-electricity, being renewable and relatively cheaper, will remain the ultimate power choice on the continent.

Six years ago, the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO) handed over the ownership of the dormant Kikuletwa, power station to the Arusha Technical College for the ATC to convert it into serious research and training base.

Constructed in the 1930's the Ki-

Dar es Salaam.

He said that JICA consulting assessment shows this approach is quite viable for Tanzania and Japan will be in a position of supporting this.

The country can construct a branch line to deliver natural gas alongside the pipeline beyond Dar es Salaam and gas can be transported by trucks, he said.

Tanzania should not wait until the economy grow big as it can start with a small project and later construct a much bigger system, he explained.

"It is my strong belief that once this master plan is implemented it will be a milestone for Tanzania," he declared.

He said the consulting agency was persuaded that the development of natural gas can contribute to Tanzania's development through enhancing industrialisation by increased power generation.

Since 2014 JICA has engaged with the Tanzania government in discussions about the project, with discussions being held here and in Japan.

The Mtwara-Dar es Salaam

Natural Gas Pipeline (MDNGP) transports natural gas from natural gas fields in Mnazi Bay, Mtwara Region to Dar es Salaam. Large volumes of natural gas have been discovered offshore Tanzania, with current official estimates suggesting that proven reserves stand at 57 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas.

TPDC is going on with supplying the energy through a network of pipelines to houses at TPDC Estate and 24 housing units at Twiga Estate in Mikocheni, Mtwara and Lindi region.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan holds talks with Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjoberg, at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

Japan maps out natural gas outlays beyond Dar pipeline

FROM PAGE 1

closely with their foreign counterparts on how to implement this project," she said.

During the workshop, local experts would discuss with expert from JICA on the highlights presented and then proceed with implementation strategies tied to JICA funding.

"This meeting is important to Tanzanians because our country has discovered a huge amount of natural gas and at present 57 percent of its

electricity production is generated by natural gas," Mgalu said.

The government wants natural gas to be spread in many other places so that more Tanzanians can benefit from it, she asserted.

Currently, TPDC has embarked on the distribution of domestic gas in Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Lindi.

At a workshop to introduce a draft of the Natural Gas Domestic Promotion Plan, IEEJ expert Kensuke Kanekiyo said they have studied the possibility of distributing natural gas beyond



National Economic Empowerment Council executive secretary Beng'i Issa delivers keynote speech at the launch of the second phase of the Tanzania Renewable Energy Business Incubator (TAREBI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is being implemented by IMED Foundation in partnership with India's SELCO Foundation and financed by CS Mott Foundation. Photo: John Badi.

'Declare the nation as in danger since locusts defy pesticides'

FROM PAGE 1

of the flying pests.

Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties were first hit by the invasion before the insects munched their way into Marsabit, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu and Laikipia counties even as the government continues to step up its efforts to end the menace.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in a recent update warned that more swarms will invade these areas, while others will move north of Mt Kenya westwards to Baringo County and continue northwest to Turkana County.

A total of 15 swarms of locusts have so far invaded Wajir from Somalia and Ethiopia.

Seven swarms were repelled through aerial spraying while eight swarms were pushed away by combined efforts of residents and other stakeholders including security officers.

Shariff has challenged the government to step up its efforts in aerial spraying as it has proved the most effective method.

More chemicals should be sent to the northern region to prevent another invasion, he appealed.

He warned that Wajir County could soon experience a repeat invasion as one swarm of locusts is currently migrating into the county from Somalia via the eastern side of the border in Gerille area.

The agricultural department has also warned that the colony of locusts currently in Mandera could migrate into the county.

The FAO has said that there is an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods in the country due to the invasion.

kuletwa plant was one of the first hydroelectric power plants in Tanzania, located at a section where the Kware river from Mount Kilimanjaro meets the Kikuletwa river from Mount Meru, providing good hydrological conditions for hydro-power production.

Kikuletwa power station provided electricity to Arusha and Moshi municipalities for many years and later supplied electricity into the national grid but ceased operation in 1984.

Arusha Technical College rehabilitated and developed the power station to start serving as an international hydro-electricity training centre supply to the national grid. Previous feasibility studies had indicated that the entire Kikuletwa cascade may potentially provide up to 17 MW of electricity.

'Govt spent 3bn/- to compensate residents of Kigongo and Busisi'

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government has spent over 3bn/- to compensate residents of Kigongo and Busisi who were evacuated to pave way for the construction of Kigongo-Busisi bridge crossing Lake Victoria in Mwanza region.

Acting manager of the Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Mwanza Eng Pius Mwami said that 132 people had been compensated in Kigongo and 33 in Busisi.

He said that other amount of money had been used to compensate properties as well as costs of relocating graves that were in the area of the project.

"Indeed, the promise by President John Magufuli late last year promised to compensate all those involved," he said.

Some of the residents commended the government for constructing the bridge, saying that its completion will contribute to improving social services as well as pushing forward economic development projects in the Lake zone and the entire nation.

Constantine Masalu noted that transport services between Kigongo and Busisi will be reliable as people can be able to cross Lake Victoria between the two points throughout day and night and reach their destinations without any delay.

"Traveling by ferry between the two points was sometime causing trouble as passengers especially when the ferries developed mechanical defects were forced to wait for some time un-

til the problem was solved, he said.

Another resident Mariam Hamis thanking the government said the projects will permanently address transport hustles which the residents encountered for years.

"We hope that apart from addressing transport problems, the bridge will also open up new investment opportunities, stimulate economic growth and benefit the surrounding societies," she added.

On December 7, last year President Dr. John Magufuli laid the foundation stone of Kigongo-Busisi bridge, the longest in East Africa and the sixth-longest in Africa.

The 3.2 kilometers long and 28.45 meters wide bridge will connect the Kigongo and Busisi areas in Mwanza and Geita regions and will facilitate transport and trade services with neighboring countries such as Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda.

The 180-tonne capacity bridge will allow 1,600 vehicles to pass at a time and making Mwanza becoming a major commercial hub in the Lake Zone. The bridge will be an alternative means of services to the current ferry connecting the shores, dramatically reducing transport time and facilitate regional trade.

The project is valued at USD 300 million and is being developed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Group (CCECG) and the China Railway and is entirely financed by the government of Tanzania.

The construction of the bridge is scheduled for completion in July 2023



We hope that apart from addressing transport problems, the bridge will also open up new investment opportunities, stimulate economic growth and benefit the surrounding societies



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (R), current Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation chairman, presents a souvenir to European Union Delegation leader Ignasi Mundane, shortly after talks in Dodoma yesterday. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs

Kuwaiti delegation in Dar es Salaam to explore investment opportunities

By Guardian Reporter

A DELEGATION of investors from Kuwait based food production company-'Al Rifai' is in the country to explore various investment opportunities with much interest in purchasing processed cashew nut and coffee.

The three-people delegation is led by Al Rifai Chief Executive Officer, Abdellah Fouad. Others are

the company's standards manager, Ahmed Mohamed Bahie and procurement manager, M K Hussin.

A statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Africa, regional and International Cooperation yesterday stated that the investors have also expressed intentions to invest in cashew nut processing. They have been in the country since January 13rd 2020 and have met with various govern-

ment officials.

They also met and held a meeting with officials from the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB), Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) and the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB).

TanTrade acting business director, Twilumba Mlewa informed that Tanzania produces between

250,000 and 300,000 tonnes of raw cashew nut. She said the crop is mostly cultivated in Mtwara, Lindi, Ruvuma (Tunduru), Pwani (Mkuranga and Kibaha) and Tanga regions.

"There is investment opportunity in cashew nut processing because there are only 13 functioning factories with the capacity to process 43,000 tonnes of the crop", said Mlewa.

Meanwhile, Al Rifai chief executive officer, Abdellah Fouad commended efforts made by Tanzanian ambassador in Kuwait Eng Aisha Amour as well as the co-operation shown by government officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation.

"We are determined to start engaging in purchasing of cashew nuts. We will shortly finalize the

processes as well as signing of contracts in accordance with the laws", said Fouad.

Speaking after visiting a cashew nut warehouse in Kurasini, Dar es Salaam, Fouad said Tanzania's cashew nuts are of high quality and have been professionally stored "We will invest in Tanzania due to the quality of its crops", he noted.

Al Rifai standards manager,

Ahmed Mohamed Bahie said: "We are satisfied with the quality of coffee, cashew nuts and cloves. We will fast-track finalisation of processes and signing of contracts to immediately start construction of a cashewnut processing plant".

The delegation also visited Lindi, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar where they received information from Isle's officials on production of cloves.



Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital director of medical services Dr Isdory Kiwale (R) shows journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday a mini-factory installed at the hospital and expected to be used to produce waste storage bags from waste plastic bags and bottles. Photo: Correspondent Mary Geoffrey

PM warns against misuse of public funds

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed Unguja South regional commissioner, Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud to take measures against officials proved to be engaged in embezzlement of public funds.

The Premier warned public servants to be careful with public monies especially those working in revenue collection departments.

He insisted the RC to make sure each of the collected taxes and levies are deposited in the government treasury.

Majaliwa gave the order yesterday during his meeting with civil servants and leaders of Unguja South region held at Tunguu in Zanzibar.

Majaliwa who is on official tour in Zanzibar highlighted the importance of civil servants to abide by working ethics and make sure collected monies were deposited for

implementation of development projects.

"You should not hesitate to take measures against dishonest officers misusing public funds.

Collected revenues belong to the citizens, they are the ones to benefit with the collected taxes through improvement of social services", said the Premier insisting the government is not ready to work with untrustworthy people.

The Prime Minister urged public servants to work hard and with due diligence to ensure that they produce the required results for the country's development and its people.

He said that the government will not entertain reckless, theft and lazy public servants.

Meanwhile, the minister directed regional and district commissioners and executive directors (DEDs) to supervise well accountabil-

ity and service provision in their areas of work.

"Social and health services should be strengthened by making sure that they are always available and at required standard, we don't want to hear public claims on service provision," he said.

Earlier, Regional Commissioner of South Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud said that district councils have continued to strengthen revenue collections and provision of social services in the region.

"For example revenue collection in South Unguja district increased to 524.5m/- in the year 2018/19 from 241m/- in 2017/18 which is an increase of 118 percent," he said.

Mahamoud also said that revenue collection in Central district also went up to 632.9m/- in 2018/19 from 304.3m/- collected in 2017/18 which is an increase of 108 percent.

'Govt working towards investment facilitation law to lure investors'

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE government is working to come up with a 'trade facilitation law' so as to attract more investors in the country, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Investment Angela Kairuki has said.

She made the remarks yesterday here when she visited some factories. Kairuki said that the new law will be friendly to investors facilitating them to operate smoothly for mutual benefits.

"We need potential investors from across the world to come and invest in Tanzania and establish industries to support the country's

industrialisation drive thus enable Tanzania attains its vision of becoming middle income country by 2025," she said.

While at the Global packaging company, the minister promised to address various challenges facing the factory.

She said: "On our part as government, we promise to offer better investment incentives. We also promise to work on all challenges thwarting investment efforts."

She also noted that the government has made it easy to acquire land for investments where district council planners have been directed to set aside at least ten

per cent of land available for investment.

Minister Kairuki said that through putting massive investments will enable the country also decrease imports and accelerate economy growth.

Earlier, the company's director Benoo Mwitumba said that the

factory which commenced operations in 2017 is facing a number of challenges including high power bills.

He further requested the government to help the factory to work with the crops board in the country.

"We are also appealing for the

government to support us to establish more factories in various parts in the country so as to serve more Tanzanians," he said.

The minister also visited KEDS factory in Kibaha which produces washing powder and pampers as well as a Meat Processing factory in Soga.

Domestic Tourism Expo for this year lined up for next month, says Awotta

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Association of Women in Tourism Tanzania (AWOTTA) has said this year's Domestic Tourism Expo will attract participants from eight foreign countries.

Themed 'Recognize the great Value of Domestic Tourism' the event will be held from February 6 to 8 at the National Museum in Dar es Salaam.

AWOTTA Founder and Chairperson, Mary Kalikawe told journalists yesterday that during the expo there will also be Nyama choma festivals whereas visitors will have chances to test locally made wines and have a look at wild animals.

"This is the second edition of the expo, it will attract more than 1,500 travel agents, tour operators including international tourism professionals from Côte d'Ivoire, UK, Angola, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania", she said adding the African Tourism Board Chairman and Minister of Tourism from South Africa will participate in this year's event.

Kalikawe noted that while in Tanzania foreign participants will present topics on the importance of domestic tourism for national development.

She called on Tanzanian engaged in the tourism sector to take part in the event by showcasing the various products they produce as well as networking with their counterparts from outside Tanzania.

"There will be no entrance fee so it is a good chance for Tanzanians to

come and see the various cultural and traditional products produced in their country. We will have wild animals which we believe children will enjoy seeing them", said Kalikawe noting the wild animals will be from the Dar es Salaam zoo.

She said on February 7th there will be workshop and seminars engaging tourism stakeholders where participants will share experience on current domestic tourism development in their specific countries.

She also thanked the United Nations for selecting AWOTTA as the best tourism association in Africa due to its activities and various tourism projects they have initiated.

"We are proud for this achievement because AWOTTA is well-known by the UN, many people were inspired with the recently event held in Ghana about women empowerment in the tourism sector," she said.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Head of Public Relations, Geoffrey Tengeza added that TTB will participate in the event to market Tanzanian tourism potentials.

"We invite other people to participate in this event for the development of domestic tourism. We call upon Tanzanians to visit the expo to know various attractions available country-wide," said Tengeza.

He said domestic tourism can also help to boost national income instead of depending on international tourists. He said TTB is also promoting domestic tourism to enhance the sector's contribution to the economy.



Britt Hilde Kjolas, a representative of Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, speaks in Manyara Region earlier this week on cooperation between her country and Tanzania at an event to mark the 64th anniversary of Haydom Referral Hospital. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Arusha to host KAN festival to address modern-day 'Scramble for Africa'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

'New Age' scramble for Africa by 'modern colonialists' is the theme that will dominate the second edition of Knowledge Art and Networking (KAN) when at least 5000 people, mostly youth from all over the continent, gather in Arusha for the event next week.

The Knowledge, Art, and Networking (KAN) an infotainment and 'Brainiac' festival which starts

in Arusha next Wednesday, will be staged at the MS-Training Centre for Development Corporation (TCDC) in Usa-River section of Arumeru District.

Speakers, Participants and performers from more than seven countries of Africa, are set to converge here targeting to address challenges facing the continent at the time when the better developed Eastern and Western countries return for yet another scramble for Africa.

"At KAN, we recognize the power of art and strongly believe that 'synergizing' art and community building can be a powerful vehicle for strengthening communities," said Ezra Mbogori, the Executive Director for MS-TCDC.

According to Mbogori, efforts to improve quality of life, reduce inequality, for instance, are inherently tied to local customs, values, and social systems. "Culture, including art, is a medium for development that if we commit to, can breathe

new life into the community," he pointed out.

The four-day festival running from the 22nd to the 25th of January 2020 expects to host an audience of over 5000. The event will feature visual and performing artists from across Africa, including Uganda, Kenya, D.R. Congo, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania mainland and the Isles.

KAN event will also screen dozens of movies based on stories from across Africa such as 'Gifts

from Babylon,' a short film exploring the psychological impact of Africa-EU migration through the lens of a Gambian return-migrant.

Hosted under the theme "Development and 'Developmentalism,'" the 2020 KAN Festival theme anchors on the strap-line from Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's belief that development should be people oriented not based on material things 'Maendeleo ni watu si vitu.'

The KAN Festival Art Director, Dave Ojay explained that the event

will feature series of panel discussions with development practitioners and artists, round tables with visual artists and filmmakers, and breakout sessions.

"Artists such as Vitali Maembe, Fid Q, Siti and the Band from Tanzania, Sandra Nankoma from Uganda, Juma Tutu from Kenya, Victor Kunonga from Zimbabwe, and Isabella Novela from Mozambique will perform at the Festival," he said.

A special 'Swahili Day,' will also

run for a full-day on Friday the 24th at the center, in honoring the continent's most spoken local language. There will also be an opportunity for young artists and school going children to learn from senior visual and performing artists through the art and drumming classes.

The festival, according to the organizers, will feature conscious art, both visual and performing art. "Conscious art is an art that is aware of, and speaks of develop-



Training Centre for Development Cooperation director Ezra Mbogori (L) briefs journalists in Arusha yesterday on the countdown to a cultural and art festival expected to serve as a platform for exchanging experiences and learning various developmental issues for the benefit of Tanzania. He is with the programme director Sarah Terry. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

AfDB due to unveil its flagship African economic outlook

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) will on January 30 launch the 2020 edition of its flagship African Economic Outlook (AEO) report at its headquarters in Abidjan.

Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina will unveil the report in the presence of African ministers, diplomats and representatives of international bodies. The theme for this year's report is: Developing Africa's workforce for the future.

The annual publication highlights economic prospects and projections for the continent as a bloc and for each of the 54 countries. It offers short- and medium-term forecasts on key socio-economic indicators such as growth, poverty and jobs, while at the same time examining the challenges and progress made.

The report, produced by the Bank's economic experts, serves as a tool for policymakers, academics, investors, development and financial industry professionals and the media to inform policy dialogue and enhance planning and operational efficiency.

Health leaders meet over fake drugs crisis

LOMÉ

HEALTH leaders from seven African countries met in Togo's capital Lomé yesterday and signed an agreement criminalising trafficking in fake drugs.

Tens of thousands of people in Africa die each year because of fake and counterfeit medication.

The representatives from Congo-Brazzaville, The Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Uganda are hoping that laws specifically targeting fake medications will do the trick.

Health activist Denis Bukonya from the Human Rights Research Documentation Centre in Uganda told BBC Newsday that

existing laws could already be used to charge people importing fake drugs, but the penalties were too small to be a deterrent to criminals.

The proliferation of fake medicines in Africa is a public health crisis that can no longer be ignored, according to a UK charity. The Brazzaville Foundation is

organising a meeting of seven African countries, in Togo, this week, to combat the problem. Congo, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Ghana and The Gambia will discuss measures to clamp down on trafficking in fake medicines.

But how big a problem is counterfeit medicine in Africa,

and what impact does it have?

How many counterfeit drugs are there?

Globally, the trade in counterfeit pharmaceuticals is worth up to \$200bn (£150bn) annually, with Africa among the regions most affected, according to industry estimates.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says 42% of all fake medicines reported to them between 2013 and 2017 were from Africa. The European region and the Americas (North and South) accounted for 21% each.

But how reliable are these figures?

The WHO has a reporting mechanism that relies on national or regional regulatory authorities around the world to notify it of seizures.

So the data for 2013-17 is only as good as the surveillance and reporting systems in the countries or regions concerned.

TBS destroys counterfeit goods worth over 10m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has destroyed illegal and fake imported food and cosmetics worth over 10m/- in its operations conducted in various parts of Dodoma and Singida regions.

Speaking soon after destroying the products here, Central Zone TBS acting manager Salome Emmanuel said that the products were seized in various parts in the region following operations conducted from October 0 December 2019.

"Many shops have been selling fake or expired products as the owners hire cheap workers with no expertise in the area...These products are most found in retail shops thus risking people's health," he said.

She warned traders with a habit of selling expired products saying that the government will never spare anyone once caught.

The official further urged the public to be careful when purchasing the products warning them to avoid using fake or expired goods

for their own benefits.

She said that TBS has always been impounding and destroying goods which do not comply with relevant standards so as to safeguard people's health and the country's revenues.

"This is an ongoing exercise, we will always be here to ensure that no fake, substandard or expired product enters the market," she added.

Halima Said, Dodoma city resident said that TBS should invest more efforts to address the challenge as most of the expired human drugs and cosmetics are toxic and dangerous for human health.

"We are calling for the TBS to conduct more impromptu operations to the shops because most of the traders are now using new ways of evading the punishments, they have been putting fake stickers and details in products which is very difficult for a normal person to recognize. This is a huge risk to people's lives," she noted.



We are calling for the TBS to conduct more impromptu operations to the shops because most of the traders are now using new ways of evading the punishments, they have been putting fake stickers and details in products which is very difficult for a normal person to recognize.. This is a huge risk to people's lives,



A Bico Engineering official (gesturing) updates Tanga regional commissioner Martin Shigella (to his right) yesterday on the deepening of Tanga Port, work meant to make the facility more efficient and able to handle larger cargo ships than is now the case. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Manyanya urges institutions, private bodies to desist from issuing unauthorised statistics

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Deputy Minister for Industries, Trade and Investment Eng Stella Manyanya has warned institutions and private organisations from issuing statistics that have not been approved by the government.

Eng Manyanya made the remarks on Thursday when speaking at the launch of a 18 months programme that gears to improve the quality of locally

made products to enable them penetrate international markets. The programme is conducted jointly by REPOA and European Union EU).

The Deputy Minister informed that the government has been working on various researches conducted in the country with the aim of ensuring it attains its targeted goal of transforming Tanzania into an industrialised nation by 2025.

"We will take measures

against anyone issuing contradicting statistics. We want institutions to conduct research and give tangible statistics that can help in national development", said Eng Manyanya commending some of the research institutions including REPOA for providing tangible data.

She said the government has been using the data to improve its policies and laws.

REPOA Executive Director, Dr Donald Mmari said the pro-

gramme will firstly cover five areas including the horticulture sector, leather industry, rice cultivation and fishing. He said researches have shown that horticulture products from Tanzanian can be largely sold abroad.

"It has come to our attention that Tanzania's fresh fruits and other horticultural goods can massively be sold abroad and help improve the welfare of farmers whose many are women and youth. Tanzania is cur-

rently exporting 3,000 tonnes of avocado," said Dr Mmari.

According to him, there is also a huge demand for Tanzanian rice in various countries around the world, insisting the institution will capacitate rice farmers to ensure they produce quality rice as well as assist in finding markets.

"We will also concentrate in improvement of leather products and hides since Tanzania is the second African country

with a big number of cattle. We are yet to fully utilise potentials in the leather industry; we want the government to earn more from it," he noted.

According to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, the number of domestic animals is as follows, 30.5 million cattle, 18.8 million goats, 5.3 million sheep, 1.9 million pigs and 595,160 donkeys.

Goats can produce 4.7 million

pieces of hides, cows (3.1 million pieces) and sheep (1.3 million pieces).

Currently the country hardly exports 10 tonnes of raw skins and wet blue products compared to up to 20 tonnes in the past.

Uganda is said to have five modern tanneries and Kenya three. Data from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries shows that Tanzania has seven tanneries.

First malaria vaccine being tested in babies in 3 African countries

TOMALI

A PINCH in the leg, a squeal and a trickle of tears, one baby after another in Malawi is getting the first and only vaccine against malaria, one of history's deadliest and most stubborn of diseases.

The southern African nation is rolling out the shots in an unusual pilot program along with Kenya and Ghana. Unlike established vaccines that offer near-complete protection, this new one is only about 40% effective. But experts say it's worth a try as progress against malaria stalls: Resistance to treatment is growing and the global drop in cases has leveled off.

With the vaccine, the hope is to help small children through the most dangerous period of their lives. Spread by mosquito bites, malaria kills more than 400,000 people every year, two-thirds of them under 5 and most in Africa.

Seven-month-old Charity Nangware received a shot on a rainy December day at a health clinic in the town of Migowi. She watched curiously as the needle slid into her thigh, then twisted up her face with a howl.

"I'm very excited about this," said her mother, Esther Gonjani, who herself gets malaria's aches, chills and fever at least once a year and loses a week of field work when one of her children is ill. "They explained it wasn't perfect, but I feel secure it will relieve the pain."

There is little escaping malaria - "malungo" in the local Chichewa language - especially during the five-month rainy season. Stagnant puddles, where mosquitoes breed, surround the homes of brick and thatch and line the dirt roads through tea plantations or fields of maize and sugar cane.

In the village of Tomali, the nearest health clinic is a two-hour bike ride away. The longer it takes to get care, the more dangerous malaria can be. Teams from the clinic offer basic medical care during visits once or twice a month, bringing the malaria shot and other vaccines in portable coolers.

Treating malaria takes up a good portion of their time during the rainy season, according to Daisy Chikonde, a local health worker.

"If this vaccine works, it will reduce the burden," she said.

When she heard about the vaccine, Ephrem said her first thought was "protection is here." Health workers explained, however, that the vaccine is not meant to replace antimalarial drugs or the insecticide-treated bed net she unfolds every night as the sun sets and mosquitoes rise from the shadows.

"We even take our evening meals inside the net to avoid mosquitoes," she said.

It took three decades of research to develop the new vaccine, which works against the most common and deadly of the five parasite species that cause malaria. The parasite's complex life cycle is a huge challenge. It changes forms in different stages of infection and is far harder to target than germs.



Vehicular traffic abnormally light yesterday afternoon near the Morogoro Road/Mandela Road intersection site where Dar es Salaam's Ubungo Interchange is in progress. Photo: John Badi

Kiir and Machar affirm commitment to form government

JUBA

THE peace parties in the Republic of South Sudan have affirmed their commitment to form the government within the specified 100-days period.

The parties held a session of talks at the Presidential Palace in Juba today, which included President Salva Kiir Mayardit and opposition leader Dr. Riek Machar, in the presence of the Sudanese mediator, First Vice-President of the Sovereign Council First Lieutenant-General Mohamed Hamdan Dago.

The session dealt with how to

implement the South Sudan peace agreement and form the government before the 100-day deadline set by the guarantors with the peace parties in the Ugandan city of Entebbe expires.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made in the states file.

South Sudan Presidential Advisor Tut Gatwak affirmed in a press statement after the meeting the parties' commitment to form the government within the specified time, explaining that the file of security arrangements is proceeding well.

On the file of the states, Tut pointed out that the government

is on its position on the number of 32 states, but the parties are waiting for the technical committee reports to decide on them, indicating that the parties have not specified a definite number for the states so far.

He said the parties would soon reach a comprehensive agreement on the outstanding issues.

Meanwhile, parties involved in the resolution of conflict in South Sudan have committed to work towards the formation of a Transitional Government of National Unity. Deputy President David Mabuza in his capacity as South Africa's special envoy to South Su-

dan expressed his satisfaction at the progress made upon the conclusion of the working visit.

During the visit, the Deputy President held consultation meetings with various parties and stakeholders that are signatories to the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan.

In these consultations, there was consensus on the formation of the Revitalised Government of National Unity before or by the end of the current extended period of 100 days ending in February 2020. "We have entered a crucial stage of these negotiations and

all of us should treat this process with diligence and care. As facilitators, we are confident that the Parties will form the Transitional Government of National Unity within this window," said the Deputy President.

The number of states and their boundaries has been a sticking point between parties towards the formation of a Transitional Government of National Unity.

Given that this matter has not been settled, parties agreed on a seven-day period for further consultation on the proposal of arbitration as a mechanism to break the impasse.

Tourism stakeholders call on govt to use media in promoting tourist attractions and the national parks

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Serengeti

TOURISM stakeholders have called on the government to use media in promoting tourist attractions and the national parks.

They urged that by using the media conservation education is likely to reach many people within and outside the country.

Speaking to 20 journalists from Iringa and Mbeya regions who are in a learning tour, Outreach programme officer of the Serengeti National Park in Mara, Zabron Mtweve said that media is crucial for successful publicity of national parks and tourist attractions.

"We are using artists and celebrities, but we should also consider using the media in promoting tourism as well as conservation education", he said adding they are now implementing an outreach programme introduced by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) that targets communities adjacent to parks and game reserves.

Mtweve added that outreach programmes may also help in reducing poaching incidences and enhance protection of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). He said the Serengeti National Park in Mara region has been able to reduce poaching in the park after good relationship with the neighborhood villages and provision of conservation education which is done through village meetings.

He said apart from TANAPA they have initiated conservation projects for people around parks as well as establishment of 56 Community Conservation Banks -COCOBA groups in Serengeti, Bunda, Bariadi and Ngorongoro districts. He said villagers were also assisted to start beekeeping projects as part of efforts to control poaching. He said the decision was reached after realizing that poverty was one of the reasons for individuals to engage in poaching activities.

Chairman of the Iringa Press Club (IPC) Frank Leonard said there is a need for the government to use the media to advertise tourist attractions and parks.

He said northern regions have made significant strides in tourism sector hence the need to ensure other tourist attractions across the country are also marketed.

A resident of Mugumu village in Serengeti district, Samuel Peter said the villagers have greatly benefited from various tourism activities at the park since they also were involved in doing businesses with the visitors.

Peter who is a lecturer at the Serengeti Tourism College (SETCO) said: "The Serengeti National Park has helped to improve the lives of people as well as providing employment to young people who mostly work in tourist camps".

Paulina Boma from Mugumu village said: "I have been selling cultural products to tourists and was able to raise income to care of my family".

Boma called upon fellow citizens surrounding the park to properly utilize available opportunities.

Acting director, Serengeti District Council, Rebecca Msambusi, said the council is benefiting from the park's presence with a number of development projects implemented such as improvement of road infrastructures.

Msambusi said the council also continues to improve the roads in partnership with the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to ease transport services for both residents and tourists. Serengeti district tourism officer, Jeremiah Mwitwa said a huge part of the district land has been allocated for conservation activities.

Mwitwa noted that Serengeti district get revenues amounting to 1.5bn/- from 15,000 tourists visiting the park annually.



Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission senior researcher Dr Suleiman Amour Suleiman (R) shows journalists a copy of newsletter with information on the commission. This was at a trade exhibition held in Zanzibar yesterday as part of celebrations to mark the 56th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

UNICEF inaugurates drone and data academy to improve service delivery for African children

By Guardian Reporter

THE first African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA) has been opened to promote the use of drones in programmes and services that will impact the lives of children and young people.

The inaugural class of the ADDA includes 16 students from Malawi and 10 from across Africa. The class has for the first time been opened in Lilongwe, Malawi ac-

ording to UNICEF.

UNICEF executive director, Henrietta Fore said: "Humanitarian and development programme delivery in Africa and beyond can benefit significantly from the application of drone technology. The African Drone and Data Academy will be instrumental in equipping young people with the skills they need to use the technology to benefit children and their communities."

Building on the work of Africa's first humanitarian corridor launched in Malawi in 2017, the academy will develop expertise in the use of drones for humanitarian, development and commercial purposes across the continent through a 12-week course.

It plans to train approximately 150 students to build and pilot drones by 2021. Funding from UNICEF's partners will provide free tuition to the first cohort of 26

students from across Africa.

"In Malawi we strongly believe that adopting modern technologies such as drones and advanced data analysis and management techniques will help us to serve our children better. We are proud to partner with UNICEF in such an exciting endeavor," said James Chakwera, Director of Malawi's Department of Civil Aviation.

The curriculum has been developed in partnership with Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) - following its successful delivery of training workshops in Malawi since 2017. The course will combine theoretical and practical methodologies in making, testing and flying drones.

By 2022, the academy will run a tuition-free two-year master's degree program in drone technology, in conjunction with Malawi University of Science and Technol-

ogy (MUST). It will also deliver a curriculum that will build local capacity and a favorable ecosystem for the emergence of sustainable business models for using drones for humanitarian and development missions.

"The ADDA reflects Virginia Tech's ongoing commitment to the innovative application of drone technology and education in Malawi and the Africa region," said Kevin Kochersberger, associate

professor at Virginia Tech who will lead the project.

Kochersberger added: "The academy will give graduates the necessary skills for jobs using drone applications ranging from agriculture and health to natural resources monitoring."

More than half of ADDA students (55 per cent) are women with undergraduate degrees in science, technology or engineering.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke (C) unveils a plaque to inaugurate Mrisho Gambo English Medium Secondary School at Olasiti in Arusha on Wednesday, witnessed by Science, Technology and Education minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (2nd-R), Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (R) and other stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

Locust outbreak threatens food security across East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has called upon its partner states in the East African Community (EAC) to pull resources together to prevent, control and possibly eradicate the desert locust threat to food security in the region.

"Prevention and control measures must be scaled up to contain further spread of the desert locust. Countries must act urgently to avoid a food security crisis in the region" said Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD's executive secretary in a press statement released yesterday by Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG).

FAO sub regional coordinator for the Eastern and representative of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Dr David

Phiri warned: "The locust is making the bad food security situation worse in the sub-region, exacerbating the existing dire food insecurity and malnutrition in the sub-region".

He added that the weather seems favourable for the locust breeding with high probability that the locust will continue to breed until March-April 2020.

The FSNWG recommends for increased ground surveillance for early detection, increase the use of wind forecasts, to help preempt trajectory of desert locust bands and swarms as well as to conduct immediate regional mapping of current invasion and forecast trajectory.

It also suggests for aggressive targeted aerial and ground spraying, immediate up scaling of aerial control operations and use of local radio to disseminate and educate people on early de-

tection and reporting of any incidences of desert locust.

The governor of Mandera County in Kenya, Ali Roba issued a press statement via the Mandera Media Agency on the 8th of January 2020 saying that unfortunately counties are ill prepared technically, financially and lacks the capacity and expertise to handle such disastrous invasion by locusts.

He added: "Mandera is a vast county with over 26,000 square kilometres and desperately requires a simultaneous multi-agency approach in all its sub-counties to salvage the situation as it is right now".

The desert locust outbreak is destroying crops and pasture across eastern Ethiopia and neighbouring areas of Somalia, parts of Sudan, Eritrea and northern Kenya with a high risk of further spread in the absence of immediate and significant scale up in control activities.

MAPUTO

FOR the first time terrorists operating in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado have struck in Mueda district, the birthplace of President Filipe Nyusi, reports Friday's issue of the independent newsheet "Carta de Mocimbeque".

The insurgency, believed to be in-

spired by Islamic fundamentalism, began in October 2017 with attacks on police facilities in Mocimboa da Praia district, and then spread to Palma, Macomia, Nangade and Muidumbe districts

Last week, "Carta de Mocimbeque" writes, the insurgents reached Mueda, with an attack against a Land Cruiser vehicle, near Chapa village, on the road from

Terrorists strike in Mueda district

Mueda town to Montepuez.

Nobody was killed or injured in the attack, which was carried out by people wearing police uniforms, believed to have been stolen. This is thought to be the same group which, a few days ago, attacked Magaia village, in Muidumbe.

Local sources told the newsheet

that in fact the first attack in Mueda occurred in November 2019, against Nastengi village.

Meanwhile the police have arrested three members of the defence and security forces in Mucojo administrative post, Macomia district. They are accused of stealing goods from local shops last Sunday, and of

vandalising three stalls.

They stole a radio, a tin of tuna, alcoholic drinks and an unspecified sum of money.

The soldiers, who appeared to be acting under the influence of alcohol, also opened fire against a house where villagers were watching a televised football match.

Most people sleep early in Mucojo, for fear of the islamists, but this time the thieves were discovered. One of the victims complained at the local police post, and the thieves were arrested, and forced to return the goods they had stolen.

Meanwhile, Ossufo Momade, leader of Mozambique's main oppo-

sition party, Renamo, has categorically refused to negotiate with Mariano Nhongo, head of the dissident gunmen who call themselves the "Renamo Military Junta".

Interviewed in Beira by the German agency DW-Africa, Momade said that anyone who imagined that a dialogue with Nhongo would end the crisis within Renamo and bring about peace was sorely mistaken.

'Dipping the most effective way of controlling ticks on animals

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has distributed a total of 1,285 litres of veterinary medicines for a special animal dipping campaign to control diseases in Singida and Dodoma regions.

Acting officer in charge at the central zone veterinary laboratory, Dr Samwel Mngumi told journalists that the campaign will be conducted countrywide which will involve showering animals in medicinal dip-tank so as to fight diseases especially ticks and flies diseases.

According to him, the government has prepared a special strategy to fight livestock diseases as well as usage of drugs and vaccines to improve surveillance among others.

He said that poor cattle dipping services had contributed greatly to increased animal diseases, adding that dipping was the most effective way of controlling ticks on animals.

"The campaign had earlier encountered some challenges including high price of veterinary medicines and poor dipping tanks...but most of them are now under major rehabilitation," he added.

He said the exercise in the central zone involves dipping of at

least 186,000 animals per month but with the improvement which has been made, the number will increase so as to ensure that more cattle dipping.

Extension officer for Hombolo ward Adam Twera said that the area faces a number of challenges including animal diseases such as ticks.

"During summer season, animals grapple a lot to find food, this forces them to travel and sometimes climb mountains to get it. In these grazing areas, ticks and flies also are also in high numbers which risk cattle from contaminating diseases," he noted.

Some of the pastoralists urged the government to provide more medicines to enable all dipping cattle.

Innocent Peter, livestock specialist in Dodoma city also said that part from diseases from ticks and flies, most of the cattle are facing lungs (pneumonia) challenge, a disease which kills a number of livestock also.

Tanzania is the second highest in livestock population in Africa after Ethiopia.

The country's livestock sector grows at 2.6 per cent per year. Tanzania has more than 28 million cattle with 782,995 being dairy cattle.



Parliamentary Public Investments Committee chairman Dr Raphael Chegeni (R) chairs a meeting of the committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Minister orders release of 179 cattle seized while grazing in Mkungunero forest reserve

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism deputy minister, Constantine Kanyasu has directed the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) to release 179 cattle which were seized grazing at Mkungunero forest reserve in Simanajiro district, Manyara region.

The Mkungunero forest re-

serve is owned by Mathayo Marao, a resident of Kimotorok village in the forest.

Kanyasu released the cattle after the villagers complained that Kimotorok village is among the 366 villages located within the Mkungunero forest reserve. The villagers claimed that the government allowed them to continue grazing at the area as it works to find solution

to their problem including lack of grazing land.

Speaking with the villagers at Kimotorok village, the deputy minister urged the villagers to respect country laws and avoid grazing in forests and game reserves because the government has yet to decide whether the areas will be given back to them or not.

"The final decision will be

given by President John Magufuli. Let us avoid invading forests because the areas are specially demarcated for conservation activities", said Kanyasu.

He said the government doesn't want to seize the domestic animals because such acts have been resulting into increased poverty amongst pastoralists. He said conservation

activities are meant to benefit the nation hence the need for every Tanzanian to protect the natural forests.

Kanyasu warned the villagers to stop attacking game wardens when forcing entrance into forest and game reserves. He said stern legal measures will be taken against anyone reported to attack game rangers.

Simanajiro Member of Parlia-

ment, James Millya called upon the residents to stop grazing in conserved areas expressing dismay over habit by some pastoralists who attack game rangers with local weapons to forcibly take their cattle in the reserved forests.

Millya called upon the elders—'Olaibon' to regularly talk to the villagers and insist them to obey country laws. He also

urged the villagers to fully take part in conservation activities and report to relevant authorities whenever their fellows graze in the forest.

Joseph Olematwaa from Kimotorok village said decision by deputy minister Kanyasu to release the cattle will enhance relationship between the villagers, game rangers and the government.

Grant Nestlé launches fund to develop packaging innovation

VEVEY

GLOBAL food and beverage giant Nestlé has announced that it will invest up to Swiss Franc 2 billion to lead the shift from virgin plastics to food-grade recycled plastics and to accelerate the development of innovative sustainable packaging solutions.

Building on its 2018 commitment to make 100 per cent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, Nestlé will reduce its use of virgin plastics by one third in the same period whilst working with others to advance the circular economy and endeavor to clean up plastic waste from oceans, lakes and rivers.

Food quality and safety are paramount, and packaging plays a major role in assuring this. Most plastics are difficult to recycle for food packaging, leading to a limited supply of food-grade recycled plastics.

To create a market, Nestlé is therefore committed to sourcing up to 2 million metric tons of food-grade recycled plastics and allocating more than CHF 1.5 billion to pay a premium for these materials between now and

2025. Nestlé will seek operational efficiencies to keep this initiative earnings neutral.

Packaging innovation, including new materials, refill systems and recycling solutions, is another key challenge on the path towards a waste-free future.

In addition to its significant inhouse research through the Nestlé Institute of Packaging Sciences, the company will launch a CHF 250 million sustainable packaging venture fund to invest in start-up companies that focus on these areas.

These two initiatives come in addition to Nestlé's major ongoing efforts in research, sourcing and manufacturing to make its packaging recyclable or reusable and contribute to its goal to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

As part of the company's packaging commitment and to increase transparency, Nestlé will continue to outline further initiatives and provide regular progress updates.

"No plastic should end up in landfill or as litter," said Mark Schneider, CEO of Nestlé. "Making recycled plastics safe for food is an

enormous challenge for our industry.

That is why in addition to minimizing plastics use and collecting waste, we want to close the loop and make more plastics infinitely recyclable.

We are taking bold steps to create a wider market for food-grade recycled plastics and boost innovation in the packaging industry. We welcome others to join us on this journey."

"We are pleased to see Nestlé commit a CHF 2 billion investment toward creating a circular economy for plastics, alongside a reduction of its use of virgin plastic in packaging by one third by 2025.

By eliminating the plastics we don't need, innovating in areas like reuse models and new materials, and circulating the plastics we do need - also in more challenging food grade applications - we can create an economy where plastic never becomes waste.

Achieving the commitments announced today will significantly contribute towards realizing this vision," said Andrew Morlet, CEO, Ellen MacArthur Foundation.



Rehabilitation of Central Railway in progress at Buguruni Chama in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

UN: More than 2.3 million people face severe food insecurity in Zambia

LUSAKA

THE United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has projected that over 3.3 million

Zambians will be in dire need of food assistance by March this year.

The organization said that the anticipated severe starvation is as a result of, in addition

to other factors, severe drought in the western and southern provinces of the country over the past two rainy seasons in 2017 and 2018, and floods in the north.

The UN also reports that as of December 2019, the Humanitarian Country Team had mobilized US \$ 38 million, including US \$ 8 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, to-

wards the Humanitarian Appeal requirement of US \$ 89.5 million.

Although these resources have enabled humanitarian partners to kick-start activities in health, food and other sectors, the UN

observes the need for more resources to head off projected starvation. The report comes when neighbouring Zimbabwe is already receiving food aid after poor farming seasons recently.

Both Zambia and Zimbabwe are also facing a huge power shortage which is said to have contributed to the food crisis since irrigations were discontinued.

The Guardian

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Seeds are of utmost biological and economic importance

A SEED is the part of a seed plant which can grow into a new plant. It is a reproductive structure which disperses, and can survive for some time. A typical seed includes three basic parts: an embryo, a supply of nutrients for the embryo, and a seed coat.

There are many different kinds of seeds. Some plants make a lot of seeds, some make only a few. Seeds are often hard and very small, but some are larger. The coconut is as big as a child's head, but it contains more than just a seed.

Many kinds of seeds are good food for animals and people. The many kinds of grain that people grow, such as rice, wheat, and maize, are all seeds.

Seeds are produced in several related groups of plants, and their manner of production distinguishes the angiosperms ("enclosed seeds") from the gymnosperms ("naked seeds"). Angiosperm seeds are produced in a hard or fleshy structure called a fruit that encloses the seeds for protection in order to secure healthy growth. Some fruits have layers of both hard and fleshy material.

Seeds have been an important development in the reproduction and success of gymnosperm and angiosperm plants, relative to more primitive plants such as ferns, mosses and liverworts, which do not have seeds and use water-dependent means to propagate themselves. Seed plants now dominate biological niches on land, from forests to grasslands both in hot and cold climates.

The term "seed" also has a general meaning that antedates the above - anything that can be sown, e.g. "seed" potatoes, "seeds" of corn or sunflower "seeds". In the case of sunflower and corn "seeds", what is sown is the seed enclosed in a shell or husk, whereas the potato is a tuber.

Many structures commonly referred to as "seeds" are actually dry fruits. Plants producing berries are called baccate. Sunflower seeds are sometimes sold commercially while

still enclosed within the hard wall of the fruit, which must be split open to reach the seed. Different groups of plants have other modifications, the so-called stone fruits (such as the peach) have a hardened fruit layer (the endocarp) fused to and surrounding the actual seed. Nuts are the one-seeded, hard-shelled fruit of some plants with an indehiscent seed, such as an acorn or hazelnut.

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has mobilised itself to start producing quality seeds of various crops by using modern technology so as to stop depending on importing such seeds whose use currently accounts for 70 per cent.

TARI farms can produce seeds that withstand diseases to help farmers get better crop yields.

The institution has about 18 research centres and each one has been allocated with strategic crops, for example TARI-Naliende in Mtwara has been tasked to produce cashew nuts, groundnuts and sesame seeds to cater for southern regions, and TARI-Ilonga in Morogoro has been tasked to produce seeds for sunflower, sorghum, maize, leguminous crops, root crops for Central Zone regions.

We hope that shortage of cashew nuts and sesame seeds will be history due to increase of production following the establishment of seed farms in regions that grow the crops.

TARI-Tengeru in Arusha region is set to alleviate shortage of seeds for vegetable and fruit crops that are used as raw materials in agro industries - including avocado, tomatoes and spinach.

In the same vein, TARI-Ilonga's strategy in place is to produce 3,000 tonnes of quality seeds for sunflower that would produce not less than 60,000 tonnes of sunflower crop, the yields that will reduce cooking oil dependency from imports.

TAZRI-Dakawa is well known for production of rice quality seeds and had already researched on a much better rice seeds known as 'Saro 5' that withstands diseases from pests and drought.

Improving healthcare provision as well as public health is extremely essential

A CHRONIC condition is a human health condition or disease that is persistent or otherwise long-lasting in its effects or a disease that comes with time. The term chronic is often applied when the course of the disease lasts for more than three months. Common chronic diseases include arthritis, asthma, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and some viral diseases such as hepatitis C and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. An illness which is lifelong because it ends in death is a terminal illness. It is possible and not unexpected for an illness to change in definition from terminal to chronic.

Diabetes and HIV for example were once terminal yet are now considered chronic due to the availability of insulin and daily drug treatment for individuals with HIV which allow these individuals to live while managing symptoms.

In medicine, a chronic condition can be distinguished from one that is acute. An acute condition typically affects one portion of the body and responds to treatment. A chronic condition on the other hand usually affects multiple areas of the body, is not fully responsive to treatment, and persists for an extended period of time.

Chronic conditions may have periods of remission or relapse where the disease temporarily goes away, or subsequently reappears. Periods of remission and relapse are commonly discussed when referring to substance abuse disorders which some consider to fall under the category of chronic condition.

Chronic conditions are often associated with non-communicable diseases which are distinguished by their non-

infectious causes. Some chronic conditions though, are caused by transmissible infections such as HIV/AIDS.

In the United States 25 per cent of adults have at least two chronic conditions. Chronic diseases constitute a major cause of mortality, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) attributes 38 million deaths a year to non-communicable diseases.

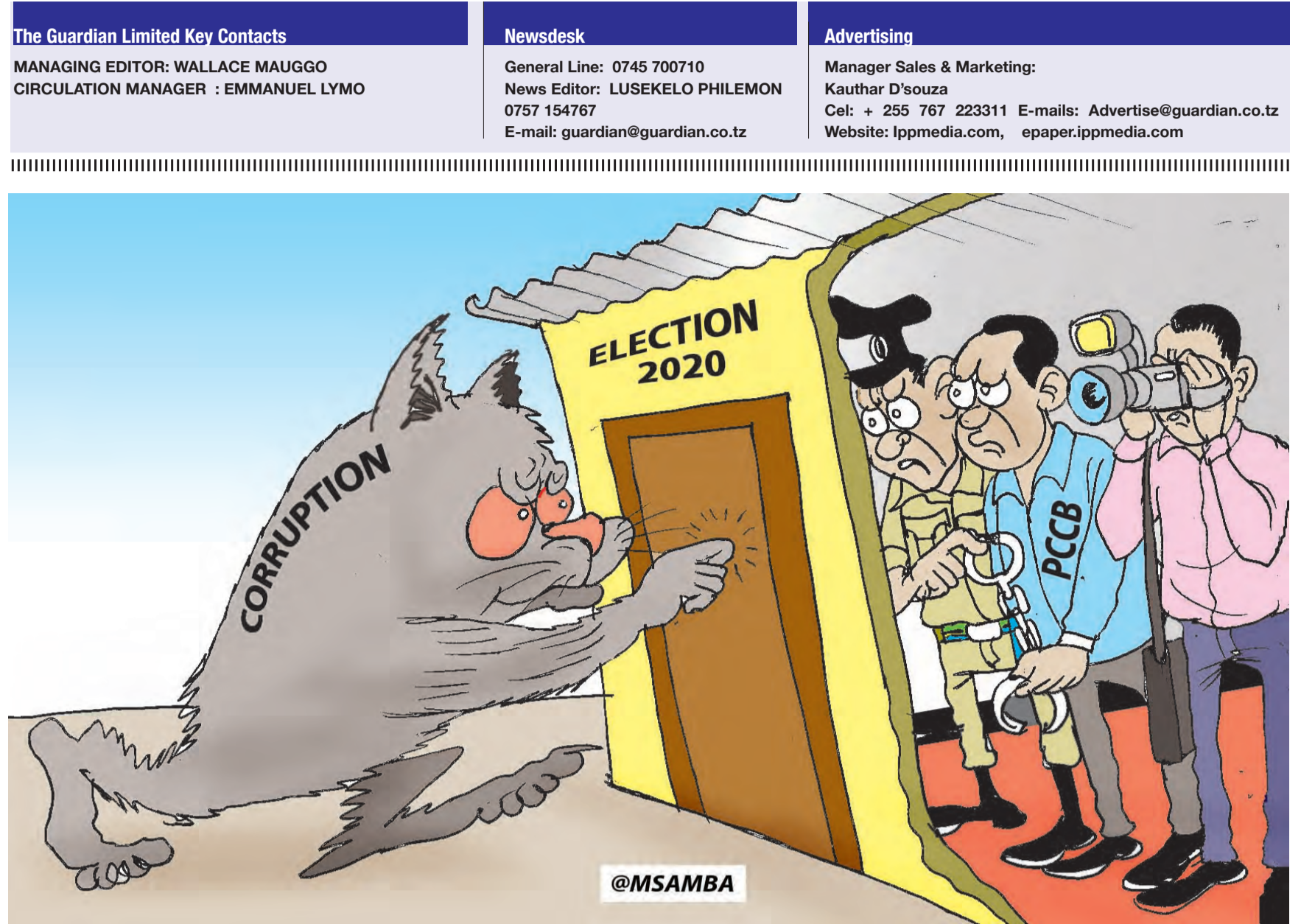
Chronic conditions have often been used to describe the various health related states of the human body such as syndromes, physical impairments, disabilities as well as diseases. Epidemiologists have found interest in chronic conditions due to the fact they contribute to disease, disability, and diminished physical and/or mental capacity.

For example, high blood pressure or hypertension is considered to be not only a chronic condition itself but also correlated to diseases such as heart attack or stroke.

Additionally, some socioeconomic factors may be considered as a chronic condition as they lead to disability in daily life. An important one that public health officials in the social science setting have begun highlighting is chronic poverty.

It is against this backdrop that about half of the recommendations suggested by the World Health Organisation to reduce chronic disease are put into practice, according to a new study. Implementation is slowly improving, yet alcohol and tobacco policies are the least widely practiced, researchers report in The Lancet Global Health.

We need to understand which policies are being systematically overlooked and which particular groups of countries may require additional support so that we can help to protect people from these conditions.



We must fight for a decade of hope, against hatred and racial polarisation

By Mmusi Maimane

THE rainbow nation is a worthy goal, but if this is a Comrades Marathon, we are only at the 10km mark. We must build common goals, or risk becoming like deeply divided and ungovernable America.

It's a new decade, a decade of hope, or a decade of fear. This is an amazing opportunity for reflection and redirection. It is a time when we create new resolutions, new goals and ultimately embark with determination to be our better selves. South Africa enters a new decade with the same sense of optimism as others, but we may have fewer reasons to hope for change than we ever had.

I listened to President Cyril Ramaphosa address the ANC and the nation over the weekend, and like most of us who watched, I get the sense that while we may be entering a new decade, we are still stuck in the last one. We have the no smart goals, no better sense of self and we still have our challenges from the last decade. We are still trying to manage the long-standing crises created by chronic mismanagement nationwide and misappropriation.

It's 2020 and we are still discussing load shedding, we are still discussing the need for an "intervention", a conversation that started more than a decade ago. It's, in fact, a new cast, but perhaps the same old script. I think that we can all accept that we cannot put new wine in old wine skins. We need a fresh start, a new beginning and a new sense of us. Our people are innovative and great, and we possess all the necessary acumen to build a great nation: A South Africa that can prosper and be an inclusive economy.

We can reach that promised land, but first, we need to take back the national narrative from the populists and radicals. We need to define a common national identity, one that is robust and future-proof - to do that we have to be more honest about the challenges we are facing.

Over the Christmas break, I keenly observed the dangers of rampant partisanship in the American political system. I observed carefully how US President Donald Trump's impeachment process was playing



President Cyril Ramaphosa

out and its impact on different constituencies in the US. It became very clear that the vision espoused by former president Barack Obama in his famed 2004 Democratic National Convention address was nowhere to be found. A speech I have watched countless times and one that connected with my value system and worldview, his words still echo, but now with a hollow ring...

"Well, I say to them tonight, there is not a liberal America and a conservative America - there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America - there's the United States of America," said Obama during that famous 2004 speech.

Watching the debate recently, I could not shake off the conclusion that each side was preaching to its choir. The Democrats argued, during the long impeachment debate, that they were acting out of a sense of duty and not out of a partisan political agenda. They made the case that a failure to proceed with impeachment would be adversely judged in the history books and would create a precedent for presidential impunity. They stated that to not act on the wrongdoing of this magnitude by the president would be undemocratic and would reflect a lack of patriotism.

The Republicans argued strongly that this was a frivolous

impeachment and that it was a continuation of the democratic party's angst at the fact that Trump was the duly elected president and that an impeachment was a reversal of the election results. They stated that this process was a fiasco and was unpatriotic because it sought to defeat the electoral process by other means. Each side is claiming the moral high-ground, each side is claiming the ideals of democracy and patriotism.

It reminded me of the days during the debate on the motion of no confidence in former president Jacob Zuma. Each side argued patriotism and upholding the democratic will of the people.

Each side in the debate claimed they were acting in the national interest to keep, or remove, Zuma. What is our patriotic duty in keeping a government that on most indicators has failed and is now leading us to a junk status? The facts speak for themselves: There is no power, or water in many towns, there is a high unemployment rate and there is an erosion of our institutional democracy.

Ultimately, history will decide for South Africa, as it will for America. The question still remains, what then does it mean to be patriotic in this political landscape, as we are confronted with the challenges of race divisions, inequality, poverty and unemployment all borne out of a stubborn apartheid legacy?

Rodney King made a passionate plea during the Los Angeles riots: "Why can't we all just get along." I often feel that very same way when I am at home with my family. I celebrate our diversity and I often wish I could fast forward to the happy ending of a truly unified South Africa. One that puts a nail in the coffin of our apartheid legacy. While I want to declare, "there is no white South Africa, there is no black South Africa, there is no Indian South Africa ... there is only one South Africa", I want to say this as a matter of fact, but I realise more and more that this is an aspirational declaration. The rainbow nation is, I believe, a worthy goal, but if this is a Comrades Marathon, we are only at the 10km mark.

I have shaken off the naivete that Obama embraced, Obama held on to it to the end, but the myth of "One America" has been exposed over and over again in the Trump process. America is very divided and unless these divisions are healed, the empire will fall. While I want to snap my fingers and declare "One South Africa for all" - we are simply not there yet.

One South Africa requires an equitable South Africa. No nations win when they are divided. We have to find our sense of us in an equal embrace of the challenges affecting the weakest among us. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. A country is only as strong as its most vulnerable. Our nation must deal with its past and focus on the future together.

The challenge of inequality is not one that we must leave to the poor and marginalised to face alone, that the history of black people must simply be ignored. As Lyndon Johnson articulated in the fight for the emancipation of African Americans, that this is now indeed an American problem. The challenge of inequality be it educational, asset and/or income inequality is a South African problem, it is a challenge for us all, black, coloured, Indian and white to work towards overcoming. Our national identity will be created as we come together to fight this collective enemy.

We cannot leave populists in red or black, green and gold to lay claim to the mantle of fighting for the poor and marginalised. They resonate with the poor and predominantly black communities because these communities feel isolated and ignored by those sitting at the tables of power and commerce. Poor voters see the populists as champions, people who will get them a share of the cake, people who will speak up for them in the corridors of power.

We also cannot live with the populists on the right in blue, or green and white, claiming the mantle of defending the minorities.

While others are embracing a strategy of political survival based on the demonisation of the left and its radical leaders, they are embarking on a project of fear and hate, using the black populists as talismans. Those who seek to survive our political landscape by selling hate are no different than those they claim to oppose. We cannot allow those who isolate white South Africans into a laager to go unchallenged. If we are truly #Staying, we are staying to fix things.

I do not believe the current approach of the far-right and the far left is going to elevate our collective consciousness and help us deal with the challenges we face. Both the extremists on the left and on the right are giving up on the idea of a unified South Africa. They are leaning into the American model of politics. A model we can all agree is broken and is perhaps beyond repair.

These populists have chosen the language of division and they have fanned the flames of racism. We need a language that unites and not divides.

We cannot allow those who isolate white South Africans to convince them that they are being attacked and that they are a diminishing part of our economy. The rhetoric about white monopoly capital being pushed by political parties that seek to be white again, has become regressive and creates a misguided sense of us.

'SA's new refugee regulations could have been drafted by Trump'

By Tania Broughton

BAN on political activity is 'illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to the UN convention on refugees'.

South Africa's new rules governing asylum seekers and refugees could easily have been drafted by the Trump administration, says Sharon Ekambaram of Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR).

The regulations, which forbid refugees and asylum seekers from engaging in any political activity, even if it concerns issues in their home countries, came into effect as part of the Refugee Amendment Act on 1 January. They were gazetted on 27 December, taking civil society organisations by surprise. The content of the regulations took no account of some 2,000 submissions made in 2016 slamming the "restrictive and punitive" proposals.

Apart from the ban on political activity, the regulations also ban refugees and asylum seekers from visiting their home countries or visiting their local embassies.

They will be compelled to get a "refugee" visa at the point of entry to South Africa - which is largely up to the whim of the immigration officials on duty. They will also be banned from certain jobs in certain industries.

An immigration official will be able to demand a paternity test from an asylum seeker who wishes to enter South Africa with his children. Failure will result in the child or children being handed over to social workers.

Ekambaram, who is manager of the Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme at LHR, told GroundUp: "We want to meet with the Minister. We will mobilise civil society."

She says these "regressive" policies will further exacerbate chronic processing delays and show that South Africa is "dismantling its international obligation to provide protection to asylum seekers and refugees".

"In our submissions to Parliament on the proposed amendments in 2016, LHR pointed out a number of concerns regarding the amendment to the principal Act which has now been passed into law. We pointed out that the changes proposed at the time represented drastic changes to refugee protection and adjudication in South Africa and we stated that this presented a massive deviation from the urban refugee policy - which has been the



The new rules governing asylum seekers and refugees have been slammed by human rights organisations. File photo

cornerstone of refugee protection in South Africa since the inception of refugee protection."

She says the previous legislation based on that policy, passed soon after the end of apartheid, was "transformative given the racist apartheid laws governing the movement of black people in our country and more specifically the Aliens Controls Act."

Asylum system in crisis
Now, she says, the asylum system is in crisis: about 180,000 people have been waiting for over ten years to have their status claims adjudicated in a "cripplingly inefficient and poorly managed" system in which officials operated "in flagrant disregard of constitutional values, with reports of widespread bribery and corruption".

The only plus in the new rules is that appeals can now be heard by one member of the refugee appeals board, instead of a quorum, she says.

The rest of the new rules, "presented as measures to prevent fraud", "could easily have been drafted and enforced by the Trump administration or the Boris Johnson administration", Ekambaram says.

She says the justification used to defend the new regulations is the need to prevent fraud.

"But the problem does not lie with people seeking refuge in our country but with the unlawful practices of immigration officials who are informed by prejudice, xenophobia, and instances of homophobia against foreign nationals, the majority of whom

come from the African continent."

The ban on political activity is illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to the UN convention on refugees, she says.

"It is highly controversial what constitutes a political act. Ironically many people flee because of political repression and restrictions imposed on their fundamental right to express a political opinion. Participation in political activities which are peaceful is protected under international law and there is no need to distinguish refugees and asylum seekers and that of citizens."

Sally Gandar, head of advocacy at the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, is equally critical of the ban.

"The term 'political activity' is not defined in the regulations. We believe that it is far too broad and vague to be enforceable. Laws should ensure certainty; this one does not. The Minister has said that what they meant by the term is the same as what is stated in Article 23(2)(i) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. However, that Article refers to 'subversive activities'."

"If this is the case, the regulations should have been drafted to specify this. In their current form, they do not," she says.

Regulations add new red tape
In general, Gandar says, the regulations undermine the Constitution and Bill of Rights and may be inconsistent with international refugee law.

"They reflect a roll back on the rights and protections afforded to refugees and seats South Africa on the global bandwagon of regressive refugee policies. They create further layers of administrative red-tape to an already struggling asylum system."

She says the centre is gravely concerned that the new laws:

- expand on reasons for exclusion from asylum or revocation of refugee status;
- create wholly unrealistic and impractical time frames which have the potential to exclude significant numbers of asylum seekers of their right to seek asylum in South Africa;
- potentially undermine the rights of asylum seekers to work and study in South Africa;
- introduce overly onerous and unrealistic procedures and requirements for those seeking asylum - procedures that will likely exacerbate bureaucratic backlogs;
- reduce the responsibilities and mechanisms of accountability as well as safeguards in respect of departmental officials responsible for assisting asylum seekers and refugees in South Africa; and
- provide for detention procedures, which may be unconstitutional.

"Many of the amendments and new regulations go beyond what is in the law. For example, sections related to deportation unlawfully override judicial procedure and access to courts," Gandar says. "We urge the Minister to repeal these amendments."

"Refugee legislation should be aimed at the protection of an already vulnerable group. Instead of amending the laws, the Department needs to first address the underlying causes leading to abuse of the system, such as capacity and corruption."

Gandar says while the amendment removed the quorum requirement for deciding appeals, it also erodes accountability.

"A November 2019, Auditor General Report found that the Refugee Appeal Board backlog was 147,794, and that it would take 68 years ... to attend to this backlog. Scalabrini Centre has consistently advocated for the introduction of group decisions for those fleeing conflict zones (such as parts of DRC, or Somalia), which would significantly reduce the backlog. Unfortunately, it appears the department has not taken these recommendations into consideration." **DM**



Two of the children who received treatment from the medical program in the third batch.

Chinese medical aid programme helps Myanmar children suffering from congenital heart diseases

By Lin Rui, Wang Hui,

"I'm so grateful to China," said Wutye Tun, a 13-year-old Burmese girl who received treatment from a Chinese medical program aiming to saving Burmese children suffering from congenital heart disease.

The girl, who now has a chubby face and rosy cheek, lives in a town of southern Yangon Region, capital of Myanmar. She was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a complicated heart disease when she was only one year old.

"I was so ill when I was little that I could hardly walk. Every time when I needed to go out my father had to carry me on his back," said Wutye Tun.

"Local hospitals are incapable of curing this disease, so we were confused and desperate," U Myint Thein, the girl's father told People's Daily, recalling the family's misery back then.

The medical programme from which Wutye Tun received assistance was launched by China Charity Federation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2017.

By cooperating with Yankin Children Hospital in Yangon Region, Chinese doctors examined more than 170 child patients, among which 36 have received surgeries in China's Beijing Anzhen Hospital and Fuwai Yunnan Cardiovascular Hospital in three batches so far.

Wutye Tun's situation was the worst among the first batch of 12 Burmese child patients.

In April 2017, Wutye Tun, accompanied by her father, arrived at Beijing Anzhen Hospital.

"The doctors made detailed treatment plan, and told us all the possible scenarios that could happen. With the efforts of the Chinese doctors, my daughter made it. Now, she is just as healthy as other children. Chinese doctors are really amazing," said U Myint Thein.

"Now I've completely recovered from the disease. And my father smiled again - something that had disappeared in my family for a long time. China and the BRI are great," said Wutye Tun.

According to Dr. Myint Myint Khine, director of Yankin Children Hospital, there are more than 50,000 children with congenital heart diseases in Myanmar, but few of the hospitals in the country is able to treat them.

In order to cure every child patient they receive, the Chinese doctors have made painstaking endeav-

ors and great efforts.

"We discuss treatment plans with Burmese doctors every day on WeChat," said Duo Lin, head of the research department of chronic diseases in Fuwai Yunnan Cardiovascular Hospital.

"Some children not only suffered from congenital heart disease, but also other diseases, so we held group consultation with doctors from other departments. We share the same goal: to cure the children completely," Duo said.

Thiri Ko is a 7-year-old Burmese girl living in a small village in suburban Yangon with her mother Daw Thandar Moe. Her father passed away years ago, and a small grocery store her mother runs is all the source of income for the family.

When she was 7-month-old, Thiri Ko was diagnosed with congenital heart disease. Daw Thandar Moe had to choose only drug therapy for her daughter as the surgery was totally unaffordable for her. Seeing her daughter getting worse day by day, Daw Thandar Moe's became distraught.

After receiving free treatment in Fuwai Yunnan Cardiovascular Hospital in Oct. 2018, Thiri Ko fully recovered.

"After my daughter was cured, the Chinese side also offered a loan to us to support my grocery store," Daw Thandar Moe introduced.

The loan was offered by a supporting program providing economic assistance for the child patients' families. The program, launched at the end of 2019, was jointly operated by Kunming Yundi Behavior and Health Research Center and Myanmar Chinese Cooperation & Communication Center.

"We have customized plans for different families according to their demands. There are 11 families currently receiving our help," said Li Bobo, executive chairman of Myanmar Chinese Cooperation & Communication Center.

"We hope to try our best to help those Burmese families overwhelmed by the diseases. This is a natural decision driven by the friendship between the people of China and Myanmar," noted Li.

"I'm so happy to see the children recover, not to mention the economic assistance the Chinese side has offered. Such good deeds deserve our respect. The seeds of friendship have been planted in our hearts. May China-Myanmar 'Phauphaw' (fraternal) friendship be carried on from generation to generation," said Dr. Myint Myint Khine.

Empowering women in poor communities, building resilience against climate pressure

AHMEDABAD, India

AS global temperatures continue to rise, vulnerable populations around the world are facing increasingly complex climate risks - with ongoing droughts in Zimbabwe and floods devastating Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

From flooding and cyclones to heatwaves and droughts, the stresses and shocks inflicted by growing climate extremes are severe. And they cannot be tackled by one-track solutions, especially in resource-poor developing countries.

Instead, players in the global development space should take a more integrated approach when helping strengthen communities most at risk from climate shocks, to ensure that the interrelated challenges they face are addressed in their entirety.

For instance, in developing countries, rural poor families are often drawn to urban areas in search of better prospects, but often end up living in slums in a vicious cycle of perpetual poverty.

As well as putting greater strain on infrastructure, this displacement exposes them to unsanitary conditions - leaving them more vulnerable to illnesses and climate stresses, and often unable to work or improve their circumstances as a result.

So, for resilience-building solutions to be impactful and work for the whole community, either/or solutions will not suffice. Approaches that are either technical or social might be effective in strengthening one aspect of climate resilience - such as building flood defences, or improving access to potable water - but not more complex,

interrelated issues.

It is only by integrating both social and technical approaches to resilience-building that more comprehensive, sustainable solutions can be constructed.

Developing a hybrid model is one way to achieve this, which is precisely what India-based Mahila Housing Trust has done with its mission to empower women in poor communities across South Asia to build resilience against increasing climate pressures.

Founded as an autonomous non-profit in 1994, Mahila Housing Trust has evolved into an agile social enterprise - aided in recent years by mentoring and support from the Global Resilience Partnership.

Using a combined social-technical approach to development, Mahila Housing Trust bridges the gap between poor women within high-risk contexts and mainstream institutions.

Through this hybrid model, it helps women improve their living conditions, build resilience against climate stresses and develop the leadership skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to participate in local governance.

Meanwhile, it ensures its commercial viability by training women to become agents of resilience solutions - from green energy and heat-mitigating technologies, to health interventions such as improved access to drinking water and better sanitation facilities.

The not-for-profit side of Mahila Housing Trust delivers back-end support to its empowerment and resilience-building programmes, while the enterprise side ensures the organisation and its beneficiaries are able to generate funding and income.



This hybrid model has also enabled Mahila Housing Trust to launch "Awaas Sewa" - a social enterprise dedicated to the development and implementation of innovative climate-resilient technologies.

The enterprise identifies, pilots, rates and validates new solutions, then teaches women leaders how to market them - building resilience amongst poor communities and generating a turnover at the same time.

Operating across seven cities in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, the enterprise has so far trained more than 1,500 women leaders to become "climate-saathis", or climate partners.

In these roles, the women have conducted energy audits and helped families in more than 100 informal settlements to invest in energy-saving and climate-resilient solutions - such as heat-resistant modular roofing.

By converting this network into a sustainable enterprise, these women leaders now earn an income through promoting and selling energy-effi-

cient, climate stress-combatting solutions - helping 27,000 others in their communities become more resilient in the process.

Plus, if women in the community need financial support to purchase and install these solutions, Mahila Housing Trust also has women-led credit cooperatives, which provides financing for climate-resilient technologies.

Yet this commercial aspect is only one small component of the organisation's model; its sustained results so far have only been achieved through building partnerships across all different levels and sectors.

Strengthening the resilience of poor communities requires a bespoke, holistic approach that directly engages people on the ground. Maintaining a focused yet collaborative approach, Mahila Housing Trust works closely with a multidisciplinary team of partners in a united effort to improve the living conditions in poor urban communities. **Agencies**

Activists escalate demand for 'bodily autonomy' 19 nations dissenting

UNITED NATIONS

THE United States and 18 other UN member states have come under fire for denying a woman's legitimate right to "bodily autonomy"—the right to self-governance over one's own body without coercion or external pressure.

The Executive Director of Women's March Global, Uma Mishra-Newbery, told IPS the United Nations has worked towards progress in fighting for women's rights.

But many countries on the Human Rights Council continue to negotiate women's human rights off the table, she pointed out.

In Sept 2019, she said, the world watched as the US, in partnership with 18 other member states, put forth a statement saying there is no international right to abortion.

She said UN member states have also witnessed "the continued and grave human rights violations in Saudi Arabia", including the continued torture of imprisoned women human rights defenders like Loujain al-Hathloul.

"Yet the UN and member states fail to hold Saudi Arabia truly accountable for its actions. The UN must hold these governments accountable as they work to strip women's rights away without repercussions", she declared.

Beside the United States, the 18 countries singled out include Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The member states who deny women access to safe and legal abortion represent 1.3 billion people, according to Women's March Global.

As part of a global campaign for women's reproductive rights, Women's March Global has called attention to the "dangerous and alarming repeal of women's rights to bodily autonomy, bringing international attention to these pressing issues."

The 45 marches—the fourth annual event, with the participation of mil-



lions of women and allies - took place in Africa, Canada, Central and South America, Europe and Asia.

Purnima Mane, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), told IPS the March on January 18 to protest the inadequate progress and sometimes downright rollback of women's right to exercise bodily autonomy through the right to

abortion, "comes at a critical juncture in our history."

She said as many as 48 of the 58 existing UN countries, signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Nonetheless, the UN as a body, has been limited in its work on abortion, due to its exclusion as a right from human rights treaties as a result of significant op-

position from many quarters, she added.

"Besides, these treaties are not legally binding and some countries specifically see these issues as covered by domestic law."

For example, she said, the Programme of Action (PoA) of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), focuses on the obligation

of governments to prevent unsafe abortion but does not refer to making abortion legal.

This obligation can of course open the door for national debates on how women's overall health and bodily autonomy are linked. International human rights treaties which most governments have ratified, support the right of women to liberty and to health.

The UN often provides platforms to learn from examples of countries which have implemented these rights successfully, integrating women's rights more broadly, including the right to bodily autonomy, said Mane, who is a former President and CEO of Pathfinder International.

Antonia Kirkland, a global lead at Equality Now, told IPS that UN Women, alongside the Mexican and French governments and feminists around the world, have chosen bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health rights as one of the Generation Equality Forum's six Action Coalition themes to in the lead up to Beijing +25.

"This is a good sign that attention and resources are being focused in this direction and can hopefully help counteract moves towards greater restrictions on access to abortion in countries like the USA, as well as forced pregnancy and motherhood in Latin American countries".

Kirkland said over the past few years, there has been an alarming and sustained rollback on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world.

Focusing the first women's rights March of the new decade on bodily autonomy is about shining a much-needed spotlight on the systematic oppression that continues to prevent women and girls from exercising self-governance over their own body and reproductive choices, she noted.

Mane said abortion has, in fact, been available in many countries for years but it is heavily regulated with severe restrictions which make it difficult to access.

Over the last few years, these restrictions have grown rapidly almost globally. Animosity to-

wards contraception complicates the situation even though there is ample evidence to show that preventing unintended pregnancies through access to modern contraception, reduces abortion rates in the first place, she added.

"The combination of restrictions in the practice of legal abortion and poor access to contraception for avoiding unintended pregnancies, lead to an increase in unsafe abortion and high rates of morbidity and mortality among women", said Mane, who has served on boards of several international, non-profit organizations including as Governor of the Board of Governors, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada.

Mane also pointed out that women's right to access to contraception is the first and essential step advocated by UNFPA for enhancing women's health and reproductive rights.

"If women receive the needed education and information, have access to appropriate services and commodities, and benefit from a conducive policy and programme environment, their ability and right to make decisions concerning their own bodies will be enhanced which will benefit their health and well-being".

She said the UN assists national governments in the process of making all of the above happen through the supportive role they play globally and nationally.

Organizations like UNFPA need all the support and encouragement they can get to do their bit in moving the world towards the goal of ensuring that women are in a position to make decisions concerning their own bodies and ultimately their own lives."

Kirkland said the United Nations has a vital role to play in the protection of women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, and this involves working in partnership with member states to ensure that everyone is free to make their own decisions about their body, and is able to easily access family planning support, healthcare services and information.

Agencies

Abiy and Ramaphosa reset relations

By Peter Fabricius

A PART from the obvious benefits Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed Ali's reforms have brought to his own country and the region, they have also created the opportunity to revive rather dormant relations between Ethiopia and South Africa.

That became clear during Abiy's official visit to South Africa this week when he met President Cyril Ramaphosa, attended the governing African National Congress's 108th birthday party and addressed the large Ethiopian diaspora at a rally in Johannesburg.

This was the first state-level visit either way between two of Africa's largest countries. Although they established a Joint Ministerial Commission many years ago, "we have not adequately made use of it," Ramaphosa said. Now the commission should be used to create momentum for deeper and expanded political and economic relations, raised to the level of a 'strategic partnership'.

The two leaders made much of former president Nelson Mandela's military training in Ethiopia in 1962. Abiy conversely received military training in South Africa when he was a military officer. It's hard to pinpoint why relations haven't been so warm since. Partly perhaps because Ethiopia was such an inward-looking country, preoccupied with its own fraught internal politics and regional tensions, mainly with Eritrea.

South Africa's second president, Thabo Mbeki, established a good rapport with former Ethiopian prime minister Meles Zenawi, but they collaborated more on continental integration than on bilateral relations. Then came Jacob Zuma, who neglected much of what Meles and Mbeki created, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Peer Review Mechanism.



President Cyril Ramaphosa with Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed during the opening session of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. File Photo

Now both countries have new leaders, creating opportunities for boosting relations, as a South African official pointed out to ISS Today. Ramaphosa promised full support for Abiy's 'innovative, bold and brave reforms' at home and his 'vision and courage' in breaking the long impasse with his neighbour Eritrea. Abiy has also improved the potential for better economic relations with South Africa, as with other countries, by talking about liberalising Ethiopia's previously rather closed economy.

"And we look to the South African private sector to come and share our prosperity with mutual gains. Ethiopia is opening up to the private sector in telecoms, energy, logistics and other industries and sectors which South African investors have great experience in," he said.

Ethiopia's ambassador to South Africa Shiferaw Membacho told journalists last week that 28 South African companies were already operating in his country, while

another 58 had applied to invest. South Africa's big cellphone companies are particularly keen to win two licences for providing cellphone services.

Ethiopia's huge market of some 110 million has long tempted South African business, but so far most have been frustrated by protectionism. Perhaps that's about to change. If so, Ethiopia will learn from South African business, but it won't be a one-way transfer. Ethiopia also has business skills

to teach South Africa, for example in the great success of Ethiopian Airlines versus South African Airways, which is on the brink of liquidation.

Abiy's more outward-looking prime ministership has also opened up new possibilities of collaboration on the continent. "We have identified Ethiopia as an important country we can team up with to advance continental integration. We will work together on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement as well as peace and security issues," a senior South African official said.

Ramaphosa said that as South Africa takes up the annually rotating chair of the African Union (AU) next month, it hopes to work more closely with Ethiopia on advancing the AU's Agenda 2063 and its "Silencing the Guns" programme.

One of the first regional projects Abiy and Ramaphosa could embark on is Ethiopia's own dispute with Egypt and Sudan over the impact on their water supply of Ethiopia's giant Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) being built on the Blue Nile. Ramaphosa agreed to use the AU chair to help mediate negotiations, although it's not clear how that fits with America's still active mediation role.

There are of course impediments to closer ties between Ethiopia and South Africa. One is that members of the large Ethiopian diaspora have been among the targets of periodic xenophobic violence in South Africa. Ramaphosa reassured Abiy and expatriate Ethiopians that they were welcome and that his government was taking strong measures to protect them.

Clearly though, the closed-door discussions were a little tougher

as the joint communiqué said: "The two countries agreed on the need for both countries to work together to address illegal migration, human trafficking and smuggling."

Some South African officials are sceptical about Abiy's domestic reforms, wondering if he can sustain them. Along with genuine, good faith political opposition, he has also liberated some risky ethno-nationalist forces threatening the country's stability. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Senior Researcher Semir Yusuf recently warned in a monograph.

Another upcoming ISS report warns that Abiy has many fundamental socio-economic reforms still to undertake and that 'Ethiopia is at risk from its fragile institutions and ethnic pressures.'

Pretoria believes the Prosperity Party that Abiy has just established to replace the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front - the ethno-regional coalition that Meles founded - will win August's elections. But it's not certain Abiy will be able to contain the political violence that some expect the elections to provoke.

Comparisons with Nigeria, another African superpower, are inevitable. President Muhammadu Buhari was also in South Africa last year when the problem of xenophobic attacks loomed large. Abuja and Pretoria also tried to use that visit to return relations to the era of Mbeki and former Nigerian president Obasanjo.

Both visits evoked a rather nostalgic sense of a renaissance in relations after the dark ages of the Zuma era. But Ramaphosa and Abiy will have to work hard to sustain such a renaissance, against the major distractions of the turbulent domestic politics that both now confront. **DM**

Business models: The unicorn is dead. Long live the zebra

By Nic Haralambous

FOCUS on building profitable, net-positive businesses. Forget about the billion dollars. Do you know what a unicorn is? Of course you do. It's a magical creature of mystery and fiction that likely doesn't exist. In business terms, a Unicorn is basically the same creature of mystery: A privately held startup that reaches a valuation of \$1-billion. There are about 200+ of them out there and all across the globe, founders are raising ungodly amounts of capital to be part of the unicorn club at any cost.

I am not a fan of the unicorn club or the concept of a business unicorn in general. I have tried to build this kind of business in South Africa and it's extremely difficult for a variety of reasons. In general, unicorn startups have proven themselves to be negatively disruptive, toxic and self-serving enterprises that make very few people a ton of money while damaging society in their wake. I do believe that some unicorns (like SpaceX, Stripe, and Spotify), do more good than bad, but they are the exception, not the rule.

If you don't believe me, let's take a look at some of the companies that proudly wear the unicorn badge:

Facebook – used to manipulate elections, track users and invade privacy at every possible turn. Uber – knowingly ignored laws to launch its service in key markets globally. Under fire for toxic workplace practices and stock price completely cratered after its Initial Public Offering (IPO). WeWork – late in 2019 was scheduled to go public at a \$47-billion valuation. Within weeks, the questionable founder was fired (receiving over \$1-billion to leave), and the company was sold off to one of its investors for \$8-billion.

Lyft – stock price cratered after IPO and it's not profitable.

Twitter – unable to manage the trolls, vitriol and abuse from its users on the platform. Used to manipulate the public and spread fake news by organisations such as Bell Pottinger on behalf of the Guptas.

South Africa doesn't need unicorns. We have enough people spouting lies, destroying soci-

ety, making magical statements and promoting corruption. Throwing startups into this mix is a recipe for further economic disaster.

I prefer the zebra startup. What South Africa needs is something we are already very familiar with. We need zebras. We know zebras. We like zebras. They are real, tangible and glorious creatures to protect and nurture.

In March 2020, I am attending a conference for the founders of zebra startups. The term was coined back in 2017 by Jennifer Brandel, Mara Zepeda, Astrid Scholz and Anyia Williams, who are the founding directors of Zebras Unite in an article they published which explained why they chose the zebra and what a zebra startup is.

They wrote: "We believe that developing alternative business models to the startup status quo has become a central moral challenge of our time. These alternative models will balance profit and purpose, champion democracy, and put a premium on sharing power and resources. Companies that create a more just and responsible society will hear, help, and heal the customers and communities they serve."

And here's why they chose the zebra:

- To state the obvious: unlike unicorns, zebras are real.

- • Zebras companies are both black and white: they are profitable and improve society. They won't sacrifice one for the other.

- • Zebras are also mutualistic: by banding together in groups, they protect and preserve one another. Their individual input results in stronger collective output.

Zebras companies are built with peerless stamina and capital efficiency, as long as conditions allow them to survive.

So much of this makes sense in a South African context; real businesses that are mutualistic, benefit society, make a profit and are capital efficient. South African entrepreneurs understand how to be frugal and capital efficient. We understand how to build and grind away every day to eke out value wherever we can. But I have watched over the past decade as we have become enamoured with the Silicon Valley method of building businesses. That method includes



raising an extreme amount of money, blowing it quickly on vanity metrics and ignoring profitability or societal impact.

This business model is dead. Unicorns are dead.

Zebras are the future and are easier to build than one might think. Here are a few things to consider if you want to build a zebra business right now in South Africa:

Go out and sell rather than pitch to investors. Selling is the best form of funding. Be kind to your team and your suppliers. Don't work them 20 hours a day, pay them a pittance and withhold

payment because you can. Pay on time, every time. Do not strive for success at any cost, it's not a zero-sum game. I don't have to lose for you to win.

A rising tide lifts all ships and the more we think about business in this context, the more chance we have of saving our dire economic situation for future generations.

Building a zebra startup doesn't mean building something small. It means building something meaningful, valuable and sustainable. Paul Graham, the founder of one of the most successful startup incubators called YCombinator, has said

in the past that to build something big, start by building something small. You don't need to rush into a billion-dollar valuation for your business.

Build something small and valuable, scale it over time and if you happen to hit a billion-dollar valuation, good for you.

We need to shift our victory condition from gaining extreme personal wealth from a startup to the creation of value for society that might lead to personal wealth along the way.

GBV: The silent menace of trauma among victims

By Ange Iliza

IN a slum perched on a slope just below Mount Kigali, is a tiny two-bedroomed tin-roofed house among many similar ones.

Located in Kimisagara Sector, Nyarugenge District, this is the humble abode of 20-year-old Mama Kaliza, her three children, her mother and her elder sister.

The family eke a living doing odd jobs that fetch for them up to Rwf1,000 a day and this is what the family survives on.

Mama Kaliza had Kaliza, her first-born when she was 13 and her "last-born" came last year when she was 19.

Having experienced premature motherhood in such poor conditions, Mama Kaliza has a painful story that sheds light on what teen mothers go through.

Mama Kaliza had to drop out of school twice; in primary 3 to have Kaliza and Primary 5 for the second pregnancy.

All her children are from different fathers and over the last seven years, all the three fathers have only brought her grief, for none of them wants to support her in raising the children.

They are irresponsible and so violent, she says.

While narrating her story to The New Times, her story seemed confusing, she would suddenly break into lengthy silence, lost in thought and the more the interview went on, the more

incoherent she sounded.

Towards the end of the interview, she would provide totally different answers to the questioned asked.

To get a clear picture, The New Times had to talk to her sister, to connect the dots and get the story right.

Clémentine Uwera is the older sister.

Since the struggle to raise her three children started seven years ago, along with violent accounts with the fathers, Mama Kaliza started behaving differently.

Uwera narrates that she sometimes wants to hurt herself, has worrying signs of amnesia and excessive hate for men.

"She sometimes sits and starts crying abruptly," she worriedly narrates.

Mama Kaliza believes she was not defiled, though by her own circumstances all indications are that she is actually a victim of defilement, having had her first child while barely in her teens.

All the three men who sired children with her are too violent to the extent that one of them got a restraining order to never get close to her family.

According to Emmanuelle Mahoro, a psychologist in Kigali, mental health issues can occur even when the victim was not raped or forcefully violated.

"Even when she gave consent, for a teen mother, in this case, being a premature mother results into intense regrets that lead to loss of interest in life and attempts to commit suicide,"



A group of teenage mothers are taken through the reproductive cycle by a health worker at Centre Maremo in Gasabo District

Mahoro explains.

When the victim is young, Mahoro continues, Gender-Based Violence experience can result into excessive hate for men (or the opposite), loss of interest in family and relationship; "that is a communitywide consequence." This explains of Mama Kaliza's case.

"As an individual, GBV could also lead to uncensored sex addiction or prostitution because victims feel undervalued by violence, especially rape," she adds. Mental health issues do not connect to GBV only for teen mothers and young victims. For adults, symptoms of a mental health crisis can be sympt-

omised in what looks like normal sickness.

Some of them have constant headaches and stomach aches, insomnia, skin diseases, high blood pressure, cancer and diabetes. The latter might be hereditary.

"Some non-communicable diseases are results of trauma, depression and exhaustion that can be directly connected to long-term semantic or physical violence. You find them [GBV victims] always asking 'why me' which means they lost value in themselves and life," Mahoro adds.

When The New Times followed up with Isange One-Stop Centre, a facility that provides health care

to GBV victims, it was found out that Mama Kaliza's signs of mental troubles is just one case among many others.

According to Shafiga Murebwayire, the Isange national coordinator, over 5,000 GBV cases are recorded every year.

When victims seem to be intensely mentally troubled, they are sent to Caraes Neuropsychiatric Hospital Ndera in Gasabo district.

The hospital confirmed that worrying mental health issues cases exist and are handled through a counselling room, one of the services provided by IOSC.

Kenya looks to secure border as Al-Shabaab launches deadly attacks

By Salem Solomon

KENYA has endured a grim start to the new year as extremist group al-Shabaab launched attacks against a school, a police post and a military base shared by U.S. forces.

Observers are debating whether the surge of violence signals renewed strength by the terror group or is a seasonal phenomenon. A new report found the group has killed more than 4,000 civilians over the past 10 years.

On Monday, three teachers were killed and one abducted in Kamuthe, a town in Garissa county, bordering Somalia. The three killed were all non-Muslims, while the one kidnapped

was a Muslim. Another teacher was wounded, according to the Associated Press. Attackers also hit a police post and destroyed a telecommunications tower.

Hillary Mutyambai, inspector general of the Kenya Police Service, visited a police camp in neighboring Lamu county on Tuesday to thank officers for their efforts, but advised them to reach out to community members for help foiling future attacks.

Mutyambai "urged the officers to change their tact in the fight against the enemy," the Kenya Police Service's official account tweeted about the visit. He also "urged the officers to embrace community policing so as

to have [a] flow of information from members of [the] public on suspected criminals."

Tres Thomas, a security analyst focusing on Somalia, said the latest attacks show that the terror group is attempting to sow divisions among the population by sparing Muslims and killing Christians. He also said that January is typically a time when al-Shabab launches some of its deadliest attacks, including a 2017 attack in Kulbiyow, where dozens of Kenya Defense Force soldiers were killed, and the DusitD2 hotel attack in 2019 that killed more than 20 people.

Thomas said the spate of violence shows the group is able to exploit

points of weakness along the Kenyan border.

"You still see al-Shabaab has free mobility to cross the border from Somalia into Kenya. And that's because a lot of the areas don't have adequately manned checkpoints," he told VOA.

"And one of the areas on the southeastern border in the Boni Forest is very rugged terrain that's hard for security forces to navigate and offers a safe haven to Shabaab."

Thomas added that the lack of capacity is exacerbated by a lack of cooperation between local and national law enforcement agencies.

"You still have security forces that

are not integrated," he said. "You have tensions between the central government and regional administrations that prevent them from banding together to defeat al-Shabaab."

He said a January 5 attack against Camp Simba that left three Americans dead exemplifies the group's continued ability to identify and exploit weak spots.

"I think Shabaab was able to identify this as a vulnerable spot that didn't have adequate force protection from U.S. and Kenyan forces," he said. "And so only with maybe 15 or so attackers actually on the base, they were able to destroy approximately \$20 million in equipment, including spy aircraft

used to collect intelligence on al-Shabaab and to target mid-level and senior-level officials. So I think, from that perspective, al-Shabaab was able to achieve its objectives."

Future strategies, he added, should focus on securing the border and preventing the group from recruiting young Kenyans, particularly those of Somali origin.

"What needs to be identified are ways to actually stop al-Shabaab from crossing the border, recruiting inside Kenya. And that's something that Kenya hasn't been able to accomplish, even though it's been deployed in Somalia for the last nine years," Thomas said.

Renewable vs coal: Timeline of fatally rigged fight

By Kevin Bloom

It was the first and only climate conference ever to hang its hopes upon the African solution. At COP17 in Durban in December 2011, when negotiations between the world's largest carbon emitters inevitably stalled, delegates were encouraged to hold firm to the tradition of "indaba" – the descriptive noun, in the isiZulu language, that refers to an informal gathering where all can take part and anyone can talk, but where participants must come with a desire to listen.

Throughout the 12-day summit, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the oversight body for COP (Conference of the Parties), had displayed on its website a summary of the tradition's ethos: "In successful indabas, participants come with open minds, motivated by the spirit of the common good, listening to each other to find compromises that will benefit the community as a whole."

As a bridging technique, this was nothing short of inspired. In the first week of COP17, the South African hosts had held three indabas, all with the aim of cajoling powerhouses such as China, India, Brazil and the United States to agree to a set of voluntary emission reduction targets by 2020. At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, these same nations, aided and abetted by South Africa, had done away with the hard targets of the Kyoto Protocol – a decision that was now threatening to place the "common good" beyond reach.

"It is your choice what kind of history you want to make," said Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, COP president and South Africa's then-minister of international relations and co-operation, as negotiations stretched past the conference cut-off time into lam on Sunday.

By 3am on Sunday, the European Union was staring down China and India, with both sides intransigent on the language that would determine the legal form of the mooted treaty.

Nkoana-Mashabane, aware that the EU was about to stage a walkout, hustled China and India into a last-ditch indaba with Britain, France, Sweden, Poland, Brazil, Gambia and the United States. When the sun came up, after Brazil's chief negotiator had forced a compromise, COP17 was hailed a success.

Except that in hindsight it

wasn't, because almost none of the signatories to the COP17 agreement would meet their targets, affirming the culture of breach and deceit that would characterise every subsequent treaty from the all-important Paris Agreement to the non-starter efforts of Poland and Madrid. Although carbon emissions would rise through the decade, hitting an all-time high in 2019, a year when global heating would deliver a smorgasbord of never-before-seen climate horrors to every continent on Earth, the community of nations would remain true to the charade.

Relatively, then, Durban in 2011 was a more innocent time. Back at COP17, there were still delegates who believed. In the final week of the conference, when energy minister Dipuo Peters took the stage to announce the official launch of the South African Renewables Initiative (SARI), there were many in the audience whose applause was heartfelt.

"South Africa already benefits from international partnerships in the energy field," she said, "but this is different. SARI will not only contribute towards the growth and deployment of renewable energy, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced energy access, but, equally importantly, it will enable South Africa to boost the development of new green industries, and new green jobs in renewable energy and its value chain."

SARI, it turned out, had arisen from the energy crisis of 2008, when rolling blackouts had crippled the South African economy, forcing the mines to tap back on production just as palladium and platinum prices were hitting record highs. In government's first international release of the plan, unveiled at COP16 in Mexico in 2010, trade and industry minister Rob Davies had extolled the virtues of South Africa's wind and solar resources, declaring that they would "contribute to the country's energy security" and establish the basis "for a robust and growing economy".

The deep background to this statement was the fact that Eskom, South Africa's coal-based power utility, which for decades had been emitting greenhouse gases on par with the dirtiest utilities in Europe, had been unable to raise the finance for the build of new plants. In December 2007, when President Thabo Mbeki apologised for not heeding Eskom's call for capital expansion, it was



already too late. And so the Department of Trade and Industry, working with the Department of Energy, hatched a plan to "unlock green growth". The idea, as presented at COP16, was to design and implement a "viable financing mechanism" that blended domestic commitments with concessionary resources and risk guarantee instruments, which in turn would leverage "the far larger sums required from private finance at an affordable cost to South Africa".

One year later, it appeared that the plan was a go. Minister Peters announced at COP17 in Durban that a declaration of intent had been signed with the governments of the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany and Denmark, as well as with the European Investment Bank. The final version of the SARI document, published with the government's coat-of-arms, spoke of the creation of up to 40,000 new jobs, a 20% reduction in the greenhouse gas intensity of South African exports by 2025 and a \$35-billion investment in renewables capacity by 2030.

renewables sector in the country since 2008. In July of that year, he reminded us, the Cabinet had adopted a "peak, plateau and decline trajectory" – the so-called PPD – which declared that our emissions would grow for a while as new coal-fired plants came online, peak between 2020 and 2025, remain flat for a decade and "decline in absolute terms" from around 2030.

Judge Meyer was unequivocal about the genesis of the PPD trajectory and its place in South Africa's energy policy. As a passage that held the government accountable to its own words and deeds, paragraph 4 was a remarkable juristic intervention, a nod to the scientific consensus that would no doubt be cited by other South African judges as the ravages of climate collapse played out.

"Government's policy accepts that coal will remain the primary source of energy generation for the foreseeable future," he noted. "However, it also acknowledges that coal has significant detrimental impacts on the environment, resulting in measurable external costs, also known as 'negative externalities'... The most significant impact is the emission of greenhouse gases which make the earth's surface warmer and in turn contributes to climate change."

The Integrated Resource Plan of 2010, added the judge, because it had been informed by the PPD trajectory, included a cap on carbon emissions. As South Africa's original IRP, he stated, this document had laid the groundwork for the "first determinations" on renewable energy under the Energy Regulation Act of 2006. In August 2011, referring to section 34 of the Act, the energy minister had duly authorised the procurement of "3,725 megawatts of new renewable energy" by 2016. The following year, continued Meyer, the minister had ordered that a "further 3,200 megawatts" come online between 2017 and 2020.

In the event, although the fact was wide of Judge Meyer's mandate, the government would fall far short of these targets. By 2019, while Eskom had bought a total of 6,400 megawatts from the renewable IPPs, only 4,000 megawatts would actually be in use. The shortfall, as Daily Maverick's Stephen Grootes pointed out during December 2019's Stage 6 load shedding, was due to something called the "maximum export rule" – a government-sponsored contractual limit, worked into the purchase agreements, on the amount of renewable energy that could be transported to the grid.

But these limits, as much as they favoured the coal lobby over taxpayers, would not satisfy the truckers. Again, the CTF's core complaint to the court was that Eskom's agreements with the IPPs were illegal, chiefly because the regulator had not ratified the terms. In his judgment, Meyer stated that "all parties in the know" had testified that the truckers were misinformed.

"Despite CTF's protestation to the contrary," he concluded, "the evidence is simply overwhelming that the regulator issued to each successful IPP bidder an electricity generation licence after following a public participation process for each project, including public hearings, and [that] it issued a written decision."

Accordingly, Judge Meyer dismissed the application with costs.

It was at this point that things got properly bizarre. Incensed by their failure to get the entire South African renewables project erased from existence, the coal truckers divulged the extent of their desperation to City Press. The CTF's spokesperson, Tshepo Kgadima, a coal mining entrepreneur, insisted that there was still a "debate" about the link between carbon emissions and climate change. He called Meyer's ruling "a gross miscarriage of justice". He then explained why it was "impossible" that the renewables providers could service Eskom's needs.

"It is the laws of physics," said Kgadima, pronouncing on the unreliability of wind and solar. "They do not contribute a single megawatt to the grid."

Such views, while extreme, were hardly divorced from the publicity stunts that the fossil fuel lobby had been employing in countries like Australia and the United States. In recent years, as the effects of climate change had moved from the abstract into the all-too-real, both Prime Minister Scott Morrison and President Donald Trump had used lumps of coal as on-stage props, suggesting that there was

nothing to fear. Question was, how did this worldview play back into the imposition of SARI?

The first theory that Daily Maverick heard about SARI's demise came from a high-level consultant on the project, a source who was in the room when a presentation was made in 2011 to National Treasury and Pravin Gordhan, then serving his first term as finance minister. According to this source, Treasury was so fond of the idea that it decided to claim ownership for itself, after which the project was canned.

Although unverifiable, what the theory had going for it was the fact that in April 2010, days before the World Bank granted South Africa a \$3.75-billion loan to be used primarily for the completion of Medupi, Gordhan had published an op-ed in the Washington Post.

"A strong body of opinion holds that multilateral development banks should be discouraged from funding coal-burning power projects with carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change," Gordhan wrote. "We share this concern but, after careful consideration, have concluded that the course we have chosen is the only responsible way forward."

Gordhan, in other words, while not denying the impacts of climate change, had moved to correct the under-capitalisation mistake of Mbeki by doubling down on coal. The massive layouts that would be required for the completion of Medupi and Kusile, which at the time were being touted as "low emission" miracles, did not fit with a public sector renewables drive priced over the long-haul at \$35 billion. If the strategy was welcome news to the climate change deniers in the coal lobby, or so the theory went, that was just an unintended consequence.

The second theory about SARI's demise, not entirely unconnected, was floated by WWF's Salim Fakir, who had also been a key consultant on the initiative. According to this reading, SARI had been purposely downgraded into the abovementioned renewables IPP programme.

"The funny thing," Fakir told Daily Maverick, "was that after it disappeared into the ether, we began to realise that the IPP programme was copying some of our thinking. The different bid windows, the industrial components, etcetera."

Which may well have been true, except for the one aspect of the IPP project that couldn't have come from SARI's thinking – the ANC-backed contractual red tape.

Had SARI been implemented in 2011, with the seed capital that had been promised by the UK's Department for International Development, would South Africa be discussing the prospect of Stage 8 load shedding in 2020? In a best-case scenario, given the 19-gigawatts of renewable energy forecast by 2025, would SARI have saved us? The question is largely moot, because the coal lobby would have been hovering anyway.

In South Africa, as in other countries that are major exporters of coal, oil or natural gas – Australia, the US, Saudi Arabia, Russia – the bottom line is that fossil fuels are synonymous with "power". Behind every fossil fuel lies a critical mass of interests, a coalition that has ways and means of pushing its agenda through. As far as the global coal barons are concerned, the names are well known. Australia's Clive Palmer spent \$60-million on a 2019 election campaign that attacked Morrison's left-wing competition, effectively paving the way for controversial projects like the Adani mine. The US's Robert E Murray, who was chief executive of the largest coal mining company in the United States, donated \$300,000 to Trump's inauguration; ever since, the president has been doing his bidding.

Here we have Mike Teke, chief executive of Seriti Resources and former president of the South African Chamber of Mines. In November 2019, it was announced that Seriti had entered into a "binding agreement" to purchase a company called South Africa Energy Coal (SAEC) from the Australian conglomerate South32. Prior to the conclusion of the deal, local media houses were reporting that SAEC was providing 14% of Eskom's coal, with Seriti providing 20% – the acquisition, these reports stated, would see Seriti vying with Exxaro Resources for the role of number one supplier, which would require a trip to the Competition Commission. In this context, there was one important detail that almost every media house foregrounded: Teke had donated R600,000 to Ramaphosa's CRI7 election campaign. **DM**

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =040=

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

3 letter word: VAN, SUM, NUN, WAR, ICE, ION, HOT, NOD
4 letter word: OPEN, AGOA, BAIT, LEAD
5 letter word: ARENA, YACHT, LOOTS, WANLY
6 letter word: LAD MAG, OPTION, NATIVE, VICTOR WANTED
8 letter word: INUNDATE, LANGUAGE, SERVICES
9 letter word: AMUSEMENT
11 letter word: CLIMATOLOGY, CHALLENGING

WORD FIT CROSSWORD

Clues: Across
1 Inventing and innovation (8)
6 Large black bird (4)
7 Perceptive (5, 3)
10 Form I - IV in Tanzania (6)
11 Wise (4)
12 Film showing an event (7)
14 Make someone angry (5)
15 Salty water covers large part of surface
17 Musicians (4)
20 Happen (5)
21 Light things covers a bird's body (7)
23 Pleasant (4)
24 Body part for hearing (3)
25 Largest city in Saudi Arabia (6)

Down:
1 God (7)
2 Enclosing (6)
3 Terrorism and political crime (7)
4 Use vehicle (5)
5 Extremely and uncomfortably hot (10)
8 Meditations in Hindu religion (4)
9 Attractiveness (8)
13 Tolerate, bear (6)
16 Place (5)
17 spoil something by doing it badly (5)
18 Continuous unpleasant pain (4)
19 At or from a great distance (4)
22 Help or support (3)

Comments: 0789/437309

BUSINESS

Bank sponsors multilateral UK-Africa Investment Summit slated for London

Pakistan-Africa trade promotion conference nears

By Guardian Correspondent

A two-day Pakistan-Africa trade promotion conference organised by the Pakistani government is scheduled for Nairobi from January 30.

It is meant to bring together the two parties for what the organizers say will be "a meaningful exchange seeking to enhance Pakistan's trade, investment and economic cooperation" with Tanzania and other African countries.

The event is expected to draw more than 300 public and private sector delegates from Africa and Pakistan.

Delegates from Pakistan will be representing a wide range of industries, including textile and apparel; the production and processing of rice, sugar, wheat and other agro-foods; ICT, trav-

el and insurance services; pharmaceuticals; engineering and electronics; surgical goods; cement; sports goods; the auto industry; and cosmetics.

The Pakistani diplomatic mission in Tanzania has said it would like to see Tanzania represented at the conference by "a sizeable delegation from the relevant sub-sectors".

In 2013 the then President of Pakistan (not of Sri Lanka, as earlier suggested) visited Tanzania and held talks in Dar es Salaam with former President Jakaya Kikwete, followed by the signing of three bilateral agreements relating to visa exemptions for state and diplomatic officials, intelligence sharing, and cultural and defence cooperation.

By Guardian Reporter

STANDARD Bank, Africa's largest banking group by assets, is partnering with the UK government to sponsor the inaugural UK-Africa Investment Summit, held in London on 20 January.

The Summit will create new lasting partnerships between UK and African businesses, governments and institutions to deliver more investment, jobs and growth. These partnerships will benefit people and businesses across Africa and the UK.

Hosted by the Prime Minister, the Summit will bring together UK and African businesses, African leaders and delegations, international institutions and young entrepreneurs.

The summit will cover topics including: trade and investment, infrastructure development, sustainable finance, the role of the City of London in attracting



Official logo for Standard bank. File photo.

African businesses to raise capital, clean energy, women's economic empowerment and creating jobs for young people across the continent.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Sola David-Borha, Chief Executive Africa Regions, Standard Bank, said: "We are proud to be a sponsor of this prestigious and important summit.

Africa is home to many fast-growing economies and businesses, and it is very positive to see the recognition of the huge potential for UK companies and investors. Furthermore, improving

socio-economic ties between the UK and Africa can only be mutually beneficial. There are an increasing number of African businesses and governments looking to the UK, and the City of London in particular, to access capital, as well as investment and commercial expertise across different sectors.

"British investors and businesses are increasingly recognising Africa's potential and the role they can play in boosting the continent's long-term growth particularly through investments that have positive social, economic and

environmental impacts.

This well-timed summit will help to build significant and long-lasting commercial ties between the UK and Africa."

Sola David-Borha will participate in a panel event on Sustainable Finance and will be meeting British and African leaders across business, politics and other institutions.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma visited Africa ahead of the Summit.

Ahead of his visit Sharma said: "Africa has eight of the 15 fastest growing economies in the world but currently receives less than 4% of foreign

direct investment. There are fantastic opportunities for UK businesses to work alongside, invest in and partner with African nations.

"At the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London on January 20, we will bring together UK and African businesses, African leaders, international institutions and young entrepreneurs to drive the investment Africa needs to flourish. I look forward to seeing many of you there."

Standard Bank Group is the largest African bank by assets with a unique footprint across 20 African countries. Headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, we are listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with share code SBK, and the Namibian Stock Exchange, share code SNB.

Standard Bank has a 156-year history in South Africa and started building a franchise outside southern Africa in the early 1990s.

AfDB allocates €1.2 million to boost mining revenue in Africa

TUNIS

THE African Development Bank has allocated a €1.2 million grant to provide training to help resource-rich countries improve their mining revenues.

The Bank's Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Complex approved the first of its kind grant from the Transitional Support Facility for the project on Financial Modelling for the Extractive Sector (FIMES) in December.

The project will be implemented in Africa's transitional countries from 2020 to 2022.

The FIMES project will train policymakers responsible for the extractive sector to realise greater returns from natural resource investments in their countries.

The Bank's African Natural Resources Centre (ANRC) will implement the

pilot project in the eight beneficiary countries, namely Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Mali, Madagascar, South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

"Africa's transitional countries need to build state capacity to mobilise revenues from natural resource investments, to address reconstruction, infrastructure and socio-economic priorities.

"The FIMES project will equip transitional countries with the right skills and knowledge to enhance domestic resource mobilisation for accelerated growth and sustainable development," says Vanessa Ushie, Manager of the Policy Analysis Division in the African Natural Resources Centre.

"Given the strategic importance of natural resource revenues for building peace, stability, and resilience in transitional settings, the project is timely for the Bank and the beneficiary coun-

tries," she added.

African Development Bank research shows that many African governments do not extensively use financial models to inform investment decisions, or monitor revenue flows from extractive industry concessions, leading to significant revenue losses for the state.

The FIMES project has been informed by the Bank's Strategy for addressing fragility and building resilience, its Governance Strategic Framework and Action Plan, and Human Development Strategy. More broadly, the FIMES initiative will support the implementation of African countries' natural resource development plans.

It will further contribute to the achievement of the Bank's High 5s, AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by boosting domestic resource mobilisation from Africa's natural resource sector.



Headquarters of the African Development Bank in Tunis. File photo.

Deputy minister irked by arrests of licensed miners



A group of small-scale miners work at a mining site at Mirerani in Arusha Region. File photo.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Minerals deputy minister Stanislaus Nyongo, has warned some members of security organs to who arrest licenced miners who abide by laws, rules and regulations.

He made the statement in Arusha yesterday at the opening of the meeting between Tanzanian ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki and the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke along with the mining stakeholders focused on negotiating business opportunities in the mining sector.

"There is tendency of arresting and harassing the miners who are legally allowed to carry out mining activities; these officials are harassing innocent traders. I want them to know that we opened regional mining markets so that our traders can enjoy their business," said Nyongo.

In addition, Nyongo, has asked police who will arrest miners in their homes, to ensure they use mineral officers to find out if the minerals are legal because the law allows traders to stay with minerals as long as they comply with the law.

He said in order to eliminate the confusion; the ministry is planning to educate mining stakeholders including defense and security agencies on mining laws, including those that allow miners to hold minerals before selling them to

mining markets.

In addition, Nyongo urged Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke and Tanzanian ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki to continue to encourage investors to invest in the country especially on mineral exports less than two grams that are allowed to go abroad without value added.

"If you have technology to add value to the minerals we invite you to invest so that we cannot export them without adding value," said Nyongo.

At the same time he ensured investors in the mining sector invest in a sound investment environment as well as ensuring that he manages to eliminate the various concerns.

Earlier, Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo said the contribution of the mining sector to GDP is still low so there is a need to continue to publicize the mines and participate in various international shows.

He said the government has decided to use its ambassadors to promote local minerals, including rare Tanzanite minerals.

In addition, at some point Gambo, has assured Chinese investors who have invested in Arusha region, a favorable investment environment as well as promising that he will manage to eliminate the various frustrations and challenges facing the investors.

He said that Tanzania is rich in minerals but its contribution to GDP is 5.07 per cent different from the tourism industry's revenue of 17 per cent and 25 per cent in foreign exchange reserves.

"This contribution is not enough so we have decided to use this conference to increase opportunities in mining and further boost the industry's output," said Gambo.

Speaking about the government revenue collection Gambo said it came from the Namanga mining market which collected 1.7 billion/- and the Arusha market that collected 34.46 billion/- during June 2019 and December 2019.

Tanzania's ambassador to China, Mbelwa Kairuki has called on the country's mining traders to seek visas in advance to engage the Chinese mining market expected to be held in November this year.

"China is a major buyer of gold as last year bought 1506 tons of gold this is no small amount and even other minerals are very expensive so we are working to increase market share in China," said Kairuki.

On the other hand, the Chairman of the Mining Commission Professor Idris Kikula has asked residing mineral officers from all regions of the country to sit with the security agencies to educate each other on mining laws so that they have a better way of handling mining issues.

Asian shares firm as China data show signs pressure on the economy easing

SHANGHAI

Asian shares rose on yesterday after data in China showed pressure on the world's second biggest economy may be starting to diminish.

The news along with easing trade tensions with the United States underpinned riskier assets, even as some markets took a breather in late afternoon trade.

European bourses were expected to extend the global rally after Wall Street posted more records. In early European trades, pan-region Euro Stoxx 50 futures were up 0.4 per cent. German DAX futures gained 0.54 per cent and FTSE futures added 0.28 per cent.

China's economy grew 6.0 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019 from a year earlier, and 2019 growth of 6.1 per cent was the slowest in 29 years, held back by anemic domestic demand and the damaging trade war with the United States.

The data largely reinforced recent signs of an improvement in Chinese business confidence as trade tensions eased, with Beijing and Washington sealing an initial deal on Wednesday to defuse their damaging tariff war.

Beijing is widely expected to introduce more stimulus measures in 2020 amid sluggish investment and de-

mand.

"This is all good news and positive for the China story. All the data coming out, from industrial production, fixed asset to retail sales, they are all showing signs of bottoming out as the trade cycle bottoms out," said Daniel Gerard, senior multi-asset strategist at State Street Global Markets in Hong Kong.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was up 0.18 per cent in afternoon trade, trimming earlier gains of as much as 0.4 per cent.

China's blue-chip CSI300 index ended 0.14 per cent higher, down from an earlier rise of as much as 0.67 per cent. The index has rallied more than 8.5 per cent since the beginning of December, fueled by hopes for improved trade relations with the United States.

Australian shares added 0.32 per cent to a fifth consecutive record high close, and Seoul's KOSPI rose 0.11 per cent. Japan's Nikkei finished up 0.45 per cent after reaching 15-month highs earlier in the session. MSCI's global share index touched record highs and was last up 0.05 per cent.

Analysts say global equities may find it difficult to maintain momentum from their recent rally as optimism over the U.S.-China trade truce gives way to un-



Passersby are reflected on a screen displaying graphs of market indices outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan. File photo.

certainty over the next steps in trade talks.

While a Phase 1 deal signed by China and the United States on Wednesday is seen as defusing the 18-month row that has hit global growth, experts say it is unlikely to provide much balm for broader frictions between the two countries. Most of the tariffs imposed during the dispute remain in place and a number of thorny issues that sparked the conflict are still unresolved.

"The challenge from here is how long we can maintain these improvements," said

Steven Daghlian, market analyst at CommSec in Sydney.

"Speaking of the Aussie market specifically, a 6 per cent gain in two weeks is obviously a massive challenge to replicate in the tail end of the month. You don't really see 10, 11, 12 per cent improvements over the course of a month without any gigantic positive catalysts."

In the United States on Thursday, a combination of upbeat earnings from Morgan Stanley, rising U.S. retail sales, a strong labor market and robust manufacturing data helped to lift Wall Street to record highs.

The Phase 1 deal and the U.S. Senate's approval of a revamp to the 26-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement also boosted investor spirits.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.92 per cent to 29,297.64, the S&P 500 gained 0.84 per cent to 3,316.81 and the Nasdaq Composite added 1.06 per cent to 9,357.13.

The U.S. data supported the dollar, which held steady yesterday. The greenback hit eight-month highs against the yen before trimming its advance to rise 0.09 per cent to 110.24. The euro was up

0.04 per cent to buy \$1.1140.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major rivals, was lower at 97.292.

The rally in equities was mirrored in U.S. benchmark 10-year Treasury notes, which saw yields rise to 1.8285 per cent from their close on Thursday at 1.809 per cent. Yields rise as prices fall.

Commodity markets were quiet, with Brent crude futures falling 4 cents to \$64.58 per barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell 6 cents to \$58.46 per barrel.

Temasek, Trustbridge target majority stake in WeWork China at \$1 billion valuation

BEIJING

Temasek Holdings and Trustbridge Partners have held talks with WeWork China over increasing their stake in the China branch of the troubled co-working startup to take majority ownership, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The plan values WeWork China at around \$1 billion, two of the people said.

The proposal was submitted to WeWork's major stakeholder, Japanese technology conglomerate SoftBank Group Corp, at the end of last year, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified as the discussions are private.

Singapore state investor Temasek and Shanghai-based private equity firm Trustbridge want to buy more shares to give them a combined majority stake in WeWork China, according to the people.

WeWork currently owns 59% of WeWork China, with the remainder held by other investors including SoftBank, Hony Capital and Trustbridge, according to the group's prospectus for its initial public offering.

The Chinese unit had raised \$500 million in July 2018 from investors including Temasek, Trustbridge, SoftBank and Chinese fund Hony Capital in a deal valuing the firm at about \$5 billion. That was the second round, with the firm having previously raised \$500 million in 2017.

A new deal giving Temasek and Trustbridge a majority stake would likely mean that WeWork China would go through a down round - a fall in valuation following a new investment if the proposal got passed but could significantly ease the financial burden on WeWork and SoftBank.

They added that the discussions were at an early stage and a deal was not certain.

SoftBank, Temasek and WeWork declined to comment. Trustbridge did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The larger WeWork group is undergoing a broad restructuring after it was thrown a \$9.5 billion lifeline by SoftBank following a failed public offering and the ouster of founder Adam Neumann.

However, SoftBank's plan to secure \$3 billion from Japan's three biggest banks have stalled, likely complicating its rescue package for WeWork, Reuters has reported.

WeWork China has set out ambitious revenue goals for 2020, Reuters reported last month, even though it faces staff cutbacks and weak occupancy numbers at its properties across China.

In 2018, WeWork China generated \$99.5 million in revenue, according to WeWork's IPO prospectus.

WeWork's woes have had a ripple effect across the sector, impacting the likes of UCommune, WeWork China's rival, which is trying to launch an initial public offering.

Citigroup Inc and Credit Suisse Group AG walked away from underwriting UCommune's IPO because they decided they could not deliver the offering at a previously discussed valuation.

UCommune has now tapped little-known U.S. investment bank Benchmark Company LLC to launch its listing, Reuters reported earlier this month.



People are seen outside the building of WeWork's co-working space during the National Day Golden Week holiday, in central Beijing, China. File photo.

Senate passes North America trade deal, Canada still to approve

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate on Thursday approved a revamp of the 26-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement that includes tougher rules on labor and automotive content but leaves \$1.2 trillion in annual U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade flows largely unchanged.

The legislation to implement the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement passed on an 89-10 bipartisan vote, sending the measure to President Donald Trump for him to sign into law.

The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation on Dec. 19 after hammering out changes to ensure better enforcement of labor rights and tighter environmental rules during months of often contentious negotiations with the Trump administration.

The Senate vote came a day after Trump signed a long-awaited Phase 1 trade deal with China, and shortly before the Senate formally began the impeachment trial of Trump on charges that he abused his power.

The U.S. S&P 500 stock index hit the 3,300 mark on Thursday for the first time, buoyed by the two trade deals, solid retail sales and



Employees work at Ark de Mexico, an assembly factory that makes wire harnesses and electric components for the automobile industry, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. File photo.

upbeat Morgan Stanley earnings.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Trump's efforts to rebalance U.S. ties with its major trading partners were bearing fruit, and boosting U.S. economic growth.

"This historic agreement

not only modernizes and rebalances our trade relationship with Canada and Mexico, but it promotes economic growth, creates jobs, and provides crucial certainty for farmers, workers and manufacturers," he said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Mnuchin

told Fox News that interim trade deal with China and passage of USMCA would boost growth of the U.S. gross domestic product by 50 to 75 basis points.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Thursday called the deal's approval good news for the

Mexican economy, and predicted it would jump start new investments.

Canada still needs to approve the deal before it can take effect and replace NAFTA. It was signed by the leaders of the United States, Mexico and Canada in September 2018.

Trump made renegotiating NAFTA a centerpiece of his 2016 election campaign, calling it "the worst trade deal ever made" and blaming it for the loss of thousands of American factory jobs to low-wage Mexico.

He had threatened to cancel NAFTA outright unless Congress acted to approve the replacement deal, sparking uncertainty among business owners and putting a damper on new investment.

The AFL-CIO union federation, which represents some 12.5 million workers across the United States, estimates that some 851,700 U.S. jobs were lost to Mexico because of NAFTA.

The U.S. goods trade deficit with Mexico was \$80.7 billion in 2018, compared with a \$1.7 billion surplus in 1993, thanks in part to U.S. companies moving manufacturing south of the border.

But NAFTA also quadrupled trade among the United States, Canada and Mexico, sending it to \$1.2 trillion a year by 2017, and knitting together supply chains across the continent.

Industry groups hailed the trade agreement and said it would provide sorely needed certainty to revive investment flows.

Fiat Chrysler and Foxconn plan Chinese electric vehicle joint venture

MILAN

ITALIAN-American automaker Fiat Chrysler and the parent of iPhone assembler Foxconn plan to set up a joint venture to build electric cars and develop internet-connected vehicles, the two groups said.

Fiat Chrysler (FCA)

confirmed on Friday it was in talks with Hon Hai on the potential creation of a 50-50 joint venture to develop and manufacture new generation battery electric vehicles in China and engage in the IoT, or 'Internet of Vehicles', business.

The Italian-American car maker is looking to make

up ground in the battery-powered vehicle space and is set to launch its first full-electric model - the 500 small car this year.

FCA's statement came after Taiwan's Hon Hai the parent of Foxconn the Chinese assembler of Apple iPhones - announced the potential joint venture in a

separate statement.

Hon Hai said it would hold its 50 per cent share both directly and indirectly and its direct shareholding would not exceed 40 per cent.

FCA last month reached a binding agreement for a \$50 billion tie-up with France's PSA that will create the

world's No. 4 carmaker.

FCA said that the proposed cooperation was initially focused on the Chinese market.

It "would enable the parties to bring together the capabilities of two established global leaders across the spectrum of automobile

design, engineering and manufacturing and mobile software technology to focus on the growing battery electric vehicle market," it said.

FCA said it was in the process of signing a preliminary agreement with Hon Hai, aiming to reach final binding agreements in

the next few months.

However, it added there was no assurance that final binding agreements would be reached or would be completed in that timeframe.

Foxconn has been investing heavily in a variety of future transport ventures for several years, including

Didi Chuxing, the Chinese ride services giant, and Chinese electric vehicle start-ups Byton and Xpeng.

Foxconn also has invested in Chinese battery giant CATL and a variety of other mostly Chinese transportation tech start-ups.



In this Wednesday, April 4, 2018 file photo, Prince Charles declares the games open during the opening ceremony for the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast. (AP Photo)

Royal rift: UK monarchy will look smaller when dust settles

LONDON

PRINCE Charles, the future king, has long been seen as a potential modernizer who wants a more modest monarchy in line with other European royal households – and the streamlining process has already begun with the astounding developments of recent months.

But the changes have come at a terrible cost for Charles, who has seen his brother Prince Andrew disgraced and his once close sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, become estranged.

The trials and tribulations of Andrew and Harry – one tainted for a close friendship with a convicted sex offender, the other unwilling to continue his high-profile role – will take both out of their royal duties, leaving a smaller, more modest royal apparatus.

“Charles has been saying for years and years, ‘Let’s make it smaller,’” said Majesty magazine editor-in-chief Ingrid Seward. “He feels quite strongly that with such a big House of Windsor, there are too many opportunities for things to go wrong. And it’s too expensive. And they need too many houses, too much public expenditure.”

She does not expect Charles to take any joy in recent events, though, particularly because of the breakdown between William and Harry.

“He’s very saddened, as any parent would be if their children have fallen out. But I think he probably feels that in the fullness of time, hopefully, it will get back on track,” she said.

The royal focus going forward was neatly summed up by a rare formal portrait released two weeks ago by Buckingham Palace to mark the dawn of a new decade: Queen Elizabeth II with her three direct heirs: Charles, 71, William, 37, and 6-year-old Prince George.

It is a serene image of a 93-year-old monarch surrounded by the three people expected to follow her to the throne, and it masks the behind-the-scenes turmoil and disappointments surrounding Andrew and Harry.

Andrew’s fall is a full-blown scandal. His conduct has raised ethical issues in the past, but he had managed to retain his royal role until he completely miscalculated the impact of using an extended TV interview in November to defend his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a wealthy financier.

The queen’s second son seemed to have a moral blind spot, defending his relationship with Epstein – who died in a New York prison in August in what was ruled a suicide – as honorable. He did not express a word of sympathy for the girls and young women victimized by Epstein.

Andrew still faces possible questioning from law enforcement in the U.S. and Britain over allegations that he had sex with a teen trafficked by Epstein, which Andrew denies, as well as questioning from lawyers representing women who have filed civil suits against Epstein’s estate.

When the tempest of bad publicity became unbearable, Andrew announced a decision to step down from royal duties. There was no public comment from the queen or from Charles, who was said by the British press to have advised the queen that Andrew could not continue.

There is no scandal surrounding Harry, but it seems painful for all concerned. Even the

stoic queen, who seems to refer to private matters roughly once per decade, has spoken of her disappointment.

With his charming smile and ginger hair, Harry has long been one of the most popular royals, and with his brother, William, was seen as a key part of making the creaky monarchy vital to younger Britons. Much of the world watched enthralled in 2018 when he married Meghan Markle, a successful American actress, at a storybook event at Windsor Castle.

The fairy tale has since fractured. Harry and Meghan, feeling trapped by their duties and warring with the British press, have announced plans to drastically reduce their royal roles and spend much of the year in Canada. In a major breach of family etiquette, they announced their plans without prior approval from his grandmother, the queen, earning a rare display of royal pique from Elizabeth.

Harry seems torn between the wishes of his wife, Meghan, and his fealty to queen and country.

The queen, whose 98-year-old husband, Prince Philip, is ailing, has slowly cut back on her official duties in recent years and passed more to Charles, who often represents her at overseas events. But Elizabeth took center stage earlier this week when she summoned Charles, William and Harry to a crisis meeting at her rural retreat to deal with issues raised by Harry’s plan to break away.

Harry’s plan puts Charles in a ticklish spot faced by many parents, albeit on a much smaller financial scale. He is in the position to decide whether Harry and Meghan continue to receive money from the Duchy of Cornwall estate, with annual revenue of more than 20 million pounds (\$26 million), once they have for the most part abandoned their royal roles.

Collateral damage has included the previously close bond between Harry and William, who hold a special place in many Britons’ hearts as the offspring of the late Princess Diana. Many remember them walking silently in her funeral cortege in 1997. William has not commented publicly on the breach, but Harry has said they are now on “different paths.”

Removing Andrew and Harry from the equation will leave the monarchy with a smaller footprint: fewer senior royals gathered on the Buckingham Palace balcony to wave to the throngs at national events, fewer to open hospitals and help raise money for charities, and fewer using public funds to pay for official travel and events. There will also be fewer royal households with competing interests.

Until these recent seismic events, the royal entourage has grown along with Elizabeth’s family. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history, with four children who have started families of their own. There are grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well. Some have scorned royal titles, but others have not, leading to a proliferation of princes and princesses.

Royal historian and author Hugo Vickers cautions that Charles may be misguided in his plans to shrink the monarchy because the extended family actually provides substantial help.

“I think it’s most unwise because other members of the royal family help with a lot of things the monarch cannot do,” he said. “He’ll soon find he needs to be helped.”



Ferdinand Masawa (in black tracksuit), an assistant to Rural Musoma Constituency’s Member of Parliament, Sospeter Muhongo, hands over jerseys to Musoma’s Wasaga FC official, Zebedayo Marobhe, in Mara recently. The outfit, based at Kasoma Village in Nyamrandiria Ward, was presented with jerseys and football boots from the MP, who is the side’s sponsor, to help the team successfully compete in Regional Third Division League, which kicked off recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Nuggets send Warriors to 10th straight loss, 134-131 in OT

SAN FRANCISCO

PLAYING the second half of a back-to-back and without three injured starters, the Denver Nuggets needed a boost from their bench and pair of late free throws from Malik Beasley to extend Golden State’s longest losing streak in nearly 18 years.

Beasley made two free throws with 8.9 seconds left in overtime, and the short-handed Nuggets handed the Warriors their 10th consecutive loss with a 134-131 victory Thursday night.

Beasley scored 27 points with five 3-pointers, one night after he played only seven minutes in the Nuggets’ win over Charlotte on Wednesday.

“I know it hasn’t been easy for that kid, but he never pouts, never quits,” Denver coach Mike Malone said. “Even on games that he doesn’t play, he’s upstairs working his butt off. Hard work pays off and he deserves it.”

Will Barton had a season-high 31 points in Denver’s fifth win in six games. Nikola Jokic added 23 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists.

The Nuggets played without injured starters Paul Millsap, Gary Harris and Jamal Murray but got 63 points off the bench. Beasley led the way, while Michael Porter Jr. had 18 points and Mason Plumlee added 15 points and 15 rebounds.

“Guys look forward to an opportunity like this,” Plumlee said. “You’ve got guys out and people need to step up and make shots, make plays. Guys did that. This says that we’re deep.”

Denver trailed by 19 in the first half, but went on a late run to force overtime. The Nuggets then scored eight straight in the extra period, but couldn’t shake Golden State until Beasley’s two free throws.

The Warriors’ Damian Lee missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.



Denver Nuggets’ Michael Porter Jr., right, drives the ball against Golden State Warriors’ Eric Paschall (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, in San Francisco. (AP Photo)

Alec Burks scored 25 for Golden State, and D’Angelo Russell had 21 points and six assists. It’s the longest slide for the Warriors since they also dropped 10 in a row March 9-24, 2002.

“We came back, just couldn’t quite get over the hump,” Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. “Denver is a hell of a team and they deserve a lot of credit.”

Denver closed the fourth quarter on an 11-5 run. Jokic’s short hook tied the game at 113 after Eric Paschall’s 3-pointer had given the Warriors a two-point lead. Burks missed a 3-pointer at the end of regulation.

Denver lost its poise earlier in the game.

An angry Jokic was whistled for a technical foul in the second quarter and had to be ushered away from officials by Malone. Moments later after Jokic scored on a tip-in, Barton was hit with a technical.

“Every time we thought we stole the game, we gave it back,

then we stole it again,” Malone said. “That’s a fun game to watch.”

Golden State star Klay Thompson was on the court in uniform taking shots before the game, a significant and symbolic moment in his recovery from ACL surgery. Thompson has not played this season. The Warriors plan to re-evaluate his situation during the All-Star break.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, adept at operating at whatever gear his team needs, Kawhi Leonard has been in selfish mode of late, and the Los Angeles Clippers are better for it.

Leonard scored 32 points, Montrezl Harrell had 21 and the Clippers beat the Orlando Magic 122-95 on Thursday night.

Leonard also had five rebounds and five assists in his fourth consecutive game with at least 30 points. He was 12 for 20 from the field.

Leonard’s adaptive nature is why the Clippers were willing

to throw more than \$100 million his way for the next three seasons. Finding a player that has the ability to be the best in the league at whatever mode he chooses does not come cheap.

“It’s not hard for him; it would be hard for me and most other players,” Clippers head coach Doc Rivers said. “For him, he’s so under control that nothing’s going to speed him up. He can go fast when he wants to. We have figured out how to take advantage of that better and it’s been great for us.”

Leonard’s four consecutive offensive-minded games have coincided with Paul George’s absence because of a strained left hamstring. The Clippers not only improved to 11-1 when Leonard scores 30 or more points, he is the first Clippers player with four consecutive games of at least 30 since Elton Brand in 2006.

AP

Djokovic the man to beat, again, at Melbourne Park

MELBOURNE

GARY Lineker’s celebrated quote that soccer is a simple game that “the Germans always win” might well be adapted to tennis and the inescapable dominance of Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open.

For a tournament that has been thrown into some doubt by bushfire smoke in the leadup, a record-extending eighth Grand Slam title for the defending champion Serbian would hardly be a breath of fresh air for many fans at Melbourne Park.

Some might prefer the romance of a Roger Federer triumph in the twilight of his career or for one of the younger generation finally to break

through and end the stranglehold of the ‘Big Three’, who have divided the last 12 Grand Slam titles between them.

Djokovic is unlikely to care a jot for those sentiments, and if the bookmakers are to be believed, is set to crush them ruthlessly.

The 32-year-old may never feel the affections of the crowd savoured by Federer and Spaniard Rafa Nadal but his record of 16 Grand Slam titles is proof that tennis is no popularity contest.

That was never more clear than in last year’s final when he routed Nadal 6-3 6-2 6-3 with a devastating display that left the Mallorcan and the Rod Laver Arena terraces stunned.

REUTERS



Shabani Hussein Hegga, winner of SportPesa Jackpot bonus, holds dummy cheque of 10,485,907/- after he placed right on 12 out of 13 games. The SportPesa Jackpot cash prize has reached 402,802,907 /-. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

AP

SPORT

Why RB Leipzig is the most hated team in the Bundesliga – 2

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Children with intellectual disabilities, who are studying at Sibusiso Center in Arusha, pictured after they had taken art in a competition recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIBUSISO CENTER

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:30

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 nNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 M.JADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

5Sports

The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga eye Azam FC scalp in VPL

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga SC) have said they are optimistic of collecting maximum points when they face Azam FC in the Vodacom Premier League game slated for today at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga on Wednesday lost 3-0 to Kagera Sugar in the league's clash which took place at Uhuru Stadium in the city.

The domestic football big guns' information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said the team is ready for today's game and they are looking forward to nothing of three points.

He noted the Jangwani Street based side cannot afford to lose two games in a row.

Bumbuli pointed out he believes Yanga have the right mentality to overcome Azam FC in today's crunch match.

He said all players are in good shape and ready for the encounter, apart from forward Tariq Seif, who is not ready for the game.

"We are looking forward to the

game against Azam FC, we cannot lose two games in a row," Bumbuli disclosed.

"Even our coach Luc Eymael, knows the importance of winning tomorrow (today's) game, as a professional coach he cannot let his side register two defeats in a row as that will dent his Curriculum Vitae."

"Knowing the importance of winning this game, our coach asked to train the players from this morning (yesterday) concerning the players all are in good shape apart from Tariq Seif who has not trained with his teammates for many days."

The information officer refused to say much on whether coach Eymael will entrust the same players, who played against Kagera Sugar.

Bumbuli disclosed the coach is a person who decides players who will feature in a particular game.

As usual Patrick Sibomana and Ditrani Nchimbi will be entrusted with the responsibility of scoring goals for Yanga.

Haruna Niyonzima, Mapinduzi Balam and Feisal Salum are expected to feature at the team's midfield, supplying fascinating passes to the strik-

ing force.

At Yanga's backline, Kelvin Yondani, Lamine Moro, Paul Godfrey and Adeyem Saleh have the potential to thwart Azam FC's attacking verve.

The defenders will as well be tasked with providing the much-needed shield to in-form goalkeeper Farouk Shikhalo.

On the other hand, Azam FC, who are coming from 2-0 win over Lipuli FC, said they are looking forward to the match against Yanga.

Idd Cheche, Azam FC's assistant coach, said they have special plan for Yanga.

"Yanga lost last weekend's game, but that does not make them a weak side, we respect them and we will go into the match to win as the aim is to collect maximum points," he said.

Azam FC on many games depend on in-form players Obrey Chirwa, Idd Chilunda and Joseph Mahundi.

The mentioned players have always been combining well to destroy opponents in domestic football.

Statistics show that in recent past, Yanga have had an upper hand against Azam FC in all competitions.



Azam FC midfielder, Joseph Mahundi (R), dribbles past Yanga's Thaban Kamuoko in a recent Mainland Premier League clash, which was held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Late partnership steers England to 224-4

PORT ELIZABETH

BEN Stokes survived several scares but featured in a 76-run late afternoon partnership with Ollie Pope as England reached 224 for four wickets at close on the opening day of the third test against South Africa on Thursday.

England's talisman, named International Cricket Council Cricketer of the Year on the eve of the test, will resume on 38 runs at St George's Park on Friday along with the 22-year-old Pope, unbeaten on 39.

Their partnership unshackled England and handed them a good platform to potentially go on and make a significant first-innings total.

South Africa laboured on a lifeless pitch which offered little for their seamers but did allow Keshav Maharaj to probe continuously with his spin. He bowled 30 successive overs, across three sessions, to finish with figures of 1-55.

England's plan for the openers to occupy the crease, tiring out the bowlers and softening the ball, was diligently on course as they reached 61-0 at lunch.

But 15 minutes into the afternoon session, Dom Sibley (36) was the first wicket to fall as Kagiso Rabada had him caught at backward square leg.

Zak Crawley went next just six runs short of a maiden test half victory in similar fashion, to a sharp diving catch by Rassie van der Dussen off Anrich Nortje's bowling, as the runs began to dry up and the pressure mounted.

The score progressed slowly to 117-2 at tea after which Joe Denly, who made 25 off 100 balls, was dismissed leg before wicket to Maharaj following a review, which showed the ball clipped his pad before hitting his bat as he played back to the spinner.

Captain Joe Root, who won the toss at the start of the day and elected to bat, was then castled by a delivery from Rabada that stayed low and hit the top of his off stump. He was out for 27, given a screaming send off by the feisty Rabada, whose 17 overs on Thursday delivered figures of 2-48.

Stokes lived a charmed existence in the early part of his innings with South Africa twice unsuccessful with reviews off Maharaj's bowling.

There was also a difficult potential catch missed by Pieter Malan at silly mid-off and a better chance to Faf du Plessis at slip off debutant Dane Paterson, that fell agonizingly short.

But Stokes rode his luck to leave England in a strong position and better satisfied than their hosts after the first day.

"It was very attritional cricket but, in the end, a good day that puts us in a good position," Crawley said. The four-match series is level at 1-1.

REUTERS

Arusha center set to promote sports among children with intellectual disabilities

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ARUSHA-based Sibusiso Centre has said it is committed to offering sporting activities to children with intellectual disabilities for them to realize their potential.

The center's sports teacher, Therry Mushi, said Sibusiso is an aid center for physically and mentally handicapped children whereby sports is one of the core subjects which they offer.

He said the center has four sports teachers, a sports field, a playground and the Sibusiso-walk.

Mushi said currently they have nine players who are training in volleyball and 15 children, who are learning football.

The center, according to him, as well has many more others that are trained in music and drawing.

He said two children, Elizabeth Kisaka and Neverson Minja, from his center will represent Tanzania at the coming first Pan African Games, which will take place in Cairo, Egypt from January 23-31.

"We value sports as one of the activities which can rehabilitate children with special needs," Mushi noted.

"The work of the Sibusiso Centre is concentrated on children from birth to 18 years who are mentally disabled. A number of these children are also physically disabled, admission to the center is for a maximum six-month period."

"Last year our three players Elizabeth Kisaka, Nervason Minja and Simon Oloije, competed at various events in China and Abu Dhabi where they won medals," he said.

The teacher said Sibusiso Center admits children for six months only, but those who show potential and interest in sports are given more time.

"During their stay in the center not only the children but also the parents are the focus of our work," he disclosed.

"To meet this aim, the Sibusiso Centre program consists of, gaining an insight of the possibilities and limitations of the children through observation," he disclosed.

"Stimulating their development by teaching the children skills such as getting dressed, doing simple household chores like cooking and laundry or making the bed is also in the program."

"Those children are also taught skills such as sewing, gardening and carpentry. In addition, the children are offered activities such as music, dance drawing, and games and sports during which we concentrate on developing their social skills and each child is accompanied by a parent during their stay."

"Our aim is to show the parents what limitations and opportunities for development the child has, and also support the parents in raising their children and improve their skills by giving pedagogical advice for the home situation," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

