



LAND



**MPS RAISE CONCERNS OVER RISE IN DISPUTES** PAGE 3

INFRASTRUCTURE



**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR ALL FERRIES** PAGE 4

ELECTION



**MAGUFULI CONGRATULATES INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER** PAGE 5

HEALTH



**LAUNCH OF NATIONAL CHILD AGENDA** PAGE 7



## Ebola deaths feared as UN cautions on its spread

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

AUTHORITIES in Uganda were yesterday testing blood samples from two people who died in the west of the country of suspected Ebola as the United Nations warned of the risk of spread.

Uganda has been on high alert due to the outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), just across the border from Kagadi where the victims died.

On Thursday the United Nations warned that the risk of Ebola spreading from the DRC to neighbouring countries was very high.



**Amidst a surge in new cases, the epidemic has claimed more than 1,200 lives and threatens to spread to other provinces in the east, as well as neighbouring countries. A third of those infected have been children, a higher proportion than during previous outbreaks,**

"Amidst a surge in new cases, the epidemic has claimed more than 1,200 lives and threatens to spread to other provinces in the east, as well as neighbouring countries. A third of those infected have been children, a higher proportion than during previous outbreaks," the UN noted.

UN figures show that up to the middle of this month the number of cases stood at 1,847 (1,759 confirmed and 88 probable). In total, there have been 1,223 deaths (1,135 confirmed and 88 probable) and 487 people have survived the deadly virus.

"The Ebola response is working in an operating environment of unprecedented complexity for a public

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Registrar: Axe beckons for rogue contractors



President John Magufuli pictured shortly after jetting into Johannesburg's O. R. Tambo International Airport yesterday to attend today's scheduled swearing-in of Cyril Ramaphosa, who has just been re-elected as South Africa's President. Photo: State House.

Phase one of the exercise will start on May 27 up to July 20 and will involve grade one, two, three and special contractors, grade one and two, he stated. The second phase will also last for three months, from August 15 to November 15 and will involve middle and junior contractors namely grade four, five, six and seven as well as special contractors grade two and three, he elaborated

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Contractors Registration Board (CRB) will on Monday start a countrywide review of its members following an increase in complaints from clients, including the government, about shoddy jobs.

CRB Registrar Rhoben Nkoni told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the review will last for six months and will include deregistering, disqualifying and degrading contractors who will be found operating below the set standards.

The board says it has received various concerns of non-performance, delayed projects and issuance of unrealistic bid rates by some, a situation that calls intervention



**CRB as an agency mandated to oversee the sector has seen that this is the time to have a special intervention. This review will involve deleting or downgrading contractors who will be found operating against rules forthwith**

from the sector's accreditation body.

"CRB being an agency mandated to oversee the sector has seen that this is the time to have a special intervention. This review will involve deleting or downgrading contractors who will be found operating against rules forthwith," said Nkoni.

Phase one of the exercise will start on May 27 up to July 20 and will involve grade one, two, three and special contractors, grade one and two, he stated.

The second phase will also last for three months, from August 15 to November 15 and will involve middle and junior contractors namely grade four, five, six and seven as well as special contractors grade two and three, he elaborated.

Owing to the sensitivity of the operation, the board has prepared a special arrangement to ensure they reach out to all contractors countrywide.

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Govt may scrap compulsory retirement for varsity staff

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN effort to ensure higher learning institutions have enough teaching staff, the government now wants to extend or abolish retirement age for lecturers altogether, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

The Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Mwitwa Waitara said here that the government would borrow a leaf from other countries that have increased the



**Why can't the government review the retirement age for lecturers in the country to help solve the existing shortage of them at higher learning institutions?**

retirement age for lecturers or abolished it altogether.

He argued that while lecturers in Tanzania retire at 65 years of age, in neighbouring Kenya they retire at 70 and in Germany there is no retirement age for lecturers, while in the United Kingdom they have reviewed the system because it takes them 40 years to prepare lecturers.

"Why can't the government review the retirement age for lecturers in the country to help solve the existing shortage of them at higher learning institutions?" he asked.

He went further citing the 2017 report

TURN TO PAGE 2

## SIDO starts alternative bags training campaign

By Guardian Reporter

AS the June 1 deadline for the manufacture, sale and commercial use of plastic carrying bags nears, the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) has introduced training for entrepreneurs on the production of paper bags as an alternative.

The SIDO Regional Manager for Dar es Salaam, Mackdonald Maganga told The Guardian in an interview yesterday that the



programme which starts on Tuesday next week in the city will cover how light bags are made, for 0.5Kg and 7Kg carrying capacity.

"We are targeting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) but those in the informal sector including unemployed youth are accepted," said Maganga.

"We can accommodate up to 50 SMEs per training and the programme is designed to take up to three days for the trainees to

TURN TO PAGE 2



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## Registrar: Axe beckons for rogue contractors

FROM PAGE 1

"The concerns are tarnishing the image of the profession because we all know that the government has injected a lot of money into various projects that are being implemented by contractors countrywide," he stated.

There have been complaints from senior government officials including President John Magufuli and MPs over delays in implementing various projects including roads, water projects and bridges.

In July last year, the Water and Irrigation Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa took a swipe at contractors implementing various water projects over delays, saying they should forget about doing business with the government during his time as minister.

Speaking at a two days water sector stakeholders' meeting in Dar es Salaam, minister Mbarawa said almost all major water projects are not completed because of underperforming contractors "who were found through rogue tendering processes where incompetent contractors are given huge projects."

The minister named some major projects that are yet to be finalized despite being out of the contractual deadline as including the Kigoma water project, the Ruvu, Kimara and Chalinze projects which if completed would have helped to ease water challenges facing the various regions.

"It is unfortunate that development partners fund almost all these projects and most contractors have been paid half their money but they have shown little or nothing for it," the minister had scathingly added.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein chairs talks at the Isles' Kibweni State Lodge yesterday with senior officials in the Ministry of State in his Office on the implementation of the ministry's action plan for July 2018 to March 2019. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Govt may scrap compulsory retirement for varsity staff

FROM PAGE 1

by the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutes Trade Union (THTU) which put the shortage of academic staff in the institutions at 44 percent.

The lawmaker said for instance the report shows that the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sci-

ences (MUHAS) has a shortage of 65 percent of academic staff while the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) has a 54 percent shortage of staff.

The deputy minister pointed out that 53 percent of lecturers retire while they are still strong to keep on serving, and if no action is taken, the shortage of lecturers is likely to

worsen.

Responding to a question by Nkenge MP Diodorus Kamala (CCM), the deputy admitted that lecturers in Tanzania retire when they are still energetic enough to continue serving.

"It is true the situation is not all that good and that there are lecturers who retire when they can still

perform their duties and thus it is not a bad idea to review the system and if possible increase the retirement age just like in other countries," he said.

In the main question, Kamala noted that there is a growing trend whereby higher learning institutions employ staff from outside the country to improve research and

professionalism.

"How many lecturers have been employed in universities in Tanzania over the past ten years?" he demanded, seeking to be briefed on the success or otherwise brought by hiring foreign lecturers.

Waitara responded that there were a total of 502 foreign education experts employed in 17 higher

learning institutions, eight public and nine private institutions between 2008 and 2018.

Following government and institutions' efforts to empower local experts, the number of foreign counterparts is on the decline whereby existing ones stood at 151 in the 2018/2019 academic year, he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Geita Rural legislator Joseph Kasheku Musukuma (L) in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

## Ebola deaths feared as UN cautions on its spread

FROM PAGE 1

health emergency—insecurity and political protests have led to periodic disruptions in our efforts to fight the disease," said the UN's newly appointed Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator (EERC) David Gressly, who also serves as the deputy chief of the UN Stabilization Mission for the DRC, MONUSCO.

Although the UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have supported DRC government and other humanitarian efforts to contain the virus in parts of Ituri and North Kivu provinces, ongoing insecurity and community mistrust continue to hamper access. This hinders the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Health Ministry from detecting, treating and vaccinating sick people, ultimately leading to more intense Ebola transmission.

The increasingly complex environment has prompted the UN, in partnership with DRC authorities and others, to strengthen its political engagement and operational support to negotiate better access to communities, increase support for humanitarian coordination and bolster preparedness and readiness planning for the Goma region and neighbouring countries.

For its part, WHO is adapting public health strategies to identify and treat people as quickly as possible, especially by expanding vaccination to encompass more people and redoubling efforts to stem health facility Ebola transmissions.

## SIDO starts alternative bags training campaign

FROM PAGE 1

master the intended skills."

Maganga said the SIDO Dar es Salaam regional office, as one among government agencies mandated to support small scale industries believes that there is no better time for Tanzanians,

especially those who have no employment, to grab an opportunity offered by the government at a modest fee, to gain skills that lead to continuous self-employment.

Last week, the Vice President's Office told this paper that it had formed

a multi-agency task force to enforce the ban come June 1—just one week from today. The VPO Information Office said that the enforcement team is comprised of officials from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), the Tanzania Revenue Au-

thority (TRA), the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), the Police Force and the Chief Government Chemist Laboratory Agency.

Also, the President's Office (Regional

Administration and Local Governments) is part of the task force to ensure that city, town, municipal and district councils implement the ban. PO-RALG will be responsible for ensuring compliance and enforcement of specific regulations, the VPO informa-

tion office noted.

However, plastic packaging for medical services, industrial products, the construction industry, agro-produce, food, beverages, sanitary and waste management are exempted from the prohibition, it added.



# Govt to install special communication devices to ferries across the country

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government is expected to install special communication devices to all ferries in the country to offer information on overloading of passengers and cargo with an aim of controlling accidents.

The new devices will also be able to show reckless and dosing drivers according to the

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Communication Dr Elius Mwakalinga.

Dr Mwakalinga was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he officially opened the 2nd annual engineers and technicians' day in Dar es Salaam. "The installation exercise is expected to start in the coming financial year and any

ferry which will carry cargo and passengers beyond its capacity, the alarm will ring and the ferry will not be able to leave the gat," he said.

The PS said the decision has been reached after reports showed that the reasons for the capsizing of the MV Nyere which killed more than 200 people last year was due to overloading of passengers.

This year's annual engineers and technicians day was being commemorated under the theme "The role of in building of an industrial economy".

Dr Mwakalinga said technicians have a big role to play in making Tanzania achieve its plan to an industrial economy.

He said the number of regis-

tered technicians which is 112 is very small compared to the number of those who graduate every year.

"I call upon all technicians to register themselves with the board, the government is ready to take this profession to another level," he said.

The PS said in the coming financial year, the government will provide capacity

building to local technicians to ensure they participate fully in the various mega projects being undertaken in the country.

He said it is relevant that that for any mega project being executed in the country there should be local technicians so that they gain expertise.

The Chairman for the En-

gineers Registration Board (ERB) Eng Ninatubu Lema said the number of engineers in the country is very small whereby a single engineer is supposed to work with five technicians.

He called upon the engineers to establish small industries to ensure the country meets its targets of having an industrialized nation.



Contractors Registration Board registrar and CEO Rhoben Nkori briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on progress made in identifying members of the board no longer qualifying to engage in contracting business. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

## 100 men trained in parenting skills

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

SOS Children Villages Tanzania in collaboration with Mufindi district through women empowerment and child rights (WECR) project has trained 100 men in parenting skills, who will later pass the message to their counterparts.

WECR is a four-year project implemented by SOS with technical support from SOS Finland through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The male engage campaign is aimed at strengthening and encouraging men to take part in children protection as well as to reduce gender based violence. Participants to the campaign are male from community based organizations (CBOs), ward authorities and villages councils.

The model of implementation will be a house to house campaign whereas trained men visit fellow parents to discuss about parental care, children protection and gender based violence.

SOS project coordinator, Victor Mwaipungu said the male engage campaign in Mufindi district aims at creating community awareness among men to actively participate in women empowerment and child protection.

He added that SOS will within one year reach at least 1,000 households in 19 villages that are involved in the project. He said

apart from men, the project will also reach 250 vulnerable women and 1,000 children within the targeted villages in ten wards.

He noted that changing men's behaviors is crucial to realizing women's equality and such behavioral changes refer to stopping negative actions as well as actively performing positive actions.

Mwaipungu noted that men involvement in the progress towards women empowerment and gender equality is essential taking into account that they both play similar roles in children rising.

Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri William said it was high time that men are involved in women empowerment and child protection insisting the move is likely to reduce gender based violence and violence.

"Male engagement at all levels will help them become more knowledgeable about critical women's rights issues and child rights respectively", he said adding that engaging men in children protection is a priority.

DC William added that if men are fully engaged they will be more positive and open-minded about concepts of gender, and to show greater respect towards women.

He commended SOS Tanzania for championing issues related to gender based violence as well as violence against children in the district.

# Plans to develop Tabora into a city in the pipeline

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE government through the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements has launched a new plan to develop Tabora municipality into a city calling upon authorities to ensure the projects produces positive results.

Speaking at the event in Tabora

yesterday, Land, Housing and Human Settlements Minister, William Lukuvi tasked authorities to ensure they implement the project in accordance with the laws and avoid listening to people.

"The plan I have launched today will improve Tabora and give it a new look. When implementing the project you should not look at

other people's positions as it might lead to failure hence making the project useless," he said.

He called upon municipal officials to ensure they work on addressing land challenges including implementation of the plan rather than depending on private decisions of some few leaders which can lead to conflicts.

According to the Minister the aim of having such a plan is to ensure the country has a planned land with infrastructures that are made in a way that can conserve the environment as well avoid unnecessary construction of houses.

The Mayor for Tabora region, Leopard Opodo said the newly

launched plan will be a vision for the municipal in developing various sectors such as water and energy.

In his remarks, the acting head of rural planning for Tabora municipal, Deo Damian said the aim of the plan is to ensure that Tabora is made a modern city with all social services available.

Poor settlements in big cities often cause disease outbreaks and the government saw it was time to come up with a feasible solution to the recurring problem.

The government announced in 2017 that it was drafting a new master plan for 30 regions in the country.

To begin with the government through the ministry was preparing a national-wide programme of planning, surveying and formalizing all land in the country.

This followed a special report in 2014 by the Tanzania Cities Network; at least 67 per cent of all big cities in the country had been poorly developed.

## Uganda's capital now outlaws street children donations

KAMPALA

Uganda's capital Kampala has passed a law to ban giving money or food to children living on the streets.

Kampala's Lord Mayor, Erias Lukwago, said the law aimed to curb the commercial and sexual exploitation of children.

According to government estimates, as many as 15,000 children live on the streets in Kampala, aged from seven up to the age of 17.

Offenders face up to six months in prison or a fine of \$11 (£9).

BBC Uganda correspondent Dear Jeanne said many children were trafficked from villages and forced by their handlers to live in small rooms within the city's slums.

To combat this, the new law will ban the rental of apartments to support sex work, begging or petty trade by children.

"We are ready to be im-

prisoned"

One street beggar, Annie Katuregye, aged 60, said she used children to accompany her in order to gain enough sympathy from passers-by to give money.

"As long as we see children coming, we'll force our way on the streets. We are ready to be imprisoned," she said.

Mr Lukwago said the law was targeted at parents and agents who were "cashing in" on children. Parents of children found begging or selling on the streets will also be penalised.

"It's now a lucrative business for some individuals who procure these kids from various parts of the country and bring them on to the streets of Kampala," he said. "It's a business. We want to bring that to an end."

The law is currently restricted to the city of Kampala rather than the rest of the country.



DANGER LURKS: A potentially dangerous ride on a tricycle with an extra-long load, as captured on a road in Dar es Salaam's Kigogo-Luhanga suburb yesterday. Photo: John Badi





School children literally waded through muddy floodwaters barefoot along Dar es Salaam's Nkrumah Road yesterday, with no let-up in the day's light rain. Photo: John Badi

# MPs raise concerns over increased land disputes

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have raised concerns over increased land disputes between citizens and national parks authorities.

They were speaking in August House when contributing to the budget estimates proposal for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism which was tabled on Thursday.

The MPs were concerned that such disputes have been contributing to delayed development as the residents couldn't put better or permanent structures on disputed land plots.

Urambo legislator, Magreth Sitata (CCM), commended the ministry for a job well done in controlling poaching in the country. She

suggested that to end land disputes, the ministry should work closely with officials from the Ministry of Lands.

"Residents of Urambo have been experiencing disputes for many years since 2000. The government re-surveyed the land in 2007 and put some beacons to separate villages from national parks, but the exercise was harshly implemented with people losing their properties and houses burnt", she said insisting there are yet no permanent solution to the problem.

Special Seats MP, Josephine Gezabuke (CCM) attributed the disputes to lack of animal feeds across the country. She said the problem is fuelled with in-

creased human activities as well as the population.

"The government should decide to give out part of the reserved areas to pastoralists for feeding animals, this will reduce the disputes as livestock keepers will be sure of grazing fields", she noted.

Mbeya Urban legislator, Joseph Mbilinyi (Chadema) called upon the government to reduce charges to hotel owners in order to promote tourism and hospitality industry.

He said hotel owners are entitled to various fees which threaten prosperity of the hospitality industry. He underscored the need for the government to review the charges to enable busi-

nesses to grow.

According to Mbilinyi efforts should be done to ensure foreign tourists visit the southern tourism circuit. "I want to know, how many visitors out of the 1.5 million tourists who visited Tanzania last year went to Southern highland regions", he questioned.

Kaliua Member of Parliament, Magdalena Sakaya (CUF) challenged the government to enhance efforts to control deforestation in rural areas. She suggested that the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) be given powers to directly deal with people found guilty of environment destruction including tree felling.

"Our country is in danger as the rate of tree cutting is alarm-

ing. Charcoal makers have been feeling thousand trees every day. Illegal logging is also practiced across the country", she said.

In his contribution, Kilwa South MP, Vedastus Ngombale (CUF) wanted the government to come up with ways to control wildlife invasion to residential areas.

He said the invasion by wild animals especially elephants have been causing deaths and destruction of people's properties. Special Seats MP, Jackline Musongozi (CCM) wanted the government to start giving incentives to game wardens as a way of motivating them towards a successful anti-poaching drive.

# Ewura and Neeec to unveil in business opportunities brought by Rufiji project

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) in collaboration with the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) and the National Economic Empowerment Council (Neeec) have organised a conference to unveil business opportunities during and after the construction of Rufiji hydro power project.

TPSF Executive Director Godfrey Simbeye told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that will take place on June, 11 this year.

According to Simbeye, the seminar will invite the project's contractor and other implementing stakeholders under Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) to share their plans on local content benefits.

"We are calling upon all service provision companies and other business people who are interested to participate in the value chains of the project including engineering companies, consultant entities, food and water suppliers, insurance companies and other construction related dealer to take up the chance," he said. Simbeye said those who wish to attend the conference will have to register at TPSF through its website.

He said during the meeting the Arab constructor Company (the contractor) will express the total amount set for local content, pointing out the construction materials that will be sourced from local suppliers

and the number of people to be employed.

It is expected that the meeting, will also establish and formalize relationship with key decision makers in other sectors, set out localization plans and collaboratively formulate a strategy for supply chain development to meet local content goals.

On her party, the executive secretary of Neeec Bengi Issa said that only companies and individuals who are registered by Ewura or through a Prime Minister Office's corridor will be qualified to be engaged in the project.

"So far there are no more than 350 companies registered at Ewura for taking tender of providing various services to mega development projects, but the number is too low," she said.

She insisted more companies and individuals to continue registering to Ewura and PMO office.

The government signed a contract last year with an Egyptian company to build the Rufiji Hydro-power project much known as Stiegler's Gorge Hydro-electric Power Station was signed on 12th December 2018 by Tanesco on behalf of the ministry of energy.

The \$2.9 billion project is located in Rufiji River, in the Selous Game Reserve in southwestern Tanzania.

It is expected to be finalized in 42 months from the contact signing with capacity to produce 2, 115MW, including a 400KV substation and transmission line integrated into national electricity grid.



Fair Competition Commission chairman Prof Humphrey Moshi addresses journalists earlier this week on ways to rid Tanzania of counterfeit commodities. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

# Magufuli among African leaders attending the swearing-in of elected South Africa President

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli is among African leaders attending the swearing-in of elected South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosato held at Pretoria's Loftus Versfeld stadium.

According to a statement issued by the director of presidential communications, President Magufuli left the country to South Africa yesterday accompanied by former President, Jakaya Kiwete, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Vice Chairman, Philip Mangula and Minister for Foreign Affairs and East Africa Regional and International, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi.

Speaking before departure at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), Mangula said that Tanzania and South Africa enjoy a long standing historical bilateral relationship, hence the need to continue cementing it.

Prof Kabudi said that after the swearing-in event, President Magufuli will be

heading to Namibia for official visit.

Prof Kabudi said that while in Namibia, the President will launch a Street which have been named against Tanzania's first president—the late Julius Kambarage Nyerere, in honour of his contribution in Namibia's liberation efforts.

Ramaphosa will serve his first full five-year term since taking over last year from Jacob Zuma who was forced out over a series of corruption scandals.

The ANC won the ballot with 57.5 per cent of the votes.



**Ramaphosa will serve his first full five-year term since taking over last year from Jacob Zuma who was forced out over a series of corruption**

# UN backs creation of green jobs in E Africa to promote environmental sustainability

BUJUMBURA

THE United Nations labour agency has said it will support creation of green jobs in East Africa in order to promote environmental sustainability.

Wellington Chibebe, director for country office for Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda at International Labour Organization (ILO) told Xinhua in Nairobi that green jobs will enable the region to play a

prominent role in tackling the climate change phenomenon.

"We will assist East African nations to reform their industrial, climate change and green job promotion policies arising out of recommendations of ILO to

ensure they achieve environmental sustainability," Chibebe said during the 60th annual general meeting of the Federation of Kenya Employers.

Chibebe said that with the right policies, East Africa can

make a transition to a green economy with minimal disruption to livelihoods.

He noted that the region is susceptible to the effects of climate change as a significant proportion of their workforce depends

on nature to eke out a living.

Chibebe noted that climate change is real and therefore organizations must change the way they conduct their business.

"All business processes should

ensure that environmental sustainability is prioritized," he added.

The ILO official said that it is possible to achieve economic development without polluting the environment.



# Magufuli congratulates India's Prime Minister

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has congratulated India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his re-election victory for another five years in office.

In his tweet, President Magufuli assured Modi of continued bilateral relations between the two countries.

"On behalf of the government and the people of Tanzania I congratulate your Excellency



Narendra Modi on your re-election as Prime Minister of India. This indicates the confidence

that your compatriots have in you. Be assured of our commitment to strengthen our bilateral relations", said President Magufuli in his tweet.

In his reply, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "Thank you President Magufuli for your kind words. I look forward to continue strengthening the partnership between our two great countries in the coming years".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has secured another five-year term after his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won a crushing victory

Results so far showed that he won about 300 of the 543 seats in parliament, exceeding expectations and building on the commanding majority it achieved in 2014

The main opposition alliance, headed by Rahul Gandhi's Congress party, has admitted defeat. Congress is set to win fewer than 60 seats

The re-election of Modi brings to a close the largest election the world has ever seen. More than 600 million people voted in the marathon six-week contest.



Bajaj-MeTL head Indrabhuwan Kumar Singh (2nd-L) waves when making remarks at iftar MeTL-Bajaj Motor Cycles co-hosted in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. With him are Vishal Gupta (2nd-R), head of Business Bajaj Auto Limited for East and South Africa, Bajaj-Boxer Tanzania manager Swapnil Jain (R) and Bajaj 'ambassador' Japhet Kaseba. Photo: Selemani Mpocho

## Wanted: Media coverage of children's health issues

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Dodoma

JOURNALISTS have been called upon to write more stories that promote children nurturing care, health, nutrition, protection and give them opportunities for early learning.

This was said recently in Dodoma by Abubakar Karsan, director for Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) when speaking at the opening of a two-day workshop on early childhood development (ECD) to journalists from 26 Press clubs of Tanzania mainland.

"Children brain should be nurtured from the first day of conception to ensure a positive learning way and enable them to grow up as intelligent persons", said Karsan.

He challenged journalists who are working on the ECD programme for three years to fully utilise the opportunity by ensuring they acquire enough knowledge to empower parents, family members, teachers, caregivers and the community at large.

He appreciated the support that Children in Crossfire Tanzania provides to UTPC to make sure journalists are equipped with the best knowledge on early learning as well as enhancing the development of child status in Tanzania.

Creg Feyla, is the country director of Children in Crossfire Tanzania, he said a staggering 36 per cent of children under five years of age, equivalent to 250 million are living in low and middle income countries.

He said the children are at risk of suboptimal development due to poverty and stunting. He said a poor start in life can lead to a poor health, nutrition and inadequate learning.

"Early childhood development starts with children aged between 0 and 6 years because a child learns since it is in mother's womb", he noted.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), Tanzania is among the countries with high prevalence of chronic malnutrition whereas 34 per cent of children under the age of five years are stunted, and 50 per cent of children between 6 and 59 months are anemic.

the high levels of chronic malnutrition is driven by poverty and food insecurity as well as poor children and infant caring and feeding practices at household level. The national stunting level stands at 34 per cent while Dodoma has 36.5 per cent and Singida 29.2 per cent.

# Zimbabwe sells elephants to China, Dubai for \$2.7 million

HARARE

ZIMBABWE made \$2.7 million from the sale of more than 90 elephants to China and Dubai, according to a spokesman for the country's wildlife agency.

Money from the sales will be used to support conservation efforts, said Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority spokesman Tinashe Farawo.

Farawo said the agency was having difficulty controlling the population in its national parks, and that proceeds from the sales, made over a six-year period, will be used for the upkeep of its remaining elephants. "We are struggling with a ballooning number of elephants. We believe in sustainable utilization of our resources, and these elephants must pay for their upkeep," Farawo told CNN.

He said water levels were running low in rivers in its parks and officials have been using alternative water sources to feed the animals.

"We have a situation where most of our game parks use borehole water, and that needs a lot of resources. These are some of the costs that we are grappling with there is drought," he added.

Tourism minister Prisca Mupfema said the country presently has 85,000 elephants and it could only cater for 55,000, according to a local media reports.

The 98 elephants were airlifted to parks in China and Dubai and they were sold for prices ranging from \$13,500 to \$41,500 each, the reports said. They were exported between 2012 and 2018, the Zimbabwe Chronicle reported.

The minister told the newspaper that the government was pushing for the lifting of ivory trade ban placed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to pave the way for the sale of \$300 million worth of ivory.

Botswana has 'significant elephant-poaching problem,' conservation group says

Botswana, Namibia and Zambia, homes to the largest population

of African elephants, are among southern African countries seeking a lift in the ban on ivory trade placed by CITES, the global organization responsible for regulating the trade in endangered species.

In 2015, Zimbabwe put some of its wildlife on sale, saying it needed to save them from an impending drought that hit its national parks and reserves.

Residents and farmers in ru-

ral communities often complain about elephants invading their farmlands and destroying crops.

"We are selling because we need to manage the numbers ... we need to rescue people from the elephants because apart from being killed in attacks, the people have no money to buy medicines to treat the injury caused by the animals. So it is a sustainable policy," Farawo said.

## MOI workers challenged on creativity at workplace

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

WORKERS of the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) have been challenged to be creative by coming up with ideas to improve services and cope with new challenges.

The Director General of the Institute, Dr. Resipicious Boniface said this in Tanga region at the opening of the 4th MOI workers' council meeting held at the Regional Commissioner's office.

"These are times to be creative. You must be innovative and do away with the normal routine of doing things...there must be ideas to improve our services and boost revenues", said Dr Boniface.

He stressed the need for good customer care insisting being creative will help improve their relationship with patients since they are not like normal business customers.

"We take care of different customers; most of them are difficult to deal with because of the nature of their problems. You cannot expect a patient to smile as if he/she was coming to a bank, it is your role to make her feel relieved", he said.

Dr Boniface added that some patients come at the hospital at serious conditions and they cannot afford to smile because

they are also thinking of the cost of medical treatment.

He explained that good customer care was critical because even traditional healers have their way of comforting customers and assuring them recovery before starting treatment.

"Sometimes I wish to call them to teach us the psychological knowledge gap that we are missing", he said.

He also spoke of the need for the highest medical institution to do away with images of corruption saying such an image was not good for the institution.

Dr Boniface urged MOI workers to stop complaining to the government over shortage of funds to run the institute; instead they strive to improve services which will in-turn boost internal revenues.

"The government is providing capital investments but we should be able to raise funds for our day to day activities. We should not depend on the government because it has a lot of projects to implement", he said.

He called on workers of the institution to use the current volume of patients as an opportunity to increase internal revenue.

"Looking at the patient volume at the institute, we should collect more of what we are now getting", he said.



A vendor hunts for customers for his assortment of apparently environment-friendly and therefore acceptable shopping bags. Our roving camera caught up with him near the Mkunguni Street/Msimbazi Street intersection in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo market zone yesterday. The government has banned the use of plastic-based shopping bags with effect from this month-end. Photo: John Badi



# Power woes in Kibamba, most likely to end soon'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

POWER woes in Kibamba constituency in Ubungo district and other parts of Dar es Salaam region is likely to end soon, Deputy Minister for Energy, Subira Mgalu said yesterday.

She told the National Assembly that interruption of

electricity in the district and the neighbouring areas are due to expansion of the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro road which has forced relocation of electricity infrastructure.

Responding to a question asked by the Kibamba MP, John Mnyika(CHADEMA) the deputy minister said power interruption in the areas has

reduced following the completion of relocation of infrastructure completed by 97 per cent.

"The target is to complete the relocation of electric infrastructures by June, 2019 and by then there will be no power interruptions in the district and other parts of Dar es Salaam region" said the deputy

minister. She also noted that the government had set aside five billion shillings for the construction of sub-station at Mloganzila with the capacity to produce 90MVA in the 2018/19.

Mgalu added that the station will help distribute electricity in Kibamba constituency including Mloganzila hospital

and help reduce increasing shortage of power in the area.

In his question, the Kibamba MP had asked when the government would end power interruptions in the constituency. He also wanted to know areas in the constituency not connected with electricity.

The deputy minister named the areas not reached to in-

clude, Kibesa, Kisopwa, Kiper a, King'azi, Msumi, Mpigi and Kwembe, adding that in the 2018/19 the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) did set aside 3.78 billion/- for connection of other areas like Kwembe.

Some other areas in the Kwembe kwa Tendwa, Kwembe Kipera, Mbezi

Luis, Kibweregwe, Msakuzi, Mpigi CCM, Kibamba Delini, Mpigi, Kwembe, Msumi and King'azi.

She said the distribution work to the areas is going on and is expected to be completed in September, 2019, adding that other areas of Kibesa, Kisopwa and Kipera will be connected in the 2019/20.



Energy deputy minister Subira Mgalu (R) cuts a ribbon when officiating at the installation of electricity at Sanganjeru village in Gairo District, Morogoro Region, yesterday. Left is Gairo district commissioner Siriel Mchembe. Photo courtesy of Energy ministry

# 345,000 residents of Itilima, surrounding villages due to gain from hospital project

By Guardian Correspondent, Itilima

MORE than 345,000 residents of Itilima district and surrounding villages are set to benefit from a hospital project expected to be completed in June this year.

The facility which will serve Itilima district hospital constructed by the government at a cost of 1.5bn/-.

Leader of the 2019 Uhuru Torch races, Mkongea Ali said yesterday that completion of the project will ensure reliable health services to the people. He said the residents will no longer have to walk or travel long distances in search of health services.

He said some patients were dying while on the way to the hospital. Dr Charles said that completion of the hospital will also reduce maternal and children mortality rates since delivery services will also be offered.

"Construction of the hospital

should be within this financial year so as the government allocates funds for its operation in the coming financial year. Delay completion of the project will affect budget allocation", said Mkongea.

Itilima District Chief Medical Officer, Dr Anorid Charles said the residents were previously forced to walk for more than 59 kilometers to seek medical treatment in Bariadi district.

He said some patients were dying while on the way to the hospital. Dr Charles said that completion of the hospital will also reduce maternal and children mortality rates since delivery services will also be offered.

According to him, a total of

five pregnant women died in Itilima district due to various birth complications including delayed services.

A resident, Marangwa Maduhu from Ngungu village said completion of the hospital will facilitate medical services and reduce cost as they were spending a lot of monies on transport services.

"We were using a lot of money to take patients to a hospital in Bariadi district", said Maduhu.

Prime Minister Kassim Majalwa was recently quoted saying the government is constructing 67 new district health facilities countrywide with the aim of reducing challenges confronting people from rural areas.

# Air Serv sends aircraft to Mozambique for flood relief

PEMBA

AIR Serv sent a Cessna Grand Caravan with a crew of five to Mozambique where it will support relief efforts following a devastating period of successive storms.

The aircraft will be based in

Pemba, Mozambique, and will support ongoing efforts to feed, house, and treat those who were displaced from their homes during a catastrophic storm season.

On March 14, Cyclone Idai made landfall near the city of Beira in Mozambique. Cyclone

Kenneth then touched down in Mozambique on April 24. With sustained winds of up to 130 mph, it became one of the strongest cyclones to ever hit the African continent.

The storms left a wake of destruction, hundreds dead, and nearly 2 million people

affected or displaced in the countries of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, with Mozambique sustaining the highest losses.

Following the storms, search and recovery efforts were begun immediately. Because of the nature of the

destruction however, which resulted largely from floodwaters, roads and runways were washed out or inaccessible.

Primary recovery vehicles were limited to boats and helicopters until the floodwaters receded and debris could be

cleared.

The Air Serv plane will be among the first wave of fixed-wing aircraft positioning to respond. This program is currently scheduled to run for three weeks, with a possibility of extension as needed, according to officials.

Air Serv aircraft are the bridge connecting lifesaving aid with those who need it most.

With a fleet of five Cessna Caravans, Air Serv specializes in "last mile" air transportation in support of humanitarian programs.

# Forum for climate change empowers 20 women with entrepreneurship skills

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE forum for climate change has empowered 20 women with entrepreneurship skills to take part in environment conservation initiatives by seeking tender to participate in waste control in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam.

Forum CC project officer Euphrasia Shayo made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a one-day training to women entrepreneurs organised jointly by Forum CC and Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) with the support from European Union (EU) and Deutsch-Tansanische Partnerschaft (DTP).

She said that the training is also focusing to enable women to have link with local government leaders in their areas in order to foster intervention for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Shayo added that the training enables women through their entrepreneurship groups to secure loans from municipal councils. He said that districts set aside 10 per cent of their annual budget for women and youth empowerment.

"We have equipped them with skills to be able to secure business capital from the districts...there are opportunities in environment conservation such garbage collection of which they can seek tenders from local governments", she said.

She gave an example of Ilala municipal which is currently facing a shortage of contractors for collecting wastes in the streets. She said they are empowering women so that they can take part in the initiative.

The training was specific for the women through their groups considering that women in the house often have control over the waste disposal and an influence on the rest of the household.

Dar es Salaam has a huge waste output whereby Ilala Municipal is the one of five districts of Dar es Salaam that produce over 1100 tonnes of waste every day.

Out of the produced 1100 tonnes, the municipal takes care of between 55 and 60percent of the disposal while the remaining 40 - 45 percent is the challenging portion that ends up in the environment.

Ilala district environment officer, Kezia Nashon said the available contractors in the district are not enough to deal with all wastes hence the need for more private firms to engage in garbage collection.

"We have imparted them with skills on how to re-use waste after sorting organic waste for use as compost in gardening or farming activities," she said.

Nashon said that most of the applicants miss the garbage collection tender over laxity in application forms as well as failure to meet conditions prescribed in the contract.

"Some people are not ready to pay for waste collection services thus affecting performance of the private firms that engage in the activities", he said adding that Ilala municipal has already prepared a friendly modality for enabling contractors to collect fees from their customers on time.



**We have equipped them with skills to be able to secure business capital from the districts...there are opportunities in environment conservation such garbage collection of which they can seek tenders from local governments**



Hai district police commander Lwelwa Mpina pictured at Bomang'ombe on Thursday helping in offloading from a truck a donation of 200 bags of cement meant for use in the expansion of the district's central police station. Photo: Godfrey Mushi



# Government to launch National Child Agenda next month

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government will next month launch the National Child Agenda aimed at protecting children against sexual assault or abuse as such cases are reportedly on the increase in the country, the parliament heard yesterday.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu told the law makers that it will ensure that all Tanzanian children have the best possible opportunity to realize their full potential.

The agenda, she noted will support the critical and primary role that parents, families and communities play in the lives of children.

Mwalimu said the focus on the factors that cause children and youth in the country to have behavioral and sometimes mental health problems.

She was responding to a supplementary question by Rombo MP, Joseph Selasini (CHADEMA) who argued that cases of child molestation and other abuses are becoming too common in the country, wondering what the government was

doing to stop the habit.

Selasini noted that the government ought to be meeting parents and teachers in effort to educate them on how to deal with the problem.

In response, the minister explained that under the programme to be launched on 16th, June 2019 during the African Child Day she will visit schools in the country to educate teachers on the matter, adding that this will go hand in hand with establishment of special desks in public primary schools to help pupils.

However, she called on parents to play their

roles effectively and have a routine checking on them, saying by so doing cases of abuse can be established early enough.

Earlier, Special Seats MP, Sonia Jumaa Magogo (CUF) had asked what the government was doing to review laws that disadvantageous to women and children.

She said the government is conducting evaluation on laws that provide loopholes and bring them to the parliament for amendments.

Meanwhile, the government has set aside Sh 9 bn/- in the 2019/20 for the construction of

Katavi regional hospital.

Minister Mwalimu said this while responding to a supplementary question by the Mpanda Rural MP, Mushi Kakoso (CCM) who had wanted to know the plans to build regional hospital in Katavi region.

He argued that the region had no regional hospital and residents seek health services at Mpanda district hospital. The minister noted that the government has prioritized construction of regional hospitals in all regions without the health facility.



Halotel managing director Nguyen Van Son (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the firm's newly introduced communication service dubbed 'MpangoMzima', which is meant to give a month's relief to customers using Internet and voice mobile services. He is with Halotel head of communications Mhina Semwenda. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

## 'Teenage pregnancy daunting challenge in Dodoma Region, health survey shows

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TEENAGE pregnancy is still a major challenge among youth in Dodoma region which ranks third nationally, according to the 2016/2017 national demographic health survey (TDHS).

Manager, Dodoma Youth Development Organization, Charles Reuben said the problem is big with Chamwino district leading with 24 school girls being impregnated in the 2018 academic year.

He mentioned the other districts with similar problems as Mpwapwa where 13 girls got pregnant and failed to continue with school. Others are Dodoma Urban (12) and Kongwa (10).

There were no cases reported from Kondoa district, he said adding that 67 girls were from primary schools and 45 from secondary schools.

According to Reuben, secondary school 35 girls have been impregnated between January and March this year.

He said the organization has been conducting educative programs to youths from 2015. He said youth are also educated on the impacts of early pregnancy.

The organization's director, Rajabu Selemani said early pregnancy has been a long time problem blaming parents, guardians and local government leaders for not taking part in educating children on the impacts of engaging on sexual relations while at school. Representing the Regional Commissioner, Dodoma District Commissioner, Patrobas Katambi called up local government leaders at ward and village levels to collaborate with the organization to end the problem.

He said the region has been taking various initiatives to make sure girls complete primary, secondary and college education before they get married.

Speaking at a public rally in Chalinze town in 2017, President John Magufuli warned schoolgirls that after getting pregnant, they won't be allowed to continue with school as per the law passed in 2002 that allows for the expulsion of pregnant schoolgirls.

The law says the girls can be expelled and excluded from school for 'offences against morality' and 'wedlock'.

President Magufuli also criticized rights organizations that have been pushing the government to reverse the law: "These NGOs should go out and open schools for parents. But they should not force the government (to take back the pupils)".

## Telecom operator launches 'Mpango Mzima' bundle service promotion

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIANS will now enjoy unlimited internet access and make free calls for the first five minutes using Halotel new innovative communication service—'Mpango Mzima' bundle.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Halotel managing director, Nguyen Van Son said that Mpango Mzima bundle service promotion period has no time limit.

"We have launched the new innovative service to our customers to fulfill their communication needs using 5GB high speed unlimited internet. Our goal this year is to have universal communication all the people at affordable rates," Son said.

He said the company aims at ensuring provision of the best data and voice services.

The MD noted that with the Mpango Mzima bundle, subscribers will be able to make free un-

limited calls to all networks for every first 5 minutes for each call and will be gifted 500 SMS while all services data voice and SMS has no time limited.

"We hope this product will allow Halotel customers use free internet with high speed internet connection, make calls at small cost and all customers can use unlimited bundle to improve their lives, get update of their businesses and access more information by connecting them-

selves with the world," Son said

So far Halotel has already launched three new innovative communication services that include Halotel Royal bundles and Tomato bundle.

With Royal Bundle, subscribers get unlimited internet access, make unlimited domestic and international calls a while the Tomato bundle allow them to be

connected to new business opportunities with free five minutes calls to fellow Halotel subscrib-

ers. The establishment of Mpango Mzima services is a continuation of various campaigns being innovated and developed by Halotel Tanzania in simplifying its customer's access to better communication services including unlimited internet usage, voice services to all networks without limit and sending SMS messages.

Halotel which is a subsidiary of Vietnam's Viettel International has been contracted by the government to extend communi-

cation infrastructure to rural parts of the country where leading mobile phone service companies have failed to invest because of poor market.

By the end of last year, Halotel had reached coverage of about 95 percent of nation with 4,400 base stations erected and 18,348 kilometers of fiber optic cable laid connecting more than 120,000 villages and remote communities.

As a result of the investment,

the mobile phone service company has been one of the fastest growing in the market with the number of its subscribers increasing from 3.7 million to four million between September 2017 and last year.

Its mobile money platform, HaloPesa has also seen its subscriber base increase from 358,217 to 800,000 over the same period of time while its agents grew from 10,000 to 155,000 within the same year.

## Botswana stands condemned for lifting ban on hunting elephants

By Jason Burke

CONSERVATIONISTS have reacted with outrage and concern to a decision by Botswana to lift its ban on elephant hunting.

The southern African country said the move was justified by an increase in population and its impact on farmers' livelihoods.

"The whole world is turning away from hunting. It is increasingly seen as an archaic practice. This is very, very damaging to the image of Botswana as a global leader in elephant conservation," said Dr Paula Kahumbu, an expert and activist based in Kenya.

The former president Ian Khama, a keen environmentalist, introduced a prohibition on elephant hunting in the southern African country in 2014.

But lawmakers from the ruling Botswana Democratic party (BDP) have been lobbying to overturn the ban, saying numbers of the animals have become unmanageable in some areas.

The current president, Mokgweetsi Masisi, took over from Khama last year and a public review began five months later, with reports suggesting growing political friction between Masisi and his predecessor.

The country's environment ministry said in a statement that a cabinet committee review found that "the number and high levels of human-elephant conflict and the consequent impact on livelihoods was increasing."

"The general consensus from those consulted was that the

hunting ban should be lifted," it added, vowing that hunting would be restarted "in an orderly and ethical manner".

Botswana has the largest elephant population in Africa, with more than 135,000 roaming freely in its unfenced parks and wide open spaces.

Some experts say the number of elephants in the country, renowned as a luxury safari destination, has almost tripled over the last 30 years, and that the population could now be more than 160,000.

Farmers struggle to keep elephants out of their fields, where they eat crops and can kill people, making the move to lift the hunting ban a potential vote winner among rural communities in the run-up to elections in October.



Tanzania Civil Engineering Contractors Association chairman Mohamed Versi pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing the opening session of a meeting called to validate the findings of a study on the streamlining of the regulatory environment in the construction industry. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



## Attracting tourists from Asian nations doing Tanzania proud

**T**ANZANIA is now targeting China as a new and an upcoming lucrative tourist market source in South East Asia after the traditional tourist market sources of Europe, North America and South Africa. A team of senior officials from Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), Ministry of Tourism, tourist companies and other stakeholders visited China in November 2018 to market Tanzania's tourism in Beijing and other leading, key Chinese cities.

Indeed the campaign efforts had started to bear fruits. The inaugural specially organized visit by tourists from China was a great success. The over 340 Chinese tourists who jetted into the country recently completed a three-day itinerary in the country, visiting Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara and Serengeti National Park, in addition to meeting various individuals and potential partners along the way.

It was a great step by Tanzania to attract the big number of visitors from places that were previously not thought of. It was a successful introduction of Tanzanian attractions to the people of China and the Far East. They came, saw and concluded that it was one destination which was yet to be discovered by Chinese people.

Aggressive marketing by TTB helped bring the more than 300 tourists from the Far East, with 10,000 more expected to jet in during the coming months. Surely, we still have a lot to do in terms of marketing because as it seems, people elsewhere believe Africa is a very remote area where acceptable provision of human needs is poor and comforts are rare.

It is open secret that most people overseas know that Tanzania is endowed with breath-taking sites, abundant wildlife, exotic mountains, craters and game reserves, but it is also important to remind the world that, the country also has high class and luxurious

lodges, hotels and campsites.

In the same vein, we must also aggressively market our hospitality facilities and services so that visitors should feel comfortable when coming here, knowing that they will be well accommodated and take care of properly.

Chinese tourists to Tanzania rose to 30,000 last year from 13,760 counted in the previous five years. Tanzania officials visited and organised tourism road shows in five Chinese cities of Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Chengdu and Beijing. With the Chinese embassy in Dar es Salaam, TTB should now looking to promote Tanzania tourism in China through exchange programmes involving journalists as well.

The board had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Touchroad International Holdings Group of China to market Tanzania's tourist attractions in key Chinese cities, that will see the Chinese company sending about 10,000 tourists to Tanzania in 2019.

The tourism board has been participating in various tourism fairs and exhibitions in China, aiming to expose Tanzania's tourist products, mainly wildlife, the Indian Ocean beaches and historical sites.

The board is currently working with the government of Tanzania to market conference tourism as a new tourist product. China is on top among the world nations which Tanzania is looking to attract for conferences. Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) is a new tourist product that TTB is working to attract through its marketing campaigns in China.

Tanzania has been recognised and approved by the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) headquarters in Beijing as one among the countries worth visiting by Chinese holidaymakers.

## Disaster risk reduction: Africa should back action on Sendai

**G**OVERNMENT ministers, heads of delegation and national disaster management agencies from 47 African countries on in 2016 agreed on a strategic plan to align disaster risk reduction with the priorities and targets of the global plan to reduce disaster losses. The Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction. Sendai is a city in Japan's Tohoku region, northeast of Tokyo on Honshu island.

They also agreed to forward the Mauritius declaration, a statement of strong political commitment, for adoption at the African Union summit in January 2017.

The declaration calls for implementation of the programme of action and the allocation of budgetary support to disaster risk reduction.

Disaster risk reduction is a systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster as well as dealing with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them.

The most commonly cited definition of disaster risk reduction is one used by UN agencies such as UNISDR, also known as the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and UNDP: "The conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimise vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development.

The evolution of disaster management thinking and practice since the 1970s has seen a progressively wider and deeper understanding of why disasters happen, accompanied by

more integrated, holistic approaches to reduce their impact on society. The modern paradigm of disaster management disaster risk reduction represents the latest step along this path.

There are growing efforts to closely link disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, both in policy and practice.

Inevitably, there are different definitions in the technical literature, but it is generally understood to mean the broad development and application of policies, strategies and practices to minimise vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout society.

The term 'disaster risk management' is often used in the same context and to mean much the same thing: a systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing risks of all kinds associated with hazards and human activities.

There have been growing calls for greater clarity about the components of disaster risk reduction and about indicators of progress toward resilience, a challenge that the international community took up at the UN's World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, in 2005, only days after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake.

UN initiatives have helped to refine and promote the concept at international level, stimulated initially by the UN's designation of the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

In 1999, UN member states approved the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, which reflected a shift from the traditional emphasis on disaster response to disaster reduction, by seeking to promote a culture of prevention.

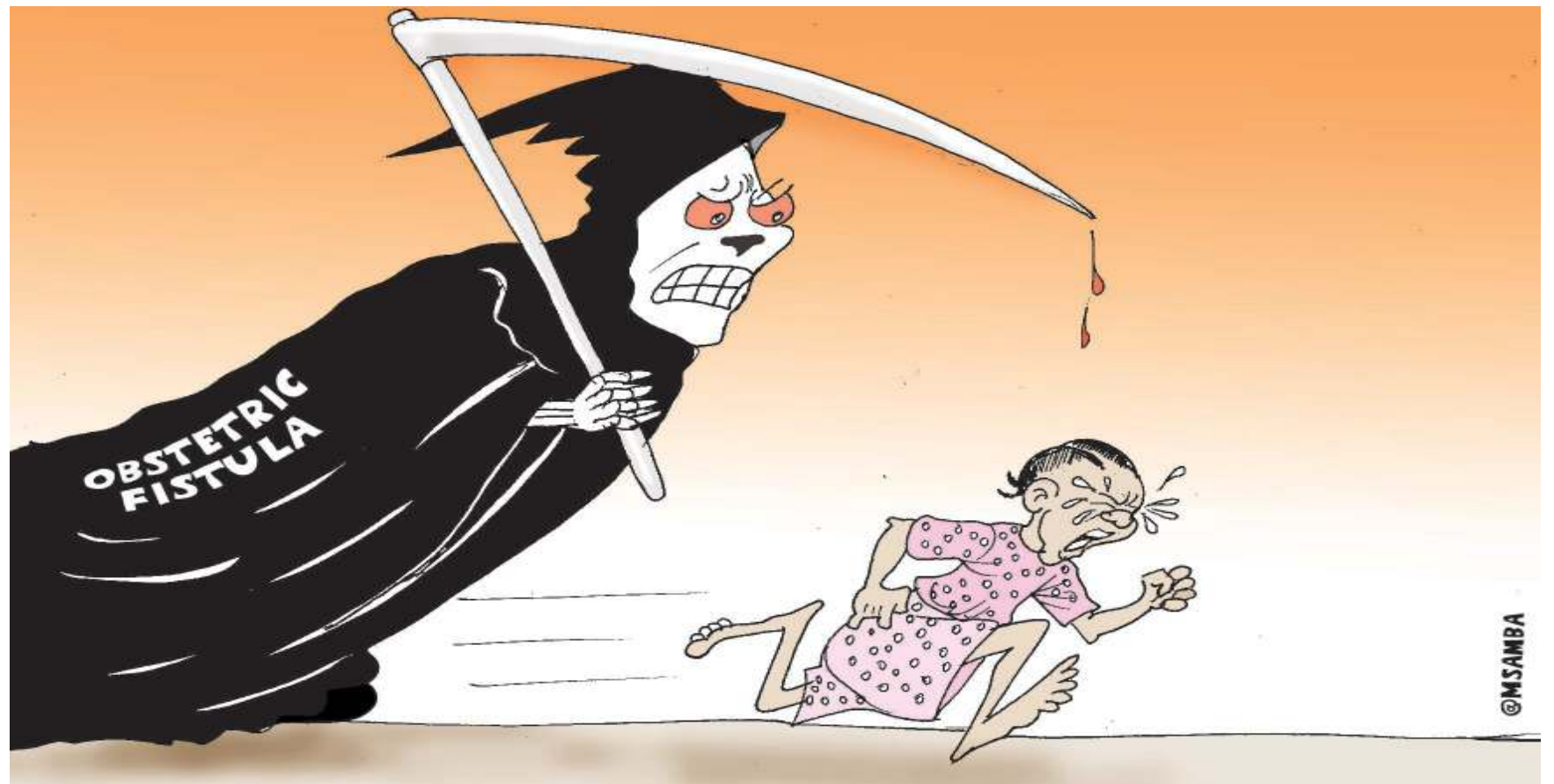
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# Africa Day: Our future's at stake. We demand a fossil-free Africa!

JOHANNESBURG

**T**ODAY is Africa Day. On this auspicious day for Africans, people in their thousands from all walks of life are expected to unite and gather in more than 20 countries on the continent to show their support in the continual fight against fossil fuels and crusade for climate justice.

Since its origins, Africa Day has been a symbol of aspiration for self-determination against the exploitation of natural resources that has seen the continent in perpetual conflict and on the brink of a devastating climate crisis.

Landry Ninteretse, Regional Team Leader for 350Africa.org, said: "In the last few months, we've seen the climate impacts of Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, droughts and floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape."

"With the exception of South Africa, African countries have done relatively little to contribute to climate change, yet they are being severely impacted and have little to no resources to cope with the aftermath," noted Ninteretse.

"Less developed African countries are a natural disaster away from sinking into a negative loop of poverty and lack of access to social and economic opportunities, exacerbated by climate change," added Ninteretse.

Participants from communities affected by oil and coal have all taken part in various activities to send a strong message that Africa doesn't have to rely on fossil fuels to satisfy its energy demand, but rather lead the world in the just energy transition powered by low-cost renewable resources.

The participants include fishing and farming communities, women and youth renewable energy clubs, civil society actors' district leaders including environmental officers, community development officers and forestry officials, local government officials, cultural and religious leaders.

"Fossil fuels have been identified as one of the primary drivers of climate change," said Michael David Terungwa from GISEP, in Nigeria.

"The people who mobilised for AfrikaVuka today are de-

manding a rapid phase-out of fossil fuel energy," he said, elaborating: "Despite overwhelming evidence that continued fossil fuel use is killing the planet and many of us with it, investors appear dead set on enriching themselves at the expenses of billions of people."

He said those in power were doing nothing to stop "this madness" and were instead adding to it, claiming that coal-fired power stations in Lamu in Kenya, an official UNESCO Heritage site, and oil exploration in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Virunga National Park, a biodiversity hotspot, would be good for development.

"We ask them 'Whose development, exactly?'. There is a path for a just development that puts people, their safety and the resilience of the environment we all rely on at the centre," Terungwa argued.

Experts say the world has the technical and financial means to invert the trend in rising GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions and temperatures. They say it is a critical time to re-think many of our systems, see the dawn of a new way of working, traveling, growing our food and producing our energy. What's missing is the political will, which in turn can only be activated by a momentous growth of movements for climate action and social change.

As the least responsible for, but yet most vulnerable to climate change, Africa doesn't need fossil fuels to reach its development. The activists and communities who mobilised yesterday for Africa Day were calling for more African governments to follow upon the Climate Vulnerable Forum pledge made by 16 African governments in November 2016 to accelerate the transition towards an economy powered by 100 per cent renewables.

This Africa Day (May 25), thousands of people were set to participate in hundreds of actions in Africa in a regional mobilisation of distributed actions in towns and cities, universities, places of worship and community spaces to drive climate action within local communities.

They would be sending a clear message to governments that the science is clear, that we have the momentum, that the technology for the energy transition is ready, and that we demand bold action now.



Hundreds across the continent - in Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Kenya, DRC, Senegal and elsewhere - were expected to organise walks for renewable energy, mini-summits, concerts, women's dialogues and youth festivals addressing issues of fossil fuels and the role of African leadership in this critical time.

The mobilisation would not be just about what's decided in the corridors of power at summits and formal negotiations but also about the wave of actions for real change that can be made in a local town, city, university, local institutions, place of worship or community.

It's up to everyone and all of us to make this more than a political flashpoint. Mobilising across the continent would surely send a powerful and necessary message that communities are rising up everywhere to stop fossil fuels and demand true climate action.

The Centre for Citizen Conservation (CECIC) was set to conduct community local screenings of an inspiring documentary of citizens resisting oil exploitation in the Niger Delta (Nigeria) in three schools and the surrounding community.

The screening would seek to raise community awareness on the socio-economic and environmental impacts of oil and gas exploitation activities and mobilise communities to demand an inclusive and just energy transition.

To both mark the Afrika Day of Action for a just transitioned and fossil-free Africa, GIFSEP has expressed determination to mobilise at least 20 senior secondary schools in Abuja to spread climate conscious and justice awareness.

Some 300 students would paint climate-conscious and justice messages on parachutes and deliver them, through a march to the parliament building and displayed at the Millennium Park Abuja. They would be passing a strong message to the legislators to pass the climate bill and lead

Nigeria on the road to climate justice.

Kenya was to join other African countries on Africa Day in demonstrating the resistance against deadly fossil fuel business and advocating a rapid integration of renewable solutions and the changing tide of renewable energy into the national energy sector. There will be a march from Nyayo Stadium in downtown Nairobi to the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, with an AfrikaVuka festival, and would bring together leaders from state and local governments, business, inter-faith leaders and ordinary citizens to highlight the need to deCOALonise Kenya and create awareness on the viable and needed shift to renewable energy.

An estimated 300 people would march in Mombasa in solidarity with the anti-coal campaign deCOALonise of Lamu. They would be displaying placards and banners with fossil free and renewable energy demands that the government decide against the proposed Lamu Coal Plant.

A huge rally gathering at least 1500 citizens composed of youth, women, traditional chiefs, religious leaders, local authorities, CSOs and NGOs was meanwhile planned for Senegal to denounce the Bargny coal plant project and to call on the Senegalese President to demonstrate a stronger leadership role in fighting against climate change and promoting renewables.

Some 1,500 people from the community in Goma (DRC) as well as NGO leaders, women groups and youth were expected to demonstrate against the criminal destruction being implemented in Virunga park. It would be a golden opportunity to collect signatures for the petition launched last year against oil exploitation.

A march involving at least 1,000 people was also to be organised in Kinshasa to support community mobilisation in Goma. San Pedro (Ivory Coast) activists and a network of 15 CSOs were set to break the silence around the San-Pedro coal plant project by mobilising 500 citizens and local authorities to host an Open Forum to create awareness around the negative impacts of the proposed San Pedro coal plant.

This mobilisation would be an opportunity to share the conclusions of the research realised last year to identify the potential impacts of the San Pedro coal plant and to popularise them.

Communities affected by mining and those in support of these communities would be marching to Constitution Hill to hand over a memorandum to the Mineral Resources minister, calling for a national ban on fracking in South Africa.

Activists including farmers would be there in solidarity with the rest of the continent to call for the transformation of the energy sector to rely on renewables.



# What Africa can learn from China about growing its agribusiness sector

By Esther Ngumbi and Mwaura Nganga and Agencies

**T**HE World Bank projects that agriculture and agribusiness in Africa will grow to be a US\$1 trillion industry in Africa by 2030. To promote this outcome, the continent must review its incentive structures.

Agriculture averages 24 per cent of GDP across the continent. With post-harvest activities taken into account, agriculture-related industry accounts for nearly half of all economic activity in sub-Saharan Africa.

The region holds about half of the world's fertile and as-yet-unused land - and yet it spends US\$25 billion annually importing food. It also uses only a tiny percentage of its renewable water resources.

The potential growth of Africa's food and beverage markets will only be possible with adequate investment in small and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises.

Small African firms engaged in agribusiness greatly outnumber the large players. Former Malawian president Bingu Wa Mutharika observed:

In West Africa, 75 per cent of agriculture-related firms are micro or small enterprises, 20% are semi-industrial, and per cent are industrial.

Value chains in many African countries feature an informal chain that serves lower-income consumers and a formal chain that caters for high-income do-

mestic consumers or exports. In many sectors the vast majority of the volume moves through the smaller, less formal businesses. More than 95% of the fruit and vegetables produced in Kenya move through smallholders and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Policymakers need to support agribusiness and technology incubators, export-processing zones and production networks. They must also sharpen the skills associated with these sectors.

Banks and financial institutions also play key roles in fostering technological innovation and supporting investment in homegrown businesses. Unfortunately, their record in promoting technological innovation in Africa has been poor.

Capital markets have played a critical role in creating SMEs in developed countries. They bring money to the table and also help groom small and medium-sized start-ups into successful enterprises. Venture capital in Africa, however, barely exists outside South Africa.

African countries also need to make a concerted effort to leverage expertise in the diaspora. This cohort provides links to existing know-how, establish links to global markets and train local workers to perform new tasks.

Much is already known about how to support business development. The available policy tools include:

- direct financing via matching grants;



Africa needs to support small and medium-sized enterprises across the value chain of the agribusiness sector.

- taxation policies;
- government or public procurement policies;
- advance purchase arrangements; and
- prizes to recognise creativity and innovation.

These can be complemented by simple ways to promote rural innovation that involve low levels of funding, higher local commitments and consistent government policy. For example, China's mission-oriented "Spark Program", created to popularise modern technology in rural areas, had spread to more than 90% of the country's counties by 2005.

There is growing evidence that the Chinese economic miracle is a consequence of the rural entrepreneurship which started

in the 1980s. This contradicts classical interpretations that focus on state-led enterprises and receptiveness to foreign direct investment.

Millions of township and village enterprises were created in provinces like Zhejiang, Anhui and Hunan.

This played a key role in stimulating rural industrialisation. Over the past 60 years, China has experimented extensively with policies and programmes to encourage the growth of rural enterprises.

These include providing isolated agricultural areas with key producer inputs and access to post-harvest, value-added food processing.

By 1995, China's village enterprises had helped bring about a revolution in the country's agriculture. They had evolved to

account for approximately 25% of GDP, 66% of all rural economic output and more than 33% of total export earnings. Most of them have become private enterprises that focus on areas outside agricultural inputs or food processing.

China's initial rural enterprise strategy focused on the so-called five small industries it deemed crucial to agricultural growth:

- chemical fertiliser;
- cement;
- energy;
- iron and steel; and
- farm machinery.

With strong backward linkages between these rural enterprises and Chinese farmers, agricultural development in China grew substantially in the late 1970s and 1980s.

This happened through farmland capital construction, chemical fertilisation and mechanisation. This expansion, coupled with high population growth, led to a surplus of labour and a scarcity of farmland.

As a result, China's rural enterprises increasingly shifted from supplying agricultural producer inputs to labour-intensive consumer goods for domestic and international markets.

From the mid-1980s to the 1990s, China's township and village enterprises saw explosive growth in these areas. At the same time they continued to supply agricultural producers with access to key inputs, new technologies and food-processing services. The most successful were those with strong links to:

- urban and peri-urban industries with which they could form joint ventures and share technical information;
- those in private ownership; and
- those who were willing to shift from supplying producer inputs for farmers to manufacturing consumer goods.

China's experience provides a mechanism for enhancing rural access to agri-

cultural inputs such as fertilisers and mechanisation, as well as post-harvest food processing. Rural enterprises may make the most sense in areas where farm-to-market roads cannot be easily established.

Along with sparking agricultural productivity, rural enterprises may also help provide employment for farm labourers who have been displaced by agricultural mechanisation.

By keeping workers and economic activity in rural areas, China has helped expand rural markets and limit rural-urban migration.

This has also helped create conditions under which it is easier for the government to provide key social services such as health care and education.

Township and village enterprises enjoyed government support, but retained a degree of autonomy in their operations.

Some non-profit organisations and foundations are experimenting with promoting rural entrepreneurship by donating cows or other livestock to rural communities.

Organisations like Heifer International provide cows, along with training about how to raise them and profit from animal husbandry.

But the impact of these programmes is relatively limited. In Malawi, for instance, Heifer International is implementing a programme alongside USAID that is designed to stimulate a dairy industry. But it serves only 180 smallholder farmers.

The lesson from China's experience is that development must be viewed as an expression of human potentialities, not as a product of external interventions.

# Why African players are dominating European leagues

By Christian Okpara

**S**ADIO Mane scored from close range after 17 minutes and again after 81 to join Liverpool team-mate Mohamed Salah and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as the Premier League's top scorer on 22 goals.

The goals, however, were not enough to crown Liverpool's bid for a first Premier League title and a first top-flight triumph in 29 years with success because in Brighton on the same day, the Anfield side's closest rivals, Manchester City won 4-1 with Riyad Mahrez one of the scorers.

Manchester City won the title by the meaneast of margins (98 to 97 points) but Liverpool did not end totally empty handed as they had the player of the season, Virgil Van Dijk, two of the joint top scorers, Sadio Mane and Mohammed Salah, as well as four members of the team of the season, Van Dijk, Salah, Mane and Georginio Wijnaldum.

The 2018/2019 English Premier League season witnessed the influence of African players and players of African descent more than ever before. These are players whose presence contributed to the successes recorded by their teams.

According to German website, Transfermarkt, more than 42 African players are contracted to English Premier League clubs with Nigeria and Senegal leading the pack. Most of these players have grown so dominant in their clubs that fans become jittery each time they, for one reason or another, are not able to take to the field.

The most popular of these stars are Salah, Mane, Alex Iwobi, Naby Keita, Wilfred Zaha, Wilfred Ndidi, Kelechi Iheanacho and Victor Wanyama.

But there are others, who are silently pushing their clubs to success in the most competitive league in the world.

Six of these players are from Senegal including, Mané (Liverpool),

Idrissa Gueye (Everton), Cheikhou Kouyaté (Crystal Palace), Oumar Niasse (Cardiff City), Mohamed Diamé (Newcastle United) and Pape Souaré (Crystal Palace).

Nigeria has more players in the English Premiership than any other country, but only five of them represent the Super Eagles. They are Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City),

Alex Iwobi (Arsenal), Kelechi Iheanacho (Leicester City), Isaac Success (Watford) and Leon Balogun (Brighton).

The Ivoirians in the EPL are Wilfred Zaha (Crystal Palace), Jean Michaël Seri (Fulham), Eric Bailly (Manchester United), Serge Aurier (Tottenham Hotspur) and Sol Bamba (Cardiff City).

Ghana's four players in the EPL are Jeffrey Schlupp (Crystal Palace), Jordan Ayew (Crystal Palace), Daniel Amartey (Leicester City) and Christian Atsu (Newcastle).

The DR Congo has three players, Mali (two), Guinea (two), Algeria two, including Mahrez, who was the best player in the EPL in the 2016/2017 season, while Benin has one.

Morocco and Togo have one each, while Kenya has two, including Victor Wanyama and Divock Origi, who will square off for Tottenham and Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League final respectively.

According to a recent survey, the number of African players playing for teams in Europe has gone up since the days when Jean Amadou Tigana and John Chiedozie were the only recognizable presence in the French and English leagues.

While Tigana played for the French team, which won the bronze medals in the 1982 and 1986 FIFA World Cups, John Chiedozie represented Nigeria up till 1985.

Today, apart from playing for European clubs, players of African descent dominate the major world football powers.

Writing for Ozy.com, Eromo Egbajule, who is an OZY author, said the recent rise in the number of African players in European teams

is because "these players represent a cadre of potential stars trained with the world's best coaching and facilities and groomed in intensely competitive European leagues."

Riyad Mahrez became the first African player in Premier League history to win the PFA Player of the Year award in 2016, while Mohamed Salah's success in 2018 made it twice in three years a player from the continent had been crowned as the division's finest player.

Manchester City won the English Premier League and they have many African-born stars to thank for their success.

Among these players are their captain, Vincent Kompany, a Belgian international of Congolese parentage, Leroy Sané, whose father captained Senegal to the 2002 World Cup, Raheem Sterling, the speedster, who plays for England and also qualifies for Jamaica, and of course, Mahrez.

Chelsea's third position in the league owes as much to the efforts of their Belgian talisman, Eden Hazard, as to the guile of Ruben Loftus-Cheek and of course, defender, Davinson Sanchez.

Tottenham will contest for the UEFA Champions League trophy this season against Liverpool owing mainly to the heroics of Moussa Sissoko, who hauled them from an imminent defeat at home to a sweet victory against Ajax Amsterdam in the semifinals.

In Tottenham's ranks are also Victor Wanyama of Kenya, Dele Alli, who was born in Lagos to a Nigerian father, the 'black mamba' Lucas Moura of Brazilian-Salvadoran heritage and of course, defender, Davinson Sanchez.

Arsenal, which will contest the UEFA Europa League final against Chelsea, have perhaps the highest number of African players in their ranks.

Apart from first teamers like Alex Iwobi, Alexandre Lacazette, Maitland-Niles, Eddie Nketia, Elneni and Pierre Emerick-Aubameyang,



ang, Arsenal have more than 17 players of African descent in their rank from the U-15 cadre to the U-23 team.

Perhaps, the African dominance is more pronounced in the French Ligue 1 than in other competitions because the ratio of blacks to whites is almost 50-50.

The current most influential player in the French league, Kylian Mbappe is of Camerounian heritage. His parents migrated to France when he was a kid. Today, Mbappe is one of the most important players in the French national team and also for his club, Paris St. Germain.

In his work, The migrations of African football players to Europe, Dr. Rafaele Poli of the Sport Science Institute, University of Lausanne International Center for Sports Studies, University of Neuchâtel states that in "October 1, 2009, 571 players imported from Africa were employed by 528 clubs of 36 top division leagues of UEFA member countries (1.08 per club).

"They were present in 33 out of the 36 leagues (no presence only in the three Baltic countries). They are over-represented in France (3.4 players per club) and Belgium (3.3)."

Since that study was published, African players' presence have been felt even in the Balkan states and such obscure leagues as Afghanistan and Cambodia. Recently, China became a mecca for these fortune seekers.

One phenomenon in all of these leagues is that African players almost always play prominent roles in successful teams. Explaining the recent exploits of African players in world football, Dr.

Sadiq Abdullahi, a retired professional tennis star, who represented Nigeria at the 1988 Seoul Olympics Games, said: "There is absolutely nothing ordinary in the genes or DNAs of the Africans in European Football Leagues.

"There may be physical advantage for those players from West African shores because of how they are built. They seem to be physically stronger than their European counterparts. This is deeper than genes and DNAs.

"There are several factors that contribute to this seeming dominance. They are classified in two categories: Nature (Biological) and Nurture (Environmental). "The first category is the area of psychology of the African footballer going abroad to play. They are highly motivated and prepared to take advantage of all the opportunities that come their way. They overcome all adversities and guided by agents appropriately.

"The second category is environmental. This is a big factor. This is also cultural. These African footballers may have received a weak training but they are highly gifted and talented. The successful clubs in Europe, France and Germany are aware of this and are willing to pay for productivity and outcome."

Dr. Abdullahi is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Florida International University (FIU) and recently became a visiting professor at the Federal University Kashere, Gombe State. He has written extensively on issues pertaining to education and sports in Nigeria.

He said: "When African footballers

produce on the field, their value and TV ratings increase. They become marketable and accessible to fans and national football federations. They strive to meet expectations and fulfill contractual agreements. They receive first class coaching and training as well as good advice from outside.

"They also receive a well crafted insurance and welfare package that guarantees and safeguards their careers for the short time. As a result, they have the feeling of superiority and domination. They also know there is the fatherland to return to if they wish."

He believes the superior facilities "in these countries appear favourable to the African footballers and they enhance their performance and dominance."

Sports marketer/lawyer, Sabinus Ikewuaku believes the African sportsman is naturally more gifted than his European counterpart and always excel given conducive environments.

According to Ikewuaku, most African footballers know that success in their careers amounts to economic salvation and therefore they strive even more than their foreign counterparts to excel.

"Every gifted African footballer wants to play in Europe and so they work hard to achieve their ambition.

"Television has also made it possible for African youths to watch great football games and learn fresh skills that serve them well. So, it is no surprise they work so hard to excel.

"When an African boy plays football, he is not playing only for himself, but he represents the dreams of so many relations back home. That is why they work so hard to success."

Professor Ken Anugweje of the University of Port Harcourt attributes the recent dominance of African players in European leagues to a combination of factors, adding, genetics ranks high among these factors.

He said: "Certain abilities make a successful footballer and these are strength, speed, endurance, agility and skills. Except for skills, the rest are inherited.

"Blacks are endowed with these abilities in the right proportions required for certain positions in football. They don't fare too well in goalkeeping. These traits are almost important in the 100m, 200m and 400m races."



## FEATURES

# Why digital land rights records matter: Lessons from Cyclone Idai

By Antonio Inguane

**T**RROPICAL Cyclone Idai made landfall in Beira, the second largest city in Mozambique on March 14, 2019. The cyclone is considered one of the worst disasters to ever strike the Southern Hemisphere and destroyed almost everything in its path. The storm killed more than 1,000 people, with thousands more missing, and affected the lives of more than 3 million people in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Recent estimates put the storm's infrastructure damage of roads, schools, hospitals and government offices at about \$2 billion USD. While more than 715,000 hectares of diverse crops were destroyed - in societies highly dependent on agriculture.

A month after the deadly storm, the government of Mozambique launched the Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction Plan to help the disaster survivors return home and continue with their lives. The plan primarily focuses on healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, and education.

While the recovery and reconstruction efforts are focused on restoring and delivering primary services and re-establishing critical infrastructure lifelines, little is understood about the adverse long-term impacts of Cyclone Idai to Mozambican society and welfare.

The loss of public records and



Post-flood satellite images of Mozambique show that Cyclone Idai submerged about 835 square miles of homes and fields – an area larger than New York City.

personal documents, such as birth certificates, property registration forms and land ownership deeds, are already having a tremendous impact on recovery efforts.

Testimony from Ms. Rabeca Luis in the Buzi District, in Sofala Province, gives a sense of the challenges displaced survivors face in the post-Cyclone Idai period.

"I didn't manage to save anything, I don't have food, shelter, neither clothes. All my belongings were taken by water, including important documents of my family members and our properties," she said.

Similarly, to Ms. Luis, many

other people displaced from Cyclone Idai have lost everything, including critical documents that prove their land and home ownership.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), an NGO, natural disasters are among the top three causes of population displacement in the world. Loss of documentation commonly occurs during storm events and disaster related displacement.

At the moment, it is not clear how many people and public institutions lost their documentation as a result of Cyclone Idai, but given the extent of infrastructural damage, it is easy to assume that many will be affected for years to come.

Most recovery estimates do not include the costs associated with restoring public and personal records. However, the importance of doing so should not be overlooked.

Without property records, recovery efforts are likely to lead to land related complaints and conflicts in affected areas.

Unfortunately, there is not a straightforward solution for these kinds of challenges. What is needed is a proactive, mitigating approach involving the government, civil society organizations, and local communities in the disaster response without disrupting existing systems.

A number of initiatives have been

successfully implemented worldwide, using mobile technologies for data collection, management, and storage at the local community level.

International organizations like Cadasta Foundation provide tools and technology solutions that enable individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to fill critical data gaps and make data-driven decisions for planning and recovery efforts.

Using state-of-the-art ESRI mapping and analytics software with GPS-enabled smartphones and tablets in remote field locations, Cadasta makes the most advanced technology and data sets available to groups that may otherwise find it inaccessible and unaffordable.

Cadasta's field-based mobile tools and platform allow communities to map and safely store their own property, land, and resource rights data from the ground up.

Governments can then verify and use this data to rebuild their land administration and public records system.

By using bottom-up approaches and tools like those offered by Cadasta, local communities and organizations can help expedite and decentralize the storm recovery process.

Their involvement ensures that even the most remote and marginalized communities are represented in the recovery process while also helping to avoid escalating conflict and tensions during reconstruction.

Intense Tropical Cyclone Idai

was one of the worst tropical cyclones on record to affect Africa and the Southern Hemisphere. The long-lived storm caused catastrophic damage in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, leaving more than 1,000 people dead and thousands more missing. Idai is the second-deadliest tropical cyclone recorded in the South-West Indian Ocean basin, behind only the 1892 Mauritius cyclone. In the Southern Hemisphere, it currently ranks as the third-deadliest tropical cyclone on record, behind the aforementioned 1892 Mauritius cyclone and the 1973 Flores cyclone. The cyclone's exact death toll is expected to never be known.

The tenth named storm, seventh tropical cyclone, and seventh intense tropical cyclone of the 2018-19 South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season, Idai originated from a tropical depression that formed off the east coast of Mozambique on 4 March.

The storm, Tropical Depression 11, made landfall in Mozambique later in the day and remained a tropical cyclone through its five-day trek over land.

On 9 March, the depression re-emerged into the Mozambique Channel and strengthened into Moderate Tropical Storm Idai on the next day. Idai then began a stint of rapid intensification, reaching an initial peak intensity as an intense tropical cyclone, with sustained winds of 175 km/h (110 mph) on 11 March. Idai then began to weaken, due to ongoing structural changes within its inner core, falling to tropical cyclone intensity. Idai's intensity remained stagnant for about a day

## Our negative narrations are fostering negative impressions about Ethiopia

By Special Correspondent

**S**OME weeks ago I had been discussing with colleagues on current Ethiopian affairs. We discussed the political chaos and changes in the past three years. We deliberated on the ups and downs of our political history as well as the societal changes in recent decades. Finally, our general analysis sets us to feel that our country seems to slide deeper into instabilities and economic disappointments. We showed more of pessimism.

Next, we challenged ourselves if we can bring words to express our views of contemporary Ethiopia. We were three. Two of us used negative words. Our friend (who claimed to be optimistic about Ethiopia's future), however, challenged us that we are absolutely wrong for our negative perceptions. He even argued that there might not be many pessimistic people like us about Ethiopia's current situation.

My friend and I (the so-called 'pessimists') challenged him that if we do a random survey, we might get more pessimistic reactions than optimistic views about Ethiopia. After a couple of minutes, we randomly asked a person to 'express his view about Ethiopia with one word'. He was quick to throw a grating term. A few days later, my friend and I (who hypothesized that many people would be pessimists about their country) asked the same question to colleagues. As we expected, their answers were loaded with cynicism.

After days, I requested my students if they can 'express their views about Ethiopia with one word'. I asked half of the class. Surprisingly enough, all of them used negative words or phrases.

From these instances, I have learned that we are occupied with pessimistic attitudes about our country. But, why this happened? Why we are pessimistic about the future despite our country is in a tremendous political change?

In my view, one of the reasons is that we developed the institution of negative thinking due to our repeated exposure to deleterious news and information from the media. Our perception of reality significantly influenced by the information we utilize daily. And, contemporarily negative information and fake news are readily available for us than facts and good news.

For instance, according to CNN's Fareed Zakaria report (on June 6, 2018), from the top ten words forwarded by some survey participants to bid their views about 2017, only two words were positive, one word was neutral, and the rest seven words were negative. To the contrary, experts stated that 2017 was one of the greatest years in human history: this is the year more people get access to electricity, education, and clean water. In 2017, poverty and inter-state wars substantially reduced. A fewer number of people died due to internal conflicts (see the book entitled "Factfulness" from which the report was extracted).

Nevertheless, according to experts because the media focus on the chaos, natural disasters, and conflicts, people perceive that our world is unstable than ever. This indicates that the sketchily framed reflections of reality by the media noticeably affect people's views about their surroundings.

Nowadays, the topic of discussion on the mainstream media, the rumors circulated on social

media, and our face-to-face conversations seem to be loaded with unpleasant impulses.

Consequently, most of us can bring pieces of evidence inflicted by confirmation biases to support how bad is our current situation. We over-emphasize on a few numbers of undesirable endeavors than the plentiful positive facets of our life. This kind of negative social construction of reality, I think, fostered malicious public attitudes. Thus, when we try to convey our thoughts about our current situation, our mind avails us with negative thoughts.

The other issue is that the older generations' nostalgia to the past might have substantially influenced us to perceive that our current situation as a nation is troublesome and the future is even worrying compared with the past. Many people from the older generations in our country argue that their era was far better than the current age.

They try to convince us how successful was their generation compared with the current one. They narrate that what is good for this country had been and is still in the hands of 'generations 1960s and 70s'. This kind of prejudiced narration, probably, infuses us with a negatively constructed nostalgic reality. Thus, we readily disparage our current situation.

Generally speaking, we cannot develop our attitude and construct stories about it on the vacuum. We construct stories about ourselves and the realities we live from the information available to us. Therefore, as mentioned above, among other reasons, the older generations' biased narrations of our reality and the media's emphasis to the adage 'it leads when it bleeds', significantly affect our perceptions of the reality we live.

Accordingly, in my view, the following a couple of suggestions can be part of solutions vital to lessen our misperceptions about our realities.

Primarily, we better understand that obtaining chunks of unrefined information from many sources cannot nec-



essarily make us informed citizens. At this information age, the accessibility of information is not a big concern. It is the capability to discern facts from fake news that matters most. We should be critical about our information sources and consumption. Therefore, to comprehend facts correctly and thus to properly understand our surroundings, we have to be inquisitive and critical thinkers.

Secondly, we should correct the way we narrate our history and reality. The media and public figures should be careful about their arguments about our history and the current situation. The views from the media and our opinion leaders are vital to the youth to accurately comprehend its history and current situation. The (political and economic) elites, scholars, and other public figures should not simply induce guilt in the mind of the current generation.

Parallel to their criticisms, they should also recommend mechanisms on how to get better with the resources we have. Overemphasis on the disenchantments of this generation will only induce inner pollution. Therefore, our media and opinion leaders should take extra care about the messages they produce and the way they present them to the general public. They have

to be skillful creators and producers of information if citizens have to make informed and reasoned decisions in their daily lives.

Ethiopia officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a country in the Horn of Africa. It shares borders with Eritrea to the north, Djibouti to the northeast, Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south.

With over 102 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world and the second-most populous nation on the African continent. It occupies a total area of 1,100,000 square kilometres (420,000 sq mi), and its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa.

Some of the oldest skeletal evidence for anatomically modern humans has been found in Ethiopia. It is widely considered as the region from which modern humans first set out for the Middle East and places beyond. According to linguists, the first Afroasiatic-speaking populations settled in the Horn region during the ensuing Neolithic era. Tracing its roots to the 2nd millennium BC, Ethiopia's governmental system was a monarchy for most of

its history. In the first centuries AD, the Kingdom of Aksum maintained a unified civilization in the region, followed by the Ethiopian Empire circa 1137. During the late 19th-century Scramble for Africa, Ethiopia was one of two nations to retain its sovereignty from long-term colonialism by a European colonial power. Many newly-independent nations on the continent subsequently adopted its flag colours. The country was occupied by Italy in 1936 and became Italian Ethiopia (part of the Italian East Africa) until 1941. Ethiopia was also the first independent member from Africa of the 20th-century League of Nations and the United Nations. In 1974, the Ethiopian monarchy under Haile Selassie was overthrown by the Derg, a communist military government backed by the Soviet Union. In 1987, the Derg established the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, but it was overthrown in 1991 by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, which has been the ruling political coalition since.

Ethiopia and Eritrea use the ancient Ge'ez script, which is one of the oldest alphabets still in use in the world. The Ethiopian calendar, which is approximately seven years and three months behind the Gregorian calendar, co-exists alongside the Borana calendar. A majority of the population adheres to Christianity (mainly the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and Pent'ay), whereas around a third follows Islam (primarily Sunni). The country is the site of the Migration to Abyssinia and the oldest Muslim settlement in Africa at Negash. A substantial population of Ethiopian Jews, known as Bete Israel, also resided in Ethiopia until the 1980s. Ethiopia is a multilingual nation with around 80 ethnolinguistic groups, the four largest of which are the Oromo, Amhara, Somali and Tigrayans.



# Resignation speech: What Theresa May said and what she truly meant

BACK in 2016, we gave the British people a choice. Against all predictions, the British people voted to leave the European Union. I feel as certain today as I did three years ago that in a democracy, if you give people a choice you have a duty to implement what they decide.

This is a familiar line from Theresa May (pictured), whose lineage can be traced right back to the "Brexit means Brexit" catchphrase of her first few months in office. But she does genuinely believe not only that the result of the Brexit referendum must be implemented - but that failing to do so is dangerous for Britain's democracy.

I believe it was right to persevere, even when the odds against success seemed high. But it is now

clear to me that it is in the best interests of the country for a new prime minister to lead that effort.

This is a sideswipe at the colleagues who have been trying to bring her down for months, and were driven to fresh spasms of fury when she entered talks with Jeremy Corbyn, in a bid to win Labour support for a modified version of her Brexit deal.

Her efforts ultimately failed - but she's saying she stands by the decision to keep on trying, right up until the end.

It is, and will always remain, a matter of deep regret to me that I have not been able to deliver Brexit.

May knows that whatever she hoped would be her achievements, her three-year tenure in Downing Street is likely to be re-



membered chiefly for her failure to achieve the central task her government was set by the electorate.

She's signalling here that she knows this failure is a burden she will carry for the rest of her life.

It will be for my successor to seek a way forward that honours the result of the referendum. To succeed, he or she will have to find consensus in parliament where I have not. Such a consensus can only be reached if those

on all sides of the debate are willing to compromise.

This is the "good luck with that, Boris" passage. May has ultimately been brought down by those in her own party seeking a cleaner break with the European Union, which they believe the obligations contained in the Irish backstop will prevent.

But whoever succeeds her will have to govern with the support of a hung parliament, unless and until they call a general election. So a harder Brexit, let alone no deal, is highly unlikely to command a majority in parliament.

May is pointing out here that whoever is behind the big black door in Downing Street, the structural challenges of delivering Brexit remain - and they may become more, not less difficult, if

her successor is more dogmatic.

Security. Freedom. Opportunity. Those values have guided me throughout my career. But the unique privilege of this office is to use this platform to give a voice to the voiceless, to fight the burning injustices that still scar our society.

This was followed by a list of the achievements May most prizes, and was an attempt to impose some coherence on a premier-ship defined almost exclusively by Brexit.

But two of the things she mentioned, the public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower disaster, and the race disparity audit, are efforts to investigate why things have gone badly wrong, in a Britain her party has run for almost nine years.

Another, ending the postcode

lottery in mental health, appears more of an aspiration than a success.

I will shortly leave the job that it has been the honour of my life to hold - the second female prime minister but certainly not the last. I do so with no ill-will, but with enormous and enduring gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve the country I love.

This was the moment May's usually steely demeanour collapsed, her voice cracking with emotion as she uttered those last few words.

She may have been more low-key about it than the flamboyant Boris Johnson, but she has long been a deeply ambitious and self-confident politician, who believed she was the right person for Britain's top job - and now it's over.

## The Africa we all want: Africa of opportunities

By Neven Mimica

LET'S fast-forward a moment, to 2063: a century after launching the first African continental initiative - the Organisation of African Unity that we commemorate today - Africa is an integrated continent, reaping the benefits of inclusive growth and sustainable development. The continent is peaceful and safe. Access to basic social services is guaranteed for all. Human rights, good governance and the rule of law prevail. On the world scene, Africa is a strong, influential player and partner.

This is not a fantasy, this is the vision you set out as your objective in the African Union's Agenda 2063. This is the Africa you are building. An Africa of opportunities. An Africa we all want.

We can feel the winds of change blowing across the continent - from the historic peace agreements in the Horn region and the peaceful end of some totalitarian regimes, to the decision to set up an African continental free-trade area. Africa is a continent on the rise.

The continent's economic pulse is beating faster. It is the world's second fastest growing region, bursting with energy and dynamism. New commercial opportunities abound. Investments are growing rapidly.

Over the past five years, I have witnessed this change as European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development. I have seen with my own eyes how

Africa has increased its presence on the world stage. Full of confidence, aware of its economic, strategic, natural and human potential.

Making Africa's 2063 vision a reality will be a long and continuous process requiring commitment from all concerned, at all levels and across frontiers. Setbacks might and will happen. You can trust my European experience on that. But is there any other way?

One thing is however sure: Europe is Africa's long-standing partner and is willing to remain so. Africa is Europe's twin continent. No matter what you may hear, Europe is Africa's main and sustainable ally in business, its biggest trading partner and its leading investor, far ahead of any other region in the world. It is also our firm belief that a stronger Africa is good for Europe. We can only win by reinforcing our neighbours.

This means that charity has no place in our partnership. It is about sharing risks together and boosting Africa's potential to achieve sustainable development: the kind of development that can stay the course and deliver long term opportunities for all. The kind of development that can offer African and European businesses new opportunities on both sides of the Mediterranean sea.

That is why Europe needs an Africa of opportunities.

I reckon the Africa-Europe relationship



Neven Mimica European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

has grown and matured over the last years. From a donor-to-recipient dependency, it has evolved to a partnership of equals and it is now more and more looking like an "Alliance", as European Commission President Juncker said when he launched in September 2018 the new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs.

The Alliance's ultimate aim is to boost investment and create jobs, notably for young Africans. Let me reassure you; this is not another label given to a political initiative. The Alliance will come up with concrete results on the ground. Our leveraged investments will help create 10 million jobs in Africa over the next five years.

The Alliance also means that co-operating and building together offer better chances to find the solution we need for our future. Our common future. Together, Africa and Europe can shape the international agenda. Together we can make a difference. If Europe misses this rendez-vous with Africa, it will miss its rendez-vous with History. And I dare to say the opposite is also true; make no mistake: Europe is your natural ally.

The degree to which we make a success of the Alliance will depend on how we translate these initiatives into real and lasting change for the people on the ground.

Doing this will require African and European commitment alike. I know that we are all capable of that commitment. But there is no time to waste: 2063 is now.



**We can feel the winds of change blowing across the continent - from the historic peace agreements in the Horn region and the peaceful end of some totalitarian regimes, to the decision to set up an African continental free-trade area**

## Energy as a key driver in addressing youth migration challenge in Africa

By Special Correspondent

AS I reflect on the 2019 Ibrahim Governance Week which took place in Abidjan in early April, one aspect of the discussions that I would like to elaborate on is the role of energy in addressing the challenge of African youth migration. Energy is critical in stimulating economic growth and therefore a key driver in creating livelihoods and opportunities for the youth in Africa.

According to the 2019 Ibrahim Forum Re-

port, migration of Africans in 2017 represented only 14 per cent of the global migrant population; much less than the share from Asia (41%) and Europe (24pc). The report further states three important facts:

- more than 70 per cent of the sub-Saharan African migrants move within Africa
- the current African migrants are mostly young and educated, and
- the main driver for migration among 80 per cent of the migrants is the hope for better economic or social prospects.

This information presents to the continent the entry points for addressing the challenge of youth migration. One thing is certain: energy is critical in stimulating economic growth. With energy, decent livelihoods will be created for the youth in Africa who constitute more than a third of the continent's population.

There is need for urgent action towards addressing access to energy as key in building the Africa we want. The Africa whose youth will be happy to stay and work in their countries or within the continent. As highlighted in Af-

rica Energy Outlook - a report produced by the International Energy Agency (IEA) - in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 620 million people have no access to electricity and nearly 730 million others continue to rely on traditional biomass for cooking. Energy for cooking and lighting is just energy needed for basic needs at the household level; not energy for productive use. To be having challenges with access to energy for such basic needs despite the continent's immense renewable energy resources potential that - if efficiently harnessed - are

more than enough to meet its energy needs, is unacceptable.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)'s report - Africa 2030: Roadmap for a Renewable Energy Future, the four key modern renewable energy technologies with the highest deployment potential in the region include modern biomass for cooking; hydropower; wind; and solar, with hydropower continuing to play an important role in sub-Saharan Africa despite its vulnerability to climate change.

## Malawi President Mutharika leads election count

By Special Correspondent

INCUMBENT President Peter Mutharika is set to win a second term in the impoverished, landlocked southeast African state. With most votes counted, he led his main challenger by five percentage points.

With 75 [per cent of votes counted, 78-year-old Malawian President Peter Mutharika had a 40 per cent share. That put him ahead of his main rival, former Christian pastor Lazarus Chakwera with 35 per cent according to the electoral commission on Thursday.

Saulos Chilima, who was Mutharika's closest ally before the men fell out last year, had taken 18 per cent. The president can not fire his deputy, so the 46-year-old stayed on as vice president as he set up his own youth-focused United Transformation Movement to fight the election.

Malawi has a "winner takes all" sys-



tem. Mutharika (pictured) won his first term in 2014 with just 36 per cent of the vote. The 64-year-old Chakwera said attempts had been made to manipulate the results and that his Malawi Congress Party, had conducted a separate count which showed him to be ahead.

No data has been published so far

to show how many of the registered 6.8 million Malawians turned out to vote on Tuesday to elect a president for a five-year term, a new parliament and local

Malawi, together with neighboring Mozambique and Zimbabwe are still recovering from the effects of Cyclone Idai which hit the southeast coastal areas of Africa in March.

Mutharika stood on a platform of improving the road and power infrastructure. "My priorities for this country are development and building skills," he said at his final rally before the vote. However, he has also faced accusations of nepotism and corruption.

Malawi won independence from Britain in 1964 and was ruled by Hastings Banda as a one-party state until elections in 1994. With a population of 18 million and one of Africa's poorest economies, Malawi has a million adults living with HIV, one of the highest rates in the world.



A woman casts her vote at the Ndirande Community ground polling centre on 21 May 2019



# Revitalising contemporary Nigeria's foreign policy

By Atah Pine

THE Guardian newspapers' editorials on Nigerian foreign policy published on the 8th and 9th May 2019 raised fundamental issues that should attract any keen Nigeria foreign policy analyst. The veining of the issues crisscrosses epistemological, ontological, psychological, sociological, cultural, economical, and political boundaries. Perhaps, because of the contemporary utility of the discourse to the democratisation process and the incipency of the final interlude of Buhari's presidency, it repays more attention. The conversations in the two editorials are, in my opinion, conceptually and ideationally self-same. However, rather than use broad strokes in my analysis as my categorisation appears, I would individually.

First, the editorial of 8th May, 2019. The editorial entitled 'restructure Nigeria's foreign policy objectives now!' resonates with a tone and tune of urgency, of immediacy of attention and action, of existential crisis and diplomatic angst whose underlining presupposition appears to indicate that if nothing is done, sooner than later, there may be seismic irruption at the foundations of our national life. For perceptive analysts of the federalism debate in Nigeria, the title of the editorial, intertextually and ideologically, gestures to the debate of restructuring Nigeria championed by certain sections of the country and valorized by the PDP in the 2019 presidential elections.

Essentially, however, the editorial threw up two key issues. One, the ontological status of Nigerian foreign policy. The point is better expressed by the question: is there an entity called Nigeria foreign policy? If yes, the question that arises again is, what is the nature of the entity? Could this supposedly existing entity be truly said to be a progeny of its well-known activist and dynamic ancestor of the anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism, anti-neocolonialism, and anti-Apartheid fame? What, in short, can be said to be the core of Nigeria's foreign policy? Even if not monosyllabically posed, the editorial's answer is unambiguously clear and it bears restating. It says, 'currently, Nigeria's foreign policy seems to be in a flux without a core. This has been a cause for concern to well-meaning Nigerians and many watchers of the country's foreign policy. They have never ceased to recall the heyday of the country's foreign policy, especially in the de-colonisation process in Africa.' I will return presently to this point.

Two, the paper bristles at the government's decision to close down thirty diplomatic missions abroad for economic reasons. It canvasses for 'fiscal restructuring' as against closing of diplomatic shops. The point is buttressed thus, 'to explicate further, resources should be deployed from where they are not needed to fund the diplomatic missions and make our presence felt through adequate diplomatic representation. This is predicated on the role expectation of the country as the authentic leader of the black race.' In this piece, I am not as much concerned with fiscal restructuring as I am with the clincher, 'the authentic leader of black race.'

Now we turn our analytical gaze to these two issues. First, the question of whether Nigeria has core foreign policy objectives. The answer is, yes. I muse that the Guardian anticipated its readers' worries and responses about its questioning of the core of Nigerian foreign policy when in its second editorial it outlined her foreign policy objectives as enshrined in Section 19 of the 1999 Constitution. No sovereign state lacks the existence of a body of principles that govern the conduct of her international relations. None, whatsoever. The conveyor belt of these principles are dependent on the quality of such variables as leadership, intellectual prowess, diplomacy, ideology, geography, economy, technology, nationalism, military power, natural resources and so on. Where one nation possess with superfluous abandon majority of these variables the better it is placed in a good stead to pursue its national interests. Therefore, the difference that exists among nations in the pursuit of their foreign policies is a difference of degree not kind.

The seeming lull in contemporary Nigerian foreign policy exertions in all probability is traceable to the poor quality of the fibres of her intellectual



President Muhammadu Buhari

content and direction and sense of intellectual activism, diplomatic timidity, poverty of ideological capital, leadership malfeasance, and so on. Needless to say that the other variables are in a state of advanced conceptual decay. What needs to be done, at the risk of sounding essentialistic in prescription, is to inject these variables with the desired dosage of functionalism, to inject fire into its belly.

The point needs to be made again and again that the very nature of the political and ideological climate of contemporary global affairs—and in Africa, especially—is at variance with what was obtainable in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s. All the vestiges of colonialism, apartheid, cold war, imperialism have been destroyed, and with this destruction comes the end of the era of intense social and political activism that gave vent to an activist and dynamically oriented foreign policy. Therefore, anyone waiting for the arrival of the train of an activist and dynamic foreign policy in Abuja such as it had been in the days of yore finds himself at the wrong station where his waiting shall be in vain. In pedestrian terms, one waits in vain if one's expectation seeks President Muhammadu Buhari's foreign policy to be stamped with the seal of activism and dynamism. The thesis that Nigerian foreign policy is not dynamic found in contemporary literature on Nigerian foreign policy is borne out of the mindset of parallel expectations of Nigerian foreign policy in the 2000s to ape that of the 1970s and 80s. Nothing can be undynamic than these dynamic expectations!

Given that Nigerian foreign policy has a core as exemplified by the constitutional encapsulation of its objectives that serves as the fulcrum of its conceptual radiance, it would be counterfactual and counterintuitive to say Nigerian foreign policy is in a flux. Its pulling in different dimensions as against the hitherto linear ideological flow undoubtedly contradicts old habits of thought. Is all well with Nigerian foreign policy? The answer is no. Elsewhere, I have spoken of conceptual confusion in the framing of Nigerian foreign policy but that in no sense conflates with the notion of flux. The problem, I muse, for the umpteenth time harks back to difficulties of operationalization as against essence. Let us go to take up the other fundamental issue posed by the first editorial, the issue that Nigeria is the authentic leader of the black race.

A better way of starting this analysis can scarcely presuppose the question: how is Nigeria the authentic leader of the black race? In any case, I pose this question rhetorically and its propensity for critical reflection, if comic relief. I breakdown the questions for these effects furthermore. What is the basis of saying Nigeria is the authentic leader of the black race? Leadership? Politics? Economics? Technology? Military? Industrial? What indices precisely? Let's leave aside these rhetorical questions and move straight to the issue at hand. To say Nigeria is the leader of the black race draws pearl of laughter. Such opinion is—in my view, and, surely many

readers would agree with me on this point especially given the nature of the prevailing social and economic climate in the country—the height of psychological masturbation and hungering for honour. The facts of this case are so clear and speak eloquently for itself that it hardly suffices belabouring.

This point brings me to call against the rationalisation of Nigerian foreign missions. Outside the talk of the utilitarian value of diplomatic missions, the chiefest point for canvassing for the retention of the proposed diplomatic missions to be cut is psychological rather than economic consideration. It is to uphold the prestige of Nigeria in the eyes of the international community, no more, no less. As Africa's big brother, the argument goes, Nigeria need not be seen downgrading her missions abroad even when economic realities so demand. This psychologizing propensity in the analysis of Nigeria foreign policy—and it comes in heavy torrents—needs to be eliminated to give room for empirically objective commentary. Let's move to the next editorial.

The second editorial carried on the 9th May 2019 was titled: 'to make Nigeria's foreign policy significant.' I have alluded that in conceptual and ideational details, this editorial and the previous one appear similar except that the tone is restrained, sober, and devoid of conceptual extravagances.

For instance, rather than restate its earlier point of view that Nigeria is the 'authentic leader of the black race' the editorial self-correctly posits that, 'given the reality that the country is the most populated black nation in the world, it was evidently seen as being tied to the fate of the black race. The inheritors of the scepter of power, going by the rhetoric of the period, were deemed moderates but acted in ways that put the country at the vanguard of the defenders of the black race and its interest.' The one unremitting ideal the editorial tasks Nigeria not to lose sight of is the 'the hope of a continental leadership.' Nothing could be truer.

Generally, the epicenter of this editorial is the claim of the mismanagement of Nigeria foreign policy by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari arising

from its very poor understanding of the foreign policy enterprise; its poor understanding and conceptualization of what constitutes Nigeria's national interests; its poor understanding of the sociology of contemporary global diplomacy; its very poor sense of leadership and, more worrisome, its ethnocentricist vision and mindset emblemized by the penchant for the ethnicisation of diplomatic appointments and postings.

I earlier spoke of the conveyor belt of foreign policy. It is never a destination but a work-in-progress, a process of structuring and restructuring. Our foreign policy pursuit would get it amiss if we indulge in the complacency mode. Given the spiraling intensity of the forces of globalisation, now more than ever before, Nigeria needs to gird her loins and pursue a foreign policy course that conduces to the mobilisation and harnessing of the ingenuity and creative energies of her citizenry for national development. This would go a long way to put pay to melancholic clouds of banditry, kidnapping, poor migration practices, armed robbery, cultism among many other unspeakable vices that currently overhang our national firmament. The focus should be development diplomacy.

As President Muhammadu Buhari prepares to engage the levers of his second term, the Guardian editorial and its itemisation of the ailments that plague the administration's foreign policy pursuit in the preceding dispensation should be food for thought.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, commonly referred to as Nigeria is a federal republic in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the southeast, and Benin in the west. Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The federation comprises 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja is located. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country.

Nigeria has been home to a number of ancient and indigenous kingdoms and states over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and took its present territorial shape with the merging of the Southern Nigeria Pro-

tectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914. The British set up administrative and legal structures while practising indirect rule through traditional chieftoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960. It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It thereafter alternated between democratically elected civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2011 presidential election considered the first to be reasonably free and fair.

Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy. With 186 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has the third-largest youth population in the world, after India and China, with more than 90 million of its population under age 18. The country is viewed as a multinational state as it is inhabited by 250 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 250 different languages and are identified with a wide variety of cultures. The official language is English. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern part of the country, and Muslims, who live mostly in the north. A minority of the population practice religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to the Igbo and Yoruba ethnicities.

As of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. The 2013 debt-to-GDP ratio was 11 percent. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; it has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power. However, it currently has a "low" Human Development Index, ranking 152nd in the world. Nigeria is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe's next "BRIC-like" economies. It is also listed among the "Next Eleven" economies set to become among the biggest in the world. Nigeria is a founding member of the African Union and a member of many other international organizations, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and OPEC.

The name Nigeria was taken from the Niger River running through the country. This name was coined in the late 19th century by British journalist Flora Shaw, who later married Lord Lugard, a British colonial administrator. The origin of the name Niger, which originally applied only to the middle reaches of the Niger River, is uncertain. The word is likely an alteration of the Tuareg name *egerew n-igerewen* used by inhabitants along the middle reaches of the river around Timbuktu prior to 19th-century European colonialism.

The Nok civilisation of Northern Nigeria flourished between 500 BC and AD 200, producing life-sized terracotta figures that are some of the earliest known sculptures in Sub-Saharan Africa. Further north, the cities Kano and Katsina have a recorded history dating to around 999 AD. Hausa kingdoms and the Kanem-Bornu Empire prospered as trade posts between North and West Africa.

The Kingdom of Nri of the Igbo people consolidated in the 10th century and continued until it lost its sovereignty to the British in 1911.

Nri was ruled by the Eze Nri, and the city of Nri is considered to be the foundation of Igbo culture. Nri and Aguleri, where the Igbo creation myth originates, are in the territory of the Umeuri clan. Members of the clan trace their lineages back to the patriarchal king-figure Eri. In West Africa, the oldest bronzes made using the lost-wax process were from Igbo-Ukwu, a city under Nri influence.

The slave trade was engaged in by European state and non-state actors such as Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal and private companies, as well as various African states and non-state actors. With rising anti-slavery sentiment at home and changing economic realities, Great Britain outlawed the international slave trade in 1807. Following the Napoleonic Wars, Great Britain established the West Africa Squadron in an attempt to halt the in-

ternational traffic in slaves. It stopped ships of other nations that were leaving the African coast with slaves; the seized slaves were taken to Freetown, a colony in West Africa originally established for the resettlement of freed slaves from Britain. Britain intervened in the Lagos Kingship power struggle by bombarding Lagos in 1851, deposing the slave trade friendly Oba Kosoko, helping to install the amenable Oba Akitoye, and signing the Treaty between Great Britain and Lagos on 1 January 1852. Britain annexed Lagos as a Crown Colony in August 1861 with the Lagos Treaty of Cession. British missionaries expanded their operations and travelled further inland. In 1864, Samuel Ajayi Crowther became the first African bishop of the Anglican Church.

In 1885, British claims to a West African sphere of influence received recognition from other European nations at the Berlin Conference. The following year, it chartered the Royal Niger Company under the leadership of Sir George Taubman Goldie. In 1900 the company's territory came under the control of the British government, which moved to consolidate its hold over the area of modern Nigeria. On 1 January 1901, Nigeria became a British protectorate, and part of the British Empire, the foremost world power at the time. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the independent kingdoms of what would become Nigeria fought a number of conflicts against the British Empire's efforts to expand its territory. By war, the British conquered Benin in 1897, and, in the Anglo-Aro War (1901–1902), defeated other opponents. The restraint or conquest of these states opened up the Niger area to British rule.

In 1914, the British formally united the Niger area as the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. Administratively, Nigeria remained divided into the Northern and Southern Protectorates and Lagos Colony. Inhabitants of the southern region sustained more interaction, economic and cultural, with the British and other Europeans owing to the coastal economy.

Christian missions established Western educational institutions in the Protectorates. Under Britain's policy of indirect rule and validation of Islamic tradition, the Crown did not encourage the operation of Christian missions in the northern, Islamic part of the country. Some children of the southern elite went to Great Britain to pursue higher education. By independence in 1960, regional differences in modern educational access were marked. The legacy, though less pronounced, continues to the present day. Imbalances between North and South were expressed in Nigeria's political life as well. For instance, northern Nigeria did not outlaw slavery until 1936 whilst in other parts of Nigeria slavery was abolished soon after colonialism.

Following World War II, in response to the growth of Nigerian nationalism and demands for independence, successive constitutions legislated by the British government moved Nigeria toward self-government on a representative and increasingly federal basis. By the middle of the 20th century, a great wave for independence was sweeping across Africa. Nigeria achieved independence in 1960.

Independent Federation and First Republic (1960–1966)

The Federation of Nigeria gained independence from the United Kingdom on 1 October 1960, while retaining the British monarch, Elizabeth II, as nominal head of state and Queen of Nigeria. Nigeria's government was a coalition of conservative parties: the Nigerian People's Congress (NPC), a party dominated by Northerners and those of the Islamic faith, and the Igbo and Christian-dominated National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) led by Nnamdi Azikiwe.

Azikiwe replaced the colonial governor-general in November 1960. The opposition comprised the comparatively liberal Action Group (AG), which was largely dominated by the Yoruba and led by Obafemi Awolowo. The cultural and political differences between Nigeria's dominant ethnic groups – the Hausa ('Northerners'), Igbo ('Easterners') and Yoruba ('Westerners') – were sharp.

An imbalance was created in the polity by the result of the 1961 plebiscite. Southern Cameroons opted to join the Republic of Cameroon while Northern Cameroons chose to remain in Nigeria.



## BUSINESS

## OPTIMISM

# Investors have own wish list as Cyril Ramaphosa picks his Cabinet members

JOHANNESBURG

Ramaphosa is expected to announce his Cabinet within the next few days and the early signs have encouraged investors: former Environment Minister Nomvula Mokonyane, accused of taking bribes, has already been ruled out. The position of Deputy President David Mabuza, who has been linked to a series of scandals, is also in doubt while he faces scrutiny from the ruling party's integrity commission. Mokonyane and Mabuza deny any wrongdoing.

A line-up that signals a push for clean government and a focus on the economy will boost the mood among traders, said Nolwandle Mthombeni, an analyst at Mergence Investment Managers in Cape Town.

"A good outcome in the cabinet appointments will bring about the sentiment needed," Mthombeni said. "South African corporates in particular need some level of assurance before they can have the confidence to start investing in the country again."

Ramaphosa has vowed to clean up the government after his predecessor Jacob Zuma's scandal-marred nine-year rule. He needs a team of ministers to help him kick-start an economy that has expanded by an average of just 1.1% in the past five years. Here are more comments from investors about the Cabinet:

Warwick Bam, head of research at Avior Capital Markets

Investors are looking for signals that will create investment confidence. The appointment of a credible and slimmed down Cabinet will be the first of these. The market will be looking for a Cabinet with experience, competence, integrity, and fresh ideas.

Ministers tainted with corruption allegations or ineffective track records will reduce confidence. A zero tolerance for incompetence and corruption must start from the top down. The market will be concerned if Bathabile Dlamini, the minister of women's affairs accused by the Constitutional Court of lying under oath, Mosebenzi Zwane, a former mining minister accused of improperly influencing the awarding of government contracts, and Faith Muthambi, also accused of involvement in so-called state capture

are named in the Cabinet.

Positive picks would be Finance Minister Tito Mboweni, Naledi Pandor, minister of higher education and training, Paul Mashatile, treasurer to the ANC, and Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan. If speculation that Thuli Madonsela, the respected former anti-graft ombudsman, could be appointed a minister proves correct, that would be positive for the market.

Ryan Woods, head of trading, Independent Securities

Appointing ministers seen as not tainted by scandal, or as Zuma apologists, will be key. Developments around Mabuza and Mokonyane will be seen as a positive. Mabuza has been mired in alleged dirty dealings for some time now. Mokonyane's tenure at water affairs was a disaster.

Retaining people in key positions such as Mboweni, and Gordhan staying on in some capacity are all markers for investors that reform is a priority. Some Zuma apologists and those mired in some scandal will likely be reappointed, but it hinges on what posts they occupy and influence they may have. This will dictate the market reaction.

Casparus Treurnicht, money manager at Gryphon Asset Management

The market is suffering from politician fatigue, and merely making appointments is not going to change investors' minds. What investors would like to see is people going to jail for corruption and actions over words.

The best thing that could happen now is sorting the debt burden at the state power utility [Eskom]. Deregulation is also high on the list. It's become impossible for small businesses to establish themselves and survive.

Mthombeni at Mergence

A good Cabinet would include ministers in key portfolios such as mining and energy resources, finance and public service and administration being suitably qualified and not implicated in any unlawful acts and impropriety. The presence of individuals negatively implicated in the state capture inquiry or with a poor track record in previous cabinet roles would be a negative sign.



National Assembly Speaker (R), Job Nkomo thanks NMB Bank board member Margaret Ikongo (C) moments after the handover of 250 iron sheets and 126 chairs and tables to Chiwe and Nyamkongo Secondary Schools in Kongwa district of Dodoma region all valued at 10m/- yesterday. Photo courtesy of NMB.

## COUNSEL

## Ndugai dares bankers to take financial literacy to schools

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

COMMERCIAL banks should consider taking financial literacy to primary and secondary schools so that pupils and students should understand how to manage their money from tender age.

National Assembly Speaker, Job Nkomo said in Kongwa district yesterday when receiving 250 iron sheets donated to Chiwe Secondary School and 63 chairs and tables donated to Nyamkongo Secondary School by NMB Bank Plc that by understanding the basic of financial management and tender age, children will grow up into responsible adults who know how to save money.

"If NMB Bank chooses to teach children at school basics of financial literacy you can do so easily countrywide because you are in every district," Nkomo who is also Kongwa legislator, said while noting that most adults fail to manage their finances because of lack of knowledge on the subject.

"You should seriously consider also teaching entrepreneurship to children at primary and secondary levels so that these young people should also have entrepreneurial skills which they can use when grown up," he advised saying that formal employment is increasingly becoming a global crisis.

Nkomo said many people regardless of their positions borrow money from banks and end up misusing it hence having problems to repay such loans

because they were not productively invested to generate profit.

"I have friends who borrowed and after sometime complained about repaying loans which they did not invest productively simply because of lack of financial literacy," he added.

The House Speaker thanked NMB management and staff for working hard and investing in innovation which has witnessed the bank because a household name countrywide while raking in billions of shillings in profits annually.

He also commended the bank for continuing to invest in the community by way of supporting education, health and disaster relief saying such actions show good corporate citizenship which other companies should emulate.

NMB's Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi said the bank is committed to assist government in improving social services but also help communities when facing disasters. "As NB we have decided to participate in the construction of Chiwe and Nyamkongo Secondary Schools by donating iron sheets, chairs and tables worth 10m/-," Mlozi said.

He said so far, NMB which allocates one percent of its annual profit to charity, has already disbursed over 400m/- to the community in support of education, health and disaster relief.

Nyamkongo Headmaster Mpokeeni Sanga and his Chiwe peer, Aaron Sanga thanked the bank for the donation saying their schools will make better use of the handouts to improve students' performance in examinations.

## AUDIT

## 'Billions of Facebook accounts were fake'

NEW YORK

Facebook removed more than three billion fake accounts from October to March, twice as many as the previous six months, the company said on Thursday. Nearly all of them were caught before they had a chance to become "active" users of the social network.

In a new report, Facebook said it saw a "steep increase" in the creation of abusive, fake accounts. While most of these fake accounts were blocked "within minutes" of their creation, the use of computers to generate millions of accounts at a time meant not only that Facebook caught more of the fake accounts, but that more of them slipped through.

As a result, the company estimates that five percent of its 2.4 billion monthly active users are fake accounts, or about 119 million. This is up from an estimated 3% to 4% in the previous six-month report.

The increase shows the challenges Facebook faces in removing accounts created by computers to spread spam, fake news and other objectionable material. Even as Facebook's detection tools get better, so do the efforts by the creators of these fake accounts.

Challenges

The new numbers come as the company grapples with challenge after challenge, ranging from fake news to Facebook's role in elections interference, hate speech and incitement to violence in the US, Myanmar, India and elsewhere.

Facebook also said on Thursday that it removed 7.3 million posts, photos and other material because it violated its rules against hate speech. That's up from 5.4 million in the prior six months.

The company said it found more than 65% of hate speech on its own, before people reported it, during the first three



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

months of 2019. That's an improvement from 52 percent in the third quarter of 2018.

Facebook is under growing pressure to combat hate on its platform, as material continues to slip through even with recent bans of popular extremist figures such as Alex Jones and Louis Farrakhan. Facebook employs thousands of people

to review posts, photos, comments and videos for violations. Some things are also detected without humans, using artificial intelligence.

Both humans and AI make mistakes and Facebook has been accused of political bias as well as ham-fisted removals of posts discussing - rather than promoting - racism. A thorny issue

for Facebook is its lack of procedures for authenticating the identities of those setting up accounts. Only in instances where a user has been booted off the service and won an appeal to be reinstated does it ask to see ID documents.

While some have argued for stricter authentication on social media services, the issue is thorny. People including United Nations free expression rapporteur David Kaye say it's important to allow pseudonymous speech online for human rights activists and others whose lives could otherwise be endangered.

Dipayan Ghosh, a former Facebook employee and White House tech policy adviser who is currently a Harvard fellow, said absent greater transparency from Facebook there is no way of knowing whether its improved automated detection is doing a better job of containing the disinformation problem.

"We lack public transparency into the scale of disinformation operations on Facebook in the first place," he said. And even if just five million accounts escaped through the cracks, Ghosh added, how much hate speech and disinformation are they spreading through bots "that subvert the democratic process by injecting chaos into our political discourse?"

"The only way to address this problem in the long term is for government to intervene and compel transparency into these platform operations and privacy for the end consumer," he said. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has called for government regulation to decide what should be considered harmful content and on other issues. But at least in the US, government regulation of speech could run into First Amendment hurdles.



South African president Cyril Ramaphosa.





## Local, foreign investors team up to bring world class Imperial School to Chalinze

**M**ost parents would like to give their children world class education to survive stiff competition in the local, regional and global markets. In this interview with The Guardians, Imperial Secondary School's acting Principal & CEO, Yohana Mtwewe (pictured), explains:

**When was Imperial Secondary School established and who are its owners?**

The school was conceived as an idea in 2012 by local and foreign investors who allocated money for the acquisition of the 37 acres plot here at Chalinze and construction work started in 2013 and classes begun in 2015.

**Which courses are taught, national syllabus, Cambridge etc?**

Our school mainly focuses on propagating quality education through use of National Examinations Council of Tanzania syllabus. But we also have use Cambridge IGCSE curricula to prepare students for high school education and international colleges.

**How has the school performed in national examinations for the last two years?**

We had our first batch of students sitting for national examinations for form two and ordinary level last year and the whole group of students passed with above average marks and distinctions. We hope to do even better this year for both levels as our school has continued to improve its teaching facilities and personnel.

**Are there foreign students at the school?**

Yes our school has both local and foreign students with the former being the majority for obvious reasons. We embrace people of all nationalities, cultures and religions and strive to ensure the highest standards in all our activities.

**Where do students who graduate from the school go, local universities or abroad?**

Our students have options to join local high schools, colleges or go overseas because we prepared them to fit into any global higher learning institutions. However as our school becomes a national brand, we are seeking overseas higher learning institutions, accredited universities and colleges where our students can join to avoid shortage of places in our local universities.

**Are there any scholarships for needy students?**

Yes indeed, our school has a policy to offer scholarships of different packages to intelligent needy students coming from economically disadvantaged families and marginalised groups such as people with disabilities.

**Are all students in boarding or some are day scholars?**

Imperial is registered as a boarding secondary school and therefore has all facilities for students to stay here at Chalinze on campus.

**What extra-curricular programs does the school have in outdoor activities such as sports?**

This school has the best facilities for

outdoor activities including all types of sports. Our facilities include a semi-Olympic size swimming pool, volleyball, basketball and netball courts plus a professional size football pitch. We also have an all inclusive gymnasium for our students' fitness.

**Is fees paid in local currency or hard currency?**

Our fees are strictly paid in local currency with parents or guardians given room to pay in four equal instalments annually.

What major problems do you face in running the school? The biggest problem/challenges is the mindset of some of our parents/guardians who still believe that money is everything to shape their children academically. They think that once they have paid the fees, their responsibility to the children ends there and then and simply expect positive results from the teachers which is wrong. For students to succeed they need three pillars, viz parents/guardians, children and teachers to join forces and work together.

**What would you like to see government do in the next budget to ensure that big investments in modern schools like your operate smoothly, in terms of taxation and other regulatory requirements?**

I think the government has done a lot to create a conducive environment for the school to perform wonders and that it is now our responsibility to make use of the prevailing favourable conditions to propel our children to become competent adults capable of competing globally in 21st century.

### IMPRESSIVE

## How Airtel's sales director rose from rank and file

By Guardian Reporter

LOOKING at him while on duty, one may think that he is just another Airtel Tanzania PLC's rank and file staff member.

But Yusuf Kalufya is a much high ranking official at the mobile phone services company having recently been appointed as Sales and Distribution Director.

His story is a fairy tale having risen from the position of Customer Support Engineer and System Developer in Exact Software LTD where he started in 2004 after graduating from Institute of Finance Management with Computer Sciences, the father of three has had an impressive performance which recently saw is get promoted to the rank of Sales Director.

The soft spoken Kalufya has headed both Human Resources and Sales departments at different times since joining Airtel in 2006, starting with Human Resources Information System Analyst between 2006 and 2009 when he became Human Resources Manager. He successfully led the automation of the company's payroll.

"Being in the company for 11 years with seven years in the HR Department and four years in Sales & Distribution Department made me understand the company's culture and diversity," Kalufya said as he cherishes taking up his new challenging role.

"In seven years at HR, I worked for almost all verticals including as Human Resources Information System Analyst, Administration, heading both HR Compensation and Benefits verticals, Operations, employee relation and Business Partnering gave me all around understanding of the company's Human Capital strategies Management," he added.

In 2013, he was appointed as Head of Sales Operations, a position which he retained till his recent appointment as Sales Director. As Head of Sales Operation, Kalufya is credited with successful implementation of Airtel Mini shops project where 450 shops were opened countrywide from zero.



Airtel's Sales Director, Yusuf Kalufya busy at work.

He also oversaw the building of FoS channel model from nothing to 5,000 while streamlining freelance operations; EKYC roll out; sales key performance indices automation and oversee "Wakala" selling recharge project among other accomplishments.

"During my stay at Sales and Distribution Department, it gave me a wider understanding of the business process and strategy as I have been an active member on developing critical business process and strategy," he revealed.

Kalufya also played a key role

in driving business KPIs through internal team/partners and analysis on the performance; partner management and governance; cross function activities and relation with the team and champion most of cross function projects from know your customer (KYC), process development and automation, budgeting, cost management and partners' commission, site profitability and mini shop productivity.

"This gives me a wider understanding of all business process across, teams capability and

strong relation with the team and respective heads," he added.

With above experience, knowledge and understanding of business, culture and people, Kalufya said, "I believe will be able to impact the business as Sales and Distribution Director by building the business understand across all staff through department heads with very clear KPIs which will have direct impact to the business."

Most of fellow staff members including PR Manager Jackson Mmbando believe that Kalufya is up to the big task he has assumed.

### FLEXIBILITY

## Three African entrepreneurs in the waste management industry

LAGOS

Waste management is one of the biggest issues in Africa and other countries around the world. Speaking of wastes, there are many types of them that we produce every day, including plastics, aluminum products, metal wastes, organic food wastes, nylon wastes, and so forth. These wastes have created negative side effects on the environment as well to people's health.

Despite the lack of efficiency in waste management solutions in Africa, there are these African entrepreneurs who run businesses in the waste management industry. Cited from tipsdailystartup.com, these are three African entrepreneurs who run the waste recycling business:

Bilikiss Adebijyi Abiola is a Nigerian who studied at Fisk University and Vanderbilt University. Before starting her own company, she had worked as a software engineer at IBM for 5 years. She acquired her MBA at MIT's Sloan School of Management. During this period, she ran a project in recycling with her team named Wecyclers.

She and team learned that Lagos as the capital city of Nigeria with a population of more than 16 million produced up to 10,000 metric tons of waste every day. From there, they saw the opportunity from the industry and then quitting her job to pursue a career in the recycling business.

She has gained much attention from local and global media ever since she started the business, including from CNN and the Huffington Post. The company has secured

strategic partnerships with companies like Unilever, DHL, NBC, CC-Hub, Oracle, Lawma, and so forth.

Andrew Mupuya, Founder of YELI, Uganda

The Ugandan government has banned plastic bags due to its bad effect on the environment. Andrew Mupuya saw this as an opportunity to create a business idea. He started manufacturing paper bags through his company, Yeli when he was just 16 after both of his parents losing their jobs.

To start his business, he raised \$11 from selling 70kg plastic wastes and borrowing money from his teacher. He made some research and observation by visiting kiosks and small businesses and ended up with his paper bag business.

Andrew's paper bag company has grown and produced around 20,000 paper bags per week. His clients are ranging from supermarkets to

restaurants, medical centers, multinational companies, and so forth.

Lorna Rutto, CEO and Co-Founder of EcoPost, Kenya

Lorna Rutto pursued her career in the waste management industry in 2009 and founded EcoPost. Her company focuses on recycling plastic wastes which are collected from trash cans and dump sites in Nairobi, Kenya. They then manufacture fencing posts out of these wastes. These posts become popular nowadays and are used in houses and forest reserves to fence the properties.

EcoPost has made around 10,000 posts and created more than 500 jobs with yearly revenue of over \$150,000. It has gained international recognition after winning several awards, such as the Bid Network Nature Challenge Award, SEED Award, Enablis Business Award, among others.



Bilikiss Adebijyi Abiola, CEO and Founder of Wecyclers, Nigeria.





Panama's Guna Yala indigenous women wearing molas.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT

# Nike yanks shoe after accusations of 'pirating' indigenous group's design

PANAMA CITY

Nike has withdrawn the release of a limited-edition shoe after it was accused of "pirating" a protected traditional design.

The sportswear maker had planned to sell a special-edition Air Force 1 trainer decorated with a multi-coloured, swirling pattern, in tribute to Puerto Rico. An indigenous community in Panama, however, objected to the launch, saying the design mirrored that of its "mola" textile.

The limited-edition shoe had been due to launch on June 6, but Nike has confirmed it will not hit shelves. "We apologise for the inaccurate representation of the design origin for the Nike Air Force 1 'Puerto Rico' 2019," the brand told AFP. "As a result, this product will no longer be available."

Panama's Guna community - one of the seven indigenous groups in the South American country - protested the design, accusing Nike of "pirating", according to the BBC. Lawyers for the Guna said the shoe was created without the community's permission, disregarding intellectual property rights, and they would be seeking compensation.

"There is already damage to our image, to our design, to our mola. We are not going to wait for it to be thrown away," lawyer Aresio Valiente said at a news conference on Tuesday.

Most Guna live in Kuna Yala, also known as the San Blas islands, off the Caribbean coast of Panama. Environmentalists say the low-lying islands are being threatened by rising seas due to global warming.

"The mola is like a flag for the Guna. There is really a cultural identity that is articulated around the mola. It is a very strong element of identity," Monica Martinez, professor of social anthropology at Barcelona University, told AFP.

This is not the first time an indigenous community has accused a global fashion brand of copying its traditional designs. In 2015, a community of Tlahuitoltepec women from Mexico called out Isabel Marant for using an embroidered pattern that resembled their huipil clothing on a dress, according to The Guardian.

In 2016, Urban Outfitters reached a settlement with the Navajo Nation after using the Native American tribe's name in a line of clothing and accessories.

RAMADHAN

# Iftar review: Market at the Abu Dhabi Edition is Middle Eastern food done just right

DUBAI

With nearly every hotel worth their five-star rating putting on an iftar this Ramadan, there are two ways to stand out from the pack.

The first is down to the enduring quality of the spread, which invites repeated visits. This station is only attained on the back of years of service and fine-tuning. The second way to be visible is easier but also has its pitfalls: be the new kid on the block.

With the country's food lovers always looking for a new place to dine, an iftar at a recently opened hotel often attracts an enthusiastic crowd made up of the curious and those looking for a change of scene.

However, that newfound attention can easily turn sour. In what is an increasingly competitive market, first impressions count and there is no substitute for Ramadan word of mouth to lift or sink a new establishment.

When it comes to new players in Abu Dhabi debuting their iftar service this holy month, the most high profile is undoubtedly The Abu Dhabi Edition. Slick and gorgeously designed, this posh and boutique hotel is located in a quiet enclave in Al Bateen and

comes with its own picturesque marina promenade.

The iftar is served in its airy and serene dining hall, Market. For its inaugural Ramadan season, the hotel kept the cuisine traditional Middle Eastern. However, it is served with the class that is true to the brand.

What to expect and where to sit?

One big bonus of Market is that it is near to the front door. There is no long and convoluted walk to your Ramadan dates here. Instead, you only need to take a few steps into the lobby to find the venue on your left. The loos are easily accessible outside and staff are on hand to guide to the prayer room, which is only a few minutes away on the other-side of the lobby. From the orange sun-kissed colour scheme to the bright seating, Market exudes a smart casual vibe.

The food stations are spread throughout the venue. The cold foods are essentially near the entry, while the hot main meals are located in a pocket on the other-side. If you are a couple, there is a neat row of tables on the right near the entryway, while there are long tables for families in the middle of eatery.



Market at The Abu Dhabi Edition has a great selection of Middle Eastern dishes.

# Fenty first look: Five things to know about star Rihanna's fashion label

PARIS

The fashion world has been waiting with baited breath for the arrival of Rihanna's Fenty label, and the star has now offered the first look at her designs.

Rihanna announced earlier this year that she would be launching a luxury fashion house under the LVMH umbrella - the French company which owns Louis Vuitton and Dior - but until now, there had been no clues as to what her clothes would look like.

But in a video posted to Instagram and YouTube, Fenty has given a preview of its first designs, and they do not disappoint. Think structured tailoring, washed denim and killer accessories - Rihanna's signature edgy style is evident in the designs, which

will be released in full at the end of this month.

Of course, the signer is no stranger to design. From her Fenty Beauty line, to her size-inclusive lingerie collection and her hugely successful collaboration with Puma, Rihanna - real name Robyn Fenty - has been laying the groundwork for her own label for years.

"Designing a line like this with LVMH is an incredibly special moment for us," Rihanna said in a statement. "Mr Arnault has given me a unique opportunity to develop a fashion house in the luxury sector, with no artistic limits. I couldn't imagine a better partner both creatively and business-wise, and I'm ready for the world to see what we have built together."



<p><b>TUESDAY 21 May</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 KumeKucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:25 Igizo: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Aya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Uchumi na biashara 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TFDA 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) rpt. 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 The great queen Seonduk 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Chetu ni chetu 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY 22 May</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 KumeKucha Michezo 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Abu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Uongozi 22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 23 May</b></p>	<p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 KumeKucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo: Riziki 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Riziki 11:15 Uongozi 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p><b>FRIDAY 24 May</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 KumeKucha Michezo 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Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:00 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Isidingo rpt 00:00 CNN International</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 26 May</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 KumeKucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Albu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Lonely Heart 2 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: Maisha 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p><b>CAPITAL</b></p> <p><b>Sun 19 May</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Iron chef rpt 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 13:00 Shamba lulu 13:30 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 15:15 Albu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of</p>	<p>the sea 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Series rpt: Ilijimae 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Mon 20 May</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 KumeKucha 10:30 KumeKucha Michezo 11:30 KumeKucha Kishindo 12:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 12:30 Drive it rpt 13:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 13:45 Series rpt: Ilijimae 14:30 Usafiri wako rpt 15:00 Cookery rpt: Culinary Delight 15:30 Toyota world of wildlife rpt 16:00 CNN International 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Decor rpt 19:30 Business edition 20:00 Series: Godwin 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p><b>Tues 21 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## WORLD

# UK PM May resigns, paving way for Brexit confrontation with EU

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday she would quit, triggering a contest that will bring a new leader to power who is likely to push for a more decisive Brexit divorce deal.

May set out a timetable for her departure - she will resign as Conservative Party leader on June 7 with a leadership contest beginning the following week.

"I will resign as leader of the Conservative and Unionist party on Friday, 7th June so that a successor can be chosen," May said outside 10

Downing Street.

With her voice breaking up with emotion, May, who endured crises and humiliation in her effort to find a compromise Brexit deal that parliament could ratify, said she bore no ill will.

"I will shortly leave the job that has been the honour of my life to hold," May said. "The second female prime minister, but certainly not the last."

"I do so with no ill will but with enormous and enduring gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve the country I love," May said.

May, once a reluctant supporter of EU membership, who won the top

job in the turmoil that followed the 2016 Brexit vote, steps down with her central pledges - to lead the United Kingdom out of the bloc and heal its divisions - unfulfilled.

May bequeaths a deeply divided country and a political elite that is deadlocked over how, when or whether to leave the EU. She said her successor would need to find a consensus in parliament on Brexit.

May's departure will deepen the Brexit crisis as a new leader is likely to want a more decisive split, raising the chances of a confrontation with the European Union and a snap parliamentary election.

The leading contenders to succeed May all want a tougher divorce deal, although the EU has said it will not renegotiate the Withdrawal Treaty it sealed in November.

Sterling reversed initial gains it made on May's resignation.

Conservative lawmakers increasingly see May as an obstacle to Britain's EU exit, although her replacement will face the same dilemma: a Parliament deeply divided over whether to leave the EU, and how close a relationship to seek with the bloc after it does.

Few doubt this is the endgame for May's term, which has been consumed by Britain's decision to leave the EU. Senior Conservatives, including former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and several members of her Cabinet, are already jockeying for position in the coming leadership race.

Betting markets put a 40% implied probability on Johnson winning the top job.

With her authority draining away by the hour, May on Thursday delayed plans to publish the EU withdrawal bill - her fourth and likely final attempt to secure Parliament's backing for her Brexit blueprint.

Agencies



## Suppliers across the world voice support for Huawei

BEIJING

HUAWEI Technologies Co is securing support from some key suppliers and customers amid the announced United States government restrictions on the Chinese telecom giant.

Panasonic Corp said on its China website on Thursday that it is continuing to supply components to Huawei despite reports that it will cut cooperation.

Taiwan-based TSMC, the world's biggest contract chipmaker, said its shipments to Huawei have not been affected by the US ban on the latter's access to US components, Reuters reported on Thursday.

On Monday, the US Department of Commerce issued a 90-day temporary license, effective until Aug 19, allowing "specific limited engagement in transactions involving the export, reexport, and transfer of items" to Huawei.

Some analysts said the US moves against Huawei will lead to strong support for the unlisted

Chinese firm as Huawei is working hard to offset the fallout of the restrictions.

Xiang Ligang, director-general of telecom industry association Information Consumption Alliance, said TSMC's commitment to continue shipping products is of strategic importance to Huawei.

"TSMC produces most of Huawei's chips. Only with its cooperation is it possible for Huawei to have a Plan B in stocking in-house processors in order to offset fallout from the US ban on its access to US chips," Xiang said.

He said the move by Panasonic also showcases that the Japanese tech company is not willing to surrender to political pressure from Washington, after earlier reports that it had stopped shipments of certain components to Huawei.

The firm bought \$6.3 billion worth of products including batteries and electronic components from Panasonic in 2018, according to Nikkei Asian Review.

United Kingdom-based mobile operator EE said on Wednesday



that its 5G network in the UK would rely on equipment made by Huawei.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said on Thursday that enterprises in any country will not disregard their own interests and blindly follow other countries' "political command".

"Most countries have always been highly alert to US government acts of resorting to state power to crack down on companies in other countries, disrupt markets and obstruct mutually

beneficial cooperation between other countries," Lu said.

But the positive development is also accompanied by some concerns.

A string of Japanese carriers, including NTT Docomo, said they were also considering delaying the launch of Huawei's new smartphones.

Their hesitance is due to uncertainty about Google's previous announcement that it would restrict Huawei's access to updates of the Android operating system in com-

pliance with a US ban.

EE also said it is delaying its launch of Huawei's 5G smartphones.

Jia Mo, an analyst at Singapore-based market research company Canalys, said the delayed product releases in certain markets will harm Huawei's smartphone business, but Huawei is working on its own mobile operating system, which can help relieve some pressure in the domestic market.

On Thursday, in response to media reports that UK chip firm Arm Holdings told its staff to suspend dealings with Huawei, Ren Zhengfei, CEO of Huawei, said in an interview with Chinese financial media website Caixin that his company has acquired a permanent licensing of the ARM architecture, the basis for Huawei to design its chips.

Arm China also said in a reply to China Daily that "we are in active communication to find appropriate solutions that comply with current laws and regulations".

Xinhua

## Russia to take counter-measures over US radar deployment in Norway

MOSCOW

RUSSIA reserves the right to take retaliatory measures over the deployment of a US radar in Norway, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

"It is obvious that military preparations near the borders, be it the Russian or some other's border, cannot be ignored by our country, like by any other country. We proceed from the fact that retaliatory measures will be taken to ensure our se-

curity," the diplomat stressed.

"The talk is about the US Globus II radar. The radar station is based just 50 km from the border with Russia and is serviced by the military intelligence of Norway," Zakharova (pictured) said.

"It is no secret for anyone that the data received is transferred directly to the United States. In April 2016, the press release of the Norwegian armed forces said that the radar station would be upgraded in 2017-2020 to comprise a new radar



[Globus III whose construction is currently underway]," the Russian diplomat said.

Russia regularly raised this issue before the Norwegian side, Zakharova pointed out.

"Norwegian officials get away from explaining for what purposes the upgraded station will be used. They confine themselves to the statements that the radar system 'generally is not aimed against Russia,' although it is located 50 km from Russia, the diplomat said.

"There are all grounds to believe that the radar will be tracking precisely the territory of the Russian Federation and will become a part of the US missile shield," the spokeswoman said.

"It is obvious that the deployment of the US radar in that area is not a purely Norwegian issue. This relates to the general context of keeping stability and predictability in the North," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman stressed.

Agencies

## Botswana to implement controlled hunting of elephants after lifting ban

GABORONE

BOTSWANA on Thursday officially announced the lifting of a ban on hunting of elephants and plans to implement controlled hunting.

Kitso Mokaila, the country's minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, told a press conference on Thursday afternoon that following an extensive consultation process with all the stakeholders involved, the government has made the decision to lift the ban.

The announcement by government comes two months after Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi said his government was considering lifting the ban and was consulting with stakeholders.

Mokaila (pictured), however, said hunting will be allowed on a small, strictly controlled basis, with fewer than 400 elephant licenses to be issued annually.

Botswana currently boasts the largest African elephant population of some 130,000 in the latest census



conducted in 2018.

The minister said the decision to lift the ban was guided by the findings of a cabinet sub-committee on the hunting ban that was set in July 2018 to make consultations in communities that have massive elephant population and other stakeholders.

He said key amongst the findings from the committee was that the number and high levels of human-elephant conflict and the consequence on livelihoods were increasing alarmingly.

"There is a negative impact on the hunting suspension on the livelihoods, particularly for community based organizations that were previously benefiting from consumptive utilization," said Mokaila.

The ban has been in effect since 2014, initiated by former President Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

Botswana hosted an Elephant Summit early this month in Kasane, northwestern Botswana, which was attended by presidents of Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and rep-

resentatives from Angola.

Its objective was to raise awareness on the status of African elephants in the Southern African region, which is home to 60 percent of the world's elephant population.

The consensus was that countries should adopt conservation policies and practices that allow participatory decision-making processes down to the local level in human-occupied wildlife areas by enabling communities to utilize income from hunting.

Xinhua

## US files 17 new charges against WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Justice Department said on Thursday that it has filed 17 new charges against WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange, including receiving and unlawfully publishing classified military and diplomatic documents in 2010.

He was accused of violating the U.S. Espionage Act. However, multiple U.S. media outlets say the new charges raise profound First Amendment issues with concerns that such charges could set a dangerous precedent for journalists.

The new counts include one of conspiracy to receive national defense information, three of obtaining national defense information and 13 of disclosure of national defense information. Australian-born Assange (pictured), 47, faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for each of the new counts if convicted.

The charges, contained in an indictment issued in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, were revealed during a press conference held by the Justice Department officials in Washington DC.

The U.S. government has never successfully prosecuted a non-government official for publishing or sharing unlawfully leaked classified information, University of Chicago Law Professor Geoffrey Stone told NBC News.

"This is madness. It is the end of national security journalism and the first amendment," WikiLeaks tweeted.

The secret documents that Assange published were provided by former U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who was convicted at a court-martial trial in 2013 to 35 years in jail but released in 2017 months after receiving clemency from outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama. Manning leaked some 700,000 military files including a battlefield video and diplomatic cables to WikiLeaks, the largest leak of classified data in U.S. history.

Assange was sentenced to 50 weeks in jail on May 2 for breaching the Bail Act in Britain after having been expelled from Ecuador's embassy in London, where he had lived for nearly seven years. He said at the time that he does not consent to being extradited to the United States over charges related to leaking government secrets.

The WikiLeaks databases contain approximately 90,000 Afghanistan war-related significant activity reports, 400,000 Iraq war-related significant activities reports, 800 Guantanamo Bay detainee assessment briefs and 250,000 U.S. Department of State cables, according to local media reports, quoting prosecutors as sources.

Agencies

## China firmly opposes US suppression of Chinese companies

BEIJING

CHINA firmly opposes the United States using state power to suppress Chinese companies, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) Thursday.

China will take necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate right and interests of Chinese enterprises, said Gao Feng, a spokesperson with the MOC.

The United States has used state power to suppress Chinese companies, which not only seriously damaged the normal business cooperation of enterprises in the two countries, but also posed a great threat to the global industrial and supply chains, Gao noted.

"China objects to the generalization of the national security concept and the crackdown on regulation-abiding Chinese firms," Gao said, urging the United States to stay rational and correct its dangerous actions. He said that China had made solemn representations to the United

States and would keep up with the issue closely.

Gao says that the best response to U.S. bullying is for Chinese firms to continue to grow and become stronger.

As the United States keeps sniping at Chinese companies through long-arm jurisdiction, Gao said, China is firmly against any unilateral sanctions against Chinese entities by any country based on its own domestic laws.

"We urge the United States to halt its wrong actions and create conditions for normal trade and cooperation between enterprises of the two countries to avoid further blows to bilateral economic and trade ties," Gao said.

The Chinese government will continue to deepen reform and open up wider in a bid to create a stable, fair and predictable business environment to facilitate enterprises, and the country will provide higher-quality, reliable and diversified products to consumers worldwide, Gao said.

Xinhua



# EU elections primer: How they work, what could happen

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN voters started heading to the polls Thursday to choose lawmakers to represent them at the European Parliament for the next five years. In all, 400 million voters in 28 nations will be voting over the next four days. Here's a look at that massive exercise in democracy, a multi-national ballot by the European Union's only democratically elected institution.

## Who, when, what on the EU vote?

Europe's voting marathon kicked off Thursday in the Netherlands and in Britain. Voters in Ireland turn out on Friday, those in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Malta and Slovakia vote on Saturday and the remaining 21 EU nations cast their ballots on Sunday.

Voters in each EU nation choose some of the 751 lawmakers in the European Parliament, which sits in both Brussels and Strasbourg, France.

Seats in the European Parliament are doled out proportionally based on a nation's population. Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta have the fewest seats with six each, while the EU's most populous member, Germany, has 96 seats.

The results from every nation will be released on Sunday after the last polling station in the continent is closed.

## How important is the European Parliament?

The assembly's powers are slowly growing. It's helped to improve air flight safety in Europe, cut down plastics use, end mobile telephone roaming charges within the bloc, boost data privacy, set climate change ambitions and reduce carbon dioxide emissions

from cars.

The assembly also has a say in treaties ranging from trade talks to Brexit.

The EU's powerful executive arm, the European Commission, proposes laws while EU lawmakers amend and negotiate their content with national governments, which are the real font of European power and are represented by the EU Council.

Often, the big impact of these EU elections is on the domestic politics of individual EU nations, like support in Britain for the anti-Europe UK Independence Party in 2014 or the massive gains in France by Marine Le Pen's far-right National Front party, which has now rebranded as the National Rally. The polls are often used by disgruntled citizens to cast protest votes against their own national governments.

## What are the issues in the EU election?

There are no "European citizens" as such, so voters tend to respond to national interests.

How Europe handles migration is a very significant concern for voters in Italy, Hungary, Poland and elsewhere. Economic concerns often influence voters, and Britain's future in the EU looks like being a factor again.

An EU survey of public sentiment in April found that voters were most concerned about the economy, unemployment, immigration, the environment and climate change, terrorism and promoting human rights, democracy and social welfare.

## Who's likely to win what?



From left, Czech Republic's Jan Zahradil, Spain's Nico Cue, Germany's Ska Keller, Denmark's Margrethe Vestager, Netherland's Frans Timmermans and Germany's Manfred Weber pose on stage prior to a debate of the candidates to the presidency of the Commission at the European Parliament in Brussels. (AP)

The projections from April suggest that the center-right European People's Party will remain the biggest bloc in the European Parliament with an estimated 180 seats, dropping from 217 seats in 2014.

The center-left Socialists and Democrats group is also expected to lose ground, sliding from 186 seats to 149.

Among other mainstream parties, the liberal ALDE alliance is expected to capture 76 seats, eight more than in 2014, while the Greens could rank fourth with some 57 seats, up from 52. However, the liberals now appear set to create a new group with French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party.

As for the far-right and nationalists, the Europe of Nations and Freedom group, which combines parties like Italy's League, Britain's UKIP and France's far-right National Rally, is predicted to win 62 seats, compared to 37 currently.

New parties such as the Brexit Party in Britain are listed as "other" in a mixed bunch that is forecast to expand from 21 seats to 62.

## How will the vote change Europe?

Europe's mainstream political groups appear set to hold control over the assembly but, depending on the results, they could be pressured into uncomfortable compromises or awkward

alliances in order to pass EU legislation.

Populist and nationalist parties have found rising support in national elections in many EU countries, but their pan-European impact would depend on whether they can form a strong political group in Brussels. That certainly is their goal. Italy's hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, head of the League party, has been putting together a populist group of national parties that he says aims to fundamentally shake up EU politics.

Forming such a group is not easy – 25 lawmakers are required, with at least one-quarter of the EU's 28 nations represented – but it's important because it opens up valuable access to EU funds and political influence.

## What happens after the elections?

Once the results are in, the newly elected EU lawmakers will begin haggling to form parliamentary groups.

The present European Parliament's term ends July 1 and the new parliament will take their seats in Strasbourg the following day. At the first plenary on July 2, they will elect the president, 14 vice presidents and five other senior officials in the House, as well as decide on the number and composition of parliamentary committees.

EU leaders will meet on Tuesday to choose candidates for the bloc's top jobs. Between July and October, the assembly is called on to endorse those candidates, notably the new president of the European Commission. Parliamentary hearings will then begin to confirm EU commissioners in charge of specific policies. **Agencies**

## Rwandan rebel leader pleads guilty to all charges, including terrorism, murder

KIGALI

CALLIXTE Nsabimana alias Sankara, who claimed to be the head of Rwanda rebel group National Liberation Force, pleaded guilty on Thursday in a court in the Rwandan capital Kigali to all the 16 charges he faces, including terrorism, murder.

Other charges against him include kidnapping, armed robbery, genocide denial, arson and forgery.

During the hearing, Nsabimana gave an account of his rebel activities, including efforts to meet Burundian and Ugandan military officials in search of military and diplomatic support as the prosecution alleges.

Nsabimana said National Liberation Force did meet Ugandan military officials and that by the time of his arrest plans of a follow-up meeting were underway. He entered a guilty plea to save court's time because he is aware that the prosecution has enough evidence for his crimes, said Nsabimana.

Nsabimana asked for forgiveness from Rwandans, the Rwandan president and families of people who lost their lives due to insurgence activities of his rebel group.

The court will announce its decision on his bail application on May 28. The Rwandan government first announced the arrest of Nsabimana on April 30. **Xinhua**

## Trump campaign views healthcare as a 2020 campaign weapon

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign believes he can turn Republicans' biggest liability from last year's congressional elections - the debate about the future of healthcare in America - into a winning issue for his reelection.

That would have appeared highly unlikely just months ago, when Democrats seized upon the issue of coverage for pre-existing medical conditions to capture control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Since then, the 2020 Democratic presidential field has been locked in a debate about how far to go to transform the U.S. healthcare system. Some candidates have suggested abolishing private insurance in favor of a single government-run plan, sometimes referred to as "Medicare for All," while others favor more modest reforms.

Trump's campaign is betting that whoever emerges with the Democratic nomination next year will have been forced to embrace a sweeping healthcare reform proposal that may spook moderate voters.

"The president has taken the issue back," Tim Murtaugh, Trump's campaign communications director, told Reuters in an interview. "(Democrats are) taking the Blue Cross (private insurance) card out of your wallet and making it worthless."

About half of the dozen top-tier of Democratic hopefuls vying for the nomination have endorsed some form of Medicare for All, according to a Reuters analysis of campaign positions.

Democrats could end up ceding political ground if they nominate a candidate who advocates for universal healthcare, said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar before speaking about prescription drug prices during a visit to the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington October 25, 2018. FILE PHOTO

non-partisan healthcare advocacy group.

"The polls show very clearly that the Democrats have a very substantial advantage on health and all the health issues," Altman said. "If the Democrat is a candidate who is a big advocate for Medicare for All, it will play a little differently."

Some voters will be leery of losing their private insurance, but Democrats are still likely to win over those concerned about pre-existing conditions and abortion access, Altman said.

## TOUTING REFORMS

Trump has yet to set forth his long-promised healthcare reform plan.

But he is speaking about healthcare more frequently. At a rally in Pennsylvania on Monday, Trump repeated his promise to keep protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

He also is likely to tout what the White House and his campaign say are meaningful changes the administration has made to help small businesses and to try to reduce the price of prescription drugs for U.S. consumers. His administration recently mandated pharmaceutical

companies include list prices of drugs in television ads in a bid to get them to lower prices.

His administration argued in a report released in February that it has made healthcare markets more efficient by de-regulating some aspects of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Those included doing away with the law's mandate to purchase health insurance and expanding coverage options through association plans, which allow small businesses to band together to purchase insurance.

"The president can point to real results on healthcare," Murtaugh said.

But Trump also has provided Democrats with fodder they are likely to use to challenge his healthcare claims, and they are sure to argue that Trump will cost millions of Americans their coverage.

The president already backed a proposal in Congress that would have reduced protections for pre-existing conditions - despite his continued insistence that he does not want to eliminate those rules. And he has proposed reductions to Medicaid and Medicare

funding.

His campaign will be forced to navigate those decisions as well as dispel voters' worry that Trump wants to gut the existing Obamacare framework with no effective replacement.

Trump said in a local media interview in Pennsylvania this week he would roll out a new healthcare plan soon. The White House did not respond to a request for comment on the timing.

Providing such a plan will be critical to winning over voters next year, said Michael Steel, a former top aide to former Republican House Speaker John Boehner.

Steel said that while he thinks Democrats are "overreaching" on the issue, "we'll need our own conservative cost-containment plan to truly go on offense. And we don't have that yet."

## WORRIED VOTERS

Chris Kofinis, a Democratic strategist and former chief of staff to Senator Joe Manchin, a moderate from West Virginia, said Trump's campaign underestimates the depth of voter anxiety over healthcare costs and coverage.

Branding Democratic proposals as "socialist" will not be persuasive, he said.

"They're wrong if they think they can win this as an ideological debate," Kofinis said, adding that his own work with voter groups has shown some appetite for a large-scale overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system.

Kofinis warned that Democrats risk losing their edge on the issue, however, if they fail to heed the lesson of the 2018 midterm elections and instead become preoccupied with investigations of Trump. **Agencies**

## Russia welcomes readiness of Venezuelan government, opposition to negotiate

MOSCOW

RUSSIA welcomes the readiness of the parties to the political crisis in Venezuela to hold contacts for the sake of finding a way out of the current situation, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a news briefing on Thursday.

"The current situation in Venezuela confirms there is no alternative to peaceful, civilized ways of resolving controversies by the citizens of that country. We hail the readiness of the government and the opposition to hold contacts ahead of a dialogue, including internationally mediated dialogue. We support any initiatives that accommodate the parties' interests to an equal degree."

Zakharova said that only negotiations by all of Venezuela's constructively-minded political forces eager to achieve a peaceful diplomatic settlement of disagreements in accordance with the Constitution were able to bring about a lasting solution of the crisis.

"Russia is open to a discussion [of issues] with all parties concerned in a peace settlement of the internal political situation in



Venezuelan Ambassador to Russia Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa

Venezuela," she added.

Zakharova said that world mass media often distorted Russia's approaches to foreign policy.

"I would like to address them with a reminder that one of the cornerstones of Russia's foreign policy is respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Russia consistently cooperates with the legitimate governments that have a mandate of their people's credibility and enjoy legitimacy and full power," Zakharova said.

She dismissed as absurd the attempts to blame the events in Venezuela on Russia.

"It is sanctions imposed by the US and other countries that have caused noticeable degradation of the socio-economic situation

this year," she said.

## Contacts between parties

On January 23, Venezuelan opposition figurehead Juan Guaido, whose appointment had been annulled by the Supreme Court two days earlier, proclaimed himself as acting president.

The United States hurried to recognize him as an interim head of state. The Lima Group of countries (except for Mexico), the Organization of American States and most EU countries followed suit.

Maduro described the events as a government coup attempt and severed diplomatic relations with the United States. Russia, Belarus, Bolivia, Iran, China, Cuba and Nicaragua came out in his support.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman Ingrid Kvammen Ekker said her country maintained contacts with the Venezuelan government and the opposition and was calling for a peace settlement of the political crisis. Norway, in contrast to many other European countries, has not recognized Guaido as Venezuela's interim president.

**Agencies**

## S. Sudan leader urges opposition groups to genuinely implement peace deal

JUBA

SOUTH Sudanese President Salva Kiir on Thursday urged all the opposition leaders to genuinely work for the smooth implementation of the revitalized peace agreement in order to restore peoples' hopes and aspirations.

Kiir said with peace, the young country can achieve rapid development since the East African nation has resources.

"All this time we have been wasting our resources, including human resource on fighting ourselves in a senseless war. Let us stop it so that we concentrate on development of our country in order for the young nation to move forward," Kiir said in Juba.

Kiir, who spoke during the inauguration of South Sudan defense ministry's building, said

if the country continues to experience the prevailing relative calm then the war-torn east African country could achieve tremendous infrastructural development.

"I appeal to all of us to implement the revitalized peace agreement so that the little resources we have could be used for development like the one we are inaugurating today," Kiir said.

**Xinhua****Agencies**

## North Korea blames US for failed summit, urges 'new calculation'

SEOUL

NORTH Korea said yesterday an "arbitrary and dishonest" U.S. position had resulted in the failure to reach a deal during a second North Korea-U.S. summit, warning the nuclear issue would never be resolved without a new approach.

A spokesman for North Korea's foreign ministry accused the United States of trying to

shift the blame for the breakdown of the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump in February by raising a "completely irrelevant issue". He did not elaborate.

"The underlying cause of setback of the DPRK-U.S. summit talks in Hanoi is the arbitrary and dishonest position taken by the United States, insisting on a method which is totally

impossible to get through," the unidentified spokesman said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

"The United States would not be able to move one inch with the device it is now weighing in its mind, and the further its mistrust and hostile acts toward the DPRK grow, the fiercer our reaction will be."

The official was referring to North Korea by the initials of its



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un

official name - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The statement was the latest criticism of the United States since the failed summit in Vietnam, where Kim had sought sanctions relief in return for the partial dismantling of North Korea's nuclear program.

Trump called for a full roadmap for denuclearization including the transfer of bombs to the United States.

Tension has again mounted in recent weeks. The North fired short-range missiles early this month and Washington unveiled the seizure of a North Korean ship suspected of illicit coal shipments in breach of sanctions.

Kim has set a year-end deadline for the United States to show more flexibility, but Trump and other U.S. officials have brushed that aside, calling

for Kim to take action on a commitment to denuclearize.

Unless the United States offered a new method of calculation, the stalled nuclear talks would never be restarted, the foreign ministry spokesman said.

"And by extension, the prospect for resolving the nuclear issue will be much gloomier," the official said.

**Agencies**





## England dream of ending 44 years of World Cup hurt

NEW DELHI

ENGLAND'S relationship with the Cricket World Cup has been one of frustration, disappointment and even embarrassment but they host this year's tournament as the top-ranked 50-over team and favourites to lift the trophy for the first time.

From hosting the first three tournaments and reaching the final in 1979, 1987 and 1992, England slid downwards and reached its nadir four years ago when they unceremoniously exited at the group stage in Australia, the last straw being a humbling by an upstart Bangladesh.

Since then, however, the limited-overs caterpillars have transformed themselves into white-ball butterflies, acquiring an enviable assortment of big-hitters who routinely post 300-plus scores.

The single group, round-robin format of this year's tournament also substantially reduces the risk of an exit and should ensure the strongest teams reach the last four - good news for the game's powerhouse India.

Those two look nailed on to reach the last four but any from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and even a revitalised West Indies could easily join them.

With all 10 teams playing each other once to determine the four semi-finalists, the big teams will have plenty of opportunities to recover from any giant-killing act they may be subjected to by outsiders Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

England's spectacular rise is due to a change in their approach to one-day cricket and Jonny Bairstow reflected that when the opener was recently asked to choose between winning the World Cup and regaining the Ashes.

"I am going (to pick the) World Cup because it's been so long since we've had an opportunity to win one," said Bairstow.

"I think that the amount of work that has gone into this group of players over the last couple of years, building and building, I firmly believe we've put an amount of effort in that gives us the best chance."

With home advantage comes home expectation as Eoin Morgan leads arguably the strongest England side in the history of the tournament which has seen a co-host triumph in the last two editions.

INDIA EXPECTS

No burden of expectation, however, can be heavier than the one resting on the shoulders of Virat Kohli and his team mates out to win India's third ODI World Cup.

It is especially so after their performance in the last two global events on English soil where India won the 2013 Champions Trophy against the hosts and finished runners-up to arch-rivals Pakistan in the next edition four years later.

A modern batting great himself, Kohli headlines a formidable top order, while India have also acquired a potent pace attack spearheaded by death-overs exponent Jasprit Bumrah.

Emotions will run high during their June 16 match against Pakistan following a further souring of relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours in recent times.

Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, however, cannot afford to get distracted by the hype around the Manchester match-up as he seeks consistency from a notoriously fickle side.

"It's annoying for us to keep being unpredictable, but it's true," former ODI captain Azhar Ali told the ICC website recently.

"We have done well in World Cups, even though no one rates us that highly in the build-up. We always produce good performances so hopefully this will be a special one."

Holders Australia face their own struggles as they try to put a ball-tampering scandal behind them for a successful title defence.

Captain Aaron Finch's own battle with poor form provided the microcosm of the turmoil Australian cricket endured before series victories against India and Pakistan.

Former captain Steve Smith and opener David Warner returned from their year-long bans over the ball-tampering incident to bolster a side who endured their longest sequence of consecutive ODI defeats in 2018.

Apart from their scoring duties, the duo, who made a successful return from elbow surgeries at the Indian Premier League, will also assist Finch in leading the side.

New Zealand will hope the collective experience of skipper Kane Williamson, batting pair Ross Taylor and Martin Guptill, and paceman Tim Southee will help the 2015 finalists secure a semi-final spot.

REUTERS

## Leonard scores 35, Raptors beat Bucks 105-99 for 3-2 lead



Toronto Raptors' Kawhi Leonard shoots past Milwaukee Bucks' Brook Lopez during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball playoff finals Thursday, May 23, 2019, in Milwaukee. The Raptors won 105-99 to take a 3-2 lead in the series. (AP Photo)

MILWAUKEE

**K**AWHI Leonard arrived in Toronto thinking he could pick up another championship to go with the one he already has.

One more victory and he'll play for another ring. And dominant performances like he put up Thursday night are a big reason why.

Leonard scored 35 points and the Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks 105-99 to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

"I'm not afraid of the moment," Leonard said. "This is what I work out for in the summer. I'm just trying to win. It's a matter of me being aggressive and don't shy away from anything."

Leonard was the NBA Finals MVP when San Antonio won the championship in 2014. And he's capping off his first season in Toronto after requesting a trade from the Spurs with quite a playoff run.

It includes the first buzzer-beater to win a Game 7 - a shot that took four bounces off the rim to knock out Philadelphia in the conference semifinals. And he has continued to dominate in the conference finals.

Leonard showed no obvious signs of the leg soreness that

bothered him in Toronto's victories in the previous two games, hitting the 30-point mark for the fourth time in the series. He had a career-high nine assists, made five 3-pointers and grabbed seven rebounds.

Fred VanVleet, whose son was born Monday, scored 21 points, hitting seven 3s. Kyle Lowry added 17 as the Raptors put themselves in position to advance to the NBA Finals for the first time. A victory at home Saturday would set up a matchup with two-time defending champion Golden State.

The Raptors battled out of an early 14-point hole, then got 15 points from Leonard in the fourth quarter to send the top-seeded Bucks to their first three-game losing streak of the season.

"He has been unbelievable in the playoffs with the Spurs as well," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "I can only say that he's been really good. He gets stronger as the fourth wears on. He wants the ball and he wants to make the plays and he seems to be making the right plays. You're almost shocked when he pulls up at 15 feet and it doesn't go in. He's playing at both ends."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points for Milwaukee hours after being announced as a

unanimous first-team, All-NBA selection.

"We're not going to fold," he said. "Come on, man. Best team in the league, man. We're not going to fold. We're going to go in and give it everything we've got. We can't fold. We're going to come back to Milwaukee being (ticked)." Eric Bledsoe scored 20 and Malcolm Brogdon added 18 points and 11 rebounds in his return to the starting lineup.

"It's first to four. We've got to go to Toronto, get a game. I think the group will be ready," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

The Raptors were clinging to a two-point lead in the closing minute after Khris Middleton drove around Leonard on the baseline for a layup.

Toronto was initially called for a shot-clock violation when Leonard missed a fadeaway jumper with 35 seconds left. That got overturned by a replay review, and Brook Lopez was called for a foul, instead, for bumping Marc Gasol after he retrieved the loose ball.

Gasol hit both free throws to make it 100-97. Another replay review went in Toronto's favor when officials determined a ball went out of bounds off Brogdon with 26.8 seconds left. Brogdon pulled his hand away, thinking

his dribble had gone off Pascal Siakam's foot.

Siakam then drove for a dunk, making it 102-97, and the Raptors hung on from there.

Milwaukee was leading 81-79 with about 8 1/2 minutes left when Leonard nailed back-to-back 3-pointers. He hit two free throws before Siakam threw down a put-back dunk to make it 89-81. The Bucks tied it at 93-all with 2:44 left on a 3-pointer by Lopez. VanVleet answered with one of his own before Antetokounmpo threw down an alley-oop dunk to cut it to 96-95 with just over two minutes remaining.

He was subbed out with 1:12 left in the game after twisting his ankle, but checked back in with 35 seconds to go.

BREW CREW

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers got sucked into a beer chugging contest, and it didn't go that well for him.

Teammate David Bakhtiari had no trouble downing three cups when he was shown on the video board. The camera panned to Rodgers and he could only finish about half of one, drawing scorn from some fans.

Brewers star Christian Yelich had no trouble chugging one later in the game.

AP

## Sports and politics to mix again in India-Pakistan match-up

NEW DELHI

THE old adage that sports and politics do not mix will ring hollow again when former champions India and Pakistan clash in a geopolitically charged World Cup match months after being on the verge of war.

Tensions run high in any sporting contest featuring the nuclear-armed neighbours who have fought two of their three wars since independence over Kashmir, which both claim in full but rule in part.

Bilateral cricketing ties between them have remained suspended since 2008 and relations further soured in February this year after a suicide car bombing that killed at least 40 Indian paramilitary police in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Indian warplanes carried out air strikes inside Pakistan, which retaliated with its own aerial mission before a full-blown conflict was averted.

Several former India players urged Virat Kohli's men to boycott the June 16 match in Old Trafford, Manches-

ter, against their arch-rivals while others saw more merit in playing and extending India's 6-0 unbeaten record against Pakistan in World Cups.

"India-Pakistan matches have always been billed as the final before the final, because people have attached political factors to the game," cricket historian Boria Majumdar told Reuters.

Sports and politics always mingle, he said, recalling the black armband protest at the 2003 World Cup by Zimbabwe duo Andy Flower and Henry Olonga against Robert Mugabe's political regime.

"The moment you are singing the national anthem on the sports field you are invoking a strong sense of nationalism. And what else is it but a political statement," says Majumdar.

Also in 2003, England refused to tour Harare for a World Cup match, citing security fears after then Prime Minister Tony Blair called on them to pull out in protest against Mugabe's regime.

Kohli and his team mates wore



Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed and India's Virat Kohli during the ICC Cricket World Cup - Captains Press Conference at The Film Shed in London, Britain on Thursday. (AGENCIES)

hero."

Meanwhile, after India beat Sri Lanka in the final of the 2011 World Cup in Mumbai, Virat Kohli hoisted Sachin Tendulkar on his shoulders for a victory lap, declaring the bat-

England.

Under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, they won the 2013 Champions Trophy and then finished runners-up when they returned four years later with Kohli as the skipper.

Kohli banished his own English demons last year when he comfortably finished as the leading scorer in the test series and second highest scorer in ODIs even though England won both.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan also has fond memories of England, having walked away with the player-of-the-series award in the 2013 Champions Trophy and finishing as the highest scorer in 2017.

Completing the devastating top order is Rohit Sharma, the only batsman with three 200-plus knocks in ODIs including a 264 which remains the highest individual score in the format.

India has also acquired a varied pace attack in recent times, a luxury denied to Kohli's predecessors, spearheaded by a seemingly nerveless death-overs exponent in Jasprit Bumrah.

As if his sling-arm action and unusual release point are not bad enough, batsmen often struggle against his clever change of pace and

an enviable ability to bowl yorkers at will.

"Let me go on record and say he is the best bowler in the world at this stage and his best is yet to come," Tendulkar said of the top ranked ODI bowler.

The wrist-spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav have been instrumental in India's strong ODI performance in recent times while they have unearthed an explosive all-rounder in Hardik Pandya.

Kohli is also privileged to have by his side a walking think-tank in Dhoni, who led India to World Cup victories in both limited overs formats.

One of the smartest cricketing brains around with the experience of 341 ODIs, Dhoni's lightning-quick hands and an uncanny ability to plot dismissals in collaboration with the spinners make him a great asset for the side, who start their campaign against South Africa in Southampton on June 5.

REUTERS



# Dani Alves on his path to Europe, winning with Messi at Barca, life with Neymar at PSG, and MLS

BY MOISES LLORENS, BARCELONA CORRESPONDENT

DANI Alves has a résumé that most can only dream about. Not only has his career taken him to some of the world's most beautiful cities -- Seville, Barcelona, Turin and Paris, among others -- he's also won a staggering 40 trophies.

ESPN's Moises Llorens recently sat down with the 36-year-old to document his footballing journey from Brazil to Europe, his relationships with Pep Guardiola and Neymar, and what the future holds for the Brazil international.

Editor's note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity. It's also been translated to English from Portuguese.

**ESPN: When you were a kid, did you dream of reaching these heights?**

**Dani Alves:** I always dreamed big; however, I dreamed of becoming the next Michael Jackson or Bruno Mars. My dream was always to make a career in music and I ended up making it in soccer. One thing I can say is that I always had the feeling I was going to become famous and that I was going to be known to people throughout the world. I wanted to be a great singer, just like [Spanish pop singer] Alejandro Sanz; however, I didn't have a voice for it, and I ended up running behind a football.

I ended up fulfilling one of my father's dreams, to be honest with you. Back in Brazil, becoming a football player is a dream every boy and girl has; however, not everyone can make it. My father took me to the pitch to play and I scored a lot of goals as a forward. He tried to persuade me into it, but I ended up setting up my musical instruments and making my own little band. He signed me up to a football school, I received an invitation from Bahia to play football and I ended up following that path. I told my father I was going to try my luck.

Thanks to my education and my commitment, I ended up where I am today.

**ESPN: How did the Sevilla signing come to be? What did you know about Spanish and European football back then?**

**Dani Alves:** I don't like to lie. However, sometimes in life you have to tell a white lie. I was playing with Bahia and I moved to Sudamericano. Antonio Fernandez, who was working with Sevilla as an executive, came up and introduced himself to me. He asked me if I would like to play for Sevilla. And that's when I lied. I said "yes," that I knew everything about them and that I would love to play for them. I wanted to go somewhere else and make a better living. I had no clue about Sevilla -- I didn't even know where the city was. I only knew about music. I told them I knew all about them, but that white lie helped me in showing the interest I had in playing there.

**ESPN: How close were you to signing with Real Madrid? And Chelsea?**

**Dani Alves:** I'll be honest with you, I was 95 percent close to signing with Real Madrid. However, [former Sevilla president Jose Maria] Del Nido is a very tough dude. Chelsea also got

involved [in talks] and they started to play along. He dealt with one side and he told them that the other team was willing to pay even more money than them. Then I had to make a decision and in the end, I stayed with Sevilla. I was very close to signing with Real Madrid, but fate got in the way. It said that my history was going to be made with Barcelona, as I had dreamed as a kid. And you have to make dreams come true, instead of nightmares.

I'm grateful that I was able to avoid going to Madrid and, obviously, signing with Barca. Real was a winning side and I wasn't going to go there in order to keep the status quo. It was more exciting for me to build what we did in Barcelona. We had to change history and so we did. In Madrid, it would have been a case of adding pages to a book they had already written. Instead, with Barca it was a different thing. There was a transition in progress and people went to the stands carrying scarves. We changed the meaning of those scarves, made them even brighter. That was the one thing we achieved with Sevilla and Barca.

**ESPN: How did the Barcelona signing come to be?**

**Dani Alves:** As soon I found out that Barca had an interest in me, I told [my agent] that I didn't want to talk with anyone else. I was fully aware that my history with Sevilla had reached its conclusion and I said that either I signed with Barca or I wouldn't play again with Sevilla. They had already played with two or three years into my future. They had already played with my present but I wanted to have a say in my future. Liverpool, Madrid and Chelsea all showed interest, but it didn't work. When Barca reached out, I said, "It's done."

**ESPN: Is Pep Guardiola good to work with?**

**Dani Alves:** I can't complain. There was only a moment in which we had our disagreements, but we talked it out. There was a bit of a scuffle, but we were able to fix it one week later.

For me, that's the big virtue Pep Guardiola has. He makes decisions holding his heart in his hand, but he's able to make the best decisions, and that's what I like about him, even if it hurts you. He's a perfectionist. Sometimes, he tries to take a step back in order not to fail. In our last year, we didn't feel Pep was that way anymore, since he is a f---g genius.

**ESPN: If Messi had not missed that penalty against Chelsea and Barca would've made it to the Champions League final, do you think Guardiola would've left?**

**Dani Alves:** He had already decided to leave and the decision was final. He had already achieved everything he could do with us. I think he was honest, because he is a perfectionist and he wants that everyone who surrounds him to behave in the same way. Here's an example: if you make a pass that does not make your teammate's play any easier, he makes sure to set up the very same play all over again. He doesn't like to see that his players waste any time and that the game slows down or that you become selfish. He believes in the power of a group, just like we do.



From Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain, Dani Alves and Neymar have developed a strong relationship. Photo: Agencies

**ESPN: You've said that if Guardiola asked you to jump out a window, you would do it. Why?**

**Dani Alves:** I'd jump and do it because I know that, in the end, something good will come out of it. Would I do it right now? No, because he's not there anymore [laughs]. If he says something to me because he's mad about something, I wouldn't since there could be a small trick in it.

**ESPN: Why did you decide to play for Paris Saint-Germain when everyone thought you were going to Manchester City?**

**Dani Alves:** I had spent a somewhat unpleasant year in Italy, in Turin. I felt cheated since I didn't get what I had been promised. And that's the worst feeling there is. I made history with Juventus and I was able to ask some people there how they felt about Daniel Alves as a worker. There isn't a single person in there who doesn't love me. A different thing altogether is the relationship with those who took me there, what they told me. That was my decision. I respect history and Juventus a lot. I made many friends in there. If people are happy then everything comes back to you. I felt that they failed me, and I left Juventus.

Then, I thought about my personal well-being, my family's. That's why I didn't go to City. Pep knows about how much I appreciate him and that I'd be willing to work with him again. However, at that moment I wasn't really thinking about a reunion with him, I was thinking about what I needed in order to be happy and the new challenges I had ahead of me. All my challenges with Guardiola were solved and Paris represented a more exciting proposition. The relationship between us is very positive.

**ESPN: We know this is something you don't like to talk about, but how are the new contract negotiations going with PSG?**

**Dani Alves:** The only real attachment I had in life was the one I had with my mom when I had an umbilical cord, and even that one was cut off. I'm a free man and I'm among those who think that one plus one equals one instead of two, since we are working together. If we remain on the same page, we will stay together. If that's not the case, then it won't happen.

**ESPN: Can you reach an understanding?**

**Dani Alves:** As of now, we are not. They know I want to go in a direction and that I want to help this club to change its history. But I don't know if that's what they want. I can contribute a lot inside PSG and if we can't agree on it, then we will see.

**ESPN: You've always said you dream of playing in the Premier League.**

**Dani Alves:** It's not a dream, because I make my dreams come true with effort. I've said I would like it. It is a very exciting league; they feel a lot of respect and what I like is the respect they have for the professional player. If he gives his all, they respect him. And here, in the rest of Europe, it looks like that if you don't win matches then you don't get any respect. I don't have that problem, I'm a winner.

**ESPN: An adventure in England before retiring?**

**Dani Alves:** That's the goal, and it's on the back burner.

**ESPN: Sergio Busquets has talked about MLS, Mikel San Jose has talked about MLS and a month-and-a-half ago we were in London with Mauricio Pochettino and he too acknowledged it is a league that catches his eye. Does MLS appeal to you?**

**Dani Alves:** Frankly, most of the things they do in the U.S. are enticing. Saying otherwise would be a lie. Because of the organization they have, their structure, the fact they always do things in a big way and they strive for excellence, that is something very appealing for everyone. If it wasn't a nice league, no one would even think of going there. When they talk about it, they know how important it is and the growth it has experienced. Obviously, you always keep an eye on it, no doubt.

**ESPN: When Neymar was signed, Johan Cruyff said that with Lionel Messi and him there were too many roosters in the hen house. Do you remember that?**

**Dani Alves:** Cruyff can be wrong, just like everyone else. He was not perfect. He made mistakes as a player, he made mistakes as a manager. Nobody's perfect. Looking from the inside, I had it clear. Will this work or won't it? I said, "it will" because I knew them and I knew that something was going to click, because Leo isn't dumb.

**ESPN: How did you enjoy that phase? Because if it was a good situation only with Messi, with**

**Neymar ...**

**Dani Alves:** It was lights out. I felt we couldn't lose a game. You saw how the team trained, how we played, the positioning we made, how we pressed and how we ran, I thought we were unbeatable -- even if we really weren't, but that's how we felt. Everything was so connected and perfect.

**ESPN: Were you surprised when Neymar left Barca?**

**Dani Alves:** I wasn't truly shocked. Neymar wanted to prove his worth as a player by himself, without counting on Messi being next to him.

**ESPN: How is Neymar now?**

**Dani Alves:** He's in transition, because he's not getting the results he wants. And he's very obsessed about it and he always wants to be on top. Therefore, if he doesn't make it, it would be clear that he's unhappy. He must take advantage of his time off and his vacation and reflect on what he can do in order to be a bigger player than he already is and to reach a much better place than the one he is in right now.

**ESPN: Is Neymar happy in Paris?**

**Dani Alves:** He is not happy, since he didn't get the results he wanted and that brings him unhappiness. I would beat the crap out of him if he feels happy without winning.

**ESPN: Would you bet a dinner that Neymar will stay at PSG next season?**

**Dani Alves:** A dinner is not enough. Should I bet the Eiffel Tower? I believe that he will stay with PSG.

**ESPN: And what if Real Madrid calls him?**

**Dani Alves:** If Madrid calls me, I'd say no. And if it calls me to ask me about Neymar, I'd say no as well [laughs].

**ESPN: Would you be surprised if Madrid calls him?**

**Dani Alves:** Madrid calls a lot of people. I wouldn't be surprised at all.

**ESPN: What about Neymar returning to Barca?**

**Dani Alves:** I think it's very difficult. People inside Barca, I think, won't be willing to acknowledge that they need him. And that's a problem, you can't go anywhere guided by your ego. You can't let your ego dictate your life. Barca has that problem and they won't recognize that they need him and that already drives him away from Barca. Which side doesn't need Ney? Everyone needs Ney.

**ESPN: You played with Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez at Barca. Now Kylian Mbappe is with you at PSG, and he's a rocket ...**

**Dani Alves:** Yes, he's a rocket, but he can go even farther than that. He's very young, and when he grows up and develops, he can be a whole lot more of a player than he already is right now.

**ESPN: Even though he doesn't play like Messi, Messi -- like everyone else -- is getting old. Could Mbappe be the next Messi?**

**Dani Alves:** There's no one like Messi.

**ESPN: Has Ligue 1 become too small for PSG?**

**Dani Alves:** At some point in time, it is not demanding for us. People say [Ligue 1] is easy for us. I disagree. I have never run so much in my life like I have at the French league. Players here have a very physical style and you have to make a brutal effort in each and every match. It's true that this league isn't easy; however, the gap between PSG and the rest of the teams is huge. Because of the quality of the players we have. The club? Well, this is Paris and there is a huge difference.

**ESPN: When you walk around the city, do people bother you?**

**Dani Alves:** You can have a great life here. It's a very expensive place but with quality of life.

**ESPN: Are your kids [in Paris]?**

**Dani Alves:** No, they're in Brazil.

**ESPN: Do you speak French?**

**Dani Alves:** I can hold my own speaking French.

**ESPN: You've always been very fashion-forward. Have you been invited to fashion shows?**

**Dani Alves:** You can see lots of fashionable things here and that's a thing which makes it so unique. I'm so in love with this world and, as I always say, I'm enamored of free worlds, of places in which you can create your own story. And I believe fashion is such a world, in which people would not tell you the things you have to do. You can create your own story in there if you have your own personality to do so.

**ESPN: What do you think about the club ultras and their racism?**

**Dani Alves:** It is a shame, to be honest with you. I had that issue when I played in Villarreal. I had been dealing with it for a long time since I got to Spain. I thought it was embarrassing that we were dealing with this thing after so much time and that the human being hasn't been able to evolve a single bit. The human being is not concerned about the person next to him, he is selfish and lives within himself. I have already said in an interview that it would continue to happen because humans are quite stupid and don't evolve regarding this issue. And now, in 2019, you can see it in a different manner, but it still is the same problem and we have to realize that the world belongs to all of us and that we all belong to the same world. And that we can't keep on stereotyping people and that we must respect ourselves instead of doing whatever we want without thinking of the consequences.

People are pushing for a power that is worthless. If you do not own things that make you look like a millionaire, your wealth is worthless. We used to joke with my friends saying we were multimillionaires without having any money. However, we weren't poor, because we had values that cannot be bought with lots of millions.

## Barca haunted by ghosts of Rome in 'nightmare' loss to Liverpool - Pique

BARCELONA

BARCELONA suffered from a mental block during the 4-0 defeat to Liverpool which knocked them out of the Champions League, having been scarred by the memory of a similar collapse to AS Roma last year, defender Gerard Pique has said.

Pique, who has won Europe's elite competition with Barca three times but not since 2015, described the semi-final second leg defeat which wiped out his side's 3-0 first-leg win as "a nightmare", saying it would take years to get over.

"You could see that the team just wasn't functioning, they were putting us under pressure and what

had happened last year [against Roma] was very present in our minds," Pique said in an interview with Spanish newspaper El Pais published on Friday.

"I'm sure it was a mental block, but we also didn't play good football. We lacked everything. They pressed us very high, they were very intense, and Anfield also played its role. We just couldn't cope, sometimes it happens."

Barca have romped to a second La Liga title in a row and could complete another successive double when they play Valencia in Saturday's Copa del Rey final.

But just as last season's 3-0 defeat at Roma after a 4-1 home win threatened to overshadow their cam-

paign, Barca's failure to win what Lionel Messi called "that beautiful and desired trophy" has also had a terrible impact on the team.

Pique said his team mates had a sense of déjà vu during the game at Anfield, which unfolded in a remarkably similar way to events at the Stadio Olimpico last year.

"I think on a mental level some of us were affected by what had happened in Rome, it was so recent. The first goal came very quickly, and suddenly the image of Rome appeared," Pique said, recalling Sadio Mane's goal in the 15th minute at Anfield.

"Then they sc

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Sevilla FC bids Tanzania goodbye with thrilling victory over Simba SC



Simba SC players (in red jerseys) and their Sevilla FC counterparts in a group picture prior to the kick off of an international friendly match involving the two sides, which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

## SPORT

Dani Alves on his path to Europe, winning with Messi at Barca, life with Neymar at PSG, and MLS

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

**5 EATV** **UJENZI** **TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:00 UTAKA  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 KURASA  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 BONGO HITS

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

*Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier.*

By Guardian Reporter

SEVILLA FC rounded off their landmark La Liga World SportPesa Challenge visit to Tanzania on Thursday evening with a thrilling 5-4 win over Mainland Premier League champions, Simba Sports Club.

Around 35,000 people were in attendance at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam to see the likes of Sevilla FC stars Roque Mesa, Ever Banega and Nolito up close as they took on Tanzania's best.

Nolito and Dutch international Quincy Promes, who both scored twice, and Sergio Escudero, got on the score sheet for

the visitors.

John Bocco, who was man of the match, scored twice for Simba, adding to strikes from Meddie Kagere and Clatous Chama.

At the post-match press conference, Sevilla FC coach Joaquin Caparros said: "We knew it would be a tough game given that Simba SC are national champions and they gave us a great game. It's been a great experience for the fans because it's always a spectacle when there are so many goals."

Meanwhile, Sevilla FC forward Quincy Promes said: "We were able to turn the game around in the second half and we wanted to win. It's been a great experience."

Sevilla FC's Nolito also spoke

to the press after the match, adding: "I'm very pleased with the way the match turned out and how we were able to keep upping the pace."

"We improved as the game went on. I felt good too, it's been a while since I played a full 90 minutes. I've had the chance to play the last game of the season all the way through."

In travelling to Tanzania as part of the La Liga World project, Sevilla FC became the first Spanish team to ever play a match in the country.

Having arrived in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, the travelling party included club president José Castro, sporting director Ramón Rodríguez 'Monchi' and established first-team stars such as Wissam Ben Yedder, Jesus

Navas and Munir El Haddadi.

They took part in a number of activities, including a football clinic with junior players from local side Bom Bom at the National Stadium.

The visitors also held a management seminar with local clubs and institutions and a cultural visit to the National Museum of Tanzania.

Sevilla FC's rivals, Simba SC, came into the game after wrapping up the Mainland Premier League title for the 20th time in their history and second consecutive season.

The team also reached the quarterfinals of the 2018/19 CAF Champions League for the first time in a quarter of a century, beating the likes of Egypt's Al Ahly, the most decorated side in

African football history, and DR Congo's AS Vita Club along the way.

La Liga World Challenge is a program created in 2014 by the Spanish Professional Football League (La Liga) with the support of the Spain government, the National Sports Council and the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade.

It is an initiative gearing towards bringing professional football clubs from all over the world closer to project the image of Spanish football internationally.

It moreover targets to spread the values of Spain's soccer brand and generate new opportunities for all parties involved in staging cultural, public relations and corporate events.

## eSwatini face Mauritius in 2019 COSAFA Cup opener

DURBAN

THE 2019 COSAFA Cup starts today, kicking off a two-week festival of football in Durban, South Africa from May 25-June 8 with a clash between eSwatini and Mauritius at the King Zwelithini Stadium at 16h30.

The Group A fixture will provide an intriguing start to the tournament and will have much riding on it, especially as the pool has been reduced to three teams with the withdrawal of Angola from the competition.

With only the top team in each pool advancing to the quarterfinals, victory would give either side a massive boost in their bid to reach the knockout stages.

The two sides have clashed twice before in the COSAFA Cup, but not for more than a decade.

Both previous meetings ended in draws, the first a 0-0 stalemate in 2007, and the second a 1-1 draw a year later.

eSwatini are buoyant after reaching the next stage of African Nations Championship qualifiers after defeating Malawi on the away goals rule following a 1-1 draw in Blantyre.

But they are also winless in their last nine games, dating back to a 1-0 victory over Kenya exactly a year ago on May 25, 2018.

Mauritius are also on a five-game winless run, with their last international a 1-0 loss to Fiji in March.

Their last victory was also almost a year ago, when they edged Malawi 1-0 in the COSAFA Cup when the tournament was staged.

eSwatini are coached by experienced Serbian Kosta Papić, who has worked extensively in South Africa, most notably with both Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs.

He was also in the KwaZulu-Natal province with National First Division side Royal Eagles.

Mauritius coach Akbar Patel is also highly experienced and has led the national team previously. He is highly regarded in his own country.

eSwatini have reached the semi-finals of the COSAFA Cup on four occasions, proving their potential for upset results, with their most recent success a bronze medal in 2016.

After a run of first round finishes between 2005 and 2015, eSwatini have played in the quarterfinals or beyond in each of the last three editions of the COSAFA Cup.

Mauritius are still seeking to get past the quarterfinal stage of the southern African championship.

In 2001, Mauritius did make that stage after beating Namibia and but then lost 1-0 to Angola in Luanda.

## Junior players ready for Africa Championship

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

MOROGORO International School (MIS) wrote one of amazing histories in international schools competitions in Tanzania after winning the U-9 category of soccer and finishing second in swimming in a competition that was held in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The tournament, which took place at the International School of Tanganyika (IST), brought together international schools teams from across the country.

They include Morogoro International School (MIS), Dar es Salaam International Academy (DIA), International School of Tanganyika (IST), St. Constantines, International School of Moshi (ISM), Zanzibar International School, Aga Khan International School and Braeburn International School.

The MIS team's coach, Mbaraka Hamisi, associated his squad's victory with teamwork spirit showcased by the school's staff.

He disclosed the youngsters have been getting theory and practical lessons, noting they have also been getting instructions on embracing fairness, discipline and unity.

"MIS teachers are tirelessly shaping the squad to uphold the values," he noted.

The school's soccer squad's fitness was evident in the U-9 category of the competition, as the youngsters



Tanzania's junior tennis player, Omary Sulle, battles it out in a past ITF /CAT competition in Kenya.

recorded edged Braeburn 1-0 and then drew 1-1 with St. Constantines.

In the other two duels, MIS

outfit shared the spoils with a 0-0 draw with ISM and then drew 1-1 with DIA.

Eight-year old Liam Hamisi

scored MIS' goal on the 10th minute after getting the better of dribbling Braeburn defenders within the latter's box and

netted with ease.

"Hamisi received an assist from fellow forward Faraja Abdallah, aged six and the youngest member in the squad," Hamisi noted.

"The side played short, penetration passes and dominated possession for the better part of the game."

"The MIS moreover won 26 medals in swimming. The school's swimmers, namely Mbaraka Abdallah, Awesome Gizaza, William Hamisi, Armaan Jabbar, Hape Coleman, Zack Beds, Lucas Londo, Calvin Kikuyi, Adrian Laleo, Faraja Abdallah and Finley Dixon."

He added the side put impressive performance in Relays in which Sarita Maade won bronze medal in Backstroke and silver medal in Freestyle.

William Hamisi won gold medal in Backstroke and silver medal in Freestyle, while Lance Jansen got gold in Freestyle, silver in Backstroke and bronze in Freestyle.

Latifa Sykes, one of the MIS pupils' parents, congratulated the MIS for excelling in the competition.

She noted the school's ability to win the U-9 of soccer competition and take the second spot in swimming makes her proud. "Our kids are truly excited by the success and are focused on winning the sportsmanship award," she noted.

"To us, this is the greatest honour, surpassing any medal the pupils won recently... this speaks volumes on the quality and caliber of education at MIS."

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

SORRY Ma'am I AM AFRAID, YOUR HAIR IS FALLING OFF!

