



National Pg 2

Strategies to overcome physicians shortage



National Pg 3

Warning of uncertified sunflower seeds



National Pg 6

Industrialisation drive wins experts praise



National Pg 7

Launching of employer of the year awards



JOB

Informal jobs shine in EA Labour Day ceremonies

NAIROBI

KENYA and Tanzania for the first time involved informal sector businesses and units in Labour Day celebrations across the region yesterday.

As the celebrations centred in Mbeya at the national level, President John Magufuli had the previous day hammered home the point that the informal sector, commonly known as 'machingas' are a part of commercial activity and should conduct trade anywhere with their identity cards.

Meanwhile Kenya joined the world in marking Labour Day celebrating young people who are in the forefront of creating jobs.

The young people, some informal workers while others businesspersons, are creating jobs by starting businesses in various sectors that include agriculture, transport, hospitality, housing and carpentry.



Fred Ajwang, a resident of Busia in western Kenya, is among young people who have created jobs for fellow youths

The businesses have become key in offering employment to thousands of people, thus boosting incomes in a country where formal jobs have become scarcer.

Fred Ajwang, a resident of Busia in western Kenya, is among young people who have created jobs for fellow youths.

The businessman has eight motorbikes and runs a spare parts and repair shop in the district that borders Uganda.

"I have 11 workers in total who I have employed directly and others that I hire on casual basis when the need arises," said Ajwang on the phone.

The businessman has agreed with the riders that they give him 400 shillings (4 U.S. dollars) each day, from the average 8 dollars they make daily as they traverse the rural areas of the populous region.

"I take it with pride this Labour Day that I have created jobs for my fellow youths," said the 38-year-old.

"My plan is to come up with even more because there are hundreds who are unemployed and any job makes a difference in their lives," he declared.

Caleb Karuga, a former journalist who

TURN TO PAGE 2

Pay rise will cause inflation, Magufuli cautions workers



An aerial view of the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya city yesterday during the May Day celebrations. Photo: State House

Construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line to link the commercial city of Dar es Salaam with the capital of Dodoma, Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric project at the Selous Game Reserve and construction of international airports are some of the projects pursued by the government, he pointed out

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday said there would be no pay rise for civil servants this year—the fourth time he addressed Workers' Day without salary increment—defending the position as meant to avoid inflation.

Addressing International Labour Day which was observed at the national level in Mbeya city, the Head of State said his first priority is to build the economy, expressing optimism that development projects being implemented now shall warrant increments in future.

"I know you expected to hear me announce a pay rise. If I do that today, tomorrow transport and everything else will go up. Please be patient," the president appealed.

Prior to his address, the social media was awash with predictions that after celebrating three previous Workers' Day without announcing the sweet news, the president



The government was currently focusing on implementing development projects, and wage increases would only come after ongoing projects have been completed

would not end his speech without the declaration of a pay rise.

President Magufuli said his government decided to use the money it collects to build the economy, noting that with the investment that is being levelled in various development projects, there is hope that it matures, hence facilitating higher wages and salaries.

The government was currently focusing on implementing development projects, and wage increases would only come after ongoing projects have been completed.

Construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line to link the commercial city of Dar es Salaam with the capital of Dodoma, Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric project at the Selous Game Reserve and construction of international airports are some of the projects pursued by the government, he pointed out.

He said the government is purchasing planes to revive Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) to vastly increase the number of tourists and enhance government revenue, paving the way for wage rises.

He said the government recognizes the job done by civil servants, and the government will continue to support them in challenging situations.

"For me, I think it is better to allocate

E-tax stamp compliance date pushed to May 15th

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) yesterday announced an extension of the compliance deadline for cigarette and alcoholic beverages without Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) for one month on condition that the products must be verified by TRA officials.

The guidance notice issued by the taxman directed dealers in the products to immediately liaise with its regional and district managers to establish stock with paper stamps for affixing of ETS.

"This exercise should be completed by 15th May 2019 as businesses continue to maintain the status quo" a TRA notice explained, saying this mandatory requirement must first be



The notice specified that local beers will only be verified for record purposes while imported ones shall be affixed with ETS

engaged.

TRA had earlier set April 30 as the deadline for the transition from paper stamps to ETS. As the deadline elapsed on Tuesday, a crackdown to remove the products from the shelves was due yesterday but a conditional extension was relayed.

The notice specified that local beers will only be verified for record purposes while imported ones shall be affixed with ETS.

"The respective businesses will be allowed to maintain and sell identified stocks up to 30th June 2019 and after that no such excisable goods for which electronic tax stamps are required shall be displayed for sale, sold or distributed," reads the notice

TURN TO PAGE 2

DC: Follow plans in home building

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

AUTHORITIES in Arusha have blamed flooding of homes here after Tuesday's massive downpours on unplanned settlements, calling on residents to adhere to construction guidelines issued by planners.

Speaking here yesterday during his visit to flood victims at Nguruma and Shangarai settlements, Arumeru District Commissioner Jerry Muro (pictured) said the effects of the rains would have been minimal if people built houses in accordance with approved plans.



The floods were a result of unplanned settlements blocking waterways, he said, noting that some residents have constructed houses and walls along river basins, the usual waterways.

"When we build without proper plans we block waterways and cause floods. This is the second time we experience floods due to unplanned construction. We should all agree to remove the walls that block rainwater to be safe from floods," he said.

He said the floods have been resulting in the

TURN TO PAGE 2



DC: Follow plans in home building

FROM PAGE 1

destruction of properties, damaging stored food and wrecking road infrastructures.

He urged those residing in flood prone areas to relocate to safer places. Those living in low lying areas should find alternative shelters during this rainy season to avoid deaths which can result from another spate of flooding, he cautioned.

"We should start constructing houses in accordance with guidance from city planners," the DC emphasized.

One of the victims, Rose Nassari commended the DC for visiting them as well as educating them on the importance of adhering to guidelines provided by city planners.

On Tuesday, thousands of passengers along the Moshi-Arusha and Arusha-

Namanga highways were stranded for hours after heavy rains pounded the area, forcing scores of residents to flee their flooded homes.

However the busy Moshi-Arusha highway water was flowing over the key Biji Bridge located in Hai district in Kilimanjaro region was submerged for hours, forcing motorists on both sides of the bridge to wait intermittently.

In Arusha city, scores of residents of Unga Limited, Sokoni One, Kimandolu, Engutoto and Kiranyi wards fled their flooded homes to elevated grounds as Mother Nature displayed accentuated force.

The Arusha -Namanga highway was impassable for hours while a trail of destruction could be seen on a number of roads within Arusha central business district.



President Dr John Pombe Magufuli is being briefed on the construction of Mzumbe University Academic and Administration buildings shortly after he unveiled a plaque for the foundation stone of the infrastructure in Mbeya yesterday. Looking on are the Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako (R) and other government senior officials. Photo: State House

Pay rise will cause inflation, Magufuli cautions workers

FROM PAGE 1

sufficient funds to facilitate implementation of development projects rather than increasing wages to workers," he said.

"Salary increase will also depend on performance and accountability of public workers. I therefore encourage workers to continue working hard."

He however emphasized that his government is not discriminatory as it has civil servants of all levels of education including Standard Seven leavers.

He remarked that out of 525,506 civil servants, 98,615 are Standard Seven leavers. "That's why I am saying my government is fair," he stressed.

Earlier, Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) president Tumaini Nyamuhokya requested the president to remember his promise on wage increases, saying workers were eagerly

awaiting for that measure.

He urged the government to bring the wages board to meet workers' unions and discuss the various issues being raised by workers.

The event was attended by top government officials including Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Speaker of the National Assembly Job Ndugai, Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, cabinet ministers and MPs.



Salary increase will also depend on performance and accountability of public workers. I therefore encourage workers to continue working hard

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE Society of Anaesthesiologists of Tanzania (SATA) yesterday convened in Dar es Salaam to chart strategies to overcome shortage of physicians hence leading to inadequate surgical to patients at critical condition.

Anaesthesiologists are the physicians responsible for administering general or regional anaesthesia, which allows surgeons and other physicians to complete invasive procedures with little to no discomfort to the patient.

Speaking at the 6th Scientific Conference and annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam, the SATA president Dr Mpoki Ulisubisya hinted that the demand for them was 200 while the available experts were less than fifty.

Dr Ulisubisya said that an increase in number of accidents casualties caused a highly demand for the anaesthesiologists to have adequate and safe surgical.

He said currently, there was highly shortage of specialized anaesthesiologists to attend patients at critical condition contributed a rising

SATA to chart strategies now to overcome physicians shortage

in number of accidents, the situation left them untreated or disabilities.

He said anaesthesiologists were very important closely monitor a patient's vital signs and critical life functions before, during and after a surgery - making rapid decisions on limited data when required.

He said this year theme was: Trauma a rising epidemic in Tanzania: and had attracted a number of experts within and outside the country.

These were from countries like United States Of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), Sweden Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda and the host country.

Dr Ulisubisya pointed out that the problem was mostly contributed by number of factors including lack of technology.

The president further said that among others, the conference will also evaluate the challenges and success

achieved so far in the past six years and way forward.

He said most accidents casualties need surgery and sometimes the best way to treat them was through surgeries adding that anaesthesiologists were pivotal. "We are tasked to encourage physicians want to take master degree to pursue anaesthesiology to reduce shortage of the experts," he said.

According to the president, the target was at least two anaesthesiologists for each regional referral hospital in the country noting that the number available was below 50 experts.

Globally, Tanzania is among countries in the World facing a shortage of anaesthesiologists as the ratio stands 1for 2.3million people the situation that lead to millions suffered disabilities or left untreated.

"Approximately five billion people around the world - the vast majority

are from Low middle income countries (LMICs) - still lack access to adequate surgical and anaesthesia care. Last year alone, nearly 17 million of them died from a condition that could have been treated or prevented by surgery. Millions more suffered disabilities or injuries that were left untreated," he said.

Tanzania needs 200 anaesthesiologists to operate adequate surgeries but currently there are less than 50.

Anesthesia technology was the workforce needed to administer it, in some countries like U.S; there were more than 10 anesthetists for every 100,000 people.

Some countries are hit particularly hard by the trend of talented medical specialists who earn degrees locally only to seek out higher paying jobs elsewhere.



Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainabu Telack shows to journalists a diamond weighing 521 carats which was unearthed by a small miner at Kishapu district in the region. It is the biggest diamond since the establishment of the mining 87 years ago. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

E-tax stamp compliance date pushed further

FROM PAGE 1

signed by TRA deputy Commissioner General Msafiri Mbibo.

The document affirmed that it is the obligation of each business to ensure that they voluntarily declare their stocks and have ETS affixed, short of which any undeclared stocks will be considered illegal

after 15th May.

TRA Commissioner General Charles Kichere told reporters last month that the government had been losing about 4bn/- per month in uncollected taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages before the introduction of ETS in January this year.

TRA collected 42.8bn/- on the products in March 2019 compared to

39.3bn/- collected the same month last year, amounting to an addition of 3.5bn/- in monthly collections, equal to nine percent increase.

The commissioner said all four cigarette companies, seven beer brewers as well as 12 wine and spirit makers already use ETS technology while seven producers stick the stamps manually under supervision

of TRA. They still use old technology that cannot support the system, he explained.

He said that 14 importers of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages had already joined ETS, with the second phase of implementation of ETS starting late April targeting soft or carbonated drinks, water, juices and CDs/DVDs.

Informal jobs shine in EA Labour Day ceremonies

FROM PAGE 1

farms in Kajiado County, provides employment for close to 30 people on his fish, vegetables and poultry farms, a majority of them women.

He says women generally provide the most reliable labour on the farm compared to men, as they are better organized.

"Women provide arguably the most reliable labour on the farm given that most men love the bottle," said Karuga, who quit journalism to farm.

At his carpentry workshop in Kayole to the east of Nairobi, Bernard Oloo employs five people directly and several others that include taxi and push cart operators, indirectly.

"I went into business after working for an Indian family that was also engaging in carpentry for years. I used the skills I gained from them to start the business four years ago," said Oloo, 36, who makes couches, dining tables, wall units, beds and TV stands, among other furniture.

Such businesses run by young people, some in white collar jobs and others in businesses, are replicated across the east African nation, making the youth some of the biggest job creators.

The Kenya Economic Survey 2018 released last week shows that the number of persons engaged outside small-scale agriculture and pastoralist activities rose from 16.9 million in 2017 to 17.8 million in 2018.

Some 762,200 jobs were created in the informal sector last year, down from 795,000 jobs the previous year, with the decline attributed to expiry of hired temporary workers' services by the electoral commission during the 2017 polls.

On the contrary, the formal sector

created 78,400 jobs compared to 114,400 jobs in 2017, with the decline attributed to poor performance in the private sector.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics notes that at least 7 million Kenyans are unemployed and out of the number, 70 percent are the youth (KNBS).

Out of informal jobs created in 2018, agriculture contributed 336,000 jobs, followed by manufacturing at 310,000 jobs.

Agriculture is the principal employer in Kenya, where millions are engaged either as workers or farmers, a good number of them young people.

Besides agriculture, other activities offering informal jobs include forestry and fishing, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and repair of motor vehicles, according to KNBS.

Beatrice Macharia of Growth Point, an agro-consultancy, noted that more youth are taking up agriculture more than before, not only on the farm but across the value chain.

"Some youths are in value addition, others are offering cold chain services while some are transporters or consultants like myself. I have employed two agronomists who help me work with farmers. The youth have the capacity to alleviate the country's job crisis if given opportunities, finance and get favorable policies," the 29-year-old underlined.

"I went into business after working for an Indian family that was also engaging in carpentry for years. I used the skills I gained from them to start the business four years ago"

Magufuli confident on TADB performance

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has challenged farmers in Mbeya to fully exploit low interest loans issued by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to expand their farming activities, saying that the bank was professionally competent to serve them.

"As of March this year, TADB which is purely your bank released 102bn/- and you farmers in Mbeya borrowed only 799.9m/-," President Magufuli said, praising the bank performance and its

commitment to farmers.

He said the government recognized the importance of the agricultural bank and that is why it has been enhancing her capacity to meet its obligations for farmers in the country.

Dr Magufuli did not mince words for the farmers in Mbeya for failing to go for loans offered by TADB with minimal interest rates, saying they are good producers when taking loans the productivity would be tripled.

"This should be taken as a challenge for you farmers in Mbeya who are very good producers. But, you do not utilize

the loans offered by the bank which was established to serve the farmers," he said.

Expounding further on the bank loans disbursement, Dr Magufuli said of 102bn/- released by bank as of March for example farmers in Kagera Region borrowed 38.3bn/-.

"saying Mtwara and Lindi pegions took 33bn/- and Mwanza borrowed 11.2b/- while farmers in Mbeya borrowed less than a billion shillings," the president explained.

Dr Magufuli also commended 110 million US dollars (about 250bn/-)

loan from Poland for setting up an assembling plant for tractors in Kibaha, Coast region to stimulate agricultural activities in the country.

In recent months, TADB offices had

been must go area for most of farmers seeking financial services and advice support of the bank. It stands a better chance to spearhead transformations taking place in agricultural sector.

The fifth phase government under the stewardship of President Magufuli is working towards turning Tanzania into medium sized and industrial based economy by 2025.

fhi360
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CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff include experts in Health, Education, Nutrition, Environment, Economic Development, Civil Society, Gender, Youth, Research and Technology; creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries globally.

Currently, FHI 360 is seeking a qualified, and experienced consultant to conduct a consultancy assignment- for its USAID funded **Tulonge Afya Project**. Tulonge Afya project works with the Government to catalyze opportunities for Tanzanians to improve health status by transforming socio-cultural norms and supporting the adoption of healthier behaviors. By addressing key social and cultural norms and social and behavior change (SBCC) system needs, USAID Tulonge Afya and the Government will together identify the drivers of behaviors directly tied to health and leverage SBCC approaches to achieve the following results:

- Result 1: Improved ability of individuals to practice healthy behaviors
- Result 2: Strengthened community support for health behaviors
- Result 3: Improved systems for coordination and implementation of SBCC interventions

Our integrated approach blends best practices from behavioral health sciences to address the complex individual-to-societal interplay that encourages change. We will use a participatory, evidence-based, and theory-informed approach. Through this, we will: 1) address norms and inequities that drive poor health; 2) advance health while promoting rights; 3) use data better to support regional needs; 4) harmonize messages and media; 5) strengthen institutional capacity to manage and deliver high quality SBCC; and 6) facilitate coordination to maximize SBCC impact and efficiencies.

Overview on the consultancy

FHI 360 is procuring the services of the consultant to provide SBCC technical assistance in support of HIV and AIDS, TB, and youth (encompasses HIV and sexual and reproductive health [SRH]) goals and objectives under the USAID Tulonge Afya project. The consultant will provide expert technical guidance to facilitate quality, effective, and timely implementation of the project's SBCC strategies and work plan activities. This includes ensuring stakeholders and target audiences are engaged appropriately throughout design and implementation; established processes for material design and development are followed; and activities are implemented with fidelity to project strategies and plans.

Detailed description of the tasks

Task 1: Collaborate with project partners to design, test, and finalize a community dialogue toolkit that contributes to the goals of the youth strategy. This should include a workshop with project partners to identify and adapt existing materials (based on needs outlined in the creative brief) and extensive consultations with targeted beneficiaries to refine the content and format of the toolkit.

Task 2: Manage the pre-test finalization, printing, and dissemination of client takeaway materials for youth audience. This should include integrating findings from the pre-test activity, consultation with MOH colleagues to ensure their review and approval, and coordination with relevant FHI 360 departments to procure design and printing services from external vendors.

Task 3: Manage finalization of the HIV activities for the Subira/Edna IPC toolkits. This should include coordination with design staff to update artwork, ensuring alignment with feedback and look-and-feel of other activities, consultation with MOH colleagues to ensure their review and approval, and coordination with relevant FHI 360 departments to procure design and printing services from external vendors.

Task 4: Conduct field visits to monitor the technical integrity youth IPC HIV testing and VMMC sessions that are implemented by CSO-supported Peer Champions. This should include providing technical support to CSO supervisors to ensure their ability to conduct quality supportive supervision, provide constructive feedback and to develop corrective action plans were required.

Task 5: Collaborate with project partners and MOHCDGEC to finalize Fuhara Yangu revised batch two materials. This should include working closely with NACP to ensure materials are reviewed and approved.

Task 6: Collaborate with project partners and MOHCDGEC to develop Fuhara Yangu phase 2 and 3 materials. This will include working closely with creative partners, FHI 360 HQ and NACP to push forward content developed from technical meetings, including managing the review, pre-test, finalize, print and disseminate of stakeholder endorsed draft materials.

Task 7: In collaboration with operations roll out the use of the Fuhara Yangu PLHIV small group dialogue toolkits with NACOPHA as part of their treatment advocate training curriculum and empowerment support group sessions. This will include orienting NACOPHA and supporting them to oversee roll out of orientations to their volunteers across USAID priority districts.

Task 8: Conduct field visits to monitor the technical integrity of Fuhara Yangu small group discussion activities with at risk populations among TCDC and T-MARC CSOs. This should include providing technical support to CSO supervisors to ensure their ability to conduct quality supportive supervision, provide constructive feedback and to develop corrective action plans were required.

Task 9: Manage the pretest, review and finalization of PLHIV testimonials and print materials. This will include incorporation of pre-test findings and securing stakeholders endorsement and NACP approval.

Task 10: In collaboration with stakeholders provide SBCC technical support in the review and finalization of the VMMC flip charts to include tetanus messages. This will include working closely with stakeholders and NACP to review and finalize the flip chart.

Task 11: In collaboration with FHI 360 HQ, provide SBCC technical support in the development of digital discussion guide to address social and cultural issues that put women at higher risk of abuse and gender-based violence. This will include finalizing the review of other existing best practices, development, review, pre-test and finalization of the discussion guides.

Preferred Qualifications/Requirements:

- Master's degree or its international equivalent in communication, public health, social sciences or related field; experience with SBCC programs an advantage
- Understanding of and expertise of MOH, HPS, and SBCC systems stakeholders and processes
- At least 7 years of experience supporting SBCC programs in a development field
- Excellent English verbal and written communication skills
- Knowledge of and experience with the Tanzania culture and social environment
- Experience working in Tanzania preferred

Application Guidelines:

FHI 360 requests applications submissions be organized in the manner and format described below.

- Updated CV and references to tz_recruitment@fhi360.org.
- Written statement (2-3 paragraphs) of why the applicant is suitable for the assignment and their availability

Please submit your application Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume

Closing Date: May 5, 2019

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha speaks to Kakola village residents at Bulyanhuru ward in Msalala council, Shinyanga region during the launching of property taxes repaying campaign at Kakola A and B primary schools on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Partnership and constructive dialogue crucial for journalists and government to address challenges

By Correspondent Mashaka

Mgeta, Dodoma

PARTNERSHIP and constructive dialogue were among the most important approaches to eliminate the differences between journalists and government, thus enabling

people to enjoy freedom of expression.

The chairman of the organising committee of the world's press freedom day (WPF), Neville Meena, said while speaking to the journalists in Dodoma city yesterday.

The media freedom day celebration will be held

on May 2 and 3 this year, with the theme "Media for democracy; journalism and elections in times of disinformation".

Meena, who is also the secretary of the Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF), noted that there has been a limited relationship and challenges facing journalists and media

fraternity in the country, and therefore it was now a time for both sides (government and media) to meet and address the existing challenges as they both serve the same community.

He explained how government interacted with media stakeholders at various stages of preparations of the WPF 2019 with the utilisation of the same language.

"We (media stakeholders) have enjoyed cooperation from the government through the information department (MAELEZO), we believe that through such kind of cooperation and collective dialogue will facilitate all of us to find solutions to the challenges facing our industry and journalists in general," he said.

On the other hand, Meena said there had been an increase in the number of participants to the WPF particularly the democracy and human rights advocates.

Commenting on WPF 2019, Patrick Kipangule from MAELEZO said there is a need for the journalists to focus on the media laws, regulations and procedures in order to avoid unnecessary intimidation.

Nancy Kaizilege from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said the media industry has a special role in shaping development progress including implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Vice President of Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), Jane Mihanji, said despite of challenges facing journalists due to, among other things, the existing legislation, the importance of media fraternity to the public remained inevitable.



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NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF COMPANY REGISTER

Notice is hereby given to the general public, that in accordance with the provision of Section 120 of the Companies Act 2002, the Board of Directors of the International School of Tanganyika Ltd, have resolved to close the register of members of the Company for three weeks, beginning from **Friday, 2nd May 2019** to **Wednesday, 22nd May 2019**.

Notice is also hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the International School of Tanganyika Ltd is set for **Thursday, 23rd May 2019** at the Secondary Campus Multi-Purpose Hall, Haile Selassie Road, Msasani, Dar es Salaam.

In pictures: May Day celebrations across the country



President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai, Deputy Speaker Dr. Tullia Ackson, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disability) Jenista Mhagama and workers' organisations leaders hold hands together in solidarity during the May Day celebrations held at the national level at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya yesterday. Photo: State House



National Assembly employees display placards at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma. Photo: National Assembly



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) workers at Uhuru Stadium in the city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) staff marching before Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda (not in picture) at Uhuru Stadium yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Muhimbili National Hospital workers at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: MNH



A section of workers hold hands in solidarity at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda (R) addresses workers at Uhuru Stadium yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, ETHICS SECRETARIAT



**TENDER NO. IE/022/2018 - 1209/HQ/G/04, LOT NO. 2
FOR
SUPPLY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) EQUIPMENTS
Invitation for Tenders**

Date: 02/05/2019

1. This Invitation for Tenders follows the Ethics Secretariat General Procurement Notice for financial year 2018.
2. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Finance and Planning has received a grants from the development partners including UK Department for International Development (DFID) and European Union (EU) towards the cost of implementation of Ethics Secretariat activities under Building Sustainable Anti-Corruption Action in Tanzania Program (BSAAT) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this grant to cover eligible payments under the contract for supply of Information Technology Equipment for the President's Office - Ethics Secretariat.
3. The President's Office - Ethics Secretariat on behalf of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (an Implementing Agency) now invites sealed tenders from eligible Suppliers for supplying Information Technology (IT) Equipment as follows:

S/N	Description	Units	Quantity
1	Desktop Computers	Set	31
2	Multifunctional photocopier	Pcs	7
3	UPS for stand-alone PC	Pcs	13
4	External Hard Disk	Pcs	11

4. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016 and are open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
5. Interested eligible Tenders may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary, Ethics Tender Board, 18 Jakaya kikwete Street, PSPF, 7th Floor (Procurement Management Unit), P. O. Box 225, Dodoma from 09:00am to 15:00pm on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
6. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the Secretary, Ethics Secretariat Tender Board 18 Jakaya kikwete Street, PSPF, 7th Floor (Procurement Management Unit), P. O. Box 225, Dodoma upon payment of a Non-refundable fee of Tanzanian Shillings Fifty Thousand Only (TZS. 50,000.00). Payment should be by Cash, Bankers draft or Bankers cheques payable to Ethics Commissioner – Ethics Secretariat.
7. All tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Securing Declaration
8. All tenders in one original copy plus two (2) copies, properly filled in and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to Secretary, Ethics Secretariat Tender Board, 18 Jakaya Kikwete Street, PSPF, 7th Floor (Procurement Management Unit), P. O. Box 225, Dodoma at or before 10.00 am hour's local time on 23rd May, 2019. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Conference Room of the President' Office, Ethics Secretariat, PSPF House, 7th Floor, Dodoma.
9. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the aforementioned circumstances.

Harold R. Nsekela
Judge (rtd.) Harold R. Nsekela

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Govt efforts towards industrialisation win praise from stakeholder experts

By Guardian Reporter

A task force formed by the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) to collect and analyse views of experts on the best ways to implement Tanzania's industrialisation strategy said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the government has so far done a commendable job towards making the country a middle-income industrial economy.

The task force has presented its report to a closed-door meeting of the TNBC Executive Committee, which is chaired by the Chief Secretary.

The committee is the second supreme organ of the TNBC. The national business council is chaired by the president of Tanzania.

Addressing the press after presenting the report, the co-chairman of the task force (private sector), Ali Mufuruki said the task force was satisfied with the measures taken by the government in a fresh bid to modernise and industrialise Tanzania.

"We had exhaustive consultations with a wide range of people on this important issue from both sides. We are content with step taken by the government in pursuit of this goal," assured Mufuruki.

Steps taken include securing air-planes, building of roads, power projects and establishment of other types

of physical infrastructure, the chairman said.

As a result of the consultations, he explained, the private sector has submitted to the committee a draft policy on industries. Asked to shed light on the submitted document, Mufuruki said experts proposed the kind of industries to be given priority, the importance of research, the importance of having an education system that prepares students for the kind of work and life they will face after studies.

"In that document we are calling for a fresh approach that pays sufficient attention to the capabilities of our people, the existing opportunities, economic empowerment of Tanzanians

and markets for the proposed industries," he said without giving further details.

The co-chairman (public sector), Joseph Simbakalia concurred with Mr Mufuruki saying that Tanzania has had flourishing industries, especially textile industries.

"We do not want a repeat of mistakes that ruined the industries of the past. That is what is important as of now," he said.

He also highlighted the task force's appreciation of the government's efforts in concretizing good governance, particularly its efforts in fighting corruption. He gave the example of Singapore, saying Singapore made great industrialisation strides after winning their war against corruption.

"We are identifying challenges, we are pushing for good governance, the government is creating a good, conducive climate for investment in this country, and building infrastructure, without which it is hard to have sustainable industries," he said.

The report will be examined by the executive committee before it is presented to the national council for final action. Meeting of the TNBC are chaired by the president of Tanzania. The TNBC draws equal members from public and private sectors.



We had exhaustive consultations with a wide range of people on this important issue from both sides. We are content with step taken by the government in pursuit of this goal



Kagera Regional Commissioner Brigadier General Marco Elisha Gaguti (4th L) cuts a cake to inaugurate a newly refurbished Tigo customer service shop in Bukoba municipal yesterday. Looking on are Tigo officials. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Medical experts in Sengerema works to scale up reproductive health awareness, reduce abortion

By Guardian Reporter

MEDICAL practitioners in Sengerema District are working hard to scale up reproductive health education to reduce abortion—one of the main causes of maternal death in the district and the country at large.

Modesta Masala, midwife-cum-counsellor at the Sengerema District Designated Hospital said: "As medical practitioners we've taken measures to address the challenge and one of those measures is education. We want to ensure that women and girls are well informed on reproductive health to address maternal health related challenges."

Modesta who has worked at the health sector for more than 20 years, said that in most cases, women are aware that pregnancy termination is restricted by law in the country; hence they end up doing it in unsafe ways and end up in trouble.

"That's why we're trying to educate them in different platforms," she said when speaking recently with this paper.

She said: "In my experience abortion is still high here and most of women do it in unsafe way."

According to her, there are women who use herbs, high doses of chlorine and detergent, wood ashes in solution, cassava stems, twigs and contraceptive pills to terminate pregnancies and there are those who use some of those ways to induce labour.

"All these put them in danger as it

may lead to maternal deaths and infertility due to health-related complications," she said, adding: "Though it is difficult for a woman to confirm that she has used those ways deliberately to terminate pregnancy, but they do it."

Dr Maria Jose Voeten, Chief Medical Officer at Sengerema District Designated Hospital admitted on the challenge, saying: "Weren't terming it as abortion, but rather miscarriage."

She said on average the district health facility which serves as far as Katoro, Geita and Buchasa areas gets between 600 and 700 cases of miscarriage annually.

Citing examples, Dr Voeten said in 2018, the hospital recorded 612 cases of miscarriage.

"To us, all these are being described as miscarriage as it is difficult to exactly know which way contributed to their miscarriages as most victims come here when they are in critical condition and what we do is to save their lives,"



We don't know the scale of the problem in the district, as most of these acts are done secretly and we come to know when it is too late and the victims are reluctant to disclose it

Dr Voeten said.

According to Voeten, the district health facility gets between 9,000 and 10,000 pregnant women annually.

Maria Magoa, coordinator of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) in Sengerema District, said that health facilities in the district are investing more on saving women's lives as articulated in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda through 2030, whereby maternal mortality reduction remains a priority under "Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages".

Magoa said: "We are also investing in counselling and providing family planning education to pregnancy mothers."

District Medical Officer (DMO), Peter Mao also described abortion as a challenge that needs to be addressed.

"We don't know the scale of the problem in the district, as most of these acts are done secretly and we come to know when it is too late and the victims are reluctant to disclose it," he said, adding: "What I can say maternal morbidity and mortality are still serious public health concerns here in the district."

A study, conducted by researchers at the U.S.-based Guttmacher Institute and Tanzania's National Institute for Medical Research and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, found that an estimated 405,000 abortions were performed in the country in 2013, the vast majority of which were clandestine procedures that put women's well-being at risk.

Chamwino DC calls upon CSOs, the law enforcers and religious leaders to promote human rights

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

GENDER-based violence among other forms of violence to children and people with disabilities is still a problem in Dodoma Region and authorities are now calling on law enforcers to act strongly to alleviate it.

Speaking on behalf of the Regional Commissioner (RC), Binilith Mahenge, Chamwino District Commissioner (DC), Vumilia Nyamoga called on various stakeholders to join forces in fighting the vice. "Most people in the region still suffer from gender based violence and are not aware of the problem thus the need for legal assistance in dealing with the matter," said the DC.

Nyamoga made the statement while opening a one-day capacity building meeting for law enforcers, civil society organisations (CSOs) and religious leaders to strengthen the role in promotion and protection of human rights.

It also aimed at empowering them with skills to work in the criminal justice sector, land laws and conflicts resolution mechanism to enhance access to justice for all in Dodoma.

The meeting was organised by the Tanzania Peace, Legal Aid and Justice Centre (PLAJC), a

local non-governmental organisation (NGO) in the region.

The organisation's Executive Director, Jaruo Karebe noted that the project is aimed at providing legal assistance as well as establish peace clubs in schools. "The aim is to increase awareness on legal matters and offer paralegal services to those who cannot afford it," he noted.

The DC however noted that the project has come at the right time as many people are increasing moving to Dodoma following the government decision to shift to the political capital city.

She also observed that the society should protect children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities against any form of violence.

The DC also called on the office of the director of public prosecutions (DPP) to see how to increase the pace of dealing with cases, calling on the representative to share experience with the participants.

She argued that there are a lot of cases in Chamwino district but when following up on them, the response is always that they are at the DPP's office. I have always been wondering if the office of the DPP is out of bounds for anyone seeking justice," she said.



A food vendor prepares flatbread commonly known as chapati for her potential customers at Buguruni Malapa in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Roti (also known as chapati) is a round flatbread native to the Indian subcontinent made from stoneground whole meal flour, traditionally known as atta, and water that is combined into a dough. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

ATE eyes launching of employer of the year awards to enhance performance

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) has launched a process towards employer of the year (EYA) awards that aims to enhance performance and increase productivity.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam on Monday, ATE Managing Director, Dr Aggrey Mlimuka said that employer of the year award (EYA) was for the first time held in 2005. He said this year's EYA will also

consider employers who considers and adhere to national and international regulations in conducting business.

Dr Mlimuka said the awards will this year feature 38 different categories from 35 categories last year. He said the change follows opinions from stakeholders and the Prime Minister's office.

"We will also award the best employer

who considers providing internship and apprenticeship...employers who consider local content in human resources will also be awarded," said Dr Mlimuka as he mentions the three new categories.

He said the new categories are meant to motivate employers to improve welfare of their human resources as well as promote good governance,

innovation, production, accountability and talent's promotion.

ATE boss asserted that awards will also go to employers with good relationship with their workers, those who provide incentives to professional employees as well as employers considering protecting workers against disasters and accidents while at work.

Dr Mlimuka noted that the overall winner category will be given in accordance to the sectors including private sector award, public sector award, and local employer award.

He however noted that ATE has finalized preparation of the special book that guides employers on how to ensure proper supervision of human resources. He said it was important

that every employer get the book to be able to properly manage their workers.

Last year, AngloGold Ashanti Geita Gold Mine emerged the Overall Winner of the EYA 2018 edging out Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited and Tanzania Breweries Limited who scooped the First and Second overall runners up positions respectively.



Ministry of Finance and Planning

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING OF ICT GOODS

Tender No. SMZ/F01/G/NCB/03/2018~19

Invitation for Tenders

Date 01th May 2019

- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Ministry of Finance and Planning during the financial year 2018/2019. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract **SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING OF ICT GOODS**.
- Tendering will be conducted through the **Domestic Competitive Bidding** procedures specified in the Public **Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No 11 of 2016**.
- The **Ministry of Finance and Planning** now invites sealed tenders from eligible to supply goods as shown below:

S/NO	Description of goods	Quantity required	Delivery Period
1.	DESKTOP ALL IN ONE	60	3-4 WEEKS
2.	LAPTOP	23	3-4 WEEKS
3.	APPLE MACKINTOSH ALL IN ONE	2	3-4 WEEKS
4.	PHOTOCOPY MACHINE	4	3-4 WEEKS
5.	PROJECTORS	5	3-4 WEEKS
6.	SCANNERS	2	3-4 WEEKS
7.	PRINTER	15	3-4 WEEKS
8.	COLOUR PRINTER	2	3-4 WEEKS
9.	HEAVY DUTY PRINTER	2	3-4 WEEKS

- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from the **Tender Board Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, P. O. Box 1154, Vuga Street, Zanzibar from 8:00 am up to 3:00 pm on Monday to Friday** except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document in English language may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a **written application to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, P O Box 1154, Zanzibar**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TZS 200,000/-**. Payment shall be by People's Bank of Zanzibar, **Account No.021101000176 to the Ministry of Finance Revenue Account**.
- All tender in one original plus two copies properly filled, seal and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the **Tender Board Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, P. O. Box 1154, Vuga Street, Zanzibar at or before 10.00 am on 21st May 2019** Tender shall be clearly marked **TENDER NO. SMZ/F01/G/NCB/03/2018~19, FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING OF ICT GOODS**.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount of **(TZS 10,000,000/=)**
- Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the **Ministry of Finance and Planning, Old Conference Room, Vuga Street, Zanzibar**.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

.....
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING,
P.O.BOX 1154,
ZANZIBAR.

215206701



Leadership Essay Competition 2019

African citizens between the age of 18 and 25 years are invited to submit their essays for this year's Leadership Essay Competition organised by UONGOZI Institute.

The Competition aims to provide a space for the youth of Africa and the next generation of leaders in the region to contribute to important discussions on leadership and sustainable development.

GUIDELINES:

This year's Competition aims to solicit thoughts on promoting good natural resource management for socio-economic transformation in Africa. The essays should respond to the following question:

"If you were an African leader, how would you promote sustainable use of the renewable natural resources for fostering socio-economic transformation in Africa?"

All essays must be typed. The maximum length is two (2) A4 pages. The format shall be of single spaced, Arial font size 11 with page margins of 1 inch (2.54 cm) for each margin, and sent as a Microsoft Word document.

Essays will be judged on the basis of originality, creativity, use of language and appropriateness to contest theme.

All essays must be written in English.

PRIZES:

A grand prize of USD \$2,000 will be awarded to the overall winner. Up to five winners will be selected.

The winners will receive their awards at a prize giving ceremony to be held during the African Leadership Forum Gala Dinner on 29th August, 2019, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The ceremony will be attended by former African Heads of State and other distinguished leaders from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society. The overall winner will be asked to read the winning essay at the event.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants **must** be African citizens between the age of 18 and 25 years.

HOW TO APPLY:

Essays should be submitted by email to: submissions@uongozi.or.tz

Applicants must also submit a written statement of originality and ownership of intellectual property rights (see www.uongozi.or.tz).

The final deadline for submission will be Friday, 21st June, 2019 at 17:00 hours (GMT). The winners will be notified via email on the third week of July, 2019. Feedback will not be provided on individual essays.

215207301

We ought to assess the state of press freedom worldwide, address challenges

THE United Nations General Assembly declared May 3 to be World Press Freedom Day or just World Press Day to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and marking the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek in 1991.

Windhoek Declaration is a statement of press freedom principles by African newspaper journalists in 1991. The Declaration was produced at a UNESCO seminar, Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, held in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991.

The date of the Declaration's adoption, May 3, has subsequently been declared as World Press Freedom Day. The document has been viewed as widely influential, as the first in a series of such declarations around the world, and as a crucial affirmation of the international community's commitment to freedom of the press. Subsequently, several similar documents were drafted in other parts of the developing world: The Alma-Ata Declaration for central Asia, Sana'a Declaration for the Middle East, and the Santiago Declaration for Latin America and the Caribbean. At the tenth anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, however, the United Nations jubilee statement noted the fragility of press freedom in the face of political violence or authoritarianism.

Since it was formally approved by the UNESCO member states during the 28th Session of the General Conference (November 1995), the Windhoek Declaration has become a major reference in the United Nations system. It is part of the New Communication

Strategy decided by UNESCO's General Conference during its 25th Session in November 1989, at the same time as the fall of the Berlin Wall. This new strategy de facto distanced itself from the New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) which was subject to controversies within the Organisation in the 1980s. These controversies have divided UNESCO and caused the United States and the United Kingdom to withdraw from the Organisation (in 1984 and 1985). The NWICO was also subject to oppositions from several professional media organisations, which saw in the New Order a means allowing states to control the media with the justification, among others, to encourage wider and better balanced dissemination of information between North and South.

The 1989 New Communication Strategy stresses that this can only be reached without any obstacle to freedom of expression in accordance with the fundamental purpose of UNESCO to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image.

In 2018, a conference sponsored by the United Nations alliance of civilisations was canceled. In 2018, several news organisations joined together for an ad campaign. Slain journalists in Kabul were remembered.

UNESCO marks World Press Freedom Day by conferring the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on a deserving individual, organisation or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger. Created in 1997, the prize is awarded on the recommendation of an independent jury of 14 news professionals. Names are submitted by regional and international non-governmental organisations working for press freedom, and by UNESCO member states.

Citizens should access health services without incurring financial hardship

UNIVERSAL healthcare (also called universal health coverage, universal coverage, or universal care) is a health care system that provides health care and financial protection to all residents of a particular country or region. It is organised around providing a specified package of benefits to all members of a society with the end goal of providing financial risk protection, improved access to health services, and improved health outcomes.

Universal healthcare does not imply coverage for all people for everything, only that all people have access to healthcare. Some universal healthcare systems are government funded, while others are based on a requirement that all citizens purchase private health insurance. Universal healthcare can be determined by three critical dimensions: who is covered, what services are covered, and how much of the cost is covered. It is described by the World Health Organization as a situation where citizens can access health services without incurring financial hardship. The Director General of WHO describes universal health coverage as the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer since it unifies services and delivers them in a comprehensive and integrated way. One of the goals with universal healthcare is to create a system of protection which provides equality of opportunity for people to enjoy the highest possible level of health.

As part of Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations member states have agreed to work toward worldwide universal health coverage by 2030.

A critical concept in the delivery of universal healthcare is that of population healthcare. This is a way of organising the delivery, and allocating resources, of healthcare (and potentially social care) based

on populations in a given geography with a common need (such as asthma, end of life, urgent care). Rather than focus on institutions such as hospitals, primary care, community care etc. the system focuses on the population with a common as a whole. This includes people currently being treated, and those that are not being treated but should be (i.e. where there is health inequity). This approach encourages integrated care and a more effective use of resources.

Universal health care is a broad concept that has been implemented in several ways. The common denominator for all such programs is some form of government action aimed at extending access to health care as widely as possible and setting minimum standards. Most implement universal health care through legislation, regulation, and taxation. Legislation and regulation direct what care must be provided, to whom, and on what basis. Usually, some costs are borne by the patient at the time of consumption, but the bulk of costs come from a combination of compulsory insurance and tax revenues. Some programs are paid for entirely out of tax revenues. In others, tax revenues are used either to fund insurance for the very poor or for those needing long-term chronic care.

Universal health care systems vary according to the degree of government involvement in providing care and/or health insurance. In some countries, such as the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia, and the Nordic countries, the government has a high degree of involvement in the commissioning or delivery of health care services and access is based on residence rights, not on the purchase of insurance. Others have a much more pluralistic delivery system, based on obligatory health with contributory insurance rates related to salaries or income and usually funded by employers and beneficiaries jointly.

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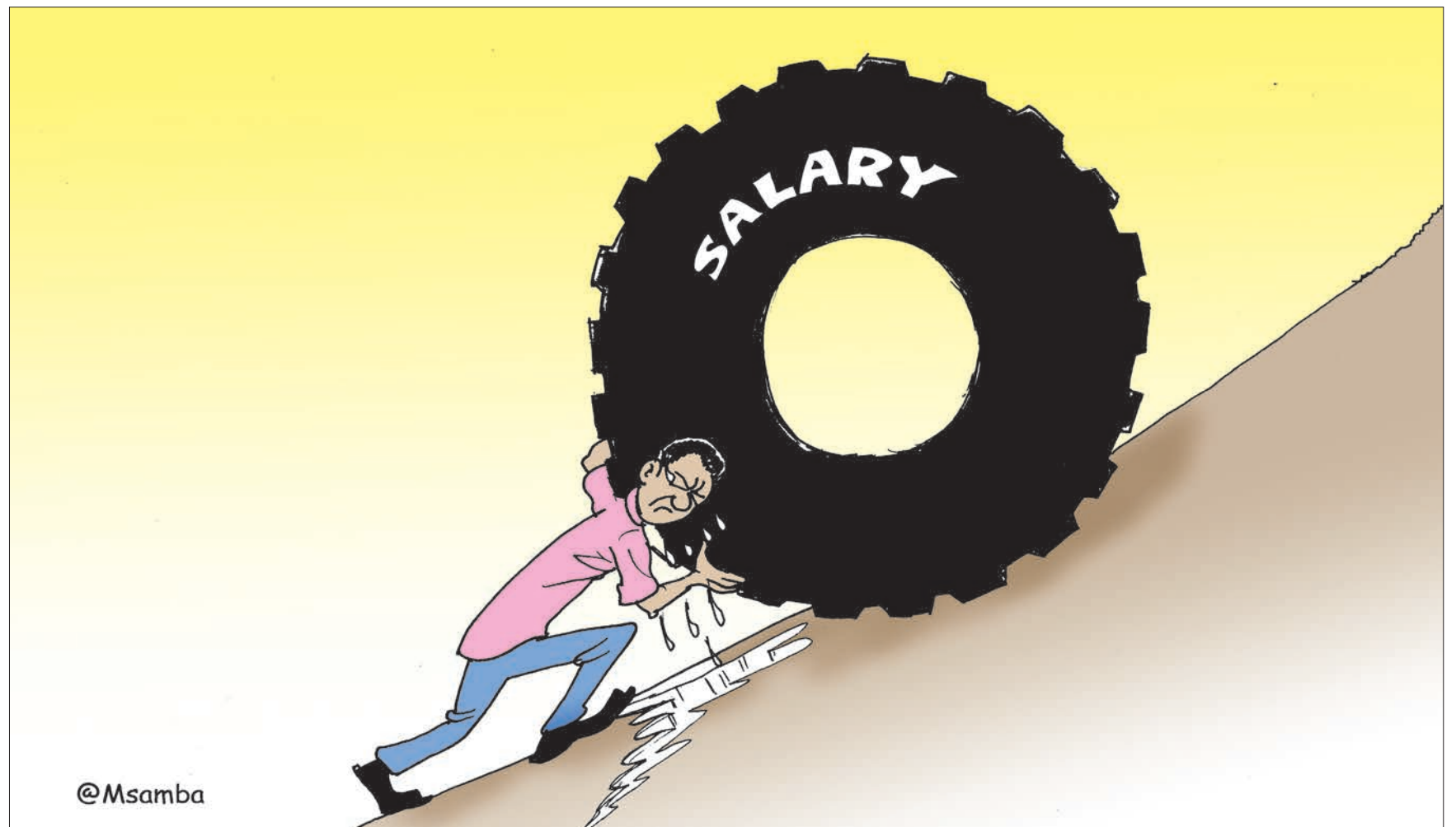
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Time to call for the lifting of sanctions against Zim

By Obert Chaurura

A lot of people, some of them close family members and even respected business friends and colleagues, have openly wondered whether or not I have changed my brand of politics.

In certain hostile political circles, I have actually been branded a political turncoat, a sell-out, a Zanu-PF agent and all sorts of false, malicious, unjustified and terribly ill-informed accusations.

Well, the fact of the matter is that my brand of politics hasn't and in fact, will never change.

I'm the sort of person who doesn't shy away from speaking truth to power, always, every time and indeed, anywhere and everywhere. That's me! I'm a prisoner of my conscience and my politics is deeply influenced by my principles and convictions.

As Malcolm X once said: "It's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction."

Ever since I got myself involved in active politics many, many years ago, I have resolutely stood by what I believe in and in a nutshell this is: peace, love, solidarity, non-violence, integrity, honesty, empathy, the rule of law and constitutionalism.

To those amongst the readers who happen to know me closely enough, I am

pretty sure you will agree with me that I have passionately stood by the aforementioned guiding principles in my political career.

Basically, therefore, I don't believe in opportunism or rather, sacrificing my strongly-held principles for short-term personal gain. I'm a very proud citizen of Zimbabwe, a proud citizen of Africa and above everything else, a proud citizen of the world.

Where the overall interests of Zimbabwe supersede and overtake my own private and personal interests, I don't hesitate to sacrifice my personal interests for the common good of my beloved country and continent.

This is the major reason that informed how I reached my Damascus moment regarding the issue of sanctions against Zimbabwe.

Here and now, I will fully admit that at one time I was thoroughly misguided in actively supporting and actually calling for the imposition of sanctions against Zimbabwe.

At that juncture, I rather stupidly and naively believed that the imposition of sanctions would naturally lead to the full and total democratisation of Zimbabwe. I was wrong; totally wrong.

The reality is that sanctions actually cause more harm, political suffering and socio-economic agony to the majority of

innocent Zimbabweans, most of whom are not even political activists.

Sanctions don't hurt the ruling elite inasmuch as they hurt the ordinary man and woman in the street and in the village or township.

After undertaking a thorough and deep study and introspection on the effects of sanctions on the generality of the people of Zimbabwe, I then reached my Damascus moment and began to appreciate how evil, toxic and retrogressive sanctions are against the welfare of the majority of my Zimbabwean compatriots.

Thus, I'm unashamedly and passionately calling for the lifting of all forms of sanctions that were imposed against Zimbabwe by the major Western powers such as the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Some social media terrorists have gone on a concerted campaign to denigrate and malign my political image by painting me as someone who has sold his soul to the ruling Zanu-PF political party. They are completely and totally wrong. I have always been a Zimbabwean patriot to the bare bones and as such, I have never, ever shied away from articulating and defending what is in the best interests of my beloved country, Zimbabwe.

Some of my political adversaries have even gone further to falsely allege that I have been bought over by Zanu-PF and

that I have been paid millions of dollars to "betray the struggle", whatever that means.

Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. I haven't received a single penny from Zanu-PF or from anyone for that matter in order to become their propagandist and to betray and abandon my deeply-held political beliefs, convictions and principles.

In my scheme of things, Zimbabwe always comes first. If that strong conviction qualifies me to be called a sell-out and a political turncoat, then so be it.

I'm the least bothered by these false, unfounded, malicious and defamatory allegations against me.

I will continue to tell, articulate and defend the Zimbabwean story without fear and/or favour. I don't need to be paid in order for me to be a patriot.

I don't need to be paid to speak out and tell the world what I believe in.

Purely simply and succinctly, I don't need to be paid by anyone in order to advocate for the socio-economic advancement of Zimbabwe by calling for the immediate removal of all forms of sanctions against my homeland.

Obert Chaurura Gutu is a Zimbabwean lawyer. He is the MDCT vice-president and he is also the founder and executive director of the Negona Legal Consultancy & Public Governance Institute LLC.

Southern African countries should work together in managing disasters

By Chris Changwe Nshimbi

CYCLONE Idai, which recently devastated Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, was one of the worst natural disasters to hit the southern African region.

It killed at least a thousand people and caused damages estimated at US\$2 billion.

The response from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states, civil society, the private sector and individuals in the region points to the need for a collective, regional approach to addressing natural disasters rather than individual countries working alone.

Cyclone Idai also showed, once again, just how unprepared SADC is to respond to major natural disasters.

It doesn't seem to have learnt much from earlier ones.

In 2015, floods and torrential rains associated with Tropical storm Chedza, and Cyclone Bansi left about 260 people dead and 360 000 homeless in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

About a year earlier, flash floods killed, displaced and left thousands homeless in Zimbabwe. However, the storm that remains most vivid in many people's minds is the one that hit Mozambique 19 years ago in 2000, killing 700 people and leaving two million homeless.

Disasters of this kind know no boundaries. That's why they require thinking beyond the narrow view that individual governments should respond to crises alone.

Responses to Idai

The first regional response to Idai came from the South African National Defence Force and South African disaster relief NGO, Gift of the Givers. These responses followed a request by the Mozambican government.

The United Nations responded with aid operations in the affected countries a few days later. Other SADC countries, NGOs, the private sector and ordinary citizens also donated to the relief efforts.

For its part, however, SADC's voice was conspicuously absent for at least a week after the devastation.

Ordinarily, it should have led relief operations.

It was disconcerting to see UN Secretary General António Guterres appeal for help and outline a plan to respond to the disaster at a Security Council stakeout while SADC remained missing in action.

SADC has a dedicated Disaster Risk Reduction Unit. It coordinates regional preparedness and responses to trans-boundary disasters and hazards.

But, as South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said, the regional body was completely unprepared for the disaster.

Pooling resources

Of SADC's 16-member states, only

Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa contributed to the relief efforts.

This reflects the prevailing preference for a bilateral approach to regional challenges within the SADC.

At the heart of this are narrow nationalistic interests and a preoccupation with sovereignty.

The member states are unwilling to surrender control over policies to be administered by the regional body for the collective good.

But, natural disasters like Cyclone Idai do not respect national boundaries.

Their very regional scope requires solutions that integrate domestic actions into a regional governance framework to address them effectively.

When SADC eventually responded, it pledged US\$500 000 for relief efforts towards a disaster that cost over US\$2 billion in damages to infrastructure alone.

Instead of acting individually, SADC countries need to work together to pool resources and mobilise disaster relief efforts and resources to be more effective.

This could be done through the SADC Secretariat.

Funds for immediate humanitarian assistance and the rebuilding of infrastructure should be held in a pre-existing, dedicated facility, like a regional disaster risk fund.

This would provide southern Africa with risk financing for climate-related and other disasters.

Funds that are often donated by SADC member states, private sector, NGOs, and ordinary citizens for relief efforts can also be pooled and placed in the permanent regional mechanism.

But, there are challenges.

The major challenge to establishing a sub-regional disaster fund probably lies outside SADC, and even Africa.

The idea might not sit well with some governments.

For example, an attempt to create an Asian Monetary Fund after the 1997/1998 Asian financial crisis failed because the US strongly opposed it, and China didn't support it. But, SADC could work with global financial institutions to surmount this challenge.

The World Bank, for example, already runs disaster risk programmes.

SADC could approach it for support and partnership in making the facility a reality.

Cushion against harm

Cyclone Idai has once again shown that natural disasters are capable of wreaking havoc across southern Africa.

It has also shown that affected countries are too poor to respond to the devastation of their infrastructure and the accompanying humanitarian disaster.

It is thus necessary for countries in the region to work together to devise sound contingency plans, including a permanent regional disaster fund, to help cushion them against the effects of natural disasters. -- Conversation Africa

TANZANIA TAX JUSTICE COALITION POSITION STATEMENT ON THE 2019/20 NATIONAL BUDGET

Preamble

Tanzania like many other developing countries has in the recent years realised and appreciated the importance of Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) specifically the need to reduce reliance on foreign aid and sustain her development financing through own resources. The role of tax systems in driving DRM for development, and the importance of developing genuine country voice and participation in setting the rules for international tax cooperation are themes that are on top of the global agenda for development financing.

Tax raises revenue that is essential for funding basic public services and national development goals and is at the heart of the social contract between citizens and state. The tax system can directly reduce inequality by redistributing income from rich to poor, by taxing the rich more heavily and giving the government revenues to spend on public services.

We, the members of the Tanzania Tax Justice Coalition, a loose coalition of Civil Society Organizations interested in advocating for a reliable, just and transparent tax system in Tanzania, would like to share our views on the current trend in domestic revenue mobilization and suggest alternative options that could be adopted to further reduce donor dependency through effective mobilization of domestic resources.

We continue to boldly commend the fifth phase government's drive to mobilize adequate financial resources domestically and welcome its forward-looking in this area with the President's constant emphasis on taxpayers' compliance. The recently introduced and ongoing exercise of identifying and registering of petty traders by providing them with special identity cards manifests this commitment by the government to both bring more people into the tax net and improving the business environment.

As Civil Society Organisations that have been advocating for fairness in taxation, we commend the recent move by the government to terminate its bilateral investment treaty with the Netherlands. Several studies including a recent study on Double Taxation Agreements entered by Tanzania with India and South Africa conducted by Policy Forum indicate that in most cases our country does not benefit from these agreements as the terms in the agreements to a large extent favor capital exporting country over capital importing countries. We therefore call for review of the existing agreements and making sure that before signing any new agreement, a thorough analysis is done to determine the costs and benefits.

While appreciating the efforts invested in revenue collection, we would want to urge our revenue authority to invest more in measures that will strengthen mobilisation of adequate resources. According to the Report by the Controller and Auditor General for the year that ended June 2018, Tanzania ranks last in revenue collection in the East African region. In 2017/18 budget, Tanzania managed to collect 12.8% of the revenue yield while our neighbor Kenya collected 18.5%. See table 1.

Details	Financial years [All figures in TZS Million]				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Targeted Collections	10,957,001	12,078,015	13,220,252	15,293,899	17,365,052
Actual Collections	10,026,659	10,743,765	13,238,045	14,271,382	15,405,441
(under)/over collection	(930,342)	(1,334,250)	17,793	(1,022,517)	(1,959,611)
(under)/over collection in %	(8)	(11)	0.13	(6.69)	(11.28)
Tax-Yield (Tax/GDP)					
Tanzania	12.5%	11.6%	12.9%	13.2%	12.8%
Uganda	11.3%	12.3%	12.8%	14.0%	14.2%
Kenya	19.1%	18.7%	18.8%	19.3%	18.5%
Rwanda	14.9%	15.1%	16.1%	15.2%	15.8%
Burundi	13.6%	13.7%	13.0%	13.4%	13.0%

Table 1: Trend of revenue collection for Tanzania and other EAC countries from 2013/14 to 2017/18

We would want to reiterate the fact that the informal sector in Tanzania has for so many years posed a challenge when it comes to tax. The sector is quite large characterized by high level of under-regulation by the government, cash transactions and improper-record keeping, which has often gone untaxed hence subjecting a higher tax burden on the few within the formal sector. As a result of these problems, the informal sector has been very complex to tax.

Furthermore, the informal sector tax challenges entail that little or none of the income generated in the informal sector is transferred to the government in form of tax. Therefore, a very high percentage of potential tax revenue is unaccounted for. This in a way contributes to inequality because the informal sector partly constitutes High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) whose incomes are not often subjected to tax. Also, those subjected to presumptive tax may at times be taxed higher than what they earn and thus making the presumptive tax regime unfair, too. Issues to consider in the 2019/20 Budget

With the discussions of the 2019/20 budget having started, it is important to keep in mind that the current Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II 2016/17 to 2020/21) whose theme is 'Nurturing Industrialisation for Economic Transformation and Human Development' will be coming to an end in the next financial year (2020/21). Not long after this, the longer-term plan Vision 2025 whose aspiration is that of transforming the economy into middle income and semi-industrialised state, will as well be concluded. The 2018/19 budget as has been with previous financial years, has seen challenges in revenue collection which in turn has affected disbursement levels and this ultimately has contributed to low level of budget execution. It is imperative that the 2019/20 budget takes some serious measures that will help in enhancing domestic revenue collection by improving the business climate that will attract and retain more investments.

Domestic Revenue

According to the report by the Controller and Auditor General for the year ending June 2018, the government managed to collect TZS 27,696 billion for its 2017/18 budget. This represents 87% revenue collection performance from both domestic and foreign sources. This revenue collection was realised from tax revenue, non-tax revenue, domestic borrowing, grants, external concessional loans and external non concessional loans at the rate of 89%, 55%, 92%, 88% 89% and 109%, respectively.

While the government had planned to collect TZS 20,894.6 billion as domestic revenue in its 2018/19 budget, until January 2019 it had collected over 50% of the target (TZS 11,005.6 billion). On the other hand, during the same period grants and concessional loans had been received to the tune of TZS 125.4 billion, which is only 5% of the target (TZS 2,676.6 billion). Despite this low level of disbursement under loans and concessional loans, total donor contribution in the 2019/20 budget is expected to slightly increase by 3.8% from TZS 2,676.6 billion in 2018/19 to TZS 2,783.7 billion in 2019/20.

For the past three years, (2016/17 to 2018/19), tax revenue has remained the only source of funding that has been performing well compared to others. External borrowing, assistance and General Budget Support have, on the other hand not been performing so well, calling for strategic measures of improving domestic resource mobilisation. In the 2016/17 budget of TZS 29.5 trillion, for instance, the government managed to collect TZS 25.3 trillion with tax revenue collecting over 90% of the target and external borrowing, assistance and General Budget Support contributing 53.5% of the target.

Tax revenue has over the years seen consistent growth in both as share in the budget and in collection. Generally, tax revenue constitutes over 50% of the funding. Other sources of funding (non-tax revenue, domestic and foreign borrowing and grants and concessional loans) to the budget show an inconsistent pattern. Table 1 shows the contribution of different sources to the budget over the period under review.

Year	Tax Revenue (bil)	Non tax Revenue (bil)	Domestic & External Borrowing	Grants and Concessional loans (bil)	Total Budget (bil)
2016/17	15,105.1	3,358.4	5,374.3	5,701.8	29,539.6
2017/18	17,106.3	2,870.7	7,763.9	3,967.1	31,708.0
2018/19	18,737.0	2,158.8	8,904.7	2,676.6	32,477.1
2019/20	19,866.4	3,178.9	7,276.4	2,783.7	33,105.4

Table 1: Sources of Funding from 2016/17 to 2019/20

Of much interest in this upcoming national budget is the government intention to source about 70% from domestic revenues in the form of tax and non-tax revenue. Domestic revenues are expected at TZS 23.0 trillion; with tax revenue, non-tax revenue and LGAs own sources contributing TZS 19.1 trillion, TZS 3.2 trillion and TZS 0.8 trillion, respectively.

Donor contribution in the 2019/20 budget in the form of grants and concessional loans is expected to be only TZS 2.8 trillion. External and internal borrowing is expected at TZS 7.3 trillion with TZS 2.3 trillion, TZS 1.5 trillion and TZS 3.5 trillion as external borrowing, internal borrowing and internal rollover loan, respectively. Total contribution by donors (including grants and concessional loans and external borrowing) is therefore expected at 15% of the total government's budget, a commendable and bold move by the government manifesting the political will and commitment to reduce dependence in financing development.

Attracting new investments

The government should invest more in other measures to attract Foreign Direct Investment FDI and winning investor confidence instead of heavily relying on double tax treaties as a tool for FDI attraction. As suggested by Baker (2012) and Irish (1974) the absence of assurances which double taxation agreements provide to foreign investors can be overcome to a substantial extent by the government agreeing with individual investors to restrict their tax rates to particular levels and by providing non tax preferences to investors. Such non tax preferences could take the form of government participation in an investment with guaranteed return to the investor prior to any return to government, preference in import permits or exchange controls and robust steps to insure absence of a double taxation agreement has no detrimental effect on foreign investment. Where Double Taxation Agreements are important, the government should ensure that she benefits first. This can be achieved through conducting cost benefit analysis of the agreements before signing them. This will also inform on whether the government should renegotiate or cancel the agreements, if possible. Inappropriate taxation of the informal sector leads to high inequality

Presumptive income tax system works better in attempting to collect revenue from the informal sector. However, it may infringe few who are small and are not in the position to pay the taxes or tax less some who are supposed to be in higher income category. This leads to the rise of Inequality which has been viewed as the major policy issue in the country in many sectors. The existence of inequality among the informal sector in the country has been mainly contributed by taxes, size of the informal sector, and Income distribution.

The concern on the tax system particularly the presumptive tax system is that many presumptive regimes are deliberately designed to reduce the tax payments of smaller firms. Thus, this fuels the problem of firms not wishing to graduate onto the standard regime when they are able to, and large firms making themselves appear small, and hence leads to inequality. The increasing level of inequality in the society has direct influence in the increased level of poverty, increased level of classes, failure of other business as well as decline of the economy.

Maximizing efforts to curb revenue leakage

Efforts to enhance revenue mobilisation should include strategic measures that ensure no funds are leaving the country illegally. The African Union High Level Panel report on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, estimated that Sub-Saharan Africa loses more than 50 billion dollars annually (average of 2001-2012). This is more than the combined total of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and net Official Development Assistance (ODA), which these economies received in the same year. Tanzania should commit to tackling international tax avoidance and evasion through implementing the recommendations set out in the report. Among the various commitments are robust regulation for increased transparency, which includes disclosure of companies' annual financial statements and the establishment of a public beneficial ownership registry. In addition to these policy measures, we urge the Government to support the establishment of an intergovernmental tax body that is tasked with addressing global tax policy, rather than the current Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) led process that does not equally include all countries, including Tanzania. A cohesive global system will make it simpler for tax administrations across the world to communicate, cooperate and remove the existing complicated web of thousands of bilateral tax treaties in the international tax system and streamline the diverse parallel international systems.

Summary of our key policy recommendations:

- Enhance capacities:** There is a strong reason to sustain current government efforts to increase resources to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to oversee and collect revenue from multinational companies. Multinational companies possess sophisticated skills that makes it easy for them to avoid and/or evade tax. It is therefore important that our revenue authority progressively increases the number of competent staff that can oversee and collect fair share of revenue from these companies. A particular area under this is the enhancement of transfer pricing expertise at TRA's International Taxation Unit (ITU) so that they are able to undertake audits. Although there is tremendous transfer pricing manpower and technical expertise improvements at the ITU, more needs to be done to bolster their industry-specific expertise (example specific training on mining, oil & gas, etc) and ability to access to information from across the extractive industries value chain. There is also a need to improve the technology and infrastructure to enhance their efficient work on curbing transfer mispricing.
- Ending harmful tax treaties:** The government should invest more in other measures to attract FDI and winning investors' confidence instead of heavily relying on double tax treaties as a tool for FDI attraction. There is a need to also review the existing treaties.
- Improve overall business environment:** Much more than simplification of the tax paying system is needed to improve the business climate. Business operators still lament the excessive permits and licenses that increase their cost of doing business and hence need to be discarded.
- Commit to tackling international tax avoidance and evasion:** Keep implementing the recommendations set out in the African Union High Level Panel report on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. Among the various commitments are robust regulation for increased transparency, which includes disclosure of companies' annual financial statements and the establishment of a public beneficial ownership registry. In addition to these policy measures, we urge the Government to support the establishment of an intergovernmental tax body that is tasked with addressing global tax policy, rather than the current Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) led process that does not equally include all countries, including Tanzania. A cohesive global system will make it simpler for tax administrations across the world to communicate and cooperate and remove the existing complicated web of thousands of bilateral tax treaties in the international tax system and streamline the diverse parallel international systems.
- Optimal tax system to the informal sector:** The existence of inequality among the informal sector in the country has been mainly contributed by taxes, size of the sector, and income distribution. This indicates that, there is high level of inequality in the country which should be minimized or eliminated through the following strategies:
 - Enhance Research and Development on equity and equality on the informal sector.
 - Raise awareness on taxation matters, equity and equality of the informal sectors/SMEs in business operation.
 - Ensure the improvement of the informal sectors/SMEs tax systems.
 - Strengthening financial supports and business environment (infrastructure facilities and reliable market access) to the informal sectors.
 - Establishment of specific business operating areas for the informal sectors.



Are migrant workers humans or commodities?

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations has estimated a hefty \$466 billion as remittances from migrant workers worldwide in 2017—and perhaps even higher last year.

These remittances, primarily from the US, Western Europe and Gulf nations, go largely to low and middle-income countries, “helping to lift millions of families out of poverty,” says UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

But most of these migrant workers are known to pay a heavy price, toiling mostly under conditions of slave labour: earning low wages, with no pensions or social security, and minimum health care.

As the United Nations commemorated Labour Day on May 1, the plight of migrant workers is one of the issues being pursued by the Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO), a UN agency which celebrates its centenary this year promoting social justice worldwide.

In a December 2018 report, the ILO said: “If the right policies are in place, labour migration can help countries respond to shifts in labour supply and demand, stimulate innovation and sustainable development, and transfer and update skills”.

However, a lack of international standards regarding concepts, definitions and methodologies for measuring labour migration data still needs to be addressed, it warned.

But much more daunting is the current state of the migrant labour market which has been riddled with blatant violations of all the norms of an ideal workplace.

Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam, a member of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, told IPS rising populist nationalism world over is giving rise to rhetoric with unfounded allegations and irrational assessments of the worth of migrant workers to economies of many



migrant receiving countries in the world.

Since migrant workers remain voiceless without voting or political rights in many such receiving countries, they are unable to mobilize political opinion to counter assertions against them, he said.

“And migrant workers are now being treated in some countries as commodities for import and export at will, not as humans with rights and responsibilities,” said Ambassador Kariyawasam, a former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.

Unless these trends are reversed soon, he warned, not only human worth as a whole will diminish, but it can also lead to unexpected social upheavals affecting economic and social well-being of some communities in both sending and receiving countries of migrant workers.

At a UN press conference April 10, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said the ILO Centenary is a time to affirm with

conviction that the mandate and standards set by the Organization remain of extraordinary importance and relevance to people everywhere.

He called for a future where labour is not a commodity, where decent work and the contribution of each person are valued, where all benefit from fair, safe and respectful workplaces free from violence and harassment, and in which wealth and prosperity benefit all.

Tara Carey, Senior Content & Media Relations Manager at Equality Now told IPS poverty and poor employment opportunities are a push factor for sex trafficking.

There are many cases in which women and girls in African countries are promised legitimate work and are then trafficked into prosti-

tution. This happens within countries, across borders, and from Africa to places in Europe and the Middle East, she pointed out.

And recently, the police in Nigeria estimated 20,000 women and girls had been sold into HYPERLINK “https://edition.cnn.com/2019/01/22/africa/nigeria-mali-human-trafficking/index.html”\t “_blank” sexual slavery in Mali.

“The new trend is that they told them they were taking them to Malaysia and they found themselves in Mali. They told them they would be working in five-star restaurants where they would be paid \$700 per month.”

The number of migrants is estimated at over 240 million worldwide. And an increasingly large number of countries, including

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are home to most migrant workers from Asia.

In a background briefing during a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in April, the ILO said conditions of work need to be improved for the roughly 300 million working poor – outside of migrant labour – who live on \$1.90 a day.

Millions of men, women and children are victims of modern slavery. Too many still work excessively long hours and millions still die of work-related accidents every year.

“Wage growth has not kept pace with productivity growth and the share of national income going to workers has declined. Inequalities remain persistent around the world. Women continue to earn around 20 per cent less than men.”

“Even as growth has lessened inequality between countries, many of our societies are becoming more unequal. Millions of workers remain disenfranchised, deprived of fundamental rights and unable to make their voices heard”, according to the background briefing.

In its 2018 review of Human Rights in the Middle East & North Africa, the London-based Amnesty International (AI) said there were some positive developments at a legislative level in Morocco, Qatar and the UAE with respect to migrant labour and/or domestic workers.

But still migrant workers continued to face exploitation in these and other countries, including Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia, in

large part due to kafala (sponsorship) systems, which limited their ability to escape abusive working conditions.

In Morocco, the parliament passed a new law on domestic workers, entitling domestic workers to written contracts, maximum working hours, guaranteed days off, paid vacations and a specified minimum wage.

Despite these gains, the new law still offered less protection to domestic workers than the Moroccan Labour Code, which does not refer to domestic workers, AI said.

In Qatar, a new law partially removed the exit permit requirement, allowing the vast majority of migrant workers covered by the Labour Law to leave the country without seeking their employers’ permission.

However, the law retained some exceptions, including the ability of employers to request exit permits for up to 5% of their workforce. Exit permits were still required for employees who fell outside the remit of the Labour Law, including over 174,000 domestic workers in Qatar and all those working in government entities.

In the UAE, the authorities introduced several labour reforms likely to be of particular benefit to migrant workers, including a decision to allow some workers to work for multiple employers, tighter regulation of recruitment processes for domestic workers and a new low-cost insurance policy that protected private sector employees’ workplace benefits in the event of job loss, redundancy or an employer’s bankruptcy, according to AI.



EFC TANZANIA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED

QUARTERLY REPORT OF CONDITION OF MICROFINANCE BANK PURSUANT TO SECTION 7(1) OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (DISCLOSURES) REGULATION, 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2019 (Amounts in "000" of shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Mar-2019	Previous Quarter 31-Dec-2018
A. ASSETS		
1 Cash	52,868	25,311
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	-	-
3 Investments in Government Securities	-	-
4 Balances with Other Banks and Financial Institution	1,814,157	1,974,138
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-
6 Interbranch Suspense (NET)	-	-
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-
8 Customers Liabilities for Acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loan Receivables	-	-
10 Investment in Other Securities	-	-
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Probable Losses)	13,335,524	14,887,609
12 Other Assets	1,248,779	1,170,077
13 Equity Investments	-	-
14 Underwriting Account	-	-
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	262,816	285,709
16 TOTAL ASSETS	16,713,944	18,342,844
B. LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits From Other Banks and Financial Institution	18,289	2,080,000
18 Customer Deposits	6,538,724	5,414,408
19 Cash Letter of Credit	-	-
20 Special Deposits	-	-
21 Payment Orders/Transfers Payable	-	-
22 Bankers' Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-
23 Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	89,007	122,256
24 Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25 Interbranch Float Items	-	-
26 Unearned Income and Other Deferred Charges	-	-
27 Other Liabilities	23,646	30,804
28 Borrowings (Subordinated Debts)	6,219,365	6,497,308
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,889,031	14,144,776
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)	3,824,914	4,198,068
C. CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
31 Paid-up Share Capital	9,800,668	9,800,668
32 Regulatory Reserves	3,122,742	3,286,813
33 Prior Year Retained Earnings	(8,725,743)	(7,934,395)
34 Profit (Loss) Account	(372,754)	(831,110)
35 Other Capital Account	-	-
36 Minority Interest	-	-
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	3,824,914	4,198,067
38 Contingent Liabilities	-	-
39 Non-performing Loans & Advances (Above 90days)	2,150,361	1,929,541
40 Non-performing Loans & Advances (Above 30days)	1,919,505	2,922,330
41 Allowances for Probable Losses	27,300	348,850
42 Other Non-performing Assets	-	-
D. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Shareholders' Funds to Total Assets	22.88%	22.89%
(ii) Non-performing Loans & Advance to Gross Loans (Above 90days)	16.13%	12.96%
(iii) Non-performing Loans & Advance to Gross Loans (Above 30days)	14.39%	19.63%
(iv) Gross Loans and Advance to Total Deposits	203.38%	198.65%
(v) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	79.79%	81.16%
(vi) Earning Assets to Total Assets	90.64%	91.93%
(vii) Deposit Growth	-12.51%	-14.22%
(viii) Assets Growth	-8.88%	-10.15%

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AS AT 31 MARCH 2019 (Amounts in "000" of shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Mar-2019	Comparative Quarter 31-Mar-2018	Current Year Cumulative 31-Mar-2019	Comparative Year Cumulative 31-Mar-2018
1 Interest Income	1,059,153	1,451,937	1,059,153	1,451,937
2 Interest Expenses	(463,001)	(540,103)	(463,001)	(540,103)
3 Net Interest Income	596,153	911,834	596,153	911,834
4 Bad Debts Written Off	(210,491)	(229,710)	(210,491)	(229,710)
5 Provision For Bad and Doubtful Debts	(27,300)	-	(27,300)	-
6 Non-Interest Income	173,650	472,331	173,650	472,331
6.1 Foreign Exchange Profit(Loss)	-	-	-	-
6.2 Fees and Commissions	7,998	270,599	7,998	270,599
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other Operating Income	165,652	201,732	165,652	201,732
7 Non-Interest Expenses	(904,764)	(1,151,163)	(904,764)	(1,151,163)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(501,751)	(734,123)	(501,751)	(734,123)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(80,738)	(24,957)	(80,738)	(24,957)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(322,275)	(392,083)	(322,275)	(392,083)
8 Operating Income/Loss	(372,754)	3,292	(372,754)	3,292
9 Income Tax Provision	-	-	-	-
10 Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax	(372,754)	3,292	(372,754)	3,292
11 Number of Employees	50	55	50	55
12 Basic Earnings Per Share	-0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.02
13 Diluted Earnings Per Share	-0.02	0.00	-0.02	0.02
14 Number of Branches	1	1	1	1
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	-2.13%	0.01%	-2.13%	0.01%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	-9.29%	0.06%	-9.29%	0.06%
(iii) Non-Interest Expenses to Gross Income	73.39%	59.82%	73.39%	59.82%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	4.22%	8.78%	4.22%	8.78%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 MARCH 2019 (Amounts in "000" of shillings)

	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Total
Current year 2019						
Balance at the beginning of the year	9,800,668	-	(9,349,852)	3,201,576	85,237	3,737,629
1 Profit for the year	-	-	(372,754)	-	-	(372,754)
2 Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Regulatory Reserve	-	-	152,469	(152,469)	-	-
6 General Provision Reserve	-	-	11,602	-	(11,602)	-
7 Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	9,800,668	-	(9,558,535)	3,049,107	73,635	3,364,875
Previous Year 2018						
Balance at the beginning of the year	9,800,668	-	(7,624,429)	2,508,358	468,488	5,153,085
1 Increase/decrease resulting from adoption of IFRS9	-	-	(123,939)	-	-	(123,939)
2 Profit/loss for the year	-	-	(1,291,547)	-	-	(1,291,547)
3 Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Regulatory Reserve	-	-	383,251	-	(383,251)	-
6 General Provision Reserve	-	-	693,218	-	-	693,218
7 Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the previous period	9,800,668	-	(9,349,852)	3,201,576	85,237	3,737,629

We, the undersigned have examined the information above and declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.

Name / Title	Signature	Date	Name / Title	Signature	Date
Mr. Anyelotye Mwakatobe (Ag. Managing Director)		30-Apr-2019	Mr. Anthony Mark Shayo (Board Chairman)		30-Apr-2019
Ms. Michelle Kalugendo (Internal Audit Manager)		30-Apr-2019	Mr. Tasilo Joseph Mahui (Board Member)		30-Apr-2019

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2019 (Amounts in "000" of shillings)

	Current Quarter 31-Mar-19	Previous Quarter 31-Dec-18	Current year Cumulative 31-Mar-19	Previous year Cumulative 31-Mar-18
I. Cash Flow from Operating Activities:				
Net Income/(Loss)	(372,754)	(337,597)	(372,754)	3,292
Adjustment for Non-Cash Items				
-Net Impairment Change on Loans and Advances	237,792	(34,766)	237,792	-
-Depreciation and Amortisation	22,893	65,759	22,893	69,459
-(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Items of Property and Equipment	-	-	-	-
Cash Flow from Operating Activities before Changes Working Capital Items	(112,069)	(306,604)	(112,069)	72,751
-Net Change in Loans and Advances	1,528,167	1,539,786	1,528,167	(58,227)
-Gain/(loss) on Sales of Assets	-	-	-	-
-Net Change in Deposits	(492,710)	(1,382,525)	(492,710)	991,595
-Net Change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	-	-	-	-
-Net Change in Statutory Minimum Reserve	-	-	-	-
-Net Change in Other Liabilities	16,336	(269,742)	16,336	119,589
-Net Change in Other Assets	(653,494)	737,652	(653,494)	(502,250)
-Tax Paid	-	-	-	-
-Others	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operating Activities	286,230	318,567	286,230	623,458
II. Cash Flow from Investing Activities				
Dividend Received	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Non Current Assets	-	(7,070)	-	(68,944)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-	-	-
Other Redemption/(Investment) in financial assets	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities	-	(7,070)	-	(68,944)
III. Cash Flow from Financing Activities				
Repayment of Long-Term Debt	(418,853)	(122,356)	(418,853)	(319,826)
Proceeds from Issuance of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Payment of Cash Dividends	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Other Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	(123,909)
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities	(418,853)	(122,356)	(418,853)	(443,735)
IV. Cash and Cash Equivalent				
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(132,623)	189,141	(132,623)	110,779
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter/Year	1,999,449	1,810,308	1,999,449	2,464,316
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Quarter/Year	1,866,826	1,999,449	1,866,826	2,575,095

Minimum Disclosures of Changes and Fees

Number	Item/Transaction	Charge/Fee
1	Account Management (Tzs)	
	Required minimum opening balance	Free
	Monthly service fee	5,900
	Account statement	3,540
	Account Closure	11,800
	Smart Card issuance	11,800
	ATM card issuance fee	11,800
	Fund transfer fee	11,800
	Personal account minimum balance	30,000
	Savings and Business account minimum balance	50,000.00
	ATM Withdrawal	1,300
	ATM Balance Inquiry/Mini statement	300
Over the Counter Withdrawal Fee	1,700.00	
Premium Saving (Interest received) p.a	4.00%	
2	Loan (Tzs)	
	Business Loan	(3.00%-4.50%) pm
	Home Improvement Loan	3.00% pm
	Loan processing fees	4.72% per Loan
	Life	

GGM becomes overall winner of 2019 OSHA award and exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) has announced Geita Gold Mine (GGM) as the overall winner of both OSHA award and exhibition for 2019 held on Tuesday in the southern highlands city of Mbeya.

Among the 40 companies who had participated in the exhibition, GGM has been announced the overall winner of

the OSHA exhibition becoming also the best exhibitor in the mining Sector.

Receiving the awards on behalf of the GGM management, senior manager for health, safety, environment and training Dr Kiva Mvungi said the awards give a good recognition and demonstration that GGML has good systems and programmes to embrace safety as number one value to both employees and contractors.

"We are very delighted to receive the awards because it is a good feedback that GGM is the best company which complies to safety and health standards for its employees and contractors. GGM scooped the awards ahead of Shanta Mine, Buzwagi, ACACIA, Williamson Diamond and others after showing high levels and standards of safety and health issues to its workers.

Giving closing remarks after the exhibitions, the guest of

Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities Jenista Mhagama called upon all companies which participated in the exhibitions to work on this year's theme which states: "Safety and Health and the future of work towards the industrial economy."

"With the government's direction towards an industrialised economy, issues of safety and health at workplaces are

unavoidable.

As the economy changes, the government will ensure that all investors coming to the country must adhere to the rules of occupational safety and health at work places along with the other related activities.

"We are also happy that all laws and regulations related to safety and health especially unnecessary fees have already been reviewed and removed to simplify the process of compli-

ance," she explained.

Commenting GGM's safety superintendent Isack Senya said: "Last year GGML was the first runner up of the occupational, health and safety exhibition in Iringa. Again this year we are happy that GGML had retained its position.

"GGM is the company which embraces safety as its number one value. Safety is our first priority and we usually consider it by doing risk assessment before

conducting any activity," said Senya.

He further noted that theme OSH Exhibition in Mbeya was integral as it reminded all stakeholders to play their roles in spearheading safety and health standards to their working places.

"At GGM we try to ensure that all our employees and contractors are safe; before they do any activity, we usually check to see if they are safe," he said.

UK to provide up to £3 million to support victims of cyclone Kenneth

MAPUTO

THE UK will provide up to £3 million of UK aid to support the victims of Cyclone Kenneth which hit northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania late last week, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt has announced.

Cyclone Kenneth has destroyed thousands of homes and displaced tens of thousands of people, coming just weeks after Cyclone Idai hit southern Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Further flooding is expected.

The UK is due to send tents and shelter kits to Mozambique for immediate distribution, to help provide immediate shelter for up to 33,000 people forced to flee their homes.

Four UK aid experts have also arrived in Pemba, Mozambique, the

centre of the response which has already experienced more than two metres of rain and flooding, to determine how aid can be delivered as quickly as possible to those affected and to assess what further aid is needed.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said: "It is terrible to see the devastation that Cyclone Kenneth has brought to the people of Mozambique and Tanzania, as the region still reels from the aftermath of Cyclone Idai."

"The UK is well prepared to respond and I have made £3 million of UK aid available to provide emergency aid to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods."

"We already have experts on the ground assessing the situation, and are due to send out more shelter kits and tents. World Food Programme

supplies funded by UK aid means food is already getting to those in need." In addition to today's new support, UK aid has been partnering with UK experts at the Met Office, University of Reading and University of Bristol, as well as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), to use cutting-edge satellite technology to predict which areas are most vulnerable to flooding. It was used for the first time in response to Cyclone Idai.

UK aid is using this state-of-the-art flood risk analysis to guide its preparations and response, and is sharing information with partners to allow them to do the same. This includes the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the Mozambique Disaster Management Team (INGC) and NGOs delivering aid on the ground.



Pemba, the regional capital, has experienced more than 2m (6.5ft) of rain and flooding



GUIDANCE FOR RE-STAMPING EXCISABLE GOODS WITH OLD TAX STAMPS OR WITHOUT TAX STAMPS

Following a public notice issued on 8th April, 2019 by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) indicating 30th April, 2019 as the deadline for phasing out stocks of excisable goods namely; Cigarettes, Wines, Spirits, Beer and other Alcoholic Products affixed with paper (non-electronic) tax stamps or without tax stamps, the respective taxpayers are now required to observe the following;

1. With immediate effect, liaise with TRA Regional and District Managers to establish stocks at hand for appropriate guidance of phase out and re-affixing of the new electronic stamps. This exercise should be completed by **15th May 2019** as businesses continue to maintain the status quo owing to the finalization of this mandatory requirement.
2. Regional and District Managers will designate appropriate locations for stock-taking and affixing of new electronic stamps on the identified stocks
3. With regards to beers, such stocks of those that are locally produced will be established for record purposes only. However, all imported beers shall be affixed with new Electronic Tax Stamps.
4. It is the obligation of each business to ensure that they voluntarily declare their stocks and have the electronic Tax stamps affixed short of which any undeclared stocks will be considered illegal after the **15th May, 2019**.
5. The respective businesses will be allowed to maintain and sell the identified stocks up to **30th June, 2019** and after that no such excisable goods for which electronic tax stamps are required shall be displayed for sale, sold or distributed.

Detailed guidance for acquisition and affixation of the new tax stamps will be communicated through the Respective Regional and District Managers prior to the end the stock-taking exercise.

For more information and inquiries you may visit the nearest TRA Office, Website (www.tra.go.tz) or use TRA Call Centre through Toll Free Number 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078 or email: services@tra.go.tz

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GENERAL

01ST MAY, 2019

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VACANCY

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By Peter Koenig

YESTERDAY, another explosion ripped through a suspicious building, killing 18, including children and women. Again, they, the 'authorities', say suicide bombers, who didn't want their 'cache' to be discovered. Conveniently they are all dead - the "suicide bombers". Nobody can ask them any questions.

There was a lot of confusion, and still is, all through Sri Lanka. Nobody claimed credit for the massacres. There were rumors that Sri Lanka's President received warnings ahead of the attacks from foreign intelligence, but ignored them. The President denies these allegations. And the explosions continue.

Finally, the verdict is in. The culprits are an Islamic terrorist group, associated with ISIS. What else is new.

Sri Lanka's population is composed of about 70% Buddhists, 13% Hindus, almost 10% Muslims, mainly Sunni, the Salafi version, and about 7% Christians. The New York Times reports that the accused mastermind of the terror attacks was strongly influenced by Wahhabism, the same extreme hardliners that control most of Saudi Arabia.

Hatred between religions seems on the rise. In New Zealand a few weeks ago a white supremacist assaulted a mosque, killing 50. This past weekend, a shooting in a Synagogue near San Diego, California, killed a woman. The murderer said he was inspired by the New Zealand massacre. Are these spontaneous, interreligious mini-wars part of a foreign directed 'divide to conquer' effort, a strategy that has been used by empires for centuries, but seems to be alive and well with the current Washington based empire?

MintPress News reports that: "Sri Lanka Easter attacks are the handiwork of terrorists returning from fighting in Syria, practicing the Saudi-backed Wahhabi Salafist ideology, "adding, "though not confirmed yet, they, [the attacks], are in keeping with the mo-

Sri Lanka: Candidate for a new NATO base?

modus operandi of Saudi-sponsored Wahhabi terrorism worldwide. [The] Saudi sponsorship of Salafi Wahhabi dogma [is found] across the globe. From Boko Haram to ISIS, and from the Taliban to Al Qaeda, a common ideological thread runs through these terror groups. This is the Saudi-sponsored Wahhabi Salafi ideology whose South Asian counterpart is Deobandi. For abbreviation purposes, it is becoming increasingly common to term this interconnected ideology as WSD (Wahhabi Salafi Deobandi)."

May we expect a wave of Saudi-sponsored WSD terrorism in the east too? - Is the horror Saudi government protected by the US, because it does its bidding? And this bidding leads to making gradually Islam extremism the justification for NATO bases around the globe? - Perhaps in Sri Lanka, tomorrow? So far Sri Lanka is clean from NATO. Sri Lanka has not even an association agreement with NATO.

Just look at the world-geostrategic location of Sri Lanka, linking the Arabian Sea with the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka may also have a direct, open-sea connection with the small British island of Diego Garcia, in the Chagos Archipelago, north-east of Madagascar. Diego Garcia hosts the US's largest Navy base outside the American Continent. Many of the drone killings in Yemen, Syria and other places in the Middle East originate from Diego Garcia. The



"civil war" in Syria was (and still is) largely directed from Diego Garcia, as well as from Djibouti.

Wouldn't it be logical for NATO to set up base in Sri Lanka to control South East Asia?

Saudi guided WSD attacks would create the necessary chaos justifying Western secret services - plus NATO - to descend on Colombo, to create further protests and anarchy - a never-ending internal strife, giving the war industry a new never-ending flow of profit, hence, further justifying the never-ending war on terror - and, thereby, moving yet an inch closer to Full Spectrum Dominance over Mother Earth and her hapless spectators, what western humanity has become - a bunch of complacent consumers, drenched in turbo-capitalist market ideology, too comfortable to go on the barri-

ades.

The key and engine to all of this is NATO, whose modus operandi is killing for a living, for dominance and for profit. If there is ever to be Peace - and that's what the vast majority of the inhabitants of this globe wants - I'm not exaggerating pretending that 99.99% of world population wants to live in peace - then NATO must go.

So, Europe which has the largest membership in NATO (27 out of 29 nations) has to put the money where her mouth is: Europe calls for Peace, Europe claims to be Peace-loving - really? Then put your money into creating Peace - pulling out of NATO, refusing at once to fund this killing machine under the pretext of "protecting Europe".

Protecting Europe from what? From whom? - Not from Russia

- despite all the highly propagandized and highly corporate-funded Russiagate / Russiaphobia, exacerbated by a new artificially implanted fear - China. These countries have no history of expansion, like the west.

They only seek friendly relations of trade, of transport, cultural and research interconnectivity within the supercontinent, Eurasia, and ultimately, they promote a multi-polar world.

The best example is the Chinese President Xi's ingenuity - the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that just finished its highly successful forum in Beijing - where more than 120 nations signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) and cooperation agreements with China for tens of billions of dollars equivalent. - What a way of cooperating, instead of sowing western-style belligerence.

Europe and the rest of the world is not in danger, except in danger of itself for being a vassal of the US and for hosting 30-plus NATO bases which would be first in the line of fire, if the east is forced to defend itself from that permanent Pentagon-NATO driven aggression.

Europe withhold your funding for NATO, get out of NATO, dismantle NATO, - NOW, before NATO sets up yet another base in Asia, before NATO spreads more death around the globe.

This article was originally published on New Eastern Outlook.

Peter Koenig is an economist and geopolitical analyst. He is also a water resources and environmental specialist. He worked for over 30 years with the World Bank and the World Health Organization around the world in the fields of environment and water.

Benin's agriculture has a good season, but it wasn't easy

COTONOU, Benin

THÉOPHILE Houssou, a maize farmer from Cotonou, has spent sleepless nights lying awake worrying about various disasters that could befall any farmer, often wondering, "What if it rains heavily and all my crops are washed away?" or "What if the armyworms invade my farm and eat up all the crops and I'm left with nothing?"

Maize crops in Benin, like in at least 28 other African countries are being threatened by the Fall Armyworm (FAW), an invasive crop pest that feeds on 80 different crop species. Houssou is thankful to have missed an infestation and gives thanks to "God for the good season, but it was not easy," he tells IPS.

Maize production in Benin reached a record 1.6 million tonnes during the 2017-2018 season, compared to 1.2 million tonnes two years ago, according to the ministry of agriculture's figures.

In downtown Cotonou, the country's commercial capital, five men are busy loading pineapples onto a 10-ton truck, while four more heavy vehicles wait to be loaded. The produce will be taken to several countries in the region, including Nigeria, which receives 80 percent of all Benin's exports. Benin is Africa's fourth-largest pineapple exporter, producing between 400,000 and 450,000 tons of pineapple annually. Exports to the European Union (EU) increased from 500 tons to 4,000 tons between 2000 and 2014, according to official figures.

Further away, the famous Dantokpa Market is flooded with agricultural products, including red tomatoes, okra, soya beans, mangoes, orange, green pepper, lemon and all sorts of spinaches and fruits. Competition is fierce and the selling price is very low, amid an excellent agricultural season.

Room for improvement

While the agricultural sector here may look lively, it boasts several fault lines.

Despite being mostly a subsistence sector, agriculture contributes about 34 percent to this West African nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Almost 80 percent of Benin's 11.2 million people earn a living from agriculture, the Food and Agricultural Organisation

of the United Nations (FAO) says. FAO adds that the country's farmers face challenges such as include poor infrastructure and flooding, which can wipe out harvests and seed stocks.

In a document titled "Strategic Plan for Agricultural Sector Development (PSDSA) 2025 and National Plan for Agricultural Investments and Food Security and Nutrition (PNIASAN) 2017-2021", the Benin government has admitted that the agriculture sector's revenues and productivity are low, and the labour force is only partially rewarded, making agricultural products less competitive.

"Most farmers have very little use of improved inputs and engage in mining practices that accentuate the degradation of natural resources," the document states.

"We can do better than this," Marthe Dossou, a small scale farmer supervising the offloading of thousands of boxes of red tomatoes from a rundown truck, tells IPS. These tomatoes will be exported to Nigeria but Dossou feels that considering the high quality of the harvest, Benin can produce more for export. "If we can be given a helping hand like more resources, including loans, new farming methods and how to master water control techniques," she says.

Dr Tamo Manuele, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Benin country representative, tells IPS that agricultural innovation "is key to eradicating poverty, hunger and malnutrition, mainly in rural areas where most of the world's poorest live."

"Innovation can, first of all, increase small-scale farmers' productivity and income, and secondly diversify farmers' income through value chain development; and lastly create more and better opportunities for the rural poor," he says.

"Farmers or at least actors in agricultural value chains need support for conservation and processing of agricultural commodities. With e-agriculture, farmers can better manage their production and especially be informed of market opportunities. Innovations such as warrantage system [an inventory credit system where farmers use it as collateral to get credit from a bank] and group selling can help solving this



problem. NGOs and specialised experts in agriculture have to strengthen and support closely farmers," Manuele urges.

Headquartered in Ibadan, Nigeria, the IITA has been present in Benin since 1985 and it supports national agricultural research and extension services.

"Research is one of the main links leading to innovation. Many studies have reported that communities living near the research centre are more informed, exposed to the innovations and more supervised by scientists. Therefore, their willingness to adopt innovation is very significant. So IITA-Benin is more present on fields through several on-farm-innovation testing managed by scientists," Manuele says.

Some farmers say they are aware of agricultural technologies, but complain about the lack of promotion of such innovations in the areas where they operate.

Koffi Akpovi Justin, a seasonal farmer, was introduced to the 4R method, where four scientific principles are used to ensure that the soil has the right levels of nutrients for planting.

"Everybody brags about how fertile the African land is...I used

to be frustrated and almost gave up on farming because I strongly believed in the natural way of doing things. I would just labour the land, plant seeds (plenty of them) and start the painful process of watering it, and at the end I got mitigated results. But not anymore."

But Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's most expensive fertiliser market, where small scale farmers make up about 70 percent of the population. "If you will use it, use it carefully because not practicing the 4R method could see some of it spill all over the fields and pollute nearby water resources and groundwater. I experienced it many years ago, but now I'm wiser."

He adds that many farmers who live in remote areas are unable to access information about agricultural innovation. "Many of them, who operate mostly in very remote places, always say 'We know that these things exist and we would like to use it but where can we find it?' Maybe the international organisations, like the UN and the IITA, could do more to make sure that as many farmers as possible get access to agricultural innovations to boost food

production and fight hunger."

Monique Soton is one such farmer. She lives in north-western Benin, about 500 km from Cotonou, the country's commercial capital.

"We operate in remote areas and there our lives are concentrated only about leaving in the morning to work on the land and come back in the evening. There is no radio, no TV, no electricity. We may miss out on important information about new methods of farming or new developments going on in the sector, like if a census were to be held to determine the number of farmers who need financial support. It's sad," the tomato farmer tells IPS.

Another major obstacle facing small scale farmers in Benin is also the lack of market. "The only local market I use to sell my products is Dantokpa in Cotonou. Just imagine the distance from our area [about 500 km from Cotonou] to the commercial capital." Soton says, adding that there aren't adequate roads or vehicles to get the produce to the market.

"There were many times the rundown vehicle we were using to transport our products

broke down in the middle of a no man's land at night and that's very scary."

Agricultural innovation

The IITA has been reaching out to various communities. In Benin it launched a jatropha-based biofuel project in 2015. This involved the development of a biofuel chain to create profitable and viable small businesses.

"Specifically, it is consolidating the profitability and sustainability of jatropha value chains through a public-private partnership approach that creates jobs for young people, women and men. The project is set up according to the value chain approach including jatropha production, jatropha oil extraction, soap making, grain milling and rural electrification, among others," Manuele explains.

Since the start of the project some 2,050 producers, including 538 women, have benefitted.

Apart from this jatropha project, the IITA said that it has implemented several other projects that contribute to the food and nutrition security and income improvement of many rural households.

Magic solution?

While innovations in agriculture have proved successful, Dr Jeroen Huising, a soil scientist based in Nigeria, cautions that this is not the 'magic bullet' for Benin. "I do not believe in magic solutions and agricultural (innovation) is certainly not magic. The question about the rural poor has little to do with the agricultural innovations. There are economic factors that determine that," he tells IPS.

"Also, if the 'innovations' would increase yield for the smallholder farmers, it would not solve their problems. The production has to do primarily with use of inputs and even then the prices are often too low to make a decent living."

Soton agrees that economic factors pay a huge role in being a successful smallholder, explaining that "the lack of financial support is a serious problem."



Thursday 2 May 2019

Central Bank Governor urges CRDB to continue financing major projects

By The Banker Reporter

THE government appreciates the leading role being played by CRDB Bank Plc in financing major development projects through provision of bank guarantee, letters of credit and direct cash loans.

Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor responsible for Financial Supervision, Dr Bernard Kibese said in Dar es Salaam this week during an investors' meeting that as one of the country Tier 1 commercial bank, CRDB has a key role to play in supporting rapid development of the country.

"The government strongly believes that with the financial muscles that CRDB has there is no reason that it should not bankroll major development project in the country," Dr Kibese noted stating that BoT will continue supporting growth of the banking industry.

He mentioned the recent over US\$ 730 million bank guarantee which CRDB and United Bank for Africa provided to Rufiji Hydro-electric Power Project as a model that needs to be emulated by other banks.

In his presentation to the gathering, CRDB's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said with its net value of 5.9trn/- and 4.3trn/- in deposits, the bank had by a total loans portfolio of 3.2trn/- by the



CRDB Bank Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela (L) talks with Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor Bernard Kibese (C) and CRDB Bank's Board Chairman Ally Laay (R) at the investor's forum organised by the bank in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. PHOTO: SELEMANI MPOCHI.

end of the first quota this year.

"CRDB Bank has the ability on its own to finance any major development projects or provide guarantee as we did

with Rufiji Project," Nsekela said while noting that among other major projects with funding arrangement from the bank includes the US\$ 104 million Standard Gauge Railway

syndicated loan.

He said CRDB Group which included CRDB Microfinance Bank, CRDB Burundi and CRDB Insurance Brokers has also given loans widely to the agriculture sector, private sector to establish industries but also to individuals to acquire assets such as family houses.

"We have given an equivalent of US\$ 166 million to finance various agriculture projects and about US\$ 99 million to industrial developers," the CRDB MD added while pledging to continue investing in innovation and training of its over 3,000 employees countrywide.

Meanwhile, the bank's results indicate that it made a pre-tax profit of 43.81bn/- for the period ending March 31, 2019 an equivalent of 216 percent increase in profits compared to 15.98bn/- made in March 2018.

The sterling performance, which was buoyed by improved business and growth of interest income, effectively puts the bank ahead of the pack in the country's banking industry.

Nsekela said the performance is an indication that the bank's progressive strategy to achieve operational excellence through building a sustainable business model, is working well. "The performance is balanced across all business pillars and shows that the strategies we are implementing are moving the group in the right direction," said Nsekela.

The CEO notes that the bank's profitability was underpinned by 29 percent drop in cost of funds, and well-maintained loan quality portfolio which led to growth of interest income by 11 percent over the corresponding period in 2018. "It is quite exciting and energizing that my journey with CRDB Bank has started on a positive note and with quite a notable achievement," the MD added.

African countries hit by commodity slump must 're-calibrate' debt – IMF Africa chief

ABUJA

AFRICAN countries coping with low commodity prices must do more to re-balance investment and sustainable debt, and they should also ramp up tax collection, the International Monetary Fund's Africa chief said.

The commodity price slump of 2015 ended a decade of rapid growth across Africa. The IMF cut its 2019 economic growth projection for sub-Saharan Africa this year to 3.5%, from 3.8% set last October, in its regional report published in early April.

The IMF said its lower forecast reflected downward revisions for Nigeria and Angola as oil prices weakened.

In the countries worst hit by the slump, the balance between investment aimed at develop-

ment and sustainability had to be improved, Abebe Aemro Selassie, the IMF's director for Africa, said during an interview on Tuesday in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"What is needed for those countries now is to re-calibrate that balance," Selassie said. "In particular, if they can mobilise more revenues, they can address one of the pinching concerns which is debt-service ratio." He cited Chad and Congo Republic as countries with debt-sustainability issues.

"The share of resources that goes towards paying interest relative to tax revenues has been drifting upwards, so what is needed is more revenue mobilisation to try to mitigate that pressure," he said.

Nigeria, Angola and South Africa, which make up about 60% of sub-Saharan Africa's annual economic output, have all faced challenges to

growth. Nigeria, which has Africa's biggest economy, should do more to increase domestic revenue by raising taxes to improve debt service and fund infrastructure development, Selassie said.

"Going forward, you cannot sustain these high levels of deficits," he said. "More pressing is the fact that you have interest payments accounting for a large share of tax revenues. What is needed ... is to do more domestic revenue mobilisation."

Nigeria has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world. Earlier this month, lawmakers said they had asked the government to consider raising taxes on luxury goods to boost revenues, though collection has previously been difficult in a country where many small business are not registered.

Concerns about rising debt in Zambia, alongside accusations of additional hidden borrowing and government corruption, have spooked investors and Western donors in recent months.

The IMF felt the balance between investment and sustainability also needed "re-calibration" in the copper producer, which was hit hard by the slump in commodity prices, Selassie said.

The IMF has warned repeatedly that Zambia is at risk of debt distress and in February 2018 rejected borrowing plans for a second time, putting government hopes for a \$1.3 billion loan agreement on hold.

Selassie also said Mozambique's government had informed the IMF that it was holding talks with creditors to bring debt back to a sustainable level.



StanChart CEO Bill Winters

Standard Chartered earnings up 10 per cent in first quarter

LONDON

STANDARD Chartered posted on Tuesday a 10 per cent rise in its first-quarter profit helped by a surge in corporate banking income and a drop in expenses, and announced an up to \$1 billion share buyback programme.

Pre-tax profit for StanChart, which focuses on Asia, Africa and the Middle East, grew to \$1.38 billion from \$1.26bn a year ago, the London-headquartered bank said in a stock exchange filing.

StanChart announced this month a \$1bn settlement with the United States to bring to a close a long-running probe into whether the bank continued to violate sanctions after 2007, when it said it would no longer do business with Iran.

The buyback, its first in 20 years, comes after StanChart CEO Bill Winters unveiled in February ambitious plans to double return on tangible equity and dividends in three years by cutting \$700 million in costs and boosting income.

Mr Winters won plaudits from investors for his initial three-year plan that began in June 2015 when he focused on revamping the risk culture, slashing costs and purging bad loans that had accumulated in a post-2008 period of over-aggressive growth.

The bank said on Tuesday in its quarterly earnings filing that it had received regulatory approval to start buying back shares worth up to \$1bn, and that StanChart was now able to manage its capital position "more dynamically."

"We will maintain our strategic investment programme and start to buy back \$1 billion of our shares, reflecting our confidence in our ability to execute the strategy and create long-term shareholder value," Mr Winters said. Last month, sources said the bank was planning a sale process for its loss-making private equity unit.

The lender sent so-called teaser documents on Standard Chartered Private Equity to gauge interest from potential suitors, including other buyout firms in Asia, said the sources. More detailed information about the unit, which manages about \$3.5bn in assets, is expected to be distributed to interested parties in the next few weeks, one source said.

The private equity unit was initially profitable but its fortunes started to turn in late 2015, partly because of the plunge in the price of oil. Former SCPE head Joseph Stevens left the bank in 2016 after failing to conclude a buyout deal, and Standard Chartered decided to seek an exit from most of the business by 2018.

There is a possibility that current management of SCPE, headed by Nainesh Jaisingh, will partner with other companies to buy the assets, said the people.



Abebe Aemro Selassie, the IMF's director for Africa.

Dodoma RC dares NMB to invest heavily in the capital by targeting grape farmers

By The Banker Reporter

GRAPe farmers in Dodoma are bankable hence commercial banks including NMB Bank Plc should target them by providing affordable loans.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Bilnith Mahenge said earlier this week during a stakeholders meeting summoned by the Dar es Salaam based bank, that farmers in the country's new capital need banking services including loans.

"But your loans should attract reasonable interest rate so that our farmers can afford them," Dr Mahenge said as the new capital turns vibrant as all government ministries, the Prime Minister and Vice President's offices have

already moved to the central town.

"In addition, Dodoma is quickly becoming a metropolitan hence NMB needs to scale up its presence here to meet the growing demand from the rapidly increasing population," the RC added.

Dr Mahenge's observation was backed by Benjamin Mkapa Referral Hospital's Director General, Dr Alfonse Chandika who pointed out that although NMB is already providing commendable services in the new capital, a lot more need to be invested to improve its services.

"Dodoma's population is increasing rapidly because

of civil servants who have relocated here who get their banking services such as salaries from NMB hence the need to expand your services," Dr Chandika said.

Responding to the stakeholders' concerns, NMB's acting Managing Director, Albert Jonergouw promised to scale up loan provision to farmers while pointing out that in improving its services, the bank has already deployed its mobile branch at government's administrative town of Mtumba.

Jonergouw pointed out that NMB is already focused on lending to

farmers in support of government's efforts to semi industrialise the economy while heading to middle income status. "We have already heavily invested in Dodoma in support of the government's decision to move its capital and will continue doing so," the acting MD noted.

"We are also in support of the government's efforts to modernise farming by lending at to farmers, agro-dealers and agro-processing companies," he added while assuring stakeholders that as the country's largest commercial, NMB will continue targeting the public in its services.



Dodoma RC Dr Bilnith Mahenge (L) shaking hands with NMB Bank Plc's acting Managing Director, Albert Jonergouw (R).

Citigroup says Middle East driver of growth as Europe slows

NEW YORK

CITIGROUP'S Ray McGuire, who was promoted to vice chairman last year, said the Middle East will continue to be a "driver of growth" as deals slow across Europe.

The bank was among the financial institutions selected by Saudi Aramco in a landmark bond sale to fund the acquisition of petrochemical giant Sabic, people with knowledge of the matter have said. The \$69.1 billion transaction, the Middle East's largest, "gives us confidence that the activity is there, so we expect to see continued investment out of the Middle East", Mr McGuire (pictured) said.

Global deal makers have been concerned about a slowdown in large takeovers, with many banks staffing up to work on smaller transactions. In Europe, political uncertainties such as Brexit have slowed the pace of



acquisitions. Mr McGuire also cited changes in leadership in top governing bodies such as the Bank of England.

"You still see a large pool of capital in Europe. It's just that people are being really disciplined in how they deploy their capital," Mr McGuire said. "Having said that, Europe remains a critical geography when it comes to capital flows."

Citigroup is working on about seven M&A deals

in the Middle East and North Africa as a rebound in oil prices pushes transactions to record levels.

The deals are "mainly in Saudi Arabia and the UAE", said Naveed Kamal, the head of corporate banking in Mena. "Depending on how many of those are successful, it could be one of the best years for us; it could also be one of the best years for the market."

Some of transactions are "sizeable" and involve

companies looking at acquisitions outside the region to build networks and diversify geographically, Mr Kamal said. "Fundamentally, the increase in M&A activity is a sign of renewed confidence in the business environment."

Acquisitions involving targets in Mena are already at their highest level for at least six years, as far back as data compiled by Bloomberg goes. An increase of about 30 per cent in oil prices since the start of the year is helping.

Citigroup is the sixth-most active M&A adviser in the Mena region over the past 12 months, according to Bloomberg League Tables, a list led by Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs. Citigroup's deals over the past year have also included working with Baker Hughes' in its purchase of a 5 per cent stake in Adnoc's drilling unit, according to the data.



IMF managing director Christine Lagarde.

IMF's Lagarde optimistic over end to US-China dispute

WASHINGTON

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund Managing director Christine Lagarde said on Monday she expects the United States and China to reach a deal to end their trade dispute, which has unnerved financial markets and cast a shadow over the global economy.

"I would say 'Yes,'" Ms Lagarde said at the Milken Institute Global Conference when asked whether talks between the world's two largest economies would end in a deal. Washington and Beijing have been engaged for the past year in a trade war marked by tariffs on billions of dollars in goods and threats of escalation. The talks are now at a critical point.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was scheduled to speak at the conference on Monday but was headed to China instead for talks. Ms Lagarde was the first speaker at the annual conference, which draws 4,000 attendees including some of the world's most powerful thinkers and trendsetters to discuss finance, health care and other topics.

Later on Monday, Blackstone chief executive Stephen Schwarzman also said he was positive about the prospects for a US-China deal, but cautioned it would not solve all the issues being disputed. "I'm positive that they will come up with something that

works, but it will not be a trade deal that solves all problems for all people and moves China into the modern world," he said.

"There's a process of normalisation that will take some period of time," Ms Lagarde said in an interview she did not see the US economy dipping into a recession, following last week's news that it grew at a stronger-than-expected 3.2 per cent annualised pace in the first three months of 2019.

Concerns have been mounting over a global slowdown, particularly in China and Europe, and the prospect that the decade-long US bull market might be coming to an end. But the strong US GDP growth data may prompt leaders to reassess the health of the economy, she said. Ms Lagarde cautioned, however, that more data was necessary before making a more definite call.

Even as inflation has been largely in check, a situation she called "highly mysterious", Ms Lagarde said she expected price pressures to pick up "gradually and slowly" in the coming months, in part fuelled by rising oil prices.

Asked if she would like to continue as IMF managing director after her current term ends in 2021, Ms Lagarde said: "I'm looking at my options." The former French politician was named IMF chief in 2011.

Equity Bank to take 62% stake in BPR Atlas Mara

KIGALI

EQUITY Bank, the second largest bank in Kenya by assets, has unveiled plans to acquire a major stake in Banque Populaire du Rwanda (BPR) Atlas Mara.

The development to acquire 62 per cent stake in the lender was confirmed by the Chief Executive Officer of BPR, Maurice Toroitich. Toroitich told The New Times that this was however the beginning of a long process to conclude the deal.

"The announcement is just for the start of the process. Still far from completion," he said on Tuesday. He added that there were still many things to be done which could delay the process until somewhere in 2020.

Among these, he said, include confirmatory due diligence, agreement of fine terms and execution of substantive agreements, shareholder and regulatory approvals. "The process could last any time until early 2020," he noted. Toroitich sees the transaction as a good deal for the country's financial market.

"The deal is very good for the market because once the two banks are combined, we shall have another strong bank in the market which will be able to do more than what each one of the banks can do on their own," he said.

It will therefore have positive implications for customers and shareholders in the long run, he added. The combined entity (when it happens), being part of a strong group, the chief executive says, will also provide great career growth opportunities for forward looking staff.

Nyuni asset impairment cause massive loss to Aminex Plc

By The Banker Reporter

AMINEX Plc has incurred a loss of US\$ 48.51 million last year due to the impairment of Nyuni gas field in the country's Lindi region.

In its 2018 annual report released this week, Aminex said exploratory Nyuni assets have been fully impaired with a specific loss of US\$43.47 million which contributed to the total loss incurred during the period.

"Cash and cash equivalents at year-end of US\$1.86 million with no corporate debt, further supplemented by a successful placing post year-end, raising approximately US\$2.40 million to advance Kiliwani seismic related operations," the report stated.

The London Stock Exchange listed company however said

following the Nyuni driven loss, the future looks good because it seeks to complete the farm-out of Ruvuma, which will bring a further US\$5 million in cash to the company," it noted.

The company's annual report further said specifically, the drilling of the Chikumbi-1 well along with the acquisition of 3D seismic and also cost reductions being implemented following review of corporate overhead costs.

During the year under review, Aminex signed a farm-out agreement with Zubair Corporation to accelerate the development of and production from the Ntorya gas field. Competent Persons Report ascribed a significant increase in resources for the Ntorya gas field.

The report explained that it ran a competitive tender process and selected Sakson Drill-



Aminex Plc's CEO, Jay Bhattacharjee.

ing and Oil Services DMCC to drill the Chikumbi-1 well which will be completed as a Ntorya production well. On closure of the farm-out, Aminex will be fully carried for the drilling, completion and testing of this well, the report added.

Progressing further remedial work on the Kiliwani North-1 well, which produced intermittently in 2018, in order to reinstate production from the field, including the perforation of a lower zone identified on wireline logs as potentially gas bearing and which production modelling indicates may contribute further resources if successful, the report pointed out.

This year, the Aminex board intends to transfer the listing segment of its ordinary shares from the main market of the London Stock Exchange to a standard listing as it believes that the ad-

ditional regulatory requirements imposed by maintaining the current premium listing is no longer in the best interests of the company, the report noted.

The purpose of the transfer is to provide greater flexibility to the company to undertake transactions and it will also allow the company to reduce the associated costs with being premium listed. Completion of the transfer of listing segment will be conditional upon shareholder approval and accordingly, the board intends to propose a resolution to approve the transfer at the company's annual general meeting due next June in Dublin, Ireland.

In accordance with Irish Listing Rule 6.6.1 and UKLA Listing Rule 9.6.1, copies of the notice of the AGM and the form of proxy will be submitted to the Irish Stock Exchange and the UK's National Storage Mechanism.

S. Africa's elections put electricity, jobs and gold mining at stake

CAPE TOWN

WITH a third of the workforce jobless and supplies of essential services such as water and electricity increasingly erratic across South Africa, the country's reformist president Cyril Ramaphosa needs a solid victory in next month's election. The alternative is that President Ramaphosa will be pushed aside by radicals in his own party - a result that would plunge the nation further into uncertainty and hamper growth.

The African National Congress has led the country for 25 years, securing its first election victory with Nelson Mandela in 1994 as its leader. Today, the party is mired in corruption scandals. Yet the party is still guaranteed to win, largely due to loyal support in the countryside.

In the cities however, the picture is very different. Polls show the ANC could lose Gauteng province to the opposition Democratic Alliance, which includes the industrial heartland of Johannesburg. A loss here would put an end to one of the party's most important patronage networks and could lead to a revolt in the ANC's ranks.

In particular, it could lead to supporters of former president Jacob Zuma making a comeback. Mr Zuma's faction lost out to Mr Ramaphosa in a bid to control the ANC during its national conference in December 2017.

"It is well-known that the Zuma faction has not disappeared since the election of Ramaphosa as president at the ANC's national conference," says Melanie Verwoerd, a former ANC member of parliament. "They are fighting back - big time. So vicious is the fight that the ANC has not even been able to keep it under wraps until after the elections."

Should the Zuma-ites return, the consequences will be dire. As his presidency waned, Mr Zuma sought to shore up his sagging popularity by siding with radicals pushing for state control over farmland, banking and



South Africa's land will provide the biggest test of the new administration following the elections.

the mining industry.

Mari Harris, director of public affairs at Ipsos, a market research firm, gives the ANC 61 per cent of the upcoming election - exactly what the party needs according to analysts to achieve a mandate from citizens for reforms that will spur much-needed growth.

"The election will be an inflection point in our recent history," says Wayne McCurrie, senior portfolio manager at FNB Wealth and Investments in Johannesburg. "If Ramaphosa gets a high percentage of say, above 58 per cent, and gets a mandate from the electorate to make the necessary management and structural changes, South Africa could materially change its growth profile to 2 per cent-plus by 2021."

Of these, land will be the biggest test of the new administration following the elections. According to Africa Check, a data verification non-profit, whites own more than 72 per cent of commercial farms. Blacks own just 4 per cent, with the rest belonging to other ethnic groups such as Indians.

The issue has become one of the

biggest talking points in the country, especially since the ANC has taken a decision to end constitutional protections for private property ownership. Mr Ramaphosa established a panel to look into the issue, and released part of its findings in April

Among other recommendations, the panel suggested a change to the constitution to allow for expropriation without compensation. Agri SA, the country's largest farmers union, which said it would release its own 'minority report', rejected the findings.

"The president should be able to weigh up alternatives and decide what South Africa needs," Agri SA President, Dan Kriek said. "The minority report is progressive in nature and focuses on practical agricultural common-sense plans."

Mr Ramaphosa himself appears opposed to changes to the constitution, a document he helped draw up in the early 90s when the apartheid government and liberation movements finally sat down and talked.

In April, he reassured a group of farmers and media outside Cape Town that any process to redistribute land would follow the constitution. "I can assure you that the land reform process is something we should never fear," he said. "It is to be done in accordance with the rule of law and the Constitution. It is not going to be land grabs, where land is grabbed outside of the parameters of law."

Until the elections however, it is unclear whether Mr Ramaphosa has the backing in his party to hold off radicals who want full nationalisation of farmland and Zimbabwe-style occupations.

Meanwhile, he also has to turn around ailing state enterprises such as state electricity utility Eskom. For many, South African voters' electricity is an even more pressing an issue than land. Rolling electricity cuts of up to 8 hours a day in March, with analysts warning of more to come have disillusioned voters across party lines.

"Eskom took my electricity, why I should vote for the ANC again, really?" says Lamu Tloubatla a street vendor in Cape Town.

Tloubatla has previously cast his ballot for the party, but has watched as it succumbed to corruption scandals that have mired Eskom with more than 440 billion rand in debt.

Tloubatla says he has little faith a new president will change institutionalised graft. "Don't tell me about Ramaphosa, he's been there from the start, he's in this."

Rapidly escalating costs are responsible for the red line in platinum's revenue stream, which is why I say if you are in platinum mining, fasten your seatbelts.

Ramaphosa is also going to have a tough sell getting voters to believe he can end joblessness. Mining is the most important job creator, and contributes 356 billion rand to the economy, or 7.3 per cent of the country's GDP, and employs around 450,000 people.

Now though, the industry is shedding workers at a rapid pace. One study by consultancy firm Deloitte estimates 100,000 jobs were cut by mines in the past 4 years alone.

In April, industry body the Minerals Council of South Africa (MCSA) warned that a further 100,000 jobs in the platinum sector are at risk due to a combination of strikes, weak demand, declining productivity, growth in recycling and the rising cost of electricity.

"Rapidly escalating costs are responsible for the red line in platinum's revenue stream, which is why I say if you are in platinum mining, fasten your seatbelts," says Roger Baxter, chief executive of the MCSA.

Mr Ramaphosa has rolled back plans devised by his predecessor Jacob Zuma to hand greater control to mining companies, which had scared off investors. While investment is beginning to return, the industry is now battling with record-breaking electricity price increases of 29 per cent that Eskom wants to impose.

Gold mining, once the country's major mineral export, would be especially hard hit by electricity costs. Many of these operations are now operating deep below ground, up to 5 kilometers in some cases, with similar electricity requirements as small towns.

"If Eskom gets its way with the electricity price increases, deep level mining will cease to exist," Mr Baxter says. With these pressing issues at the top of voters' minds, it is uncertain whether Mr Ramaphosa can bring his party home with a sprint across the finish line, or will merely limp over to a marginal victory.

BANKING & FINANCE

Deutsche-Commerzbank merger talks collapse

BERLIN

DEUTSCHE Bank and Commerzbank ended talks on a historic tie-up, throwing the future of both lenders into question after failed turnaround plans.

The two lenders decided that attempting to integrate the two banks would be too difficult to execute and also cited the restructuring costs and additional capital requirements, according to a statement on Thursday.

"After thorough analysis, we have concluded that this transaction would not have created sufficient benefits" to justify the risks and costs of the complex

deal, Deutsche Bank chief executive Christian Sewing and Commerzbank chief Martin Zielke said in a statement.

"After careful analysis, it became apparent that such a combination would not be in the interests of either bank's shareholders or other stakeholders."

The failure to agree on a deal now forces Deutsche Bank, once Europe's dominant financial institution, to come up with its fifth turnaround plan since 2015 and allay investor concern about how it will revive growth and boost shareholders returns, according to Bloomberg. For Commerzbank, still 15 per cent-owned by the federal

government, a foreign takeover may be in the cards down the road, with lenders including ING Groep and UniCredit said to be interested in an acquisition.

"Globally active German industry needs competitive banks that can accompany them across the world," German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz's reiterated on Thursday. But he acknowledged that mergers or other forms of cooperation "only make sense if the business case adds up and if they're headed towards a dependable business model".

Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank have been in talks about a takeover

since mid-March but have since faced severe opposition from labour representatives and strong criticism from key shareholders. The German lender is already working on a Plan B that it can present to shareholders once talks officially end, according to sources.

Deutsche Bank remains one of the most systemically critical banks in the world - with assets of about \$1.5 trillion - underscoring Mr Scholz's desire to reverse the erosion of its franchise. But labour unions vehemently opposed the loss of jobs from a takeover of Commerzbank and policymakers across the spectrum distanced themselves

from Mr Scholz. Large shareholders such as BlackRock have questioned the logic of a deal. The talks were a desperate effort to strengthen two lenders whose shares had lost more than 90 per cent of their value from their peak, and to shore up a domestic banking industry that has fallen far behind Wall Street.

Both lenders are struggling with the

fallout from an aggressive expansion that ended with the financial crisis. While DeutscheBank survived that crash without direct aid, it paid more than \$18 billion in misconduct fines in the last decade. Commerzbank was bailed out after it bought Dresdner Bank from insurer Allianz in 2008, two weeks before the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

New era begins in Japan as Emperor Naruhito ascends Chrysanthemum Throne

TOKYO

EMPEROR Naruhito's reign began yesterday as he ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne marking the beginning of a new imperial era in Japan.

Emperor Naruhito, 59, following the abdication of his father Emperor Akihito the previous day, has become Japan's 126th emperor, according to the traditional order of succession.

New era greetings were shared between friends and families on the telephone, by text and on social media platforms, with large numbers of youngsters posting pictures of themselves when they were young children in the Heisei Era, along with their messages of hope for the future of Japan and the world.

The younger generations on the most popular social networking sites were enthused by the new Reiwa Era, and many of them made individual pledges as to what they would like to achieve in the future, with many of the dreams centered around peace and prosperity.

Former Emperor Akihito in his final speech as a monarch before stepping down at midnight on Tuesday declared his abdication and in doing so said he sincerely hopes for a stable future for Japan and peace and happiness around the world.

Former Emperor Akihito's abdication marked the end of the three-decade long Heisei Era and the first time a live monarch here has left the Chrysanthemum Throne in more than 200 years. Many Japanese stayed up until midnight to usher in the new Reiwa Era, with large screens up and down the country near commuter hubs and in bustling shopping districts wishing everyone a Happy New Reiwa Era.

A number of individuals, towns, cities and prefectures celebrated in different ways across Japan, with fireworks shows, couples taking their wedding vows, naming their children at midnight, and drinking special sake.

Era names, or "genko" as they are known in Japanese, are used in Japan for the length of a monarch's reign. The new era name, "Reiwa," meaning "beautiful harmony," was announced by the government on April 1.

New era names are usually announced after the accession of the new monarch, but the government decided to announce the new name in advance of the accession of the new emperor.

In this way, companies and the general public had time to prepare for the change and disruption would be kept to a minimum. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the time said that the government wanted to select a name that conveys the heralding of a "new era full of hope."

The Japanese premier said the new era name was decided upon as it connotes "people's hearts coming together beautifully to nurture a culture." "The name Reiwa means that culture is born and grows when people come together and care for each other beautifully," Abe said.

He also said he hoped the new era ahead would be one that held great promise for the younger generations. "Heisei," the name of the previous era, means



Japan's new Emperor Naruhito (1st L) and Empress Masako (2nd L) attend a ceremony to receive the first audience after the accession to the throne, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan, yesterday. Japan's Emperor Naruhito declared his succession to the Chrysanthemum Throne on Wednesday to mark the start of a new imperial era in Japan. (Xinhua)

"achieving peace" and began on Jan. 8, 1989, the day after Emperor Hirohito died.

To add to the nation's fervor and ex-

citement, this year's Golden Week has been extended to 10 days with one day allocated to observe former Emperor Akihito's abdication and another to

the recent enthronement of Emperor Naruhito and the related ceremonies yesterday.

Xinhua

Boko Haram kills at least 23 villagers in NE Nigeria attack

ABUJA

AT least 23 people were killed and many houses burned when Boko Haram militants stormed a village in Nigeria's northeastern state of Adamawa, according to security sources on Tuesday.

Most of the victims were killed while fleeing Kuda village in Madagali area of the state, following the attack on Monday, said a military source who spoke to Xinhua via telephone.

The source, who was not authorized to speak on the attack, said the terror group had wreaked havoc on the villagers, some of whom were killed in their homes, as the Boko Haram militants burned down houses.

A military intervention later led to a gunfight, which lasted more than four hours, with the Boko Haram militants.

Many local residents fled into a thick bush in the area and returned on Tuesday to bury their relatives and count their losses. Pius Kashanda, a resident who fled the village, said he and other villagers counted at least 23 corpses upon their return Tuesday morning.

"Those terrorists had successfully carried out the attack before troops were deployed from Gulak, a neighboring town, to repel it," Kashanda said.

According to James Bulama who lost three family members to the attack, the Boko Haram militants surrounded the whole village and shot everyone at sight.

UN special envoy for Syria cautiously optimistic about political process

UNITED NATIONS

UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen on Tuesday expressed cautious optimism about the prospects of the political process in Syria.

"After eight years of conflict, this process will be long and difficult. But I think it is possible to move forward step by step," Pedersen told the Security Council in a briefing.

Many earlier differences over the constitutional committee, a key element in the Syrian political process, have been narrowed down, he said.

"While nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, we have a clear understanding on balanced co-chairing arrangements, a formula for decision-making, a shared acceptance of the United Nations' facilitation role, and a political commitment to the safety and security of all who would be involved," he said.

Both the Syrian government and opposition have been constructive on these points, said Pedersen. "I believe the final terms of the mandate can be agreed with a modicum of goodwill." It is also agreed that six specific names on the list of civil society representatives on the constitutional committee need to be removed, he said.

Work continues to identify a set of names that can have the support of all concerned, that can enhance the quality and credibility of the list, while striving to achieve the objective of at least 30 percent female participants, he said.



UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen speaks to journalists following a Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Tuesday. Geir Pedersen Tuesday expressed cautious optimism about the prospects of the political process in Syria. (Xinhua)

"I have expended a lot of effort to build buy-in for the way forward on this. If everyone is prepared to compromise just a little, this can move."

But he cautioned that the situation for Syrians remains dire.

There has been "a very troubling surge" of violence in recent weeks in and around the

Idlib de-escalation zone, causing civilian casualties and further displacement, he said.

De-escalation must be cemented. Idlib is not the only part of Syria that remains heavily militarized, or where Syrians continue to suffer, he warned.

The situation in the north-

east is calmer, for now, but underlying dynamics remain unresolved. There are also reports of growing tensions and violence in the southwest, he said, adding that Syria still contains many threats for renewed escalation or even threats to international peace and security.

Sirisena: Foreign mastermind may be behind bombings

COLOMBO

SRI LANKAN President Maithripala Sirisena said a foreign mastermind may have planned the Easter Sunday bombings, claimed by Islamic State, telling the militant group to "leave my country alone".

Sirisena also warned it may be possible Islamic State had launched a "new strategy" by targeting smaller countries, Sky News said yesterday.

A government source told Reuters on Tuesday police and other security forces across the Buddhist-majority country had been ordered to remain on high alert because the militants were expected to try to strike again, before the holy month of Ramadan which starts on

Monday.

Sirisena said authorities were aware of "a small group" of Sri Lankans who had traveled abroad to receive training from Islamic State over the past decade.

Investigations revealed the bombs used in the Easter attacks were made locally, the president said in the interview.

The suicide bombings on hotels and churches killed more than 250 people, including 40 foreign nationals.

Police suspect members of two previously little-known groups - National Thawheedh Jamaath and Jammiyathul Millathu Ibrahim - of carrying out the attacks.

In the Sky News interview, Sirisena said he had a message

for Islamic State: "Leave my country alone."

Sri Lankan authorities have previously said that they suspect the attackers had international links, although the precise nature of those connections aren't known.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation and Interpol, as well as other undisclosed foreign agencies, are helping Sri Lanka with the probe.

Local intelligence officials believe that Zahran Hashim, a Tamil-speaking preacher from the east of the Indian Ocean island country, may have been a key player in plotting the Easter bombings.

Officials believe he was one of nine suicide bombers.



Sri Lankans light candles and pray outside St. Anthony's Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday. (AP)

Detained African migrants face harsh conditions in Yemen's Aden

ADEN, YEMEN

THOUSANDS of illegal African immigrants and asylum-seekers detained by security authorities in Yemen's southern port city of Aden are facing miserable humanitarian conditions.

The Yemeni security authorities continued with a detention campaign which began several days ago and succeeded in gathering about 4,700 illegal immigrants at a sports stadium in the neighborhood of Mansourah.

Local activists told Xinhua that the detained illegal African immigrants face harsh living conditions for lack of basic necessities such as water and food. Ahmed Azany, an Aden-based youth activist, said local charity organizations are unable to provide the large numbers of detained African migrants with food, clean drinking water and other basic necessities.

"The number of detained migrants increases every day as the

security authorities are continuing to arrest Africans entering the country illegally," he added.

"Thousands are now locked up at the temporary detention center suffering from hunger and diseases with no presence of international refugee agencies to support them," Azany noted. Khalid Hazam, a health worker, said some illnesses were recorded among the migrants because of bad sanitary conditions at the sports stadium, which is

scattered with rubbish and lacks toilets.

Aden's security chief Shalal Shalal Ali Shayea announced on Wednesday that African migrants and asylum seekers in detention centers in the city began a hunger strike.

He urged the UN migration agency and other refugee aid groups to help rescue the detained African migrants who are refusing food and water. A source of Aden's local govern-

ment said active smugglers along the Yemeni coasts are the main reason behind the migrant crisis in Aden.

The recent proliferation of illegal immigrants from African countries will merely add fuel to the fire as Yemen is currently at a devastating war that has entered its fifth year, the government source told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, residents living near Mansourah's sports stadium demanded Yemen's Interior

Ministry transfer the detained African migrants to specialized camps outside Aden.

"Fears are growing as the spread of diseases among the detained migrants might affect our residential neighborhood," they said in a statement.

Statistics show more than 36,000 African migrants arrived in Yemen during the first three months of 2019. Thousands of African illegal immigrants looking for a better life were using

Yemen as a transit point to their final destination: Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Notably, scores of illegal immigrants from Somalia and Ethiopia have died off the coast of Yemen in recent months. Yemen has been plagued in a civil war between the government forces and Houthi rebels since late 2014, which has killed tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, in the impoverished Arab country. Xinhua

WORLD

Trump weighs labeling Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is working to designate the Muslim Brotherhood a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), the White House said on Tuesday, which would bring sanctions against Egypt's oldest Islamist movement.

"The president has consulted with his national security team and leaders in the region who share his concern and this designation is working its way through the internal process," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in an email.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi asked Trump to make the designation during an April 9 visit to Washington, a senior US official said, confirming a report in the New York Times on Tuesday.

After the meeting, Trump praised Sisi as a "great president" while a bipartisan group of US lawmakers raised concerns about Sisi's human rights record, his efforts to stay in office until 2034 and Egypt's planned Russian arms purchases.

The White House did not say on what basis it might label the group a terrorist organization and former officials questioned whether the group met the legal standard of engaging in "terrorist activity" that threatens US citizens or national security.

The Brotherhood, which estimates its membership at up to 1 million people, came to power in Egypt's first modern free election in 2012, a year after long-serving autocrat and US ally Hosni Mubarak was toppled in a popular uprising.

As Egypt's army chief in 2013, Sisi



engineered the removal of elected President Mohamed Mursi, a senior Brotherhood figure, and subsequent crackdown on its supporters as well as liberal opposition in Egypt. Sisi was then elected president in 2014.

After Mursi's overthrow, the Brotherhood was swiftly banned in Egypt. Authorities declared it a terrorist organization and jailed thousands of followers as well as much of its leadership, including Mursi.

The Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928, says it is a non-violent movement and denies any relationship to violent insurgencies waged by al Qaeda and Islamic State militants.

"We will remain ... steadfast in our work in accordance with our moderate and peaceful thinking," the Brotherhood said in a statement on its website.

INTERNAL US DEBATE

It was not clear if the administration was considering blacklisting only the Egyptian branch as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) or all regional offshoots of what analysts say is a heterogeneous

group with no central authority.

The proposal to designate the group set off a debate within Trump's national security team, the senior US official said.

White House national security adviser John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo support the designation but officials at the Pentagon and elsewhere have been opposed and want more limited action, the senior official said.

"The President has heard the concerns about the Muslim Brotherhood from our friends and allies in the Middle East, as well as here at home," said a second senior US official. "Any potential designation would go through a robust, deliberate, and inclusive interagency process."

Former US officials were skeptical that the Brotherhood met the US legal standard to be designated an FTO.

Daniel Benjamin, the State Department's former top official for counterterrorism who teaches at Dartmouth College, called the idea "mystifying," saying the agency considered the designation in 2017 but concluded there was no basis.

Benjamin said US domestic political considerations could be at play with Trump facing re-election in 2020. "There is no question that there has been an effort to meet the appetites of Trump's very Islamophobic base," he said.

Jason Blazakis, a former State Department official who oversaw the FTO designation process, voiced concern that US right-wing groups would be encouraged to call for legal action against domestic Muslim advocacy organizations.

"It will be used to go after organizations inappropriately within the United States," said Blazakis, head of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies' Center on Terrorism, Extremism and Counter-Terrorism.

Analysts said the designation also could complicate US dealings with officials across the Middle East.

Agencies

US meddling in Venezuelan affairs may lead to collapse - Russian foreign ministry

UNITED NATIONS

WASHINGTON'S meddling in Venezuela's sovereign affairs may cause the collapse of the situation, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters on Tuesday.

"Numerous political actors in Washington do not see the harmfulness of this path towards which they push this whole story. It is strange, because it is obvious to everyone now," she said. "If Washington continues its meddling attempts in internal affairs, it may cause a collapse of the situation."

Earlier on Tuesday, Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido published a video on Twitter, in which he urged the Venezuelan military to take to the streets in order to "end the usurpation" in the country.

A group of military officers and head of the Popular Will party Leopoldo Lopez also appear in the video. There have been reports of shooting and release of tear gas near the road leading up to the Francisco de Miranda Airbase in Caracas, where Guaido recorded the video.

Juan Guaido, Venezuelan opposition leader and speaker of the National Assembly, whose appointment to that position had been cancelled by the country's Supreme Court, declared himself interim president at a rally in the country's capital, Caracas, on January 23.

On the same day, the United States recognized him as an interim president, and the countries of the Lima Group (excluding Mexico) and the Organization of American States followed suit. Venezuela's incumbent President Nicolas Maduro blasted the move as an attempted coup and announced cutting diplomatic ties with the United States.

Most European Union member states recognized Guaido as Venezuela's interim president. Russia, Belarus, Bolivia, Iran, China, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Syria and Turkey voiced support for Maduro.



Nigeria confirms release of innocent girl framed for drug trafficking

ABUJA

THE Nigerian foreign ministry on Tuesday confirmed the release of an innocent girl, Zainab Aliyu, who was detained for an alleged drug-related offense in Saudi Arabia.

Aliyu, a student of Maitama Sule University in Nigeria's northwestern state of Kano, had traveled for lesser hajj in December 2018 and was detained by the Saudi authorities over allegations that a piece of luggage bearing her name tag contained an illegal dose of Tramadol, an unlawful substance.

Nigeria's permanent secretary of foreign affairs, Mustapha Sulaiman, told reporters in Abuja that the government used "all available diplomatic channels to secure her release."

Although detained, she had not been put on trial by the Saudi Arabia government. Aliyu was released to officials of the Nigerian Mission in Saudi.

The girl's release followed intense

diplomatic engagements between the Nigerian government and Saudi Arabia, according to Sulaiman.

The innocence of another Nigerian man named Ibrahim Abubakar, also arrested following a similar allegation, has been proved by the Nigerian government, the official said.

"I am happy to announce to you that in the last couple of minutes Zainab is with our Mission in Saudi and we believe that the other gentleman will be released before tomorrow. Investigations by the Nigerian authorities revealed that a drug cartel in Nigeria packaged drugs in her luggage, which led to her arrest.

It was discovered that the young lady was a victim of the cartel that specialized in keeping hard drugs in travelers' bags. The suspects had been arrested and made confessions. The government has vowed to prosecute them.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari had on Monday directed the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar



Zainab Aliyu

Malami, to intervene in the case of the Nigerian student and others detained by Saudi authorities.

The news of Aliyu's release was heartwarming to many Nigerians

who took to social media to express their feelings. Defunke Adewumi, a Nigerian netizen, had earlier expressed displeasure over the girl's arrest and detention in a Saudi pris-

on in spite of the recent discovery that she was framed by some drug cartel.

"Zainab has been finally released from the Saudi prison. This is a victory for an innocent girl and others who had been wrongly accused and detained elsewhere," Adewumi wrote on Facebook.

In a statement made available to Xinhua in Abuja, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), decried the unjust imprisonment of innocent Nigerians who have suffered harsh punishment for offenses they have not committed, also gave kudos to the Nigerian government for the role it played in Aliyu's release.

"It is sad that many innocent Nigerians are suffering for a crime they know nothing about," said the statement.

"This prompt effort by government is commendable and should be sustained for all and in the future because this is what we want to see from our leaders in this country," it added.

Xinhua

Putin simplifies Russian citizenship process for certain groups of Ukrainians

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree on granting the right to obtain Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure for certain groups of Ukrainian citizens.

The decree was published yesterday on the official Internet legal information portal.

The document says that this simplified procedure of obtaining Russian citizenship applies to Ukrainian citizens, who have no citizenship of other states, who were born and reside permanently on the territories of the Crimean republic and the city of Sevastopol, those who had left the above mentioned territories before March 18, 2014 and also their children, includ-



ing adopted children, husbands and wives and parents.

The right to get Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure has been also granted to individuals

without citizenship, who were born and resided in Crimea, and who had left the peninsula before it re-

joined Russia, as well as other persons who were subjected to illegal

deportation from the territory of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

The process of granting Russian citizenship will be also eased for Ukrainians and persons without citizenship, who have permission for temporary residence in Russia, a residence permit, a refugee identity card, a document on temporary refuge or a document of a participant of a state program on providing assistance to relocating to Russia fellow countrymen living abroad, those who resided in certain areas of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine in April 2014 and also their children, husbands and wives and parents.

Besides, under the decree the right to obtain Russian citizenship in a simplified procedure will be

given to the citizens of Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Syria, who were born on the territory of the Russian Socialist Federative Socialist Republic and held the Soviet Union's citizenship.

The applications on obtaining Russian citizenship filed by the above mentioned groups of citizens should be considered within three months.

On April 24, Putin signed a decree enabling people living in the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics to receive Russian citizenship under a simplified procedure.

According to the document, the decision has been made "in order to protect human rights and freedoms" based on universally accepted international laws.

Agencies

Stable factory, service activities point to resilient economy

BEIJING

THE steady expansion of China's factory and service activities in April confirmed sustained momentum in the wider economy.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector held steady at 50.1 in this month, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said Tuesday. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while below reflects contraction.

Although slightly down from 50.5 of a month ago, the PMI was still the second highest since November and stayed above the boom-bust line for two consecutive months, NBS senior

statistician Zhao Qinghe said.

Wen Tao, an analyst with the China Logistics Information Center, said the mild retreat was a normal adjustment from the holiday influence and positive signs had emerged in external demand and market prices.

In breakdown, the sub-indices for production and new orders came in at 52.1 and 51.4 respectively, both showing robust momentum. Sub-indices for exports and imports gained for two straight months.

High-tech manufacturing led the stable trend. The PMI of high-tech manufacturers was on a gaining streak for a fourth straight month in April, standing at 52.9, far above the

overall level, and they also saw the best improvement in new orders in 10 months.

"Businesses reported better profit margins, in particular the ferrous metal processing industry," Zhao said. "The performances of small enterprises also improved as recent targeted tax cuts and other policy support began to take effect."

The NBS also said on Tuesday the service activity eased pace but maintained steady expansion in April as the non-manufacturing PMI came in at 54.3, down from 54.8 in March.

China is trying to shift its economy toward a growth model that draws strength from consumption, services

and innovation. The tertiary industry accounted for 57.3 percent of GDP in the first quarter, up 0.6 percentage points from a year ago.

The market rallied on encouraging data. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index rebounded 0.52 percent to 3,078.34 points, ending a three-day losing streak.

The data came as new evidence of continued growth impetus, following a better-than-expected 6.4-percent GDP increase in the first three months, flat with expansion in the previous quarter.

In the face of lingering downward pressures, China has rolled out a raft of targeted pro-growth meas-

ures, with taxes cut for individuals and money-starved small firms, funds pumped to major projects to fix weak areas and restrictions eased for foreign investors.

The rosy start of the economy offered a solid footing for a steady second quarter, Wen said.

However, analysts said more should be done to reinforce the stable trend as Tuesday's data also showed some weaknesses.

The employment sub-index for manufacturing PMI stayed below 48 for four months running and equipment manufacturing retreated mildly, Wen said, adding that the activity of large and medium-sized enter-

prises began to slow down.

"Final demand exports, lower-tier cities' property markets, and passenger car sales are still facing strong headwinds, and this could be a drag on the PMI despite ongoing policy easing and stimulus," Lu Ting, economist of Nomura International, said in a report.

Tuesday's PMI is the earliest economic indicator for April, and a series of other data including consumer prices, foreign trade volume, industrial output, investment and retail sales will be released in the coming weeks.

Xinhua

The
Guardian

SPORT



Oprah Winfrey

Oprah 'quietly figuring out' how to wield her political clout in 2020

LOS ANGELES

MEDIA mogul Oprah Winfrey, whose opinions can get millions of fans to try a new diet or turn a book into an international best-seller, is figuring out which Democratic candidate she will endorse in the crowded 2020 U.S. presidential race.

Winfrey, who has ruled out running for the White House, told the Hollywood Reporter in an extensive interview released on Tuesday that she was "quietly figuring out where I'm going to use my voice in support."

"I'm sitting back, waiting to see. It'll be very clear who I'm supporting," she said of the 2020 election campaign.

Winfrey campaigned heavily for Democrat Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 but adopted a lower profile in her support of Hillary Clinton, who lost in 2016 to current Republican President Donald Trump.

Some 20 Democrats are running for president in 2020.

Winfrey said among the Democrats she is researching are South Bend, Indiana mayor Pete Buttigieg, former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke and California Senator Kamala Harris. She said she already knows New Jersey Senator Cory Booker.

Winfrey, a billionaire movie producer, television network owner, magazine publisher and philanthropist, was urged by her supporters to run for the White House herself after delivering a rousing speech at the 2018 Golden Globe awards ceremony. She has repeatedly ruled out the idea.

Winfrey is also an actress who was Oscar-nominated for her supporting role in the 1985 film "The Color Purple." She also had a major role in the 2018 film "A Wrinkle in Time," and appeared in "Selma" and "The Butler" as well as the series "Greenleaf" on OWN TV, the Oprah Winfrey Network.

But with a series of documentaries and interview shows lined up for the upcoming Apple TV+ streaming service, Winfrey said she was no longer interested in acting.

"I think to be really, really good at it, you've

got to do it a lot. You've got to work at it. And it's got to be something that you have true passion about. I don't think it's something you can dabble in," she said.

"It doesn't feed my soul anymore."

Meanwhile, Barack and Michelle Obama's production company on Tuesday unveiled a wide-ranging slate of programming it will supply to Netflix Inc, including a period drama set in the fashion world and a biopic about Frederick Douglass.

The series, documentaries and films will be released on the streaming service over the next several years, according to a statement from Higher Ground Productions, a company established by the former president and first lady last year.

The slate includes a drama called "Bloom," a series set in the post-World War II fashion world in New York City, which explores barriers faced by women and people of colour. It will be written and executive produced by Oscar-winning "Thelma and Louise" screenwriter Callie Khouri.

A series for preschoolers called "Listen to Your Vegetables & Eat Your Parents" will "take young children and their families around the globe on an adventure that tells us the story of our food," the statement said. During her time as first lady, Michelle Obama advocated for healthy eating habits for children.

Another project is a non-fiction series based on the Michael Lewis book "The Fifth Risk: Undoing Democracy" about "the unheralded work done by everyday heroes guiding our government and safeguarding our nation." The Lewis book was critical of the U.S. administration's transition from Obama to U.S. President Donald Trump.

The company also is adapting Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom" by David W. Blight about the celebrated abolitionist.

"We believe each of these productions won't just entertain, but will educate, connect and inspire us all," Obama said in the statement.

REUTERS



Golden State Warriors' Andre Iguodala, bottom left, Alfonso McKinnie, top left, Houston Rockets' Nene Hilario, top right, and Warriors' Jonas Jerebko, bottom left, vie for a rebound during the first half of Game 2 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, April 30, 2019. (AP Photo)

Durant leads the way again, Warriors lead Rockets 2-0

OAKLAND, Calif.

KEVIN Durant and the Golden State Warriors brought it on both ends, kept their mouths shut and handled business at home against James Harden and the Rockets.

Now, the two-time defending champions are headed to Houston with a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal.

Durant scored 29 points and established an early defensive tone against Harden, leading the Warriors past the Rockets 115-109 on Tuesday night as the focus refreshingly returned to basketball after two days of constant chatter about the officiating.

"Tonight I think it was a great officiated game," Golden State's Draymond Green said. "They let us be physical, both teams, and they made the calls they needed to make. It was kind of disheartening for a game that I love since I was a child to see the talk over the last two days was nothing about basketball and everything about foul calls. Is that what this game is coming to?"

Harden got hit in both eyes early but was able to return and finished with 29 points and seven rebounds.

"I barely could see," said Harden, who was treated with eye drops.

Boos regularly greeted both Harden and Chris Paul at deafening Oracle Arena, where the Rockets complained after a 104-100 Game 1 defeat that the officials missed foul calls when the Warriors closed out on Houston's 3-point shooters.

Paul celebrated and cheered when Harden drew a foul on Durant in the closing seconds of the third on a very such play. Harden converted three free throws to pull Houston within 82-75 going into the final 12 minutes.

Harden scored seven straight Houston points during one

stretch midway through the fourth, including a 3 at 7:25 that go the Rockets within 92-89. Stephen Curry connected for a key 3 at the 6:31 mark on the way to 20 points.

Harden's eyes were still red and bothering him postgame.

"It's pretty blurry right now. Hopefully it gets better day by day," Harden said.

Klay Thompson scored 21 points and hit consecutive 3-pointers late in the third. Green had 15 points, 12 rebounds – three on the offensive end over two possessions in the opening quarter – and seven assists.

Game 3 is Saturday in Houston.

Players on both sides stayed poised with cool heads.

"I felt like both teams, both coaches, just let the refs do their jobs all night," Durant said. "I think the refs did an amazing job, the players did a great job, and the coaches."

Durant set a tone when took an early charge from Harden and blocked one of his shots as Houston committed five quick turnovers that led to 10 points. Andre Iguodala, who also handled much of the load defending Harden, added 16 points, five rebounds and four assists.

Curry dislocated his left middle finger in the first quarter but X-rays were negative and he returned with it taped.

Curry missed his first four 3-point tries

before hitting late in the first and played in foul trouble once more. He picked up his fourth with 6:43 in the third on a reach in, something he's been working to stop doing.

Harden injured his eyes with 6:39 left in the first, grabbing at his face after he and Green fought for a loose rebound and Green's left hand got Harden in the face.

When Harden went to the locker room with 6:27 left and a towel over his left eye for a cut, Green patted him on the back and checked to make sure he was OK. Harden returned at the 7:09 mark of the second.

"That's him. I didn't have a doubt he was coming back unless it was something catastrophic," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Both teams were more composed when it came to mouthing off at the referees.

Harden already had a history with official Scott Foster, who worked Tuesday's game. The reigning MVP was fined \$25,000 for calling Foster "rude and arrogant" following a 121-111 loss at the Lakers on Feb. 21 in which Harden fouled out.

In Game 1, Paul was automatically ejected with 4.4 seconds left following a second technical and fined \$35,000 by the NBA on Monday for making contact with official Josh Tiven.

D'Antoni emphasized the scrutiny of officials "shouldn't continue." **AP**



Japanese Youka Hasumi, 17, who wants to become K-pop star, sings a song as she spends time after class in the Hongdae area of Seoul, South Korea on April 3, 2019. REUTERS

K-Pop stardom lures Japanese youth to Korea despite diplomatic chill

SEOUL

YUUKA Hasumi put high school in Japan on hold and flew to South Korea in February to try her chances at becoming a K-pop star, even if that means long hours of vocal and dance training, no privacy, no boyfriend, and even no phone.

Hasumi, 17, joined Acopia School in Seoul, a prep school offering young Japanese a shot at K-pop stardom, teaching them the dance moves, the songs and also the language.

She is one of an estimated one million other K-pop star wannabes, from South Korea and abroad, hoping to get a shot

at super competitive auditions by major talent agencies that will take on just a select few as "trainees".

"It is tough," Hasumi said in Japanese, drenched in sweat from a dance lesson she attended with 15-year-old friend Yuho Wakamatsu, also from Japan.

"Going through a strict training and taking my skill to a higher level to a perfect stage, I think that's when it is good to make a debut," she said.

Hasumi is one of 500 or so young Japanese who join Acopia each year, paying up to \$3,000 a month for training and board.

The school also fixes auditions for its candidates with talent management

companies that have been the driving force behind the "Korean-wave" pop culture that exploded onto the world stage in the past decade with acts such as global chart topping boy band BTS.

The influx of Japanese talent that is reshaping the K-pop industry comes at a time of increasingly bitter political acrimony between the two countries that has damaged diplomatic ties.

That the tension has done little to dent the K-pop craze among Japanese youth, and the willingness by Korean agencies to take on Japanese talent, speak to the strength of the ties between their people, according to one long-time observer.

"They're nuts about BTS over there in Japan," said Lee Soo-chul, board member of Seoul-Tokyo Forum, a private foundation with members of diplomats and business executives from both countries.

K-pop groups, and veteran Korean musicians, are selling out concert halls throughout Japan, said Lee, a former head of Samsung Group's Japanese operations. "There is no Korea-Japan animosity there."

DEEP FREEZE

Tensions rooted in Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of Korea have risen after South Korean court rulings against Japanese firms for forced labor, and

amid a perception in Korea that Japan's leadership has not adequately atoned for its colonial past.

But the popularity of Korean culture and K-pop music is on the rise in Japan, with many fans and artists saying they are not bothered by the diplomatic tension. "I might get criticized for being Japanese, but I want to stand on a stage and make (South Koreans) know Japanese can be this cool," said Rikuya Kawasaki, a 16-year-old Japanese K-pop star hopeful who auditioned unsuccessfully in Tokyo for Acopia School.

For schools and agencies, Japan's music market - the second largest after

the United States and bigger than China - is a big prize and many have been on a campaign to recruit Japanese talent.

"It will be good if Japan and South Korea will get along through music," Hasumi told Reuters during a break from her Korean language class.

Some Japanese transplants have already made it big. The three Japanese members of the girl band Twice helped make the group the second most popular act in Japan, after BTS.

Their success has prompted JYP Entertainment, the South Korean agency backing Twice, to plan the launch of an idol group comprising only Japanese girls. **REUTERS**

Alves can't support 'hot headed' Neymar antics

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain's Dani Alves has urged teammate Neymar to display more self-control after his altercation with a fan following last weekend's Coupe de France final penalty loss to Rennes.

Alves and Neymar both featured as PSG lost again on Tuesday, this time 3-2 away to Montpellier in Ligue 1, and the former admitted that he was unable to defend Neymar's recent behaviour.

"It was a delicate moment," he said. "We had just lost a title and he was hot-headed. It was a reaction and one that I think was not right in that moment. You cannot get involved in this sort of thing. You have to show more control."

"I believe that you have to make mistakes to improve. Not necessarily like this, but this mistake will cause him to reflect a bit. Neymar is an exceptional guy, but he can be a bit rash at times."

"This sort of reaction, no matter how friendly we are, I cannot be in favour of it. I believe that he has learned, and I hope that it will not happen again."

PSG led twice in Montpellier but were pegged back and ultimately lost to a late Souleymane Camara goal.

Neymar played the full 90 minutes but was unable to prevent his team from going down to their third Ligue 1 defeat in their last four matches.

Marquinhos, who captained the side in Thiago Silva's absence, believes that Neymar knows he made a mistake at Stade de France last Saturday.

"I think that Neymar knows that he made a mistake," he said. "When you attack somebody, it is a mistake. He is not a boy anymore -- he knows when he is in the wrong."

"It will serve as a lesson for him. We already know that things with

Neymar are amplified -- he is used to that. Mistakes happen and are there to be learned from."

PSG have four Ligue 1 matches left before the end of what will be their least successful season since the 2011-12 campaign -- the maiden term under Qatari ownership.

Meanwhile, the mother and agent of Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Adrien Rabiot has accused chairman and CEO Nasser Al-Khelaifi of "poisoning" the team with his treatment of her son.

Despite high expectations, PSG have endured their worst season since 2011-12 -- the first of the Qatari Sports Investment era -- after losing the Coupe de la Ligue and Coupe de France finals and blowing a first leg 2-0 lead at Manchester United to lose in the Champions League round of 16 -- and Veronique Rabiot has blamed the poor campaign on Al-Khelaifi.

Rabiot has been marginalised and served an internal suspension -- and his mother said this treatment is having a detrimental effect on the entire squad.

"The president [Al-Khelaifi] has made a completely unfair decision and everybody knows that," she told Agence France Presse. "By doing this, he has instilled a poison in his team, which has done its work over the past five months -- Nasser has broken his own team up because he forgot about the human factor."

"When you make decisions in life, there are short, medium and long-term consequences. Failing to understand that when you are the president of a football club is to not know football, nor football players. Above all, it shows that you do not know men."

Rabiot's mother and agent went on to suggest that her son's situation with PSG has impacted his teammates.

(AGENCIES)

Madrid won't match Pogba's Utd wage - Sources

MADRID

PAUL Pogba will be forced to take a pay cut if he leaves Manchester United for Real Madrid this summer, as sources have told ESPN FC that the Spanish club are not prepared to match his £290,000-a-week Old Trafford wages.

Sources at United have repeatedly said Pogba, 26, will not be sold at the end of the season, despite persistent speculation linking the midfielder with a move to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Both Pogba and Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane have spoken recently about the prospect of the France international playing in the Spanish capital, but United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said that he expects the £89 million signing from Juventus to be a part of his squad next season.

Sources have told ESPN FC, however, that some of Pogba's club teammates expect him to push for a move this summer if United fail to qualify for the Champions

League -- an outcome which is now increasingly likely following Sunday's 1-1 draw with Chelsea at Old Trafford which has left United three points adrift of the top four with only two games left to play.

United's determination to keep Pogba, rooted as much in the player's commercial value as his contribution to the team, may yet prompt the club to discuss a new contract with his advisors in an effort to put an end to Madrid's efforts.

But while sources have told ESPN FC that Madrid's interest in Pogba is strong and long-standing, the club are unwilling to add further strain to their huge wage bill by offering him a contract worth more than his United deal.

Madrid are also in the hunt for Chelsea forward Eden Hazard, with the club aware of the need to strengthen all departments of the team and reduce the average age of Zidane's squad.

(AGENCIES)

Barca 'Observer' breaks silence on Jose's infamous eye poke

BARCELONA

THE name of Barcelona club suit Francesc Satorra may not be familiar to you, but you'll almost certainly recognise him.

Satorra, better known as "The Observer," has retired after 41 years at Barcelona, finally freeing him up to talk about the incident which helped give him fame and cult status: Jose Mourinho's eye poke on Tito Vilanova.

Satorra spent four decades at Camp Nou, where he was in charge of matchday logistics. He would oversee that the players could enter and leave the stadium without any problems, keep the mixed zone in order and watch matches from a privileged position by the tunnel.

Most of his work was carried out in silence but that all changed on one August evening in 2011 when Barca hosted Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup.

Lionel Messi's 88th-minute win-

ner earned Barca the trophy and sparked confrontational scenes. As the players and coaching staff clashed on the sidelines, then-Madrid coach Mourinho made his way over to Vilanova. Pep Guardiola's assistant at the time, and poked him in the eye.

"The Tito and Mourinho incident was one of the worst brawls I've seen at Camp Nou," Satorra told RACI on Monday. "It was at the end of the game. I came out and I found Mourinho going to greet Tito -- but then he poked him in the eye."

Satorra was not involved in the incident but he was perfectly placed in the background. His emotionless face was captured between Mourinho and Vilanova and went viral on social media, earning him the nickname "The Observer."

"I couldn't believe it for a few seconds, then Tito pushed his arm away," he added. "That image appeared all over the world. They told me it was a trending topic. I didn't

Spurs emerge from Ajax defeat with hope

LONDON

FOR 25 minutes Tuesday, Ajax appeared to be playing a different sport to Tottenham Hotspur.

Their superiority was such, their passing so quick, their thoughts so clear, that if you'd offered most Spurs fans a 3-0 defeat after the first quarter of the game, plenty would have taken it. Spurs played as if they had been spun round a dozen times before they emerged onto the pitch, dazed and unsteady. Ajax made 132 accurate passes in the first 15 minutes. Spurs had 43.

"For the first 20 minutes we were just ball-watchers," Christian Eriksen said after the game.

So in the end a 1-0 defeat turned out to be a relatively decent result. When Donny van de Beek had the penalty area to himself in the 15th minute, sat Hugo Lloris down and passed the ball into the corner of the net, it seemed utterly implausible that it would be the only Ajax goal of the night.

Ajax had sliced through the Spurs defence with such ease, Van de Beek finding himself in so much space because the home side almost looked hypnotised by the passing and movement in front of them that it seemed to slip their mind to mark him.

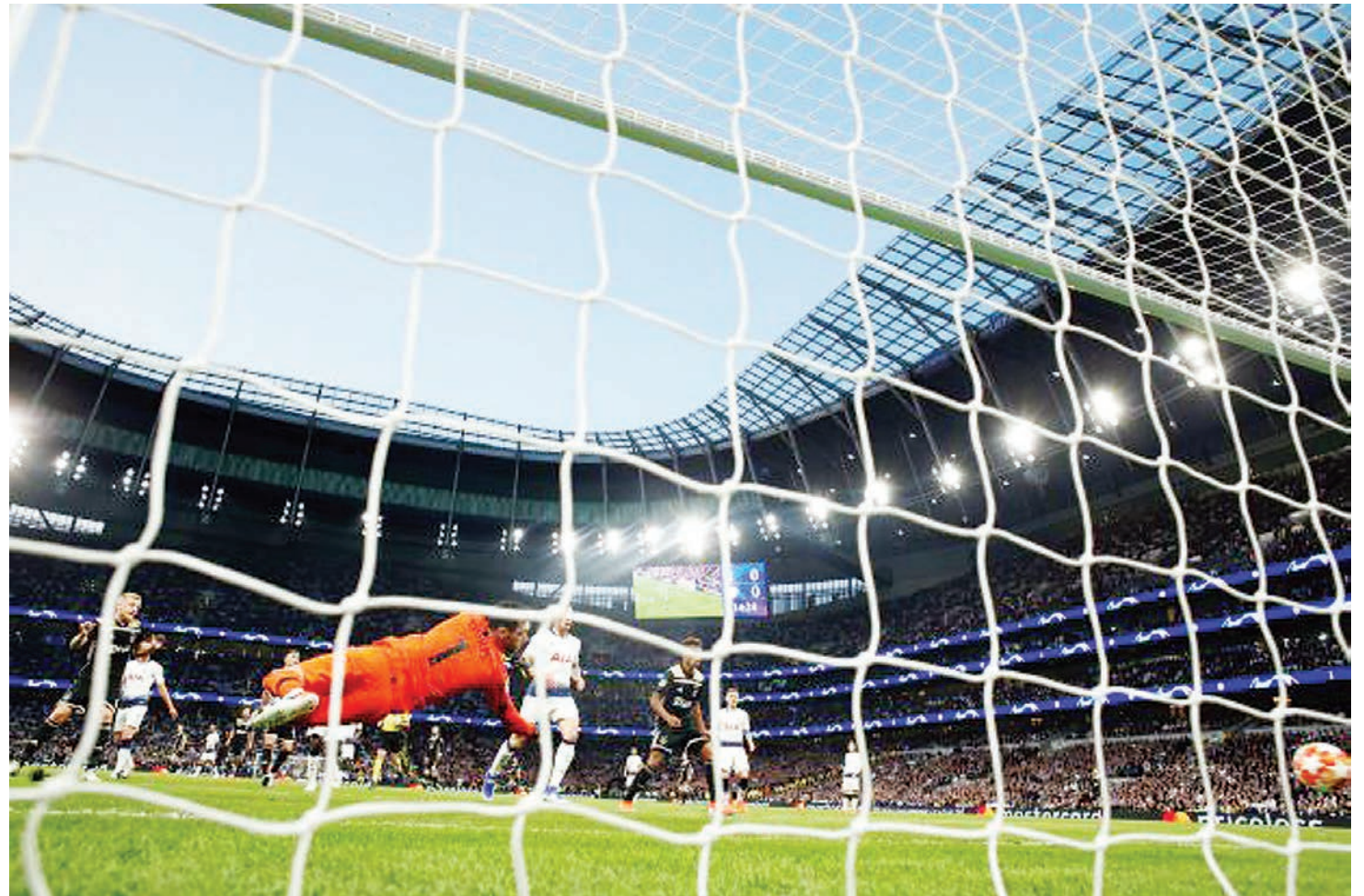
"The way we conceded the goal was so painful," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said, genuinely looking in pain as he spoke.

Spurs looked utterly suffocated. At one stage, Victor Wanyama tried to bring ball out of defence but was immediately set upon by three Ajax players and relieved of possession before he could even think about starting an attack. It was like a trio of velociraptors jumping on a lumbering stegosaurus.

And yet, it might turn out to be enormously costly for Erik ten Hag's side that they didn't score a second in this period of dominance. After that opening salvo, they almost seemed to back off, either because no mortals could keep that pace up for longer, or they perhaps loosely assumed they were so much better than Spurs that the result of both match and tie was inevitable.

Afterward, Ten Hag conceded that his team could and should have made more of their initial superiority, also admitting that his team "did not anticipate" Tottenham's change in approach, their more direct and physical style.

Perhaps we should give Spurs more credit for the shift in the game. Pochettino switched formations after about 20 minutes, moving



Ajax's Donny van de Beek scores their first goal against Tottenham Hotspur during their Champions League Semi Final First Leg match at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, Britain on Tuesday. REUTERS

Danny Rose into midfield, and then Jan Vertonghen's horrible-looking injury -- knees buckling when he was initially allowed to return to the pitch, after his nose ploughed into the back of Toby Alderweireld's head -- actually turned out to be, from a tactical perspective at least, a positive.

Moussa Sissoko changed a Champions League semifinal. For his side. For the better. Lots of strange things have happened in the world in the past few years, but that's among the more curious. Or, more accurately, would have been curious nine months ago. Sissoko's influence faded in the latter stages of the game, but his initial impact after replacing Vertonghen allowed Spurs to take more control of midfield, and to play in that more direct manner that Ten Hag didn't expect.

Spurs decided that the way to stop Ajax was to plug the holes in midfield, which Sissoko helped with hugely, and then aim as many

crosses as possible at Fernando Llorente. There's no shame in that: You win games of football by being better than your opponent at the things you're good at. It's no good trying to compete with the things they're good at, just for the sake of it.

After the game, it felt slightly curious that Pochettino seemed to strike a more positive tone than Ten Hag.

"It's a very good starting point, but we have to learn lessons from this game -- we must do better next week," said the Ajax boss, while Pochettino accentuated the positives of the second half.

This was one manager relieved that Tottenham were still in the tie and another slightly dissatisfied that they hadn't been finished off. David Neres hit the post in the second half and Ajax had a few other half-chances, but ultimately a 1-0 victory was a disappointment after that opening half-hour.

The question now is what this means for the second leg. Spurs will have Son Heung-Min back and Sissoko perhaps available from the start. The way they wrested at least some control back in the final hour, even if they ultimately struggled to create chances, both kept them in the game and indicated that they are more than capable of getting a result in Amsterdam on May 8.

They need to win there, though, something they haven't done much on their travels lately. The bad news is that Spurs have won only one away game since January. The good news is that was at Borussia Dortmund.

"We are still alive," Pochettino said. "The second half gave us the hope for the second leg."

Hope looked like a very distant thing in the first 30 minutes, but they've got enough to cling to.

(AGENCIES)

Pochettino's dream turns sour as Spurs misfire against Ajax

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino said he was living the dream in the build-up to their Champions League semi-final against Ajax Amsterdam but it must have felt like a nightmare at times against the classy Dutch side on Tuesday.

His patched-up team were comprehensively outplayed in the first 30 minutes and were fortunate to only concede a 15th minute goal that was coolly converted by Donny van de Beek to give the visitors a 1-0 win and a precious away strike.

With forwards Harry Kane and Son Heung-min unavailable through injury and suspension respectively, Spurs were blunt in attack and they also lacked creativity in midfield as they slumped to their 18th defeat of the season in all competitions.

To make matters worse Jan Vertonghen, one of three centre backs employed by Pochettino, had to be substituted in the first half after a sickening collision with team mate Toby Alderweireld left him with concussion and a bloody nose.

"The attitude was there but we didn't find a way to play," said Pochettino, who has led Tottenham to their first semi-final in Europe's blue-riband club competition for 57 years.

"We didn't show the energy that we wanted to show. They showed more energy than us. The way we conceded the goal was painful. They were more proactive than us. Our approach to the game was not good. I am the manager so I have responsibility."

Despite an improved second-half display, Spurs managed only one effort on target as they lost at their new stadium for the second time in four days and there is a suspicion that they are running on empty at the end of a demanding season.

POCHETTINO HOPEFUL

Tottenham face a crucial trip to Bournemouth in the Premier League this weekend as they seek to secure a top-four finish to guarantee qualification for next season's Champions League.

After that they must go to Amsterdam where they will bid to become only the second side to reach the final having lost the first leg at home -- after Ajax managed the feat in 1996.



Mauricio Pochettino

Pochettino, however, remains hopeful that his side can turn things around next week when his prolific South Korean striker Son will be available again after his suspension.

"We pushed them to play deeper (in the second half). We started to press in the way we wanted to press. The second half has given us the hope for the second leg," he said.

Slideshow (5 Images)
The Argentine coach was also asked to clarify the situation with former Ajax defender Vertonghen, who needed lengthy treatment to stem the bleeding from a gash on his nose before it appeared he was ready to go back on and continue playing.

The clearly-groggy Belgian international was then helped off the field as it became clear he could not continue.

"I wasn't involved. It was the doctor's decision. It is so important," Pochettino said. "The rules and the protocol were there and the medical staff followed them."

"In the next action we had to take him out. The most important thing is the health of the player. I am never going to be involved. I only need to listen and hear what they say and take a decision. I will never debate their

decision."

Meanwhile, Ajax Amsterdam coach Erik ten Hag praised his young lions after the Dutch club moved within touching distance of the Champions League final after a deserved 1-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday.

Donny van de Beek's well-taken 15th minute goal put Ajax firmly in the driving seat against a disappointing Spurs side who face a tough task to turn around the semi-final in next week's second leg in Amsterdam.

"A fantastic achievement. We fought like lions," Ten Hag said. "We are halfway there and in good shape. The willpower was very nice to see."

Having beaten holders Real Madrid and fellow European giants Juventus on the way to their first Champions League semi-final since 1997, Ajax again showed why so many of their squad are attracting attention from some of the continent's biggest clubs.

Van de Beek was superb and even overshadowed Barcelona-bound fellow midfielder Frenkie de Jong, while 19-year-old captain Matthijs de Ligt showed maturity beyond his years to marshal the defence as Tottenham improved after the break.

Had David Neres not been denied by the post late on Ajax's position would look impregnable, but Ten Hag knows the job is not yet completed.

"I think it's an excellent result for us. We won the game. We are satisfied. We have a very good starting point, but we're only halfway through," he told reporters.

"We can play football in different styles. We can defend very well. We have a team that works together really well; they can fight together really well."

The 22-year-old Van de Beek said he still expected a tough battle next week in the Johan Cruyff stadium.

"The first 30 minutes were good but we found it tough after that. They changed things up and we had difficulty dealing with that," he said. "The second half was really a battle."

"It will be a tough game next week in the Arena, but with our own supporters behind us it will certainly be a huge boost to reach the final."

"We have to develop a good tactical plan so we can play like we did in the first 30 minutes this evening."

REUTERS

SPORT

Spurs emerge from Ajax
defeat with hope

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Finch feared for World Cup spot amid 'huge anxiety' over form

MELBOURNE

AARON Finch has opened up about the "huge anxiety" he felt during his form slump and the possibility that it could lead to him being left out of Australia's World Cup campaign.

Finch (pictured) endured a nightmare home season, during which he was dropped from the Test side, and, coupled with the pending returns of David Warner and Steven Smith, murmurs had begun about who would make way. But Finch emerged from his troubles in emphatic style soon after with a prolific series against Pakistan, which included back-to-back hundreds in Sharjah.

Speaking in-depth to SEN radio on Wednesday, ahead of joining Australia's pre-World Cup camp in Brisbane, Finch talked about having learnt lessons from his difficult patch, which led to him over-training only to see the runs dry up even more.

Since the Pakistan series, he has had a break from the game before returning to the nets ahead of the run-in to the World Cup, where a resurgent Australia will be aiming to defend their title and win a sixth title. But there were moments when Finch wondered if he would be there at all. "[I had] huge anxiety based on the World Cup coming up, being captain of the side and not getting the output I wanted leading from the front," Finch said. "When I think of Australian captains - Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh, Mark Taylor, Allan Border - everyone leads from the front, and I was getting really frustrated, I was preparing, doing everything I thought I could to succeed, it just wasn't happening.

"The support I was getting was incredible, but in the back of your mind you are thinking, 'gee, the World Cup isn't far away, as a captain I could be left out of the squad'; then you start putting unrealistic pressure on yourself to perform when you can't control that. That takes care of itself if you do your job."

The pressure on Finch peaked when he made a duck in the opening ODI against India, but two matches later came the breakthrough when he struck 93 in Ranchi as part of an opening stand of 193 with Usman Khawaja, which sparked Australia's run of eight consecutive victories. "It's a game of inches," he said. "Hyderabad, the first ODI, my hundredth, I'm thinking this is where the rut's ending, I'm coming out going to be aggressive, and I get a good one from Jasprit Bumrah, out for a duck. I was going back through all my notes that I'm keeping of training sessions and mental preparation and thinking to myself why is it different to when I was in form? The reality was there wasn't a huge difference, it was in my own mindset. I was starting to think a bit negatively.

"I was lucky enough to get 90-odd, played a pretty good innings, had great partnership with Usman in Ranchi then started to feel like I'd turned it around. I walk out next game chasing 360 and out for a duck again, then you doubt yourself. To get a start in the next game was nice then to continue it on through UAE was pleasing."



Simba SC Information Officer, Haji Manara.



Simba Sports Club

Simba still strong favourites for Premier League trophy

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AFTER Tuesday's 1-0 win against JKT Tanzania in the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League match, played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the league's title is now for Simba SC to lose.

The win saw second placed Simba accumulate 72 points from 28 games while the league leaders Yanga have 77 points from 33 games.

Yanga SC has five games to play while Simba have 10 games to play. Should Yanga win all matches, they will accumulate 92 points, whereas Simba SC will collect 102 points, should they claim win in the rest of their duels.

In this case, Simba only need to win seven

games to have 93 points, which cannot be achieved by any team in the premier league.

Simba, though, must be careful as at this stage there are no pushovers, given each side wants to make good use of the remaining matches.

After the JKT Tanzania game, Simba now head to Mbeya, where they will face two opponents, Mbeya City and Prisons, at the Soikoine Stadium.

The duels promise to be extremely difficult encounters for the defending champions, as the Mbeya outfits are fighting to maintain a relatively safe place in the league.

Simba will play Mbeya City tomorrow before facing Prisons on Sunday. The two Mbeya teams are occupying eighth and 10th positions respectively and they have played

32 games apiece.

Simba had to dig deep to cruise to the win over JKT Tanzania, with the former grabbing the win through midfielder, Hassan Dilunga, during the added on time.

The Msimbazi Street side's head coach, Patrick Aussems, said his charges must tread carefully as the league has reached a crucial stage which many teams are fighting for either survival or being in the good side of the table.

He hailed his side for putting a spirited fight and display never-say-die spirit and said the focus now is on the coming games.

"It was a tough game, but I am happy that we managed to collect maximum points against a hard fighting team, we are now looking forward to coming games," he said.

Simba start preps ahead of Sevilla FC encounter

By Guardian Reporter

SIMBA Sports Club leadership has said they will use their special match against Spanish La Liga giants, Sevilla FC, organized by gaming company SportPesa Tanzania, to give the former's players exposure.

Sevilla are expected to arrive in Tanzania on May 21 and will, two days later, meet Simba at the National Stadium, courtesy of SportPesa Tanzania.

The Msimbazi Street outfit's Information Officer, Haji Manara, said yesterday that they have started strategic plans ahead of the encounter which will be history for the club.

He said Simba will be the first team to play against Spanish club in the country's history.

Manara said although they are facing huge task to defend the Mainland Premier League title, their technical bench has started focusing on the match against Sevilla.

"We are very happy to get the chance to take on Sevilla. We deserve the chance as our club is the only squad that has done well in the 2019 SportPesa Cup," he noted.

"The criteria is open and our task are to show that we are the best team in the country."

He said the match brings back the memory of the soccer fans in the country who enjoyed to see some of big teams from Europe and America that visited the country in 1960s and 1970s.

"SportPesa Tanzania had managed to do so in 2017 when Everton from England visited the country and played against Gor Mahia of Kenya. It was good match although Tanzania's club did not feature," he said.

He said Simba's chance to play against Sevilla will stimulate domestic teams to perform well in SportPesa Cup which so far has been dominated by Kenya's teams.

Tanzania to field squad in Street Child Cricket World Cup

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is expected to field a team in the first-ever Cricket World Cup for street children, which will be played in London, United Kingdom later this month.

The global showpiece for street children will take place ahead of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup, which will take place in England and Wales.

The team was presented with, among others, 16 jerseys, track suits and caps by the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA).

The cricketers come from non-governmental organizations, Kiwohede and Pamoja Tanzania, as disclosed by Kiwohede Executive Director, Justa Mwaituka.

Taher Kitisa, TCA Chairman, said it is part of his association's responsibility to support the street children and the sport in general.

"Street children are part of us, we feel obliged to support their initiatives and dreams so that their voices can be heard through sports", Kitisa disclosed during a brief presentation ceremony held at Muhimbili Cricket Academy in Dar es Salaam early this week.

He said cricket is not all about segregation, noting it is about unity and love.

"Everyone has the right to play, street children also have the right to do so," he said.

The team headed to the UK on Tues-



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman, Taher Kitisa (R), presents kits to Executive Director of non-governmental organization, Kiwohede, Justa Mwaituka, at the Muhimbili Academy in Dar es Salaam early this week. Children from Kiwohede will represent Tanzania in the Street Child Cricket World Cup in London this month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

day for the event set to start early in May. The Street Child Cricket World Cup will unite street children from different countries to not only compete, but also raise awareness and tackle widespread stigma and violence they face.

The children, according to the organizers, are also expected to make their voices heard and make recommendations to help improve the lives of street children worldwide.

Zulfikar Rehemtullah, TCA Chief Executive Officer, said the

most important thing is for the local boys to participate and get an international exposure.

"We want them to win, but most importantly to have their positive participation and their voices heard," Rehemtullah noted.

SportPesa Tanzania had managed to do so in 2017 when Everton from England visited the country and played against Gor Mahia of Kenya. It was good match although Tanzania's club did not feature,

EATV
TODAY @ 18:00
THURSDAY
11:00 DADAZ (live)
12:00 Mpya
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 Bongo Hits
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 S5LEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Bongo Hits

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12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
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