



National Pg 4 Support for journey towards 'Green Dodoma'



National Pg 7 Palestine supports transformation vision



Feature Pg 12 'Fashion industry can help Vision 2025'



Ex-Information executive faces fifty counts of fraud, forgery

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

AN assistant information director was yesterday arraigned at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's court, charged with 50 counts of abuse of office including fraud and forgery.

The prosecution led by State Attorney Pascal Magabe told Resident Magistrate Vicky Mwaikambo that Esther Liwa used her office to defraud her employer by forging inflated expenditure documents and pocketing the monies running into millions in the period of March 11 to June 30, 2015.

Magabe said for the first to 16 counts, the official fraudulently forged a document titled 'accommodation allowance' to 16 district officers where she said they had been paid 32,500/- as sitting allowance for youth training

Liwa is also accused of forging the invoice of 405,000/- which she said is used to purchase the equipment for training from the shop.

held in Singida region.

From the 17th to 20th counts, the accused person is said to have forged inflated payment for media allowance, where she said that Festo Sanga a journalist of Standard FM radio station was paid one million and Emmanuel Michael paid 100,000/- for attending the training.

Liwa is also accused of forging an invoice for 405,000/- which she said was used to purchase equipment for training.

It is also alleged that on June 25, 2015 Liwa abused her office by forging a document to show that a total of 11m/- was spent during the youth training held in Singida.

The state attorney further alleged that the accused person from March 11 to June 30 forged and committed fraud of 5.4m/- for the purpose of conducting the training in Singida region.

Liwa was also charged with other person identified as Johnansen Kaimukirwa, a driver in the ministry, who was charged with eight

Gold refinery to open in October



NIDA REGISTRATION CENTRE OVERWHELMED: The National Identification Authority (NIDA) centre in Dar es Salaam's Kawe suburb is literally jammed with people waiting to register for national identity cards before the year-end ultimatum for the biometric re-registration of SIM-cards, as found yesterday afternoon. Sources said that has been the scenario at the centre for weeks now, with many applicants returning home without being attended to for lack of supporting documents or simply because the authorities were overwhelmed by the number of people seeking attention. There was no immediate reaction from NIDA as to whether it would move to stem the tide by at least setting up more centres. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

"There is a lot of gold in Tanzania and the plant will help refine most of it and we are prepared for the challenge ahead," he said, noting that his work from April this year when the company was issued with a licence to build the plant and refine gold, is a clear indication that the company is on the right track.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is set to export fully refined gold in two months time upon completion of the first gold refinery plant now under construction in Dodoma city.

Currently, gold in the country is refined to 70 or up to 85 percent but with the coming of refineries, one in Dodoma and another in the Lake zone, the industrial mineral will now be refined up to 99.9 percent.

The Minister for Minerals, Doto Biteko who toured the prospective plant yesterday said that once operations begin, the country will be able to establish a national gold reserve as called for in the Mining Act.

The reserve will also enable the Bank of

The reserve will also enable the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to purchase and store gold following President John Magufuli's directive mid-2017

Tanzania (BoT) to purchase and store gold following President John Magufuli's directive mid-2017.

"The time has come for Tanzanians to start selling refined gold once the plants start operating and when the other plant in the Lake Zone start too," he said, noting that history will be written and in the future, the country will have lots of gold in reserve just like some developed countries.

At the plant, he was briefed that the construction of the refinery has reached 70 percent and that the remaining work will be completed by October at the latest.

Once the refinery starts work, the government's six percent royalty in gold will be charged in different forms whereby two thirds of the six percent will be in monetary form and the other third in gold, which will later be refined and taken to the reserve.

Ferenc Molnar, the managing director for Eyes Of Africa Limited, the company installing the plant, said while briefing the minister that the work is scheduled to end late September.

From the start, the plant will be able to process at least 30 kilograms per day but this will increase to one tonne per day by late next year

"There is a lot of gold in Tanzania and the

Protect Govt Chemist staff, JPM orders security organs

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday ordered national security organs to protect forensic and chemical technicians at the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) who examine exhibits in high-profile cases.

Speaking during a visit to GCLA offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Magufuli directed that the office which authenticates exhibits of seized narcotic drugs and other contrabands and reports used by prosecution in courts, be empowered to work independently without interference.

"I know that previously you used to

The president applauded the good job being done by GCLA including analysis of narcotic drug exhibits and appearing in courts as prosecution witnesses

analyze exhibits but your reports were being blocked because you had no powers.

Now you have powers, do your work," a statement by the Directorate of Presidential Communications quoted the president as having affirmed.

The office which was established in 1895 by German imperial authorities has since independence operated as a department in the Ministry of Health until 1999 when it changed to Government Chemist Laboratory Agency before becoming an authority in 2016 when the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority Act stated operating.

During the visit, President Magufuli was shown state-of-the-art machines used in

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Ministry consults on toll-free agriculture information unit

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is working with agriculture stakeholders to establish toll-free agro information centre to provide farmers all over the country with extension services via mobile phone.

The initiative bringing together the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) and mobile telephone service providers seeks



to plug the shortage of extension officers, whose number stands at

12,210.

Speaking at a meeting with mobile phone stakeholders to discuss how to implement the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Assistant Director, Extension Services and Research at the ministry, Dr Kisa Kajigili said currently, there were only 8,323 out of 20,533 extension officers required.

In her presentation on the role of ministry in the provision of extension services, she said that

currently, Tanzania has 12,445 villages in 4,247 wards across the country, to show the breadth of need for extension services to optimize production.

The use of information technology system by mobile phones services was likely to bridge the gap in facilitating effective and efficient delivery of quality extension services, she said.

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Protect Govt Chemist staff, JPM orders security organs

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forensic and chemical analysis. He commended the office for a good job done in the DNA analysis relating to recent tragedies including victims of the oil tanker explosion in Morogoro, the statement said.

"The president applauded the good job being done by GCLA including analysis of narcotic drug exhibits and appearing in courts as prosecution witnesses," he said.

The government decided to empower GCLA by purchasing modern equipment, employing more staff and elevating its status to an authority after realizing the important role it plays in DNA analysis and the pursuit of justice, among others.

He directed the GCLA board chairperson, Prof Ester Jason and Chief Government Chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko to oversee the proper use of huge sums of money released by the government for equipment and chemicals.

Speaking earlier, Dr Mafumiko thanked the government for releasing 5.338bn/- which has been used to buy equipment and hiring additional staff, leading to the increase of manpower from 110 to 294.

He said for four years now from 2015, a total of 204,974 samples have been analyzed, an average of 51,244 sample per year—an increase of 510 per cent compared to records of previous years.

Court appearances have also increased from 35 per month in 2015 to 220 in 2019, the statement added.



Hadija Saidi Mwema, Forensic Science and DNA Department manager with the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority, briefs President John Magufuli during the president's visit to the GCLA laboratory in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Ex-Information executive faces fifty counts of fraud, forgery

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counts including forgery and fraud to purposely defraud his employer.

Another state attorney Joseph Kiula said that Liwa the accused person forged a document to show that 18 people attended a youth facilitation seminar in Ruvuma and 17 out of them were paid 32,500/- while the one was paid 65,000/-.

She also allegedly forged an office document to show that a journalist from TBC, Hamza Mashore was paid 750,000/- as allowances for preparation of media work and DVDs.

It was alleged that in September 23, 2015 Liwa, while in the office abused the office and forged a document to show to his employer that she spent total of 10.3m/- for the training.

Kaimukirwa was charged with forging receipts of three filling stations including three receipts of Gapco, two from Oil Com and three from Oryx Gas to show that the first accused bought fuel during the training in Ruvuma district.

It is alleged that in 2015 while serving the office as a driver, he issued false documents showing the cost for transport to and from the training as 2.1m/-, including fuel and other costs.

Both accused persons denied all the charges, and the prosecution told the court that investigation for the case is still ongoing.

The court under the Resident Magistrate Janeth Mtega ordered each accused persons to submit the surety from a recognized institution to sign a bond of 10m/- and to attend to court in the date given.

Both the accused persons met the condition for bail and the case was adjourned up to September 3.

Ministry consults on toll-free agriculture information section

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The director said that since information about agriculture can reach farmers everywhere it is appropriate to use the device to offset the gap of extension officers.

"Promoting the use of innovative ways (ICT mobile phones) to disseminate information to the farmers is crucial to increase productivity," she said.

"Apart from that, there is need to put in place an agriculture extension policy that stands alone instead of a small portion merged in agriculture policy as a whole," she pointed out.

Most countries in Africa do not have agriculture extension policy that stands, she said, insisting that Tanzanian farmers need to change and think of enhancing productivity.

The director hinted that the government was also planning to establish an information centre or desk that plays the role of sending necessary information to farmers.

Dr Kajigila affirmed that Tanzania was leading in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) for established farmers' field schools (FFS) reaching 16,786 in total.

Since FSS were established, it has enhanced productivity from 2.5 tonnes to 6.5 to seven tonnes of paddy per acre while maize yield increased from 1.8 tonnes to four or five tonnes.

On his part, ANSAF Secretary General Audax Rukonge (pictured) said the objective of the workshop was to enhance stakeholders' relationships and understanding of current mobile phone-based solutions for agriculture extension services.

The workshop focused on finding ways to lower costs, improve efficiency and effectiveness of mobile phone based agriculture extension services in order to improve the viability of creating sustainable business models.

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Naliendele researcher Happy Daudi said that at this juncture, there is no escape from deploying ICT to disseminate relevant information to farmers as it has been showed to be successful.

Citing the pilot project implemented in some districts in Mtwara region, she said the use of ICT had enabled farmers in the southern region to get relevant information about markets and proper seeds.

Mobile phone information had enabled farmers them to timely access agricultural experts about animal crop growing or animal keeping.

Patrick Klaos, managing director for Esoko Network Tanzania Ltd expressed similar sentiments, saying that lack of access to quality information for farmers is a big challenge. "We need to strengthen ways of disseminating information to the farmers to offset the gap and increase productivity," he emphasized.

Gold refinery to open in October

FROM PAGE 1

plant will help refine most of it and we are prepared for the challenge ahead," he said, noting that his work from April this year when the company was issued with a licence to build the plant and refine gold, is a clear indication that the company is on the right track.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC) Benilith Mahenge said at the event that the refinery will help create employment for residents and also bring technology among stakeholders in the sector.

"I thank the government, espe-

cially the president for this bold step aimed at improving the minerals sector," he said.

In July, the government said it had awarded licenses for the construction of a minerals smelter and two gold refineries to Chinese firms, in efforts to generate more revenues from the mining industry.

Biteko said the Chinese companies would also soon be awarded licenses for mines, each of which would require investment worth more than \$100 million.

He did not name the firms or give details about the mining or

other projects, an interesting decision as Tanzania is Africa's fourth-biggest gold producer after South Africa, Ghana and Mali.

The government banned the export of mineral sand in March 2017, a concentrate that contains silver, copper, gold and other minerals hitherto unaccounted for, a key aspect in a \$190 billion tax dispute with Acacia Mining, the major gold producer locally.

The government invited bids from mining firms to build smelters and refineries, although the Tanzania Chamber of Mines has said such projects would not be

economical.

Biteko said 37 Chinese companies had expressed interest.

"After carefully assessing the financial capability and history of those companies, we have issued licenses for the construction of two gold refineries and a smelter," he said.

"We will also soon award special mining licenses to two companies to build large-scale mines whose individual investment is above \$100 million," he stated.

The minister was speaking in a State House during which a Kenyan government delegation hand-

ed back 35kg of gold and a pile of currencies it intercepted after the valuables were smuggled out of Tanzania.

The government has set up 28 mineral trading centers since March to ensure that gemstones are sold locally and proper revenue is collected especially from small-scale miners.

Gold worth a total of 136.7 billion/- has been traded through the new auction centers since March and the government has collected 7.7 billion shillings royalty and clearance fees.



Palestine's Ambassador to Tanzania, Hamdi Abuali (R), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on his government's commitment to supporting Tanzania's industrialisation agenda. Photo: Guardian Correspondents

Rwanda earns USD 19.2m from mountain gorilla tracking permits

KIGALI

RWANDA sold 15,132 mountain gorilla permits worth 19.2 million U.S. dollars to tourists in 2018, higher than 15 million dollars sold in 2016 before Rwanda increased the permits price from 750 dollars to 1,500 dollars in 2017, an official from Rwanda De-

velopment Board said yesterday in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda. The country has registered an increase in demand for the tracking permits of the endangered species, said Belise Kariza, chief tourism officer of RDB, while addressing reporters about the upcoming annual baby gorilla naming ceremony

commonly known as Kwita Izina. At least 25 baby gorillas born late last year and this year will be given names in the 15th Kwita Izina ceremony held in Musanze district, northern Rwanda, on September 6, she said.

British supermodel Naomi Elaine Campbell, American singer Shaffer Chimere Smith

popularly known as Ne-Yo, former Dutch football manager and player Louis van Gaal, and former English Premier League Arsenal FC captain Tony Alexander Adams are among those who will participate in this year's event, she added.

Last year, Rwanda hosted 1.71 million visitors, repre-

senting an increase of 8 percent compared to in 2017 due to efforts made by the government to promote Rwanda as a tourist destination in Africa, the official said. The national parks revenues reached over 20 million dollars in 2018, up from over 18 million U.S. dollars recorded the previous year, said Ka-

riza. Mountain gorillas are an endangered species with an estimated over 1,000 remaining in the world. They live in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda and the Virunga Mountains, a range of extinct volcanoes that border the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

South African physician nominated for a second term as WHO's director managing Africa Region

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

THE 47 Member States of the World Health Organization's (WHO) African Region nominated Dr Matshidiso Moeti to serve a second five-year term as Regional Director for Africa.

The nomination took place today during the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, which is the governing mechanism involving health minister from all Member States.

Dr Moeti's candidacy was endorsed by the African Union Executive Council earlier this year.

Her nomination will be ratified by the 146th WHO Executive Board at its January 2020 session. If ratified, her second term will begin 1 March 2020.

"I am very honoured to be nominated for a second term as Regional Director for Africa," said Dr Moeti. "During the past five years, I have worked to transform the WHO Secretariat so that we better respond to the health needs of millions of Africans.

This nomination is an endorsement of the many achievements we have reached together with health ministries. I intend for us to scale more mountains together over the next five years." During her first term, Africa made significant advances in health. When Dr Moeti was elected in 2015, the region was in the throes of the West African Ebola outbreak.

Through the concerted efforts of WHO, governments and partners, the three affected countries - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - ended the outbreak by December of that year. A WHO Health Emergencies Programme was launched in 2016. In 2018, WHO and partners supported emergency responses to more than 160 public health events in more than 40 countries.

"The WHO Secretariat is now better organized, resourced and equipped to support Member States to detect and rapidly respond to epidemics and ensure health security in the region," said Dr Moeti.

The regional universal health coverage flagship programme was launched in 2017 to promote concrete country actions to ensure that everyone can access the care they need without financial hardship. By December 2018, 40 Member States had comprehensive national health policies and plans jointly assessed with partners and in line with national development plans.

In her acceptance remarks, Dr Moeti pledged her continued commitment to transforming the WHO Secretariat as it works with countries in tackling the health challenges facing the region. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, congratulated Dr Moeti on her re-nomination.



A police detective (R) escorts Esta Liwa, a former assistant director in the Information, Culture, Arts and Sports ministry, to the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The latter faces 22 counts, including forgery. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Call made to Tanzanians to visit Kalambo reserve

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

THE Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) board chairman Brigadier General Mbaraka Mkeremy has encouraged Tanzanians to visit the Kalambo Forest Reserve to witness and learn various attractions including the waterfalls available in the bloc.

The Kalambo Falls on the Kalambo River is a 772-foot single-drop waterfall on the border of Zambia and Tanzania at the southeast end of Lake Tanganyika. The falls are some of the tallest uninterrupted falls in Africa.

Speaking during his visit to the reserve, Mkeremy said Kalambo Falls are one of the most attractive tourist attractions that should be promoted and heavily invested in a bid to attract many local and foreign visitors from around the world.

According to him, the government's decision to upgrade the forest to become a reserve was aimed to make sure that the waterfalls are preserved for present and future generations but also promote tourism.

He said that the government will continue supervising well the resources available in forests for the country sustainable development.

According to him, authorities of late been busy strategizing to improve and put all necessary infrastructures in the waterfalls located in Kapozwa village on the border between Tanzania and Zambia so as to attract more tourists inside and outside the country.

"I encourage the locals

here and others across the country to come and witness the World heritage site as announced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)," he said.

Mkeremy commended TFS for putting up key infrastructures including building stairs which goes down to waterfalls with wonderful viewpoints.

For his part, TFS Chief Executive Officer Prof Dos Santos Silayo TFS has set strategies to make sure that forests inject more revenues through tourism and selling of forest products.

"We are well prepared to market well all the attractions available in the forest sector to stimulate tourism growth in the country," he said.

The Kalambo Falls are among some of the tallest uninterrupted falls in Africa namely South Africa's Tugela Falls, Ethiopia's Jin Bahir Falls and others.

Downstream of the falls is the Kalambo Gorge, which has a width of about 1 km and a depth of up to 300 m, running for about 5 km before opening out into the Lake Tanganyika rift valley.

Kalambo Falls is also considered one of the most important archaeological sites in Africa, with occupation spanning over 250,000 years.

We are well prepared to market well all the attractions available in the forest sector

S. Africa welcomes SADC adoption of Kiswahili as its working language

JOHANNESBURG

THE Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) on Tuesday welcomed the declaration by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to adopt Kiswahili as its fourth official language of communication.

PanSALB, an organization established by the parliament to promote multilingualism, said Kiswahili becomes the first indigenous language to be used by the bloc as an official language at inter-state level.

"This milestone achievement towards recognition and elevation of indigenous African languages across the SADC region forms part of the greater effort in ensuring development, usage and intellectualization of our heritage languages," said the chairperson of the board David Maahlamela.

He said Kiswahili is an impeccable point of departure in safeguarding integrative multilingualism inclusive of indig-

enous languages.

Maahlamela pointed out that Kiswahili is one of the African Union's official languages and the official language of Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda with over 100 million speakers. He believed the language will help unite and integrate the region.

"PanSALB's vision for language planning stems on intellectualization of indigenous languages on four spheres, that is,

provincial, national, regional and continental level. Kiswahili is inevitably well-positioned to integrate the SADC region thus we fully support this long overdue resolution," he said.

SADC last week adopted Kiswahili as one of its languages at the the SADC 39th heads of summit in Tanzania. Other SADC official languages are English, Portuguese and French.



Call for proposals: Green Growth Consultant

The Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust was established in the year 2000 under the agricultural Sector Program Support.

PASS currently operates as an independent organization, operating as a service provider linking the agricultural and financial sectors. Our main objective is to facilitate access to financial and agribusiness development services for agribusiness entrepreneurs covering the entire agribusiness value chain.

Our clients comprise of individual agribusiness entrepreneurs, associations/ groups of smallholder farmers and companies engaged in the agricultural sector. We among other things, assist our clients in developing solid and bankable investment project write ups, and facilitate access to finance through credit guarantee schemes that we operate with commercial banks.

In order to achieve long-term and inclusive growth in agriculture, PASS is aware that attention is needed to ensure responsible development of the sector. One key area of focus is sustainable management of natural resources and minimizing damage to the environment and people in supported projects.

To this end, PASS has incorporated in its 5-year strategy to build a strong green profile and has developed various guidelines and policies to contribute to inclusive and green growth in agriculture, including a policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability.

Assignment

PASS is now seeking the services of a technical consultant to work under a short-term assignment for purposes of developing a Strategy for Green Growth as well as a plan for implementation of the commitments made. The strategy is expected to provide directions to how PASS can incorporate the concept of Green Growth in our operations bringing together existing policies, guidelines and collaborations.

For more information on this assignment, visit www.pass.or.tz



TITLE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY OF TANZANIA INSTANT PAYMENT SYSTEM (TIPS) HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TO THE FINANCIAL SECTOR DEEPENING TRUST (FSDT) ON BEHALF OF THE BANK OF TANZANIA TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) was incorporated in Tanzania on 1st July 2004. The FSDT's overall aim is to make contribution to All Tanzanians to (derive value) from regular use of financial services which are delivered with dignity and fairness. FSDT's objective are:

1. Advocating for an improved policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework at national and sub-national levels of financial services
2. Promoting more relevant market infrastructure and ways to reduce transaction costs between FSPs and potential clients
3. Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of MSMEs
4. Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of households and individual.

FSDT, is facilitating the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in developing and implementing the Tanzania Instant Payment System (TIPS), that is an Interoperable national real time payment platform to be used by all Financial Services Providers

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Financial Deepening Trust Fund on behalf of the Bank of Tanzania, intends to acquire a Supplier(s) to provide the Hardware and/or Software to BoT that will host and support TIPS operations

3. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Supplying at the most competitive rates, the software and/or hardware based on the specifications provided in Annex 1 and Annex 2.
2. Providing Technical Support as and when needed, so as to ensure the software and hardware is correctly installed and configured works as required
3. Providing training and support to a maximum of 5 selected Bank of Tanzania staff on installation, configuration and effectively using the hardware and software as well as providing manuals
4. Provide three (3) months post implementation/installation support

4. SUBMISSION

The deadline for submission of the proposal documents is 1600hours EAT on the 30 August 2019. Submission after this time will not be considered

For more details on application requirements, full scope of work and detailed requirements visit www.fsd.or.tz/opportunities. We only consider applications that adhere to expression of interest requirements.



42 - JOB POSITION

An international dairy company is looking for young ambitious people who are ready to perform all aspects of sales and marketing and distributorship.

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Contact number: 0765 730425

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Ugandan, Congolese security forces agree on joint operations in Lake Albert waters

KAMPALA

SECURITY teams from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have agreed to carry out joint operations on Lake Albert in a bid to stop militiamen from attacking fishermen.

Shuaib Toko, Resident District Commissioner for Pakwach, said yesterday that representatives from the Ugandan army, police and immigration met a security team from the Congolese territory of Mahagi on Monday. The meeting took place in Pakwach in northwestern Uganda.

"The meeting followed the arrest of Congolese militiamen who are still in Ugandan police custody. During the meeting, we agreed that security operations be suspended for now and where necessary, they should be carried out jointly," Toko said.

He said the decision was reached following reports that Congolese militiamen who claimed to be govern-

ment operatives robbed Ugandan fishermen.

"We need to ensure that our citizens are not being harassed. If there is any illegal activity on the waters, we shall tackle it jointly," Toko added.

He said the teams also agreed to restrain their countrymen from attacking citizens of other countries and that regular cross-border meetings would be held to share intelligence information.

Nine Congolese militiamen were arrested by Ugandan security on Saturday following an outcry by Ugandan fishermen.

The militia are said to have confiscated boat engines and fishing nets from the Ugandan fishermen and later asked for ransom of about 200 U.S. dollars per person.

Toko said the meeting also agreed that all stolen items, including boat engines and fishing nets, should be returned to their owners by the militiamen.



AKM Glitters Co. Ltd marketing manager Dofrian John (L) speaks at a seminar held in Dodoma yesterday for poultry breeders and the firm's agents from Dodoma, Katavi, Kigoma, Singida and Tabora regions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

WHO: Make pandemic preparedness in Africa affordable

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has asked African countries to make 'pandemic preparedness' more affordable for people on the continent in a new strategy document.

Pandemic preparedness in Africa is estimated to cost \$2.5 - 3.5 per person annually according to the Regional Strategy for Inte-

grated Disease Surveillance And Response (IDSR strategy), prepared by the WHO.

A pandemic is an epidemic (an outbreak of an infectious disease) that spreads worldwide or at least across a large region.

Preparedness for pandemics refers to health and non-health interventions, capabilities, and capacities at the levels of community, country, regional, and

global levels.

Their purpose is to prevent, detect, contain and respond to the spread of disease and other hazards, mitigating social disruptions and limiting risks to international travel and trade.

Pandemics can be very disruptive. Even a moderately severe pandemic could have a potential global economic impact of \$500 billion, or 0.6 per cent of global

income. In contrast, the cost of adequately preparing for a global pandemic is estimated at \$4.5 billion, or less than \$1 per person per year. Unfortunately, according to the WHO, most countries are grossly underprepared for – and underinvested in – infrastructure designed to mitigate a pandemic crisis.

Which also means that the pandemic preparedness per per-

son per year in Africa is expensive rather than affordable.

That is why, investing in pandemic preparedness is an affordable public health good for Africa, said the IDSR strategy document.

The document, which has been accessed by Down to Earth will be presented to the Regional Committee For Africa for review at the five days-long WHO African

regional meeting which begins on August 19, 2019, in Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo.

All of the 47 member states within the WHO's African Region are at risk of health security threats. Infectious diseases account for 80 per cent of over 100 public health emergencies reported annually by these states. Emerging and re-emerging pathogens are of particular concern.

For example, the recent outbreak of Ebola in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) killed 1,808 people out of 2,765 confirmed cases.

This outbreak of Ebola, which started in August last year, is the second largest in history. Along with Ebola, Measles too has killed 2,758 people in the DRC since January, more than the Ebola epidemic in a year.



Home Affairs ministry permanent secretary Major General Jacob Kingu briefs members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security in Dodoma yesterday tables a statement on the state of security in the country before. Right is Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Private sector key to success on sustainability agenda, says UN

NAIROBI

KENYA should harness capital, technologies and manpower from the private sector to hasten attainment of sustainable development goals (SDGs), a UN official said yesterday.

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Kenya said the government should partner with businesses to scale up investments that advance inclusive

and green growth.

"The private sector in Kenya can tap into investment opportunities that sustainable development goals provide especially in areas like health-care, education, affordable housing and food security," said Chatterjee.

He spoke at a forum on the role of businesses in the promotion of UN 2030 goals organized by Kenya's telecommunications firm, Safaricom ahead of launch of its annual sustainability report later in

the week.

Chatterjee said that a conducive policy and regulatory environment is a prerequisite to facilitate private sector investments in sectors that promote equitable growth and environmental sustainability.

"Both large and medium-sized enterprises can channel investments in maternal health, clean water, shelter and climate resilient farming. Such investments will have positive economic and social impacts," said Chatterjee.

He said that universal health coverage that is part of Kenya's four development blue prints present myriad investment opportunities to the private sector.

"We require businesses to invest in technologies and innovations that seek to expand coverage to both preventive and curative healthcare in rural areas," said Chatterjee.

He urged businesses to be at the forefront of climate response in Kenya through investments in green energy

solutions like solar and wind.

Sanda Ojiambo, head of corporate responsibility at Safaricom said that Kenyan listed companies have embraced sustainable practices given their financial and reputational benefits.

"We are convinced that long-term sustainability of our business is dependent on adoption of practices that promote environmental health, gender parity, diversity and innovations," said Ojiambo.

Journey towards the greening of Dodoma gets 303m/- boost from Vodacom Tanzania Foundation

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania Foundation (VTF) has signed a grant agreement with the World Wide Fund for Nature to provide 303m/- that will go towards the 'Greening Dodoma project' that is championed by the Vice President's Office and supported by WWF.

The signing ceremony was held today at the WWF head offices in Dar es Salaam and witnessed by Environmental Officer from Vice President's Office Union and Environment Dr Thomas Bwana who represented the Deputy permanent Secretary Ambassador Joseph Sokoine.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Bwana, applauded Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) initiative to address climate change in Tanzania. He further noted that he is pleased to see corporates and NGO's partnering to work towards achieving SDG 13 on climate Action.

"With 80 per cent of the population dependent on environmental and natural resources for income generation, the protection of natural resources becomes a critical success factor in our nation's planned economic development.

The government has put in place concerted efforts to address the effects of climate change in Tanzania and ensure that communities adapt to climate change thus we applaud this partnership and encourage more," he said.

Dr Bwana added that the government plans to plant 280 million trees every year to support the national tree planting and management initiatives of making the country green.

For her part, Vodacom Tanzania Foundation Director, Rosalynn Mworira said they are excited about the new project which is a result of the Foundation's new strategic plan 2019/21.

Advocating for the promotion of climate action for a sustainable en-

vironment is one of the foundation's pillars in the new strategy.

"As a purpose led organisation our vision is to connect for better meaning through our work, we hope to create a digital society, focusing on social inclusion and working for the planet by halving our environmental impact. This project aims to green Dodoma but also we hope for increased number of climate action/climate smart activities as a result of awareness and social mobilisation," said Mworira.

Speaking on the partnership, WWF Tanzania Country Director, Dr Amani Ngusuru said the fund will be directed towards supporting the government's efforts towards Greening Dodoma' that expects to plant 100,000 trees in the first year and create one garden in the country's capital city as well as increase awareness and social mobilisation for eco-friendly programmes through training women and youth groups on the production and use of alternative to plastic bag carriers and waste management as economic empowerment activities.

"We are committed to developing meaningful and sustainable projects addressing environmental and social challenges in Tanzania. We thank Vodacom Tanzania Foundation for extending a helping hand in achieving our initiatives.

The effects of climate change are visible across the country, hence restoration of ecosystems and natural resources protection is critical in the mitigation of the devastating impacts on livelihoods and effective execution of this project will be a major milestone in tackling these challenges," added Dr Ngusuru.

The project dubbed "living in harmony with nature" kicks off in September 2019 in Dodoma and will be implemented in collaboration with the Vice president's Office (environment), The Dodoma City Council and Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).



CBRT chief executive officer Brenda Msangi (2nd-R) and Equinor Tanzania representative Dr Mette Halvorsen Otto (3rd-L) with Lindi regional commissioner Godfrey Zambi (3rd-R) in Lindi municipality yesterday shortly after the launch of a two-year obstetric fistula treatment programme in Lindi Region funded by Equinor Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Danish makes support difference in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW report has unveiled that Denmark's support over the years has made a real impact in Tanzania, particularly in regards to local farmers gaining access to loans and credit - via the private agricultural sector support (PASS).

"PASS is both relevant and additional as a financial instrument within the agriculture sector of Tanzania. It currently serves about 166,000 end-clients (farmers), and hereby an estimated 940,000 household members, mainly by providing a guarantee to their bank," the report said.

"Since its incorporation, PASS has been and remains both relevant and additional. PASS operations contribute to the goals of the government of Tanzania in economic development as well as those of the government of Denmark."

However, the report also found that for PASS to become redundant - which is the ultimate goal of PASS - commercial financial institutions are required to step up and replace it.

Alas, Tanzania's traditional banks and credit institutions remain conservative when it comes to supporting agriculture, which they associate with unpredictable risks such as disease and drought.

And that's a problem in Tanzania, where 70 percent of the population are sustained through agriculture, but where the sector only accounts for 30 percent of the country's GDP. Poor access to loans and credit is one of the biggest hurdles facing a transition of the sector towards more growth and a poverty reduction.

One of the recommendations of the report is for PASS to significantly improve its ability to collect and treat data - a digitalisation of the collection and processing needs to be ushered in.

Since 2000, Denmark has dedicated 326 million kroner in aid to PASS in Tanzania. The current aid phase is scheduled to expire this year and a new phase is being planned from 2020.

PASS is established to stimulate growth and investment in the agricultural and Agro-Business in Tanzania.

Committer bus drivers, conductors donate cash to victims of Moro fire

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

AN Association of Commuter Bus Drivers and Conductors in Morogoro has donated 500,000/- and blood bottles 70 to the victims of fuel tanker fire tragedy.

Association's chairman Hemed Shabaan handed over the donation to the Morogoro regional secretary (RAS) Noel Kazimoto.

"Soon after the tragedy, group members mobilised themselves and donated 70 bottles of blood and 500,000/- cash to assist the victims who are nursing wounds at the Morogoro Regional Hospital," he said.

The association is made up of commuter bus drivers and conductors plying between Kihonda and Morogoro town, Mzumbe and Morogoro town, Mazimbu and Morogoro town, Bigwa and Morogoro town, Doma and Morogoro town, and Mzinga and Morogoro town.

For his part, Kazimoto commended the association for their donations, calling other associations to emulate the drivers and drivers union of assisting the needy.

"As government, we're very happy to receive your support and I can assure you that we'll continue working together in different aspects," he said.

Regional Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Rita Lyamuya also thanked a group, saying that the remaining 16 fire victims were responding well to treatment.

The death toll for the fuel tanker fire accident has reached 98.

NBTS praises blood donors, encourages more donations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) Eastern Zone has sent a special thank-you to donors who volunteered to donate blood for survivors of the recently oil tanker explosion in Morogoro Region, highlighting the importance of their gesture and encourage them to donate more.

Inspired by the positive response from Dar es Salaam residents who volunteered in good number to support the recently ended three day blood donation drive held at Mbagala Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam, Blood Donor Recruiter with the NBTS Eastern Zone, Mariam Juma said at least 155 units were collected and lives could potentially be saved.

"We received remarkable

support from the permanent residents and visitors alike. Of those, many were first-time donors," she noted during her wind up interview on the three-day successful initiative.

The three-day initiative at the busy area in the City was organised by the NBTS in partnership with Exim Bank Tanzania. A special thank-you to the donors comprised of both community members and the bank's staff who took the time to support the noble deed.

Applauding the bank's dedication towards blood donation drive, Juma urged the bank to continue being the country's blood ambassador and inspire many more institutions and individuals to join the live saving mission.

She said a constant supply of donors is necessary to ensure

the blood bank has blood every day. "Blood is a lifesaving product. We encourage people to donate blood as frequently as they can," she added.

Immediately after the immense tragedy in Morogoro region last weekend, blood donation was the most important thing to be done by Tanzanians as most burn patients require replacement of most blood and water lost during wound dressing services. Community members from Morogoro, Dar es Salaam and other parts of the country brought hope by showing up in masses to lend an arm.

Apart from the Mbagala blood donation initiative by the two entities, many people have kept on donating blood at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), more is still needed though.



SWISSPORT TANZANIA PLC UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

Commentary

The Board of Directors of Swissport Tanzania Plc is pleased to present the un-audited financial results for the six months ended 30th June 2019. During this period revenue decreased from TZS 25,088M to TZS 17,240M and total operating costs decreased from TZS 17,633M to TZS 14,075M. As a result, net profit dropped to TZS 2,281M from TZS 4,947M reported in 2018. The decrease in revenue was attributed by the decline yield in the ground handling business, reduced flight frequencies by some of our airline customers, reduced business volume and the cessation of business by Fastjet Airlines Tanzania Ltd. Consequently, the overall financial results of the Company was negatively affected. Several cost saving initiatives were taken by the management to improve the financial results of the Company.

Dividend to shareholders

The Board has decided not to declare interim dividend to enable the Company to meet its maturing obligations.

Future outlook

No further decline of business volume or yield is expected. We anticipate our airline customers to continue operating as per their presented plans while Cargo volume shall remain stable. We therefore envisaged the financial performance for the second to be in line with the first six months. To cope with the changing and demanding business environment, we continue enhancing operational performance, control our operating and overhead costs, investing in ground handling equipment, facilities, technology and human resources development to make sure we exceed customers' expectations and provide a better working environment to our staff.

Mark Skinner

Mark Skinner
Board Chairman

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For Six Months Ended 30 June	2019 TZS M	2018 TZS M	% Change
Revenue	17,123	25,029	-32%
Other operating income	117	59	98%
Total revenue	17,240	25,088	-31%
Total operating expenses	(14,075)	(17,633)	-20%
Operating profit	3,165	7,455	-58%
Finance costs	(281)	(657)	-57%
Profit before income tax	2,884	6,798	-58%
Income tax expense	(603)	(1,851)	-67%
Profit for the period	2,281	4,947	-54%
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,281	4,947	-54%
Earnings per share	63	137	-54%
Dividend per share	-	-	0%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at	30 Jun 19 TZS M	30 Jun 18 TZS M	% Change
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Intangible asset	18,692	20,529	-9%
Property and equipment	15,880	12,896	23%
Deferred tax assets	562	289	94%
Staff receivables	83	110	-25%
35,217	33,824	4%	
Current assets			
Inventories	333	334	0%
Trade and other receivables	6,724	8,641	-22%
Income tax recoverable	358	861	-58%
Cash and cash equivalents	2,677	5,572	-52%
10,092	15,408	-35%	
Total assets	45,309	49,232	-8%
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Share capital	360	360	0%
Retained earnings	30,272	30,479	-1%
30,632	30,839	-1%	
Non-current liabilities			
Retirement benefit obligations	2,661	3,360	-21%
Lease liabilities (IFRS 16)	889	-	100%
Bank Loan (Non-current portion)	-	701	-100%
3,550	4,061	-13%	
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	4,929	6,263	-21%
Bank Loan (Current Portion)	-	2,102	-100%
Dividends payable	5,623	5,967	-6%
Lease liabilities (IFRS 16)	575	-	-
11,127	14,332	-22%	
Total equity and liabilities	45,309	49,232	-8%

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For Six Months Ended 30 June	2019 TZS M	2018 TZS M
Profit before income tax	2,884	6,798
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	1,579	1,223
Amortization of Intangible Assets	1,145	1,205
Provision for retirement benefit obligations	610	350
Interest Expense	-	157
Working capital adjustment		
Decrease/ (Increase) in inventories	1	(45)
Decrease in trade and other receivables	2,446	2,979
Decrease in trade and other payables	(1,334)	(2,474)
Retirement benefit obligations paid	(791)	(598)
Income tax paid	(1,046)	(1,504)
Interest paid	-	(157)
Cash generated from operating activities	5,494	7,934
Investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,131)	(1,460)
Cash used in investing activities	(2,131)	(1,460)
Financing activities		
Dividends paid to Company's shareholders	(1,495)	(3,811)
Repayment of loan from bank	(2,101)	(1,795)
Cash used in financing activities	(3,596)	(5,606)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(233)	868
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	2,910	4,704
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	2,677	5,572



From landing to take-off: we care!

Mark Skinner
Mark Skinner
Board Chairman

Mirisha Yassin
Mirisha Yassin
Chief Executive Officer

Imani Mtaya
Imani Mtaya
Chief Financial Officer

ITA and JICA conduct seminar for TRA staff

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has conducted five day training for TRA staff on how to effectively collect tax in the construction sector.

"The training will ensure availability of a good number of experts for tax collection in the construction sector", said the Deputy Rector of ITA, Dr. Lewis Ishemol, when opening the training on behalf of the college rector.

The rector added that, the training will build capacity to TRA staff who expected to acquire professional experience from Japanese experts.

Dr Ishemol has also thanked the Japanese government through JICA for funding the training and various other projects in building capacity for TRA staff.

Earlier, Emmanuel Masalu of ITA, said that, the goal of the training is to help staffs to understand the entire system of the construction sector, as well as the key activities in the industry, to understand the chain value and identifying key stakeholders in construction activities.

"Due to the fact that construction area is one of the fastest growing sectors in the country, therefore the training will facilitate staffs to easily identify

fy the key area for tax collection from the sector", Masalu said.

Adding that, the trainee will also offer better understanding of international taxes and then come up with new skills to collect international taxes due to the existence of many projects in the country that are run by multinational companies such as construction companies from China and Turkey.

Masalu said, along with the training, participants will also gain experience in the tax collection from Japanese trainers a country that has made great strides in the construction industry.

The training is a continuation of TRA staff training in tax collection from the fast-growing sectors of construction, communications, oil and gas.

The five day training taking place at ITA, involves TRA staff from various regions in the country.

Due to the fact that construction area is one of the fastest growing sectors in the country, therefore the training will facilitate staffs to easily identify the key area for



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Paul Makonda addresses journalists in the city yesterday, chiefly to congratulate President Dr John Pombe Magufuli on his assumption of the Southern African Development Community

Afrobarometer: Climate change literacy still low in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE the fact that Africa bears the brunt when it comes to erratic global weather patterns, many people are still unfamiliar with the climate change phenomenon, a new survey reveals.

The recent havoc caused by tropical cyclone Idai which struck the southern African countries of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi is a grim reminder that Africa remains the

most vulnerable continent as far as climate change mitigation is concerned.

A new survey released by Afrobarometer paints a bleak picture of how agriculture conditions are worsening due to delayed rainfall, decreasing quality of life and most surprising of all, little or no knowledge at all about the impact of climate change.

The research discovered that out of the 34 African countries surveyed, respondents in 30

countries said agricultural production had greatly declined as a result of drought over the past decade.

"Farmers in Uganda have been waiting endlessly for rain, and South Africa has experienced excessive flooding," Gugu Nonjenge, Afrobarometer Communications Coordinator for Southern Africa, told DW. "These [unusual weather patterns] shows long term changes in temperatures that ultimately affect rainfall patterns and the ability for Af-

rica as a whole to produce food."

In the survey, 'climate change literacy' was described as the perception that the respondent knows about climate change, he or she links it to negative changing weather patterns and recognizes that human activity plays a huge role in climate change due to greenhouse emission.

Whereas 58% of Africans said they had heard about climate change, four in ten admitted that they had never heard of the term before.

"Afrobarometer identified those working in agricultural sector in the rural areas, the poor, women and the less educated as those unaware about climate change," Nonjenge said.

The majority who knew and understood what climate change is said changing weather patterns had made life worse in their respective countries. "Climate change is defining the development challenge of our time in Africa," Afrobarometer's spokesperson Nonjenge said.

"Our continent is the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change." Interestingly, the survey found out that key issues such as water scarcity, food security and agriculture which were raised by those being interviewed are directly connected to climate change.

Africa is a signatory to several international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. These global pacts seek to fight and reverse the ef-

fects of climate change.

The Afrobarometer survey on climate change recommends that African governments, policymakers and activists, to create more awareness especially among those with little knowledge about climate change. The report concludes that this will help build an informed population that understands climate change threats and will support coordinated government and international action.

SRI benefits for environmental health

SEATTLE

ENVIRONMENTAL health is the area of public health dedicated to disease prevention, harm and disability caused by interactions between the environment and people.

In a single year, 23 percent of deaths worldwide are the result of preventable environmental factors such as exposure to hazardous substances in food, soil, water and air.

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) benefits for environmental health can be found in rice farming; however, other crops are applicable to the principles and methodology as well.

SRI farming originated in Madagascar in the 1980s. Initially rejected, SRI is now a commended alternative to traditional rice farming. The central SRI principles include establishing healthy plants early and quickly, reducing the density of plants, enriching the soil with organic matter to improve it and reducing and controlling farmers' use of water.

Henri de Lalanie, a Jesuit priest, noticed a 20 to 200 percent increase in crop yield while using 50 percent less water. He achieved this by reducing the number of seeds planted and using fertilizer composed of organic matter. Instead of flooding the rice plants, he alternated between keeping them wet and dry.

Farmers in Africa, Cambodia, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam also reported large increases in their yield.

The benefits of SRI have been shown in multiple countries. These countries have seen an increase of 20 to 100 percent rice production, up to 90 percent less required seed reduction and up to 50 percent less water usage. Having been described as a "scale-neutral" process, SRI holds the potential to capitalize on the basic biological processes varying by crop.

Other systems are System for Wheat Intensifi-

cation (SWI) in India, Mali and Ethiopia; Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) in India; System of Ragi Intensification (SRI) in India and System of Teff Intensification (STI) in Ethiopia. In general, the basic principles of SRI can be applied to any crop, which can be then called System of Crop Intensification (SCI).

Considering agriculture is one of the biggest global industries, the potential for a positive impact by partly implementing smart, eco-driven methods could be game-changing. Sustainable management of agriculture can contribute to "preserve and restore critical habitats, help protect watersheds and improve soil health and water quality," SRI increases sustainable farming.

Every day, there is constant interaction between humans and the environment. Consequently, these interactions ultimately impact a person's quality of life and health. SRI benefits environmental health through improvements made on the quality of surface and groundwater, a vital element of public health for consumers and farmers. By improving soil conditions, SRI hits one of the many themes of environmental health. SRI partially achieves this by reducing using agrochemicals.

Reducing methane emissions can also help achieve better air quality. Classically, rice paddies release methane into the air, ultimately contributing to poor air quality. Smart eco-agriculture methods like SRI prevent these emissions from entering the air.

Farmers are at an increased risk of methane exposure, especially rice farmers. A few negative yet mild effects of methane on human health are eye and skin burns.

Farmers, especially, experience the detrimental effects of methane from animal waste and digestion. More specifically, rice farmers experience negative effects because of the methane released from rice paddies.



NMB Bank northern zone manager Aikansia Muro takes entrepreneurs through the basics of financial independence at a Business Club seminar organised by the bank in Tanga city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

German embassy contributes 8m/- for renovation of WW1 soldiers' graveyard

By Correspondent Ibrahim Bakari

GERMAN embassy in the country has contributed over 8m/- to the Tanga-based non government organization dealing with development and education (TADEME) to renovate the World War One (WW1) soldiers' graveyard at Sakarani Park

in Tanga city.

Popular known as Tanga Memorial Cemetery, the area was selected to bury remains of soldiers who fought for Germany's side against British during the WW1. TADEME assistant chairman Ahmed Kea told this paper that the renovation work will take around eight weeks

for completion. According to him, the move is aimed to reinstate memory of the soldiers who fought that first global war but also cement harmonic relationship between Germany and Tanga City due to the long established history of the two sides.

He further noted that the renovation of those graves is the part

of the organization's roles in implementing development projects.

He added that; "officials from the embassy offices visited the graveyard and saw the possibility for the renovation because now the place is used by gangsters to planning crimes including stealing the installed iron bars and

demolition of tombs."

He further called Tanga residents and others across the country to build a culture of visiting the memorial graves as learning historical and cultural tourism. History shows that at the outbreak of the First World War Tanzania was the core of German East Africa. From the invasion of

April 1915, Commonwealth forces fought a protracted and difficult campaign against a relatively small but highly skilled German force under the command of General von Lettow-Vorbeck. When the Germans finally surrendered on 23 November 1918, twelve days after the European armistice, their numbers had

been reduced to 155 European and 1,168 African troops.

Tanga was eventually occupied by a Commonwealth force almost without opposition on 7 July 1916, and the bodies of 270 officers and men who had been killed in the earlier attack were reburied in Tanga Memorial Cemetery.

African entrepreneurs spot opportunity in green business

By Franck Kuwona, Accra

THE youth are the driving force for action on climate and the environment. That was the message hammered home to delegates at Africa Climate Week in March 2019, the first of three annual regional climate events ahead of the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit to be held in September this year.

Africa Climate Week was held in Accra, Ghana, and organised by the government of Ghana and partner organisations, including the Nairobi Framework Partnership, which supports developing countries in preparing and implementing their plans to address climate change.

During the week, young local climate activists displayed colourful placards that read "Zero waste is sexy, Act now" and "Plastic or Paper = Tree cutting, Act now," among other slogans.

Many of these young Africans, who participated in the Africa Climate Week, have been launching start-ups that address climate change, protect the environment and provide jobs.

Some of the innovative businesses showcased during the conference include a bamboo bike initiative that taps into the ecological potential of bamboo trees, a plastic recycling company, and a project that recycles used tires and denim, turning waste into shoes while at the same time combating environmental degradation. Below are some of the innovative businesses:

Koliko Wear: from used fabrics to high-fashion footwear

He had been helping a friend to turn around his shoemaking business before he delved into eco-fashion, manufacturing shoes from used materials.

"I am a banker by profession, but now I'm a shoemaker. I use recycled materials to make shoes," Peter Kwaku Anowie told Africa Renewal.

Anowie's Koliko Wear enterprise makes shoes out of used jeans, furniture woolens, bed sheets, jute sacks, and rubber from used car tires.

For him the transition from banking to entrepreneurship happened by chance. He said, "I am from Takoradi, in western Ghana. One day I chanced upon a shoemaker friend whose business was collapsing. I told him I could as-



sist by investing some small capital in his business, so that he can continue to operate."

Later, realising shoemaking could be profitable, Anowie decided to go all in. "I saw that it was a cool and creative business, and I just resigned from my banking job to get involved in the shoemaking business fulltime. I am a business administration student and I majored in banking finance, so I have some knowledge of business."

Anowie also wanted to establish something that could train the youth and "show them how to be financially independent, how to get something going so that they can improve their living standards."

Three years in, the business currently employs about a dozen people. "I am very happy because I see that other people around are being trained in the shoemaking business. They are not just earning money for themselves, they are also able to take care of their friends and extended family."

As with other eco-start-ups in Ghana, the people involved in KolikoWear aim to scale up to have more of an impact on society. The Ghana Climate Change Innovation Centre (GCCIC) is providing support, training and other technical assistance.

"I just signed on to GCCIC last year, and yes, they've been supportive, making sure that all my books are up to date to attract investors," said Anowie.

"How best can we utilise our own local raw material such as bamboo to create employment as an inclusive business model—a business that can tackle environmental issues, social and economic issues?" That was the question on the mind of Bernice Dapaah when she founded the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative (GBBI) a decade ago.

Located in Kumasi in southern Ghana, GBBI employs about 50 workers, mostly women. It produces and sells handmade bicycles for between \$150 and \$300 a piece.

"We have different types of bikes. We have the bikes suitable for men and those suitable for women. We also have mountain, road and city bikes, as well as cargo bikes that farmers use to carry goods," Dapaah said.

In 2018, the company manufactured about 1,000 bikes, having steadily increased production over the years. "We hope to do more this year as we are going to expand our workshop and train more youth for production," she said. In the coming years the company intends to produce electric bamboo bicycles, electric

bamboo bike ambulances, and bamboo bike pedicabs, among other models.

"Currently, the bikes are about 75% to 80% bamboo. The body is made of bamboo, but wheels and engine are the regular ones like in other bikes," Dapaah explained. For her, the bamboo initiative is more than a business; it is also about women's empowerment.

Overall, Dapaah is glad that the business is not "just an environmental symbol. We are also cultivating bamboo to feed the industry. We are also creating a space for the carbon balance. That is what we are doing. We hope to do more in the future."

"One of the things our people are not always aware of is that it takes hundreds of years for plastics to decompose in the soil. And it takes a long while before its effects are felt, and by then, the harm is so bad that it can't be controlled—because the emissions will be very high," Wisdom Kafui Honu told Africa Renewal.

Honu, who is the cofounder of Coliba Ventures, a plastic waste-collection venture based in Accra, Ghana, was talking about how he became an environmental entrepreneur. It all began with a personal tragedy when one of his friends drowned in a flash flood. At the root of the tragedy was plastic-clogged drainage.

"It was in June 2015. My friend was waiting for me and I was late to the rendezvous. It started raining and the junction he was standing at quickly flooded, turning into a deadly torrent, destroying properties, sweeping cars away and drowning passersby in the process," he said.

More than 50 people were killed that day. "The rain was torrential," Honu remembered. "But the drainage system was clogged by plastic waste."

Devasted by the loss of his friend, Honu said he asked himself, "Instead of just mourning, why not do something about the situation? Why not solve the problem now, why not recycle the plastics that take so much time to decay?"

He went on to cofound Coliba Ventures, a company he described as "a complete plastic recovery and collection service." It also educates people used to lumping plastics and other wastes together on how to separate them.

"It has been one of the toughest initiatives ever because this is a behavioural pattern that people have lived with for so many years and it is very hard to ask people to change their minds and ways," he said.

The company offers rewards of vouchers for fuel or for mobile internet credit to households that are willing to be part of the recycling movement. Honu said they tell people, "Give us your plastic waste and we give you a voucher to fuel your car."

Honu added that "people who earn less than \$5 a day give us their plastic waste and we give them money or data. The only thing you have to do is to make sure you present your plastic waste to us or you make sure we pick it up from you. Then you decide which rewards you want."

The company then deliver the collected plastics to recycling companies.

According to Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency, about 2.58 million metric tonnes of raw plastics are imported annually, of which 73% ends up as waste, while 19% is reused. Yet less than 0.1% of the waste is recycled.

Recognising that only a tiny fraction of plastic waste is being recycled, Honu said: "We have to start changing the trend somehow." It may take a long time, but he continues to be motivated by his desire to make sure his friend did not die in vain.

Campaign to make more women seek leadership position gains momentum

By Guardian Reporter

AS the 2020 general election nears, campaign to encourage women to take part in different political leaderships makes headway in Zanzibar.

Conducted by Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa-Zanzibar) the campaign dubbed: 'Male Change Agent Team (MCAT)' is aimed at changing mindset of the community towards women full participation in political decision making bodies in the country.

The one-year campaign involved 20 members who are formed by personalities from different groups—religious, council, and community leaders, as well as members from political parties, civil society organisations and some males who champion for women and children involvement issues.

Empowered with special tools on how to reach the society and analyze issues on gender perspective, members of the team are now busy conducting dialogue meetings in all 11 districts in Unguja and Pemba islands.

Three weeks ago, Tamwa-Zanzibar officials in collaboration with leaders from Majenzi and Shumba shehias (villages) in Micheweni District, Pemba North Region organized a public dialogue

meeting to encourage women to vie for different political posts, rather than relying on special seats, which are being claimed to humiliate women.

The meeting involved women and youth, who were given a chance to present their views on how they can take part in the forthcoming elections.

ACT- Wazalendo regional secretary for Pemba North, Salehe Nassoro Jema said: "It is high time for women to come out and take part in political leaderships, because women have that ability."

He expressed his discontentment on the structure of the Micheweni Town Council, which has no single women, who has been elected from constituencies.

"Most of women in the council are through Special Seats arrangement, which is being outdated and this meeting should be used as an important platform to encourage women to take part in the forthcoming elections," he said.

"It is time for women to seriously contest for councillorships, representatives and national assembly," Jema said, calling women to be courageous and emulate the spirits of those women who have managed to get higher political posts in the country and other countries.

Among them include, Julie Catherine

Manning, a Tanzanian lawyer, judge and politician. She was the first Tanzanian woman to study law; she was a High Court judge before serving as Minister of Justice from 1975 to 1983.

Jema also named Tabitha Siwale, who was appointed by the late Julius Nyerere as minister of Housing and Lands.

Others are Asha-Rose Mtengeti Migiro, a politician and diplomat who served as the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations from 2007 to 2012. She was also appointed as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa on 13 July 2012.

He also named Amina Salim Ali, the former Zanzibar's Finance Minister and now Minister for Industry, and Trade as well as Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan. "All these performed a very good job, and I believe you also can do better. You cannot be a minister if you aren't an MP or Representative of Zanzibar House of Representatives," he said.

Jema urged women in the Indian Ocean archipelago to join political parties, which is an important platform for them to contest different posts, as Tanzanian law doesn't allow independent candidate.

Isaack Maganza, pastor of RGC church in Chakechake town of Pemba urged



A resident of Micheweni District, Pemba North Region, Salma Ali Abeid speaks at one of the meetings organized by Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa-Zanzibar) with the aim to change mindset of the community towards women full participation in political decision making bodies in Isles. Photo: Guardian Reporter

men to fight patriarchy system, which stigmatize women, which in turn demoralize them from participating in political activities.

"The room is open for women to take part in political arena. So, men should allow women to participate in politics," Maganza said.

Sheikh Abdallah Nassoro Abdallah, from Association of Imams in Zanzibar (JUMAZA) said that in most parts of the world men hold key political leaderships, but there are women who have managed to take those posts and their performances are not questionable, citing Bibi Titi Mohamed, who was a major leader in the Tanganyika nationalist movement.

She led the women's wing of the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), and later became the minister for women and social affairs. Mohamed was a Muslim woman born in Dar es Salaam in 1926 to a businessman.

Abdallah urged women to get into politics so that they can bring changes and development in the society as well as addressing gender-based violence in the country. He however challenged women to continue playing their indomitable role at family level and they shouldn't use the political muscles to humiliate their husbands.

Riziki Ali Hamad is one of the young women in Micheweni who commended the organizers of the meeting saying: "It is a timely meeting as women in the past were deliberately denied their rights to take part in elections. I believe this movement encourages women to enjoy the right of electing and being elected."

"I'm getting ready to take part in the 2020 general election," Riziki said confidently, when speaking at the meeting held at Micheweni Secondary school.

Mtumwa Hamis Jongo, gender assistant coordinator in Mjenzi village urged men to make women free from GBV, a challenge she said thwarts women's dreams to go into political posts.

"In 2017, I wanted to be a chairperson of parents' wing of the ruling CCM, but votes weren't enough. But, I am not tired. I will also vie in future," said Kuluthum Ali Kombo.

Tamwa-Zanzibar project manager, Hawra Shamte said the campaign is aimed at increasing the number of women leaders and candidates in the coming elections.

Shamte noted that having a good number of women leaders will facilitate solutions to the many challenges facing women in the country.

Palestine supports Tanzania's transformation vision on industrial economy

By Getrude Mbagu

PALESTINE has expressed its enthusiasm to support Tanzania's vision to become an industrial economy by urge financiers to invest in the key sectors of health, agriculture and construction technologies.

Addressing reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam, ambassador Hamdi Abuali said that in health, one of the key areas of investments is the pharmaceutical industry, saying his country had huge experience in the sector.

He said that already three pharmaceutical companies from Palestine have showed interest to establish partnership with local firms and build

plants to serve the medical sector.

According to him, few years ago, his government brought the Palestine International Cooperation Agency to assess possible areas of investments where it recognized that health and agribusiness are among the potential sectors.

"Palestine is good in technology and innovation, we have established modern systems to monitor soil moisture, livestock keeping and processing of its products and many others...President Mahamoud Abbas has assured Tanzania that his government will support Tanzania by sharing the vision to industrialize the economy," he added.

He added that another new investor

from Palestine has showed interest to invest in construction sector especially establishing plant to produce modern building materials.

According to him, efforts are ongoing to continue linking the Tanzanian private sector with their counterparts in Palestine to create a network that will facilitate investments and accelerate the economy growth.

"Among our plans is to invest in exchange programmes especially training doctors and other health specialists for them to come back and provide better services to Tanzanians. Palestine is well known in the medical abilities so we hope the new partnerships will bring useful results for both

countries." The envoy further lauded President John Magufuli eagerness and efforts to bring Tanzania to the next level of development.

"I do recognize President Magufuli as a 'bulldozer' due various steps he has been taking to make Tanzania a better place to stay and invest; my government is committed to join efforts with the Tanzanian government to make a difference in supporting its industrialisation process," he said.

According to him, if President Magufuli's vision and efforts will be successful, Tanzanian is going to be one of the major hubs in the region.

Abuali also hailed President Magufuli for becoming the new chairman

of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) commending him for laying out concrete plans to take forward the bloc's development initiatives.

He also commended the move taken by SADC to declare Kiswahili as its fourth official language after English, French and Portuguese.

The envoy further pledged to continue cementing bilateral relations between the two countries for the benefit of their peoples.

"Tanzania and Palestine has a very long history going back to the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, We appreciate the historic relations, we promise to continue strengthening the already

existing economic diplomacy by promoting trade and investments in various sectors for the country's development."

Meanwhile, ambassador Abuali sent his government's condolences following the recent fuel-tank accident in Morogoro which has claimed over 90 lives of people.

"I and my government have been saddened with this accident, our condolences to all families of the deceased, friends and relatives. We are also praying for them to rest in peace but also the casualties to be quickly healed and continue with their daily activities," he said.

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WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Mapping out borders could help to prevent unnecessary disputes

REPORTS from Arusha confirm that Tanzania and Kenya mapping out the common border with new beacons, an initiative that has started on the northern parts of the border from the lakeside district of Tarime to the eastern slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. So far officials are only talking about this exercise, which is given as phase one up to Lake Natron and phase two up to eastern Kilimanjaro territory. The next phase would involve going all the way down to the seashore on the northern reaches of Tanga.

What the current exercise involves is placing beacons to show precisely where the border passes, and it appears this is a region-wide exercise as most countries bordering Tanzania are doing the same or in cooperation with Tanzania for that matter and their other neighbors. This may also involve an exception of Burundi and Rwanda which were not mentioned in an interview with a top official of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements. Needless to add the same exercise would finally apply to these countries too and despite border disputes between Uganda and DRC in relation to Lake Albert waterline.

A senior official of the Kenya International Boundaries Department said that the exercise follows a United Nations resolution which directs the countries to formalize boundaries drawn up at the Berlin Conference of 1884. This directive by the UN Secretariat or its associated agencies is a reflection of boundary disputes which have no reason to be there, on the basis of international law or specifically the succession of treaties convention. The Geneva Convention on treaties in international law provides for indefinite succession of treaties by governments irrespective of the manner government changes hands.

Two current border conflicts come to mind, and they may have contributed to

a greater or lesser extent in the move by the UN agency to expedite the mapping out of boundaries, both by installing more effective boundary marks (beacons) as well as reaffirming treaties in that connection. One is a lesser and now tamed dispute, that between Malawi and Tanzania on where to demarcate the border, and the hotter dispute rages between Kenya and Somalia, as the latter is demanding prolonging the land border line into the sea, for an unclear reason. It is as if Somalis also live in the sea by similar numbers as well.

When the UN tells African countries to demarcate their borders, install new or better markers and promulgate, officiate or formalize the same under the terms of the Berlin Conference border making exercise, this comes as a bit of a surprise to those who are familiar with a bit of history. For the Berlin Conference treaty was enshrined in the statutes of the League of Nations along with amendments thereto, for instance in the Heligoland Treaty of 1890 - which Malawi has been using as an excuse to demand sovereignty on all the lake portion on its eastern border with Tanzania. What Malawi pretends to forget is that after World War I Britain corrected that anomaly, rectifying the border to Berlin terms.

The point however is that this act of revision was not just conducted in due and proper form in the UK legislature in 1924 but also deposited with the League of Nations in 1925. It means that by the time the United Nations was formed, this rectification was part of the statutes it inherited, so under existing norms of international law neither Malawi nor Tanzania can go back on that amendment. It is this act of recognition that the UN is demanding, and hopefully Africa will comprehend, to stop useless quarrels.

Modern slavery is a global issue: Africa is obliged to fight against it

INTERNATIONAL Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialise the transatlantic slave trade.

That date was chosen by the adoption of resolution by the Organisation's General Conference at its 29th session. The date is significant because, during the night of August 22 to August 23, 1791, on the island of Saint Domingue (now known as Haiti), an uprising began which set forth events which were a major factor in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

UNESCO member states organise events every year on that date, inviting participation from young people, educators, artists and intellectuals. As part of the goals of the intercultural UNESCO project, "The Slave Route", it is an opportunity for collective recognition and focus on the "historic causes, the methods and the consequences" of slavery. Additionally, it sets the stage for analysis and dialogue of the interactions which gave rise to the transatlantic trade in human beings between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti on August 23, 1998 and Senegal on August 23, 1999.

Slavery has historically been widespread in Africa, and still continues today in some countries.

Systems of servitude and slavery were common in parts of Africa, as they were in much of the ancient world. In many African societies where slavery was prevalent, the enslaved people were not treated as chattel slaves and were given certain rights in a system similar to indentured servitude elsewhere in the world. When the Arab slave trade and Atlantic slave

trade began, many of the local slave systems began supplying captives for slave markets outside Africa.

Slavery in historical Africa was practiced in many different forms: Debt slavery, enslavement of war captives, military slavery, slavery for prostitution and criminal slavery were all practiced in various parts of Africa. Slavery for domestic and court purposes was widespread throughout Africa. Plantation slavery also occurred primarily on the eastern coast of Africa and in parts of West Africa. The importance of domestic plantation slavery increased during the 19th century due to the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade. Many African states dependent on the international slave trade reoriented their economies towards legitimate commerce worked by slave labour.

Multiple forms of slavery and servitude have existed throughout African history and were shaped by indigenous practices of slavery as well as the Roman institution of slavery (and the later Christian views on slavery), the Islamic institutions of slavery via the Arab slave trade, and eventually the Atlantic slave trade. Slavery was a part of the economic structure of African societies for many centuries, although the extent varied. Ibn Battuta, who visited the ancient kingdom of Mali in the mid-14th century, recounts that the local inhabitants vied with each other in the number of slaves and servants they had, and was himself given a slave boy as a "hospitality gift." In sub-Saharan Africa, the slave relationships were often complex, with rights and freedoms given to individuals held in slavery and restrictions on sale and treatment by their masters.[5] Many communities had hierarchies between different types of slaves: for example, differentiating between those who had been born into slavery and those who had been captured through war.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 022 2700735/8
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales & Marketing:
Kauthar D'souza
Cel: + 255 767 223311 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com



Third new TB drug developed in over half a century must be affordable

By Special Correspondent

NEW drug pretomanid could be a lifesaver for people with XDR-TB, but MSF warns it must be made affordable to make a real difference.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today approved a combination regimen containing a new drug, pretomanid, for the treatment of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). As the third new drug developed for tuberculosis (TB) in over half a century, and the first to be developed as part of a ready-to-use treatment regimen, pretomanid's approval represents another potent tool for tackling difficult-to-treat drug-resistant forms of TB. The international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which provides TB treatment to close to 20,000 people worldwide, stressed that the drug must be made affordable to everyone who needs it, especially considering the substantial taxpayer and philanthropic contributions that went into its development.

The three-drug regimen (BPaL: bedaquiline + pretomanid + high-dose linezolid) was approved today for adult patients with XDR, treatment-intolerant, or nonresponsive multidrug resistant pulmonary TB. This new drug regimen could dramatically shorten treatment length to six months, greatly reduce the number of pills required, and help to increase XDR-TB cure rates from the current abysmal 34 percent. While the new regimen will be shorter and simpler to administer, optimism around BPaL is balanced against the need for intensive monitoring for side effects from the high doses of linezolid required. Separate clinical trials run by MSF and TB Alliance are underway to further evaluate pretomanid-containing regimens to try to identify safer future treatment options.

"Treatment of XDR-TB has been dire ever since this form of the disease was discovered," said Jay Achar, infectious disease specialist and TB medical advisor at MSF. "Having access to effective treatment regimens will give people hope for a cure and help limit transmission of this deadly bacteria. While



safer, simpler regimens are still needed, the shorter treatment duration of this novel regimen is an important step in the right direction."

Pretomanid was developed by TB Alliance, a not-for-profit organization, funded by governments (including Australia, Germany, the UK, and the US) and philanthropic sources, with the expectation that the organization would hold true to its stated mission, that they are "dedicated to the discovery, development and delivery of better, faster-acting and affordable tuberculosis drugs that are available to those who need them." In addition, TB Alliance stands to be granted a priority review voucher (PRV). Under the PRV program, when the FDA approves an eligible neglected disease product—a medicine or vaccine—the developer is awarded a PRV. This voucher can be used to accelerate the FDA review of any of the developer's drugs or vaccines. Alternatively, the developer can choose to sell their voucher to another entity, as has been done previously for as much as \$350 million USD. MSF calls for TB Alliance to use this financial reward to ensure that the drug be registered and made available at an affordable price, faster.

"This newly approved regimen containing pretomanid could be a lifesaver for people

with XDR-TB, but it's not time to celebrate yet," said Sharonann Lynch, HIV and TB policy advisor for MSF's Access Campaign. "The approval of this new regimen by the US FDA is just the first step. We now need pretomanid to be registered and available at an affordable price in all countries, prioritizing those with the highest TB burden."

In April this year, TB Alliance granted the first license to the US pharmaceutical corporation Mylan to manufacture, register, and supply pretomanid. To date, TB Alliance and Mylan have not made the price of pretomanid public. It has been estimated that generic versions of pretomanid could be produced and sold at a profit for between \$0.36 USD and \$1.14 USD per day. The lowest global prices for the other two drugs in the regimen, bedaquiline and linezolid, already run at around \$3 USD per day. People needing this treatment regimen would have to take it for six months, amounting to a total price of \$548USD, before considering the additional price of pretomanid. MSF has called for treatment of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) to be no higher than \$500 USD per person for a complete treatment course.

But four months on, neither Mylan nor TB Alliance has made the licensing agreement public, despite calls from civil

society for transparency on the terms and conditions that will ultimately impact people's access to this drug globally. Mylan is expected to bring pretomanid to market by January 2020. However, this is dependent on World Health Organization guidance on using the drug, and on Mylan filing for registration in countries with the highest DR-TB burden.

"TB Alliance and Mylan must not squander this opportunity," said Lynch. "They must make good on TB Alliance's mandate to deliver affordable treatment—which is why they received the support of government and philanthropic funding that went into the development of pretomanid and this combination—and provide the drug at an affordable price because when it comes to people with resistant forms of TB, it's a matter of life or death."

Pretomanid is part of the same class of drugs (nitroimidazoles) as delamanid—one of the two other TB drugs approved in the last half century—developed by pharmaceutical corporation Otsuka. Delamanid is fraught with access issues: the drug is patented in many countries until 2023, including in India, and the price of a six-month treatment course remains very high (the lowest global price is \$1,700 USD), with many people needing the drug for up to 20 months, making the price much higher. If pretomanid is affordable compared to delamanid, it has the important potential to spark competition and reduce prices for this class of drugs.

MSF Clinical Trial

In addition to providing DR-TB treatment in various settings, MSF is conducting research together with partner organizations to develop the evidence base for the therapeutic value of newer DR-TB treatments. In 2017, MSF launched the TB PRACTECAL trial (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT02589782), a randomized, controlled, multi-center, Phase II/III adaptive trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of six-month regimens that contain bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid (standard dose) with or without moxifloxacin or clofazimine, for the treatment of adolescents and adults with multidrug-resistant (MDR)-TB or XDR-TB. This trial should help inform which combinations of bedaquiline, linezolid and pretomanid-based regimens are effective and safe for the treatment of MDR-TB. The trial is sponsored by MSF and is being conducted in seven sites in Belarus, South Africa, and Uzbekistan.

To trade or not to trade? That is the ivory question

BY DUNCAN E OMONDI GUMBA

IS a world without the illicit wildlife trade possible? One where no species faces imminent extinction at the hands of humans? Perhaps - with new technology, and consensus among origin and destination countries.

The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Wildlife Crime Technology project, funded by Google, is one initiative that uses the power of technology to fight wildlife crime. In Namibia, where this project was implemented, official figures show a progressive decline in rhino and elephant poaching levels since 2015.

In a separate initiative, the WWF - in collaboration with the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC and the International Fund for Animal Welfare - has launched the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online.

Science and technology are key to enforcing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's (CITES) international wildlife trade regulations. CITES decisions draw on data produced by prominent science-based tools. These include the trade database managed by the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre; the CITES programme on Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants; and TRAFFIC's Elephant Trade Information System.

Tools like these help to determine the degree of protection required for a particular species, as stipulated by CITES. CITES Appendix I lists species threatened with extinction, and permits trade in these species only under exceptional



circumstances. Those in Appendix II don't face extinction, but CITES strictly controls their trade and products to ensure sustainability. Species in Appendix III are included at the request of a state party that already regulates trade in the species, and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation.

The 180 state parties, including 59 from Africa, meet every few years to amend the appendices. In the run-up to the CITES Conference of Parties, taking place in Geneva until 28 August, African states have been bitterly divided over the permanent listing of all elephants in Appendix I.

Two groupings - the African Elephant Coalition (AEC), mainly East and West African countries, and Southern African Development Community (SADC) coun-

tries - differ on the way forward. 'The AEC has the numbers behind it, while SADC has the elephants,' Dr Susan Koech, former principal secretary at Kenya's State Department of Wildlife, told ENACT. That was after she chaired a meeting in April at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa that sought in vain to reach an African common position.

In 1990, CITES banned the international ivory trade, but in 1997 and 2008, countries in Southern Africa listed their elephant populations in Appendix II. This led to one-off sales of ivory stockpiles from elephants that died of natural causes, specifically to China and Japan. Experts say this fuelled illicit ivory trade and poaching. National Geographic

argues that 'no matter how supposedly tight the controls, legal trade in ivory inevitably seems to serve as a smoke screen for illegal dealings.'

Kenya, backed by 30 other member states, exemplified the AEC's position when it burnt all its ivory and rhino horn stockpiles in 2016. This demonstrated its zero-tolerance stance on trading ivory and a commitment to its 40-year ban on trophy hunting.

In the 1960s, Kenya's elephant population was considered to be among the highest in Africa. Their numbers were all but depleted by hunters, and continue to drop due to poaching - facilitated by corruption in the Kenya Wildlife Service. Officials say this trend is under

control, although the latest census shows that fewer than 8 000 elephants remain in the country.

In contrast, elephant populations have increased in SADC countries like Tanzania and Botswana to 60 000 and 130 000 respectively. These countries implement a regional sustainable use policy that allows trophy hunting and the sale of ivory for conservation. Critics however believe this encourages illicit ivory trade.

SADC countries are opposed to a blanket ban on the ivory trade, because the proceeds from stockpiles could fund conservation and development. 'That one-size-fits-all approach by CITES of banning everything disregards good efforts of our governments, and is neither sustainable nor advisable,' Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa said at a Botswana summit in May. Zimbabwe has said it may withdraw from CITES if it cannot sell its ivory stockpile - a threat that could be emulated by more SADC countries.

There are growing fears that more restrictive measures could lead to a mass CITES walkout by some elephant range states, which could reverse gains made to stop the illicit ivory trade. 'It could spell doom for the conservation of the African elephant,' Teye Teferi, TRAFFIC's Africa policy and partnership coordinator, told ENACT.

Although these debates are divisive, conservation and the fight

against wildlife crime works in all countries' interests. The United States, United Kingdom, France, Taiwan and most recently China have banned their domestic ivory markets to varying degrees. Japan is pressed to do the same.

Neighbouring countries like Laos, Vietnam and Thailand also have active and resilient import-based domestic markets. Imports are often from elephant range countries. With a blanket ban, this would become illegal.

The existence of a legal domestic market in an elephant range country like South Africa can create loopholes and channels that can be exploited for illicit trade. Closing all legal markets - domestic or otherwise - could restrict supply globally, and ensure cooperation between range, transit and destination countries in enforcing these regulations.

Both sides of the ivory debate have a point - but at the same time they miss the point. A blanket ban is unlikely to solve the problem of high elephant populations in countries like Botswana. Nor are periodic one-off ivory sales likely to meet the global demand for ivory - or prevent illegal ivory from entering the system under the cover of legal trade. As the endless debate ignores the elephant in the room, extinction threatens elephants in the wild.

Duncan E Omondi Gumba, ENACT Regional coordinator - East and Horn of Africa, ISS Nairobi

Inconvenience is our middle name

By Busani Ngcawen

A STRANGE weather forecast of between 6 and 26 degrees was a sign: a portent of things to come. How do you dress for such a wide margin? So were the several failed online check-in attempts the night before, which seldom happens. I figured I should just get to the airport on time.

Few things are as torturous as the early morning flights such as Mthatha-bound SA Express from OR Tambo International Airport. You have to divorce linen just before 4am, make a quick acquaintance with an overhead sprinkler, skip some routines and break the limits of velocity to make it on time for the check-in at the ungodly hour of 5am.

The sparkling smile of the woman at the counter did little to temper my mood when she told me the flight had been cancelled and she wasn't sure why. I was directed to the AirLink counter where I was swiftly transferred - and without much thinking I proceeded to the lounge to join my traveling companions.

We exchanged morning pleasantries with the directors-general (DGs) of Finance, Human Settlements and Employment and Labour (he was off to a different destination) and joked about the previous night's economic cluster meeting that ended at 8pm. I'd had the added misfortune of a flat tyre that forced me to resort to the faithful, tax-dodging uber to get home.

My companions were sent rushing helter-skelter when I told them the SA Express flight had been cancelled. They had checked in much earlier and had to rush back to the check-in counters to be transferred.

By the time the AirLink boarding procedures were completed, it was too late, and thus the DGs of Treasury and Human Settlements missed the Mthatha flight. Their only option was to be routed via East London and drive to Mthatha to join us.

We were all heading to Mthatha at the behest of the president, who has instructed that we move apace to get the long-awaited uMzimvubu water scheme up and running. But now we would have to wait four hours for the leaders of the delegation to arrive at the proposed dam wall site before we could seriously engage on financing and engineering options. What an inconvenience.

Thankfully, a minibus had been procured and was awaiting us when we landed. We proceeded to the briefing venue together with several government engineers and senior officials who had made it on to the AirLink flight.

A trip between the airport and town in Mthatha is overwhelmingly inconvenient. It is a monument to a lack of town



planning; there is dirt everywhere, and the roads are in appalling condition and congested.

It is difficult to reconcile the town's brand - The Home of Legends - with the reality of a municipality that does not provide a basic service such as refuse removal; or 'legend' citizens who don't seem to care too much either.

How do you call yourself local government when you preside over local filth and untidiness?

The Department of Environmental Affairs is not enforcing basic waste management regulations that should protect the children from exposure to such levels of health hazards.

This mission is doomed, I found myself thinking.

Besides the inconvenience of time and cost, how, I wondered, were we going to have a fruitful engagement on what needs to be done without the DGs of National Treasury and Human Settlements (on this mission trading as DG of Water and Sanitation) on hand to give direction?

Look at me, I thought. How typical of us in the public service with our middle-class existential preoccupations, including the fear of inconvenience. We frown at the sight of dirt. We think about the weather, the pain of waking up at the crack of dawn, and the trouble of GPS coordinates.

Yet we inconvenience our people every day. They cohabit with dirt and walk long distances to access water and, sometimes, schools and clinics.

And what about the more than 300,000 villagers who have been waiting for the uMzimvubu Water Scheme for decades? How much more can the poor be inconvenienced?

But that is who we are. Inconvenience is our middle name.

The airline that failed us on our Friday trip is a sad story of years of inconvenience and indifference. Despite receiving billions in bailouts and the ongoing musical chairs at Airways Park, it remains idling on the corporate governance runway, unable to secure clearance for take-off.

Inconvenience is their middle name.

They allow people to board and cancel the flight. Imagine this: they inconvenienced the DG of Treasury who skipped a vital meeting where departments make budget bids, to travel to the Eastern Cape to explore ways of unblocking a national priority of building uMzimvubu Dam.

It is only a matter of time before we sing 'amagugu' for SA Express,

and it will no doubt be interesting if in future they were to sit before that same DG of Treasury to ask for guarantees and bailouts.

Back to the uMzimvubu Dam mission: here we were, the mandarins (an advanced thinking class in the public service as we sometimes imagine ourselves), gathered in a desolate village trying to make head or tail of how we can remove barriers to building the project.

The project has been planned with a few assumptions, one being that there is money somewhere to build it. But where though, considering that the fiscus is under pressure?

Yet there is no turning back. There will be a water scheme in uMzimvubu. Our task is to find technical and financial solutions to the problem and get the scheme going.

This requires deep thinking, as if we were in Mesopotamia or Carthage, where water catchment solutions were found with limited resources.

Today, technology is our biggest resource. Therein lie scenarios for water catchment at a rate and pace that the fiscus can absorb, not an unviable R20-billion (excluding 'hidden' costs such as operations and maintenance fees) water

scheme.

We are at a crunch point in the history of South Africa where we can no longer liberally make decisions that inconvenience the rest of society. Public policy choices must be prudent and responsive, even if some of the tough choices we have to make may be inconvenient.

If SA Express is unable to service the Mthatha route, it must close it down. If the original design of uMzimvubu is unaffordable, the scheme must be rationalised to balance the urgent need for the supply of water to the households within the means available to the state.

That is the approach we will follow as we explore options for consideration by authorities.

True to form, the return flight was also cancelled - forcing people to find emergency accommodation. Good for tourism, inconvenient for those concerned.

We tell this story of inconvenience not so much as an exposé of the fragility of the governance system: but more so as a reminder that it is time for serious soul-searching, deep thinking and innovation from senior officials in the public service.

A state of affairs where service delivery proceeds with lethargy and at a snail's pace is no longer viable.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has indicated his increasing intolerance of excuses and unscientific explanations for delays in delivery.

If a flight can't take off, travellers must be informed on time. If the original design of the dam is not affordable, alternatives must be presented immediately so that the water access challenge can be addressed. And refuse should be removed - by a municipality or citizens - to keep the environment clean and safe for children.

It is time the leadership of state departments and SoEs rethink their ways of thinking and doing. The 25 years of democratic experience must count for something: we must learn to unlearn complacency; we must learn to act diligently and faster in order not to inconvenience the people who need to access clean water; the children who must play in safer environments and airline travellers who require reliability. We must learn to respect the limitations of the fiscus and not commit government to unviable programmes.

Learning to unlearn the counterproductive lessons we have learnt over the years is no longer an option. Lest inconvenience remain our middle name.

Tanzania merits accolades for hosting SADC Summit

BY MUHARRAM MACATTA

SUMMIT commended Dr. John Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the incoming Chairperson of the SADC organization for a year; for the outstanding leadership and sterling job done during his tenure lasting one year.

Additionally, his active involvement and exemplary, outstanding leadership in SADC was superb by hosting the entire member states in his country. Indeed, they were highly impressed individually and collectively.

Summit expressed condolences and solidarity with the People and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on the loss of life and property due to unprecedented inferno that occurred in Morogoro a few days ago.

The tragic accident involving a tanker that crashed and spilt a very highly inflammable liquid (petrol) seriously burning over 70 people on the scene, and injured over 40 who continue to die while hospitalized at Muhimbili intensive care unit (ICU).

It is noted that Dr. John Magufuli, the new Chairman of this august body SADC exerted his influence to convince the Heads of State present, that the lingua franca Kiswahili be adopted as a forth official bloc's language after English, French, and Portuguese in its deliberations. The member states unanimously concurred.

The proposal was previously made by the founder Father of the Nation; Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and today it is being implemented officially at the 39th Summit of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

We are all gratified too because Kiswahili is already spoken as an official indigenous official language of the African Union (AU). The Chairperson was closing the meeting speaking or addressing in Kiswahili plainly as well as fluently.

Of course, needless to reiterate what he spoke because everyone could follow whatever words he articulated in his closing remarks while the audience



cheered.

Anyhow the Summit noted progress in the implementation of the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2020-2063 in specifically profiling of value chains in the three priority sectors of agro processing, mining and pharmaceuticals and urged Member States to keep the momentum and develop and actualize the identified value chains. The theme being "Competitive Business for inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development"

As the summit precede with the convening of a successful SADC Industrialization Week, without omitting this grandiose event; the Summit noted the outcomes of the industrialization week and urged Member States to operationalize the outcomes by partnering with the private sector in developing industry and regional value chains.

On the face of it everyone expressed his/her appreciation to the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for successfully hosting the 39th Ordinary Summit and for the hospitality during the Summit period.

President John Magufuli

Of all and not through oversight the Summit also noted that HIV and AIDS pandemic remains a major challenge affecting significant numbers of adolescents and young people, predominantly females.

And that the high prevalence in HIV and AIDS is exacerbated by drugs abuse. Summit directed the Secretariat to urgently develop a comprehensive Regional Strategy to deal with drug abuse and cyber-crime.

It reminds us also of earlier in the week, the new chair of the SADC Council of Ministers, Professor Palamagamba Kabudi – who is also Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

He had told the media ahead of the regional indaba or a political meeting, conference, or consultation, originally held with or among indigenous peoples of South Africa that a resolution calling for

the removal of sanctions was part of 107 draft resolutions that were tabled at the summit.

Successive SADC summits have taken similar decisions in the past but this time, the leaders decided to elevate their anti-sanctions fight to a new level.

They decided to task the SADC secretariat to write to the African Union to take the message to the United Nations that the sanctions are not only disastrous to the economy and livelihoods of Zimbabweans but also that they are no longer necessary given the credible elections last year and the wide ranging reforms that President Mnangagwa's Government is putting in place.

They took the summit's decision to escalate the anti-sanctions fight to the UN as a big development which demonstrates Southern Africa's full support for Zimbabwe.

If the foregoing decision was big for the country, the summit's deci-

sion to set aside a day to draw global attention on the illegal Western sanctions was enormous.

According to the communiqué read by SADC executive secretary Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax yesterday, SADC leaders resolved to reserve October 25, 2019 as a day when the bloc would conduct activities to jointly call for the "immediate" lifting of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

This is an eloquent message coming from Southern Africa; a message denouncing sanctions against Zimbabwe and calling for their immediate lifting. Europe and America have to listen and respond accordingly.

President Mnangagwa attended the 39th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government which ended in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania yesterday. This was the second time that he has attended the SADC Summit as President.

The summit was a resounding success for Zimbabwe in many ways; arguably the most successful in recent times. President Mnangagwa took over the chairmanship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation – also known as Organ Troika – from his counterpart from the sister republic of Zambia, President Edgar Lungu.

This followed the country's election to take over the very influential position last year. The Organ Troika's role is to guarantee peace in the 16-member regional bloc.

As chairman, President Mnangagwa would lead the region's response to existing security challenges in a number of countries as well as those that might arise over the next 12 months.

Lesotho, where there has been substantial instability in recent years is one of the flashpoints that the President, as chairman of the Organ Troika, would have to attend to. Malawi where President Peter Mutharika won a disputed election recently is yet another.

Given that elections frequently have security implications in nations and in the region, President Mnangagwa and two fellow members of the Troika would have to keep an eye on polls scheduled for Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique in the next few months.

With the elections having run their full course, SADC expected Europe and America to do the needful, but they have maintained their sanctions.

SADC leaders, led by the incoming chair, President John Magufuli of Tanzania, was strong in their condemnation of the measures over the weekend and in their call to have them removed.

(Quote) a part of the closing speech as follows hereunder:

"It would certainly be remiss of me to end my speech without saying anything on Zimbabwe," he said in his acceptance speech on Saturday.

"As we are all aware, this brotherly and sisterly country has been on sanctions for a long time. These sanctions have not only affected the people of Zimbabwe and their Government but our entire region. It is like a human body: when you chop one of its parts, it affects the whole body (laughter).

Therefore, I would like to seize this opportunity to urge the international community to lift up sanctions it imposed on Zimbabwe. This brotherly country, after all, has now opened a new chapter and it is ready to engage with the rest of the world.

It is, therefore, I believe, in the interest of all parties concerned to see these sanctions removed. In this respect, I wish also to urge all SADC member states to continue to speak with one voice on the issue of Zimbabwe." (Unquote)

The President's assumption of the chairmanship of such an influential organ of the regional body is therefore a high point arising from the just-ended SADC Summit.

TCCIA commends govt on ensuring traders stick to plans

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) has said that it stands with the government in its decision to direct commercial banks and regional authorities to ensure traders given loans heed to the exercise of purchasing cotton under a government guarantee very seriously.

Speaking to reporters recently during Nanenane Exhibitions held at national level at Nyakabindi grounds, Bariadi district in Simiyu, Maswa District Executive Officer, Simiyu Regional Chamber of Commerce Mipawa Mtahia Shimbi said that the government's move aims to ensure cotton from farmers in the country are bought as soon as possible before the rain season is commendable.

"This directive has answered the farmers' prayers. We are supporting the government's move and we call for all traders who have been given loans to speed up the exercise of buying the cotton from all farmers before starting of the rain season," he said.

The farmers are waiting for the buyers to get money for preparation of their field. This is very important as they need to buy agricultural inputs as early as possible.

TCCIA also used Simiyu Nanenane exhibitions to educate its members like businessmen, traders, farmers and the general public on how the Chamber works and available opportunities.

"We have also provided training and education to different groups including school children and the youth to be creative and understand business dynamics so that they could employ themselves in the future instead of waiting for the white color jobs.

He said that the youth must understand that opportunities are everywhere in every sector but in business there are more opportunities that can easily be taped to achieve their goal," he said.



The TCCIA has also been working for all the farmers and taking their concern to responsible authorities at district, regional and national level for increased productivity.

TCCIA's Regional Executive Officer, Mwanza Regional Chamber Hassan Karambi said that besides education, for a quite long time now, the chamber has been promoting good policies ensuring friendly legal framework and conducive environment for both local and foreign investors in various sectors such as agriculture, industries and trade.

Commenting on the challenges faced by the farmers, he said there are several challenges such as delay

An official from Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (R) explains to some members on how the chamber works during the Nane Nane exhibitions held in Simiyu region recently.

of agricultural inputs saying in some areas the farmers could not get and use the fertilizers on time. In some villages, the farmers complained that there were shortage of improved seeds, a situation that discouraged some of them from doing profitable agriculture.

He called for the government to make sure the agricultural input are given required attention so that the farmers can also engage in large scale farming and agribusiness.

"Nanenane exhibitions have provided big opportunities for the youth and school children to

learn about business education and entrepreneurship. We have started TCCIA's youth wing to groom the youth while in school, colleges and Universities so that they can be good businessmen in future," he said.

He said experience shows that many people opt doing business very late at old stage when they retire from government offices. At this stage, only few people succeed in business because they do not have passion and do not know business techniques. Therefore, the TCCIA youth wing will help to start grooming the youth at early stage, to equip

them with knowledge and skills so that they can develop passion, interest and confidence in business.

"We all know that many youth are prepared to be employed in either public or private sector. Very few mainly school dropout opt to venture into business from early stage. So, we want to change this mindset," he said.

The TCCIA's Youth wing will be responsible for the youth. For example, the youth in schools, colleges and Universities will mobilize themselves and elect their leaders. TCCIA has branches everywhere in the country

will help to nurture them develop interest and build confidence.

TCCIA was established in 1988. It was initiated with the support of the Tanzanian Government to strengthen the private sector. The establishment of the TCCIA was an important step in moving on from a centralized, planned economy towards a more open, mixed economy giving full scope to privately owned enterprises and farms. It has opened regional offices in Tanzania and several district centres promoting sustained growth and development of the private sector.

Delivering quality health services is a global imperative for universal health

By Guardian Correspondent, Malinyi

IN Biro, a remote village in Malinyi district, Morogoro region, Regina Mhesi started feeling labour pains but was reluctant to go to Lugala Lutheran hospital, about 15 kilometers away.

She knew that she would eventually have to go because that was the only hospital for scores of kilometers but she dreaded taking with her a kerosene lamp just in case she had to deliver during the night.

A diesel generator that ran for only eight hours a day provided electricity for the hospital and thereafter kerosene lamps were the only source of light for all the hospital's units, including the labour ward.

That was the case a decade ago. Today, however, the situation has changed as the hospital enjoys reliable solar electricity throughout the year, thanks to UNDP's support through its Small Grants Programme.

In 2011 the UN agency extended a helping hand to the hospital, the Malinyi District Designate Hospital, by funding the rehabilitation and restoration of a photovoltaic Solar System which now provides efficient electricity and has gone a long way towards improving the quality of services at the hospital.

"Currently a solar electricity system supplies electricity for all departments. This has enabled us to provide efficient services day and night because we have a reliable supply of electricity. The situation also allows us to use electronic laboratory equipment that would otherwise be damaged with frequent power cuts," explains Dr. Emmanuel Chogo, the medical officer in charge of the hospital.

The hospital which is located 360 kms from Morogoro regional headquarters serves an average of 100,000 people from nearby villages. It was built in 1957 but it was renovated and expanded in 1997 to meet increasing demand of health services. It admits about 140 patients although the number may rise to 180 during epidemics. The number of outpatients has risen to an estimated 2,500 from the previous 1,000 that was recorded about a decade ago.

Over the years, the hospital has established itself as a centre of excellence for safe motherhood. "Usually there are up to 105 women waiting for safe delivery," says Dr. Chogo.

In 2010 the solar photovoltaic generator that was installed at the hospital was hit by lightning causing extensive damage, hence the intervention by UNDP "the hospital had to depend on a diesel generator for its electricity. Due to high running costs, the generator ran for only eight hours a day as a result of which some units could not operate efficiently," explains Gledson Kuandika, the hospital's technician.

With support from the Small Grants Programme, the hospital has been able to expand the "labour room" to accommodate 10 deliveries at once from the previous four. "We have also completed the construction of a room for premature infants, the kangaroo room. This facility requires a stable and continuous supply of electricity, that

is why the UNDP support has had a significant impact on the quality of service we provide," says Dr. Chogo.

Installation of solar electricity at the hospital has had a spillover effect as community members around the hospital have quickly adopted the use of the renewable source of energy. "We haven't made a head count but we see the increasing number of solar panels on roof tops," says Kuandika.

In April this year, the Huruma Catholic hospital in Kilimanjaro region which is the Rombo district designate hospital celebrated its 50 years of provision of health services. The hospital was built in 1969 and inaugurated by Father of the Nation, President Julius Kambarage Nyerere a year later, on April 1, 1970.

The hospital attends to about 200 outpatients every day and has capacity to admit a similar number of patients while it serves a community of about 300,000 people.

One of the milestones in its quest to provide quality services was the purchase and installation in 2007 of five solar heaters with funding from UNDP through its Small Grants Programme. These were installed in all the wards and the main theatre.

Before the installation of water heaters, the hospital used to buy about 140 tons of firewood every month in order to heat enough water to meet the needs of the patients.

"Installation of the solar water heaters has gone a long way towards providing comfort to the patients and reducing running costs. Temperatures in this area are generally low throughout the year and there is no way patients can take cold baths," says Dr. Wilbrod Kyejo, the medical officer in charge of the hospital.

According to the hospital secretary Sr. Carisma Dominic, the hospital now buys between 47 tons and 70 tons of firewood per month.

About a decade down the road some of water heaters have broken down and this has had profound effects on some services of the hospital. "We have had to cut down both the amount of food we cook for in-patients and the supply of hot water in order to limit the use of firewood," says the hospital secretary.

A nurse at St. Joseph Ward (ward 47) Anna May says that the solar water heaters have made life easy for the staff because hot water is available from taps and patients can take a bath whenever they need. "Formerly we had to take hot water from the kitchen in jerry cans and there wasn't enough for the patients. It was also an extra burden for us," she says.

According to Dr Kyejo, the hospital has now started the process of purchase of new water solar heaters to replace the defective ones in order to continue to provide quality services to patients.

St Francis referral hospital Ifakara in Kilombero district is another beneficiary of the Small Grants Programme which financed the installation of a solar system for the hospital. The main theatre, two minor theatres and the labour ward were now supplied with reliable and efficient electric-



A nurse at Mahenge hospital in Ulanga district, Morogoro region attending to a newborn in the maternity ward. The unit enjoys uninterrupted supply of electricity from a solar system. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ity from the solar system.

"For us these are among important units because a blackout may stand between life and death of a patient. These are units that attend to most of the emergency cases and without stable and reliable electricity, lives may be lost during operations or child delivery," explains Fr. Dr. Winfried Gingo who is the Director General of the hospital. Other units of the hospital have continued to be served by electricity from the national grid which is however unreliable due to frequent power cuts.

"There is no electricity from the grid for 12hrs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On the remaining days there are also frequent blackouts that interrupt operations and which could lead to loss of lives. That is why we have to use stand-by diesel generators, much as they are very expensive to run," says the director general.

The hospital is has been undertaking renovation of its buildings since 2013 some of which are almost 100 years old. Under the circumstances, the solar system has had to be dismantled to pave way for the renovation. "The wiring system has not been destroyed; we have only removed the solar panels, inverters and components of control panel, all of which are kept safely in a store room. However the batteries have been spoiled," explains Godfrey Mkwiche, the hospital's technician.

In the absence of solar electricity, the hospital has to run two generators in order to get reliable supply of electricity particularly when the grid supply fails. The big generator with capacity of 700 lts of diesel runs during the day and the small generator with capacity of 100 lts runs during the night, mainly to provide lighting and emergency operations. Even with the use of the two generators to complement

the grid supply, the hospital's electricity bill stands at 12m/- a month.

"Renovation of the buildings will be completed by September 2020. Thereafter we will reinstall the solar electricity system. The plan is to expand the supply to more units of the hospital. We also plan to install a solar pump that will supply water to all the buildings," says Fr. Gingo.

The hospital was built in 1927 but has been undergoing renovation and expansion over the years. In 1976 it was upgraded to the district designate hospital and later in 2010 to a referral hospital. With 340 members of staff the hospital serves between 600,000 and 800,000 people from Kilombero, Ulanga and Malinyi districts. Currently it attends to 1,200 outpatients and has capacity to admit 371 patients. However, the inpatient department treats an average of 16,000 every year.

Perhaps some of the biggest impacts of UNDP interventions can be witnessed at Mahenge Hospital which is the District Hospital for Ulanga District.

The hospital has bed capacity of 118 patients; another ward under construction will host 39 beds although occupancy stands at 100 beds on average. Out patients attended to at the hospital range between 150 and 300 per day.

In 2017 the hospital received a grant from UNDP through the Small Grants Programme to install a backup solar electricity system that would increase availability and reliability of electricity. The end result was to increase the efficiency and quality of services offered by the hospital.

Installation of the solar system has gone a long way towards saving lives. During operations or when women deliver in the labour

room the automatic back up ensures that operations can still be conducted even when electricity from the grid fails.

"No patient has died when being operated on or being attended to, due to sudden black out since installation of the solar backup system. Formerly there were between five and six deaths a year on the operating table due to electricity failure. There was also an average of 20 children's deaths a year due to power cuts but so far there has been just one and for a different reason," explains Dr. Mihambo Aloyce Kapela, the medical officer in charge at Mahenge hospital. The facility also attends to an average of 1,700 women a year who deliver at the hospital.

Installation of solar electricity has raised the morale of staff because they can work efficiently without having interruptions from power cuts. While the many deaths that occurred before installation of the backup system made the public blame the hospital for negligence, there are no such blames now. "The strained relationship between the hospital and the public has also been normalized through delivery of quality services that have greatly reduced the number of deaths," says Aziza Jafar, the social welfare officer at the hospital.

In Mbingu Catholic health centre located about 60 kms from Ifakara, services have also improved following installation of solar electricity with funding from UNDP's Small Grants Programme. The facility serves a community of about 3,000 people but has capacity to admit 30 patients in situations when there are disease outbreaks. Likewise its outpatient department serves about 30 people every day but the number sometimes increases to 70. The facility also employs 35 people.

New project promises to tackle malaria in southern Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

ASHA Kingwande, a mother of two, sits patiently on a wooden bench, waiting for her turn to stand on a weigh, answer a few questions asked by a community health worker then take a prick to test for malaria.

This is Ikwiriri market, where Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) that works with Ikwiriri health centre, implements China-Tanzania Programme for malaria control in southern Tanzania has set up a make shift malaria testing point in the community for field testing.

"I have come here to test malaria and I know I will get medicine if they find me with malaria," says Aisha, a mother of three. A crowd of people, mills around a cool shade of a big mango tree as they take turns at the weighing and registration station, then at the sample taking row. After sample collection, results come in five minutes.

According Dr. Chaki Prosper, the Principal Investigator of the project, community testing proceeds identification of localities that originated more malaria cases recorded at the nearby health facility.

"This program utilizes evidence taken from the routine HMIS data and vector surveillance results to decide on priority clusters to go and conduct community wide testing and treatment on weekly basis," said the Principal Investigator of the

project. Dr. Chaki Prosper, from IHI.

During the first phase-April 2015-June 2018-the project reduced malaria transmission from 25.7 percent to 4.9 percent.

"The results from the concept phase (or first phase) were much better than expected therefore the priority now is to check whether the observed impact can be validated are not related to seasonal or community changes in the intervention areas during the study," said Dr. Chaki.

The World Health Organization Tanzania country office is following closely the efficacy of the collaborative project that carries a promise to cutting the transmission of the disease dramatically.

"We have interest in this project because apart from the promise of its results its design encompasses WHO's pillars for initiatives to end malaria globally by focusing on the high burden countries with high impact initiatives," said Dr. Ritha Njau, speaking on behalf of the WHO country representative Dr. Tigest Mengstu at an official visit to the project sites where the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Umyy Mwalimu hosted the China's deputy minister for health.

The second phase of the project second phase is co-funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Chinese government.



The project's first phase that was implemented in Ikwiriri and Chumbi in Rufiji District, Coastal Region.

The second-phase of the project will double the geographical coverage to include two more communities in the same Coastal region and another community in Kilwa District Lindi Region.

"We would like for a project as efficient as this one reach more districts in our country because many districts have high malaria prevalence," said Mwalimu.

There is a possibility of the national malaria control program

scaling up the intervention approach countrywide, even as WHO weighs its potential for effectiveness in other high burden African countries.

According to the principal investigator from IHI, the collaborative team will implement the 18-month second phase to prove the concept work and authenticate the findings from phase one and validate the adopted 1.7-MRCT approach.

"Once these results have been validated, we will be confident that the approach of this project can be rolled out, not only in

Tanzania but other Africa countries with high malaria burden," says Dr. Njau from the WHO.

"The major challenge is that seasonally, malaria cases can up or go down. If we address the reason for that we might be close to eradicating malaria completely in our area," says Aisha. Aisha says that during the rainy season, when surroundings have a lot of mosquitoes his two children may get malaria twice or thrice.

The WHO reported that in 2018 globally the progress in reducing the burden of malaria

stalled mainly because 10 high burden countries still contributed up to 55 percent of the more than 290,000 million cases.

About 70 years ago, China used to report 30 million malaria cases annually. In 2017 China reached a malaria free state. "We have learned that malaria can be prevented, controlled and we would to share that expertise and experience with Tanzania," said Li Bin, Deputy Health Minister for China.

Despite being on the list of 10 high burden malaria countries Tanzania has made significant

strides. From 2014 to 2018 transmission has decreased from 161 for every 1000 people to 119. Malaria deaths per 1000 people have decreased from 20 in 2014 to nine.

As the innovative project starts a new intervention phase the Minister for Health advises that it should widen its scope beyond malaria case detection, treatment and tracking.

"You should consider including vector control in the project design. I believe controlling mosquitoes will improve the positive impact of the project," said Mwalimu.

The minister for health's remarks reflect Aisha's concern that cases of malaria go up during rainy seasons and drop in the dry season despite a general reduction of malaria cases.

The director of Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in China symbolically handed a metallic tool box used by China's 'barefooted doctors' to the Tanzania minister of health, expressing China's willingness to share its successful experience in eradicating malaria.

"We pleased to share with you our experience, share with you all the technical expertise we learned in our journey to eradicate malaria, let us work together to reach a malaria free Tanzania," said the director of CDC China, George Gao.

A malaria free Tanzania is what Asha Kingwande is looking up to.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

'Fashion industry can help Tanzania achieve its Vision 2025'

PASSIONATE about the ever-rising contribution of the fashion industry to economic growth and development in Africa, MARGARET MHINA (pictured) believes the sector has a critical role to play in Tanzania's quest for the attainment of its Vision 2025 – the march towards industrialisation. In this recent interview with our Special Correspondent, the Sahara Tanzania Limited staffer speaks on the growing influence of the fashion industry across Africa and the opportunity the company – a Sahara Group energy conglomerate affiliate – gives her to mentor young people through the Sahara Foundation. Excerpts:



QUESTION: The fashion industry in Africa is evolving quite fast. What factors do you think are driving this rapid growth?

Answer: I would accredit that in part to the Pan African movement that started abroad. The call for black solidarity and appreciation for our culture has since spread like wildfire. Celebrities such as Beyoncé and Tracee Ellis Ross, to mention but a few, have recently been spotted rocking African Print outfits. It has been an organic evolution that began in the 1970s, a time when Kiswahili and other African names were re-introduced into the Afro-American society.

A cultural shift then occurred, encouraging the Black community to embrace and appreciate their cultural heritage. Celebrities were not left behind; we had names such as Taraji Penda Hansen and Sanaa Lathan. Thus, a generation of proud Afro-Americans emerged; these babies of the 1970s can be considered as today's trendsetters.

The recent blockbuster interest in African culture, including movie releases like "Black Panther" and "The Lion King", have managed to shift the Hollywood lens and zoomed in on African culture – most especially our glorious attires. There was a visible shift on social media especially during the Black Panther release, with a lot of dashiki and Maasai patterns worn.

The African fashion industry is incredibly rich in inspiration and has a lot to offer, the only thing needed being an inspiring platform.

What role can the fashion industry play in shaping positive narratives about Africa?

The fashion industry can be used a tool in the fight against neo-colonialism. Since that was an idea implanted in our grandparents' minds, that most things of African origin were backward and primitive, we ought to reintroduce, reinforce and reincorporate our culture. Fashion is one of the best ways to do that. In Tanzania, we have a country rich in culture, rich in heritage, rich in diversity...all we need is to dig deep for genuine inspiration and we could create an amazing variety of inspirational outfits.

Everything about our attire has a specific meaning, and all we need to do is appreciate and revive our own culture so that the rest of the world can also experience the spirit of Africa. In Tanzanian culture, for instance, there is a saying that goes thus: "You can only hit a woman with khanga." Now, for anyone not familiar with the fabric I am talking about, khanga is a light textured two-piece wrapper.

At weddings, I have often heard older men telling the groom that whenever he is upset by his wife he should buy a pair of khanga and throw it at her (which won't really cause any harm or pain to the lady), but he should never put his hands hard enough on his wife to inflict harm. This is our culture, that is the custom that the garment carries and I think this is a message worth being spread worldwide.

We can celebrate and share our culture with the world through fashion. That is how the Maasai print ended up being incorporated into the Calvin Klein collection some years ago. The legendary print has been used to share the culture of the Maasai with the world. It is my firm belief that our diversity, our edge, our curls and our braids need to be incorporated more in offices and other formal platforms. There are some rules and regulations that need to be revised in public offices,



the neo-colonial stigma against dreads being one of the issues. We ought to understand that a hairstyle or a dashiki shirt does not affect the personality or mind of the one choosing to wear them proudly.

How is the fashion sub-sector faring in Tanzania? How fashion conscious would you say Tanzanians are?

Tanzanians are generally fashion conscious although, surprisingly, the industry is not faring as well as one might expect it to. Kenya is easily the 'fashion capital' of East Africa and if a model were to start his/her career I would advise them to start off there and then move to the continental fashion capital, South Africa. Successful Tanzanian models like Flaviana Matata (New York) and Millen Magese (South Africa) are both working abroad.

I would proudly say that Tanzania boasts some of the best-dressed celebrities in East Africa so, yes, we are quite fashion conscious and often keep up with the trends. Many Tanzanian celebrities and designers have incorporated khanga and kitenge prints into more contemporary garments. Among my favourites would be artistes Vanesa Mdee, who just loves playing with colours, and Jacqueline Wolper. To say the latter's garments are brave would clearly be an understatement.

Nor are the men on the Tanzanian fashion scene lagging behind. Love him or hate him, Nasibu Abdul Juma (stage name: Diamond Platinumz) is one of the best-dressed male celebrities – while much the same goes for one-time Big Brother Africa winner Idris Sultan. These front very different styles in that Idris leans more towards business casual while Diamond can get quite creative, but both are fabulous and talented.

By way of comparison, which part of Africa would you say has the most sophisticated fashion industry on the continent and why?

I absolutely love Tanzania and we are the proud hosts of the annual Swahili Fashion Week, a major event for any East African model or designer. However, I would have to go with South Africa when it comes to choosing Africa's fashion capital. Models from all over the world choose it as a starting point for their careers. Competitions are stiff but that might be the beginning of one's 'journey' in the European and New York fashion scene. Many talented East Africans have chosen South Africa as their preferred career destination. One of our male models, DaxxCruz, has had his entire career built in Johannesburg. Everything, from modelling agencies right to boarding houses reserved for models and the lifestyle, is as close as you can get to Milan and New York.

Nigeria would not be left lying far behind, though. GT Fashion Week was a big hit in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. One of my closest friends featured there and she had only good things to say about Lagos. I am told that Nigerian make-up artists can work magic on your eyebrows, and I look forward to experiencing that. Then there is the undeniably beautiful beadwork and headwraps that just take your breath away.

This last decade has witnessed a surge in demand for local fabrics across the continent. Is that to suggest that Africans are getting increasingly excited about 'wearing Africa'?

Africans are doubtless getting more conscious about self-love and beauty standards. Now that Pan-Africanism is openly and strongly supported by Black entertainers and trendsetters, people are more open to the idea of going back to their roots. It is no longer frowned upon to wear beads or have an African print headscarf. African print is the new "black" for people of colour all over the world. I was pleasantly surprised to see an Afro-American man wearing beads instead of gold chains around the neck in one of the American programmes I was watching a while back. More power to him; even though they were not waist beads, I appreciate the effort and love.

More and more people are noticeably shifting towards more natural products, including things that keep their natural hair healthy. There are a lot of pages that advertise beads and necklaces with captions such as "Authentic Ghanaian belly chains" or "Authentic Maasai beadwork necklace", and these products sell like hot cakes on online platforms. There is a sure rise in black consciousness and we are in a place where we now view the word "African" in a different manner from the way we did some decades ago. So, yes, people are excited to wear and purchase authentic African accessories and garments.

What do you look out for when shopping for African fabrics and designs?

The patterns and colours fascinate me. I have a personal preference for darker print combinations with unusual patterns. I am normally quite particular when it comes to shoes and clothes; most of my wardrobe consists of black and beige, which I think is appropriate for any occasion. My choice in African prints doesn't stray very far from that but, of course, I allow a slightly wider colour selection and I do have a fun bright yellow fabric in my wardrobe. Indeed, I might even end up making it into a fun skater dress...who knows?

Professional advice: If you are going to a children's party and you do not want to be the centre of attention and get your

outfit all messed up, wear dark colours – as I learnt the hard way...

What would you say is the value of the fashion industry in Africa?

It is a billion-dollar industry, US\$30+ billion, to be exact. The market for African accessories and African print fabrics is huge out there and they sell for a very high price. I had a woman tell me the story of a celebrity designer from the US who came to Tanzania to shop for African print fabrics and had these made into simple ball earrings. She was charged about US\$1.50 apiece, which was more than enough to buy the material, pay for labour and get a decent profit. In turn, she sold the pieces to A-list celebrities for a ridiculously high price. So, yes, there is money to be made in the African fashion industry and there are also people to be empowered and lives to be improved. Let's not reduce the industry to a mere number. I am a fan of taking the humanitarian approach to business.

What excites you the most about Tanzanian designs and which Tanzanian designers do you admire most?

The best Tanzanian designers, in my view, are Ally Rhemtullah and Mustapha Hassanali. Their attention to detail and their emphasis on the femininity of the garments are impressive. I can recall one of Hassanali's interviews some years ago in which he emphasized how his designs were specifically made to suit the full-figured and attractive figure of a 'typical' African woman. I immediately fell in love with his work. Being in an industry that glorifies skinny women and to outwardly say that you design clothes for curvy girls is very, very brave.

You had worked as a model before joining Sahara Tanzania Limited. Are you missing your life as a model?

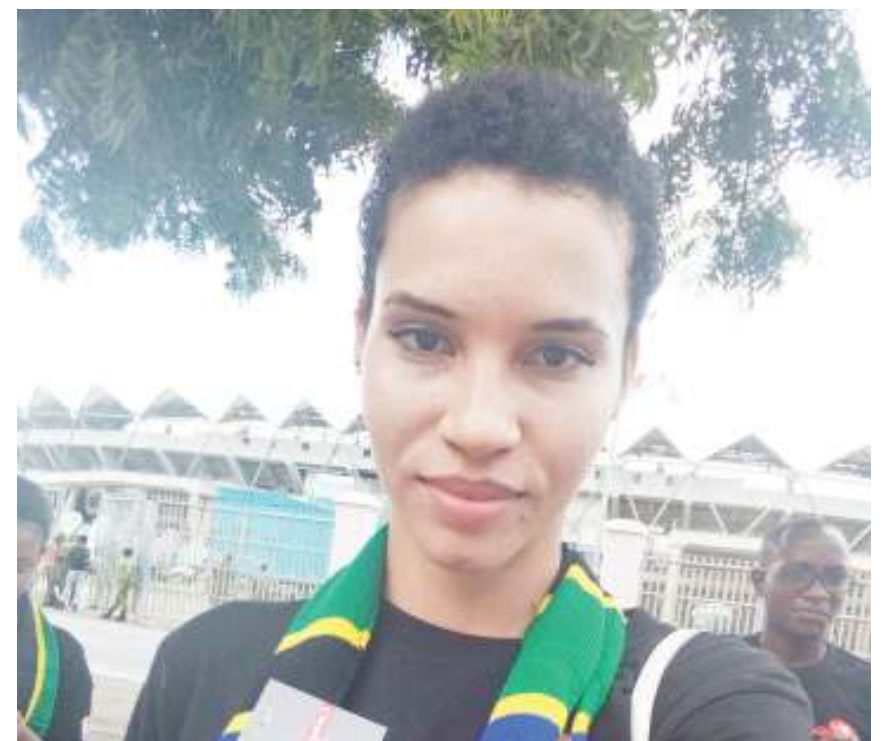
I didn't choose modeling; rather, modelling chose me. I got into the industry because of peer pressure and I was never very keen on fashion and beauty. I knew it was just a stepping stone and I treated it as such. I did eventually fall in love with the camera, though. One of the best photo sessions I have been a part of was a project for a Chinese magazine – you may choose to call it home – in a Nairobi suburb and it was full of African art and ornaments. It was b-e-a-u-tiful, as Jim Carry (Canadian-American actor, comedian, impressionist, screenwriter, musician, producer, artist, painter and cartoonist James Eugene Carrey) would say.

I got to dress like a Maasai Queen, then a Senegalese Queen and finally a Ghanaian Queen. I never got the professional images but the experience alone was amazing. I would say I am a different kind of model now at Sahara Group, where the culture encourages one to volunteer for great causes. This transformation is quite exciting for me, as giving back at Sahara has a personal touch to it through volunteering and a shared passion to make a positive difference that is shared by all employees of Sahara Group across our locations.

So, these days, I am quite content with being a role model to younger people by being a part of Sahara Foundation's interventions in Tanzania, especially those targeted at giving wings to the dreams and aspirations of the youth in the country. I guess, that makes me a Sahara model and I am delighted to be one.

You are involved in a lot of youth empowerment activities being implemented by Sahara Foundation in Tanzania. How important is this to you?

That is very important to me because, as one of the Tanzanian youth myself, I can relate to the many struggles the beneficiaries of these programmes go through. I appreciate having the opportunity to support a good cause. It is very important, regardless of the situation that someone is in, that they have hope. When you are struggling to make something of yourself, you need a helping hand every now and then. To say that this is charity would be wrong because we are simply enabling bright children to overcome a stage in their life that would open the door to greater opportunities and achievements. I have been in situations where I have needed assistance and, because of that, I am where I am today. It is an honour and a great responsibility to pass that back into the society that has grown and embraced



me since I was a child.

How would you counsel young women and men desiring or planning to take up modelling as a career?

You need to have an extremely tough skin, expect to meet agents who will take advantage of you, beware of people who will try to persuade you to live above your means and always be your number one fan. I will not sugarcoat it; modelling is cut-throat business. Many people get modelling and pageantry mixed together; but while they may be similar, they couldn't be more different.

Pageantry is about your personality; it is the soft, feminine image of a perfect woman engraved in everyone's mind. You are supposed to be sweet, gentle, approachable, helpful and beautiful inside and out, a true sweetheart (for lack of a better word). In modelling, though, you are just a hanger – the thinner, the better; the edgier, and the better.

Former African-American supermodel Tyra Banks once said that models are not beautiful, that they are just a bunch of girls with weird features that take good pictures. I would say much the same: that the richest and most successful models in the world right now are weird-looking, long-legged creatures that can bend and break their bodies into impossible shapes during photo-shoots – and the edgier, the better. There is a lot of love for my dark-skinned sisters in the industry right now, so more power to you brown-skinned girls. Make us proud!

Tanzania has grand plans with its

Vision 2025. How can the fashion industry help facilitate the achievement of the vision?

The fashion industry can make a significant contribution to the realisation of the plans. Fashion can promote unity and a sense of belonging, especially if it borrows elements from our rich array of traditional attires. Growing up in an interracial family, I had to learn both cultures and love both races. My belief is that people exposed to experiencing a number of cultures from an early age become a part of all those experiences and they unknowingly become one with diversity. We, Tanzanians, are a diverse nation home to many tribes and ethnic groups. We can unify ourselves by allowing everyone to see, feel and experience a unique piece of everyone's culture through fashion.

Do you have plans to establish traditional fashion outfits?

I am not sure about establishing a single line of traditional outfits. We have kept that option open to interpretation for very long because we have always felt that constricting 120+ tribes to a single national outfit, which would most likely heavily lean towards a single culture, would be unfair to the rest of the communities. We have a socialist legacy; we prefer sharing rather than limiting ourselves to one option.

-Interview published, with slight editing, courtesy of Sahara Group.

BUSINESS

CONCERN

IMF rumours may be the scare South Africa needs

JOHANNESBURG

The threat of an International Monetary Fund bailout, unthinkable a few years ago, may force government to push through the reforms it needs to rescue the economy.

An expanded bailout for struggling power utility Eskom and calls from other state companies for support have strained the nation's budget, prompting business groups and analysts to warn the country could be pressed to ask the IMF to help keep a lid on ballooning debt.

"The IMF is used as a scare tactic to make the government aware that if we don't implement the necessary policies, we may be forced to turn" to them, Thabi Leoka, an independent economist, said in an emailed response to questions. "South Africa's problems are not insurmountable. We know what we need to do. Our problem is the lack of implementation and political will."

The Washington-based lender, central bank and the government have said South Africa doesn't need IMF help and that authorities can still do what's needed. While President Cyril Ramaphosa and the ruling African National Congress will be unlikely to request support, the nation's biggest business lobby said they may have to unless they act soon to fix the problems at the cash-strapped state-owned electricity company and to remove obstacles to economic growth.

Seeking help from the IMF would be politically dangerous for the ANC as it could be seen as a failure to manage the economy, and being answerable to a foreign institution would give ammunition to opposition parties such as the Economic Freedom Fighters that advocate wholesale nationalisation.

Waning confidence
The possibility of IMF assistance "is in the headlines because people doubt the ability of the state to effect any economic reforms that are urgent and so required for us to deal with the structural problems," said Lumkile Mondli, an economics lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. "People have got no

confidence, so they're looking for a third party to help us implement a form of a structural-adjustment program."

Business confidence has cooled from the two-year high it reached after Ramaphosa won the leadership of the ruling party and took over as president of the country in February 2018. He has pledged to create jobs and make it easier to do business as he seeks to lure \$100 billion in new investment.

The government will announce a plan to improve the economy within weeks, Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu told reporters on August 8. "There is no need or appetite from the South African government to approach any financial institution for help." Budget constraints amid weak economic growth have prompted calls for urgent action.

Eskom has R440 billion of debt and is battling to meet demand for electricity from ageing plants. The government's plan to give it R128 billion in assistance over three years will add to state liabilities and widen the fiscal shortfall. Fitch Ratings estimates the budget gap may climb to 6.3% of gross domestic product this year, and government debt to 68% of GDP in two years. That's at a time when the economy contracted the most in a decade in the first quarter and unemployment climbed to 29%.

Allocating new broadband spectrum and simplifying visa rules to boost tourism and bring in necessary skills are "readily achievable policies" that can boost confidence, the IMF's resident representative in South Africa, Montfort Mlachila, said last week. Other measures that could help are more labor-market flexibility and leaner state-owned companies.

South Africa's floating exchange rate acts as a buffer to external shocks and gives it the resilience to avoid running into balance-of-payments trouble, said Razia Khan, chief economist for Africa and the Middle East at Standard Chartered Bank. International reserves of \$49.8 billion and the fact that external debt is mostly rand-denominated provide additional support, she said.



Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu.

FRUSTRATION

Stakeholders in the dairy industry decry dovetailing regulatory bodies

By Beatrice Philemon

GROWTH of the country's dairy industry is being frustrated by dozens of regulatory bodies mostly undertaking similar functions hence impeding private investments.

Tanzania Milk Processors Association's Executive Secretary, Yohana Kubini said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the dairy industry is supervised by 30 different regulatory bodies, directorates and agencies which often dovetail their functions.

Kubini said in order to unleash the massive growth potential which the dairy industry has in the country, authorities should implement recommendation made by a stakeholders' blue print document seeking to reduce cost of doing business in the local market.

"We believe that if the blue print recommendations that we made are absorbed by authorities, operational costs will decline because

bureaucracy will be reduced and more local and foreign investors will put their money in the dairy industry value chain that will create employment for women and youths," Kubini said.

He further noted that growth of the dairy industry which is guaranteed because of the large livestock numbers which the country has, will also see government's industrialization agenda realized while Treasury earning blot through taxation and other fees.

"Although this year the government has abolished taxation on milk for small producers with volumes of between 0 and 200 litres per day, the cost of doing business is still high for large scale milk producers, processors, transporters and importers," the Tmpa chief added.

He challenged Tanzania Dairy Board which had organized the stakeholders' meeting to discuss the industry's policy and regulatory framework and financed by Netherland Development

Organisation (SNV), that because of bureaucracy and regulatory frustrations, many potential investors are bypassing the industry.

"As stakeholders engaged in this sector we need at least 12 regulatory bodies only so that investors can operate in a better dairy environment which then means that more people will be attracted," he stressed while warning that growth is currently stalled.

While commending government for merging Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority and Tanzania Bureau of Standards, dairy industry stakeholders are proposing that general inspections (milk safety and human health protection) should be done by Tanzania Dairy Board while safety (inspection of plants and equipments) should be carried out by Occupation Safety and Health Authority.

The stakeholders' blueprint is also proposing that product certification and standardization should be conducted by TBS/TFDA and zero tax rate should be



Tanzania Milk Processors Association's Executive Secretary, Yohana Kubini.

handled by Tanzania Revenue Authority.

Speaking at the meeting, a consultant called Professor Lusato Kurwijila said the country has massive potential to develop the dairy industry into a world class establishment capable of dominating the region. Prof Kurwijila said with only about 3 percent of more than 2.4 million tons of milk produced in the country being processed, growth potential is massive.

"I call upon the government to enact a Business Facilitation Act

that will amend the various laws and regulations that impede on the ease of doing business in the country," Prof Kurwijila advised pointing out that authorities in Dodoma should adopt a similar law as Mauritius which is one of the most favourable investment jurisdictions in Africa.

He said it takes between five to 54 days to process projects at different levels with several government agencies which sometimes can reach between a year and two for an investor to access land to establish a dairy farm.

SYNERGY

VMWare, Strathmore University partner in enriching digital skills pool for Africa

NAIROBI

Enterprise software firm VMware has expanded the VMware Academy: Virtualise Africa programme and confirmed an MOU established with Kenya's Strathmore University's @iLabAfrica centre.

The company and academic institution share the vision to empower the continent's fast-growing, young population to enter the digital workforce "with confidence and expertise", and thereby help to address the skills gap.

VMware's objective is to engage key stakeholders across academia, government and industry to equip students with the technical skills and certifications they require to succeed in the digital economy. In a statement released

by VMware, the company explains: "The African labour market is experiencing significant disruption due to fast-paced technological advances. With the emergence of new fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine-learning, Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud computing, business models have radically changed and so have the skill sets required by individuals to thrive in this new environment."

Via the partnership with VMware, Strathmore University has begun integrating a range of VMware developed courses into its curricula - these cover topics such as virtualisation, cloud computing, AI and IoT. This is facilitated through subsidised software licenses and certification vouchers from

VMware.

@iLabAfrica, a Centre of Excellence in Research and Innovation in Information Communication Technology at the University, is spearheading the rollout with 20 trainers and over 100 students at the University participating.

The students will be able to benefit from access to high-quality learning online resources, hands-on lab experiences, and the opportunity to achieve industry-recognised VMware certification to complement their chosen fields of study.

Dr. Joseph Sevilla, Director @iLabAfrica, Strathmore University, "Our shared goal with VMware is to become the VMware IT Academy regional lead for East Africa, training lecturers and students from Strathmore

and other universities plus facilitating their participation in the programme. Increased access to this type of education and training for students is a critical part of Africa realising the potential of its youth and a prosperous Africa."

Thomas MacKay, Senior Director for Global Strategic Programs, VMware, added: "Skills development is recognised as a key component for economic growth and prosperity. VMware IT Academy: Virtualise Africa helps educational institutions align curricula with the skills needed for the labour market, thereby building talent for Africa's jobs of today and tomorrow. Our discussions to form a strategic collaboration with Strathmore University is a significant milestone in this programme, and will bring new skills and opportunities to

its students, and in the future to many more young people in East Africa."

VMware acknowledges the difficulty that some academic institutions have in ensuring all graduates are able to secure a foothold in the job market. Part of the problem is that students are required to have hands-on practical experience with specific platforms in order to secure employment.

Although there is no formal recruitment component to the Virtualise Africa programme, it does enable students to gain this practical experience. VMware has noted the growth of the cloud services market in Africa, particularly in regions like Kenya, and believes its experience and positioning as a cloud provider will help develop skills and make these available to the market.

NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

Kenya dragging feet on Tanzania flour

NAIROBI

The difference in standards and low capacity will hinder Tanzania's quest to export maize flour to Kenya, Agriculture PS Hamadi Boga has said.

Kenyan flour is fortified, which is a requirement by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs), while most of the Tanzanian commodity is not, making access to the local market difficult. On capacity, Prof Boga said Tanzania's largest miller has a capacity of 100 metric tonnes

a day compared to Kenya's total daily capacity of 16,000 tonnes

"These factors of standards and low output makes the plans of importing flour from Tanzania unviable," he told the Daily Nation in an interview. "Maize flour from outside the country must be attuned to the consumer preferences in Kenya."

Tanzania President John Magufuli last month said his country would only export flour, not maize grain to Kenya as earlier announced. Maize trade was part of bilat-

eral deals agreed upon during President Uhuru Kenyatta's visit to Tanzania.

The move might come as a relief to millers who had opposed the plan by Tanzania to export maize flour to ease the current shortage, arguing that it would destabilise the market and subject them to losses. The processors argued they buy maize at Sh4,000 for a 90-kilo bag and bringing in flour from Tanzania would render theirs uncompetitive.

Agriculture Secretary Mwangi Kiunjuri's an-

nouncement in April that the maize gap needed to be bridged through imports was greeted with murmurs, with MPs, the national Strategic Food Reserve Trust Fund and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga claiming there was enough food in the country and that importation was choreographed by "cartels."

"We cannot bring in maize from Mexico. We are going to scout the grain from Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa countries," Mr Kiunjuri told MPs last

week in an abrupt change of stance last month.

In March, the ministry said there were 21 million bags of maize in the country forecast to last until the end of June with deficit having to be filled through imports. However, political pressure has seen government back-track from importing outside the region. The inflow of maize from Tanzania and Uganda has helped to stabilise the price of flour now maintained at Sh123 for a two-kilogramme packet in the last two months.



Kenya, Agriculture PS Hamadi Boga.

ULTIMATUM

Treasury PS urges TIB Bank Ltd management to pursue debtors

By Guardian Reporter

PEOPLE and companies which borrowed billions of shillings from TIB Bank Limited should be pursued and ensure that they repay their debts, Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Finance, Dr Khatibu Kazungu has said.

Dr Kazungu told TIB Bank's top management team led by Managing Director, Charles Singili in Dar es Salaam yesterday that bad debtors have depleted the long term lender's liquidity availability hence should be pressured to repay their loans.

"Borrowers who have defaulted repayment should relentlessly be pursued because they are affecting the bank's capitalization as required by Bank of Tanzania," Dr Kazungu said while noting that as a long term lender, TIB is an important government institution required to back an industrialization agenda.

He said TIB also need strong capital based and solid liquidity position in order to meet the growing market demand for long term loans needed to invest in industries.

Briefing Dr Kazungu on TIB's performance, Managing Director Singili acknowledged the impact which bad debts have imposed on the bank saying his management is already pursuing the defaulters to



Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Finance, Dr Khatibu Kazungu (L) accompanied by his host, TIB Bank's Managing Director, Charles Singili (R) when he visited the long term lender's Dar es Salaam offices yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Finance.

ensure that they repay their loans.

"This is a state bank which was established purposefully to provide long term development financing both by the public and private sectors," Singili noted while advising people or institu-

tions that borrow from banks to ensure that such monies are invested in productive projects.

He pointed out that as long term lender, TIB has no competitors in the market because commercial banks are interested in short term

lending. "Taking the country's Five Year Development Plan for 2016/17 to 2020/21, the amount of money proposed to cover development projects cannot be raised through taxation only but also long term lenders like TIB to subsidise the

same," the TIB Bank Managing Director noted.

He suggested that TIB may in future seek cash from capital markets to back government's development efforts which required long term lending.

APPRECIATION

DTB net earnings jump by 10.8pct after it moves to rein in bad loans

NAIROBI

Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) has posted a 10.8 percent jump in net profit for the six months to June, 2019, to hit Sh4.1 billion from Sh3.7 billion last year. This is mostly by tightening recovery of bad loans to offset provisioning.

The lender saved Sh1.1 billion on lower provisioning after it managed to turn around and start cutting down bad loans which stood at Sh15.1 billion in June from Sh15.2 billion. DTB has proposed not to pay interim dividends as earnings from loans declined from Sh11 billion to Sh9.9 billion after it cut back lending to Sh190.7 billion from Sh198.2 billion in the first half of last year.

"In line with the practice adopted in recent years, the directors do not propose the payment of an interim dividend," the lender said. The group managed to balance its growth in deposits with costs from interest expense which reduced from Sh6.7 billion last year to Sh6 billion even as customer deposit rose from Sh281 billion to Sh283 billion.

As the bank cut lending following industry trend after the rate cap, focus has shifted in making money away from interest income where DTB made Sh2.9 billion up from Sh2.7 billion last year supported from foreign exchange trading income.

The lender has also been managing its balance sheet by cutting on long-term borrowed funds from Sh16.9 billion in June last year to Sh13.2 billion in the first half of 2019. DTB says it holds long-term notes that bear interest at rates referenced to the six months Libor including debt facilities of Sh2.8 billion (\$28 million) raised from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Sh2.5 billion (\$25 million) raised from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

It also holds loan facilities of Sh1.66 billion (\$16.6 million), Sh2.28 billion (\$22.8 million), Sh500 million (\$5 million) and Sh1 billion (\$10 million) raised from Proparco, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), Agence Française de Development (AFD) and African Development Bank respectively.

DECELERATION

Shoprite misses year's forecasts despite stronger home market

JOHANNESBURG

Shoprite missed full-year earnings forecasts yesterday, hit by inventory shortages in South Africa and currency devaluations in the rest of Africa, which overshadowed an improved second half in its home market.

The owner of Checkers and Usave retail chains is recovering from a poor first half when sales and profit were hit by a strike at its largest distribution centre at home and installation of a new IT system which disrupted supply chains.

The retailer reported significantly improved growth in the second half, driven mainly by its Supermarkets South Africa operation, where sales rose by 7.4% in the six-months ended June 30 and 9.4% in the final quarter. This business generates 74.9% of group sales.

"We believe that the market share gains reflected in the most recent quarter are testament to our core South African business being back

to full operational strength," Chief Executive Officer Pieter Engelbrecht said in a statement.

But the improved second half was not enough to lift basic headline earnings per share, which fell 19.6% to 780.8 cents in the full-year to June 30, compared with a restated figure of 971.4 cents a year earlier. Diluted headline earnings also fell by 19.6%. Analysts had forecast a fall of 15.5%, IBES data from Refinitiv showed. At 0920 GMT, Shoprite's shares were down 2.25%.

"Notwithstanding the much improved recent performance in our core Supermarkets South Africa division, it was a testing year," Engelbrecht said. "A constrained economy, inventory shortages post industrial action and the implementation of a new enterprise wide IT system across our store base resulted in lost sales."

In-stock levels at the Supermarkets South Africa business are now higher than before it implemented the new system,

Engelbrecht added. The retailer, with more than 2 900 stores, also blamed currency devaluation in markets such as Angola - its biggest operation outside South Africa - a trading loss outside its home market, higher minimum wages and rent and electricity costs at home. As a result of the currency depreciation in Angola and other countries such as Zambia and Nigeria, the rest of Africa business reported a trading loss of R265 million (\$17.19 million) for the year.

Engelbrecht said Shoprite remained committed to its customers in the 14 African countries it operates in outside South Africa, despite there being no respite in short-term trading conditions in the rest of Africa region. "With respect to non-South Africa, persistently challenging trading conditions in the year ahead are likely to hamper our ability to return to profitability," the retailer said.



Richard Tusabe, the Director General of Rwanda Social Security Board, speaks during the news conference in Kigali yesterday.

GROWTH

RSSB reaches Rwf1 trillion in assets

KIGALI

Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB)'s investment portfolio has reached Rwf1 trillion after a good performance registered by the body in the last fiscal year 2018-2019, the Fund's officials have said.

The revelation was made on Monday by RSSB's Director General, Richard Tusabe, during a press conference held at the body's office to announce its performance in the completed fiscal year 2018-2019.

"It's a promising overview," Tusabe said after describing the fund's performance in different

areas in which it offers services. RSSB's total investment portfolio was Rwf891.7 billion by the end of the previous fiscal year 2017-2018, which means that the fund's assets such as the value of its real estates, treasury bonds, and shares in banks have grown positively.

Vision City, the biggest housing project in Rwanda and financed by RSSB, consists of 504 villas and apartment units. Sam Ngendahimana. "We are growing year after year," Tusabe said after stating that the Fund had reached the Rwf1 trillion mark in value of its investment portfolio.

In the completed fiscal year the fund's net return

on investment was Rwf48.6 billion, up from Rwf45 billion in the fiscal year 2017-2018. The fund currently manages five schemes that include pensions, occupational hazards, community-based health insurance (CBHI), maternity leave benefits, and Ejo Heza long term savings scheme.

In order to remain profitable and meet its obligation towards its contributors over the long term, RSSB makes investments in different areas such as buying shares in profitable companies, making profitable deposits in commercial banks, and investing in building real estate for both sale and rent.

Tusabe, who took over

the management of RSSB in October last year, said that the Fund will continue to invest in profitable projects in the future, with net return on investment for the current fiscal year (2019-2020) expected to be Rwf57 billion.

"We are optimistic that we are going to grow the investment income," he said after revealing the target for net return on investment in the current fiscal year. In October last year, the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana, told journalists that RSSB had remained profitable despite the fact that some of its investments had failed to make returns.



Shoprite CEO, Pieter Engelbrecht.

Tesla taken to task over quality in BMW's heartland

Stefan Moeller began this year with an ambitious target: to make his car-rental company Nextmove the biggest Tesla customer in Germany by adding 100 Model 3s to its fleet. He likened the electric car's arrival on Europe's shores to a tsunami washing over a region that's been slow to embrace battery-powered cars.

But the powerful wave Mr Moeller expected has collapsed to a trickle. After weeks of back and forth over unfulfilled repair work and quality issues involving the initial 15 saloons that Tesla delivered - from scratched bumpers to moisture trapped behind the headlights - the order of the remaining 85 Model 3s was called off. Tesla also tried to deliver cars that had been previously registered, which would have locked Nextmove out of Germany's electric-car incentive programme and potential tax refunds, Mr Moeller said.

"The Model 3 is a fantastic car. Some of our customers totally fell in love with it," said Mr Moeller, whose Leipzig-based company has more than 300 electric vehicles in its fleet, including 38 Model S and a dozen Model X. "But the organisation behind it doesn't match that. It's really sobering."

Subpar service could be a barrier to Tesla making more of an impact in Germany, where exacting car owners value how painstakingly



Stefan Moeller, co-founder of Nextmove, with Tesla Model S, left, and a Tesla Inc. Model X.

their BMWs and Mercedes are cared for just as much as the speed of the Autobahn. Chief executive Elon Musk, who's famously inimical to Twitter critiques, acknowledged earlier this year that a lack of service centres in Germany was hampering the company's growth there.

Tesla believes Nextmove's decision to

cancel its remaining Model 3 order wasn't entirely due to quality issues and was largely influenced by frustration with an unrelated dispute earlier in the year, according to a spokesperson. The car maker was in the process of making repairs and had

provided loan vehicles to the customer at the time the order was cancelled. Nextmove insists it was Tesla that cancelled the order, after the rental-car company demanded an improved process for handovers and fixes. The Tesla spokesperson

blamed the registration issue that Nextmove described on a temporary issue with matching identification numbers to vehicles and said it was resolved for impacted customers.

Poor service is an issue that's already plagued Tesla in Norway, Europe's largest electric-car market per capita. Dented and sloppily painted vehicles have fuelled the highest level of complaints per unit among all car makers, according to the nation's consumer watchdog.

In Europe, Tesla is racing against time as more established players wake up to the electric future. The continent is projected to be the world's second-largest driver of electric cars in the next decade, trailing only China. Customers can already choose between a growing number of battery-powered models from the likes of Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar and Audi.

Mr Moeller says Tesla's issues extend beyond the Model 3. He spent two years waiting for the car maker to replace a seat in a Model X that was delivered in July 2017 with a hole in it. A Model 3 arrived more recently with a protruding bulge on one tire. Mr Moeller shared with Bloomberg News his email correspondence with Tesla and photos of the blemished vehicles.

The Tesla spokesperson said the company's data doesn't indicate any unusual vehicle quality issues specific to Germany or anywhere else in the world. The company said there's a small chance cars are blemished during transport to customers and that it addresses those issues quickly.

Nextmove isn't an isolated case. German social-media platforms and online forums are abuzz with customers airing complaints about faulty parts from sensors to suspensions. Many also de-

scribe Tesla's sales organisation in the country as unresponsive.

"I'm still thrilled by the car because it's just so much better than anything I've driven before but the quality of the service and some technical parts are seriously worrying," Rouven Volk, who said he ordered his Model 3 in February and was slated to take delivery less than a month later.

Mr Volk chronicled an odyssey with Tesla that began with a car that couldn't be handed over because of a defective main display. The company opted to source another Model 3 from its European pool and set a new handover date for a month later. Then, the car had stains on the outside and in the interior, and a cable dangled from where there should have been a light for the back seats. The charging cables and winter tyres he ordered were nowhere to be found.

ESPIONAGE

Mercedes admits it installed spy tracker devices in thousands of cars

LONDON

Mercedes has fitted spy tracker devices to thousands of high-performance cars. The secret sensors have been fitted to new and used models, enabling the manufacturer to view each car's exact location.

It claims the devices are only activated in "exceptional circumstances" where customers default on finance agreements and says they have not been used to permanently track customers or access real-time data. But it admits it shared the data with third-party bailiffs and recovery firms.

The company said: "When a customer chooses to finance the purchase of their car this way, they sign a contract and agree to the location sensors in the car being activated in the event that they default or breach their agreement. "This clause in the finance contract is in bold print, just above the customer's signature."

"Locating the car is part of the repossession process and is not permanently track-

ing customers. "It is only activated in exceptional circumstances where the customer has breached their finance agreement and repeatedly failed to reply to requests to contact us." Mercedes' rivals, including BMW and Jaguar Land Rover, say they do not carry out similar tracking.

British politician David Davis told the Sun newspaper: "This is not the first time big business has behaved like Big Brother - but it's rare to be quite as deceitful as this. "I have to question whether it is even legal to pass on information to other people such as bailiffs. "I would think the relevant minister ought to look very closely at the legality of this procedure."

In the UK, an estimated 80 per cent of Mercedes' vehicles are sold on finance plans. It is illegal under EU data protection laws to track a vehicle without the driver's knowledge, but cars bought on finance agreements include a clause about location sensors which customers must sign up to.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE		FRIDAY 23 Aug		SATURDAY 24 Aug		SUNDAY 25 Aug													
MONDAY 19 Aug	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo: Ahadi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Kimya Milele 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Series: Iris 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Kesho Leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Bet 22:15 Series: Iris 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 CNN International	23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International	WEDNESDAY 21 Aug	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:30 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk 11:15 Jagina 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 14:00 Series rpt: Iris 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tafakari Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! 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Sand from Sardinia.

WARNING

Tourists face up to six years in jail after stealing sand from Sardinia

ROME

A French couple have been caught with 40 kilograms of sand from Sardinia in their car. Removing the island's famed white sand is forbidden and the pair could face up to six years in prison for the theft following a clampdown.

They were found with 14 plastic bottles full of the sand as they tried to board a ferry and said they were taking it as a souvenir. The island introduced a law in 2017 to ban the removal of sand due to reverse a growing trend. People taking it can face a £2,750 fine or up to six years in jail.

Authorities at Olbia airport carry out bag checks to catch passengers taking the sand home with them. In the past decade the au-

thorities have seized in excess of 10 tonnes. Airport officials confiscate about 2 tonnes of stolen sand a year and 500kg was seized at the ferry terminal last year.

"It's striking, because it gives us an idea of how widespread taking sand from beaches really is," Augusto Navone, the head of the Tavolara nature reserve, said. Earlier this month, an Italian man, 40, who lives in the UK, was fined €1,000 after police caught him in possession of a bottle of sand from Gallura beach, on the island's north coast.

The German embassy in Rome warned holidaymakers against stealing Sardinia's sand. It wrote: "Sardinia has some of the most beautiful beaches in Italy, for example Cala Goloritzè, but the taking of sand, stones and molluscs is a serious problem."

WORLD

UK PM Boris Johnson faces rising Brexit strategy criticism

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing rising criticism of his Brexit strategy at home as he increases pressure on the European Union to re-open negotiations ahead of key meetings with his French and German counterparts later this week.

The prime minister's office said Monday that the right of EU citizens to work in the UK without restrictions would end on Nov 1 if Britain leaves the bloc without a Brexit deal.

British government officials also rejected demands by lawmakers for Johnson to recall Parliament from its summer recess so that lawmakers can scrutinize the prime minister's Brexit strategy.

The developments came a day after a leaked report showed that the British government is preparing for widespread shortages of food, fuel and medicines in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Since taking office last month, Johnson has pledged Britain will leave the EU on Oct 31 with or without a deal,

saying the only way to force European officials to negotiate is to make sure that leaving without an agreement is a real possibility.

"Now, of course, our friends and partners on the other side of the Channel are showing a little bit of reluctance at the moment to change their position," Johnson told Sky News on Monday. "That's fine - I'm confident that they will - but in the meantime we have to get ready for a no-deal outcome."

Johnson plans to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel today in Berlin and French President Emmanuel Macron tomorrow in Paris, before traveling to a summit of G-7 leaders this weekend in Biarritz, France.

Meanwhile, more than 100 British lawmakers have signed a letter asking Johnson to recall Parliament because of concerns about his Brexit strategy. Caroline Lucas, the Green Party's only member of Parliament, said lawmakers should return to Westminster because of the "impending national emergency" the country is facing.

"MPs should be in Parliament hold-

ing an increasingly reckless prime minister to account," Lucas told the BBC.

"He's putting his foot on the accelerator, driving the country off the cliff edge as if he had a huge mandate and overwhelming support. Well, he has no mandate for this."

Johnson's government has a one-seat majority in the House of Commons and he hasn't faced a national election as party leader. Johnson became prime minister after the Conservative Party selected him as its leader. He replaced Theresa May, who stepped down after Parliament three times rejected the Brexit deal she had negotiated with the EU.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, vowed Monday to do "everything necessary" to prevent the UK from leaving the EU without a deal.

This includes calling a no-confidence vote in Johnson's government and, if it succeeds, fighting the general election with a pledge to hold a second public vote on Brexit, Corbyn said in a speech in Northamptonshire. The public vote would include options on both sides of the question, including the possibility of remaining in the EU.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Chinese Foreign Ministry slams Moscow protests as Western interference in Russia's affairs

BEIJING

SOME Western countries' position and actions in relation to anti-government protests in Moscow may be considered as interference in Russia's domestic affairs, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Geng Shuang said at a briefing yesterday.

"We support the position of Russia's authorities," he said. "It is an example of interference in Russia's domestic politics, which points to the West's hegemonic claims," the Chinese diplomat pointed out.

According to Geng Shuang (pictured), the measures that the Russian government has taken to improve the situation in Moscow are totally legal. "It is alarming that in this situation, certain Western countries spring out of nowhere and take malign actions," he emphasized.

The August 10 rally was the fourth one conducted in support of independent candidates barred from running for the Moscow City Council.

The previous rallies were held on July 20 and 27, as well as on August 3. Only the first one of them had been authorized by the Moscow Mayor's Office.

According to Moscow police, about 600 people were detained in Moscow for participating in the August 3 unauthorized rally.

On July 27, over 1,000 protesters were detained. Ahead of the rallies, authorities issued warnings saying that violations of law would lead to liability.

Agencies

Zarif: Iran is committed to nuclear deal, willing to continue talks

HELSINKI

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that his country has remained committed to the nuclear treaty and is willing to continue the dialogue.

Zarif (pictured) and Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto spoke to the media after their meeting in Helsinki.

Commenting in Helsinki about the chances of Finland becoming a mediator between the United States and Iran, Zarif said that "a mediation should have some ground" and warned that the window for a dialogue may be closing.

The Iran nuclear deal, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was reached in 2015 between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, namely China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States, plus Germany.

But the US withdrew from JCPOA last year.

Zarif said Iran has shown its clear preference for cooperation and engagement through signing and negotiating the JCPOA. He also noted that Iran has remained committed to JCPOA despite US measures.

He said that there was an election in the US, not a revolution, "so whatever the previous administration committed itself to, binds the new administration as well".

Zarif underlined that Iran is willing to continue the dialogue, but the window is closing. "There should be some ground for the work of a mediator. And the mediator should bring the US back to the table".

Haavisto told the media briefing that Finland views the JCPOA as a very important international agreement. "We should all do our best to keep the agreement alive. Finland is ready to do its part."

Zarif had said earlier that "a result better than the 2015 deal would not be reached," and local commentators regarded the comment as an indication that Iran is not interested in negotiating about new terms.

During the visit, Zarif also had talks with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Ville Skinnari and representatives of the Helsinki based conflict management organization, Crisis Management Initiative.

Zarif welcomed the release of the tanker Grace I (renamed Adrian Sarya I) in Gibraltar. Asked to comment on the reports that the ship may go to Greece to offload its cargo, Zarif said Iran cannot be very transparent about the ship's route on account of the US sanctions.

Finland raised its concern on maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz. Zarif said in the press conference that the maritime security in the Strait and Persian Gulf is important to Iran "but it must be available to everyone".

Finland took up the situation of the vessel Stena Impero held in Iran and appealed for the release of the ship and crew. At the press conference, Zarif did not mention a possible release of the Swedish-owned ship that sails under UK flag.

Agencies



Half of world's coastlines to face altered wave conditions due to climate change - report

SYDNEY

AROUND half of the world's coastlines will face changes to wave height, shape and direction if current climate change trajectory continues, Australian research has revealed yesterday.

A team of scientists led by Australia's Griffith University have used roughly 150 model simulations to predict changes to "wave climate" by the end of the century.

"Under a business-as-usual future climate scenario, we found agreement in the projected future changes in wave heights, lengths and/or directions along 50 percent of the world's coasts," lead author Joao Morim from Griffith University said.

The research showed that roughly five percent of the world's coast will experience an increase in wave size, while around 15 percent is expected to experience a decrease in wave

size -- both of which will have the effect of changing coastal geography.

Some areas will experience changes in wave frequency and length which can see waves extending further up beaches and increasing the risk of wave-driven flooding.

A predicted 20 percent of coastline will see waves travelling in a slightly altered direction, with potentially significant consequences for coastal or offshore

infrastructure.

While each of these factors can individually have significant effects, the research suggests that up to 40 percent of the world's coastline will see simultaneous changes in wave height, frequency and direction.

"This is the first time there has been a compilation and reanalysis of the existing wave climate projections to identify two components: the agreement among the different projections, and

where there is agreement, what changes should we expect to see," co-author Doctor Nick Cartwright said.

"Where there's agreement among the models and what the extent of the change is, looking at different parameters such as wave height and direction in the offshore wave climate -- that is critical information in terms of what might happen at the coastline."

Xinhua

Blacklisting Huawei reflects Washington's unbridled bullying

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Department of Commerce announced on Monday that it will extend a temporary license loosening restrictions on business deals with Huawei for another 90 days, yet it has also decided to add another 46 Huawei affiliates to the Entity List.

As Huawei said in response to the addition, the move is "politically motivated and has nothing to do with national security." The commerce department first put Huawei and its 68 affiliates on the Entity List in May, which would restrict the sale or transfer of U.S. technologies to Huawei, evoking a so-called possible security threat posed by the use of Huawei's technologies and hardware.

However, given the fact that Washington has so far failed to offer any credible evidence to prove its accusations, its blacklisting of Huawei is a reflection of Washington's logic of bullying.

Washington's Huawei ban has drawn domestic and foreign objections. Some of U.S. domestic telecom carriers, especially those in rural areas, where the optical cable infrastructure is weak,

consider the cost-effective Huawei equipment a better option.

According to estimates by the Rural Wireless Association, which represents 55 member companies, the total cost for small U.S. wireless carriers to replace the equipment of Huawei and other Chinese providers would amount to 800 million to 1 billion U.S. dollars. Such large-scale supply chain adjustment might compel some small companies to file for bankruptcy.

As Huawei is deeply embedded in the global supply chain, the Chinese company has been widely regarded as a time-proven, reliable and safe business partner.

Therefore, it is not easy for Washington to persuade even its allies to ban Huawei over some groundless charges. The illusion that shutting Huawei out from the United States will give the country an upper hand in the global 5G competition is also flawed.

Washington's abuse of the state apparatus to arbitrarily crack down on a company will give rise to doubts about U.S. credibility and may diminish the country's technological edge.

The unfair restrictions on Huawei



have forced the Chinese company to independently explore a painstaking path to research and innovation, whose outcomes may provide more options for the industry and customers worldwide.

Huawei has already launched the HarmonyOS, an alternative

operating system to Google's Android, which Huawei may potentially be banned from using.

"If the U.S. government does not allow Google to provide the Android operating system," Ren Zhengfei, Huawei's founder and chief executive officer told Sky News, "then the world may have

a third operating system -- and that is not in the best benefit or interests of the United States."

In today's world of growing interdependence, the birth of technological breakthroughs increasingly requires mutually beneficial cooperation that transcends national borders. Xinhua

Trade war threatens the survival of American start-ups

AS the US government keeps slapping additional tariffs on Chinese products, the owner of a bag company Sherrill Mosee in Pennsylvania is feeling most stressed.

The trade war initiated by the US threatens the survival of American start-ups, since the soaring costs have become increasingly unbearable, the businesswoman told People's Daily.

Mosee was a nine-to-five who was always annoyed by the choice of bags when going out, and finally she decided to produce a fashionable and multipurpose bag by herself.

To find the proper production line was the biggest challenge for her after she completed designing the bag, as the manufacturing cost in the US was too high to afford for a start-up company like hers.

So Mosee resorted to Chinese manufacturers and she soon found an ideal supplier in China's Guangdong province which helped her enter the market at reasonable prices.

After her brand MinkeeBlue officially hit market in 2014, the bags have been making satisfactory performance in the US market, which makes

Mosee feel very proud of what she has done.

She told People's Daily that it was the Chinese handbag manufacturers who helped realize her dream to start a business.

However, now her business is faced with a survival crisis as the US government has announced the decision to impose tariffs on a wider array of Chinese goods.

If the 25 percent tariffs were imposed on her products, she would have to pay an extra 50 percent for imports from China, according to

Mosee, who added that as a start-up, her company had limited capital and it couldn't cope with the rising costs.

Mosee said she had only two choices, either to transfer the cost to consumers by raising the prices, or to close down her business. But to increase prices was a risky and unsustainable move, she noted worryingly.

It is impossible to find another proper supplier except China, because it took a lot of time and efforts and China had a large number of skilled workforce, said the businesswoman, stressing that the US govern-

ment's decision to impose additional tariffs meant a blow to her company.

MinkeeBlue is one of the many American small and medium-sized companies in such a plight since Washington started and escalated trade frictions. Most of these enterprises win their markets through cutting production costs in global supply chains.

An earlier survey to 923 American small-business owners showed that more than one third of them thought the additional tariffs could harm their businesses, according to

a report by the Wall Street Journal.

"From Wisconsin to South Carolina, small businesses are starting to lay off employees because of Trump's tariffs. Many firms have warned that the worst is yet to come," said a Business Insider report.

The interests of these companies could be further hurt as the US government widens the categories of imported Chinese goods subject to additional tariffs, according to media reports.

People's Daily



Chinese volunteers and Syrian children pose for a picture.

Chinese volunteers bring back happiness to Syrian refugee children

WANG Ziming, a fresh college graduate, together with three other Chinese volunteers, came to a primary school in Kifan, a small village in north central Lebanon this July, where they taught percussion music, painting, and Chinese calligraphy to Syrian refugee children, in the hope to ease their trauma brought by the war.

"The war took away educational resources from most of these children," Wang told the People's Daily, saying that despite of this, the stories told by the children about life and death, nostalgia, family, and dreams impressed him a lot.

On painting classes, almost all the works finished by the children had similar themes—colorful houses or Syrian national flag, he added.

Wang and his fellows worked there as volunteers under the project organized by Common Future Fund, a non-governmental organization committed to international volunteer project services under the guidance of China's national level public-raising foundation, China Children and Teenagers' Fund.

By organizing volunteer activities including teaching and cultural exchanges, Common Future Fund intends to help promote the well-being of the Syrian refugee families and the underprivileged families in the host countries.

By keeping accompany with these children, the Chinese volunteers

soothed the fear and sorrow of the little victims of war, and lighted their hope for a bright future.

"Even though countless sad stories happened on every inch of the land of the country, these children deserve happiness. Where there are smiles, there is hope," Wang said, adding that they were glad that they could offer some help.

"What gathers us here is nothing but the hope that we can help to alleviate the damage of wars to people, especially children," said Liu Yiqiang, the initiator of the volunteer project.

The Chinese volunteers are warmly welcomed by heads of local schools and orphanages in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. An executive of a Turkish orphanage said excitedly that these friends from China initiated a great undertaking as they were there to care for the children like mothers, sisters, and brothers.

Guo Jiayun, a volunteer in Jordan, shared a story in her journal. After a painting class, a little boy asked her to do a favor to write two Chinese characters on his painting, and the words he chose are "China".

"With every step we take on this land, we feel heavy responsibilities and know that we still have a long way to go. In the eyes of every child we have met here, we see aspiration for peace, knowledge, and the unknown. Smile is more powerful than tears," Guo wrote.

People's Daily

UN sees drop in violence against aid workers in South Sudan

JUBA

VIOLENCE against aid workers in conflict-torn South Sudan has reduced significantly, thanks to the September 2018 peace deal, a UN official said on Monday.

Speaking during an occasion making the World Humanitarian Day, Alain Noudehou, humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan said there has been improvement in security for aid workers in the past one year.

"We are grateful that since the start of year 2019, we have not experienced any loss of life in the humanitarian community," Noudehou said.

He urged the parties to the peace agreement to implement it and bring lasting stability to the world's youngest nation.

The UN envoy also called for in-

creased efforts to address the risks faced by female aid workers who often face risks of sexual violence and discrimination.

"Our hope is that the security situation will continue to improve to allow people to start to rebuild their lives," Noudehou said.

South Sudan was ranked the most dangerous place to deliver aid, according to the Worker Security Report for 2018.

At least 112 humanitarian workers have been killed since South Sudan descended into civil war in late 2013, said Manasseh Lomole, chairperson of the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

South Sudan descended into civil war in late 2013 and the conflict has created one of the fastest growing refugee crises in the world. Xinhua

Russian diplomat slams US for stoking tensions by conducting cruise missile tests

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS yesterday that the Pentagon's test of a cruise missile with a range that would have flouted the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is regrettable, and now Washington has set the course for increasing tensions.

"It is noteworthy that the test of an advanced Tomahawk-type missile was conducted just 16 days after the US withdrew from INF, and the treaty was terminated.

Perhaps, there can be no clearer and more explicit confirmation of the fact that the United States has been developing such systems for a long time, and preparations for quitting the agreement included, in particular, the relevant research and development," he noted.

Ryabkov (pictured) also pointed out that "the missile had been fired using the Mk41 vertical launching



system." "That's a universal launching system that is suitable for both firing SM-3 interceptor missiles and ground-to-ground and surface-to-surface cruise missiles," he specified.

"All that is regrettable. The United States has evidently set the course for fomenting military tensions," the senior diplomat stressed.

"We do not give into provocations. As Russian President [Vladimir Putin] said in France yesterday, we reiterate our commitment to a unilateral moratorium on deploying land-based intermediate-range systems until the

US deploys such systems in some part of the world," he said.

On Monday, the Pentagon reported that the United States had tested a land-based cruise missile capable of hitting its target after flying more than 500 kilometers for the first time after Washington's exit from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Washington has repeatedly stated that it could conduct a flight test of a land-based cruise missile in late August. In mid-March, Pentagon officials explained that the issue at hand was the test of a Tomahawk missile at a range of about 1,000 kilometers.

In addition, the US Defense Department plans to test an intermediate-range land-based ballistic missile in November. According to the Pentagon, a completely new missile similar to the Pershing 2 will be tested. The US' Pershing-II missiles were destroyed under the INF Treaty by 1991.

Agencies



South African gang-infested communities question effectiveness of army deployment

CAPE TOWN

GANG-INFESTED communities in and around Cape Town have started to question the effectiveness of army deployment as murder rate remained high, authorities said on Monday.

If communities do not feel safer, then the South African Defence Force (SANDF) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) are not fulfilling their role and their mandate, Western Cape Premier Alan Winde said.

Releasing the latest update on crime statistics in gang-infested areas in and around Cape Town, Winde (pictured) said residents are a far cry from feeling safe after the deployment of troops in the fight against gang violence.

The metro region of the Western Cape saw 34 murders last weekend, with 21 deaths as a result of shootings, six as a result of stabbings, and seven as a result of other means, according to Winde.

Although the weekend murder rate has declined from 47 murders recorded in the previous weekend, "this is of little comfort when 34 families are currently grieving the loss of a loved one," said Winde. "We must be working towards zero, and nothing more," he stressed.

On July 18, the SANDF began deploying troops in parts of the Cape Town metro where gangs had spiralled out of control.

The troops were deployed to conduct cordon and search, observation, foot and vehicle patrols as well as to provide air support for police, with the aim of reducing crime in 10 specified hot spots.

With a large number of the deaths last weekend taking place in these hot spots, "we have to question whether the promises made to the residents of the Western Cape by the police at the time of the deployment, are being kept," Winde said.

The SAPS, due to their poor management, have lost control of the fight against crime, he claimed. The provincial government will receive a report from the SAPS on crime and safety operations and the use of the SANDF, said Winde. "We want to understand what the police, working with the army, are doing to prevent crime and curb violence," he said.

Minister of Police Bheki Cele has been criticized for turning a blind eye to a request for a fully resourced and functioning police service with an effective and committed management in the Western Cape.

Confronted by rising crimes, the Western Cape's police force is dramatically under-resourced compared to other provinces run by the ruling African National Congress (ANC), according to Winde.

The Western Cape, the only province run by an opposition party, has requested more police officers but to no avail.

While one officer must protect 375 people on average nationally, in the Western Cape, the ratio is 1:509.

The opposition Democratic Alliance, which administers the Western Cape, accuses the ANC of turning a blind eye to rising crimes in the province in a bid to weaken the DA's control.

Xinhua

Zimbabwe police block protest again, political reform hopes dim

HARARE

ZIMBABWE police deployed in force yesterday to block a street protest for the third time in five days, as the main opposition party said hopes were vanishing that the government might become more tolerant of dissent than the regime it replaced.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa was elected a year ago on a pro-reform ticket, promising a break with the political repression that characterised Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule and an economic upturn.

But the economy is mired in its worst crisis in a decade, and security forces have used strong-arm tactics to snuff out three attempts by the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) to hold street demonstrations since Friday.

"There is a determined effort by the regime to ensure that there is no more democratic space," MDC national spokesman Daniel Mpokele said.

"They are also deploying a lot of military and police in the streets... It clearly shows that the new government is even worse than that of Robert Mugabe."

Yesterday's heavy security deployment was in the central city of Gweru, where police - who had banned the march on Monday night - patrolled on foot and in lorries and cordoned off a university, a local journalist told Reuters.

The MDC said it would challenge the ban in court on Tuesday. The party failed to overturn two previous bans on marches in the capital Harare on Friday - where police rounded up MDC followers and dispersed them with batons and water cannon and tear gas - and in the second city Bulawayo on Monday.

Trump urges India, Pakistan to reduce tensions over Kashmir

NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump spoke with the leaders of India and Pakistan on Monday, discussing prospects for improved trade ties with Washington and stressing the need to reduce tensions over Kashmir between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

"Spoke to my two good friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding Trade, Strategic Partnerships and, most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir. A tough situation, but good conversations!" Trump said in a Twitter post.

Relations between Islamabad and New Delhi, already hostile, have been further strained over India's decision this month to revoke the special status of its portion of the Kashmir region that both countries claim. Pakistan reacted with fury, cutting transport and trade links and expelling India's ambassador in retaliation.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Trump he was hopeful that India's commerce minister and the US trade representative would meet again to discuss bilateral trade, the Indian government said in a statement. Washington confirmed that Trump and Modi had spoken about trade.

Agencies

Hong Kong govt to start work immediately on building platform for dialogue - Carrie Lam

HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government will start work immediately on building a platform for dialogue among all walks of life, the HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam said yesterday.

While meeting the press, Lam (pictured) said she hopes all sides can show understanding and respect toward each other, and conduct dialogues in an open and direct manner with people of all classes with different political stances and backgrounds in a bid to find a way out for Hong Kong.

Lam said she and the heads of the government bureaus are

willing to go directly to communities and talk with people.

On the economic situation in Hong Kong, Lam said the economic figures for the first half of the year did not fully reflect the severity of the downside risks.

A raft of measures with total government spending of 19.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (2.43 billion U.S. dollars) have been rolled out to support growth and relieve the burden on businesses and individuals.

If necessary, the HKSAR government will adopt more such measures to support the economy before the release of the policy address or the government budget, Lam said.

Lam pledged that the HKSAR



government will keep monitoring the economic situation, make necessary preparations and propose effective measures.

The HKSAR government will act more boldly to deal with deep-seated problems and both high-level and grassroots officials will give priority to the need of residents when proposing specific measures, Lam said.

During the past two years, the HKSAR government has taken effective measures in its policy address in areas such as housing, land and education to advance the economy and improve people's livelihood, Lam said.

Lam also responded positively to the new policy support for Shenzhen by the central govern-

ment. China will build the southern city into a pilot demonstration area of socialism with Chinese characteristics, according to a document issued recently by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

The city's development toward a pilot demonstration area will also be a boon to the complementary cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, Lam said.

Of all cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the relationship between Hong Kong and Shenzhen is the closest, she said.

"The two are very good part-

ners," Lam said, adding that the two have built a high-level cooperative mechanism and are jointly developing a technological and innovation park.

Lam also said the Independent Police Complaints Council is working on an independent investigation into the causes and facts of the recent confrontations and violence, adding that a report will be submitted to her in six months and will also be available to the public.

"I hope that this is a very responsible response to the aspirations (of public) for better understanding of what has been taking place in Hong Kong," she added.

Xinhua



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, chat with British singer-songwriter Elton John as they arrive for the European premiere of the film "The Lion King" in London on July 14. Photo: REUTERS

Elton John blasts relentless character assassination of Harry and Meghan

LOS ANGELES

ELTON John and Ellen DeGeneres spoke out on Monday in support of Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, calling them a down-to-earth and hardworking couple who were being unfairly attacked by the media.

John recalled his friendship with Harry's mother, the late Princess Diana, in a series of tweets in which he appealed to the press to stop the almost daily "relentless and untrue assassinations on their character."

The "Rocketman" singer was responding to criticism in Britain over two recent vacations taken by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and their three-month-old baby Archie to Spain, and to the south of France, where the couple stayed at John's villa in Nice.

Britain's Sun newspaper at the weekend blasted the royal couple - Queen Elizabeth's grandson and his American wife, a former actress - as hypocritical "eco warriors" for flying on private jets despite voicing concerns over the environment and conservation.

John tweeted that he provided Harry and Meghan with a private jet to his home for security reasons but said a contribution was made to Carbon Footprint Ltd, which offsets carbon emissions by funding environmentally

friendly projects.

He added that he was "deeply distressed by (the) distorted and malicious account in the press" around their Nice visit last week.

In separate remarks, U.S. talk show host DeGeneres said on Twitter she had met and talked with Harry and Meghan in England about their work on wildlife conservation.

"They were the most down-to-earth, compassionate people. Imagine being attacked for everything you do, when all you're trying to do is make the world better," she wrote.

Harry and Meghan's wedding in May 2018 was marked by an outpouring of affection in Britain but less than a year later the couple have found themselves on the receiving end of a barrage of negative stories in the media. They have ranged from the \$3 million cost of renovating their new home to reports dubbing Meghan "Duchess Difficult."

While much reporting by the British press on the royal family is respectful, verging on the sycophantic, at other times it can be harshly critical, even cruel.

The couple have not publicly responded to the various attacks on them.

REUTERS

Zahera troubles: Consistency as the Achilles Heel of the coaching job

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

WHILE the Premier League season is just starting here as around the world, not a few coaches are already on the firing range, as clubs expect positive results right from the start, thus when a coach puts up three matches without a single win, and that is supposed to be a title chasing outfit, that spells trouble.

The record here has at least one celebrated case, that of Patrick Phiri who in the previous decade put seven draws in a row in the 2010/2011 league run and lost his job at that point, despite that he won the league with the club the previous season. That is also occasionally the case abroad if they see the play as 'awful.'

Mwinyi Zahera at Dar Young Africans is yet to win the title with the club but may have had plenty of confidence either with the performance in the past season or with the registration this season, and in particular the latter aspect.

This is presumably the case because the times that a club believes it has made the strongest impression in the registration exercises, it stands a higher risk of losing in concentration, as the festivity exceeds limits, being too sure beforehand that the team is unbeatable. No one expects the Jangwani Street head coach to have that spirit, but if it has crept into the heads of the fans, it shows off.

The trouble with the clubs is that despite a certain level of professionalism as top level sides pay salaries to players - though there are likely to be many things wanting - the players have plenty of links with the fans, instead of the latter merely clapping and shouting from the stands.

This situation is replicated among club officials, as often there are feudal loyalties between specific players and particular officials, which has the potential effect of impressing on the player's mind that he stands on shoulder level with the coach, as that official won't permit the coach to mess up with him. We haven't heard much of that this new season but one can expect plenty as all losing or under-performing situations have juicy explanations.

That situation may indeed be a big handicap for head coaches especially for the city archrivals, Simba SC and Yanga, as it has been seen time and again that an excellent recruiting performance in off season contest is almost always a ticket to underperformance when the league starts.

This is not specifically the case elsewhere, that clubs with big names flounder, but it can happen, or a reversal of performance after a stretch of winning so many games, even winning a title. An Italian coach at Leicester City was dismissed the season after he won the Premier League with his regular players but then lost tact the following season.

So Zahera is in a bad spot right now as he certainly doesn't have much time to improve, but if registration reports or impressions were right, he ought to have a good side with him right now, compared to



Yanga SC head coach, Mwinyi Zahera

the past year or even in comparison to their immediate rivals.

For one thing, Azam FC appears to have cooled off 'galactico' ambitions as it decided it doesn't have the speculative capital to pour into the club, for reasons of failing to build a fan base, apparently. The club lost several of its key players to Simba in particular the previous season, but spirited coaching has ensured that the performance hasn't dipped but is just stable.

What is also unclear is whether the Congolese coach has too many assignments up his sleeve, like his Burundi colleague Etienne Ndayiragije who also trains Azam FC and is assigned to Taifa Stars, as Zahera has had stints with top level football in DRC, on the basis of assertions during the close season period. The question is if this streak of underperformance will continue to bedevil the club side or he will figure out what's not going right and fix it. That is entirely possible but there is reason to worry; it isn't too easy.

At the same time the case of Patrick Phiri showed that coaches have two or three lives in a club, and are sometimes recalled after a spate of years outside, when the cycle of good and bad league years reaches a dead

end.

Then club officials start picking out names of coaches who have won titles recently, including titles with the club and then recall the coach, as it happened with Phiri. When he fails a second time, that is, when he seriously disappoints again, the club appetite for that coach wanes - and attention is shifted.

The city rivals have been making an effort to pick regional coaches who have put up elegant or credible performance at international level, or by some local standards, where the sort of influences that determine how a coach is selected are likely to even out.

Finally each club picks a coach by its financial standing, as coaches differ much less by the tactics they employ - as no one knows which tactics would lift a cup and which would not - but rather what coach they can get on their optimal offer.

So it is entirely possible the rest of us shouldn't quibble about results or performance but ability of the coach in the circumstances, whether he has to labor to make ends meet well or otherwise, or players aren't paid yet; that sort of thing.

The real Brian Banks speaks out on prison injustice, reform

NEW YORK

WHEN Brian Banks' home was a prison cell due to a crime he didn't commit, he never imagined his life would be the subject of a film. He was only concerned with clearing his name and regaining his freedom.

Now, seven years after he was exonerated on a rape allegation, Banks hopes the film detailing his fight for justice helps move along reform.

"What I want people to take away from this is that what I went through was unacceptable, what many others have gone through is unacceptable," he told The Associated Press.

"For those that are currently behind bars, or no longer behind bars but have experienced wrongful conviction, I want you to know that you're not alone, that you haven't been forgotten, that there are people working on trying to fix these wrongs, and as a person who's been through it, I'm one of them," he added.

Banks, 34, was a standout high school football player who many believed had a shot at the NFL, until his dreams were derailed when he was falsely accused of rape by a high school classmate in 2002.

He was only 16, took a plea and served nearly six years in prison. He spent an additional five years on parole with a mandatory ankle bracelet as a registered sex offender, until he was exonerated in 2012 after his accuser recanted and with help from the California Innocence Project.

The film, "Brian Banks," recently opened and stars Aldis Hodge as Banks and Greg Kinnear as Justin Brooks, co-founder of the innocence group. Sherri Shepherd plays Banks' mother, Leomia Delaney.

Brooks hopes the film will motivate viewers to join the criminal justice reform fight. Once Banks was cleared and Hollywood came calling, the two said their goal was to make a "justice movie," not a football movie.

"I want people to walk out of this movie theater and remember this movie next time they're sitting in jury duty, that maybe this person in front of them is innocent," Brooks told the AP. "And next time they go into a voting booth to not vote out of fear because politicians have been making people afraid for a long time. The only way reforms can happen is if people are thinking straight."

Since his release, Banks has worked as a life coach and public speaker. His book, "What Set Me Free," came out in July.

The film follows the release of "When They See Us," the Emmy-nominated Netflix limited series that tells the stories of the Central Park Five, a group of New York teens who spent six to 13 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of raping a female jogger in 1989.

"I know those guys - those are friends of the Innocence Project network. We get together on a yearly basis and share our stories," Banks said.

He had a hard time sitting through parts of the series that was created, co-written and directed by Ava DuVernay.

"I have only watched half of that series and that's because the second half was just a little difficult for me to watch because I can relate," Banks said. "I know what it feels like. I know what they went through. And so once the court proceedings of that series kind of came to a conclusion and they were found guilty and the whole prison experience began, I had to tune out, man."



In this May 24, 2012 file photo, Brian Banks, center, reacts with his mother, Leomia Myers and father, Jonathan Banks, outside court after his rape conviction was dismissed in Long Beach, Calif. (AP Photo)

AP

Liverpool boss Klopp thanks 'God' for Mane, Salah and Firmino

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp has expressed how grateful he is to have a "world-class" attacking triumvirate at his disposal at Liverpool after they played a starring role in a 2-1 win at Southampton.

The Reds maintained their 100 per cent start to the new season with a narrow victory at St Mary's on Saturday afternoon, thanks to goals from Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino.

The former opened the scoring right on half-time with a superb curling effort, before the Brazilian doubled the visitors' advantage with a brilliant individual effort after 71 minutes.

Liverpool were forced to play their third game in eight days against the Saints, with little time to prepare following a UEFA Super Cup final victory over Chelsea in Istanbul last Wednesday.

Klopp's men were not at their fluid best against Ralph Hasenhuttl's side, who set up a nervous finale when former Anfield striker Danny Ings capitalised on an Adrian error to score with nine minutes remaining.

The Reds held on for a hard-earned three points and their head coach saved praise for his talismanic forwards who were a "constant threat" once again in the final third.

"A lot of times in my life I had sensational players always [but] not world-class players," Klopp told Liverpool's official website.

"Now, thank God I have them and they make the difference. We don't have to talk about that."

"Sadio Mane, Bobby Firmino, Mo Salah - these guys in the last situation are really outstanding."

"They were a constant threat, however tired they are. That's brilliant and, of course, made the difference. We don't have to talk about that."

Klopp went on to reveal that he made a slight tactical tweak at the break against Southampton, in order to exploit the spaces the hosts were leaving open in wider areas.

"I think Southampton tried to kill our game with their formation and they played differently against Burnley obviously," the 52-year-old added.

"They had a real proper fight at the back, so that gave us space on the wings. We used that but not often enough, otherwise, they would have had to run much more. We could adjust that a little bit at half-time."

"I'm really happy. It's so important. The start of the season is so important. Having an away game at Southampton is always difficult, but in the week we had, it was special."

Next up for Liverpool is a huge showdown against Arsenal, who have also won their first two matches of the 2019-20 campaign, at Anfield on August 24.

The Reds are top of the Premier League on goal difference ahead of the Gunners at the moment, while champions Manchester City are down in third after a 2-2 draw with Tottenham over the weekend.

(Agencies)

Pogba took Manchester United penalty because he wanted to, reveals Rashford

LONDON

MARCUS Rashford says that he has no issues with Paul Pogba's penalty on Monday despite the Frenchman missing from the spot as Manchester United dropped points.

The Red Devils were forced to settle for a draw with Wolves on Monday at the Molineux Stadium, with Anthony Martial and Ruben Neves scoring in either half of the teams' second Premier League match of the season.

But Manchester United could have seized the lead in the second half through Pogba, who fired his spot-kick into a diving Rui Patrício as the World Cup winner opted for power over placement.

Patrício's save was enough to seal a tough point for Wolves while earning Pogba plenty of criticism for missing his fourth penalty of the calendar year.

Following the match, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer reiterated that both Pogba and Rashford have been designated as penalty takers, and the latter says he has no problem with conceding Monday's spot-kick to the former despite the miss.

'Neymar one of football's top five special talents' - Barca should forgive and forget, says Cruyff

BARCELONA

BARCELONA should be willing to forgive and forget with Neymar, says Jordi Cruyff, with the Brazilian "one of the five most special" talents in world football.

Talk of a potential return to Camp Nou for the 27-year-old forward continues to build and one supposed obstacle to a deal being done has been removed, with Barca having parted with the squad place and salary of Philippe Coutinho in moving him out on loan to Bayern Munich.

A similar agreement could be struck with Paris Saint-Germain for Neymar, with permanent and short-term deals being mooted in a saga which also includes Barca's Clasico rivals Real Madrid.

Cruyff, the son of Blaugrana legend Johan and a La Masia academy graduate, told El Pais of Barcelona's links to a familiar face: "Let Neymar come back? I am always in favour of the return or the

incorporation of players who have exceptional quality and he is a clear case of a football player who, above all, makes a difference.

"There are many with talent, but he is one of the five most special."

"When he receives the ball you know that something is going to happen, and at the highest level having or not having someone able to make a difference can mean going from winning a title to just staying close."

"I understand the reaction of the fan who is still hurting at the moment and the manner of his departure, but the greatness of people is in understanding when one may have been wrong."

"In football, not forgiving a player for the decision to leave your team a few years ago is part of the emotional aspects."

"It is understandable because, in this sport, and also in the operation of clubs, feelings have a great influence. But I am a defender of second chances."

Manchester United's penalty incident reveals lack of leadership

WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND

MANCHESTER United are making progress under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. They are fitter, younger and seemingly hungrier than in recent seasons, but it took only a missed penalty by Paul Pogba -- another missed penalty by Paul Pogba -- to highlight just how far this team must go before being anywhere close to being ready to challenge for honours again.

On the face of it, a 1-1 draw against Wolves at Molineux after losing 2-1 here in the Premier League and FA Cup last season is a sign of progress for United. But there is a distinct lack of experience and leadership in Solskjaer's young team -- at an average age of 24 years and 173 days, this United side was the youngest of any to play in the league this season. That led to Pogba taking his fourth unsuccessful penalty since the start of last season, with Wolves keeper Rui Patrício diving to his right to push away the Frenchman's 67th-minute spot kick. The save was a desertion of the sort of luck that United benefitted from last season.

Eight days ago, Marcus Rashford scored from the spot during United's 4-0 opening-weekend victory against Chelsea at Old Trafford. The penalty maintained Rashford's 100% record from the spot for United and England, and he has taken some pressure kicks in that time for club and country. Yet at Molineux, Pogba brushed him aside and decided to take the glory shot himself, perhaps because he had won the spot kick after being fouled by Conor Coady.

In a team stocked full of experienced players and characters strong enough to intervene, Pogba would surely have been told to walk away and leave the penalty to Rashford, considering his record has been so patchy in recent months. But there are no Roy Keanes, Eric Cantona, Gary Neville or Rio Ferdinand in this United team, and nobody felt strong enough to step up and take the ball from Pogba.

And Solskjaer's post-match explanation of the incident only added to a sense of United being rudderless at times on the pitch. According to the Norwegian, both Pogba and Rashford



Wolves goalkeeper Rui Patrício (R) saves a penalty from Manchester United's Paul Pogba forcing United to settle for a 1-1 draw (AFP Photo)

are the club's penalty takers, so even he can't bring himself to make an executive decision about who is No. 1 and who is No. 2.

"The two of them are designated penalty shooters," Solskjaer said. "It's up to them to choose that this is their time."

"Sometimes players are confident enough to score. Paul has scored some for us, but today Patrício has made a good save."

"The two have been very confident before, last week Marcus scored. I'm sure he would have loved it this time, but Paul thought he could score, and I like that confidence. I've no problem with players saying, 'This is mine.'"

Former United captain Neville, speaking on Sky Sports, described the situation as "embarrassing," however.

"They should decide in the dressing room who is the penalty taker," Neville said. "It's embarrassing. This is a Manchester United penalty, this is not a tombola, this is not under-fives on the school field."

But while it isn't "under-fives," the youthful nature of United's team will

be a pertinent factor in their performances and results this season.

Molineux is a tough place to visit, and Nuno Espirito Santo's team will once again challenge for a European spot this season, but the naivety of Solskjaer's players should have alarmed the United manager during this game. They were unable, through a lack of seasoned experience, to control the tempo of the game, and looked to be shipping water long before Ruben Neves cancelled out Anthony Martial's first-half opener on 54 minutes.

The increased energy Solskjaer's preseason training regime has instilled shone through late in the game, when United finished strongly, but they were too hot-and-cold during the 90 minutes. They registered just two shots on target throughout the contest: Martial's goal, and Pogba's missed penalty. Solskjaer admitted after the game that this was a night when his players learned some important lessons.

"We are a young side and we learned on the pitch today," he said. "You have to learn on the job, you

can't discuss it afterwards."

Yet for players to learn and become the kind of resilient team capable of challenging for major honours, they also need decisiveness from their manager, and the penalty situation suggests Solskjaer lacks the assertiveness to take this team to the level the club demands. Under Sir Alex Ferguson, doubt was nonexistent in the minds of the United players. They only knew certainty. But by allowing his players to decide who takes penalties, Solskjaer has opened the door for his players to storm through and do whatever else they want, whenever they want to do it.

Giving players autonomy to do that works when you have a team full of experience and leaders, but not when they are so young that they look to the bench for guidance. This United team still needs plenty of that leadership, which is why Solskjaer needs to make the big decisions and not the leave them to the likes of Rashford and Pogba.

(Agencies)

Liverpool could be 'easy' to defend against after physical Burnley - Sokratis

LONDON

ARSENAL head to Liverpool this weekend with bad memories from recent trips to the red half of Merseyside.

Unai Emery's team fell to a crushing 5-1 defeat at Anfield last season, their heaviest loss since the Spaniard arrived at the Emirates.

And that followed on from 3-1 and 4-0 defeats at Liverpool during Arsene Wenger's last two campaigns in north London.

The Gunners go into the game in confident mood, however, having won their opening two matches of a Premier League season for the first time in 10 years.

Saturday's 2-1 success against Burnley saw Sokratis line up alongside new signing David Luiz for the first time, and the pair were given a difficult afternoon by a physical Claret's frontline of Chris Wood and Ashley Barnes.

And as he prepares to return to a ground where he conceded five last season, Sokratis believes that he and his new defensive partner could actually be in for an easier challenge than the one they faced against Sean Dyche's side at the Emirates.

"For a defender it is more difficult [to play teams like Burnley] because you have to fight a lot," he said.

"It [Liverpool] is a different game. Maybe it is more easy, because you don't have to fight a lot - but they also play football."

"If they are on good day and you are having a bad day, it is hard."

Memories of what happened at Anfield last season are still fresh in the mind of Arsenal's Greek centre-back.

An early Ainsley Maitland-Niles goal had actually given Arsenal the lead, but a brace from Roberto Fir-



Sokratis

mino and one apiece from Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane sent Liverpool into the break 4-1 in front.

Firmino completed his hat-trick in the second half to seal a comprehensive victory, but it is one that Sokratis still believes flattered the home side.

"It was not the game to take five goals, [there was] the penalty kicks and we made mistakes," he said.

"I think this year will be different, but we have to improve from the work we do with the coach and his staff."

"We have to be prepared for this game. It will be difficult of course."

He added: "[Last season] was not only this game we learned from. We learned from Chelsea and Manchester City."

"We know already to be at this level you have to improve and to have more confidence and character when you

go to play there [at Anfield]."

"We have to have confidence and be together for 90 minutes."

Saturday's game will be between the only sides to have a 100 per cent record in the Premier League having played their opening two games of the season.

Liverpool only sit above Arsenal on goal difference, but despite Emery's side's winning start to the campaign there will be few who will give them any chance of victory at Anfield.

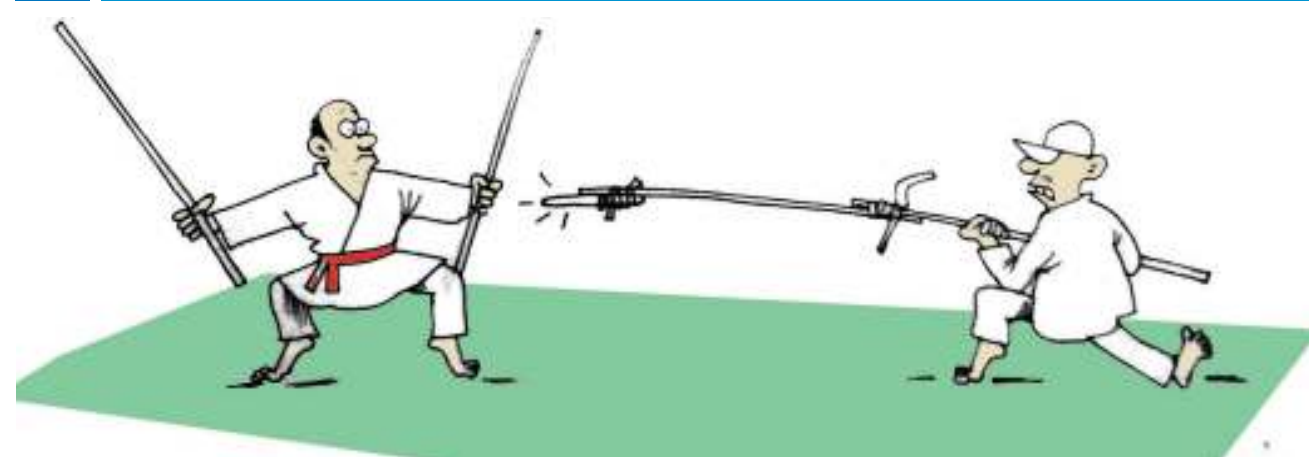
That does not bother Sokratis, however, who is adamant Arsenal shouldn't get distracted by what others are saying.

"We have to go and play our game," he said. "We know that it is difficult and we respect Liverpool a lot."

"But I think the best [way] is to go and play our style of game. We will see what happens."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Manchester United's penalty incident reveals lack of leadership

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

TODAY @11:00

DADAZ.

WEDNESDAY DADAZ.

10:57 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
15:00 FUNGIKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
20:00 EPL REVIEW
21:30 Mid Week Movie

DADAZ This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Uluguru cricketers edge Kilimeru in TCA Premier League



Issa Kikasi of TATA Tanzania cricket side bats against Marafiki.com side during a previous Advanced Players League (APL) match, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Reporter

ULUGURU cricketers have expressed determination to turn into a dominant force in the inaugural Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Premier League with a three-wicket victory over Kilimeru in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

The 50-over formatted league, organized by TCA with a view to raising the standard of the game at the domestic level, has brought together teams from Arusha, Dar es

Salaam and Morogoro.

Kilimeru were skittled for 90 runs in 25.4 overs after having been presented with the opportunity to bat first.

Openers Allen Julius and Baraka Laizer were the batsmen

with significant contribution with the bat in the innings, notching 23 runs and 25 runs respectively.

Wilbert Martin executed a few knocks at the crease and registered 18 runs. His efforts

to stay longer at the crease was though foiled by Uluguru's Agustino Meya that dismissed the former.

Kilimeru experienced batting collapse after Martin's dismissal and the situation contributed

to the team's failure to record a convincing total.

Hassan Said, Ally Hassan, Elly, Nelson Boniface, Nassibu Kelvin and John David were sent back to the pavilion in quick succession and left the team settling for a modest figure.

Uluguru's Meya and medium pacer Kibwana Salum tormented Kilimeru batsmen and prevented the latter from setting up a challenging target.

Meya ended his spell with the best bowling figure, as he took six wickets in 5.4 overs. Salum chipped in with three wickets in nine overs.

With a modest target in their sight, Uluguru made no secret of their intention to notch an emphatic win, cruising to the victory for the loss of seven runs.

They experienced a wobbly start to their chase after Ivan Ismaili and Salmin Yusuf that opened the innings had faced early dismissal.

Ntimi Amos showed composure at the crease, recording 23 runs not out and effectively catapulted Uluguru to the victory.

Ally Mtanga and Jaffary Kanyita chipped in with 14 runs apiece.

Martin had three wickets for 20 runs in three overs, Kelvin ended with two wickets and leaked 11 runs in two overs for Kilimeru.

Several more duels are set to take place in the city at the weekend.

Morogoro to honour late Zumba instructor

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO's Nashera Hotel is set to set up Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative in memory of the late Niami Colon Omotesa, a renowned Zumba fitness dance instructor who passed away in 2016.

Niami, who was married to the hotel's director, Xris Omotesa, had focused on motivating the region's residents to value fitness exercises with a view to a living healthy lifestyle.

Omotesa disclosed his family's initiative targets to oversee provision of education, sports facilities, medical care and fitness training to the region's residents.

Omotesa, who came from United States of America for a week long holiday, said his wife was a popular Zumba instructor in Morogoro and her training also focused on people with disabilities.

She took care of over 50 youths with disabilities that were neglected by their families due to negative perception over their disabilities.

"She sent over 50 medical experts from abroad to Erick Memorial Foundation (EMFERD) a center located at Chamwino Street in the region and owned by Josephine Bakhita, who had been struggling to manage the center," Omotesa noted.

He pointed out he opted to make his way to Morogoro to sustain his late wife's philanthropies.

He added that he, last week installed solar system for people with disabilities in Mvomero District, which has capacity to light over five rooms and a conference room.

"I hope students will from now on excel in their studies thanks to the availability of the equipment, it had earlier been impossible for the students to study at night, my family moreover supports five girls in the district to get secondary school education."

Josephine pointed out Niami did a lot to back the local community particularly pastoral societies in Morogoro, which neglected children with disabilities because of outdated beliefs.

Josephine disclosed that Niami presented medical and material support to over 100 children.

Zion, one of Niami's children, said his mother was an important person to the community as she spent a great chunk of her time to support the local community.

He pointed out his mother, for instance, sponsored women golf tournament at Morogoro Gymkhana Club. Niami's gesture, Zion added, motivated him to seek to improve basketball infrastructures in Morogoro, given he found out the region lacks better basketball courts.

Zion's sister Aliyah disclosed: "I was young when my mother passed away but from what I have heard she was a great social worker. Morogoro Marathon coordinators, for instance, are set to remember her."

Savana FC wins 'Mtaa kwa Mtaa' Cup 2019

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

LINDI's Savana FC has won a soccer tournament dubbed Mtaa kwa Mtaa Cup 2019, which came to a close in the region on Sunday.

Eighty outfits from the region's four districts par-

ticipated in the competition.

Nachingwea-based Savana FC recorded 2-0 victory over Kilwa's Manchester United in the final to lift the silverware.

Lindi Regional Commissioner, Godfrey Zambi, handed over a new car to

the champions.

Nachingwea District Commissioner, Rukia Mwangi, who also attended the final, noted Savana FC has made her district proud following the win.

"I congratulate Savana FC for their win, they have made our district proud.

We will clinch the silverware in the next year's competition and walk away with a new bus," she said.

She as well praised Manchester United that are led by Kilwa District Commissioner Christopher Ngubiagai for finishing second in

the competition.

"I moreover thank Mashujaa Group leadership for backing the government's efforts to develop sports."

She pointed out that Mashujaa Group oversaw better organization of the tournament and set aside

a good prize for winners, which will linger in their memories for quite some time.

"Nachingwea people have been delighted by the success considering the district has won the competition, lifting the top honour in a tournament which involved 80 outfits is truly a memorable feat," she noted.

The tournament's coordinator, Hamis Maero, pointed out the competition had earlier been held at the district level.

The top two sides in each district went on to battle it out in the event that was held at the regional level.

"Ruangwa District did not participate in the tournament, the event therefore brought together Nachingwea, Liwale, Kilwa and Lindi municipals," Maero noted.

"Each of the districts fielded two teams which played the semi-finals and competed for qualification for the final."

He disclosed teams which participated in the competition's last four are Manchester United and Leicester City (Kilwa), Brevi and Leopard (Liwale), Savana FC and New Generation from Nachingwea as well as Raha Leo and Msini-jadili from Lindi Municipal.



Coca-Cola Kwanza's Director of Public Affairs and Communications Haji Ally Mzee tries his luck by shooting hoops during the official launch of the 2019 Sprite Bball Kings tournament that was held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. The competition, which is fully sponsored by the Coca-Cola System through its Sprite brand, seeks to uncover basketball talents from the youth across the country. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

