



National Pg 4

'Govt to electrify all villages by 2021'



National Pg 5

Seven centres of excellence planned



National Pg 6

Dr Shein to grace EALA special sitting



National Pg 7

Free, full rescue for mountain climbers



Cashewnuts: Private buyers to line up for harvest in Oct

The minister also appealed to buyers and exporters of raw nuts to get ready as well as those with storage facilities who stock and later sell the produce at their own chosen time

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government yesterday invited private companies and individuals to prepare to take part in the purchase of cashewnuts from farmers in next season's harvest starting in October.

Interested parties are also welcome to buy thousands of tonnes of nuts that the government bought from farmers in the current harvest season, an exercise that has been marred by delays in verification and payment processes.



The minister said all those interested in buying cashew nuts should send their request in writing to the ministry's permanent secretary

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Industry and Trade minister Joseph Kakunda said the decision has been made in view of the anticipated bumper harvest in the coming season later in the year.

The minister said all those interested in buying cashewnuts should send their request in writing to the ministry's permanent secretary.

He encouraged Tanzanian cashew processors to prepare for this year's harvest so as to create jobs, noting also

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President John Magufuli bids farewell yesterday to Willem Jacobs, Barrick Gold Corporation's chief operations officer for East and Central Africa, after their meeting at State House in Dar es Salaam also attended by Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi and Bank of Tanzania governor Prof Florens Luoga. Photo: State House



Parrots endangered as trade in wild pets soars

By Guardian Reporter

RARE wild animals are at the verge of extinction due to illegal wildlife trade across borders, something that is negatively impacting tourism and public

health, a new report has revealed.

An investigation by World Animal Protection (WAP) confirmed that millions of wild animals, parrots being among the most targeted, are being captured from their habitats or born into captivity to be sold as part of exotic pet trade.

It is a growing multi-billion dollar industry that is having a devastating impact on some wildlife populations across the globe, the report noted.

The report titled 'Wild at heart: The cruelty of exotic pet trade' indicates that major European airlines are enabling exotic pet trade despite making commitments to combat wildlife trafficking.

"The airlines are enabling carriers have

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'Barrick Gold will stick to 2017 accords'

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday held talks with the Barrick Gold chief operations officer for Africa and the Middle East, Willem Jacobs who pledged to honour the 2017 agreement in which the company promised to give the government 50 per cent of revenues from its Tanzanian operations, the State House has said.

A statement released yesterday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said Jacobs was flanked by Barrick Gold Corporation advisors Rich Haddock, Duncan Bullivant and Wicus du Preez in the State House meeting.

"After the talks, Dr Jacobs said he met President Magufuli to assure him that the agreement reached on 19 October 2017 will be fully implemented especially after Barrick Gold's merger with South African company Rand Gold," reads the statement in part.

After the 2017 closed-door talks, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Prof



Barrick Gold Corporation made a one-off payment of USD300 million (700bn/-) to the government as a show of good faith and build trust for future consultations

Palamagamba Kabudi announced that Barrick had accepted to give the government a 50 per cent share of revenues from three key gold mines in which it has a majority stake in the Lake Zone, along with a 16 per cent ownership stake in the mines.

Barrick Gold Corporation made a one-off payment of USD300 million (700bn/-) to the government as a show of good faith and build trust for future consultations.

Dr Jacobs stated that his company will implement everything in the agreement negotiated by Prof Thornton, stressing that nothing will change, said the statement.

"I am an African. We are all Africans. President Magufuli is doing the right thing by ensuring that wealth in the form of natural resources is identified so that the same benefits Tanzanians. We are here because we agree with him," the statement quoted Prof Jacobs as affirming.

Prof Kabudi who had at that time led the

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Govt makes sugar imports U-turn

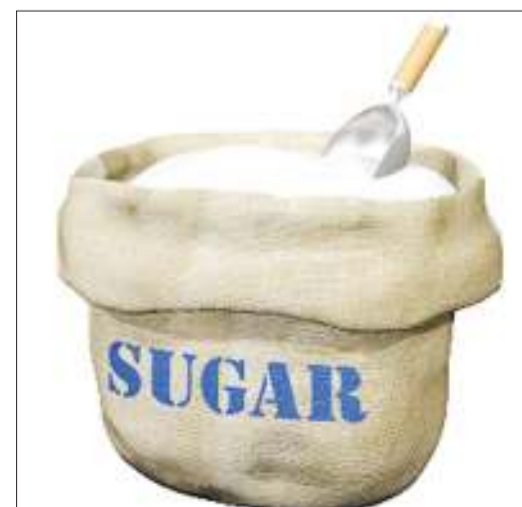
By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has reversed its decision to bar sugar producing companies from importing the sweetener just a week after limiting the same to non-producers.

Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga announced the decision at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday saying the decision came after a promise by the producers that they would produce enough sugar by June this year.

According to the minister, the producers have increased their production and have also promised to produce 3000 tonnes of sugar by June to fill the country's required capacity per month.

He said that the aim of shifting the role of importing sugar from the sugar producers to



non-sugar companies then was to allow sugar producing companies and factories to use more time and energy on their tasks.

"Our plan is to have enough sugar that will satisfy the country's needs. Therefore from now on sugar producers should work on doing all their best to ensure the goal is achieved and at the same time import sugar," he told journalists.

With the decision, producers will now conduct both tasks of importing and producing sugar.

The country's sugar needs stand at 670,000 tonnes while the country's industries combined produce 345,000 tonnes.

"They should mobilize resources and concentrate on the sole role of sugar production to meet internal demand, instead of focusing on importing sugar while neglecting their duty

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Cashewnuts: Private buyers to line up for October harvest

FROM PAGE 1

efforts of adding value to the cash crop that has in recent months grabbed newspaper headlines.

The minister also appealed to buyers and exporters of raw nuts to get ready as well as those with storage facilities who stock and later sell the produce at their own chosen time.

But the minister cautioned those who wish to participate in the purchase of the stock held by the government to be mindful of the fact that the purchasing price for the produce harvested last year is 3,300/- per kilogramme.

The government bought 221,060 tonnes of cashewnuts from farmers priced at 718bn/-, where the government incurred a number of costs including transportation from farmers' cooperatives, also adding packaging materials and storage, he pointed out.

"After selling 100,000 tonnes of cashewnuts to the Kenyan firm Indo Power Solutions, we are about to sell another 15,000 tonnes to Bi-Southern—a Tanzanian company," the minister stated.

The welcome for the private sector to buy cashewnuts is a shift from last year's decision by the government to bar the private sector from the

business, announcing instead that it would buy all the nuts from farmers in the harvest season.

On Tuesday, the government admitted that it had yet again failed to beat the February 15 deadline for the verification and payment of all cashewnut farmers as thousands had not been reached.

Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga said in an interview with The Guardian that a total of 12,378 cashew nut farmers with more than 1,500 kilos were yet to be verified.

On collections, the minister said the government had collected 222,160 tonnes of cashewnuts. The country's production projection for the 2018/2019 season was 240,000 tonnes of raw cashews.

Speaking in parliament early this month, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed that the verification and payment of cashew nut farmers should be concluded by February 15th.

The premier had earlier set February 5 as the deadline after the government missed the initial date set by President John Magufuli, by January 31, 2019.

All cashewnut stocks would be verified first and farmers paid their sale monies in full, the president had directed.



Cuser Africa Limited director Robert Cuser (R) briefs Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (L) and Angellah Kairuki (next to him), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), on avocado farming yesterday. The ministers were on a conflict resolution tour of Rungwe in Mbeya Region. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa Story on Page 11.

'Barrick Gold will stick to 2017 accord pledges'

FROM PAGE 1

Tanzanian delegation on the talks with the mining giant, said the documents for the implementation of the agreement are ready and the execution was to start immediately.

The minister noted that after the

merger between Rand Gold and Barrick Gold Corporation, "we now have a new team and we have seen that they are committed to implementing what has been agreed upon. What remains is for each side to go back to their relevant organs for final decision-making," the statement added.

NAIROBI

THE World Bank's private sector arm on Wednesday urged Africa's private sector to embrace green investments.

Manuel Moses, Kenya country manager at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) told Xinhua in Nairobi that use of green technology will promote sustainable development in the continent.

"We need African companies to begin to think green for the long term. Ideally every investment they make should have a green component," Moses said.

IFC urges Africa's private sector to embrace 'green' investments

He said IFC is keen to assist Africa to make a transition towards a green economy through adoption of low carbon emission technologies.

He added that IFC will, moving forward to prioritize investments in firms that promote the building of climate change resilience.

Moses said that the IFC has made a commitment to its shareholders to

ensure that by 2030, 35 percent of its global portfolio is in green or climate-resilient investments.

He observed that currently approximately 28 percent of its investments in Africa are in the green sector of the economy.

According to the IFC official, some of the sectors that IFC has invested heavily include the green energy space.

Moses said the private firms often shy away from greening their investments due to the high upfront costs associated with embracing low carbon footprint.

He said that over the long term, the private sector will reap huge returns by adopting green technologies, noting that virtually all public and private sectors can benefit by embracing low carbon development pathways.



Maulid Njau (2nd-R) of Kinampanda Teachers College in Singida Region pictured yesterday briefing Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is on a tour of the region, on the rehabilitation of buildings at the decades-old institution. Photo: VPO

FROM PAGE 1

of increasing sugar production," the minister was quoted as declaring a week ago.

It was at a meeting with sugar and agro-processing stakeholders convened to discuss challenges facing agriculture, and strategize the way forward.

Hasunga had stated that the measure will help to avoid recurring shortages of sugar that could happen in the future and cause unnecessary inconveniences to consumers.

Govt makes sugar imports U-turn

Commenting on the available sugar stock, he said that the country has enough stock until May but from June there will be a need for the government to issue some permits to non-sugar producing companies to import 28,000 tons to bridge the gap.

President Magufuli issued 10,000 hectares of land to one of Tanzania's business and industrial moguls, Said

Salim Bakhresa to establish a sugar plant. The factory is expected start producing sugar by July 2020 from Bagamoyo after the finalization of factory construction which was expected to take two years.

In February 2016, President Magufuli announced a ban on importation of sugar by private companies to protect local industries.

He later announced a crackdown on traders suspected of hiding sugar in warehouses to create artificial shortages, with intent to confiscate such stocks.

Thousands of tonnes of sugar were impounded during the operation with traders finding themselves in hot soup as the government took full control of sugar importation.

Parrots endangered as trade in wild pets soars

FROM PAGE 1

been used to illegally transport wild-caught African grey parrots on flights from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria and Mali to countries in the Middle East, Western and Southern Asia," reads the report in part.

Currently, the annual value of the wildlife trade stands at US\$30 - US\$42.8 billion but shockingly, up to \$20 billion is estimated to be illegal where the substantial proportion of this economic value is in endangered and protected species being traded as pets.

"But whether captive bred or poached from their wild environment, the trade has a devastating impact on the animals forced to endure a life of captivity, both mentally and physically. Legal or illegal, it is all cruel," the report asserts.

Air transport, Internet connectivity

According to the report, ease of access to transnational commercial air transport and global internet connectivity are helping to drive both the desire for and the availability of exotic pets and hastening a massive boom in the trade.

"This massive expansion of exotic pet trade now causes millions and millions of wild animals to experience suffering, pain and premature death each year. It is also causing catastrophic decline in some species and in biodiversity in some parts of the world. And because the trade in some of these animals can easily and unwittingly spread disease, they are also a major threat to human health and public safety," reads the report.

It shows that wild animals suffer at every step of the journey from capture to handling, transport, holding, breeding, sale and the life of captivity in the home. Over 500 species of birds and 500 species of reptiles are traded around the world.

"And the journey is cruel. The mortality rate is high, in some instances; the post capture death rate

has been as high as 90 percent.

Those who survive are subject to a lifetime of chronic physical and psychological suffering," says the report, underlining that the methods used to snatch the wild animals from their natural habitats are cruel, barbaric and inhumane.

African grey parrot
It is alleged that two thirds of African grey parrots will die during capture before being sold to traders.

African grey parrots are considered one of the world's most illegally trafficked birds with an estimated 2-3million deemed to have been poached from African forests over the last 40 years.

In 2016, a number of measures were taken by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to protect these birds.

Edith Kabesime, the Wild Campaign manager at WAP, says that the illegal and illicit elements of the trade are often aided by government corruption and inadequate enforcement of laws.

"Shockingly, as recently as August 2018, African grey parrots were transported from by a major European airline between Kinshasa (DRC) and Kuwait via Istanbul (Turkey) with more than 60 found dead on arrival," she said.

Kabesime asked people to desist from buying, owning or breeding a wild pet, saying that life in captivity is a world away from a life.

Tennyson William, the director in charge of Africa at WAP explained that once the wild animals are in people's homes, there is no realistic way to replicate the space and freedom the animals would have in the wild.

"Many animals are kept in spaces vastly smaller than their natural habitats and they do not have the correct nutrition, even if owners have their best intentions to feed them properly," he declared.

Ruangwa district council gets 2.9bn/- to improve delivery of health services

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari, Ruangwa

RUANGWA district council in Lindi Region has received 2.9bn/- from the central government for improvement of health services in the 2018/2019 financial year.

The district allocated 1.4bn/- for the improvement of infrastructures at three health centres namely, Mandawa, Mbekenyerera and Nkowe. The other 1.5bn/- were earmarked for construction of a new district hospital.

In an interview with The Guardian yesterday, Ruangwa District Commissioner, Hashim Mgandilwa said the funds would help to improve health facilities and services for the people.

"Construction of the district hospital is ongoing. We are closely monitoring the contractor to ensure the project is completed on time", said Mgandilwa adding infrastructure improvement at the three health centres is complete.

He added that the health centres are now operating and most of the important medical equipment had been in place.

Mgandilwa noted that the district is currently im-

plementing the project to construct 10 dispensaries which are funded by the villagers. He said the projects are meant to bring medical services closer to the people as per national health policy.

The council chairman, Rashid Nakumbiya said that Ruangwa District has a total of 39 health facilities including 34 dispensaries, four health centres, one hospital and a mobile clinic which serves villagers in remote areas with no access to health facilities.

"Improved health services at our health centres and dispensaries will bring relief to our people who are sometimes forced to travel to Ruangwa town for medical services", said the chairman adding the health centres had the capacity to conduct minor surgeries.

He said all the major services such as laboratory, maternal and admission services will be provided at the health centres.

He said the district has eight ambulances located at different centres to help transfer patients to the district hospital. One of the ambulances, he said, was donated by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who is the Ruangwa constituency

Member of Parliament.

District health secretary, Razaro Msangi said that essential medicines are available by 94 per cent following establishment of the Medical Store Department (MSD) shops.

One of the residents, Radhia Ismail said the villagers are constructing the hospitals after they were advised by their leaders to contribute towards government's efforts to improve provision of health services.



Home Affairs minister Kangi Lugola (L) and Florian Sulle, an employee with a hotel at Karatu in Arusha Region, exchange greetings at the facility yesterday. Photo: MoHA

TAMWA appeals to political parties to support women

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Media Women's Association (TAMWA) has called upon political parties to use their various platforms to encourage women to support women candidates likely to take part in the coming 2020 general elections.

The association's director in Zanzibar, Dr Mzuri Issa made the appeal when speaking yesterday at the launch of the women election guidelines. She said political parties and clerics should encourage women to vote for women candidates.

She said the launched guidelines show the importance of women participation in vying for leadership posts in religious, social and political matters.

It also highlights the need for women to support women candidates, she said.

According to her the number of women who participated in elections in 2020 was low despite the fact that most of the voters were women.

Dr Mzuri urged women to recognise their value and the role of women leaders. She said once women support their counterparts there will be a good number of women leaders after the 2020 general elections.

"We aim at improving the number of women candidates in the coming elections", said Dr Mzuri.

Tamwa board member, Rukia Mohammed Issa urged political parties to endorse more women for different positions since they have the same rights as men. She underscored the need

for gender participation socio-economic, religious and political matters, hence the need for them to be given chances. She said men should be agents of change by assisting to encourage women to vote for women as well as give positions to women candidates.

Some of the participants including religious leaders said that every religion allows women to participate in elections, and that it insists on women to be given leadership opportunities.

Tamwa project manager, Hawra Shamte said the launched guidelines are likely to help 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.

According to UN Women Tanzania, 1,039 women form Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar vie for the Parliament and the Zanzibar House of Representatives in the October 25th 2015 elections were more than 12,000 candidates.

Tanzanian law provides for "special seats," with 30 per cent reserved for women appointed by political parties, based on proportional representation.



We aim at improving the number of women candidates in the coming elections

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All villages will get electric power by 2021, says minister

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami has said the government is likely to achieve its target of connecting all the villages to the national grid by 2021.

Dr Kalemami noted that more villages will be connected to power as several villages had so far been connected in the first round under Rural Electrification Agency (REA) Phase III.

Dr Kalemami made the statement yesterday during his tour to inspect implementation of rural electrification projects in Geita District. He was accompanied by Geita District Commissioner, Josephat Maganga, Geita Urban MP, Constantine Kanyasu, Geita Rural MP, Joseph Kasheku Musukuma and REA acting director, Eng Amos Maganga.

"We are progressing well with implementation of REA Phase III. A total of 61 villages will start enjoying the service today", said Dr Kalemami noting that 12 villages are in Geita District.

During the visit, the minister witnessed residents of Lwezera, Luhuha and Ibanda villages enjoying power services. The villages are in Kanyala ward.

The government has connected electricity at the Butundwa prison for irrigation farming activities.

Earlier, Geita Regional Commissioner, Eng Robert Gabriel requested the minister to ensure availability of reliable power services in the region since there are potential investors who had shown interest to construct gold processing factories.

"We need reliable power services to establish the minerals processing factory", he said.

In his response, Dr Kalemami said since the government's gears towards an industrialised economy, it is all out to improve electricity services to facilitate the establishment of the industries across the country.

Launching REA Phase Three project last year, Dr Kalemami said that 7,873 villages will get power. He said the project will cover 25 regions.



Handeni district commissioner Godwin Gondwe presents land occupancy certificate to Josephine Ng'anga (L), a resident of Msomelea village, at a ceremony held at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE director of Livestock Services in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Hezron Nonga, has directed Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Dodoma region to ensure modern abattoirs are in place.

His directive comes in less than a month after words went round that meat sold in the political capital city is slaughtered in unauthorised abattoirs, located within residential areas.

He said his ministry has launched a special campaign to ensure the meat consumed in capital city meet the required standards.

Among the plans, is to make sure all meat for human consumption is slaughtered in certified abattoirs, and must be inspected by veterinary officers.

"The ministry will be making impromptu

LGAs urged to observe hygienic operations of Dodoma abattoirs

inspections over slaughter houses and butchers to see if the meat is worth for human consumption or not," he said.

He added, being the capital city, Dodoma harbours state officials, hence the need to ensure the safety of all kinds of foods in the region.

He challenged watchdogs such as the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) to abide by professional skills and ethics in the region.

Despite standing tall among regions with modern butchers, experts here have expressed serious

concerns over consumption of uncertified meat in the region, propelled by absence of enough slaughter houses.

As per the Animal Disease Act (2003) all animal meat for public consumption supposed to be slaughtered at official abattoirs after being inspected and certified.

The major increase in human population in Dodoma region, pushed greatly by relocation of the government's chief seat from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, has resulted to high demand of meat.

Dodoma city is not new to this problem as in March 2014, the then minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, Dr Titus Kamani threatened to close down operators of abattoirs in the city.

He said he would close down abattoirs which are operating in unhygienic conditions, thus threatening customers' health.

Kamani noted that a large number of slaughter houses in Dodoma and elsewhere had not been following the laid down hygienic rules and regulations, thus endangering people's health.

Headmaster not aware of renovation of Pugu school, so minister's visit shelved

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Ashatu Kijaji was yesterday forced to postpone her schedule to inspect the ongoing renovation of Pugu secondary school in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region after being informed that even the head of the school was not aware of the project.

The 1bn/- project implemented by the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) under contractors from National Housing Corporation (NHC) is unknown by the region and districts leadership.

"I will not continue inspecting the project whose implementation didn't go through all the required procedures, I am so saddened and I am going to work on this," Dr Kijaji said.

The school's head Jovinus Mutabuzi told the deputy minister he was only seeing construction workers from NHC coming and going away. "What I heard is that the project cost 900m/-, I think there is miscommunication between the ministry and the regional authorities as a whole."

During the tour, acting regional administration secretary Yokobeth Malisa, regional education officer (academic) George Lukoa and the Ilala district planning officer Ando Mwankuga also were not aware of the project.

The leaders said that their offices didn't receive any explanations or contract about the project.

"It so surprised about such a big project like this is unknown by the regional and district leadership, the whole process didn't engage us," said Ando Mwankuga, the Ilala district planning officer.

According to him, as per district's rules and regulations, all projects should go through a number of meetings including councillors' discussion and approval.

"Unfortunately, the project of Pugu secondary school didn't go through proper channels," he added.

The acting RAS Yokobeth Malisa assured the deputy minister that she will bring the matter in his office for further discussion to find solution of the project's challenges.

The government had issued 42bn/- for rehabilitation of 42 old schools' infrastructures across the country including six school in Dar es Salaam region. They are Jangwani, Azania, Tambaza, Zanaki, and Pugu.



I will not continue inspecting the project whose implementation didn't go through all the required procedures, I am so saddened and I am going to work on this



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RESILIENT NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, posts this Request for Information (RFI) to inform Tanzanian Organizations an upcoming natural resources management activity designed to strengthen capacity to manage natural resources in the Rukwa region. The purpose of this RFI is to 1) solicit feedback on the draft concept and 2) identify qualified Tanzanian organizations capable of implementing the program.

This RFI is not a Request for Application or Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and in no way commits USAID to issue a NOFO or to make an award. Please note that responding to this RFI will not give any advantage to or prevent any organization from any Request for Application that may be subsequently issued. At this stage, all comments received will be strictly for information gathering purposes only. USAID will not pay for any costs associated with responding to this RFI.

To see the full RFI notice and detailed information including instructions on how to respond, please visit www.grants.gov for an opportunity titled

720621-NRMGOVERNANCE-FY2019 or follow the following link:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=313053>

Responses must be received by email only to the addresses provided in the full RFI notice. Response due date and time is **March 13, 2018, 8:00AM** East Africa Time. Phone calls will not be entertained and hard copy submissions will not be accepted.

If you have a problem accessing the full RFI notice on the provided website link, please write to anganga@usaid.gov and usaidtco@usaid.gov with **720621-NRMGovernance-FY2019** on the email subject line.

World Vision*

Job Opportunities

World Vision is a Christian Development, Relief and Advocacy Non-Government Organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision is committed to the protection of children and does not employ people whose background is not suitable for working with children. All employment is conditioned upon successful completion of all applicable background checks, including criminal record.

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- 1. Project Officer- Girls Empowerment (1 Post)- Karatu**
- 2. People & Culture / Human Resources Manager - (1 Post) National Office**

To learn more about the job, minimum requirements, application deadline and how to apply kindly visit our Career Page: <http://careers.wvi.org/job-opportunities-in-tanzania>

World Vision Tanzania candidates for employment should be ready to read, understand, sign and adhere to the World Vision Tanzania Child protection policy which helps safeguard children from any forms of exploitation, sexual and physical abuse. The discovery of any previous child abuse offenses (before or after an offer of employment) will disqualify a candidate. However, World Vision Tanzania does not discriminate against any prohibited criteria in its employment.

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.



EYESORE: This 'mountain' of garbage has become a near-permanent feature at Dar es Salaam's Temeke Stereo market, with sources including traders and residents of the area blaming the problem on weeks of failure by the authorities concerned to take appropriate action. The scene was captured yesterday. Photo: Salome Kitomari

Police inaugurate special operation to nab fraudulent traditional healers

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

POLICE have launched a special operation to nab fake traditional healers after being linked to killings of innocent people for predictions, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro said yesterday.

He made the statement when addressing government officials and civil servants at Ushetu municipal council in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region. The meeting was held at Nyamilangano village.

IGP Sirro explained that the government doesn't have bad intentions for the traditional healers, but it aims at identifying those giving wrong predictions to their customers, thus leading to the killings of people.

He insisted that the country is safe as the force has managed to arrest the tense situation in Simiyu and Njombe regions where a number of children were recently reported to be kidnapped and killed by unknown assailants.

Home Affairs Minister, Kangi Lugola linked the Njombe killings with superstitious beliefs.

"We managed to control the killings of elders and people with albinism in different parts of the country. We are now witnessing the killing of our children which are mostly linked with witchcraft", said the IGP insisting all 'fake traditional healers' will be arrested.

Head of police in Ushetu municipal council, Tabita Makaranga said most of deaths in the area are linked with superstitious beliefs, jealous between lovers and family conflicts related to inheritance of the properties.

Head of police in Kahama town, Sophia Jongo said the area is now very safe compared to previous years. She said most of the reported cases are linked to school teenage pregnancy and motorbike thefts.

Jongo said the force has so far managed to control the motorbike thefts.

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilimanjaro

Minister lifts ban imposed by Tanzania Forest Services

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu has allowed factory owners to continue using old woodwork machines lifting the ban issued by the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) which barred the use of such machines.

He gave the go ahead in a statement yesterday saying that the factory owners should be given time to

prepare themselves to purchase the modern machines as per technological changes.

The old machines are said to have been producing a lot of dirty during processing something which also spoiled a lot of wood.

The minister directed TFS to

continue issuing licenses and new wood-tree plots to factory owners for them to continue with their activities as they are making efforts to buy the proposed machines.

"So this is to say that, you (factory owners) have been given a grace period to prepare yourself...the government's

zeal is to use the modern machines is still the same," he said.

He wanted TFS to give a two-year contract to the owners when distributing the wood trees plots to enable them access loans from financial institutions through their the contracts.

The deputy minister further urged forest stakeholders especially factory owners to chip in and start establishing major wood tree farms instead of depending from the government farms.

"It is high time now for the stakeholders to start planting wood

trees to reduce dependency. Other country's economy for example Finland depends much on forests as private sector stakeholders have invested much by establishing major farms. I think we can emulate this for the development of the sector," he added.

Govt set to launch seven centres of excellence

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is set to launch seven centres of excellence and three demonstration centres for the mining sector next month, it has been learnt.

Minister for Minerals, Doto Biteko made the said here, saying the government has spent 12bn/- on the constructions of the institutions.

He said in because of the new developments, the ministry had coordinated trainings for artisan miners in the country last month to prepare them on how to use the facilities.

According to the minister, the trainings were held at various centres in Singida, Chunya, Mpanda, Handeni, Buhemba, Kyela and Bukombe. "The government has spent 12bn/- for the centres of excellence and demonstration whose launch will be in March, this year" he said adding that the construction is at advanced stages.

The minister noted that during the trainings, small scale miners learnt about different types of minerals available in different parts of the country as well as the kind of technologies needed for value addition and processing minerals.

The country's artisan mining sector is smaller in terms of the value of its output but far larger in labour force absorption.

According to the World Bank's 2011 sponsored census, there were estimated 6800,000 artisan miners in Tanzania.

Meanwhile, the minister also ordered that all leach and elution plants used by mainly artisan miners be built at designated areas only, saying they are now scattered at different points in the mining, making it difficult to monitor activities.

He said by February, this year there were 639 non-licensed such plants, denying the government over 1.76 billion/- in licence applications and annual fees.

"I hereby direct the mining commission that all mineral processing plants in the country be issued licences within 30 days and those who fail to meet the deadline will not be operating in the country" said the minister, adding that the owners will also face legal measures too.

At the same time, Biteko ordered small scale miners in the country to adopt new technologies on ground support like using concrete and metallic poles rather than using trees.

He said his ministry would not support environmental degradation while the government through other ministries is working hard to promote conservation of the same.



A Kilimanjaro Search and Rescue (Kili-SAR) helicopter lands at one of the highest points on Mount Kilimanjaro at the weekend to help tourists and other climbers hit by a high altitude illness. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

China supports Tanzania on sentencing of 'Ivory Queen'

CHINA has backed Tanzania's sentencing of a Chinese woman labeled the "ivory queen" to 15 years in jail for smuggling elephant tusks, and reaffirmed its opposition to trading in endangered species.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China supports the Tanzanian authorities in conducting a "just" investigation and trial and is "ready to work with the international community to protect wildlife and curb the international trade."

Yang Fenglan was convicted of smuggling about 700 elephant tusks and her case was viewed as a major test of Africa-wide efforts to hold key trafficking figures accountable for the mass killing of elephants to supply ivory to illegal markets, including in China.

China has cracked down on smuggling in

recent years and a total ban on all trade in ivory products came into effect last year.

The ban does not cover the semiautonomous port and financial center of Hong Kong, which remains a major transit point for endangered species products and other contraband but is now working

toward a complete ban on the local ivory trade to take effect by 2021.

In Tanzania alone, the elephant population declined by 60 percent to 43,000 between 2009 and 2014, according to the government. Officials there say some herds are recovering.



Airtel Tanzania marketing director Isaac Nchunda makes remarks at the inauguration of the firm's 'Dabo Data na Smatika' promotion in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is PR manager Jackson Mmbando. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Practitioners called upon to use radio stations to promote unity

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

COMMUNITY radio practitioners have been called upon to use their stations to sort out problems within the communities while at the same time promoting peace, unity and tranquillity.

Rodney Thadeus a representative from the Directorate of Information Services made the call recently during the commemoration of the World Radio Day marked at national level in Tanga.

Thadeus, challenged scribes in the country to process, gather and analyse information without misleading saying those who did the opposite should reflect on whether they still belong in the profession or not.

For his part, Prosper Kwigize who is TADIO's chairperson said radios play a great to enable the government to reach its people as not every person in rural areas can afford a TV set or a newspaper.

According to Kwigize, in some areas, radio journalists have found themselves facing challenges to get sources to talk to community members who complained that some of the local authorities have been threatening them whenever they aired their views in the stations.

For her part, Rose Haji Mwalimu a renowned radio anchor who doubles as a community media expert called upon broadcasters to use gender sensitive language in their reportage.

She raised concerns over some managers making sexual advances towards female reporters saying it was not only unethical but also unacceptable.

The World Radio Day was commemorated in Tanga under the organisation of UNESCO and TADIO where it brought together community media practitioners, from mainstream, media organisations as well as government officials.

UNESCO's general conference proclaimed the World Radio Day during its 36th session in November 2011 where the General Assembly of the United Nations approved it during its 67th session in December 2012.

The objective of the World Radio Day is to celebrate radio as a medium and strengthen international cooperation among broadcasters.

The theme for this year's WRD was Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace.

In Tanzania, UNESCO through funding from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) supports 25 community radios and the community media network, TADIO.

The support is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania, especially the poor, women and girls, have the capacity to make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender responsive accurate information and knowledge.

By Guardian Reporter

Dr Shein to grace special sitting of EALA next week

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed is next week expected to officiate at a special sitting of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).

According to EALA senior public relations officer, Bobi Odiko, the Assembly convenes for the 4th meeting of its 2nd session which runs from February 18th, 2019 to March 8th, 2019.

"Key items at the sitting include debate on the East African Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2019 and the consideration of various key Commit-

tee reports," Odiko said in a statement.

He said the regional law-making body is further expected to receive a briefing by the EAC Secretary General on the status of EAC projects. The sitting is also to be interspersed in week one by rigorous committee work with all 6 committees reviewing pertinent issues that precede debate next week. The six committees include the committee on accounts, agriculture, tourism and natural resources, the commit-

tee on general purpose, committee on regional affairs and conflict resolution, committee on communication, trade and investment, and the committee on legal rules and privileges.

The House will also meet with a number of key EAC and other institutions. Two EAC institutions, the EAC Kiswahili Commission and the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) are on the cards. In addition, the executives of the African Palliative Care Associa-

tion and the with Doris Mollel Foundation will also touch base with the Assembly to discuss matters pertinent to integration. As part of its outreach programmes, the Assembly similarly has a date with stakeholders from the Zanzibar Business Board (ZBB) and the University of Zanzibar.

The Assembly which holds six plenary sessions in the region every financial year, embraces the principle of rotation in a bid to create awareness of its

work. Zanzibar last hosted EALA (Second Meeting of the Fifth Session of the Third Assembly) in October 2016.

EALA is the legislative organ of the East African Community. Its membership consists of a total of 62, of whom 54 are elected members (9 from each partner state) and eight ex-officio members (the ministers responsible for EAC affairs from the partner states, the Secretary General of the Community and the Counsel to the Community).

The assembly has legislative functions as well as oversight of all East African Community matters. The enactment of legislation of the Community is put in effect by means of bills passed by the Assembly and assented to by the heads of state, and every bill that has been duly passed and assented to become an act of the Community and takes precedent over similar legislations in the partner states. EALA has to date passed 80 pieces of legislation.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Conducting Climate Risk Profiling and Developing Environmental and Climate Change Guidelines for the Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) in Tanzania.

The Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT) is implementing interventions aimed at unleashing large-scale systemic changes in the agricultural sector in Tanzania such that productive poor women, men and youths are able to take full advantage of more inclusive, resilient and competitive agricultural markets systems. Currently, AMDT targets three agricultural value chains namely; Sunflower, Maize and Pulses.

AMDT is now seeking for the services of a suitably qualified organization/firm to perform the following;

1. Conducting Climatic Risks Profiling in Manyara Region (Manyara Rural and Hanang districts) and Songwe Region (Momba and Mbozi districts). This assignment will have the following deliverables;
 - (i) Regional climate risks profile report with tailor-made climate change adaptation strategies at a local context; And
 - (ii) Propose information system model to provide farmers and MSMEs with localized, context-specific information for making better farming decisions and help build their resilience to climate risks and related private sectors.
2. Developing Environmental and Climate Change Guidelines. This assignment will have the following deliverables;
 - (i) A detailed Environment and climate Risk assessment Guideline for practice in the field. The end user of the guidelines will be AMDT partners, government institutions and other stakeholders; And
 - (ii) A detailed tool for monitoring and reporting environment and climate risks.

Interested organizations/firms are invited to submit their proposals and budgets as per detailed Terms of References (ToR) obtainable from AMDT's website (under the "downloads" tab): www.amdt.co.tz

All proposals (Technical and Financial) should be submitted physically in both hard and electronic (CD or DVD) copies to the following address:

The Agricultural Markets Development Trusts (AMDT)
 GEFP House, Plot No. 37,
 7th Floor,
 Wing A
 New Bagamoyo Road,
 P.O. BOX 71054,
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Closing date for this RFP is 14:00, Friday 15th, March 2019.

In case you need further clarifications please send your queries by Monday **04th, March 2019, to info@amdt.co.tz**

215072901



EMPLOYMENT VACANCY

Project Concern International (PCI) is a non-profit organization with a mission to empower people to enhance health, end hunger and overcome hardship. Our vision is that the most vulnerable people in the world will have the power to lift themselves out of poverty and will create vital, healthy lives for their families and communities now and in the future. Women Empowered (WE) is a PCI global initiative dedicated to promoting the economic and social empowerment of women through the formation of self-managed and self-sustaining savings groups. In Tanzania, PCI's Women Empowered (WE) program is part of a Food for Education project in the Mara region and is currently working to integrate several initiatives into WE programming, including the Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (PACE) initiative, Basic Business Skills curriculum, and the DreamSave pilot project. PCI WE is also currently working on a project to expand WE programming in the Arusha region. This position will provide quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation support to the Women Empowered portfolio across all these projects.

1- MONITORING, LEARNING & EVALUATION SUPPORT OFFICER - MUSOMA (1)

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- In collaboration with the MLE and WE teams, to develop and implement the monitoring and evaluation plan for WE's work across FFE, PACE, and DreamSave, including systems and tools for data collection, analysis, verification and reporting, in collaboration with program staff and relevant stakeholders.
- To provide technical support and coordination of program evaluations
- To provide regular feedback on progress against targets to inform and achieve intended program outputs and outcomes.
- To build capacity of program staff and stakeholders to implement activities and integrate timely and accurate project data to enhance respective program/ project planning and decision making.

This position will report directly to the MLE Coordinator based in **Musoma**

HOW TO APPLY:

Please visit our website at www.pciglobal.org and click on the "Careers" link under the About Us tab. This will take you to PCI's Career Portal. Click on the employment opportunities tab and then click on **Search Current Openings to find the detailed job requirements** and apply for this open position with PCI Tanzania enclosing a detailed CV together with copies of relevant testimonials and cover letter.

DEADLINE:

- A first review of candidates will happen after **March 05, 2019**
- PCI is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourage women to apply.
- Only Successful Candidate will be contacted

PCI's mission is to empower people to enhance health, end hunger and overcome hardship.

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Kili-SAR provides free and full rescue for mountain climbers

THE Kilimanjaro Search and Rescue (Kili-SAR) company has come up with a special programme to provide free and full rescue to mountain guides, cooks, porters, and park rangers.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with The Guardian the company's director of human resources and administration, Amour Abdallah said the free services included free helicopter evacuation from high altitudes while on the mountain as well as free high altitude mountain sickness medication at

the company's first ever centre—Africa-High Altitude Medicine Clinic located at St Joseph hospital in Moshi municipality.

"We will also train guides, cooks, porters, and park rangers on First Aid for the high altitude sickness to

ensure their safety and of tourists going to the top of the mountains", he said adding the services are part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Abdallah said the company has so far provided high altitude First Aid

skills to over 500 mountain workers including mountain guides and park rangers during the low season last year.

He said that Kili-SAR is expecting to train more than 900 mountain workers in April and May this year specifically on sustainable rescue services to Mount Kilimanjaro and Meru clients.

"We are doing all these to ensure that we have enough high altitude

sickness paramedics to ensure sustainable safety for all climbers", he said.

He said the company has specialist doctors for the high altitude mountain medicines and enough paramedics at their special clinic.

"To get the services climbers should dial our toll-free number +255 800 713 713 and our doctors will quickly fly to the location and evacuate patients using a chopper",

said Abdallah.

He further explained that, apart from providing quick and safe helicopter evacuation, his company has the ability to operate scenic and Kilimanjaro-express flights to make it easier to access Kilimanjaro and Tanzania from above.

"Our vision is to make Mt. Kilimanjaro the safest tourist destination in Africa. We have positioned our modern, efficient and specialised rescue helicopters at Moshi airport - a perfect location to base search and rescue operations on Kilimanjaro," he enlightened; adding that; "Kili SAR operates a helicopter search and rescue service on Mt. Kilimanjaro and also have the first ever high altitude medical clinic in Africa."



MultiChoice Tanzania (Dstv) head of customer value management Hilda Nakajumo speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend at the launch of a lottery campaign dubbed 'Tia Kitu-Pata Kitu'. Customers paying serving their monthly package instalments in advance will enter a promotion and possibly win two-month free service. With her (from-L) are PR manager Johnson Mshana, HR manager Tike Mwakitwange, and Content and Digital marketing executive, Ms Shumbana Walwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Wildlife conservationists partner to arrest elephant poaching in Kenya

NAIROBI

THE International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has partnered with global tourism business, TUI Care Foundation, to prevent poaching of wild elephants and stop human-elephant conflict in the Tsavo conservation area in Kenya.

Under IFAW's innovative wildlife security initiative 'tenBoma', both government and community rangers are trained to better predict and respond to threats and protect the animals and local communities.

"The success of IFAW's tenBoma approach relies on our ability to incorporate traditional knowledge from communities into a system of modern methods and technology," Faye Cuevas, IFAW senior vice-president said in a statement issued on Tuesday evening.

"TUI Care Foundation has made it possible for us to provide urgently needed equipment to community rangers such as mobile devices, cameras and boots so they can collect information on potential threats to wildlife and people," she added.

The two organizations will use technology, systematic data processing systems and intelligence to implement the initiative.

According to IFAW, rangers in the field are also provided with communications and mobility equipment (including GPS, smartphones, radios and more) which enable them to respond more effectively and more rapidly to intercept poachers and reach areas where elephants come into conflict with humans by raiding their crops.

Thomas Ellerbeck, chairman of the Board

of Trustees of TUI Care Foundation said the good aspect of this project lays in its virtuous combination of local knowledge, on the one hand, and technological developments on the other.

"Together with various local stakeholders, we are helping to build a strong basis for a sustainable social-

ecological environment. After all, empowering the local community and building sense of ownership is crucial for long-lasting change," said Ellerbeck.

The Tsavo Conservation Area, one of Kenya's most visited tourism destinations, is home to about 12,850 African elephants, according

to IFAW.

Among this population are at least 11 of the world's 30 or so remaining 'big tuskers' (their tusks are long enough to reach the ground) and all face a mortal threat from poaching fueled by demand for ivory and human-elephant conflict.

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Taking A New Look
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Pyramid schemes are scams, unsustainable and often illegal

A pyramid scheme is a business model that recruits members via a promise of payments or services for enrolling others into the scheme, rather than supplying investments or sale of products. As recruiting multiplies, recruiting becomes quickly impossible, and most members are unable to profit; as such, pyramid schemes are unsustainable and often illegal.

Pyramid schemes have existed for at least a century in different guises. Some multi-level marketing plans have been classified as pyramid schemes.

In a pyramid scheme, an organisation compels individuals who wish to join to make a payment. In exchange, the organisation promises its new members a share of the money taken from every additional member that they recruit. The directors of the organisation (those at the top of the pyramid) also receive a share of these payments. For the directors, the scheme is potentially lucrative—whether or not they do any work, the organisation's membership has a strong incentive to continue recruiting and funneling money to the top of the pyramid.

Such organisations seldom involve sales of products or services with value. Without creating any goods or services, the only revenue streams for the scheme are recruiting more members or soliciting more money from current members. The behavior of pyramid schemes follows the mathematics concerning exponential growth quite closely. Each level of the pyramid is much larger than the one before it. For a pyramid scheme to make money for everyone who enrolls in it, it would have to expand indefinitely. This is not possible because the population of Earth is finite. When the scheme inevitably runs out of new recruits, lacking other sources of revenue, it collapses. Because in a geometric series, the biggest terms are at the end, most people will be in the lower levels

of the pyramid (and indeed the bottom level is always the biggest single layer).

In a pyramid scheme, people in the upper layers typically profit while people in the lower layers typically lose money. Since at any given time, most of the members in the scheme are at the bottom, most participants in a pyramid scheme will not make any money. In particular, when the scheme collapses, most members will be in the bottom layers and thus will not have any opportunity to profit from the scheme, yet they will have paid to join the scheme. Therefore, a pyramid scheme is characterized by a few people (including the creators of the scheme) making large amounts of money, while most who join the scheme lose money. For this reason, they are considered scams.

Several years ago, the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) issued a formal warning to the general public to stay away from the relatively new network marketing scheme known as D9 Club, saying it operates outside the country's legal framework.

According to a joint statement from the two top financial sector regulatory bodies, getting involved with the D9 Club programme will simply lead to people losing their money.

"BoT and CMSA believes that D9 is operating contrary to sections 171A, 171B and 171C of the country's penal code. It is a criminal offence to run and or persuade people to take part in a pyramid scheme," the statement said.

We should note that illegal pyramid schemes are invented in such a way that the money contributed by the new member is given to another member who joined earlier, and there is no logical explanation on how that money is invested or multiplied.

It is a timely warning to members of the public to avoid being tempted in any way to take part in the D9 Club scheme or any other of pyramid nature.

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President Buhari should suspend INEC chairman - and this is why...

By Okachikwu Dibia

IT was early in the morning of Saturday, 16th February, 2019, when I learnt that the Nigerian general elections have been postponed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) under the leadership of Prof. Mahmood Yakubu. According to the various newspaper reports, he said that: Following a careful review of the implementation of its logistics and operational plan, and the determination to conduct free, fair, and credible elections, the commission came to the conclusion that proceeding with the elections as scheduled was no longer feasible.

This led to the postponement of the elections, about six hours before the commencement. This means that millions of Nigerians who had travelled back home to their villages for the elections will no longer vote. Postponement happened despite all the consistent reassurance by INEC that it is ready and that the elections will hold as planned. This is deceitful corruption of the highest order. Therefore, the INEC Chairman should be suspended and prosecuted, not on legal grounds but on the grounds of morality.

The main reason Prof. Mahmood Yakubu should be suspended from the office is that he disappointed and failed Nigerians at a time that was too odd and acute to accept and he should take responsibility. This failure is gross misconduct. He had over three years to plan and execute the elections. He has enough resources to execute the elections.

The World Bank reports the economy of Sub-Saharan African countries grew at rates that match or surpass global rates. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the improvement in the region's aggregate growth is largely attributable to a recovery in Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa, three of Africa's largest economies.

In the same vein, African countries can turnaround their economies for the better if they invest heavily in the continent's young population, American philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates have advised in their 2019 annual letter.

When economists describe the conditions under which countries prosper, the couple writes, one of the factors they stress is human capital, which is another way of saying that the future depends on young people's access to high-quality health and education services.



Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu

Another reason is for President Muhammadu Buhari to use the opportunity to remind Nigerians and the international community that the war against corruption is not a fluke, he means business and Nigeria is no longer business as usual.

Also, to suspend the INEC Chairman is to ensure that such action does not repeat itself again in the future before it becomes a horrible tradition in Nigeria's political history. The former INEC Chairman did it under the last administration and it surely should not continue. Nigeria at this point when we are preaching anti-corruption to Africa and the World should not create and promote such a negative tradition.

To appease millions of Nigerians who suffered in cost, risk and inconveniences to travel over distances that took them 12 hours and beyond or who had scheduled other activities after the elections. One of my friends has to travel on Friday, a day before the elections, so that he can arrive

Port Harcourt from Abuja that day and vote the next day. The cost was N8500 by road, which means N17,000 to and from Port Harcourt. He called me on Sunday that he is coming back to Abuja because of his job but will not travel back again this weekend for the same election. T

In his way, many Nigerians may not travel back to their wards in their villages for the elections. This is systemic disenfranchisement. Is this fair to them? Thus the number of votes in the coming elections would be reduced. Is this what Nigerians should accept? Prof Yakubu should pay a price for this: he should leave the office.

There is also the humility aspect of the postponement. Prof Yakubu refused to apologise to Nigerians by arguing that the word "regret" used in his address to the media on that Saturday means apology. But in his first statement postponing the elections that early morning, he never apologised to Nigerians either by using the word

"regret" or "sorry" or "apology". Let me remind him that in Nigeria, we are not English people. To an average illiterate Nigerian, regret does not mean sorry or apology. What he or she wants to hear is sorry or apology. But for a professor not to be humble enough to pronounce the word apology or sorry to his fellow citizens proved to me that our professors are not humble and humility is one cardinal attribute of that level of intellectuality. Not doing it smacked of arrogance or pomposity and such professors should have no business in public service. Whether he is suspended or not, Nigerians deserve an unconditional plain apology from him. Regret is not apology in Nigerians' understanding of English Language and that was why most media houses did not report that he apologised to Nigerians.

Finally, this postponement is hard to explain to the international community who was beginning to build hope that Nigeria is really changing for the good. How do I explain such a distasteful and annoying failure to my friends in Kenya, Botswana and Ethiopia? The truth is that the international community is bewildered, even though they may pretend they are not.

It is for these reasons I opine that the INEC Chairman, Professor Yakubu be suspended from office with "immediate effect and automatic alacrity". To continue the process, his second in command should quickly conclude it in three month's time. The National Assembly (NASS) should suspend any part of the law that makes it difficult for INEC to have more days to conclude this process.

Artisanal mining in Zimbabwe needs regulation, support

IN the past few years, artisanal miners have produced more gold than conglomerates, making their input in the national economy critical.

The Battlefields national disaster has shone light on the risks facing artisanal gold miners as they search for the precious stone.

The disaster of such a magnitude, calls for an urgent address of several challenges that multitudes of artisanal miners face daily.

The horrific accident involving an estimated 70 miners struck last Tuesday and has seen 24 bodies recovered, while eight lucky miners were rescued alive.

For a long time, the story of artisanal mining has been characterised by unorthodox workmanship, makeshift and or obsolete equipment, subsistence

and illegality. Yet the same artisanal miners have in the past five years emerged the cornerstone of gold production where they have delivered more gold than conglomerates.

Perceived as the new economy drivers, the small-scale gold miners last year hit a 47 percent gold production output, probably the highest in recent times, with a projected similar performance for this year.

Those figures speak undoubtedly to a growing sector that contributes significantly to the growth of the country's economy. Such a positive narrative calls for the Government to give the necessary support to the sector, to protect and sustain it. Of immediate concern is the need to address safety and security issues in artisanal mining to prevent further loss of life.

Government and other stakeholders need to invest in solid infrastructure and sustainable management systems. The miners are critical stakeholders in the industry and it is high time the Government helps them do the right things, if further disasters of this kind are to be averted.

That narrative should be matched with modern mining mechanisation, which increases efficiency and production, while minimising injuries and loss of life and limb.

This calls for mandatory adequate close monitoring of artisanal operations and a regulatory enforcement by the Government to ensure that small-scale miners are not subjected to death traps.

We hear that the Environmental Management Agency visited the Battlefields disaster site about two weeks before the accident and

made certain recommendations and observations, which sadly were not enforced before disaster struck.

Lives would have been saved had the relevant stakeholders effected recommendations by EMA to upgrade safety aspects of the dotted shafts, which were later flooded, killing some of the miners.

It becomes clear that there has not been regular monitoring and enforcement of existing mining activities.

We believe the challenges that artisanal miners currently face are too many for the Government to address in a stroke of a pen. It needs systematic, sustained and sustainable.

It therefore, remains critical to support such a sector, whose contribution to the growth of the economy is essential.

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	Used Toyota	T786BKR	GX1106020514
	Used Toyota	T438BKM	GX1106019131
	Used Toyota	T222CAS	ACA365014872
	Used Toyota	T555BVT	WBAFA52020LM4767
	Used Toyota	T679BUH	WDB2100062B48609
		-	AE110001MN
	Talha Group Ltd. P.o.Box 76319, Dar es Salaam.	Volvo Tractor	T180BFA
Road Tractor		T870BFN	YVJ4DAC6YA517081
DAF Truck			XLRTG85XCOE583906
Trailer		T196BHD	C045542
Trailer		T245BHD	C054177
Trailer		T530BHD	C065088
Trailer			C065091
Trailer		7282BHD	C066216
Trailer		T278BHD	C066221
Trailer		T983BHC	C066228
Trailer		T239BHD	C066404
Trailer		T519BHD	C066406
Trailer		T264BHD	C066411
Trailer		T246BHD	C066413
Trailer		T989BHC	C066415
Trailer		T992BHC	C066416
Trailer		T274BHD	C066422
Trailer		T996BHC	C066660
Trailer		T274BHD	C066665
Trailer		T259BHD	C066673
Trailer		T523BHD	C069447
Trailer		T240BHD	C069458
Trailer		T254BHD	C069807
Trailer	T567BKH	C065089	
Trailer	T583BKH	C065098	
Trailer	T494BKJ	C065102	
Trailer	T494BKJ	C065102	
Trailer	T435BKM	C066217	
Talha Group Ltd P.o.Box 76319, Dar es Salaam.	Trailer	T430BKM	C066225
	Trailer	T557BKH	C066400
	Trailer	T562BKH	C066414
	Trailer	T562BKH	C066414
	Trailer	T865BKM	C066417
	Trailer	T563BKH	C066418
	Trailer	T578BKH	C066661
	Trailer	T662BKW	XLRTG85XCOE609730
	Trailer	T934BLZ	XLRTG85XCOE694291
Trailer	T730BMB	XLRTG85XCOE586662	
Target Oil.	Scania Tractor	T316BYQ	4477961
G&B Ltd.	Used DAF	T 906CMW	XLRTG47XS0E730742
Supermaster Transport. P.o.Box 999, Dar es Salaam.	Used Scania Truck	T569CQK	5184173
Fai Limited P.o.Box 80474, Dar es Salaam.	Used Toyota Hilux	T964DDV	UAHTEZ39G807013747
Grischa Daniel Roehrig P.o.Box 99, Dar es Salaam.	Used Toyota Hilux	T147DLD	UAHT33GNG508001024
Frank Edward Swai P.o.Box 952, Arusha.	Mitsubish Fuso	T310DGX	FSS10VZ501470
Kennedy Aliso	Saloon M-Benz	T848DLB	WDD2040412R025432
Victor Antone Tawete P.o.Box 70144, Dar es Salaam.	Land Rover Discovery	T491DKP	SALLAAA138A487260

Haamilu Khay Transport. P.o.Box 6103, Dar es Salaam.	Used Scania	T682CAK	4512461
	Used Trailer	T764CAL	C129948
	Used Scania	T767CAL	4505532
	Used Trailer	T738CAL	C129949
	Used Trailer	T736CAL	C129951
	Used Trailer	T728CAL	C129954
	Used Trailer	T760CAL	C129955
	Used Tractor	T850CHT	XLRTG47XS0E717382
	Used Tractor	T848CHT	XLRTG47XS0E718306
	Used Trailer	T352CJZ	C177976
	Used Trailer	T355CZJ	C177980
	Used Tractor	T263CKA	XLRTG47XS0E737011
	Used Tractor	T345CJZ	XLRTG47XS0E737024
	Used Trailer	T496CNL	C205986
	Used Scania	T477CNL	XLRTG47XS0E684129
	Used Trailer	T495CNL	C205993
	Used Trailer	T501CNL	C206669
Used Trailer	T490CNL	C206672	

GENERAL GOODS

S/N	NAME OF IMPORTER.	TAX AND DUTIES ON.
01.	JGH Marine aps, P.o.Box 1214, Mwanza	Assorted ship equipments
02.	H young and company (east africa)	Bulldozer and machines
03.	Lakota resources (t) ltd, P.o.Box 100, Dar es Salaam	Assorted mining equipment
04.	Tanganyika film and safari outfitte, P.o.Box 49, Arusha.	Assorted film equipments
05.	Ortec services industrie, P.o.Box 1559, Dar es Salaam	Geophysical equipments
06.	Star minerals co.limited, P.o.Box 999, Dar es Salaam	Drilling equipments
07.	Equator automech co.limited, P.o.Box 999, Dar es Salaam	Cargo equipments
08.	Tone engineering corporation, P.o.Box 1292, Mwanza.	Cargo equipments
09.	SBI international holding ag, .P.o.Box 65086, Dar es Salaam	Bomage paver and roller
10.	Kalpataru power transmission limited, P.o.Box 76809, Dar es Salaam	Machine and spare parts
11.	Russell alister donald	Road trailer and yatch
12.	Lanneret energy service limited, P.o.Box 19813, Dar es Salaam	Crane and equipments
13.	Mr. Nyalu laurent mitive	Imported goods
14.	African logistics solutions ltd box 38307 dsm	VAT on other charges
15.	Emideda enterprises	VAT on imported milk
16.	Idd Abdul Hassan, P.o.Box 1333 Dar es Salaam.	VAT on imported milk
17.	Tanzania hair industries ltd box 19142 dsm	VAT on other charges
18.	Sunrise petroleum (t) ltd	Railway development levy.
19.	Builders and lime works ltd, P.o.Box 1776, Moshi	VAT deferment
20.	NBCL distribution limited, P.o.Box 19142 Dar es Salaam.	VAT on other charges
21.	Burque East Africa Ltd, P.o.Box 3016 Dar es Salaam.	VAT on other charges
22.	Mwanza ground handling ltd, P.o.Box 10605 Dar es Salaam	VAT on other charges
23.	Jechi investment P.o.Box 105235 Dar es Salaam	Imported goods
24.	Samsteel tanzania ltd, P.o.Box 60433 Dar es Salaam	Import duty and vat
25.	Datel/ a link telecommunication	Import duty and vat
26.	ZAB enterprises, P.o.Box 25102 Dar es Salaam	Import duty and vat
27.	Major drilling, P.o.Box 2409 Mwanza	Import duty and vat
29.	Iddi Abdul Hassan	VAT on processed milk
30.	Stephen simiyu nnko, P.o.Box ...Arusha	VAT on processed milk
31.	Ndeshifyosee, P.o.Box 3011 Arusha	VAT on processed milk
32.	Nadeem makbul abdallah, P.o.Box 12711 Arusha.	VAT on processed milk

Africa has much to benefit from UN's marine biodiversity conservation treaty

BY AGNES EBO'O

The world's largest crime scene is not in any specific country or region. It is the area known as the 'high seas' - those parts of the oceans that fall outside the national jurisdiction of coastal states. Governance and regulation are limited here, given the principle of the freedom of the seas.

As a result, fragile habitats have been damaged by deep-sea bottom trawling (fishing vessels that scrape the ocean floor) and unique marine biodiversity has been destroyed. Species such as tuna have also been severely overfished.

Many of these crimes and activities have been attributed to organised criminal groups operating at sea, but legal sea users that carry out illicit schemes are also responsible. In 2012, the UN General Assembly noted the existence of 'possible connections between transnational organised crime ... and fisheries in certain regions of the world'.

A UN Office on Drugs and Crime study on transnational organised crime in the fisheries sector identified illegal fishing and overfishing, the dumping of toxic waste and pollution from vessels as common criminal activities carried out by networks on the high seas. These are also called transnational fisheries crime, or transnational environmental crime.

In September 2018, the UN launched formal discussions for a treaty to conserve the marine biodiversity on the high seas. The talks are a welcome development, and not just for conservationists.

This historic and long overdue process, which follows over a decade of debate, is expected to take two years of negotiation before a treaty is adopted in 2020. Already dubbed the 'Paris Agreement for the ocean', it would be the first international legally binding instrument to protect marine life in international waters.

The treaty will cover two marine areas - the high seas and the Area - as defined by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The high seas represent 'all parts of the sea that are not included in the exclusive economic zone, in the territorial sea or in the internal waters of



a State, or in the archipelagic waters of an archipelagic State'. The Area refers to 'the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction'.

Until now, under UNCLOS, 'all States, whether coastal or land-locked, [have] freedom of navigation, overflight, freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines, to construct artificial islands and other installations permitted under international law, freedom of fishing, and freedom of scientific research'. The resources in the Area are viewed as the common heritage of mankind. The exploitation of these resources is based on a first-come, first-served principle.

This has been a grey area in international law, leaving the high seas open to criminals. Particularly relevant to the new treaty are those forms of transnational organised crime committed at sea that have been identified by the UN Office on Drugs

and Crime. These include vessel-source pollution, such as the illegal and deliberate discharge of oil into the ocean, and fisheries crimes.

The latter often overlap with other forms of organised crime, such as drug smuggling and human trafficking. Legal loopholes have until now prevented the prosecution of those who commit these offences. The new high seas treaty is an opportunity to remedy that.

The future treaty won't replace or supersede UNCLOS or other relevant legal instruments. It will be called the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and will cover conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Renowned marine biologist and professor at the University of British Columbia, Daniel Pauly, advocates for a total ban on fishing in the high seas, saying that 'all the species that are taken from the high seas - like tuna - could still

With its vast coastline and high levels of organised crime, treaty negotiations must include Africa's priorities.

be caught in nationally controlled coastal waters'.

For the African Union's 55 member countries, which include 38 coastal states, better high seas regulations will enable better governance of the continent's marine resources. The treaty will ensure that all states, including those that are landlocked, participate more equally in the global maritime economy.

Africa could benefit significantly from the treaty, and African countries are jointly participating in negotiations under the banner of the G77 group, and China. How they negotiate the inclusion of the continent's priorities will be key.

Before the first conference in September 2018, where the group was represented by Egypt

as rotating president, matters relevant to Africa were identified during the preparatory sessions. Most were retained as focus topics for the two-year cycle of conferences. They include genetic resources, environmental impact assessments, capacity building and the transfer of marine technology.

Better regulation of the high seas should help stem the uncontrolled exploitation of the oceans and the seabed. For African states, this means participating in and benefiting from the international maritime economy. To achieve this, African governments will need to clearly articulate their positions and priorities, and play a proactive role in the treaty negotiations.

As Afghanistan's capital grows, residents scramble for clean water

BY STEFANIE GLINSKI

Twice a week, Farid Rahimi gets up at dawn, wraps a blanket around his shoulders to keep warm, gathers his empty jerry cans, and waits beside the tap outside his house in a hillside neighbourhood above Kabul.

At 7 a.m. sharp, water bursts from the pipes, filling Rahimi's tank and buckets. He labours away, saving every drop until - just an hour later - the last drop falls.

"We can't afford to miss it," said the 35-year-old, adding: "It's barely enough."

Afghanistan's capital is running dry, its groundwater levels depleted by an expanding population and the long-term impacts of climate change. But its teeming informal settlements continue to grow as decades-long conflict and - more recently - drought drive people like Rahimi into the cities, straining already scarce water supplies.

With large numbers migrating to Kabul, the city's resources are overstretched and aid agencies and the government are facing a new problem: how to adjust to a shifting population still dependent on some form of humanitarian assistance.

Rahimi came to Kabul nine years ago to find safety and better job opportunities, but he says it hasn't been easy. He now shares his house with 12 family members and each month he pays a steep 1,500 Afghani, or \$20, for water from a private company.

"Last year we shut down our well," Rahimi said, adding: "There wasn't any water left. A few years ago, the situation was a lot better."

The UN says more than half a

million people in Afghanistan were forced to leave their homes last year owing to conflict and drought. An even greater number of Afghans, more than 800,000, returned from Pakistan and Iran during the same year.

About seven per cent of Kabul's population are either displaced by war or are returnees who previously fled the country, according to estimates from the UN's migration agency, IOM.

The majority migrate toward cities, which are now home to one-third of Afghanistan's population of 36 million. According to UN Habitat, 80 per cent of urban areas in Kabul are informal settlements.

In Rahimi's case this means that a muddy, unpaved road winds its way through his neighbourhood and up an overpopulated hill, where simple mud or concrete houses have been built on "grab land".

The land is claimed by those who arrived in Kabul over the past decade without initially registering or even purchasing the property. Electricity is available sporadically, while health facilities and schools are either absent or far away.

A private company is in the process of installing water pipes throughout the neighbourhood, but most public services are yet to be provided by the government.

But when people from rural areas leave their homes for the cities, they may also leave behind the humanitarian aid they had previously relied on.

Pir Mohammed arrived in Kabul five months ago, escaping violence and bombings in his native Helmand province, a Taliban heartland in southern Afghanistan.

The 35-year-old had hoped the



Pir Mohammed shovels dirt in front of his cousin's tent. His family arrived in Kabul five months ago, fleeing fighting and air strikes in Helmand province. He says it's safer in Kabul, but he can't access the humanitarian aid he relied on back home. Photo: Stefanie Glinski/IRIN

move would make his life safer and easier. But the family lives in a tent in the middle of Afghanistan's bitter winter; his cousin has pneumonia.

"It's just so cold. In Helmand, we received some assistance. Here, we were told that the government would help us, but nothing has happened so far," Mohammed said, while digging a trench outside his shelter to prevent water from leaking into the tent.

Much of the snow falling onto the family's home is melted and used as drinking water. The current winter has been harsh, with temperatures dropping well below zero most nights.

Alison Parker, UNICEF's communications chief, said the urban shift means that aid groups must also rethink how

to help people who may still need assistance in the cities.

"Rurally, it's easier because you engage with communities at the local level. In Kabul, we need to engage with the government and other actors," Parker said, adding: "It needs a shift in thought and more players need to be on board."

Yet city planning and humanitarian work often do not go hand in hand, says Kabul deputy mayor Shoaib Rahim, further noting: "Humanitarian services are meeting immediate needs, but urban planning is for the long term."

While aid agencies do provide some services in urban areas, especially in places where newly displaced people have settled, both private companies

and the government take up large - yet still insufficient - chunks of the work.

"Aid professionals often distinguish between humanitarian work and development, but they are intertwined," said Oxfam Afghanistan country director Ruby Ajanee.

The majority of former refugees and asylum seekers returning from abroad, for example, settle in urban areas, where they may need both short-term aid and more long-lasting help.

"While their immediate needs for food and shelter are addressed by humanitarian agencies, the long-term development needs of reintegration are addressed by the development agencies, with often a disconnect from the humanitarian agencies," said Ajanee.

"These two sectors have to work together seamlessly where humanitarian effort is linked with development work," added the Oxfam official.

Comparatively, urban residents are still better off than their rural counterparts. UNICEF says the proportion of people with access to basic water is 63 per cent countrywide - 89 per cent for the urban population and 53 per cent for rural households, according to UNICEF.

However, migration patterns and a changing climate point to long-term strains on water supplies.

Afghanistan is one of the world's top eight countries most affected by climate change-induced water shortages, said Paulos Workneh, who heads the water, sanitation and hygiene programme for UNICEF in Afghanistan.

He adds that, as groundwater deteriorates, city dwellers are robbed of their main source of clean water.

"Most of Kabul's water was accessed through wells, but the situation is now under stress," Workneh said, elaborat-

ing: "Surface water is polluted by industrial waste, pit latrines and chemicals leaping into the rivers. With rainfall patterns decreasing, sources don't fill up as quickly anymore."

While Kabul is starting to tackle the issue of informally built properties, this including the registration of many houses initially constructed without permission, one fact remains: the capital grew too quickly.

"The city had 4.6 million people in 2002 and, by 2012, the numbers had gone up to 7.1 million," said Koussay Boulaich of UN Habitat, which is offering technical support to a government project responding to the city's urbanisation trend.

Boulaich said that one in two Afghans will live in cities by 2050. A similar shift will be needed among the many humanitarian and development groups now concentrating their work in Afghanistan's rural areas.

"Imagine how important the correlation between urbanisation and development is," Boulaich said, further noting: "In some areas, humanitarian work and development work merge, supporting the government in providing long-term sustainable solutions, and urbanisation has to be one of these areas."

One of the government's programmes for urban development, including water, is its "City for All" scheme. This is meant to turn the country's urban migration into economic growth, increase living standards, and even contribute to peace.

As part of the plan, informal areas in Kabul are now being registered, roads are being built and water systems are being set up slowly, with technical help from international agencies.

New impact fund launched to scale up agribusiness in Africa



BY GUARDIAN REPORTER AND AGENCIES

THE International Fund for Agricultural Development has launched a €200m impact fund to scale up agribusiness in developing countries.

First commitments of €50m to the ABC Fund came from the European Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Luxembourg Government and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

IFAD contributes to the Technical Assistance Facility that will support the fund.

The ABC Fund will use first loss capital to catalyse additional funding in the vehicle, which will deploy loans and equity investments in rural SMEs and financial institutions in developing countries.

The first loss capital de-risks investments and mobilises follow-on funding – which is a perennial challenge for viable businesses seeking financing in developing countries.

Further senior share commitments to the ABC Fund will be used to supplement the first loss capital in the form of blended finance – a combination of public and private sector capital.

Bamboo Capital Partners in the fund manager of the Fund, whereas Injaro Investments (based in West Africa) is the local fund manager of the ABC Fund.

Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Founder and Managing Partner of Bamboo, said: “The launch of the ABC Fund is a momentous milestone for the impact investing industry. The support of organisations such as IFAD, the EU and the Luxembourg Government, coupled with a launch event at IFAD’s annual Governing Council is testament to the maturity of the industry.”

“We believe that the ABC Fund has the potential to transform small scale farming in developing countries and we look forward to working with IFAD and Injaro as we strive to realise this vision.”

Initially, the ABC Fund will provide small loans and equity investments to rural SMEs, farmers’ organisations, ‘agri-preneurs’ and rural financial institutions.

The ABC Fund will provide loans below €5m to local intermediaries and make direct investments below €1m, principally in the form of loans.

Small scale farming is one of the biggest industries in the world, with 500 million small farms and 2.5 billion people relying on small scale farming on a daily basis.

The demand for impact investing in rural agriculture is growing as investors strive to end poverty and hunger to support the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

The ABC Fund will also focus on creating employment, particularly for young people in Africa, to offer them an alternative to migration.

Jerry Parkes, Managing Principal of Injaro Investments, said: “Injaro is excited to participate in this innovative initiative that actively addresses a long-standing and glaring gap by connecting smallholder farmers in Africa with access to a range of financing instruments.”

“The lack of accessible and affordable working capital, trade finance and term loans consistently prevents farmers from scaling and addressing their local food security needs. The ABC Fund will support farmers through technical assistance to improve yields and reduce post-harvest losses with the ultimate goal of progressively eliminating hunger on the continent.”

Students trained to train refugees in agribusiness skills

KAMPALA

REFUGEES have welcomed an international initiative at Gulu University, in northern Uganda, in which students are equipping them with skills in agribusiness and micro-enterprise development, helping them become financially independent.

The programme is a win-win solution to two common challenges in Africa: how to develop skills among students to prepare them to contribute to agriculture and food security and how to enable refugees, who are among the world’s most vulnerable and resource-starved communities, and local people to earn an income and help supply food to their peers.

Gulu is one of two African universities implementing the Mastercard Foundation-funded Transforming African Agricultural Universities project, whose goal is to make a meaningful contribution to Africa’s growth and development. The public university was established in 2001 in the city of Gulu, and now has

more than 4,000 students.

This article is part of a series on Transformative Leadership published by University World News in partnership with Mastercard Foundation. University World News is solely responsible for the editorial content.

The other university is Egerton University, in Nakuru, Kenya, an institution that excels in agriculture. The eight-year, US\$27 million project, which runs from 2016 to 2024, will support the training of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and communities from post-conflict and conflict-affected areas across the continent.

So far, 45 students have benefited from study scholarships in the two universities.

At Gulu University, whose region is itself recovering from two decades of civil war, much of it sparked by the Lord’s Resistance Army rebel group, the foundation has been supporting the training of students in programmes such as agribusiness development, food security and

nutrition. Students training refugees

The students in turn have used the skills and knowledge acquired from the university to train refugees (423 in the past year) in northern Uganda and more than 500 local Ugandans from host communities, in running micro and agribusiness enterprises that could help them earn an income and potentially transform their lives.

In the past year, postgraduate students from Gulu University, funded by the Mastercard Foundation, spent eight-week blocks with refugee communities in West Nile, in north-west Uganda, which hosts refugees from South Sudan, whose ongoing civil war continues to flare up and cost lives, preventing repatriation.

In these settlements, the students were allocated to work with different refugee groups to impart practical skills on starting and running small income-generating enterprises within their communities.

Through the programme, the refugees are instructed in developing various skill sets, including how to identify viable cost-effective

income-generating activities, how to make business plans and how to use available resources in their settlements to bring their ideas to life.

The idea of focusing on skilling and building the capacity for refugees is based on experience gained through two innovative agricultural sciences training models that Gulu University has been implementing at its faculty of agriculture and environment.

These are a student-centred enterprise scheme and a student-centred outreach model, both key to expanding the university’s engagement with the non-refugee communities that it serves.

These models ensure that Gulu’s agricultural training reflects the needs of these communities, said Samuel Eلول, manager of the project at Gulu University. “The focus is to ensure that universities can come up with different projects arising from community needs and with the input of the communities, be able to find sustainable solutions,” said Eلول.

Geared to the context
The refugees project has been

designed based on these models, with the aim of ensuring that refugees can be economically productive while living in confined settlements.

Once refugees arrive in Uganda, they are often allocated small plots of land, just enough for them to construct a small hut and engage in small-scale farming.

“On such pieces of land, it is only possible to operate a micro-enterprise so we focused our training with them on small enterprises with high value – and which can bring in quick money,” said Dr Walter Odongo, a lecturer at Gulu University’s agriculture faculty and coordinator of its outreach programme.

He gave an example of mushroom farming – where refugees are trained in producing such crops “for business ... and also how to package and market it”. Odongo said this approach has helped refugees understand how micro-enterprises can increase their food security and earn an income.

Paul Itto, 27, is one refugee who has benefited. Itto has lived as a refugee in Uganda for 22 years, having fled

the then southern region of Sudan in 1997 during the then civil war between the Sudan People’s Liberation Army and the Khartoum government in the north of Sudan.

“I came here as a five-year-old. All my life I’ve lived as a refugee and there are no opportunities for jobs here. But now with the skills we have acquired, we have something to engage in,” said Itto, who lives in Maaji I Refugee Settlement, in Adjumani district, north-west Uganda. He grows mushrooms in polythene sacks.

Such initiatives are important for Uganda given that it hosts an estimated 1.1 million refugees from more than 10 countries. At least 900,000 of these are from South Sudan alone, according to figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

As elsewhere in the world, refugees in Uganda face several challenges, including a lack of economic and job opportunities. Many have lived in camps for decades without access to formal education, which subsequently limits their access to employment.

Ministers resolve row on leadership crisis

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office responsible for investment, Angellah Kairuki and her Finance and Planning counterpart Dr Philip Mpango, have intervened to resolve a leadership row in one of the biggest agribusiness companies in Mbeya – Rungwe Avocado Company (RAC).

The two ministers were in Mbeya City on Tuesday where they met regional authorities as well as RAC former managing director who refused to vacate the company house built on the farm located in Rungwe District since he was sacked in 2017.

Robert Clowes who was appointed the first MD of the farm that works with thousands

of out-growers in 2006 after investing in the company, was relinquished of his duties for allegedly underperformance but refused to vacate the company’s house.

Speaking at a meeting with the ministerial delegation on Tuesday, Clowes said he was ready to vacate the house immediately as long as he was paid his dues from his current status as a minority shareholder in RAC.

After his sacking, Clowes established Kuza Africa Limited which also deals in avocado business.

He has been resisting to vacate the RAC-owned house on the avocado farm located at Ilo Village in Rungwe District, the nation’s leading avocado producer.

In 2006, following a Memorandum of Understanding with Wakulima Tea Company, one of Tanzania’s most successful examples of privatisation, Clowes was asked to develop an avocado section as a trial venture within and along the same principles.

The avocado project was later developed into a separate entity and was carved out as RAC with Clowes as its managing director.

It was RAC that developed the Hass avocado industry in Rungwe District and the entire southern highlands region from grass roots to the present income generating crop for communities in Rungwe District and beyond.

After the board of directors of RAC decided not to renew the contract of Clowes, he however



Specially prepared ‘slices’ of coconut logs on sale at an open centre set up recently at Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam, as found yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Surge confirmed in sexual violence targeting South Sudan women, girls

UNITED NATIONS

Women and girls continue to face the brunt of violence in the northern region of South Sudan with persistently high and brutal levels of sexual violence, a new report found.

Despite the signing of a peace deal nearly five months ago, United Nations investigators have found an "endemic" rise in cases of sexual violence in South Sudan's Unity State.

"There's been very little accountability in South Sudan for what is chronic, endemic problem of sexual violence against women and girls," said the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) spokesperson Rupert Colville.

"Virtually complete impunity over the years, as a result, very little disincentive for these men not to do what they're doing," he added at the launch of the report.

U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet also expressed concern over the widespread issue, stating: "The volatility of the situation in South Sudan combined with the lack of accountability for violations and abuses committed throughout Unity, likely leads armed actors to believe that they can get away with rape and other horrific forms of sexual violence."

Between September and December 2018 alone, at least 175 women and girls experienced sexual and physical

violence. Of these cases, 64 were girls, some as young as eight years old.

U.N. Missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) and OHCHR researchers found that most of the victims were attacked on roads as they traveled in search of firewood, food or water, commodities which have been limited since the start of the conflict in 2013.

One woman recounted her experience, stating: "We women do not have a choice...if we go by the main road, we are raped. If we go by the bush, we are raped...we avoided the road because we heard horrible stories that women and girls are grabbed while passing through and are raped, but the same happened to us. There is no escape—we are all raped."

The 30-year-old survivor was raped on three separate occasions, each time around the same location to or from food distribution sites in Bentiu.

Almost 90 percent of the women and girls were raped by more than one perpetrator and often over several hours, the report found.

The report also observed that many of the attacks were premeditated and organised, stating: "The ruthlessness of the attackers appears to be a consistent feature of sexual violence documented during this investigation."

In another incident in November, a woman who was two months pregnant suffered a miscarriage after being gang-raped.

Survivors also described being beaten with rifle butts, sticks, and cable

wires if they attempted to resist or after they were raped.

A 50-year-old survivor told investigators she was beaten after trying to keep armed men from taking her 25-year-old daughter.

"Some of them threw punches and kicks on me for not allowing them to take my daughter. Those armed men were just like my sons, but they were so cruel. They do not have mercy," she said.

Among the factors that have contributed to the rise in attacks against women and girls is the large number of fighters on "standby" mode awaiting disengagement and withdrawal.

Though a peace agreement was signed in September 2018, the new transitional government will not be put into effect until May, leaving members of numerous armed forces in limbo.

"A lot of these young men who are heavily armed, are just waiting around... This is a very toxic mix, and there are also youth militia which some of these official groups ally with and you don't know exactly who they are; they've been heavily involved as well," Colville said.

Impunity and the lack of accountability have also led to the normalisation of violence against women and girls, and both UNMISS and OHCHR have urged President Salva Kiir to carry out investigations and seek justice for survivors.

Upon hearing about reports of mass rape, an investigation was carried



"There's been very little accountability in South Sudan for what is chronic, endemic problem of sexual violence against women and girls," the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights says. Credit: Jared Ferrie/IPS

out by a South Sudanese committee. However, they denied the allegations and declared that the rapes were "not a true story."

While the current peace deal seems volatile, it is increasingly urgent for the new South Sudan to act and protect

women and girls.

"Sadly, we have continued to receive reports of rape and gang rape in northern Unity since the beginning of this year," Bachelet said.

"I urge the Government of South Sudan to take adequate measures - includ-

ing those laid out in the peace agreement - to protect women and girls, to promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of sexual violence and to hold the perpetrators accountable through fair trials," she added.

IPS

Ending silence on sexual abuse: Vatican holds summit



Members of the ECA (Ending of Clergy Abuse) organization and survivors of clergy sex abuse pose for photographers outside St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

VATICAN CITY

If Pope Francis needed a concrete example to justify summoning church leaders from around the globe to Rome for a tutorial on clergy sex abuse, Sister Bernardine Pemi has it.

The nun, who recently completed a course on child protection policies at Rome's Jesuit university, has been advising her bishop in Ghana on an abuse case, instructing him to invite the victim to his office to hear her story before opening an investigation.

If Pemi hadn't stepped in?

"It would have been covered. There would have been complete silence," Pemi told The Associated Press recently. "And nothing would have happened. Nobody would have listened to the victim."

Francis is convening this week's summit at the Vatican to prevent cover-ups by Catholic superiors everywhere, as many around the world continue to protect the church's reputation at all costs, denying that priests rape children and by discrediting victims even as new cases keep coming to light.

History's first Latin American

pope has made many of the same mistakes. As archbishop in Buenos Aires, he went out of his way to defend a famous street priest who was later convicted of abuse. He took a handful of measures early on in his papacy that undermined progress the Vatican had made in taking a hard line against rapists.

These include the pontiff seriously and publicly botching a well-known case of cover-up in Chile by initially giving it no credence. Francis realized last year he had erred. "I was part of the problem," Francis told Chilean survivor Juan Carlos Cruz during a private meeting at the Vatican in June.

The pope has now done an about-face and is bringing the rest of the church leadership along with him at the extraordinary summit that starts Thursday.

The meeting will bring together some 190 presidents of bishops' conferences, religious orders and Vatican offices for four days of lectures and workshops on preventing sex abuse in their churches, tending to victims, and investigating abuse when it does occur.

The Vatican isn't expecting any miracles, and the pope himself

has called for expectations to be "deflated." But organizers say the meeting

nevertheless marks a turning point in the way the Catholic Church has dealt with the problem, with Francis' own conversion last year a key point of departure.

"I have been impressed by the humility of the Holy Father," said Maltese Archbishop Charles Scicluna, the Vatican sex crimes investigator who helped set Francis straight on Chile. "He's ready to say 'I got that wrong. We're not going to do it again. We're going to do it right.'"

"I think that gives us great hope," Scicluna said.

But the challenges are daunting as the message trickles down slowly.

Just this week, the online research group BishopAccountability released statistics from eight of the largest Catholic countries in the world, with the bishops from only one country - the US - committing to a policy to permanently remove any priest who has sexually abused a child.

Bishops in some countries, including Brazil, don't even have a published policy to speak of. In Italy, the president of the bishops' conference met with victims for the first time last week - after summit organizers demanded it.

"I want to say that something impor-

tant is going to come out of the week, but based on research we've done, I believe this church is nowhere close to enacting the reforms it must make to stop this epidemic," said BishopAccountability's Anne Barret Doyle.

Survivor Phil Saviano, who was crucial to the Boston Globe's 2002 expose that first revealed the extent of the abuse and cover-up by clergy, was more optimistic.

He marveled at the fact that Scicluna quoted from the Oscar-winning movie "Spotlight," which was inspired by the Globe's reporting, at a press conference launching the summit.

"I really didn't expect to hear them complimenting the news media and thanking you for helping them to come to better understanding of the nature of this problem that is so deeply entrenched within the Catholic Church," Saviano told reporters.

Saviano is joining about a dozen abuse survivors, many of them activists, who are meeting with summit organizers Wednesday. A different group of survivors will join the bishops themselves, offering testimonies during daily prayers.

The message, said Chilean survivor Cruz, who organized the meeting with

the committee members, is that bishops must listen to survivors and apply true zero tolerance at home.

"Those who have covered up, there is the door," Cruz told AP.

While survivors are being well represented at the summit, women as a whole are not.

Of the 190 participants, 10 are religious sisters representing orders in the summit, and three women will address the meeting. Other than that, the meeting is by men and for men - the hierarchy of the church.

On the sidelines of the summit, women's groups are demanding a greater voice and speaking out about the sexual abuse of adult women and religious sisters in the church - a scandal that has recently come to light after Francis acknowledged it was a problem.

"I do not have much hope for this meeting and we were already warned by Pope Francis not to have hope," said Virginia Saldanha, secretary of the Indian Women Theologians Forum.

"I see that it is the people... that have to raise voices, voices that can bring about change."

AGENCIES



Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Chicago Archbishop, right, speaks as Mons. Charles Scicluna, Malta Archbishop, and Rev. Hans Zollner, left, listen during a press conference on a Vatican summit on preventing clergy sex abuse, at the Vatican, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)



Thursday 21 February 2019

Blockbonds, I&M Bank introduce mobile banking application SPENN in Tanzania

By The Banker Reporter

AN innovative and cost free payment solution called SPENN has been introduced in the local market by Norwegian origin Blockbonds and I&M Bank Tanzania Limited. The application will be available to both personal and business account holders at I&M Bank.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam last week, Blockbonds and SPENN CEO, Jens Glaso said his company is happy to enter the local market after its successful entry into the Rwandan market last year.

"Our mission is to give everyone equal financial opportunities through innovative technology. Making SPENN accessible in Tanzania is a big step to achieve our long-term goal," Glaso said.

He said by downloading the cost-free SPENN mobile banking application, anyone can get a bank account, cost-free but also perform money transfers, payments in stores, and cash-out and deposit at any I&M Bank Tanzania branch in the country completely cost-free.

SPENN also offers a cost-free business solution, which is a free point-of-sale solution to anyone selling goods and services, by upgrading to a SPENN+ user, the CEO added.

The new application means that anyone having a smartphone can instantly register with SPENN through their phone number, name and NIDA (National Identification Agency) number.



I&M Bank Tanzania's CEO, Baseer Mohammed speaking in Dar es Salaam last week during the launch of a mobile banking application called SPENN. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

number.

"Having a bank account is the first step out of the

cash society and can also be the first important step out of poverty," Glaso noted. "We believe it is a hu-

man right for everyone to have a bank account, and SPENN is the solution that contributes to financial inclusion and supporting a cashless society for everyone," the Blockbonds CEO added.

Seconding Glaso's observation, I&M Bank Tanzania's CEO, Baseer Mohammed said as a proactive and customer oriented bank, I&M believes that SPENN is a response to customer's requirements and expectations.

"SPENN will change the way Tanzanians transact with each other, making it more efficient, more secure and cost-free. We strongly believe that SPENN will increase prosperity for the people of Tanzania," Mohammed said.

With a population of more than 57 million people, having fast and affordable internet access, Tanzania is an emerging market expecting a high rate of adoption for the new application which facilitates payments through mobile handsets.

Blockbonds is a Norwegian Fintech company and has developed the product SPENN, an advanced mobile banking application utilizing blockchain technology with objectives of making the world financially connected by uniting the banked with the unbanked population.

It is estimated that two billion people worldwide do not have access or use formal financial services. 73 percent of the poorest population are unbanked because of costs related to setting up services, travel distances and the often-burdensome requirements involved in opening a bank account.

SPENN is the solution for everyone to be a part of the cashless society, enabling them to transact money instantly and communicate financially, cost-free.

I&M Bank was founded in 1974 as a financial service company and started operations in 2010 after acquiring CF Union Bank.

I&M Bank Group traces its roots to Investments & Mortgages Limited, a financial services company started by founder Chairman Sarit Raja Shah's father SBR Shah in 1974 in Nairobi.

COMESA steps up efforts to have members retify, enforce continental air transport deal

By The Banker Reporter

COMMON Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is lobbying its 21 member countries to ratify and implement a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) protocol.

Comesa's Senior Transport Economist, Bernard Dzawanda said on Tuesday that a soon as the AU project, which aims to create a single market for air transport in Africa is totally in force, the resultant single market will allow significant freedom of air transport on the continent hence moving forward the AU's Agenda 2063.

The project was initially launched by AU leaders in January 2018. However, so far, only six member countries of the 21-member free trade area - Rwanda, Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and Zimbabwe - have signed the commitment.

Dzawanda said the bloc will intensify lobbying for the implementation of SAATM at its statutory meetings, which involve directors of civil aviation, joint

technical committee and ministers of infrastructure from its member states.

Mwangi Gakunga, COMESA's Head of Corporate Communications, backed Dzawanda's observation saying so far, COMESA has lobbied the ministers for infrastructure and directors of civil aviation in their meeting (October 2018).

"The Secretary General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) was invited to make a presentation as well," Gakunga said while noting that last year, an extra ordinary plenary session of AFCAC appointed a new secretary general, Tefera Mekonnen Tefera, from the Eastern Region, replacing Iyabo Sosina, a Nigerian aviation expert, who led the commission since 2012.

"SAATM has been prioritised as one of the result areas of the activities under the eleventh European Development Fund aviation program whose funds are expected to be released anytime from now," Gakunga added.

The AU Commission aims to have at least 40 AU member states join the Single

African Air Transport Market by the end of 2019. Shortly after the January 2018 launch, a prioritised joint action plan for 2018-2019 was developed by aviation industry stakeholders to operationalise the SAATM. In January this year, the continent's aviation industry stakeholders met in Dakar, Senegal, on the implementation of the prioritised Action Plan for Operationalisation of the Single African Air Transport Market 2018 - 2019.

The Dakar meeting agreed this year to finalise and execute the SAATM implementation road map, and on the need for early completion of the 55-country study on SAATM socio-economic benefits to the continent.

Dzawanda, who attended the Dakar meeting, said: "One of the key activities in the prioritised action plan was the signing and implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)."

COMESA signed the memorandum of

the establishment of SAATM in 2018. It is currently the lead REC on the formulation and implementation of an eight million euros Eastern and Southern African aviation programme to be funded under 11th European Development Fund (EDF II).

The four-year programme aims to facilitate and support the operationalisation of the single African air transport market.

The meeting provided a platform for aviation industry stakeholders to report on concrete actions taken towards implementation of the Abidjan Plan and proposed actions for 2019, including any other on-going interventions in the civil aviation industry.

The prioritised action plans of the SAATM are based on six pillars: advocacy for effective operationalisation of Single African Air Transport Market; a regulatory framework to ensure availability of appropriate regulations for the oversight of the SAATM; operationalisation of SAATM; aviation infrastructure; enhancing safety and security and aviation financing.

Mozambique accuses EU of lack of transparency in tuna fishing negotiations

MAPUTO

IN an interview with today's edition of the newspaper Noticias, Mozambique's Minister of Fisheries Agostinho Mondlane accuses the European Union (EU) of lack of transparency in national-waters tuna fishery negotiations.

"We feel that there is a willingness of the EU to perpetuate into the fourth generation agreement a lack of transparency. We think we can discuss this with any other bloc, but never with the EU, which is a community governed by rules of good governance," the minister said.

According to the minister, the EU has rejected a clause on monitoring the catch, a point that has been hindering a new agreement since 2015. The EU wrote to the government three months ago to announce its readiness to start new talks, the minister said.

"We, as Mozambique, are open to resuming [negotiations], but I must assert that those who stopped the negotiation were they themselves and, whenever we went to the table, they asked us to withdraw the transparency clauses," the minister said.

Minister Mondlane recounted how, at the beginning of the current mandate in 2015, the Mozambican government presented proposals for new clauses, one of them relating to the declaration of catches. "The vessels were catching the fish and only communicated that they came in and went out," he said, and it was the vessels "who informed us what they caught."

Mozambique wanted its inspectors to enter the vessels and there was also a discussion about updating the fees paid by the EU, which were set below what should be charged because of other donations being taken into account.

But, after the calculations were made, "they did not constitute what we consider a fair rate", Minister Mondlane said. Lusa has sought clarification from the EU delegation in Mozambique but has not yet received a response.



An Air Tanzania Company Limited Boeing 787 Dreamliner taking off from Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam. ATCL will enjoy benefits of the AU's SAATM if the government endorses the agreement.

Airtel launches 'Dabo Data' and 'Smatika' bundles with boost in volumes

By The Banker Reporter

AS the voice and data price wars gathers steam among mobile phones service companies, Airtel Tanzania, the smartphone network is doubling the amount of volumes given through its new 'Dabo data' and 'Smatika' bundles which cost 2,000/- and last three days.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam while announcing the launch of the new offer, Airtel Tanzania Marketing Director Isaac Nchunda said with 'Dabo data' and 'Smatika' bundles, subscribers will get two gigabytes for only 2,000/- instead of IGB previously.

"This bundle will also be valid for three days," Nchunda said while urging the customers to use Airtel Money wallets to buy the bundles.

Recently Tanzania Communications Regulatory

Authority mobile money statistics indicated that the number of customers using mobile money has increased from 21 million in December 2017 to 23 million in December 2018.

"This development has forced Airtel to look at different ways of being most innovative in its service offered to customers in the market. Airtel Tanzania remains committed in investing and bringing reliable, innovative, relevant and affordable services and products to our customers," Nchunda added.

On his part, Airtel Public Relations Manager, Jackson Mmbando said the latest launch is another milestone in Airtel Money's quest to continue transforming

lives of its subscribers. "We are seeing more and more customers using our Airtel Money services. From today any Airtel customer can purchase Airtel Money 'Dabo data' and 'Smatika' bundles using their mobile money wallets," Mmbando said.

"These options offer both convenience and more value for money. We are now typically offering our customers an extra bundle of the same kind for free. The new offer will see Airtel customers continue to enjoy the convenience offered by Airtel Money services," Mmbando added.

Since last year, the mobile phone services company has opened over 500 Airtel Money branches across the country as part of its

commitment to support financial inclusion by taking mobile money services and products closer to customers.

"Our plan is to continue building a strong, reliable agent network with an array of services that can be accessed through our Airtel Money branches," noted the Public Relations Manager.

Airtel Tanzania is part of Airtel Africa Limited which is a pan-African telecommunications company with operations in 14 countries across the continent. Airtel Africa is driven by the vision of providing affordable and innovative mobile services to all and is supported in pursuing this vision by its largest shareholder, Bharti Airtel of India.



Airtel Tanzania Director of Marketing Isack Nchunda speaks in Dar es Salaam after launching new 'Dabo data' and 'Smatika' bundles. He is accompanied by Airtel Tanzania Public Relations Manager Jackson Mmbando. Photo: courtesy of Airtel.

Zimbabwe central bank said to consider devaluing bond notes

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S central bank is considering devaluing its quasi-currency as part of a raft of reforms to the nation's foreign-exchange system, according to a central bank official.

Depreciating the so-called bond notes would be an acknowledgment that the official one-for-one exchange rate is no longer sustainable. It would also mark the second major overhaul to Zimbabwe's currency regime since October, when the central bank ordered lenders to separate deposits of US dollars and electronic money known as RTGSS.

Since then the cash shortage has led to the closing of factories, the more than doubling of fuel prices to the highest in the world and a surge in inflation. Protests in January left at least 17 people dead.



Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor, John Mangudya.

not authorised to speak to the media.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya was said to be unavailable when his office was contacted.

The decision to adjust the value of bond notes follows submissions by the business community, company officials and individuals about how to formalise foreign-exchange trading in Zimbabwe, the official said. The government supports the move because it accepts

the official one-for-one peg to the dollar isn't working, he said.

Bond notes currently trade at 3.61 per dollar on the black market, according to marketwatch.co.zw, a website run by financial analysts. RTGSS are valued at about 3.75 per dollar, it said.

Zimbabwe introduced the bond notes in 2016 to ease a crippling shortage of cash. Their debut came seven years after the nation scrapped its own currency in the

wake of hyperinflation and adopted a basket of foreign units as legal tender.

While the government says bond notes are equal to the US dollar, they're not accepted by foreign suppliers. That's resulted in payment problems for companies such as gold miners and grain millers. Shops charge customers different prices depending on which unit they use to pay, offering big discounts to those who use real US dollars.



South African Finance Minister, Tito Mboweni.

South Africa's tough budget speech with no major tax hike forecast

PRETORIA

FINANCE Minister Tito Mboweni is likely to be the bearer of tough economic news when he presents his maiden budget speech on Wednesday afternoon.

However, he is expected to announce no major tax increases in the key tax categories of VAT, corporate income tax or personal income tax (PIT). "With this year's general elections set for May 8 there is likely to be significant pressure on Treasury to find ways of reassuring the public and maintaining support for the government.

"As such, the upcoming budget speech is expected to contain more populist and political messages than major tax-change announcements," said David French, the director of tax consulting at Mazars.

Isaac Matshego, a Nedbank economist, said he didn't believe Mboweni would hike any major taxes and, with an expected shortfall in tax revenue, he could focus on a mix of expenditure adjustments and on limiting the increase in state debt to balance the books. A key part of Mboweni's speech would be to appease credit rating agencies.

Rating agencies

"Minister Mboweni will need to talk to three specific issues in his budget speech. These are the pace of fiscal consolidation, reforms of state-owned enterprises and measures to lift economic growth. "By effectively outlining a path forward for the fiscus, the minister will be able to satisfy credit rating agencies and steer the economy away from [a further credit rating downgrade]," PwC said.

Mboweni might cut Treasury's forecast for this year's growth from the 1.7% forecast in October last year. He might have to contend with state tax revenue missing the mark by about R37 billion when compared with the last year's budget speech target.

"A downward revision in nominal growth forecasts is anticipated, owing to a sluggish growth environment and a positive downward adjustment in the inflation trajectory," Momentum Investments economists Sanisha Packirisamy and Herman van Papendorp said.

Standard Bank's chief economist, Goolam Ballim, said last week that the country needed a real annual growth rate of 2.5% to stabilise public debt and deal with jobless growth. Eskom's latest power cuts, if they are sustained, could lower economic forecasts further in future.

Investec economist Annabel Bishop said the bank's GDP growth forecasts this year were at risk of a downgrade from 1.7% previously to potentially between 1% and 1.5%, partly due to local power supply issues.

Ballim said that for every 5% shortfall in electricity supply GDP would be reduced by between 0.3% and 0.5%. A key aspect of the budget speech was likely to be a continued rise in debt-servicing costs, Momentum Investments said. Mboweni held two colloquiums, one in December and a second in January, to discuss ways to boost local economic growth.

Ballim said Mboweni's "immersion in several colloquiums to better understand and discover other growth solutions signals to me a very considered, methodical and unhurried approach and, at the same time, a sufficiently hasty approach to be able to find real solutions to South Africa's quagmire".

Budget deficit

PwC has forecast that the government budget deficit will widen to 4.3%

by the end of March compared with the 4.0% forecast contained in the medium-term budgetary policy statement issued in October due to PwC's projected R10 billion shortfall in revenue collections compared with the medium-term forecast.

In addition, PwC has forecast the government budget deficit will worsen and reach 4.7% by March 2020. This compares with the 4.2% worsening in the budget deficit forecast in the medium-term budgetary policy statement.

The rising level of government debt urgently needs to come under control after state debt as a percentage of GDP had doubled in the past 10 years from 27% to 56%, Lullu Krugel, PwC economist, said last week.

"Debt accumulation should lead to better infrastructure and increase economic growth - ineffective spending needs to stop," she said.

Kyle Mandy, a partner and head of national tax technical at PwC SA, said this year's tax year revenue was likely to miss last year's budget forecast of R1.345 trillion by nearly R37 billion for projected tax collections of R1.308 trillion.

In October the medium-term budgetary policy statement revised down this year's tax year revenue target by R27 billion, largely due to the payout of delayed VAT refunds, but Mandy said he expected tax revenue to be cut by a further R10 billion.

Income tax collections

"The primary contributors to this [further R10 billion shortfall] are poor performances in corporate income tax collections, as well as a deterioration in personal income tax collections in recent months."

Turning to the outlook for next year's tax year, Mandy said that last year's budget speech put tax revenue at R1.455 trillion. In the medium-term budgetary policy statement this was cut to R1.43 trillion and PwC expects this to be cut again in Wednesday's budget speech to R1.408 trillion. Mandy said he expected only small tax hikes.

The tax changes he expects are adjustments in PIT to allow for fiscal drag with high-income earners to see the least benefit; medical tax credits will be increased but by less than inflation; a possible hike in the capital gains tax for individuals' inclusion rate to 50%; a hike in estate duty and donations tax; an expansion in the last of goods that will face ad valorem duties; and a hike in securities transfer tax.

On the VAT front, Mboweni could add white bread flour, cake flour and sanitary pads to the list of zero-rated items.

"Given the increase in the VAT rate in last year's budget, the significant public outcry over this, as well as the perceived regressivity of VAT, it is certain that there will be no change in the VAT rate," PwC said, adding: "We don't expect to see an introduction of higher VAT rates for luxury goods."

The general fuel levy could increase by between 15c a litre and 20c a litre while the Road Accident Fund levy could rise by at least 30c a litre. Mandy expects an inflationary increase in both the sugar tax and excise duties on alcohol.

Madelein Grobler, SA Institute of Chartered Accountants project director for tax, said that analysing Treasury's monthly revenue reports until December, the sugar levy, formally known as the Sugary Beverages Levy (SBL), was bound to outperform all other tax collections with regard to growth estimations, substantially exceeding the initial R1.685 billion estimated.

Using 'leapfrog' technology, new thinking to drive the financial inclusion agenda through

By Innocent Ephraim

INSTANT or real-time payments will become part of daily life in the not-too-distant future. Across the world, governments and financial institutions are putting significant efforts into bringing affordable and safe instant payments systems to market. This seemingly simple payments system is actually quite complex.

Nonetheless, since 2016, many countries across the world and the African region are seeing the overriding benefits of leapfrogging long-standing barriers in pursuit of greater financial inclusion and economic growth.

Using technology to change the landscape of the financial sector

Instant payment systems are transforming the financial landscape across the world, offering both short term and long-term economic benefits. Governments and banking institutions are under increasing pressure from consumers and businesses to provide real-time payment services to maximise the opportunities offered by digital financial services and achieve competitive advantage in the fast pace of change within the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"The Fourth Industrial Revolution, finally, will change not only what we do but also who we are. It will affect our identity and all the issues associated with it: our sense of privacy, our notions of ownership, our consumption patterns, the time we devote to work and leisure, and how we develop our careers, cultivate our skills, meet people, and nurture rela-

tionships," says Klaus Schwab who is founder of World Economic Forum.

Characterised by a fusion of technologies that blurs the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres, the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is significant, not only on the type of financial systems in the market, but also their speed and scope.

Over a decade ago, the evolution of digital financial services made an unprecedented impact on financial inclusion, providing broad distribution channels and inclusive access for millions of people around the world, reducing cash dependency, introducing new and more seamless services in the market and facilitating domestic and international money transfers.

State of digital financial service sector in Tanzania

Tanzania's achievements in expediting innovative digital financial services across the country and their considerable impact on financial inclusion are now well known and documented worldwide. Over the past year, mobile money transactions have continued to grow and now stand at over 80 million with a total value of over 3trn/-.

Such success has become a prime example of the level of growth in access, uptake and usage of financial services that can be attained when appropriate innovative technologies, enabling policies and cooperative stakeholders work in tandem.

It is now common to see services such as utility bill payment, payroll distribution, and point-of-sale purchases being



Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor (Financial stability and deepening) Dr Bernard Kibesse.

offered through digital financial services platforms. All of these accessible through six mobile money issuers and over 37 commercial banks.

Benefits of instant payment systems

Like in many countries worldwide, despite the success of digital financial services, the current payment system in Tanzania presents considerable challenges across the market. Service providers face many challenges from the current interoperability model utilised in the country, including dependency on bilateral agreements, high investment, maintenance and transaction costs and poor

liquidity management, scalability and interchanging.

An instant payment system would provide a fast, integrated and cost-efficient clearing and settlement platform which could not only reduce costs but also increase commercial opportunities and address unmet market demands.

For customers, the introduction of the real-time payments will allow transactions at any time, irrespective of provider, helping to make payments more affordable and faster, thus encouraging greater use of electronic payments.

For the Bank of Tanzania, the current system presents many regulatory challenges in terms

of oversight due to limited visibility of transactions.

An integrated instant payment system could support improved efficiencies in governance, safety, consumer protection and risk management for both payment service providers and end-users, as well as enhanced tax collection processes.

For all stakeholders across the financial sector in Tanzania, the opportunities presented by an instant payment system will no doubt improve the speed and scope of the financial services which are currently offered, but also revolutionise policies and product development to realise innovative, al-

lowing Fintechs and start-ups to build on top of the current rails as customer value is enhanced, this enables the FSPs to focus on their strengths.

Driven by the principles of the Tanzania instant payment system which state, the design principles for the TIPS scheme are; Open and Interoperable, "Push" (Credit Transfer) Payments, Real-time Payments, All Use Cases, Irrevocable Payments, Same-day Settlement, Ultra-Low-Cost, Price Transparency, Payment Addressing, Inclusive Governance, Fraud Utility, Connectivity to other Schemes and Regulatory Oversight, the movement towards digitization is real.

Lebanon proposes candidate for World Bank presidency

BEIRUT

LEBANON has nominated investment banker Ziad Hayek to be president of the World Bank, following Jim Yong Kim's surprise resignation in January and US President Donald Trump's subsequent nomination for a successor this month.

Lebanon's nomination is the only challenge so far to Mr Trump's proposal that Treasury official David Malpass replace Jim Yong Kim as head of the development bank. Mr Hayek, who is secretary-general of the Higher Council for Privatisation and Public-Private-Partnerships in Lebanon, announced his nomination by the nation's finance minister in a tweet on Monday night.

"Proud to have been nominated by Lebanon for the position of President of the World Bank Group!" he wrote. He shared a copy of the nomination letter to the bank's executive board - which states that, "Mr Hayek fulfils the qualification requirements set by the World Bank and has demonstrated, throughout his career - spent almost entirely working in emerging markets, and in both the public and private sectors - a passion for the development, both social and economic, of countries throughout the world."

Under an informal transatlantic



Investment banker Ziad Hayek will rival US Treasury official David Malpass.

custom, the president of the World Bank has always been an American, while the managing director of the International Monetary Fund has always been European, according

to Bloomberg. But some experts are calling for a non-American to be chosen in recognition of the growing global importance of emerging markets.

The final decision will be made by the World Bank's executive board, which represents its 189 member nations.

BANKING & FINANCE

As secretary-general of Lebanon's high council for privatisation, Mr Hayek has been working to reform the country's power and telecommunication industries. He was previously chief executive of investment bank Lonbridge Associates, as well as a consultant to the US Department of State and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Lebanon last month instated a new government following a nine-month political impasse, and is expected to ramp up the implementation of crucial consolidation measures to reverse years of economic decline.

The economy has been hit by the war in neighbouring Syria, with annual growth rates falling to between 1 and 2 per cent, compared to 8-10 per cent in the pre-war years.

It is due to work on implementing an \$11bn aid package pledged by international donors at the Cedre conference in Paris last April, intended to boost high-growth industry sectors. Meanwhile, President Trump nominated Mr Malpass, the Treasury's undersecretary for international affairs, to become World Bank president earlier this month.

Mr Malpass is a vocal sceptic of global organisations such as the World Bank, saying they "have grown larger and more intrusive" and "the challenge of refocusing them has become urgent and more difficult," according to the US political media company Politico.

Last year, Mr Malpass helped create a new package of World Bank lending reforms that seek to reduce middle-income countries' dependence on bank loans and transition them to private sector lending, in order to direct resources to poor countries instead. The reforms also seek to limit World Bank salary increases.

SA will have to produce 50 per cent more food by 2050 or face crisis - WWF report

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa faces an impending food security crisis if there isn't urgent action to correct unsustainable practices, says an environmental organisation. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), South Africa will have to produce 50% more food by 2050 to feed an estimated population of 73 million people.

"We need to understand that our current approach to food production is by no means benign. Both globally and in South Africa, agriculture is the largest land use and has the heaviest impact on land transformation and biodiversity loss. Soil degradation, for

example, results in a net loss of arable land every year," Agri-Food Systems: Facts and Futures report author Tatjana von Bormann told News24.

Farming in SA needs comprehensive reform in order to meet the needs of a growing population, says the 56-page report.

'Resilient and secure food system'

The report reads: "Until a few years ago, WWF focused on the impacts of agricultural production, which are by far the most significant environmental impacts.

"However, focusing on farms only will not bring about the necessary structural transformation that is

needed for a resilient and secure food system.

"If we want to achieve this shift within a complex adaptive system, we need to follow a socio-ecological approach, where the social, economic and political dimensions (the actors) are embedded within the ecological component (nature).

"This approach hinges on understanding all the possible interconnections and feedback loops so that, in intending to fix one thing, we do not create another unintended consequence." The report argues that, while SA has kept undernourishment below 5% since 1990, there are still significant challenges, with half the

population still living below the poverty line.

"Paramount among these [challenges] are diet-related health problems, such as the growing prevalence of obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and the persistence of hunger, nutrient deficiencies and stunting," says the report adding that women, children and the poor are most vulnerable.

Food insecurity is a global problem, despite commitments to ensure food security and poverty alleviation.

Malnutrition According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), 45% of deaths of children under five can be attributed

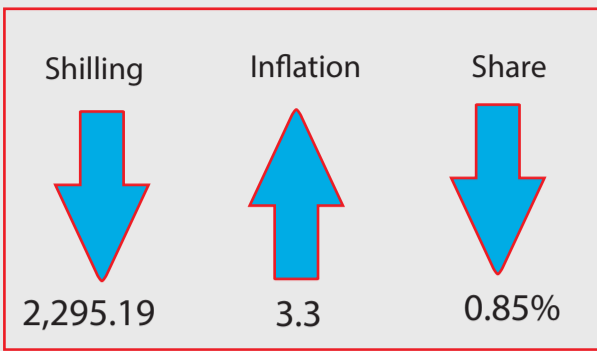
to malnutrition as an underlying cause, and two billion people worldwide suffer from vitamin or mineral deficiencies.

The WWF report cited a number of challenges to food security in SA: smallholder farmers without support; market dominance squeezing out smaller players; and the cost of healthy food as key hurdles to food security.

In addition, the impact of climate change,

population increase, and food demand was likely to place serious demands on the food system. "There will be a doubling of demand for certain products - meat and dairy included - by 2050.

How will we meet this? It can't just be about more production. We need a complete transformation to a system so that it nurtures human health and the environment," said Von Bormann.



Total Market Capitalization

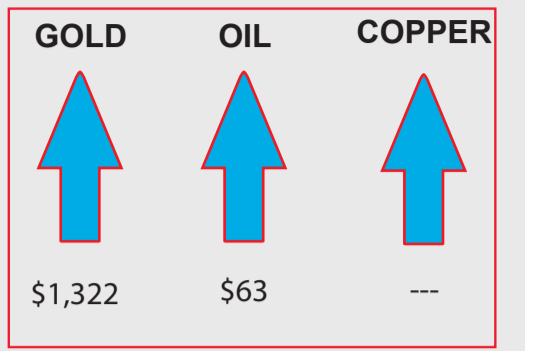
TZS 20,653.30 bln (USD 9,060.79 mln)
 Indices February 18, 2019
 TSI 3,533.65 +0.13
 DSEI 2,142.70 -4.14

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Maize	52130.43	Finger Millet	142263.16
Rice	187045.45	Wheat	124857.14
Sorghum	75315.79	Beans	177272.73
Bulrush Millet	72076.92	Round potatoes	79295.45

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,591.28	2,617.65
USD	2,268.07	2,290.76
KES	22.38	22.56
GBP	2,947.82	2,977.52



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: February 19, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	6,600	6,700	-1.49
CRDB	135	135	+0.00
DCB	340	340	+0.00
DSE	1,300	1,300	+0.00
EABL	4,700	4,680	+0.43
JHL	9,700	9,700	+0.00
KA	190	190	+0.00
KCB	970	970	+0.00
MBP	490	490	+0.00
MCB	500	500	+0.00
MKCB	800	800	+0.00
MUCOB	400	400	+0.00
NICO	170	165	+3.03
NMB	2,340	2,340	+0.00
NMG	1,480	1,560	-5.13
PAL	400	400	+0.00
SWALA	490	490	+0.00
SWIS	2,340	2,340	+0.00
TBL	11,700	11,700	+0.00
TCC	17,000	17,000	+0.00
TCCL	640	640	+0.00
TICL	385	385	+0.00
TOL	660	660	+0.00
TPCC	2,060	2,060	+0.00
TTP	120	120	+0.00
USL	15	15	+0.00
VODA	800	800	+0.00
YETU	600	600	+0.00

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI 3,533.65 +0.13
 DSEI 2,142.70 -4.14

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln) 20,653.27
 Equity Turnover 1,282,040,320.00
 Total Volume 1,376,141
 Total Deals 39

TOP MOVERS

VODA	800	1,266,480
CRDB	135	70,000
TBL	11,700	21,038

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
ACA	6,600	-1.49%
NMG	1,480	-5.13%
NICO	170	+3.03%
EABL	4,700	+0.43%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
19/Feb/2019	4.70	2,306.00	2,297.25	2,297.65
18/Feb/2019	1.55	2,307.00	2,293.97	2,295.23
15/Feb/2019	1.53	2,308.50	2,293.95	2,295.19
14/Feb/2019	1.42	2,307.80	2,293.98	2,295.15
13/Feb/2019	1.55	2,305.80	2,293.97	2,295.12
12/Feb/2019	1.42	2,308.15	2,293.94	2,295.14
11/Feb/2019	1.10	2,307.50	2,293.95	2,295.19

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
19/Feb/2019	48,800	5.00	4.50	4.60
18/Feb/2019	44,800	6.00	4.50	4.53
15/Feb/2019	25,100	5.00	4.25	4.68
14/Feb/2019	27,900	5.20	3.00	4.76
13/Feb/2019	36,200	5.50	4.00	5.03

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDZTS increased 7.0000 or 0.30% to 2,335.0000 on Wednesday February 20 from 2,328.0000 in the previous trading session. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 2340 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Palladium breaks \$1,500 barrier in record run; gold rises

* Minutes of Fed's Jan meeting due at 1900 GMT
 * Palladium up 19 pct so far this year

LONDON, Feb 20 (Reuters) - Palladium briefly surpassed the \$1,500 mark for the first time to touch a record high due to tight supplies and gold topped a 10-month peak on hopes of a U.S.-China trade truce, as investors awaited clarity on U.S. monetary policy.

Spot palladium, which traded as high as \$1,502 per ounce, was up 1.3 percent at \$1,498.56 at 1127 GMT.

"There is a lack of supply in the market and demand is very high," said Afshin Nabavi, senior vice president at MKS SA, citing lack of supplies from major producers Russia and South Africa.

The supply deficit is likely to widen this year as stricter emissions standards increase demand for catalytic converters, autocatalyst manufacturer Johnson Matthey said last week.

The autocatalyst metal is additionally supported by the fact that broad-based substitution from palladium to platinum was not immediately feasible, analysts said.

Both metals are primarily consumed by automakers in catalytic converter manufacturing, but platinum is more heavily used in diesel vehicles that have fallen out of favour since the Volkswagen emissions-rigging scandal broke in 2015.

Unlike platinum, palladium has benefited from a switch to petrol engines and ex-

pectations for growth in hybrid electric vehicles, which tend to be partly gasoline-powered, helping cushion the metal from falling global car sales.

Indicative of the bullish sentiment, net long positions in palladium have jumped since August last year, with prices rising about 80 percent during the same period.

Meanwhile, spot gold hit its highest since April 19, 2018 at \$1,346.73 per ounce and was up 0.2 percent at \$1,344.03. U.S. gold futures also rose 0.2 percent to \$1,346.90.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday said trade talks were going well and suggested he was open to extend the March 1 deadline for a deal.

The dollar fell as traders positioned ahead of the release of minutes from the Fed's last meeting later today.

Investors will scan the minutes for more guidance on rate increases this year. Higher rates tend to weigh on non-yielding gold.

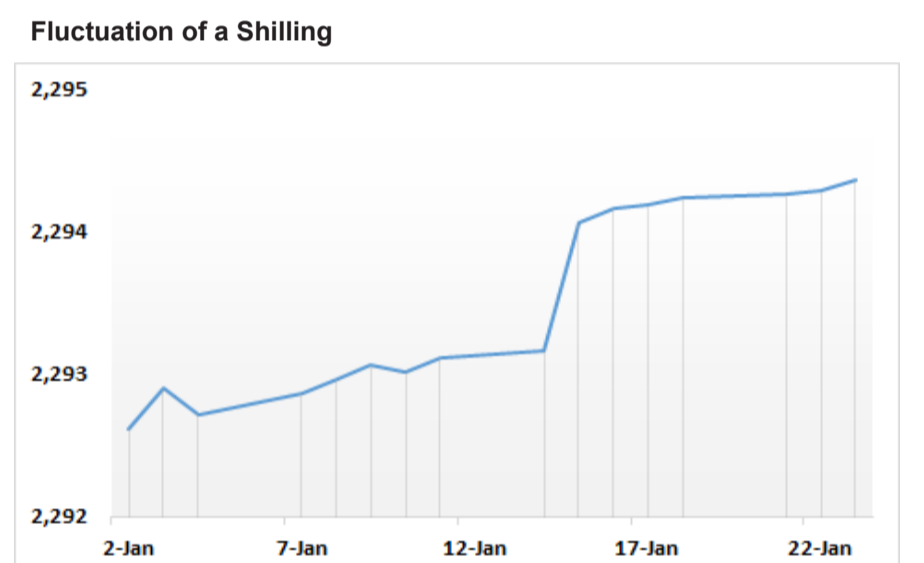
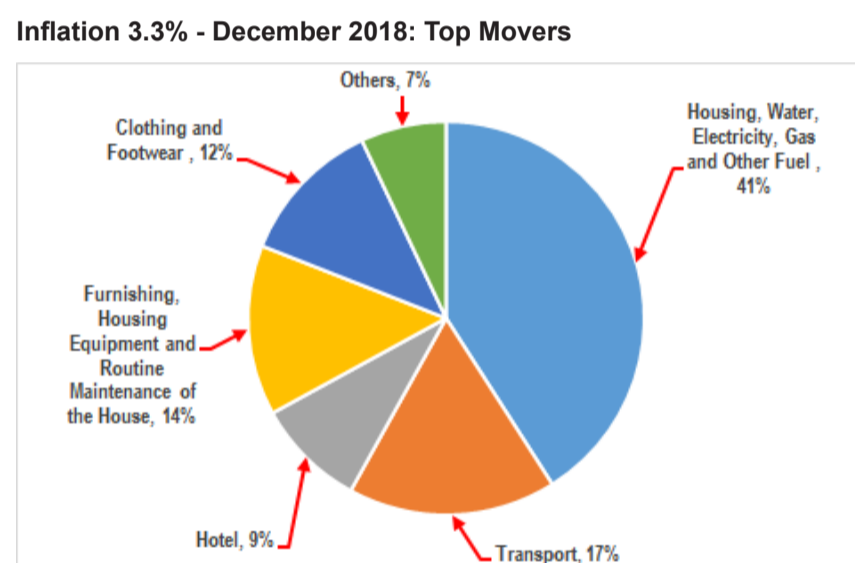
On the technical front, "the next psychological level is \$1,350, but what is more important is that gold breaks above the \$1,365 level," Boeile said.

Among other precious metals, platinum was up 0.6 percent at \$822.49 per ounce, while spot silver was up 0.3 percent at \$16.03.

All Share Index :20 Feb 2019

Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	32,406	216.11	0.67%	-0.02%	5.45%	-23.13%
JALSH-All Share	55,826	631.24	1.14%	2.35%	3.12%	-4.74%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	49,555	598.30	1.22%	2.41%	3.16%	-4.20%
Egypt EGX 30	15,237	81.59	0.54%	1.93%	12.25%	-0.05%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,484	0.00	0.00%	-0.15%	2.61%	-12.74%
NSE All Share	156	0.43	-0.27%	-2.70%	7.25%	-14.05%
Nairobi 20	3,023	24.42	-0.80%	-1.47%	5.56%	-18.90%
DSEI	2,143	4.14	-0.19%	-0.07%	6.61%	-9.14%
TUN	7,136	21.03	0.30%	0.52%	-1.73%	8.60%
GGSECI	2,414	15.82	-0.65%	-0.28%	-2.78%	-27.63%
Gaborone	7,877	3.01	-0.04%	-0.07%	-0.05%	-9.55%
NSX Overall	1,337	4.62	0.35%	0.35%	1.01%	-6.74%
SEMDEX	2,201	0.90	0.04%	-0.08%	-1.04%	-3.93%
Zimbabwe Index	507.76	3.43	0.68%	-1.57%	-3.24%	71.21%

DSEI decreased 4 points or 0.19% to 2143 on Tuesday February 19 from 2147 in the previous trading session. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.



Oil dips after forecast for record U.S. shale output

LONDON, Feb 20 (Reuters) - Crude oil futures eased on Wednesday in light of the prospect of a continued boom in U.S. shale oil output, although with OPEC determined to restrict its own production to prevent a global surplus of unused fuel, the price held just shy of 2019 highs.

Brent futures were at \$66.14 a barrel, down 31 cents on the day by 1049 GMT, still within sight of Monday's high for the year of \$66.83. U.S. futures were at \$55.88 a barrel, down 21 cents, having touched a 2019 peak of \$56.39 earlier.

"Brent is trading in a narrow corridor at around \$66.5 per barrel, while WTI is at around \$56," Commerzbank analysts said in a note.

"This still leaves them within spitting distance of the three-month high they achieved at the start of the week ... It seems that the sharp rise in oil production in the U.S. is having a slowing effect after all."

The U.S. Energy Information Administration said in a monthly report on Tuesday shale production alone will hit a record 8.4 million barrels per day next month, suggesting little chance of a near-term slowdown in overall U.S. crude output.

The oil price has risen by more than 20 percent so far this year, supported largely by an agreed 1.2 million bpd production cut by the Organization

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 6th Feb 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,120	2,080	2,046
Arusha	2,255	2,299	2,286
Kibaha	2,125	2,084	2,050
Dodoma	2,179	2,139	2,105
Geita	2,286	2,245	2,211
Iringa	2,185	2,144	2,110
Kagera (Bukob)	2,336	2,295	2,261
Katavi	2,329	2,288	2,254
Kigoma	2,352	2,311	2,277
Moshi	2,245	2,289	2,276
Lindi	2,110	2,089	2,105
Manyara (Babati)	2,289	2,333	2,320
Mara	2,299	2,258	2,225
Mbeya	2,228	2,187	2,153
Morogoro	2,146	2,105	2,071
Mtwara	2,096	2,075	2,118
Mwanza	2,271	2,230	2,196
Njombe	2,213	2,172	2,138
Rukwa	2,294	2,253	2,219
Sumbawanga	2,294	2,253	2,219
Ruvuma	2,182	2,161	2,169
Shinyanga	2,249	2,209	2,175
Singida	2,211	2,171	2,137
Songwe	2,237	2,196	2,162

Foreign Exchange- Feb 20

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.13426	0.00026	0.02 %
GBPUSD	1.30343	0.00277	-0.21 %
AUDUSD	0.71543	0.00087	-0.12 %
NZDUSD	0.68622	0.00198	-0.29 %
USDJPY	110.78	0.17	0.15 %
USDCNY	6.72366	0.02094	-0.31 %
USDCHF	1.00065	0.00035	-0.03 %
USDCAD	1.31804	0.00256	-0.19 %
USDMXN	19.1694	0.0304	0.16 %
USDINR	71.1580	0.132	-0.19 %
USDBRL	3.7248	0.0021	0.06 %
USDRUB	65.7072	0.0247	0.04 %
US Dollar	96.54	0.02	0.02 %
BTCUSD	3,890.02	2	0.04 %

Exchange Rates for 20 / Feb /2019

Currency	Spot	Buying	Spot	Selling
EAST AFRICAN CURRENCIES				
Kenya SHS	2,269.91		2,288.04	
Uganda SHS	58.35		62.52	
Rwandan Franc	252.84		255.94	
Burundi Franc	217.81		219.45	
OTHER SELECTED CURRENCIES				
USD	227,490.10		229,765.00	
Pound STG	294,440.44		297,430.79	
EURO	256,722.58		259,381.71	
Canadian \$	171,742.49		173,394.46	
Switz. Franc	226,223.25		228,462.76	
Japanese YEN	2,054.09		2,074.07	
Swedish Kronor	24,228.91		24,460.78	
Norweg. Kronor	26,365.58		26,616.89	
Danish Kronor	34,413.45		34,752.33	
Australian \$	161,677.21		163,316.96	
Indian RPS	3,183.86		3,214.22	
Pakistan RPS	1,557.59		1,629.54	
Zambian Kwacha	18,846.46		19,147.08	
Malawian Kwacha	290.75		311.41	
Mozambique-MET	3,616.69		3,647.06	
Zimbabwe \$	42.57		43.43	
SDR	315,430.95		318,585.26	
Gold (T/O)	302,607,329.70		305,819,512.65	
S. African Rand	16,049.82		16,204.60	
UAE Dirham	61,939.15		62,546.62	
Singapore \$	167,654.28		169,305.87	
Hong Kong \$	28,984.80		29,273.53	
Saud Arabian Rial	60,660.79		61,262.50	
Kuwait Dinar	749,111.23		756,328.38	
Botswana Pula	21,156.58		21,620.89	
Chinese Yuan	33,624.03		33,946.72	
Malaysia Ringgit	55,573.78		56,273.57	
South Korea Won	201.78		203.77	
Newzealand	155,080.00		156,745.68	

World Commodities (\$) 20 February 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil	55.7988	-0.52%	3.47%	3.37%	-9.58%
Silver	65.9377	-0.60%	3.66%	5.10%	0.79%
Natural gas	2.6886	0.83%	4.45%	-18.96%	1.15%
Gasoline	1.5613	-0.27%	6.56%	7.67%	-11.16%
Heating oil	1.9889	-0.43%	2.80%	2.94%	-2.84%
Ethanol	1.3128	-0.08%	-2.10%	3.29%	-11.11%
Naphtha	499.57	0.38%	3.73%	9.03%	-9.42%
Propane	0.67	0.78%	4.20%	0.40%	-18.82%
Uranium	28.7	0.00%	-0.35%	-0.69%	30.45%

CROPS, PRICE PER 100KG FEB 13, 2019

Region	Maize	Rice	Sorghum	Bulrush Millet	Finger Millet	Wheat	Beans	Irish potatoes
Arusha	Low 42000	Low 160000	Low 200000	Low 38000	Low 40000	Low 75000	Low 105000	Low 72000
D/Salaam	65000	70000	160000	220000	60000	90000	70000	110000
Dodoma	39000	43000	142000	190000	30000	35000	32000	35000
Iringa	38000	40000	150000	200000	NA	NA	NA	100000
Kagera	55000	60000	136000	185000	90000	100000	110000	120000
Kilimanjaro	48000	48000	180000	180000	70000	80000	NA	180000
Kigoma	48000	50000	150000	160000	70000	70000	60000	130000
Lindi	60000	70000	190000	200000	100000	140000	NA	175000
Mara	50000	50000	120000	135000	50000	55000	NA	NA
Manyara	45000	54000	150000	200000	36000	42000	80000	100000
Mbeya	38000	40000	175000	185000	98000	105000	NA	110000
Mtwara	51000	52000	170000	190000	90000	100000	NA	190000
Mwanza	60000	60000	150000	180000	NA	NA	150000	160000
Njombe	35000	40000	150000	210000	NA	NA	NA	120000
Rukwa	45000	50000	130000	170000	70000	80000	NA	180000
Ruvuma	40000	40000	170000	200000	NA			

WORLD

Putin cautions if threatened, Russia could target US missiles 'hosts' and America as well

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will consider tit-for-tat and asymmetric measures if the United States deploys intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles to Europe, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in his annual State of the Nation address to the Federal Assembly yesterday.

"I've already said and I want to repeat - and this is vital - to repeat this specifically, that Russia is not planning to be the first to deploy these missiles to Europe."

If they are indeed manufactured and sent to the European continent, and the US does have these plans, anyway, we haven't heard other statements, this will sharply deteriorate international security and create serious threats to Russia since it takes up to 10-12 minutes for certain types of

these missiles to fly to Moscow.

This is a very serious danger to us. In this case, we will be forced, and I want to stress this, we will be forced to envisage tit-for-tat and asymmetric measures," Putin said.

Russia-US relations

Moscow won't continue knocking on Washington's closed door on disarmament discussions, Vladimir Putin pointed out.

"We are ready for talks on disarmament issue (with the United States) but we won't knock on the closed door anymore," Putin said. "We will wait until our partners are ripe and acknowledge the need for a dialogue on this issue on an equal basis."

The Russian leader noted that Russia would continue developing its Armed Forces, the intensity and qual-



President Vladimir Putin

ity of combat training, including taking into account the experience of the anti-terrorism operation in Syria.

"Almost all commanders of large units of the Ground Forces, special operations forces and military police, support units, the crews of warships, army and tactical, strategic and military-transport aviation received it [experience]," Putin said.

"We need peace and the entire effort on increasing our defensive capacity will pursue just one goal: it is aimed at ensuring security of our country and citizens so that no one could think about aggression against Russia and even try to use the methods of military pressure against our country," he stressed.

Tit-for-tat measures

Moscow will provide an immediate response if any threat against it becomes realistic and will point weapons not only against those countries where Washington will deploy its armaments, but against the United States itself, Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated.

"Even now, I will say it directly and explicitly so that no one could reproach us about anything and so that everyone could understand what we are talking about here."

Russia will be forced to create and deploy those types of weapons, which could be used

not only against those regions from where we will face a direct threat, but also against those regions, hosting the centers, where decisions are taken on using those missile systems threatening us," said Putin, when commenting on the US withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

The president stressed that Russia's weapons, based on their tactical and technical characteristics and flight time to the above-mentioned control centers, would mirror those threats that will be directed against Russia.

Putin emphasized. "We know how to do this and we will fulfill these plans immediately as soon as these [threats] become real for us," he stressed.

According to Putin, there is no need in additional and irresponsible deterioration in international environment today. "We don't want this."

What I would like to add here, US colleagues have already tried to get absolute military advantage using global anti-missile system. They should stop these illusions. Our answer will be always effective," he said.

On February 1, US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said that Washington would suspend its liabilities under the INF Treaty starting February 2 and would quit it within six months if Russia did not come into compliance with the agreement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin responded in kind, saying that Moscow would suspend the Cold War-era treaty. Moreover, he told the ministers not to initiate disarmament talks with Washington, underscoring that the United States should become "mature enough" for equal and meaningful dialogue.

The INF, or the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, Treaty was signed between the former Soviet Union and the United States on December 8, 1987 and entered into force on June 1, 1988.

In 1992, following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the treaty became multilateral with the former Soviet republics - Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine - as successors.

The INF Treaty covered deployed and non-deployed ground-based short-range missiles (from 500 to 1,000 kilometers) and intermediate-range missiles (from 1,000 to 5,500 kilometers).

Agencies

Maduro: World will side with Venezuela should US 'empire' invade

CARACAS



VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro has said that he was confident that countries across the world would support the Bolivarian Republic in the event of a US military invasion.

"If Venezuela is attacked by the US empire, the peoples of the world will rise up and begin fighting it together," he said addressing medical university graduates on Tuesday. Maduro's speech was broadcast live over his Twitter account.

The nation's leader stressed that Venezuela had found itself in the epicenter of a political standoff between the US, which is taking "aggressive, unilateral and imperial actions" and those who advocate "a multilateral democratic approach based on accord, harmony and dialogue between peoples throughout the world."

On February 18, during his speech at Florida International University in Miami, US President Donald Trump said that Washington was considering all options to resolve the domestic political crisis in Venezuela.

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

Several countries, including the United States, Lima Group members (excluding Mexico), as well as the Organization of American States, recognized him as president. Venezuela's incumbent President Nicolas Maduro blasted these actions as an attempted coup and said he was cutting diplomatic ties with the United States.

In contrast, Russia, Belarus, Bolivia, Iran, China, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Syria and Turkey voiced support for Maduro.

Agencies

South Sudan vows to end use of children in armed conflict

JUBA

Agencies

SOUTH Sudan vowed on Tuesday to end recruitment of and use of children in armed conflict as the country makes effort to end more than five years of conflict.

Kuol Manyang Juuk, minister of defense and veterans affairs, said the department of child protection in the army has been actively engaging its field division commanders on how to demobilize children out of its ranks and file.

He added that the government has issued firm orders to all the military generals to cooperate with the concerned UN agencies in making sure that children are prevented from joining the army, saying the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) has trained more than 100 child protection officers in an effort to professionalize the army.

"This is one of the many steps of professionalizing the army. We have no alternative but to have the professional army, an army that protects human rights and properties of people, citizens," Juuk said in Juba.

The minister spoke during the first opening day of the two-day workshop organized by the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) on how to develop a comprehensive action plan to prevent violation of children in the armed con-

flikt. In 2018, South Sudan became the 168th country to agree to the UN treaty committing to end the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

Recently, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced the release of more than 3,100 child soldiers by armed groups in South Sudan since the east African country descended into conflict five years ago. Gabriel Jok Riak, chief of general staff of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the discussion on the action plan will help the army to be free and fair of child soldiers.

"For us to join the region and the world we must refrain and restrain from dwelling in such practices. I think all of us here would not wish to abuse or violate the right of his/her child at home."

So why not in our various institutions that we are committed to, so all the security personnel must stick to the principle and abide by the notion," Riak said.

He said though there are challenges the security forces will exert all the necessary effort to reduce the use and recruitment of child soldiers, noting that the army is obliged to observe the process and carry on with the demand without the prejudice.

Agencies

China, Iran vow to boost relationship

BEIJING

BEIJING and Tehran agreed on Tuesday to continue to strengthen communication and coordination on the Iran nuclear issue.

The two nations also pledged to safeguard their respective legitimate rights and interests, implement the nuclear agreement and defend multilateral rules when State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met in Beijing.

Zarif was on a visit in Beijing as a member of an Iranian delegation led by Parliamentary Speaker Ali Larijani. His China trip came shortly after he attended the Munich Security Conference, which concluded on Sunday in Germany.

The meeting between Wang and Zarif took place amid efforts to preserve the Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was endorsed by the United Nations in Security Council Resolution 2231.

Iran signed the agreement in 2015 with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council the United States, Russia, France, China and the United Kingdom as well as Germany and the European Union.

But the US unilaterally quit the deal in



Chinese and Iranian Foreign Ministers Wang Yi and Mohammad Javad Zarif met in Beijing on Tuesday. The two leaders vowed to deepen the partnership between Beijing and Tehran, citing the old friendship between the two nations.

May 2018 and imposed sanctions on Iran. The other parties remain steadfast in upholding the deal.

Wang said in his opening remarks that he was "really delighted" to meet with Zarif "given the major changes in the Middle East and the international landscape". He added China-Iran relations are facing a new situation.

"I would like to take this opportunity to have this in-depth strategic communi-

cation with my old friend to deepen the strategic trust between our two countries and to ensure fresh progress of the comprehensive strategic partnership," Wang said.

He told Zarif that China attaches importance to and also looks forward to Iran's playing a more significant role in regional affairs.

China and Iran have histories going back thousands of years, Wang said. The

two countries should maintain strategic focus on and preserve and develop bilateral cooperation from a long-term perspective despite external changes, he added.

Zarif said Iran considers China an important and all-around cooperation partner. "Our relationship with China is valuable to us. We consider the comprehensive strategic partnership between Iran and China as one of our most important relations."

He commended the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, and said the initiative is especially important to Iran and China. His country stands ready to actively participate in the cooperation on the initiative, Zarif said.

Teheran welcomes China playing a more important role in the Middle East and nearby regions, such as in the Syria issue, the rebuilding of Iraq and the peace process in Afghanistan, he added.

Also on Tuesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang defended energy cooperation between China and Iran at a regular news conference.

Geng said the energy collaboration between the two nations is legitimate, lawful and governed by the framework of international law, and should be respected and safeguarded.

Xinhua

US progressive senator Bernie Sanders to run again for presidency

WASHINGTON

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-styled Democratic socialist and 2016 Democratic primary runner-up, announced on Tuesday that he will run for presidency again in 2020.

"Together, you and I and our 2016 campaign began the political revolution."

Now, it is time to complete that revolution and implement the vision that we fought for," Sanders said in an early-morning email to supporters.

Sander's progressive agenda, which has kept pushing the Democratic Party to the left especially since 2016 U.S. elections, currently includes Medicare for All, 15-U.S.-dollar per hour minimum wage, free college tuition, combating climate change and raising taxes on rich Americans.

"Three years ago, during our 2016 campaign, when we brought forth our progressive agenda we were told that our ideas were 'radical' and 'extreme,'" Sanders said in the email.

"Well, three years have come



and gone. And, as result of millions of Americans standing up and fighting back, all of these policies and more are now supported by a majority of Americans," he claimed.

As one of the most well-known progressive politicians in the United States, the 77-year-old independent senator caucuses with Democrats in Congress.

He is also one of the most outspoken U.S. politicians against President Donald Trump, whom he has repeatedly slammed as a "liar" and a "racist." Sanders was

first elected to the House of Representatives in 1990 and to the Senate in 2006.

During the 2018 midterm elections, Sanders again ran a strong grassroots campaign throughout Vermont and was elected the northeastern state's federal senator for the third time.

His second presidential bid will test whether he can retain the anti-establishment progressive appeal to tens of thousands of U.S. millennials as three years ago, local analysts say.

Xinhua

Wildlife conservationists partner to curb elephant poaching in Kenya

NAIROBI

THE International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has partnered with global tourism business, TUI Care Foundation, to prevent poaching of wild elephants and stop human-elephant conflict in the Tsavo conservation area in Kenya.

Under IFAW's innovative wildlife security initiative 'tenBoma', both gov-

ernment and community rangers are trained to better predict and respond to threats and protect the animals and local communities.

"The success of IFAW's tenBoma approach relies on our ability to incorporate traditional knowledge from communities into a system of modern methods and technology," Faye Cuevas, IFAW senior vice-president said in a statement issued on Tuesday evening.

"TUI Care Foundation has made it possible for us to provide urgently needed equipment to community rangers such as mobile devices, cameras and boots so they can collect information on potential threats to wildlife and people," she added. The two organizations will use technology, systematic data processing systems and intelligence to implement the initiative.

According to IFAW, rangers in the

field are also provided with communications and mobility equipment (including GPS, smartphones, radios and more) which enable them to respond more effectively and more rapidly to intercept poachers and reach areas where elephants come into conflict with humans by raiding their crops.

Thomas Ellerbeck, chairman of the Board of Trustees of TUI Care Foundation said the good aspect of this project

lays in its virtuous combination of local knowledge, on the one hand, and technological developments on the other.

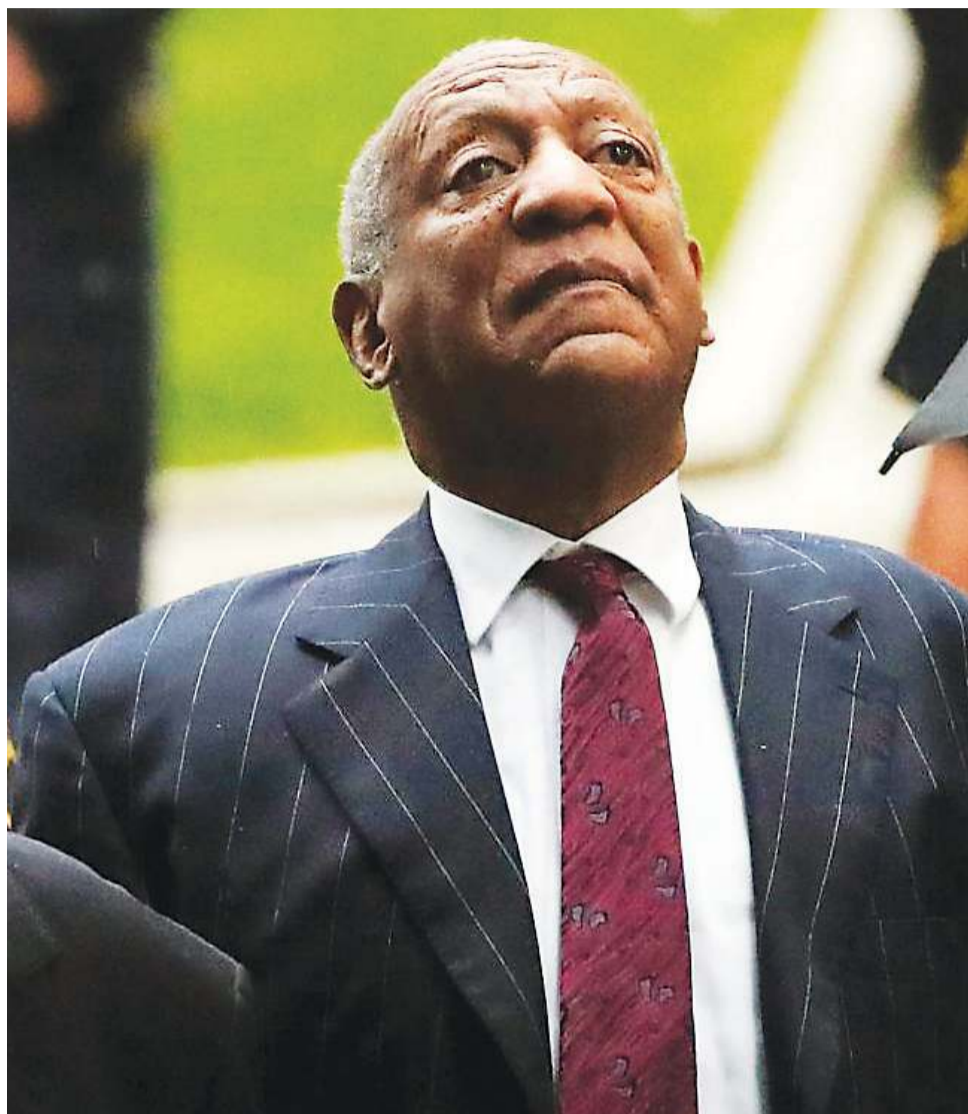
"Together with various local stakeholders, we are helping to build a strong basis for a sustainable social-ecological environment."

After all, empowering the local community and building sense of ownership is crucial for long-lasting change," said Ellerbeck.

The Tsavo Conservation Area, one of Kenya's most visited tourism destinations, is home to about 12,850 African elephants, according to IFAW.

Among this population are at least 11 of the world's 30 or so remaining 'big tuskers' (their tusks are long enough to reach the ground) and all face a mortal threat from poaching fueled by demand for ivory and human-elephant conflict.

Xinhua



FILE PHOTO: Actor and comedian Bill Cosby arrives at the Montgomery County Courthouse for sentencing in his sexual assault trial in Norristown, Pennsylvania, U.S., September 25, 2018. REUTERS

Justice Thomas assails landmark US libel ruling that protects media

WASHINGTON

CONSERVATIVE Justice Clarence Thomas on Tuesday urged the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider its landmark 1964 ruling that made it harder for public figures to sue for defamation, a precedent that has served as powerful protection for the news media.

Thomas took aim at the unanimous ruling in the libel case known as *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan* in an opinion he wrote concurring with the court's decision to end a defamation suit against Bill Cosby filed by a woman who said the comedian raped her in 1974.

Thomas, one of the high court's most conservative justices, said the 55-year-old decision was not rooted in the U.S. Constitution. That ruling and subsequent ones extending it "were policy-driven decisions masquerading as constitutional law," Thomas wrote, expressing views in harmony with President Donald Trump, who often attacks the media and has advocated making it easier to sue news organizations and publishers for defamation.

Thomas agreed with his fellow justices in refusing to consider reviving a defamation lawsuit against Cosby by Katharine McKee, an actress and former Las Vegas showgirl who said the entertainer falsely called her a liar after she accused him of rape.

McKee was represented in the case by attorney Charles Harder, who represented Trump in a defamation suit brought against the president by adult film actress Stormy Daniels. Daniels has said she had a sexual encounter with Trump in 2006, which he denies. McKee had appealed a court ruling in Massachusetts that threw out her lawsuit.

The New York Times v.

Sullivan ruling has served as a safeguard for media reporting on public figures.

Trump in January 2018 called current defamation laws "a sham and a disgrace" following the publication of a book about the White House by author Michael Wolff called "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," which among other things questioned the president's mental health.

The high court's 1964 ruling held that in order to win a libel suit, the plaintiff must demonstrate that the offending statement was made with "actual malice," meaning knowledge that it was false or reckless disregard as to whether it was false.

The case involved a lawsuit against the *New York Times*, a newspaper that Trump often criticizes for its coverage of him.

Thomas wrote that "we should carefully examine the original meaning of the First and Fourteenth Amendments," referring to the constitutional provisions protecting freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the application of those rights to the states.

"If the Constitution does not require public figures to satisfy an actual-malice standard in state-law defamation suits, then neither should we," Thomas wrote.

Thomas said defamation law was historically a matter for the states, and should remain that way. "The states are perfectly capable of striking an acceptable balance between encouraging robust public discourse and providing a meaningful remedy for reputational harm," Thomas wrote.

None of the other eight justices joined Thomas in his opinion.

COSBY PRISON SENTENCE
Cosby, 81, was convicted

in April 2018 of three counts of aggravated indecent assault for the drugging and sexual assault of Andrea Constand, a former Temple University administrator, in 2004. He was sentenced last September to three to 10 years in prison.

The Supreme Court last October snubbed Cosby's appeal in another defamation case, allowing a lawsuit by former model Janice Dickinson to go forward against the entertainer best known for his starring role in the 1980s hit television series "The Cosby Show."

McKee went public with her rape accusation in a 2014 interview with the *New York Daily News*. She is one of more than 50 women who have accused Cosby of sexual assault dating back to the 1960s by using drugs to incapacitate them.

An attorney for Cosby then sent a letter to the newspaper, suggesting McKee was a liar and calling her an unreliable source. In the letter, Cosby's lawyer said McKee had admitted lying to get hired as a showgirl.

McKee sued Cosby for defamation in 2015 in federal court in Boston, saying the letter made false statements and harmed her reputation.

A trial judge in 2017 dismissed her claims, saying the lawsuit was barred by the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. The Boston-based 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that ruling.

The appeals court said that by deliberately wading into the controversy, McKee had become a public figure, requiring her to prove Cosby acted with malice to win a defamation claim.

McKee told the justices that she "should not be victimized twice over" by making it harder for her to prove defamation merely because she went public as an alleged victim.

REUTERS

Karl Lagerfeld: Fashion's prolific commander-in-chief

PARIS

KARL Lagerfeld enjoyed the stature of a god among mortals in the world of fashion, where he stayed on top for well over half a century and up to his death, at an age almost nobody apart from himself knew with to-the-day precision.

The German designer was best known for his association with France's Chanel, dating back to 1983. The brand, the legend now goes, risked becoming the preserve of monied grannies before he arrived, slashing hemlines and adding glitz to the prim tweed suits of what is now one of the world's most valuable couture houses.

But Lagerfeld, who simultaneously churned out collections for LVMH's Fendi and his eponymous label - an unheard of feat in fashion - was almost a brand in his own right.

Sporting dark suits, white, pony-tailed hair and tinted sunglasses in his later years that made him instantly recognisable, an irreverent wit was also part of a carefully crafted persona.

"I am like a caricature of myself, and I like that," runs one legendary quote attributed to him, and often recycled to convey the person he liked to play. "It is like a mask. And for me the Carnival of Venice lasts all year long."

His artistic instincts, business acumen and commensurate ego combined to commercially triumphant effect in the rarefied world of high fashion, where he was revered and feared in similar proportions by competitors and top models. A refusal to look to the past was one of his biggest assets, those who knew him said.

The designer mingled with the young and trendy until the last, pairing up with 17-year-old catwalk darling Kaia Gerber, daughter of Cindy Crawford, for a collaboration released by his Karl Lagerfeld brand in 2018.

His cat Choupette moved with the times too: the white-haired Birman, described by her social network minders as "daughter of Karl Otto Lagerfeld", has more than 100,000 Instagram photo-network followers and a publishing deal. Yet Lagerfeld



Karl Lagerfeld

also stood out as a craftsman.

An accomplished photographer, he drew his own designs by hand, an increasingly rare phenomenon in fashion. Behind the facade, he was known for his erudition and penchant for literature, and he devoured the world's leading newspapers daily.

KAISER KARL AND OTHER SUPERLATIVES

Though he long enjoyed befuddling interviewers by citing different years of birth, the one deemed the most reliable is Sept. 10, 1933.

Lagerfeld - dubbed "Kaiser Karl" and "Fashion Meister" among a whole host of media monikers - was born in Hamburg to a German mother and a Swedish father who imported condensed milk.

He spent early childhood tucked

away from war in the 1,200-acre family estate in Bavaria and had a French tutor.

The big breakthrough came shortly after a move to Paris when, in 1954, he drew a wool coat that won a prize and landed him an apprenticeship with designer Pierre Balmain.

Yves Saint Laurent, who went on to found his namesake label, won the dress prize. The two became fierce competitors and even rivals in love at one point, chasing the affections of late Parisian society figure Jacques de Bascher. Saint Laurent, who died in 2008, became the enfant chéri of high society and Lagerfeld leader of a wild-child younger group.

He first found real success in the mid-1960s with Chloe, the fashion label now owned by Switzerland's Richemont and to which he was

connected off and on until 1997.

But it was Chanel that propelled him to rock-star status, as he sexed up the brand and lifted its profile with grandiose runway shows. In the past year these have featured a full-scale beach and an enormous replica ship.

"FASHION NYMPHOMANIAC"

Lagerfeld was as harsh with his fashion models as he was searingly critical of anyone he considered "not trendy".

He fired his closest female friend, former Chanel model Ines de la Fressange, in 1999 after she agreed to pose as Marianne, France's national symbol, without asking him first.

Occasionally his sharp tongue has stirred controversies, though he also had a flair for a good soundbite.

"I'm a kind of fashion nymphomaniac who never gets an orgasm," he said in 1984, asked about what he felt after a fashion show.

In a rare climbdown, he half-apologised to Oscar-winner movie actress Meryl Streep after once suggesting she had refused to wear a dress designed by him at an awards ceremony in favour of another she wanted to be paid to wear.

Lagerfeld, who moonlighted as a cartoonist in Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, took a dig at Chancellor Angela Merkel's pro-refugee stance in a 2017 sketch that blamed her for helping a far-right party gain parliamentary seats.

The designer was not afraid of breaking the mould within often-pompous couture circles. He teamed up with high street brand H&M in 2004 for limited edition collections, a move that raised eyebrows and was then quickly copied by others.

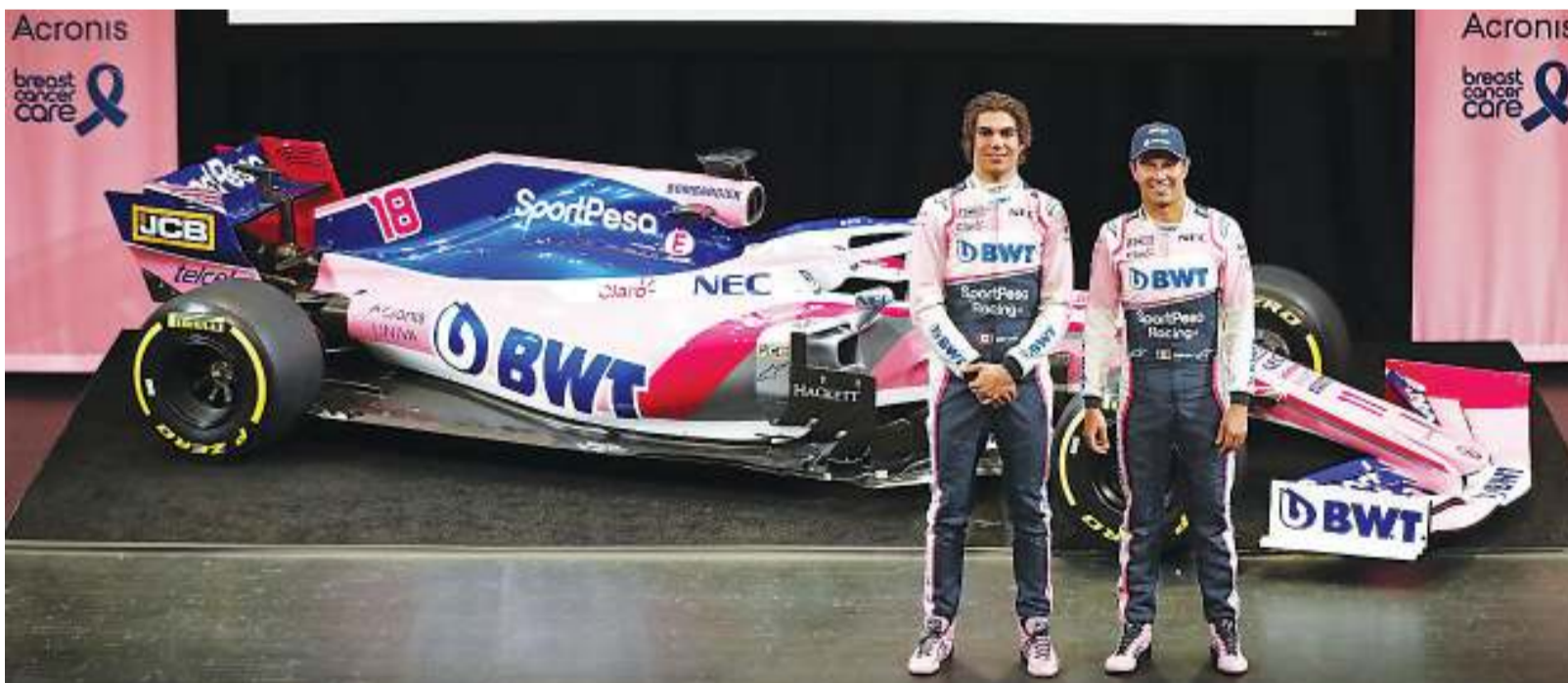
His appearance changed over the years along with his affectations, such as a fan he at one time carried and fluttered incessantly.

Known to adore Diet Coke, Lagerfeld said he shed weight in the early 2000s to fit into the razor-thin suits brought in by Christian Dior's then menswear designer Hedi Slimane.

In rare moments when he was not working, Lagerfeld retired to one of his many homes in Paris, Germany, Italy or Monaco, all of them lavish carbon copies of 18th-century interiors.

REUTERS

New chapter in 2019? More like a new book, say Racing Point



Drivers Lance Stroll, left, and Sergio Perez pose with SportPesa Racing Point F1's car during the official launch of the new F1 team at a press conference at the Canadian International AutoShow recently. SportPesa Racing Point Formula One Team became the first team to launch an F1 car in Canada (Agencies)

TORONTO

RACING Point have put the cash-starved Force India days behind them and now have the resources to show Formula One what they can really do, the Canadian-owned team said recently.

Technical director Andrew Green told a livery launch, where Kenyan betting company SportPesa was announced as new title sponsors, that the buzz at the factory since the change of ownership was incredible.

"The investment that's in the team is absolutely unprecedented, there's a real sense of we can show people what we can really do now. They have given us the tools to be able to move forward," he said.

"It's not a new chapter in the history of this team, we're a new book now."

"We're all eager to prove that we can do more. If you give us a little bit more, we can do a lot more. Over the coming months you'll see the team grow and develop and the performance of the car will increase at quite a dramatic rate."

Force India went into administration in July last year with only 240,000 pounds to their credit while outstanding gross wages due at the end of that month totalled 2.2 million.

Bankers Santander had already frozen the company's accounts, a report by the administrators later revealed. There were also significant

debts, including 13.7 million to engine providers Mercedes alone.

Racing Point, a consortium of investors led by Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll whose son Lance is now driving for the team, paid 90 million pounds in August to take over the assets and have brought in new backing.

"In years past we've had...financial pressures. Those pressures have been lifted thanks to the consortium as well as our partners," said team principal Otmar Szafnauer.

"Now we have other pressures and those are to perform at an even higher level than we have before."

"The resources over time will now increase and the performance has to be commensurate. We are all

focused on making sure our on-track performance not only stays where it was but gets closer to those top three."

Force India were the fourth ranked team in 2016 and 2017 before last year's troubles. Racing Point finished 2018 seventh out of 10 - some achievement given that they started with a clean slate from August.

Szafnauer had talked last year of the name Racing Point being temporary but he said they had now decided to keep it.

"We've all come to the conclusion that basically we are a team of racers. And there's nothing wrong with it, and actually it encompasses who we are," he said.

REUTERS

Solid and smart Bayern hold Liverpool at Anfield

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

BAYERN Munich showed all their Champions League experience and quality organisation as they held Liverpool to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their last 16 match at Anfield on Tuesday in a game of few chances and little drama.

But the result leaves it all to play for in the second leg in Munich on March 13 when the German side will be without defender Joshua Kimmich who will be suspended after picking up a yellow card.

Perhaps it was a case of both sides showing too much respect for the other – certainly both were wary of over-committing in attack – but for fans used to entertainment and drama on European nights at Anfield it was a let down.

"It is not the result or the game we dreamed of," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

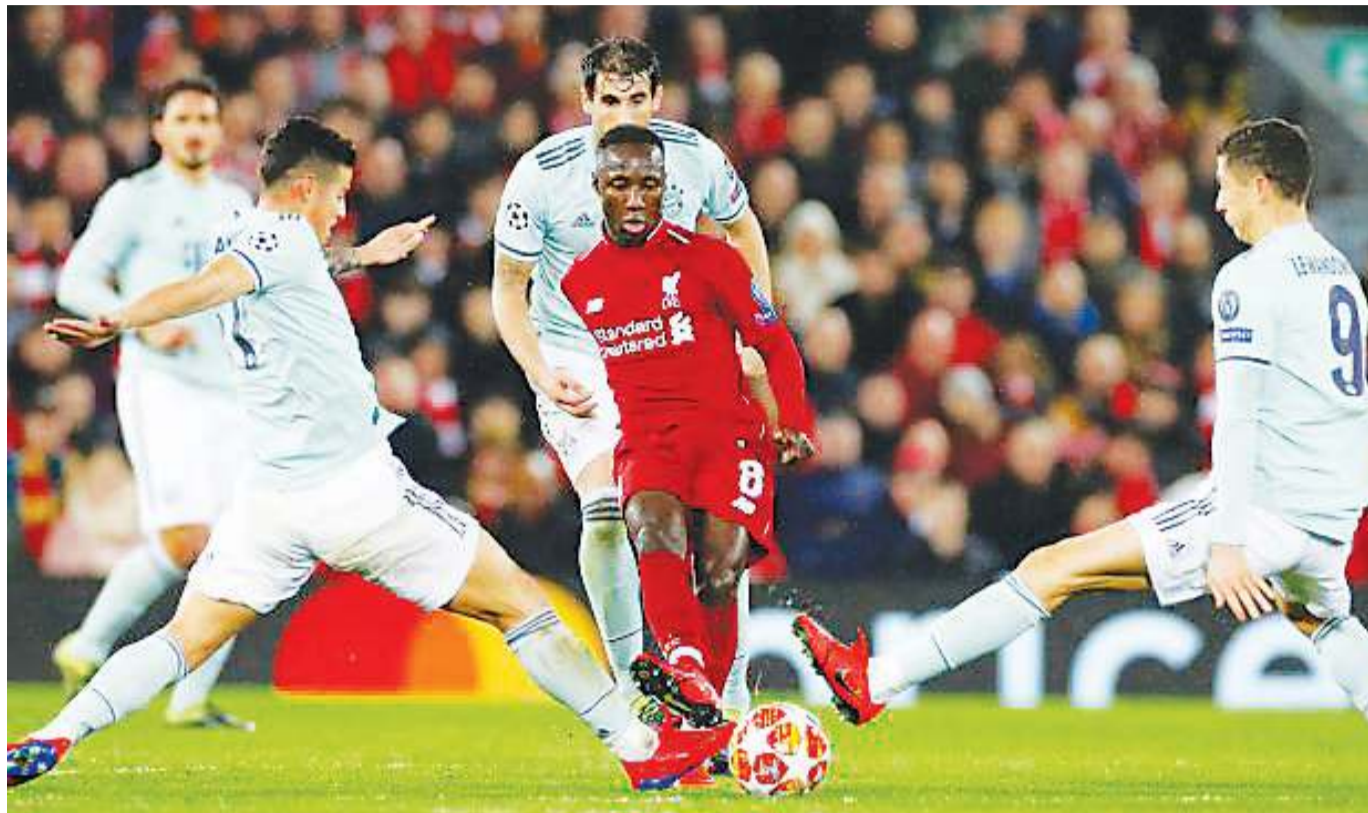
"I can't remember any chances for either side in the second half. It wasn't a Champions League night from that point of view. From a result point of view, it's OK."

It is no accident that Bayern have reached the semi-finals of this competition in six of the last seven seasons and they showed their pragmatic calmness to subdue Liverpool's normally lively front three.

"I can't remember too many clubs who have avoided defeat and kept a clean sheet here," said Bayern coach Niko Kovac.

"The fact that we managed to restrict them to very few chances shows that we played very well tactically as well as technically."

Mohamed Salah, the man Liverpool look to for moments of inspiration, to create a goal out of nothing, had a night to forget with



Liverpool's Naby Keita in action with Bayern Munich's James Rodriguez and Robert Lewandowski during their Champions League - Round of 16 First Leg at Anfield in Liverpool, Britain on Tuesday. REUTERS

one of his poorest displays in this competition.

Liverpool simply could not find the fluency and rhythm that brings the best out of their forward line although they will be pleased, in the absence of their defensive rock Virgil van Dijk, to have kept out Bayern.

Key to that rearguard resilience was the performance from Brazilian midfielder Fabinho, who deputised well in the central-defensive role keeping Bayern's scoring threat Robert Lewandowski quiet.

In midfield, Jordan Henderson delivered an excellent display, especially in the opening 45 minutes, when he broke up Bayern's attempts to create and also con-

tributed some drive to Liverpool's forward thrusts.

HALF-CHANCES

There were few clear-cut chances in the game although Liverpool created several half-openings in the first period.

The first was one of the best they managed – Henderson found Salah, who had snuck in behind Niklas Sule, but the Egyptian's toe-poke at full stretch was straight at Manuel Neuer.

At the other end, Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker had to be alert to keep out a mis-hit clearance from Joel Matip that hit him in the chest.

Kingsley Coman fired into the side-netting after a sloppy give

away from Alisson but that was a rare sign of jitters from either defence.

Bayern were content to sit deep after the break and the closest Klopp's side came in the second half was a diving header from Sadio Mane in the 86th minute which Neuer pushed around the post.

This was not a night that will go in the list of great European encounters at Anfield, a fact reflected in a rather flat atmosphere for much of the game, but Liverpool know they still have a chance to progress.

"You're playing an experienced team. They've been here and done it for five or six years," said left

back Andy Robertson.

"We've kept a clean sheet, could've scored a couple of goals but the tie is well and truly alive. If we score there it's crucial."

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich fans protested against the cost of Champions League tickets by unfurling banners during the first leg of their last-16 tie at Liverpool on Tuesday with the supporters of the Premier League club also backing them at Anfield.

Earlier this month, Premier League clubs had unanimously agreed to keep the 30 pounds (\$39.17) cap on away ticket prices for the next three seasons but that does not apply to Champions League games. REUTERS

Sarri picks over the bones as confusion reigns at Chelsea

LONDON

MAURIZIO Sarri was left picking over the bones of Chelsea's FA Cup exit against Manchester United on Tuesday as the odds shortened on him suffering the same fate as Luiz Felipe Scolari and Andre Villas-Boas in failing to last a season as Blues manager.

The chastening 2-0 defeat for the holders on Monday night, which provoked boos from the home faithful at fulltime, offered yet more ammunition for those who say the Italian was not the man to replace Antonio Conte.

As he has done after similar setbacks, the former Napoli boss spoke candidly after the game – but rather than offer clarity his comments muddled the water.

Admitting that his players do not completely understand what he wants from them a full seven months into his reign hardly inspires confidence in his methods from the fans, the club's hierarchy or those in the dressing room.

"Not completely at the moment because, especially in a situation like the second half, we have to move the ball faster mentally and materially," Sarri told reporters when asked whether his message was getting across.

"We need more movements without the ball and less individual actions."

After defeat at Arsenal last month, Sarri said his players were "difficult to motivate". Earlier in the season, after a limp defeat at Tottenham Hotspur, he turned his ire on N'Golo Kante, suggesting the twice Premier League-winning midfielder lacked the technical attributes to play in his favoured central role.

Head coach Sarri has also claimed Belgium forward Eden Hazard, instrumental in Chelsea's Premier League title-winning sides under Jose Mourinho and Antonio Conte and last year's FA Cup triumph, lacks leadership qualities.

Considering both are playing in their less-favoured positions to accommodate the so-called possession-based "Sarri-

ball" system – a fact bemoaned by most fans – criticising them looks risky.

On Monday, Chelsea supporters joined in with Manchester United fans' chants of "Getting Sacked in the Morning". Sarri's side were outplayed by a United whose season has gone in a very different direction since Mourinho was sacked as manager in December.

"I'm worried about the results, not the fans," Sarri said in response to their angry reaction to a defeat which came barely a week after a 6-0 hammering at Manchester City.

Sarri's side face Malmo in the second leg of their Europa League last 32 clash on Thursday, and three days later take on Pep Guardiola's City again in the League Cup final at Wembley before a home Premier League clash with Tottenham.

If Chelsea beat City on Sunday Sarri's prospects might brighten. But the mood around the club suggests that is unlikely with Chelsea losing five of their last 10 games in all competitions – as many defeats as they suffered in their previous 41.

It is all a far cry from Sarri's record-breaking start when he became the first new manager to go unbeaten in his first 12 Premier League games in charge.

With Chelsea now down to sixth in the Premier League, former Chelsea striker Chris Sutton, commentating on the game on Monday, believes the club's managerial revolving door will soon be depositing Sarri out on the pavement.

"Sarri-ball is broken," said Sutton.

"Would the owner fancy getting into the top four with recent performances, with a manager who says he can't motivate his players?"

"He'll be thinking, 'Will we get top four? Can I go to the Manchester City game with confidence?' Absolutely not. Is he going to chuck all his eggs in the Europa League basket with a manager who can't motivate his players? No."

"History tells us the Chelsea owner doesn't mess about."

REUTERS

Wasteful Barca held to goalless draw at defiant Lyon

LYON, FRANCE

BARCELONA were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw at Olympique Lyonnais in their Champions League last-16 first leg on Tuesday as both sides remained unbeaten in this season's competition.

The La Liga leaders dominated the match at the Groupama stadium but lacked accuracy up front and were grateful to their goalkeeper Marc Andre ter Stegen who made two great saves.

Lyon were lively in the first half but ran out of steam after the break and were holding on in the closing stages as Lionel Messi tried in vain to open up the home defence.

Barca had a total of 25 shots but only five on target and their best chance came in the last minute when Sergio Busquets's 18-metre attempt was tipped over the bar by Anthony Lopes.

The second leg will be at the Nou Camp on March 13, a game where Lyon will welcome back France striker and captain Nabil Fekir, who was suspended on Tuesday.



Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes comes out to smother the danger from Barcelona talisman Lionel Messi. Reuters

"We could have done better in the first half and converted our

chances but we did not concede a goal so our chances are intact,"

said Lyon defender Leo Dubois. OL coach Bruno Genesio

sprung a surprise by fielding Martin Terrier on the left wing instead of Maxwell Cornet and the 21-year-old did not disappoint.

SUPERB SAVES

Barca dominated possession early on, but Lyon had the first two shots on target and it took a couple of superb saves from Ter Stegen to deny the hosts, who never came that close again.

He stretched to his left to parry a vicious low shot by Hassem Aouar in the fifth minute before making a one-handed save to tip a 25-metre Terrier missile onto his crossbar.

Barca forward Ousmane Dembele came close in the 19th minute when he dribbled past Dubois on the left flank, only for keeper Anthony Lopes to deny him in a one-on-one.

The visitors had the upper hand but were uncharacteristically wasteful as they spurned several counter-attacking opportunities.

A Dembele attempt shaved Lopes's post before Terrier skied his shot over the bar after a superb series of one-twos tore the Barca defence apart as both sides tried to break the deadlock.

Lyon were under siege early in the second period but their defence was perfectly marshalled by Jason Denayer with Dubois also proving decisive against Luis Suarez.

Lopes beat Messi's angled shot away to keep his side level before Dembele was replaced by Philippe Coutinho, who had a clear chance in the 76th but was denied by in-form Lopes.

Barca have now failed to win any of their last six away games in the Champions League knockout stage, with their last victory coming at Arsenal in February 2016.

REUTERS

Caution returns as Bayern frustrate Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

PERHAPS we have been spoilt in recent seasons of Champions League football with high-scoring, free-flowing games becoming the norm rather than the exception.

But at Anfield on Tuesday, Liverpool and Bayern Munich, in a fixture that would have generated excited anticipation in any decade from the 1970s onwards, were unable to deliver on the high expectations.

The goalless draw in their last-16 first leg tie was by no means dull and neither side could be accused of negativity but there was certainly a little too much respect shown and as a result a conservatism that left the crowd wanting more.

It was also a case of two managers and teams which knew exactly the dangers that faced them.

Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp emerged as a manager in the Bundesliga and faced many battles with Bayern in his time at Borussia Dortmund. He knew his opponent inside out.

Likewise Bayern boss Niko Kovac will have been very familiar with Klopp's approach and the dangers of being swept aside in a more open game.

Familiarity bred caution and the result was one which left Kovac sounding the more satisfied of the pair.

REUTERS

Profligate Barca leave Champions League progress up in the air

LYON, FRANCE

BARCELONA failed to score despite managing 25 shots in their goalless stalemate at Olympique Lyonnais in the Champions League last-16 on Tuesday, leaving the tie finely balanced ahead of next month's second leg.

Only five of the visitors' attempts were on target but neither Lionel Messi, Ousmane Dembele nor the disappointing Luis Suarez could beat keeper Anthony Lopes at the Groupama stadium.

Lyon could even have taken the lead if it were not for a splendid Marc Andre ter Stegen save in the first half when the German tipped a ferocious Marc Terrier shot onto his crossbar.

"We came here to try and put in a

good performance but we couldn't get the goal. Twenty five shots is not bad, you need to score but when you have so many shots it means you played well, and we did," said Barca defender Clement Lenglet.

"We just lacked a bit of confidence, and I'm sure we'll score at the Nou Camp (on March 13)."

The breakthrough might not come from Uruguay forward Suarez, who has not scored in almost 25 hours in the Champions League.

"Let's see what happens in the Camp Nou but it's always good to go away from home and not concede. Lyon played well but their keeper was very good," said Lenglet.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

WHY DON'T WE USE CHAIRS IN TABLE TENNIS...



SPORT

Solid and smart Bayern hold Liverpool at Anfield

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Athletes compete in a recent Kilimanjaro Marathon that took place in Moshi.

Simba target win over Azam FC



Simba midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima (R), attempts to get the better of Mwadui FC player during the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League match that was held at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC will be chasing three points as the side faces Azam FC in the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League game at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

Simba have been placed third in the league with 42 points from 17 games while Azam FC occupies the second spot with 50 points from 24 games.

The two teams come into tomorrow game with mixed fortunes as Simba

won 3-0 against African Lyon in Arusha while Azam FC were held to 1-1 draw by Coastal Union in Tanga.

Simba SC head coach Patrick Aussems said his charges are ready for all of the coming matches, as their aim is to collect maximum points.

In the Tuesday match against African Lyon, the Belgian tactician rested many of his regulars like Emmanuel Okwi, Meddie Kagere, Clatous Chama and Zana Coulibaly and started the likes of Paul Bukaba, Yusuf Mlipili, Muzamiru Yassin,

Haruna Niyonzima, Adam Salamba and Rashid Juma.

Simba scored the three goals through skipper John Bocco, who scored twice, and Adam Salamba while forward Aubrey Chirwa helped Azam FC level matters with Coastal Union.

"We are ready for all matches... we hope for continuity, after this game we will face Azam FC, Lipuli FC and Mtibwa," he noted.

"Our aim is to collect maximum points during those games, the

good thing is that even the players know the importance of winning the coming matches."

Azam FC who have been performing badly in the previous four league matches will be looking for a win so as to amount more pressure on league leaders Yanga.

Before the Tanga game, Azam FC registered draw in two games and lost one match. The Dar es Salaam giants drew 1-1 with Alliance FC at home and the former thereafter recorded similar results away to Lipuli FC. The third game ended with Azam FC suffering a 1-0 loss to Tanzania Prisons in Mbeya.

And the team is expected to use the Simba match to regain its usual form after the dismay showing in the previous matches.

Azam are likely going to depend on the experience of Chirwa, Donald Ngoma, Mudathir Yahya, Ramadhan Singano, Tafadzwa Kutinyu, Joseph Mahundi and Stephan Kingue.

Azam's head coach, Hans Plujim, is reported to have said his side is going through a rough road but was confident that they will bounce back to winning ways.

The club's assistant coach Juma Mwambusi blamed referees for last Tuesday results, he said many referees are deliberately frustrating his side's chances of winning.

Mwambusi was making reference to what seems like a hand ball by Coastal Union player in the 18-yard box, but the referee did not give his side a penalty.

He could not be reached to confirm whether he really made the accusations against the match's officials.

It is though not the first time that the coach has made allegations against referees in the league, given he made similar claims when his side took part in three matches in the first phase of the league and the squad failed to register a win in the matches.

In the 2017/18 Mainland Premier League Simba cruised to a 1-0 over Azam FC in the first phase duel while the latter recorded a similar win over the former in the edged the former in the final on the 2019 Mapinduzi Cup.

Kili Marathon online registration officially closed

By Guardian Reporter

WITH entries for this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon and the Tigo Half Marathon having experienced an unprecedented demand, the events' organizers have closed the online entries and Tigo Pesa Payment options.

The organizers noted they have completed over 90 percent of registration for the races.

In a statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the organisers said the interest and demand for the races has been amazing and added that this year's use of Tigo Pesa and online options to register for the races has received overwhelming response.

Organizers, the statement noted, would make available approximately 150 extra full marathon entries and 600 half marathon entries for sale in Moshi only on February 27 and 28, on a first come first served basis, cash only.

There will be no additional entries after these are sold, the organizers noted.

According to the statement, there will be registration for the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run only at the same time as the collection of numbers for registered participants.

All participants are advised to collect their numbers at the points they specified on their entry forms and, if they are unable to collect them, they will be taken to the next venue.

The organisers reiterated that race number collection for the full, half and fun run pre-entries will take place in Dar es Salaam on February 23 and 24 at Mlimani City Mall between 13:00 and 19:00.

The organisers also noted that cash registration for the Fun Run only will be on first come, first served basis. In Arusha, race number collection for full marathon, half marathon and Fun Run will be on February 25 and 26 at the Kibo Palace Hotel between 14:00 and 20:00 and there will be registration for Fun Run on a cash only basis.

In Moshi, race number collection will take place Keys Hotel on February 27 (10:00 - 17:00) and February 28 (10:00 - 20:00) where runners, who pre-entered for the full and half marathon and Fun Run will collect their numbers and there will be registration for the Fun Run as well.

"We will also allocate March 1 (10:00 - 17:00) and March 2 (9:00 - 12:00) for outstanding race number collection only for full marathon, half marathon and fun run for pre-entered only. There will be no registration at all during these two days and none on race day (Sunday March 3)," the organisers noted.

They said that they will not be responsible for those who will travel to Moshi after the numbers are all sold because participants had ample time to pre-register and pre-pay.

"We would like to also thank all our participants for their tremendous support of the Kili Marathon, Mbio Ya Watu," the organisers said in the statement.

Sponsors for this year's event include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42k, Tigo-21km Half Marathon, Grand Malt 5km Fun Run and water table sponsors and partners, KK Security, Keys Hotel, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, AAR, Kibo Palace, Barclays Bank, Precision Air and CMC Automobiles.

Dar 10km Health Run preps hot up

By Guardian Reporter

PREPARATIONS for the inaugural Dar 10km Health Run are on top gear, organizers have said.

Abdallah Chapa one of the event's coordinators from Eye Promoter, said in the city yesterday that the event will be themed 'Live, Laugh & Run for Health' and he hopes many runners will participate in the event to make it a huge success.

He noted that the race that will start and finish at the Green Kenyatta Drive area in the city and the race is open for both male and female athletes.

"Apart from the 10km run, there will be also other cat-

egories including 5km run, 1km race for children, active run and 1km fun run," he said.

He added the course route include Toure Drive to Coco Beach, athletes will then turn to Haile Selassie to Msasani Road through International school of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki before finishing the 10km show-down at the Green Oyster-bay along Kenyatta Drive.

"All groups of various ages, genders and ethnic backgrounds will be involved in a race in any of the four categories, we invite all who wish to take part to come and make early registration," he added.

Chapa insisted that certifi-

cates of participation will be given to all participants of the events and all who will run clinics to be conducted periodically prior to the event.

He also said that athletes that will finish in the top three positions in

different categories will be awarded.

The winners of the categories in men and women, boys and girls for 10km race will be handsomely rewarded and so will be winners of the youth level events categorized in

U-18, U-20 for 10km and 5km races.

Other categories according to Chapa are overall winner's prize for the oldest senior male or female in 10km race, second the oldest senior male or female.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

