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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 16 AUGUST, 2019

RECOGNITION



GOVT ACKNOWLEDGES STAKEHOLDERS' ROLE IN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PAGE 4

AGRICULTURE



MPINA ISSUES ULTIMATUM TO NON-PAYING COTTON BUYERS PAGE 5

DISASTER



DEATH TOLL FROM MOROGORO FUEL TANKER TRAGEDY HIT 89 PAGE 6

FEATURE



SADC SUMMIT COUNTDOWN: ONE DAY TO GO PAGE 9



Cardinal Pengo retires, Ruwa'ichi new Archbishop

By Guardian Reporter

REVEREND Fr Yuda Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi is the new Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam following the retirement of Polycarp Cardinal Pengo (pictured).

A brief statement released yesterday by the Secretary General of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) Dr Charles Kitima said Archbishop Ruwa'ichi, who was Coadjutor Archbishop of Dar es Salaam Archdiocese, now takes over the role.

"The Papal Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania wishes to inform the public that today 15 August 2019, Pope Francis has accepted the request for retirement from Dar es Salaam Archbishop Cardinal Polycarp Pengo," reads the statement.

Ruwa'ichi was born in 1954 in Mulo Kilema, Kilimanjaro region, and was ordained as a priest in 1981 before being appointed Bishop of Mbulu diocese in 1999.

He was appointed bishop of Dodoma in 2005, Archbishop of Mwanza in 2010 and installed to the post a year later. He later



The Papal Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania wishes to inform the public that today 15 August 2019, Pope Francis has accepted the request of retirement of the Dar es Salaam Archbishop Cardinal Polycarp Pengo

became the Coadjutor Archbishop of Dar es Salaam Archdiocese in June last year.

Cardinal Pengo was ordained a priest in 1971, studied Moral Theology in Rome at the Pontifical Lateran University, obtaining a doctorate in 1977.

He taught Moral theology in Kipalapala Theological Seminary for a short time, and then became the first Rector of Segerea Theological Seminary in Dar-es-Salaam up to 1983.

He was made Bishop of Nachingwea in 1983 and of Tunduru-Masasi in 1985. In 1990 he was named Coadjutor Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, and in 1992 he became Archbishop of Dar-es-Salaam, following the retirement of Cardinal Laurean Rugambwa.

Cardinal Pengo (born August 5, 1944) was proclaimed a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in the consistory of 21 February 1998 and was one of the cardinal electors who participated in the 2005 papal conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI and in the 2013 papal conclave that elected Pope Francis.

JPM woos SA investors in meeting with Ramaphosa



President John Magufuli welcomes his South African counterpart, Cyril Ramaphosa, to State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The latter is in Tanzania for the two-day 39th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Summit to be held in the city at the weekend. Photo: State House

"The government is ready to support them with all kinds of facilitation that might be needed."

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday held talks with his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa and used the opportunity to explain why Tanzania should be the destination of choice for investors from the Rainbow Nation.

The two leaders discussed bilateral, regional and global issues, and reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate closely on multilateral issues with the view to improving living standards of the people.

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House said the Head of State said that ongoing improvements in the ease of doing business and the historical, cordial relations between the people of the two countries makes Tanzania the place to go for South African investors.

"Because South Africa is advanced in industrialization, President Magufuli welcomed investors from that country to come and invest in areas such as pharmaceuticals and mineral processing," the statement noted.

"The government is ready to support them with all kinds of facilitation that might be needed."

Given South Africa's performance in tourism—10 million versus Tanzania's 1.5 million annually—President Magufuli also invited interested investors from there to move into the hospitality industry, it similarly noted.

The president affirmed that South Africa is Tanzania's leading business partner in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), accounting for 70 per cent of Tanzania's trade within the bloc. Last year, trade between the two countries rose to 2.687trn/- up from 2.528trn/- in 2017.

"We have decided to import from South Africa instead of farther afield. To start with, motorcycles to be used in motorcades during the 39th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and

TURN TO PAGE 2

Mkapa: Invest in youth to unlock region's potential

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER President Benjamin Mkapa has advised leaders of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to invest heavily and strategically in its key resource: youth, if the bloc is to make strides in its development aspirations.

Speaking at a public lecture on 'Deepening Integration in SADC: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities' at the Library Auditorium of the University of Dar es Salaam yesterday, Mkapa said with a burgeoning population in SADC, the majority of whom are youth, it is apt to harness their potential in an age dominated by digital technologies.

"We must build capabilities that grant us insights into the employability of our young people. Consequently, our education systems must be designed to offer the kind of skills that will not only allow them to survive but to thrive," he said.

The retired Head of State said governments, organizations, businesses as well as civil society groups

should be equal partners in empowering youth with skills that would enable them to exploit opportunities offered by the digital economy.

"Left unresolved, this is a real threat to the attainment of the region's aspirations and goals," he declared.

But Mkapa cautioned that such transformational empowerment will not happen as quickly as desired without commitment and collaboration. For, oftentimes when governments point to the private sector to generate the necessary jobs, the private sector also appeals to governments to establish the primary policy and legal framework to enable it create the required jobs.

"At the center of this discourse lie important questions: What kind of jobs do we need for our youth and who bears the obligation to create them and how?" he posed.

"Surely, these are societal challenges which all of us, government and the private sector, must strive in

TURN TO PAGE 2

Clerics advocate affordable poor families' health cover

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

CHRISTIAN and Muslim leaders have joined hands onto a common inter-faith platform to advocate for affordable health insurance for poor families in Tanzania.

More than 60 religious leaders delegating from the Tanzania Episcopal Council (TEC), the ecumenical Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) in the Northern Zone, gathered in Arusha for a two days meeting under the auspices of the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC).

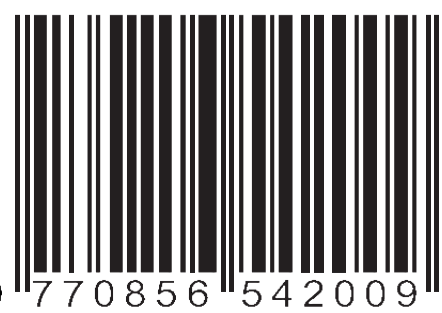
The meeting was meant to find ways where the poor majority in the country can be assisted to acquire medical insurance cover without having to bear the burden of related expenses.

The head of the North-Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Bishop Dr Steven Munga, the chairperson of the committee, said as religious leaders, they commissioned research on how local communities access health services and discovered that only about 32 percent of Tanzanians are covered under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

"We realized that only eight percent have National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) cards; 23 percent rely on community insurance while one percent are enrolled with private insurances, leaving a whopping 68 percent of Tanzanians without health insurance cover," said Bishop Munga.

Sheikh Mlewa Shaaban, representing Islamic leaders from Kilimanjaro Region, explained further that out

TURN TO PAGE 2





Omari Ramadhani Mapuri (L), a commissioner with the National Electoral Commission, addresses election stakeholders in Shinyanga municipality yesterday on the need to sensitise members of the public on the importance of biometric registration for voters across Tanzania. On He is with Frank Mhando, an IT specialist with the commission. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Clerics advocate affordable poor families' health cover

FROM PAGE 1

of the 68 percent discovered by the research not falling under any insurance cover, there was 28 percent representing families that cannot afford to enroll into the schemes. "This figure translates into more than three million individuals who can hardly pay for health insurance," he pointed out.

The committee coordinator, Edmund Matotai said religious leaders are concerned by the fact that millions of

people in the country were risking lives surviving without being covered by any health insurance scheme, leaving them helplessly exposed to a number of maladies without help.

"Through the ISCEJIC platform, Christendom and Islamic leaders have been conducting various researches and studies on a number of cross-cutting issues such as activities in extraction industries, tax and revenue collection and health," he elaborated, noting that their discoveries have

propelled them to start taking actions.

"They have been working since 2008 operating behind the joint theme of 'Making it Possible,' which should guide the committee all the way to next year's general elections," said Matotai, underlining that until then a number of raised issues should have found solutions.

For her part, Gloria Mafole, a policy expert for the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) said Tanzania has been setting aside 10 percent of the national

budget for health care, though the Abuja Declaration affirms that countries agreed to allocate 15 percent of their fiscal year budgets to health.

"It is now a serious problem because due to increasing costs of health services, most people in the country are 'treating' themselves with across the counter drugs, essentially pain-killers whenever they feel unwell, thus causing diseases to become malignant and lead to higher frequency of fatalities," the policy advisor lamented.

Rwanda ready to host first ever cybertech conference in Africa

By Dan Ngabonziza

AMID growing cyber security threats in Africa, Rwanda will in March next year, host the first ever Cybertech Africa Conference and Exhibition.

The first conference to be hosted in Africa will be organised by Rwanda government in partnership with Amir Rapaport - founder and Editor-in-Chief of Cybertech and Israel Defense. Amir Rapaport is one of the premier experts on Israel's cyber, hi-tech, and defense industry.

Cyber conferences and exhibitions in Israel and around the world serve as an international dialogue for leaders in the field and industry, in addition to a foremost display of Israeli and international innovation and technologies.

According to Rwanda Convention Bureau - the country's Meetings Incentives Conferences Events (MICE) caretaker, the Kigali conference will serve as an opportunity for participants to learn about the latest technological innovations, threats and solutions to combating threats in the cyber arena.

Continuous development of information and communication technologies towards more sophisticated services and applications goes hand in hand with the rise of crimes committed against or through the use of computer systems, and Rwanda and Africa in general have not been left out of the victims list.

According to recent statistics, the African continent is demonstrating one of the fastest growth rates in Internet penetration worldwide, with digital connectivity that has almost tripled in the last five years.

In the same period, both governments and private sector entities in Africa have been experiencing an equally increasing trend of cyber-attacks, in line with what has been recorded also on the global level.

Some of the attacks include theft of personal data, computer intrusions,

bullying, harassment and other forms of cyber violence, or sexual violence against children online, among others. Other cyber-attacks include financial scams.

For instance, Rwanda's Central Bank statistics announced that in 2017 alone, at least eight million cyberspace attackers attempted to hack into Rwanda's financial institutions, and in several occasions managed to enter into one of the systems, but stolen money was always tracked and recovered.

According to Rwanda Convention Bureau, the decision to host Cyber tech Africa conference in Rwanda was announced during a meeting that brought together experts in the cyber arena including finance, Health, Education, Communication and Aviation, among others.

Speaking after the meeting, Nelly Mukazayire, CEO of Rwanda Convention Bureau, extended gratitude to Israel Ambassador to Rwanda Ron Adam for the efforts to have the conference hosted in Rwanda.

"We are excited to announce that we shall be hosting the Cybertech Africa conference in Rwanda. We extend our gratitude to Ron Adam, the Israel Ambassador in Rwanda and Amir Rapaport, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Cyber Tech for choosing Rwanda as the host country of the first ever Cybertech conference in Africa," she said.

For Cybertech Founder Amir Rapaport, "It is a pleasure to bring CyberTech Africa - especially to Rwanda. I thank the government of Rwanda for accepting to host Cybertech in 2020 as this will be a great platform where many sectors benefit from the latest technology and innovations - given that Rwanda is moving towards the agenda of digitization."

In 2017, Rwanda was pushed to cut down Rwf3.8 billion from the ICT Ministry to fund the construction of a state-of-the-art Cyber Security Agency.



Advocates Peter Kibatala (R), Jeremiah Mtobesya (C) and Fred Peter Kalonga for former Singida East legislator Lundu Lissu consult in the High Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Lissu has filed a case in the court, seeking leave to sue National Assembly Speaker Job Ndagui and the Attorney General in connection the recent invalidation of his position as a Member of Parliament. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Mkapa: Invest in youth to unlock region's potential

FROM PAGE 1

partnership to address."

He said he believes the solution is also in developing appropriate digital tools that are relevant to daily lives - the skills needed to instill in youth to render them not only employable but also useful in solving daily productivity problems.

This, he argued, will grant the bloc the resilience to become more adaptive to the learned experiences of youth as they assist in developing the practical tools for mitigating unemployment and un-productivity.

"The prosperity of our region, our people and, indeed, our future, to a large extent rests on our ability to address this challenge, purposefully."

Mkapa also touched on the realization of the SADC Vision which looks towards a common future. He noted that in the midst of the rise of anti-trade and protectionist sentiments around the world, it would serve the bloc well to not lose sight of the pursuit of collective destiny.

"We are endowed with vast natural resources that offer vast potential for unleashing growth and development for our region. We must distinguish ourselves through learning and adopting new and innovative strategies that truly add value and bring tangible benefits to our people and countries. They remain our primary stakeholders and to whom we are solely responsible," he told the audience.

Mkapa affirmed that the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015-2063), as operationally sequenced through the Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), lays a firm foundation for industrialization as a framework for the region's integration since its programmatic focus seeks to promote industrial development for poverty eradication.

"The success of its central mission will rest on the extent that it promotes and accelerates inclusive and sustainable industrial development in keeping with Goal 9 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he said.

The SDG 9 calls on countries

companies which employ 21,000 people.

He extended invitation to Tanzanian investors to grab opportunities available in his country and invest.

President Ramaphosa who jetted into the country on Wednesday is on his first state visit to Tanzania since assuming office in May this year. Ramaphosa will also lead the South African delegation to the 39th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for tomorrow and Sunday.

JPM woos SA investors in meeting with Ramaphosa

FROM PAGE 1

Government have been imported from South Africa," the president told his visitor.

For his part, President Ramaphosa said South Africans see Tanzania as their other home and promised to strengthen bilateral relations in the areas of economy, health, security and tourism, the statement said.

The South African leader expressed satisfaction with how investments from his country are fairing in Tanzania, saying that currently there are 228

Uganda registers 1.4 million cases of malaria since June

KAMPALA

UGANDA said on Wednesday it had recorded a 40 per cent surge in the incidence of malaria, attributing the increase to a range of factors including a refugee influx, climate change and a decline in the use of protective nets.

The development could heighten public health fears already stoked by an Ebola epidemic which briefly spilled over from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, where it has killed more than 1,800 people.

The Ministry of Health said in a statement its data showed malaria cases recorded in June this year jumped 40 per cent to 1.4 million from the same month last year.

According to data from the statistics office, malaria is Uganda's leading cause of death among in-patients aged below five years.

The ministry said "prolonged intermittent rains in various parts of the country" caused by climate change had partly helped fuel the malaria spread. It also cited an influx of refugees from Congo and Sudan over the last few years, population growth

and a general decline in the use of mosquito nets as contributing to the increased prevalence.

Uganda hosts about 1.4 million refugees, most of whom have fled recent fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Malaria, spread when female mosquitoes bite humans, kills almost half a million people each year worldwide and 90 per cent of those deaths occur in Africa, on the basis of data from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Although WHO has declared 38 countries malaria-free since 1955, its campaign has stalled as mosquitoes have become resistant to drugs and insecticides. Global warming is also enabling the malaria parasite to survive in new areas.

In June two people, part of a family travelling from Congo, died of Ebola in Uganda, triggering fears of a spread of the deadly fever beyond Congo.

There have been no other cases since, although officials remain on high alert conducting heightened screenings at borders and public education programmes.



National Service personnel constitute one of the security organs lined up to boost security in Dar es Salaam, as the city hosts the two-day 39th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Head of States and Government Summit this weekend. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Irrigation training benefits over 8000 farmers, experts

By Guardian Correspondents, Dodoma

OVER 8000 farmers and 2,303 Local government agriculture experts on irrigation countrywide have benefited from the training conducted by the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC).

Assistant Director for the Capacity Development for the Promotion of Irrigation Schemes Project (TANCAIC ID), Athony Nyarubamba revealed this yesterday here when speaking during the Fifth Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (JCC).

Nyarubamba said that one of the most important aspects of the project was to develop the Comprehensive Guidelines (CGL) on irrigation through which farmers have been trained on various aspects of irrigation farming.

Nyarubamba said the Comprehensive Guidelines (CGL) were disseminated to farmers in over 100 irrigation schemes with the aim of helping to define necessary works and procedures smoothly on the implementation,

operation and maintenance of the irrigation schemes in the country.

He said the guidelines will also equip those in charge of irrigation activities in the district councils to provide necessary advice to farmers.

"After having developed the Comprehensive Guidelines for the construction of irrigation facilities, operation and maintenance, we don't expect any irrigation facility to be constructed below standards," Nyarubamba said.

He said the developed guidelines are also aimed at supporting the district manageable small-scaled irrigation schemes.

He further said that the users of the guidelines also include the District Agriculture Development Officers, District Subject Matter Specialists, other district irrigation staff, environmentalists, farmers and communities who are directly involved in formulation, implementation, operation and maintenance of the irrigation scheme

development

Nyarubamba added that the NIRC Zonal Irrigation Engineers and Technical Services Unit staff were also a primary target of these guidelines because they are in charge of backstopping for the districts, giving explanations and instructions to farmers.

Speaking earlier, the Acting Director General for the National Irrigation Commission, Marco Ndonde said that the development of the Comprehensive Guidelines for the irrigation management was part of the implementation of a four-year Project for 'Capacity Development for the Promotion of Irrigation Scheme under the District Agriculture Development Plans Phase II (TANCAID II) supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Ndonde said the project among other things was aimed at ensuring that the system for improving and promoting irrigation schemes development in line with the Comprehensive Guidelines is strengthened in the country.

On her part, the JICA Program Advisor in Tanzania Office Namiko Yamada said the cooperation between Tanzania and Japan started more than 40 years ago and that the country has benefited significantly from financial and technical support especially on agriculture development.

She said the assistance provided by Japan has enabled Tanzania to implement important poverty reducing programmes such as promotion of irrigation, improve production and productivity and enhancing capacity of irrigation and agriculture technical staff.

She further said that some of the technical cooperation includes development of lower Moshi irrigation scheme, development of National Irrigation Master Plan Of 2002 which was revised in 2018.

She pointed out that the TANCAID project created the system for information sharing, report writing and financial management skills to irrigators' organisations.

Over 200 Mbeya youth gain from entrepreneurship skills training

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

OVER 200 youth in Mbeya region have benefited from business and entrepreneurship skills training provided by a non-governmental organisation of Elimisha thus enabling the group to reap various economic opportunities for their development.

Deborah Mwanyanje, Elimisha coordinator said this here during the commemoration of International Youth Day (IYD).

According to him, through various programmes, the organisation has helped a number of youth to know their value and be able to grab any economic opportunity in their environment.

"We have trained the youth in areas of business management, entrepreneurship skills, budget control and savings," she said.

She also emphasised on the youth to work hard and use skills acquired to generate wealth and transform their societies.

Mwanyanje said that the country needs to undergo youth mindset transformation to change their negative perceptions towards business, entrepreneurship in a bid to attract more youths grab economic opportunities, a move that will curb the current unemployment challenge.

According to her, this can be done through provision of education to youth on entrepreneurship initiatives through training, practical field work and making an easy access to capital through provision of loans with lower interest rates and grants to attract their effective involvement in the business.

Some of the youth who benefited from the training commended Elimisha for recognising the potential in young people.

Joyce Nsolo from Iyawaala said the finance discipline training has helped her a lot as she can control well her finances and budgets.

Elimisha is an organisation founded in 2009 in Mbeya aiming to help the

community with a focus on women, children and youth to have good health and quality education, participate and be involved in national activities, to reap the fruits of their efforts and to get diverse opportunities including in leadership and administration in order to have good life, sustainability and meet their dreams.

The organisation educates the community about their rights, responsibility and tasks of civilians and leaders as spelt out in the country's constitution through debates, workshops and seminars, including how to use media organs at large.

It also capacitate women and youth on preparation, execution, follow-up and evaluation of their community economic projects that are geared towards supporting special groups such as orphans and those most vulnerable, people with disabilities and the elderly.

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RFP 2018/11-230

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Jhpiego invites interested eligible providers to submit quotations for the provision of courier services and express mail for below destinations.

Destination to/from including districts within these destinations			
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2	Rukwa	14	Morogoro
3	Kahama	15	Dodoma
4	Kilimanjaro	16	Singida
5	Geita	17	Shinyanga
6	Pemba	18	Tabora
7	Unguja	19	Mwanza
8	Tanga	20	Simiyu
9	Mtwara	21	Kigoma
10	Iringa	22	Mara
11	Mbeya	23	Kagera
12	Njombe	24	Arusha

A prospective bidder having any questions regarding this RFQ shall contact 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of quotes at TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org. Jhpiego will respond to any question(s) received prior to the due date of the RFQ.

All bids in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address given below before **Thursday, 29th August 2019 at 11:00 a.m.**

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders. Jhpiego is under no obligation to accept the lowest bid. Late bids, electronic bids, bids not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Offers must be delivered on or before the due date to

The Country Director
Jhpiego Tanzania
Plot No. 72, Block 45B, Victoria Area, New Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 756 888 388



International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Recruiting for Project Coordinator in Tanzania

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) – a member of the CGIAR Consortium (www.cgiar.org) – develops technologies, innovative methods, and new knowledge that better enable farmers, especially smallholders, to make agriculture competitive and profitable as well as sustainable and resilient. CIAT conducts research for development in tropical regions of Latin America, Africa, and Asia (www.ciat.cgiar.org).

Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSa) is a non-profit organisation that seeks to create value for resource-poor small farmers in developing countries through innovation in sustainable agriculture and the activation of value chains. The operational strategy of the SFSa focuses on smallholders, productivity and markets. Within SFSa, the Seeds2b program helps farmers access quality, affordable seeds of improved varieties for the crops they need

SFSa is collaborating with CIAT in Tanzania in implementation of the AVISA project

Position Summary:

CIAT is seeking to recruit a Project Coordinator to coordinate the AVISA Seeds2b project in Tanzania. The position will provide expertise on the seed system's current landscape for Groundnut, Common bean and Sorghum in Tanzania.

Main duties and responsibilities include:

- Act as the Tanzania expert on the seed system's current landscape for Groundnut, Common bean and Sorghum.
- In particular, be the 'go to' person for questions regarding the process, seed value chain actors, seed sector challenges, the crops and varieties used, the market segment, value and demand, the optimum zones for growing each crop.
- Identify and build strong relationships with Tanzania seed companies that are willing to invest in their growth and identify those that have the best potential to take on new varieties.
- Visit and get valuable feedback from the seed companies in Tanzania regarding their challenges, their growth plan and the crops, varieties they produce or/and distribute.
- Support selected local seed companies to grow and adopt new variety by understanding their needs and find solution to address them.
- Work with the public and private breeders to identify varieties that are most likely to fit the market need. Use the Target Product Profile and SFSa's Product Advancement Approach to be the most efficient and accurate.
- Ensure that local seed companies are exposed to the new most promising varieties through their participation in field days on demo trials
- Use data to demonstrate the value of new varieties and to create convincing business cases for seed companies and growers
- Create and maintain country reports summarizing the seed system situation of Tanzania for the three crops in scope (Groundnut, Common bean and Sorghum) and identify the main areas for maximum impact.
- Manage the project budget by tracking spending and keep the

Finance Manager Africa and AVISA Project Lead informed through regular reports, highlighting any potential issues.

- Ensure field demonstration trials are carried out effectively and relevant data collected (either directly or through collaboration with national organizations).
- Collaborate with the AVISA project lead to create technical reports.

The candidate shall have the following competencies, skills and experience:

- Masters' degree in Agronomy, Breeding, Agribusiness or related field.
- Three years' experience with good scientific knowledge in seed production or seed research, breeding and agronomy
- Knowledge and experience working with private seed sector and national seed regulations
- Strong capability to analyse data and extract most relevant knowledge
- Effective scoping, priority setting and resource allocation to maximise added value of the role.
- Effective influencing, collaboration and communication across different work levels, functions and locations.
- Experience in working in a diverse team spread across geographies ('virtual teams')
- Excellent communication skills with ability to communicate with diverse audiences whose native language may not be English.
- Ability to balance plan, be fully accountable for own work in the territory and to communicate ideas and output efficiently.
- Ability to communicate value to customers
- Willingness to travel and may be required to execute delivery of project / initiatives across a range of different locations.

Terms of employment:

The position is nationally recruited and based at the CIAT Offices in Arusha, Tanzania. The contract will be for a two-year period, subject to probation period of three (3) months, renewable depending on performance and availability of resources. CIAT offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits; we believe that the diversity of our staff contributes to excellence. CIAT is an equal opportunity employer, and strives for staff diversity in gender and nationality.

How to apply:

Applicants are invited to visit <http://ciat.cgiar.org/ciat-jobs> to get full details of the position and to submit their applications clearly indicating "Ref:HO-2441-Seeds2b Project Coordinator" as the position applied for. Applications should be saved as one document using the candidate's last name, first name for ease of sorting.

CIAT does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing or training). CIAT also does not concern itself with information on applicants' bank accounts.

Applications closing date: 31st August 2019

Please note that email applications will not be considered.
Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Jafo honours role played by different stakeholders in supporting the youth

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has acknowledged contributions of various stakeholders in empowering youths in the country awarding the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the outstanding cooperation on the same.

Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Suleiman Jafo said the UNFPA and other stakeholders including both local and international organizations have managed to empower tens of thousands of young people in the country.

Speaking while officiating at the International Youth Day, nationally celebrated here yesterday, he said, "The government has nothing to pay back to various stakeholders for their exceptional work in supporting Tanzanian youths but heartily appreciate their efforts".

He said while the government was doing everything to empower young people in the country, other stakeholders have been doing all they can to complement the government efforts.

Jafo noted that this year's theme on the International Youth Day "Transforming Education" is crucial in considering how education can help young people in the country help themselves in nation building strategies.

The minister also observed that the theme is in line with the government plans to provide quality education for all, bearing in mind that the industrialization drive need educated young people.

According to Jafo, the meeting came at a time when the government is working on how best to empower youths, adding that resolutions from it will be worked upon by the government.

He noted that it was good that young men and women from the 31 regions in the country, 26 regions in the mainland and five in the Isles are

been brought together for a common purpose.

He urged youths in the country to be proactive, tap every opportunity that in the government plans, adding that the government will always listen to them.

Jafo said that even the recent government efforts to ensure that district councils set aside money for youths, women and the disabled is a result of public outcry by the youth.

Speaking earlier, Jacqueline Mahon, UNFPA's Country Representative said the day marked yesterday is commemorated to acknowledge contribution of youth and challenges facing them.

She noted that this year's theme is a call to make education more inclusive and accessible for all. "Young people working on different UNFPA programmes have demonstrated a lot of skills thus it is important that they are put at the centre of development strategies" she said.

For his part, the Deputy Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Culture, Arts and Sports of Zanzibar, Amour Hamil Bakari noted that both governments have taken initiatives to ensure youths are not left behind in various development endeavors.

He added that towards 2020, a lot of educational changes are taking place and young people must take the right attitude for the move.



The government has nothing to pay back to various stakeholders for their exceptional work in supporting Tanzanian youths but heartily appreciate their efforts



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority workers lay pipes for relaying water to the city's Kimara Golani suburb, as found yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Let's unite to develop farming, TADB tells SADC purse holders

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has called for forging of strategic partnerships within and between financial institutions in Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in order to create sustainable agricultural chains in SADC.

Addressing a meeting of dignitaries and experts attending the 4th annual SADC Industrialisation Week in Dar es Salaam recently, the TADB Managing Director, Japhet Justine, said it was important for the bloc to find alternative sources and new models of financing infrastructure development and industrialisation, arguing that SADC countries could successfully mobilise funds from pension funds,

insurance companies, sovereign wealth funds and high net worth individuals. But, he emphasised, partnerships were a key sustainable success.

"Forging strategic partnerships, beyond the confines of national boundaries, will prove to be an invaluable approach to creating regionally sustainable agricultural chains. The TADB is more than open to holding discussions with DFIs and other financial institutions in the region on how we can forge these important partnerships," Justin told a moved audience.

He had just told the gathering that despite being in operation for three years, the TADB had "disbursed loans from 2.3 billion/- or a mere USD1.0 billion to 133.8 billion/- or about a million US dollars."

He said the importance of financing infrastructure development in Africa could not be overemphasized because it was to sustainable economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. But he told his audience that Africa's infrastructure financing gap was conservatively estimated at USD 130 billion yet it could be as high as USD

170 billion.

"Available resources are sufficient to cover only about half the gap," MD lamented.

He cautioned that official development assistance (ODA) and official aid were declining since 2013 and development partners were simply dishonoring pledged support. On the other hand, the MD said, net foreign direct investments (FDI) were not only insufficient but declining since 2013.

Justine also argued that domestic resources were hard to come by because, he said, capacity to mobilise long-term funds to augment ODA and FDI "remains critically low -- as countries continue efforts to widen tax bases, develop capital markets and creating a match between tenors of savings and investment."

He campaigned for Africa's smallholder farmers saying they deserved utmost attention because they were Africa's creators of wealth by tilling the land, further arguing that Africa had the potential to become the world's bread basket if Africa cared to ensure smallholders increased productivity and maintained sustainable production.

To justify his argument, the MD highlighted Africa's potential, saying the continent is home to more than half of the world's fertile yet-unused land, with vast water resources, but the continent spends USD 35 billion annually on importing food.

He called for immediate redressing of the perception that agricultural finance (in Africa) was a high risk because the perception had rendered agri-finance space in most countries South of the Sahara a market failure.

Justine said to overcome that perception, the Tanzania Government formed the TADB, "a DFI with the mandate to, among other things, facilitate mobilisation of long-term finance for investment in the critical infrastructure of agricultural production."



Members of the Sahara Tanzania Limited staff present sanitary towels to 105 students of Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni Secondary yesterday in marking International Youth Day (August 12). Photo: Correspondent Devotha Mwachang'a

Oil and gas firm donates sanitary pads to schoolgirls in Kigamboni

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

GIRL students at Kigamboni (Navy) Secondary School in Dar es Salaam will now be able to effectively attend classes throughout the month, thanks to SAHARA Tanzania Limited for supporting them with sanitary pads for menstrual hygiene.

The company joined students of Kigamboni Secondary and vocation training college, teachers and staff on Tuesday to mark International Youth Day (IYD) as part of implementing their social activities to the community.

Reports show that some schoolgirls, especially in poor rural areas, miss their studies every time during their menstruation period.

Sanula Amri, a Form Four student said that lack of sanitary towels contributes to hindering academic performance to some girls especially those from poor families as they fail to attend classes during menstruating.

"I have been going through a tough situation during menstruation period due to lack of sanitary pads, this situation forces me to miss school during menstruation period. I am not living with my parents, so I can't afford to buy pads because the money I get from well-wishers is spent on other things including paying for my transport to school...I extend my gratitude to Sahara for today's support," said Amri.

Mwajabu Mrutu Business Development Officer from Sahara Tanzania used the platform to inspire school girls to live their dreams, and urged them to devote their time in studying hard instead of taking education for granted.

"Amongst other challenges, let us work on lack of sanitary pads for a while; Good future depends on how you prepare it, ensure you avoid temptations and other challenges which might ruin your education...if you really want to become somebody in the future you have to value yourself and identify your need in life," she said.

Abayomi Oyenuga, general manager of Sahara Tanzania said: "We are celebrating the International Youth Day with one of the schools within the community where we operate...Sahara is doing this everywhere it operates."

"We are into Oil and Gas business but everywhere we go we try to identify what we can give back to our community, we try to get closer to our community and see how we can work together with the people surrounding us."

Oyenuga said they have been doing this across several older schools, as part of social activities commitment in where the company works to actually strengthen social responsibilities when it comes to give back to the community.

He mentioned other social activities including renovations of the Pugu secondary library, schools toilets, as well as several awareness campaigns with different schools.

The Company's ambassador Neema Haule said they commemorated IYD in a style by doing cleanliness surrounding the school's environment, cleaning trench drains, and playing football friend match between Sahara staff and school's staff.

Lisa Ntavyo, a form two student, Leader of School's Environment Club thanked the company for participating in environmental cleaning because good learning requires conducive environment. She urged the company to do the same to other schools and community as a whole.

Sahara Tanzania Limited is an affiliate of Sahara Group, an energy conglomerate with operations in over 38 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

In celebrating IYD, Sahara Foundation is calling on private sector and civil society partners to work together to make education more inclusive and accessible for young Tanzanians especially those in rural communities and those living with disabilities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Satellite study reveals an area in Africa emitting one billion tonnes of carbon

A vast region of Africa affected by drought and changing land use emits as much carbon dioxide each year as 200 million cars, research suggests.

Observations from two satellites have consistently shown emissions over northern tropical Africa of between 1 and 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon each year.

The data suggest stored carbon has been released from degraded soils -- those subject to prolonged or repeated drought or land use change -- in western Ethiopia and western tropical Africa, but scientists say further study is needed to provide a definitive explanation for the emissions.

Their findings improve understanding of greenhouse gas

sources and aid efforts to meet the terms of the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit average global temperature rise below 2C.

The carbon source might have gone undiscovered with land-based surveys alone, according to a team led by researchers from the University of Edinburgh.

Researchers examined data gathered by two NASA satellite missions -- Japanese Greenhouse Gases Observing SATellite (GOSAT) and the Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO-2).

They compared readings with three

atmospheric models showing changes in vegetation, and a host of other measurements of ground water, fire and levels of photosynthesis.

The study is the result of a decade of work, involving hundreds of dedicated engineers and scientists, and billions of dollars of investment by space agencies.

Professor Paul Palmer, of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences, who led the study, said: "The tropics are home to one-third of Earth's three billion trees and their stored carbon, and yet we are only

scratching the surface of understanding how they are responding to changes in climate. We anticipate that satellite data will continue to improve that situation."

The study, published in Nature Communications, was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council's National Centre for Earth Observation. It also involved researchers from the University of Leicester, Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (LSCE) in France, and Colorado State University in the US.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with NMB Bank staff when he visited the bank's pavilion in Bukoba municipality on the sidelines of the ongoing weeklong Kagera Investment Forum, which is sponsored by the bank. To his right is Kagera regional commissioner Brigadier General Marco Gaguti. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SADC states urged to increase budget allocation to education

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states have been challenged to allocate more financial resources in education sector to at least 20 percent of the national budget if they are to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

ActionAid Mozambique, Education Program Manager, Dakcha Acha made the call in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the SADC Civil Society Forum, which involved representatives from different civil society organizations (CSOs) across the trading bloc.

She tasked SADC member state should increase their national budgets to finance education sector, saying currently there are many children out there who have no access to education—a key aspect for child development.

“Increasing budget allocation in their national budget is possible,” she said, suggesting: “There is one way to raise extra resources is to increase tax revenue by reducing or eliminating tax incentives especially to corporations and through this strategy all girls can go to school and receive a good quality education.”

ActionAid estimates that countries in the region could be losing as much as US\$38.6 Billion annually to harmful tax incentives and this is the equivalent of nearly half the overall spending on education.

She said globally there are 264 million primary and secondary age children and youth out of school and most children not currently in primary school are girls.

Also in many countries where ActionAid works, community members, including parents, and children are largely dissatisfied with the quality of education being provided in public schools.

Many schools in developing countries lack electricity, trained teachers, adequate teaching materials and basic infrastructure and sanitary conditions to ensure a good quality education for all.

A recent study conducted by ActionAid staff in Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal and Tanzania show that each year, this tax expenditure causes governments lose huge amounts of potential revenues that could be spent on improving education especially for girls.

“Our findings show that Tanzania, Nepal, Mozambique are losing more than half a billion dollars a year to tax incentive,” Acha noted

TFS to upgrade roads leading to Lake Ngozi

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) in Mbeya Region is set to upgrade the road infrastructure getting to Lake Ngozi—the second largest crater lake in Africa.

TFS manager for southern highlands zone, Ebrantino Mgiye revealed this recently when speaking to a group of journalists who visited the lake, which is the leading tourist attraction in Rungwe district pulling hundreds of visitors each year. The lake is located about 38 kilometers south of Mbeya city, near the sprawling Tukuyu Township. It is located on Ngozi peak on the Uporoto Mountains which makes part of Eastern Arc ranges.

Mgiye said: “We’re in the process of raising funds in partnership with other tourism stakeholders to develop that road infrastructure to this important tourist site.”

He described Lake Ngozi as one of the thrilling tourist attractions in Mbeya because of its appearance in the African ma. “Paths used to reach the lake are interesting and exciting as it is full of mountains and slopes, but also the water within the lake has been attractive to many tourists,” he said.

Mgiye said that despite poor road infrastructure to the lake, but tourists continue to visit the site with a view to experiencing its beauty and wonders.

It is located at an uplift of 2,600 meters above sea level in a thick, natural forest of the Uporoto nature reserve, covering some 9,332 hectares of land. It has a length of 2.5 kilometers and width of 1.5 kilometers and 75 meters deep. To reach the lake, one has to drive and stop at the edge of the Uporoto Forest Reserve at the foothills of the Uporoto range. It takes up to two hours walking from the foothill to the ridge where the lake lies at 200 meters below.

It is an exciting adventure to trek or walk through the dense montane forest to the crater rim. Monkeys and many bird species can be seen in the forest which is also home to an endemic species of chameleon and montane, wild banana trees. Walking and climbing the Uporoto range is organized by special guides familiar to the route which is made up of cascades, horrific gorges and valleys where someone could fall with no option of rescue. It is risky to fall into the gorges if one trek without care, and, if one falls into one of numerous gorges on the way to the lake, it will be the end of his or her life.

Mpina issues a two-week ultimatum to cotton buyers owing farmers over 8bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina has issued two-week ultimatum for all cotton buyers at Kisesa in Meatu district, Simiyu region to pay an outstanding debt of 8.5bn/- they took from farmers through the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Unions (AMCOS).

The buyers took the farmer’s money through taking at least 7,163, 442 kg of cotton promising to pay them.

Speaking during a joint meeting between him, buyers and cotton board, Mpina wanted the traders to ensure that farmers are paid within the given timeframe.


He also said that a total of 13.5 million kilogrammes of cotton worth 16.2bn/- have been collected through AMCOS.

Mpina who is also the Kisesa MP directed Alliance Gineries company to pay a debt of 1.1bn/- owed by AMCOS in Mwabusalu ward.

He also gave the buyers 14 days to ensure that they purchase the 4,978,580 kg of cotton consignment worth 5.9bn/- which is still in the storage facilities. “AMCOS leaders should also make sure that they build quality storage facility for the produce. You can accomplish this by using collected levies,” he said adding that; “If the available storage facility is full, then you can rent another to secure the farmer’s cotton.”

He instructed Meatu District Council director to support the officers of the cooperatives unions to enable them work and monitor closely all the AMCOS.

For his part, Meatu District Commissioner Dr Joseph Chilongani warned AMCOS leaders who engage in corrupt actions saying that stern measures will be taken against anyone who will be found doing so. Lake Zone Cotton Board manager Jones Bwahama said that the government will continue discussing with banks to ensure that buyers secure loans to enable farmers receive their payments on time.

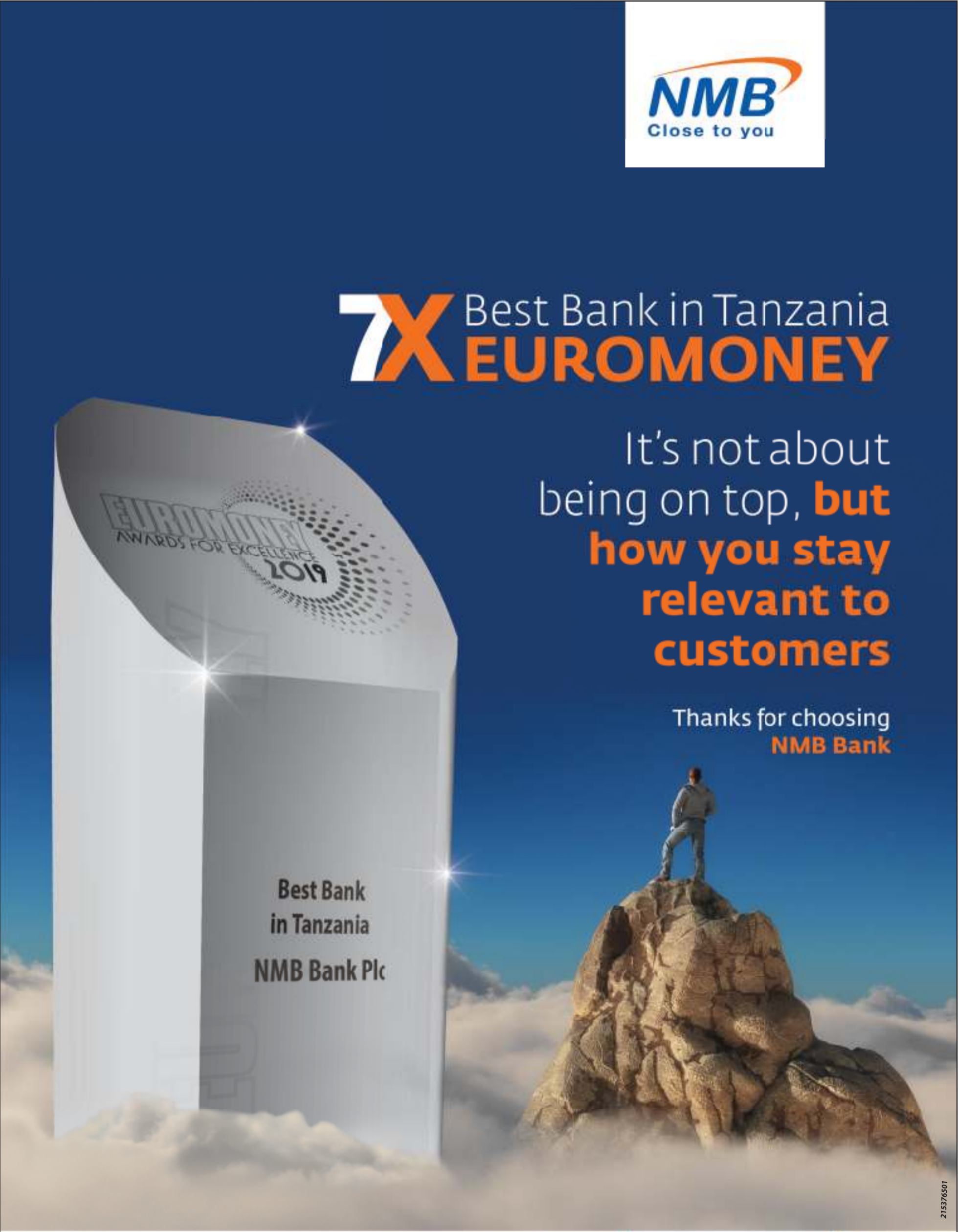


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Majaliwa says Kagera is suitable for investment

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbagast, Bukoba

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has described Kagera Region as an area which is suitable for investment, calling on investors by constructing medium and large processing industries due to its conducive environment.

He explained that Kagera was strategically located, sharing borders with four countries, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya across Lake Victoria, with a population market of 190 million.

Equally, he challenged Tanzanians to grab investment opportunities in the Great Lakes regions, especially in the hospitality industry.

He said traders on border regions of Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Simiyu, Mara and Kigoma should forge close links and make regular visits to neighbouring countries.

Premier Majaliwa made the remarks while opening the Kagera Week exhibitions held at the Gymkhana Grounds in Bukoba Municipal Council today.

He noted that the upgrading of Ibanda, Rumanyika and Burigi Chato National Parks was a golden opportunity where Tanzanians can benefit through the construction of five-star hotels.

"The private sector through Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries

and Agriculture (TCCIA), should have close links with their counterparts in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)," he said, adding that the government was prepared to assist investors.

"My office is open 24 hours. Any investor who encounters any problems is welcome to contact me any time," he added. Premier Majaliwa said over 95 per cent of the roads were tarmacked, while social services, including the construction of hospitals, health centres and dispensaries were in full swing, saying all this aims to afford attractive climate to investors.

He noted that Kagera had conducive weather with plenty of rainfall ranging between 600-2,000 millimetres and that it is the leading producer of coffee, including Robusta and Arabica coffee.

"It also has an annual production of 2.3 million tons of bananas, and this is another area for investment, in the agricultural industry, by constructing industries to process and add value to crops," he hinted. Kagera Regional Commissioner (RC), Brig-Gen Marco Gaguti, explained that income per capita increased from 667,000/- during 2010 to 1,300,000/- last year, while the regional per capita also increased from 1.3tril/- during 2017 to 4.9tril/- last year.



Residents of Malendi village in Iramba District, Singida Region, look on helplessly at the wreckage of a Mvula Express bus usually plying the Dar es Salaam-Kahama route after it was involved in a crash on Wednesday evening. There were no immediate reports of deaths or serious injuries. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANAPA donates 10m/- to victims of Morogoro fuel tanker tragedy

THE Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has donated 10m/- to help the victims of Morogoro fuel tanker tragedy occurred last Saturday.

The tanker burst into flames as crowds gathered to siphon petrol from the vehicle in Morogoro town.

The cheque was received by Morogoro Regional Commissioner Dr Stephen Kebwe at the regional hospital.

On behalf of TANAPA, an official from Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Donatus Bayona said the authority was touched by the tragedy that cost lives of Tanzanians.

Bayona said that then authority will continue working with Morogoro regional authorities and the hospital to ensure that all the important equipment are available to empower the

hospital to be able to address such kind of tragedy.

For his part, RC Kebwe lauded TANAPA for the support, calling other institutions and well-wishers to chip in and assist those who have been injured from the accident.

He also said that the hospital is in need of key facilities such as heart rate monitoring, blood pressure and that

which monitors oxygen levels in the body.

The RC said they will direct the fund provided by various stakeholders to buy those equipments.

He said that later through the government budgets and other hospital revenues they will look on how to strengthen the outpatient ward for the accidental patients.

It is estimated that there are more than 5000 vehicles, which pass in Morogoro town per day; hence the need to equip the hospital with all key medical facilities remained important.

Dr. Kebwe said, they have open an account at the NMB bank in the region called Morogoro disaster Account number 24910000541, urging stake-

holders and well-wishers to donate into the account.

Regional Medical Officer, Dr Rita Lyamuya described the support as key in improving health service delivery at the medical facilities.

Wilfred Mathew, regional blood bank coordinator said that until yesterday they had collected 425 bottles, equivalent to 425 units.

He said the bottles have been obtained from various stakeholders and residents of Morogoro region.

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Nine-year-old Indian boy climbs Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa in just seven days

NEW DELHI

A 9-year-old, Advait Bhartiya from Pune in the western Indian state of Maharashtra recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa in a span of just 7 days.

Bhartiya recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa. Mount Kilimanjaro that stands at a height of 4,900 from its base and 5,895 meters above sea level is the highest peak in Africa.

But this did not come easy to Advait. He reached the peak of Kilimanjaro on July 31, 2019, after trekking for 7 days. For this dream of his to come true, Advait went through vigorous training

process for two months.

His training included a stringent routine, swimming for an hour, playing football, cricket and tennis for cardiovascular training were part of Advait's daily routine.

That is not all, Parkour and climbing 100 floors was a part of this training as well.

Advait completed the trek under the supervision of his expedition leader, Samir Patham. This is not the first time, Advait has achieved something of this level. At the mere age of 6, this wonder boy from Pune climbed the Mount Everest Base camp and left everybody shocked.

Advait who now has his eye on the

peak of Mount Elbrus, Europe was also accompanied by his mother, Payal Bhartiya on this trek. However, she had to cut the journey short at 1,000 ft as she was not able to acclimatise to the extreme climate.

Advait told PTI, "This trek was really difficult but fun at the same time. When I was climbing the Everest Base Camp, we were living in wooden houses but during the Kilimanjaro trek, we stayed in tents and it was a good experience being exposed to snow and the surroundings."

He added, "I could have completed the trek faster but the mountains were very beautiful and I took a lot of breaks to take in the beauty.

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of people who died following last week fuel tanker tragedy in Morogoro town has gone up to 89, a senior official said.

According to a report from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), seven out of the 32 patients who were admitted at the health facility due to burn injuries have died, making the total of those who died to 89.

Aminiel Aligaesha (pictured), MNH's Senior Public Relations Officer and Customer Relations Manager said 16 of those who were seriously injured are in the Intensive Care unit (ICU) while 9 others continue to receive treatment in the burn unit.

Death toll in Morogoro fuel tanker accident reaches 89

He said doctors and nurses were making every effort to ensure the victims are treated and their lives are saved.

The fuel tanker accident occurred on the outskirts of Morogoro after a crowd had gathered around the tanker, which had overturned trying to avoid a motorbike.

Many of those killed and injured had been siphoning petrol from the vehicle when it burst into flames, according to police.

The accident occurred about 200 metres from the Msanvu Bus Station in Morogoro town.

Eyewitnesses said when the lorry overturned, several people crowded around it to collect leaking fuel but others were simply doing their businesses around the area.

Some have attributed the fire explosion to one person who went there to scramble for fuel while smoking a cigarette.



Govt in new drive to reduce GBV by 50 pct by year 2021

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA is preparing a national plan of action that will be used to mitigate and minimise gender-based violence (GBV) by 50 per cent come 2021.

Senior official from Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Grace Mwanda revealed this recently in Dar es Salaam when giving certificates to winners for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Prizes on gender matters.

"Our aim is to see the country is free from GBV," she said, noting that Tanzania is also working in with the Beijing core areas—enhancement of women's legal capacity, economic empowerment of women and poverty eradication, women's political empowerment and decision making and women's access to education and employment and environment.

"To show that we're serious, the government has directed all district councils across the country to set aside around 10 per cent of their budgets to empower women, youth, and disabled."

Commenting on SADC Prizes on gender matters, Mwanda said that the certificates were given according to different categories participated in the competition on gender matters.

Finalists will go to South Africa where other competitors from the 15 countries forming the SADC Block will as well participate. The best performers will be awarded.

She also commended TGNP Mtandao together with Gender Link for organising the competition.

"TGNP has done a good thing for the country, and this will help to raise awareness on gender rights," she said, urging the winners who will represent Tanzania to the SADC Competition on gender matters in South Africa to be good ambassadors for the country.

"They should speak on the achievements the country has attained and strategies in place in waging the war against gender violence. The government understands that gender equality is vital for the nation development," she noted.

Neema Mwinyi is one of the three Tanzanian winners who were rewarded SADC Certificate commended the organisers of the competition which is taking her to the next level. She emerged a winner in the category of 'economy and justice for women.'

Neema who is also a Secretary of the Maendeleo Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies has established the Saccos to help fellow women who were humiliated and even their properties were confiscated by some of the financial institutions after failing to pay back their loans.

So, I decided to establish the Maendeleo Saccos so as to teach them business skills, how to run their small businesses, and know their women rights in their day to day undertakings, among others."

Members of the group, according to Neema, are involving in making hand-made batik, mango pickle, liquid soap, jik, beads, and Masai shoes, among many other things.

She says her group has 29 women and five men. Those women have their own businesses. Some have even opened shops, charcoal stores, fish selling and other small businesses.

According to Neema, every week each woman contributes 10,000/- to the Saccos fund as her saving.

The motto of her group is "Let's empower a woman to make her have financial muscles and save her family."

She also lauded TGNP Mtandao for the great support, saying without them they couldn't have reached where they are today.

"The regular seminars on gender matters, economic empowerment issues, gender rights. And linking them to experts in different issues have contributed a lot to their success," she said.

She however encouraged women to work hard as the road to prosperity is bumpy.

Neema said: "It is important for women to use the loan as intended. If it is for expanding businesses, it should be used in business and not otherwise."

Janeth John is another winner in the competition who emerged a winner through the category of sexual reproductive health and rights.

Janeth who is the founder of 'Binti Makini' organisation, said that her organisation was established to emancipate a girl from the challenges facing her to be able to achieve her dreams.

According to her, the organisation has been raising awareness to young girls on how they could avoid early pregnancies, and early marriages.

Janeth also acknowledged the contribution made by TGNP.

She however said that collective efforts were needed from all stakeholders—including government, civil society, parents, and the general public to address problems facing women and girls because are many.

The Director of the Kipunguni Knowledge Centre, Selemani Bishagazi, who was among the three winners awarded the SADC Certificate said that their campaign against female genital mutilation (FGM) enabled them to emerge one of the winners.

He said that their campaign succeeded because they collaborated and involved community, traditional leaders, and elders in their respective area.

"Community members were the ones who used to educate their young girls on the negative impacts if they agree to do FGM."

He said that through their campaign they were able to emancipate about 34 girls from undergoing FGM.

They have trained them different skills including tailoring, gardening, cookery, among others.



Officials from the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (Rita) and the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) in Mbeya Region oversee the registration of NGOs in Mbeya city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Women pastoralists feel heat of climate change

By Sharon Birch-Jeffrey

FOR many people, climate change is about shrinking glaciers, rising sea levels, longer and more intense heatwaves, and other extreme and unpredictable weather patterns. But for women pastoralists—livestock farmers in the semi-arid lands of Kenya—climate change has forced drastic changes to everyday life, including long and sometimes treacherous journeys to get water.

Faced with an increasingly dry climate, women pastoralists now must spend much more time searching for water. That takes time away from productive economic activities, reinforcing the cycle of poverty.

"Women are the ones who fetch water and firewood. Women are the ones who prepare food. Women are the ones who take care of not just their own children but also the young ones of their animals as well," Agnes Leina, a Kenyan human rights activist and pastoralist, told Africa Renewal.

Leina established the Il'Laramatak Community Concerns organisation in 2011, because women pastoralists have inadequate land rights, are excluded from community leadership and are often not involved in decision making, despite the responsibilities they shoulder.

This year, Leina was invited to the Commission on the Status of Women at UN headquarters in New York, an opportunity she used to promote the rights of the Maasai, seminomadic pastoralists of the Nilotic ethnic group in parts of northern, central and

southern Kenya.

Climate change has made their situation worse, she says.

Leina's organisation addresses the loss of earnings women incur due to climate change by creating programmes that teach them how to make and sell beads, mats, and milk products. It also helps foster girls' resilience by giving them the tools to set goals for themselves.

She says it used to take her about 30 minutes to fetch 20 litres of water from a river not far from her mother's home, which was hardly enough to wash clothes and utensils and take a bath. That was until the river started receding.

The time she spent fetching water increased to "one hour, then two hours because, of course, there was no water and so many of us lined up for the little that was available. Then suddenly it completely dried up."

Now, she says, "You have to travel to another river, which is like one hour's walk, to fetch water."

As a result, many girls between ages 14 and 16 run the risk of being attacked by wild animals or becoming victims of sexual assault while searching for water. They have no time to do their homework and, for fear of being punished, they miss school, she explains.

Other girls, discouraged by these realities, "settle for a man in town who has water and then marry him," Leina admits with regret.

Climate change also increases the pressure for child marriages. In pastoralist communities, livestock is a status symbol. Losing cattle because the land is too arid for them to

survive may compel a father to offer his young daughter's hand in marriage in exchange for more cows as a bride price.

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change. The UN Environment (UNE) projects that some countries' yields from rain-fed agriculture will have been reduced by half by next year. Countries hard hit by land degradation and desertification include Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

"Most African women depend on rain-fed livelihood systems like farming and livestock keeping. Therefore, any shift in climate patterns has a significant impact on women, especially those living in rural areas," concurs Fatmata Sessay, UN Women regional policy advisor on climate-smart agriculture for East and Southern Africa Region. UN Women's mandate is to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

Globally, nearly 200 million nomadic pastoralists make their livelihoods in remote and harsh environments where conventional farming is limited or not possible, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Globe, the online magazine of the Belgian Federal Public Service's international development aid programme, reports that Kenyan pastoralists are responsible for up to 90% of the meat produced in East Africa. Kenya's livestock sector contributes 12% to the country's gross domestic product, according to the World Bank.

Therefore, a changing climate has serious implications for the country's economy.



A Lake Group official explains to Coast regional commissioner Evarist Ndikilo (L) at Kibaha yesterday after he had laid foundation stones for the firm's factories meant to make gas cylinders, iron bars and water pipes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Clean Technology Fund gives \$20m to the Facility for Energy Inclusion

By Guardian Reporter

THE Clean Technology Fund (CTF), one of two multi-donor trust funds within the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), has approved \$20 million for the Facility for Energy Inclusion (FEI).

The facility is sponsored by the African Development Bank to provide sustainable financing for small-scale renewables in Africa.

FEI is a \$500 million financing platform whose objective is to catalyse financial support for innovative energy access solutions.

FEI On-grid, a targeted \$400 million fund, supports improved energy access through the development of small-scale renewable energy generation and mini-grids across Africa. While the Off-Grid Energy Access Fund (OGEF), a targeted \$100 million fund, supports off-grid energy distribution companies and boosts their long-term capacity to access capital markets at scale.

The CTF investment, composed of a \$4 million junior equity tranche and a \$16 million senior concessional loan, will be drawn from the Dedicated Private Sector Programme III, designed

to provide risk-appropriate capital to finance high-impact, large-scale private sector projects in clean technologies.

Stressing the difficulty rural areas have in attracting investment for affordable and productive electricity, Anthony Nyong, the director of climate change and green growth at the AfDB, said the funds would contribute to economic and social growth and enhance its recipients' resilience to the effects of negative climate change.

"Access to affordable and reliable energy has huge benefits at various levels of any society. Most of the 600 million people estimated to lack access to modern energy services in sub-Saharan Africa are also among the most vulnerable to the disastrous consequences of climate change," Nyong said.

FEI is expected to contribute to the installation of around 600MW of renewable energy projects across different African countries and avoid over 30 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions over a period of 20 years while yielding positive gender and social outcomes.

Africa must boost industrial capacity to benefit from free-trade zone - AfDB

By Chijioke Oluocha, Abuja

AFRICAN nations will need to boost output of goods and services and integrate payment systems if they are to take advantage of a new \$3.4 trillion economic initiative, according to the head of the African Development Bank.

A continental free-trade zone was launched this month in Niger which, if successful, will usher in a new era of development for an area with a population of 1.3 billion people.

It is hoped that the 55-nation African Continental Free Trade Area - the largest bloc since the creation

of the World Trade Organization in 1994 - will help unlock Africa's long-stymied economic potential by boosting intra-regional trade, strengthening supply chains and spreading expertise.

Akinwumi Adesina, president of the AfDB, said he expected industrial

manufacturing capacity in Africa to increase, while financial markets would integrate and food production expands.

"Africa has to have its own industrial capacity ... it's not just about moving raw materials, it's about value added products," Adesina told Reuters on the

sidelines of a conference in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja.

The bank chief said African countries need to mobilize more domestic resources, and encourage sovereign wealth and pension funds to invest in infrastructure.

"We brought investors to Africa and

in less than 72 hours we mobilized \$38.7 billion," he said. "That tells me that the opportunities are there, if we can get the regulatory and investment environment right."

He said nations need to provide the right incentives to boost local output while encouraging competition.

Let's spend, spend and spend, but with our children in mind

A United Nations report published just over quarter a century ago - in 1993, to be precise - carried facts and figures one could safely describe as an instructive description of the self-destruction humankind's thoughtlessness is capable of wreaking.

What we are referring to is none other than that particular year's State of the World's Report, as compiled and published by the UN children's Fund (UNICEF).

As happened, the UN agency moved to feed the international community on a graphic and largely comparative analysis whose thrust was on what ran as 'Six ways to Spend US\$25 billion' - and this made reading that was as saddening as it was eye-opening.

Here we go, if we are to paraphrase what the agency was going about telling the world: For an extra US\$25 billion a year it would be possible to cut by half child malnutrition across the globe, control the major childhood diseases, eradicate polio, supply all communities with clean water, provide a basic education for all children, and make family planning available to all couples.

Elaborating by focusing specifically on basic needs, the report said the amount was all that it would take to meet the most basic needs of all the world's children by the end of the decade in question - meaning right up to year 2000.

Now hear this, too: the said amount came to just about as much as what the world's developing countries together spend every six months to pay the wages of their soldiers and was less than what the government of Japan had set aside (in 1992) to the construction of a highway to link the capital, Tokyo, to Kobe - distance of under 430 kilometres.

Stretching the analysis even further, UNICEF reported that US\$25 billion was a little less than the support package for Russia which the Group of Seven (G7) rich or major advanced nations had agreed for year 1992 and just a little more than the estimated cost of Hong Kong's new airport.

Just for the record, G7 is commonly described as consisting of Canada,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States. They have for long been reported to boast the seven largest advanced economies in the world, as per International Monetary Fund description, which counts for much in terms of financial muscle and the capacity to combat global poverty.

But if these illustrative examples would have left any doubts in the minds of 'development experts', there is one that would likely have best served the purpose in arguing the case of extending the said amount to programmes and projects meant to take the sting out of the misery in which millions of the world's children languish.

And it is this: US\$25 billion is less than America spends on cigarettes every six months and western Europe spends on alcohol every three months.

As noted, we are laying on the table facts, figures and analyses fiesta offered for digestion as long ago as the early 1990s. While one may wish to dismiss that as water under the bridge, if you pardon the cliché, revisiting the relevant scenarios cannot be an exercise in futility.

This is for the simple reason that developments in science and technology as well as changes in fortunes as relate to countries and nations across the globe do not make the importance of guaranteeing the world's children basic needs any less urgent or fundamental now than has been the case all along.

Indeed, if anything, there are millions of children and even whole families, households and larger communities for which things have since worsened and for which much closer attention and much greater assistance would come in handy - at times with such support meaning the difference between life and death.

One hopes, wishes and prays that goodwill will prevail globally over greed and general lack of moderation and considerate use of resources both available and potentially within reach. And this Nelson Mandela gem should jerk many into relevant action: "History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children."

NGOs' demand for agro-sector funding positive, timely, but...

NON-STATE actors in agriculture in Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) member-countries have reiterated the call for governments to allocate up to 10 per cent of gross annual budgets for interventions to boost the sector.

How far this is being done at present is wanting, for it is habitual merely to look at funds slated for ministries of agriculture to say how far a country funds agro-sector needs.

The government of Tanzania has, for instance, revolutionised the way healthcare is delivered countrywide - not just by raiding budgetary levels but also by altering agency roles, including in the procurement of medical supplies.

This has a direct impact on agriculture, even if it doesn't directly relate to seeds, irrigation or fertiliser and, even less, raising crop prices and looking for markets.

A similar pattern of action has been registered in schools, with fees abolished right up to secondary school level, and general improvement of rural roads.

It follows that rural poverty is being attacked from different directions and not just when it comes to budgetary funds for extension activities, storage facilities and timely delivery of inputs.

Still, it must be recognized that a number of these agro-sector needs are

of a business character and not ranked alongside the likes of healthcare as a public responsibility.

The government often needs to play a regulatory role in that direction, including as to the kinds of seeds to import, as fake seeds put peasants to untold losses. It also needs to ease the way for access to cheap technologies, and so on and so forth.

While we do not differ with the NGOs on financing agro-sector activities, it needs to be said that the Malabo Declaration was an act of raising consciousness - and not a budget advisory per se.

A summit of Heads of State and Government would most likely not be that much of an appropriate forum to busy itself with details relating to expertise needed for the affirmation of correct budget levels for individual sectors such as agriculture.

Similarly, the agro sector needs aren't perpendicularly different from other sectors in that social welfare and poverty reduction are cross-cutting issues.

Thus, one-sided emphasis cuts no ice with governments, for they have to handle real pressures for action as expressed by elected representatives, who don't just demand for seeds. In the circumstances, NGOs need to fine-tune their approach by taking into serious consideration the reality of the situation on the ground.

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AfCFTA's success depends on informal, women-run enterprises

By Dorothy Tuma

THERE is renewed optimism that Africa's small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) could be big winners with the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) - the world's largest such trading zone with a combined current GDP of US\$2.5 trillion and a market of over one billion people.

Given the challenges that have prevented Africa's SMEs from becoming competitive, however, we must ask how this will change under the AfCFTA.

What does it mean to be competitive? The International Trade Centre's Business Management System framework (BMS) defines a competitive business as one that offers goods or services on its own terms, yet customers willingly subscribe.

The ITC's definition reminds me of a baker in my home town of Jinja, Uganda. She was known by her customers only as "Mrs Batambuze", and her bakery produced limited quantities of bread at a frequency and price which she determined.

In turn, every day we happily lined up at the bakery at 4pm and willingly paid her above-average prices for freshly baked bread. We devotedly bought her bread on her terms.

Africa's SMEs - particularly those in the informal sector - struggle with one if not all of the above features of a competitive business, including control over desired quantity, desired quality,

timely delivery and cost.

Generally speaking, Africa's SMEs find it almost impossible to reach the competitive position described above. Instead, customers dictate terms, which leaves businesses vulnerable to customer whims and undue pricing pressure in already vulnerable economies.

In spite of their weak negotiating position, Africa's informal businesses - which are primarily woman-owned - contribute an estimated 50 per cent of GDP on the continent. In addition, they create six in ten jobs in their respective economies.

Yet, the informal sector generates mixed reactions. While some appreciate its job creation role, others view it as a collection of tax-evading free-loaders.

So how will SMEs benefit from AfCFTA? Consider the typical informal business example of Jane Were (not her real name). Jane is a Kenyan woman cross border trader at the Western Kenya/Eastern Uganda border who makes peanut butter and a soy-based drink at home. She sells her processed products across Kenya at whatever price she can get and dreams of becoming an exporter.

Like thousands of other women whose kitchens double as food processing units across Africa, Jane runs an unregistered business and sells products that are not quality certified. These informal business owners believe certification and registration are too complex and expensive.

One has to wonder how she and many

others like here will become competitive enough to benefit under AfCFTA.

Not surprisingly, the "messy" informal sector is largely excluded from business support programmes that are easier to implement and track in the well-organised and identifiable formal sector.

Legally registered businesses, on the other hand, can borrow from commercial financial institutions, bid on government contracts, apply for government grants and participate in government funded training programmes.

As AfCFTA becomes a reality, we will all have a role to play in ensuring that no one is left behind. The process should start with ensuring that sufficient funds are mobilised by the African Union Development Agency in order to support studies that will provide a deeper understanding of the sector and its specific needs. This research can then support evidence-based decision-making.

Next, national governments have a responsibility to create a business environment that encourages and motivates pre-formal SMEs to register - as individual businesses or as partnerships - and thus qualify to compete for opportunities available to registered businesses.

Additionally, national governments should encourage their own bureaus of statistics to identify and count informal business operators and measure their economic contribution. We know, for example, that informal businesses and their owners belong to formal, organised

groups like local administrative units, religious communities or business associations. Those could all be census starting points.

This action alone will allow us to serve informal businesses better through tailored support programmes and well informed advocacy for an improved business environment.

All of these steps will increase transparency and make the informal sector more visible. This will, in turn, create a pipeline of pre-formal businesses for transition to the formal sector and therefore place them in a position to access future AfCFTA opportunities.

Consequently, increasingly competitive SMEs like Jane's will advance towards profitable exports and AfCFTA wins.

The AfCFTA will create a market of one billion people. But, unless we proactively seek to find ways to include informal businesses - which are largely female-owned - large parts of Africa's population will remain excluded from its opportunities.

We should not wait to support Africa's SMEs. AfCFTA's future success depends on it.

Dorothy Tuma chairs the East African Women in Business Platform, which represents the views of 20,000 women business owners in six partner states and has over 15 years of experience in enterprise development with a bias towards women entrepreneurs.

Tanzanian entrepreneur among 2019 AWIEF's Awards finalists

CAPETOWN

THE Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF), a leading Pan African entrepreneurship and innovation non-profit organisation, has announced the top finalists in its annual awards to celebrate women leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa.

The 22 women founders and entrepreneurs selected as finalists include a Tanzanian - in the Young Entrepreneur Award, alongside two Nigerian nationals. Promoting excellence in entrepreneurship and innovation among women-owned businesses in all sectors and across all 54 African countries is the aim of AWIEF, which celebrates the five-year anniversary of its benchmarking annual Conference and Expo this year.

The Awards will take place here on the last evening of the October 29 and 30 event. "Women-owned businesses are a vital part of our African economy and the women of Africa are our most valuable, untapped resource," AWIEF founder and CEO Irene Ochem said yesterday.

She added: "Each year the entries to the AWIEF Awards grow in number and

this response signifies the importance of recognising and celebrating women in Africa for their achievements and contribution to Africa's economic and sustainable development."

"Women-owned businesses are growing on the continent and are a vital part of Africa's future and contributing to the fact that seven out of ten of the fastest growing economies in the world, are to be found in Africa," Ochem noted.

"Africa is rising and we must make sure the women of the continent, the backbone of our communities and our families, are given the opportunities to rise as well," she said.

The 22 founders and entrepreneurs come from African countries and across eight categories. The AWIEF Awards panel of judges is made up of high-calibre industry experts and thought leaders spread across the continent.

Brigitta Cederstrom, Frost & Sullivan's Business Development Director for MEA and this year's Head Judge for AWIEF Awards said: "This year's AWIEF Awards programme has offered a host of equally inspirational and terrific female entrepreneurs and innovators, driving growth for Africa."

"The judging panel has had some very busy weeks where

we reviewed over 200 shortlists for consideration and we are delighted to see the high standard and quality of entries coming through to AWIEF," she added.

Cederstrom elaborated: "This is one of the most robust and independent jury based Awards programmes that currently is offered in Africa, and we are thrilled to support female entrepreneurs with a worthy recognition as well as good PR and Media exposure."

"We are hoping that investors are signing up for the upcoming Award Programme Subscription that will be launched in 2020 to help identify the best female start-ups in Africa across key industries such as Agri, Tech, FinTech, Chemicals and Healthcare," she said.

The AWIEF Awards winners will be announced at a gala dinner on October 30, following on from the 2019 AWIEF Conference and Exhibition scheduled to take place here this October 29 and 30. The theme this year is: 'Enhancing impact: digitalisation, investment and intra-Africa trade'.

"AWIEF remains Africa's number one voice in driving the agenda for women's leadership in business," Ochem said, adding: "The AWIEF brand has grown tremendously over these few years

through the sustained support of our trusted partners, local and international, underscoring the great values of AWIEF programmes and projects in accelerating women entrepreneurship as a catalyst of inclusive economic growth."

In honour of the partnership, APO Group is the founding sponsor of a new award: the African Women in Media Award, to honour and celebrate women journalists who support women's entrepreneurship across the continent.

AfriAgri Products' Beatrice Haule of Tanzania is one of three finalists for the Young Entrepreneur Award, the others being Nigerians Lola Alli of the Lagos Executive Cardiovascular Clinic and Ola (Orekunrin) Brown of Flying Doctors.

The other categories are Tech Entrepreneur Award, Social Entrepreneur Award, Global Brand Award, Agri Entrepreneur Award, Empowerment Award, Creative Industry SAward, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

AWIEF's mandate is supported by some of Africa's biggest banks, pan-African development organisations, foreign missions and eminent persons, government ministers and leaders of multinational companies.

AGENCIES

SADC and the pursuit of development models, local and foreign

By Anil Kija

AS most African countries and member states of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) pursue an industrialization strategy, it is unclear with many analysts if there is a common model being pursued, as the countries are linked by protocol on customs union, etc. One emerging theme is the manner in which the southern Africa bloc links with China's BRI over industrialization strategy as China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) rhymes well with projects for railways, roads and revival of airways, etc. How this them moves towards an industrialization strategy is different, and whether China can be a source of significant capital for industrial outlays. So far this doesn't seem to be the case, as it is chiefly engaged in construction.

A senior SADC official interviewed by Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, said more or less that, affirming that "SADC is linking with the Belt and Road Initiative

toward implementation of its industrialization strategy, especially on the construction of the infrastructure." Johansen Rutaiwa, a senior program officer for SADC secretariat on Industrialization and said notably that 'China's BRI was a perfect linkage toward SADC's initiative to industrialize,' while identifying the SADC industrialization strategy as focused on agro-processing, mineral beneficiation and pharmaceuticals. That is where the catch is located: shifting from roads and railways to industries, and if the lack of modern roads and railways hindered industries at first.

A more engaging analysis was provided a bit earlier in Nigeria, posing the question as to how Africa can benefit from BRI, and noting rapidly that this strategy was mooted and launched by China in Kazakhstan and Indonesia in 2013 where it appeared to be 'Asia first' in outlook. But it appears that the vision rapidly evolved, such that by the following year, speaking about the initiative



President Xi Jinping asserted that first China would focus on Asian countries and realize connectivity in Asia. The Chinese leader would have thought of an Asian integrated hub of all sorts of things, then realized it has intense strategic and harmonization problems, etc.

To map out the importance of BRI, the World Bank is quoted to affirm that the BRI 'aims to strengthen infrastructure, trade and

investment links between China and dozens of other countries that collectively account for over 30 percent of global GDP, 62 percent of the world's population and 75 percent of known energy reserves.' That looked a bit out of place, as it is underpinned by implicit suppositions of an integrated economic area that excludes others from the pie, and hardly does such a phenomenon obtain not just with

a trading bloc but even a national economy. Even a closed country has stakeholders for its exports and imports, to wit.

The Nigerian analyst, for the Financial Nigeria magazine, did not pose questions as to how the strategy evolved, but just traces its practice, that 'Chinese partnerships under President Xi's signature infrastructure development and investment program have extend-

ed beyond Asia to the Middle East, Europe, Africa and the Americas. Dubbed the Chinese Marshal Plan, Nigeria and another 125 countries and 29 international organizations are now participating in the initiative.'

Obviously this is not a closed circuit sort of initiative where China creates a zone it expects to dominate but create conditions for Chinese investments around the world, to break into bar-

riers that have arisen from decades and at times centuries of regional particularity, where Chinese investments are seen as somewhat strange. China wants to move out of dependency on export of goods that has taken a sharp dive since the Wall Street meltdown of 2008 and contracting of the US market, Europe and others. And as most of Africa, Asia and South America industrialize, export of mass produced goods of low quality declines, replaced by locally produced goods.

While the principal intention of BRI is export of Chinese capital so that its interests are planted in other economies and expand into the fabric of those economies, as well as substantial or significant Chinese migration as entrepreneurs or technicians, how does this tell for African economies and SADC in particular? It can be asserted that outside its Asia backyard, China has more friends and committed partners in the SADC zone than elsewhere, sharing a common narrative of

solidarity during the 1960s - where China partly relied on African efforts to get back to the UN and into the Security Council, and Frontline States overly depended on China for support during guerilla wars to end white minority rule. The chemistry has been there all along.

But as it is the case with how BRI strategy started, it doesn't mean that because there are historical links that this will be the proper focus or area of concentration of BRI as the issues are different. Even when it comes to infrastructure the Chinese are becoming more selective in lending as they have released so much into the program that it risks adding to structurally non-performing debt, especially as it was provided under an aura of continuing with the same old friendships. In other words BRI needs to shore up its image as foreign investment, which is what it is but it isn't saying so, and thus takes the image of a competing multilateral lender of sorts....

Regional granaries and hapless kids: Solving the SADC stunting fiasco

By Michael Eneza

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has lately added his voice to a series of comments on disquieting reports on the levels of stunting in the country, a situation that a casual glance at the data shows isn't even among the worst in the SADC sub-region. A SADC Nutritional Status update published late August last year paints a sobering and even alarming picture on the issue, with stunting levels set out in three categories, very high levels of stunting that reaches above 40 per cent of the population, high levels reaching between 30 and 40 per cent where Tanzania is included, and moderate levels that are below 30 per cent, where most countries surrounding South Africa belong. Surprisingly for many, Botswana isn't in this group but the middle pack.

A summary of the report says that currently, at least one in three individuals is stunted in nine out of 16 member states in the SADC region, indicating a high or very high stunting (prevalence above 30%). Four countries have very high prevalence of stunting (above 40%), named as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Mozambique and Zambia. On the whole the report says that stunting reduction is off track in the Southern Africa region, with 20 million children under five years who are stunted. It is a sobering picture for the assembling heads of state and government, as a cross cutting issue touching agriculture, income levels, culture, etc.

The report notes further that progress towards meeting the World Health Assembly target of a 40 per cent reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025 is too slow to keep pace with population growth. "The proportion of stunted children is declining in the region, with the notable exception of Angola, Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa," which is a straightforward datum for statisticians and troubling

for analysts as these supposed exceptions have above board qualities in economic terms or resource, with the possible exception of Madagascar. DRC is well known as disorganized but with a vast array of riches too.

Stunting is an expression of malnutrition, which the report states that it is 'the result of a complex set of interacting factors that are multi-sectoral, related to health, sanitation and care practices as well as consumption and access to food. Further influencing factors include education, gender, social equity and the local social and environmental context. These causes of malnutrition are classified as immediate, underlying and basic, whereby factors at one level influence other levels.' That can be somewhat complicated, and we ought to make an effort to reduce the matter to a simple ingredient, as abysmal failure to obtain a regular balanced diet.

Owing to its higher classification globally as a powerful state and Africa's leading economy, the case of South Africa attracts greater attention than other SADC members, thus a corresponding study poses the question as to whether 'the prevalence of stunting in South African children changed in 40 years,' which appears to specifically avoid locating the issue within the post-1994 matrix. Still the abstract states the matter vividly, without blinkers, that 'in the last 20 years, South Africa has experienced

political, economic, and demographic transitions accompanied by an epidemiological transition. Like several sub-Saharan countries, the South African population is facing both under- and over-nutrition, and nutrition and lifestyle related chronic disease while the burden of infectious disease remains high. It is critical to understand these trends overtime in order to highlight the pitfalls and successful measures initiatives taken in the efforts to tackle malnutrition.' South Africa is an interesting case but largely mirrors the situation all over Africa and in the SADC region for that matter that deprivation - and stunting - grows alongside plenty.

On the whole the report observes that over the last decade, the South African prevalence of stunting has decreased but between and within provincial, age and ethnic group significant disparities remain. Still it also observes that 'unlike other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, no sex or rural/urban differences were found in preschool children,' which implies that there is a sort of leveling of opportunities, income levels and food or nutrition access in rural and urban areas. It can be surmised that the more urbanized a country becomes the less rural-urban disparities will be noticeable, but at the same time a pull down effect on urban areas to compensate it is likely.

Not surprisingly, the report found it difficult to project reliable trends on

the longer term, saying that 'the analysis of long-term trends and identification of vulnerable groups is complicated by the use of different growth references/standards and sampling methods.' It can also be asserted that its definition of the problem, and the multiplicity of factors was far too wide to put up a simple projection matrix, or mapping out a solution that is focused on the presence of such matrix. Some aspects of how the problem is set out are unavoidable, like underlining how a multi-sectoral approach is needed, where the report emphasizes the public health parameter

In the final analysis the problem is the breakdown of traditional family self sufficiency, and the trend at commoditization of labor where it is not enough to have reached a certain age for one to start being productive. The question is to design an economic model that puts each person and especially young men to work in such a manner that they can produce food for themselves and being encouraged to start families so as to put sense and direction into what they are doing. It is a rewriting of Education for Self Reliance as well as Socialism and Rural Development (as it now needs to include urbanization with an option, capacity for self-reliance at food level in an urban setting). All this isn't covered in the older notion of markets or 'hard work' entrenching stunting.



Harmonising higher education standards in SADC region: Is it futile or pertinent?

By Michael Eneza

ONE area where expertise tends to be at odds with reality is projections and expectations on higher education, whose social value is extremely high as it opens doors to all sorts of opportunities, but it is also hard to think of a more frustrating sphere of life than being well educated. Casual experience in the streets suggests that casual labor comes and goes in many instances, paid low amounts of survival monies, but usually shorn of the ignominy and listlessness of sitting at home, or pacing up the streets in vain. The rule is still that the more educated one is, job chances increase but not correspondingly; at times education is ignored.

It is the casual jobs that are more on offer and those who seek them have greater freedom of movement, and on that same score it appears that women's openings are more numerous. This sort of environment throws educational planning and professional advice especially given at the political level into chaos, for instance the whole idea of self employment, as it throws everyone into backyard occupations that take little account of the sort of education one holds. In the final analysis education builds a person's personality or ability to communicate; the rest is just chance.

When one glances at country profiles and university brochures for the SADC region, what catches the eye is continuity of

countries and universities in established traditions, the historical trajectory they have followed since inception, etc. This leads to a preliminary problem of how far it is possible in the first place to harmonize university and college standards at the national level, before dreaming to do so at the regional level. This quest is mirrored at the regional level as to the choice of models, methods or standards, whether harmonization proceeds by equalization at some average or median point, or via recognizing role models whom the others need to emulate.

A notable think tank in this connection is the Southern Africa Regional Universities Association that was established in 2005 as a membership based association for the 66 public universities in the then 15 countries of the Southern African Development Community. Its membership is especially reserved for academic administrators at the highest level, in which case it is a sort of keeper of standards, or monitoring and peer review environment. Its membership is voluntary and thus looking at the lists of higher learning institutions belonging to it, a few issues may arise.

For instance in the case of Tanzania the University of Dar es Salaam doesn't make the list of membership but Ardhvi University, the Mbeya University of Science and Technology, the Muhimbili University of

Health and Allied Sciences, the Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology, the State University of Zanzibar and the Open University of Tanzania. Still Tanzania has a good number of member universities compared to others, and hence we can be said to show enthusiasm for that organization, as we compare with South Africa in that regard - having listen six universities in that body. It is a sort of peer group, not umbrella organization.

Embedded in the SADC vision as a whole, a brochure for that organization says 'the launch of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015 - 2063, which takes a long-term view of regional development, requires concerted effort to ensure that higher education as a sector is responsive to the region's skills and qualifications needs.' That is of course true but it takes a rather inward looking mapping of the issue, whereas the critical aspect is to peg it to wider needs for instance of the Belt and Road strategy, hence bring universities in line with globalization. When each university or college harmonizes with its external world, they shall all be in harmony.

There is no immediate narrative on what SARUA has been doing since 2005, but there is a note that on the 'harmonisation of African higher education quality assurance and accreditation (HAQAA) initiative' since 2016. It says SARUA has participated as an advisory

board member of HAQAA as part of the Pan-African quality assurance and accreditation framework (PAQAF), partly in order to develop African standards and guidelines for quality assurance (ASG-QA). This would also reinforce institutional "internal" QA, consolidating 'quality culture' in Africa, sustainability and further development of the Pan-African quality assurance and accreditation system.' The question is how far this initiative is supplementary to statutory bodies, or effective.

In this aspect as well, the mode at which integration can work relates to policy prerogatives at home, in the sense that the more liberalized an economy, or the more it has participants and stakeholders from outside the country, the more it will be tuned to international standards rather than local compromises. In that case initiatives taken at the regional level are also to an extent part of the receiving end of standards, tied to patterns of evolution of education standards apart from employment requirements generally. There isn't much harmony between liberal education per se and skills generation, which has a vocational aspect to it that is irrelevant for universities. Their role is to help students appreciate the social and historical parameters of the problems they meet, which implies being aware of currents of history or 'modernity,' like training activists, etc.



A risky return for ex-combatants into communities

BY ISEL VAN ZYL

Enabling violent extremists to defect from their terror groups to rejoin society is a vital strategy in preventing violent extremism in Africa. But amnesty and rehabilitation programmes for this purpose often fail because security forces target and abuse former combatants.

In Nigeria, Somalia and Kenya, the governments are in charge of these rehabilitation and reintegration processes. This is often necessary because of the high-risk nature of some former combatants who may need to be detained to prevent further attacks or radicalisation.

But several human rights and civil society organisations claim that Boko Haram suspects are routinely abused, tortured and extrajudicially killed in Nigeria. In July 2017, more than 1 600 Boko Haram suspects stood trial in Niger state, most of whom had been detained since 2009. In some cases, torture and ill-treatment are reported in the very rehabilitation centres meant to protect and reintegrate former combatants.

Because of the negative reputation around military and security forces, members of violent extremist groups are increasingly defecting instead to local civil society organisations working in the field of preventing



Continued human rights abuses and a lack of transparency are hindering the successful reintegration of defectors. File photo

and countering terrorism.

One practitioner in this field in East Africa, who wished to remain anonymous, said returnees and ex-combatants approached organisations wanting to return and be reintegrated into their communities. 'Our organisation, and others, would connect them with the police (as to follow protocol), and then these people would disappear within two weeks. The government thinks that elimination is easier than rehabilitation,' the practitioner told the Institute for Security Studies.

As neutral actors, civil society organisations are often better placed to manage integrated demobilisation, rehabil-

itation and reintegration programmes than the state. In Nigeria, for example, a civil society organisation was asked by the government to help design the psychosocial support and trauma counselling element for the country's rehabilitation and reintegration programme, Operation Safe Corridor.

However thousands of people remain in detention centres through processes that lack transparency, leading to distrust in the state's involvement in amnesty, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

This lack of transparency in Nigeria and Kenya, with the long detention of suspects and the abuses committed in

these rehabilitation centres, is leading to more Boko Haram and al-Shabaab defectors returning to their communities directly, avoiding the government's amnesty and reintegration programmes.

The responsibility of dealing with these defectors is then informally placed on local civil society organisations, which face continuous challenges from the government as well as from communities.

In Kenya, the amnesty programme that included providing al-Shabaab defectors with motorcycles backfired when the disengaged combatants who had received the motorcycles were im-

mediately called 'terrorists' by communities.

This 'favouritism', as it was labelled by locals, sparked outrage within communities and increased hostility towards the defectors. Not only were they not being punished for the crimes they were regarded as having committed while being part of al-Shabaab, but they were given special treatment and being provided with livelihood opportunities.

A similar reaction was seen in Cameroon, where the government distributed livestock including goats and sheep to repentant Boko Haram militants as a means to reintegrate them and counter

unemployment.

Because of the trust they have earned in communities, civil society organisations are also in a more strategic position to prepare communities to take back these individuals. Many organisations working in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism facilitate platforms for dialogue and reconciliation in communities.

Lastly, governments need to be more transparent in their rehabilitation and reintegration processes. This will increase the trust in defectors to surrender directly to the government.

If states fail to keep their security forces in check and shape their values around respect for human rights and appropriate rehabilitation, combatants will defect either directly to their communities, or not defect at all.

Raising the expectations of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, and then exposing former combatants to abuse and torture by security forces, increases the risk of hostility towards the government - which is considered one of the main reasons for individuals joining groups like Boko Haram and al-Shabaab in the first place.

Isel van Zyl, Junior Researcher, Transnational Threats and International Crime, ISS Pretoria

Is the AU becoming more efficient?

BY LIESL LOUW-VAUDRAN

This year, for the first time since 2004, the African Union (AU) Assembly didn't meet for its mid-year summit of heads of state. Instead a smaller meeting was organised in July in Niamey, Niger, between the AU and regional economic communities (RECs).

This was one of the decisions of the AU reforms adopted in January 2017 aimed at making the AU more streamlined and efficient. It shows that some of the AU reforms, spearheaded by Rwandan President Paul Kagame, are slowly but surely being implemented.

The AU-REC meeting in Niamey was, however, overtaken by an extraordinary summit to launch the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) attended by more than 30 heads of state. The AfCFTA is hugely important for the continent, but this meant that the idea of creating a leaner structure for AU summits was shifted to the backburner.

The first mid-year coordination meeting between the AU and RECs on 8 July, which was meant to replace the AU Assembly, was reduced to a short side event. Niamey ended up having all the trappings of a costly summit in a country that could ill afford to host it.

Some point out that India donated US\$15 million to the government of Niger to organise it. But civil society organisations questioned the decision to spend donor funds on hosting such a costly event in a country in crisis. An important aim of the AU reforms is to bring the AU closer to the people, and



Despite a decision to streamline activities, the recent Niamey meeting had all the trappings of a regular summit. File photo

while decentralising the activities of the union is important, these concerns must be considered.

One of the cornerstones of the AU reforms is strengthening the AU Commission and streamlining the summits' activities. Others include focusing the AU on key priorities with a continental scope, and realigning AU institutions in order to deliver against those priorities. Managing the business of the AU efficiently and effectively at both the political and operational levels and financing the AU sustainably and with the full ownership of the member states are also priorities.

Some of the decisions on institutional changes at the last Addis Ababa summit that were meant to be taken in Niamey by the ministers were moved to the next summit in early 2020. This includes a decision on how the structure of the AU Commission will look going forward.

It has already been decided that the number of AU departments and commissioners will be reduced from eight to six by

merging some departments. The details of the restructuring must be decided soon, so that the process of selecting the 2021 commission can start next year.

There were again divisions among member states in Niamey on the question of partnerships. The original reforms aimed at an agreement where 'Africa should speak with one voice'. The intention was that the AU troika of current, past and future chairpersons and the AU Commission would represent the continent during some of these meetings with outside partners, particularly when Africa was called to meet with only one country.

Consensus has been reached on allowing all countries to attend meetings with similar large groupings such as the European Union or the League of Arab States. Some also agree that existing partnerships such as those with China and Japan should be kept intact.

However there is no consensus on who should represent the

continent at summits with single countries such as Russia, Turkey, the United States or even France, which has held France-Africa summits for many years. Many heads of state believe they shouldn't be sidelined in favour of a smaller structure that doesn't necessarily represent their interests.

The executive council (foreign affairs ministers) decided that the AU Commission budget again be reduced from the previous year, this time down to US\$647 million from US\$681m. This was done by removing duplication and through better management of the AU Commission.

The Permanent Representatives Committee (ambassadors) presented a report by external auditors that revealed major weaknesses in the accounting practices of the AU Commission and its various organs. Clearly the call for the AU's self-funding goes hand in hand with greater accountability and transparency.

AUC chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat told members of the

executive council in Niamey that the commission noted the external auditors' findings and was putting in place measures to improve the situation and sanction those responsible for wrongdoing.

While the 0.2% levy on imports to fund the AU - one of the initial cornerstones of the reforms - hasn't been universally implemented, some momentum was created by the reforms to ensure a steady increase in members paying their assessed contributions.

It was also announced in Niamey that the AU Peace Fund had grown substantially to US\$120.7m. Mahamat said the fund was 'an instrument of sovereignty' and would make it possible for Africa to ensure its active presence in conflict areas, and to work towards preventing conflicts.

While the modalities of accessing and managing the fund haven't been clarified, this could give mediation and other conflict prevention efforts by the AU an important boost. Thanks to the Peace Fund, for example, the AU

will be able to mediate in crises such as in Sudan or the Central African Republic without having to ask partners for funding.

It was decided at the summit that the theme for 2020 would be 'Silencing the guns: creating conducive decisions for Africa's development'. This theme is in line with the aims of Agenda 2063 that involved silencing the guns by 2020. Although this milestone is impossible to achieve, the aim is to take stock of the progress made by the AU and to devise new strategies to achieve peace on the continent.

Going forward, the challenge for the AU will be to continue implementing the reforms and to sanction those member states that don't comply with continental agreements such as the self-financing of the AU. The outcomes of the Niamey summit show that reaching consensus on key issues remains an obstacle to a more efficient AU.

Liesl Louw-Vaudran, ISS Consultant

Entrepreneurship burgeoning in Uganda as unemployment level surges

KAMPALA

AS the world marked International Youth Day on Monday, entrepreneurship is burgeoning among youths in Uganda as the unemployment level in the east African country surges.

Amon Bazira, a bachelor of education graduate, applied for several jobs unsuccessfully shortly after he graduated from university in 2017.

After several searches for formal employment, the 26-year-old young man gave up and resorted to developing his talent of decoration and events designing.

From scratch, Bazira started his business with about 100 U.S. dollars that was lent to him by his mother.

After handling his first client's wedding, Bazira started getting more clients. Today, his company A-Classic Events handles various ceremonies for decoration every weekend. In one month, he is able to earn about 500 dollars, an amount he would not earn had he pursued his profession of teaching.

"After fully establishing myself in the decoration sector, I have now expanded into the confectionery business," he said.

"We have started making cakes for our clients so that we widen our scope of products on an event. It is already working out well for me," Bazira added.

With his business, he says nothing can lure him into seeking formal employment

because he is already doing well.

Jonathan Lugumu, 24, a third year student at Makerere University in the capital Kampala has not waited to graduate before looking for a job.

He told Xinhua that after attending an entrepreneurship talk organised by government last year, he realised that the future was not as bright as it may seem in the job market. Lugumu partnered with a colleague and set up a stationery shop just outside the university campus.

"We gathered some money and invested in stock worth 500 dollars for the start," Lugumu said, noting that the shop is now worth 1,500 dollars.

"After acquiring my degree next year, I will go ahead and apply for a job. However, if I fail to get a job, I will concentrate on my business because it is already earning me some good money," Lugumu said.

Lugumu's business employs three people, all of whom are not university graduates.

Bazira and Lugumu are among many several youths in Uganda that are turning away from searching for formal employment and resorting to creating their own jobs.

Figures by Uganda Bureau of Statistics show that Uganda is one of the countries in the world with the youngest population. Over 70 per cent of the country's population of 40 million people are below 30 years of age.



Youth unemployment stands at about 70 per cent, and about 400,000 youths are released annually into the job market to compete for approximately 10,000 available jobs.

Fred Muhumuza, an economist at Makerere University said most of the graduates who are not enterprising enough are likely to find a hard time surviving because even the informal sector is becoming more competitive.

"If the agricultural and industrial sectors can be empowered and developed larger to take on more youth, then the situation can change,"

Muhumuza notes.

Government is encouraging the youths, both educated and not, to be their own job creators rather than job seekers.

Florence Nakiwala, minister of state for youth and children's affairs in a news conference held ahead of the International Youth Day said there is need to transform the education system in a bid to create responsible citizenship and job creation.

Nakiwala said education is critical in nurturing citizens that are productive and responsible for socio-economic

transformation of their communities.

She said government is also empowering the youth into entrepreneurship.

She said some of the youths have been given capital and machinery to start them off in business.

Uganda has setup several youth entrepreneurship training centers that are equipping the young people with skills.

"These are some of the initiatives that will continue to drive entrepreneurship forward and I advise unemployed to join these training centers," she said.

Tree planting turns Kenya's arid lands into 'oases of life'

NAIROBI

WHEN Stanley Kariuki bought half-acre land a decade ago in Kitengela, a suburb in southern Nairobi, the first thing he did was to plant trees on the farm.

Some died due to the area's semi-arid conditions and others were destroyed by Maasai pastoralists' cattle, but he did not give up. He planted more.

Today, Kariuki who finally built a house on the land does not regret as the trees have made his home a cool place amid the worsening weather pattern in arid areas due to climate change.

Apart from his family, birds are the other beneficiaries of the micro-climate created by the trees at his home.

"When I was planting the trees, my main aim was to secure land or have something grow there but it has turned out well. I feel like I am surrounded by a forest and I love the chirping of the birds that have made the trees their homes," he said.

Kariuki is among a growing number of Kenyans whose love for trees has helped turn semi-arid areas on the outskirts of Nairobi the new "oasis of life" despite climate change.

These areas include Ruai, Mlolongo, Kitengela, Ngong, Ruiru, Njiru, Katani, Syokimau, Utawala and Kamulu.

They are referred to as the bedrooms of the city because the bulk of workers live there and commute daily to Nairobi.

The once desolate lands that were mainly populated by shrubs are now teeming with all manner of trees amid the changing climate.

"When I moved to Katani five years ago, this area was very dusty and strong winds did not make things any better. But over the years, people have been planting trees," said Patrick Andero, a resident.

The trees have not only helped act as windbreakers but also trap the dust, with trees dotting every compound in the area as people are building homes to settle there.

At Fred's Ranch in Isinya, a semi-arid area in Kajiado County, trees have turned the resort into an enviable place for family gathering.

Neatly manicured lawns complement dozens of trees at the resort to create a wonder land amid a desert.

Some of the trees doing extremely well in the semi-arid areas include bottlebrush, Melia volkensii, Senna siamea and Terminalia brownie. Residents are also planting pawpaws, mangoes and citrus fruit trees.

Reaping from the tree planting culture in the semi-arid areas are traders selling seedlings.

1,900 killed, over 3,300 abducted in DR Congo's eastern Kivu provinces

KINSHASA

ARMED groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have killed almost 1,900 civilians and abducted more than 3,300 others in the DRC eastern provinces of South and North Kivu since June 2017 and still continue committing atrocities under patronage of senior political and military figures, a prominent human rights organization said on Wednesday.

According to the joint report of Human Rights Watch and the New York University-based Congo Research Group, atrocities of various armed groups in Kivu in the period between June 2017 and June 2019 include violent murder (1,041 incidents with 1,897 victims), mass rape (24 incidents with 100 victims) and abduction for ransom (848 incidents with 3,316 victims), in addition to hundreds of incidents of property destruction, political repression and clashes.

"Over 130 armed groups are fighting for countless reasons in Congo's eastern Kivu provinces, making the region one of the most violent places in the world. Understanding who is committing the atrocities is the first step toward holding those responsible to account and ending the abuses," the press release cited Lewis Mudge, Central Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

Over 130 armed groups are fighting for countless reasons in Congo's eastern Kivu provinces, making the region one of the most vio-

lent places in the world. Understanding who is committing the atrocities is the first step toward holding those responsible to account and ending the abuses.

Moreover, senior political and military figures have used, or even created, armed groups to gain control over the country's land and mineral resources or for taxation rackets, the watchdog added, citing field data from 15 Congolese researchers.

"Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi, on his first trip in office to the Kivus in April, promised to redeploy troops that have been in the Kivus for a long time, to hold the people supporting armed groups accountable, and to increase support to military operations in the region.

While an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 combatants have surrendered or expressed an intention to do so since Tshisekedi's inauguration, there is no functional demobilization program for them.

There have been no prosecutions of Congolese army commanders for abuses or for supporting armed groups, and many abusive commanders remain at large," the press release claimed.

The DRC leadership needs to work towards ensuring restoration of justice in the region, particularly by banning those responsible for mass atrocities from taking positions in the country's military and establishing a judiciary unit specifically for serious international crimes, the watchdog said.

More job losses loom as technology disruption takes toll on companies

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ALMOST half a dozen Kenyan companies have in the last six months announced plans to lay off hundreds of employees in the biggest threat to the country's labour force since the 1990s.

This comes on the backdrop of 'super-growth' projections by the government showing the economy expanded at 6.3 per cent last year. In the first quarter of this year, the economy grew at 5.6 per cent compared to 6.5 per cent in the corresponding quarter of 2018.

In the last two weeks alone, East African Portland Cement Company (EAPCC), Stanbic Bank, East African Breweries Limited and Telecom Kenya announced massive layoffs that will affect more than 2,000 workers. Telkom alone plans to lay off 575 workers.

Also, jobs offered by betting firms are on the line in a tussle with the State over licensing.

The layoffs cut across both the service and manufacturing industries - pointing to a worrying trend that is only set to gain momentum in the coming years.

And as more companies adopt new technologies, become efficient and minimise costs, many Kenyan workers risk being declared redundant, worsening the country's unemployment crisis.

It also does not help matters that Kenya has one of the highest labour costs in the region since the country's working population ranks higher in education and skillset compared to her peers.

Recent trends across both listed and public companies indicate that this is likely to work against the country, with the economy set to shed thousands of jobs in the short-term.

"The cost of labour in this country is very high and that

means that if companies cannot rejig their businesses to be more efficient, they are going to go down," Patrick Obath, Kenya Private Sector Alliance trustee told Financial Standard.

"To avoid going down, the first place to look at basically is how to reduce the labour cost."

His sentiments were echoed by Stanbic Bank Chief Executive Charles Mudiwa, who said the lender had no option but to declare more than 200 employees redundant despite a Sh4 billion profit.

"The voluntary early retirement is an outcome of a clear strategy, where we are looking at how to become efficient in the business that we run," said Mr Mudiwa. "But also, as we digitise, and become more digital, it means some functions will have to be re-organised as a result."

The financial services and insurance industries rank high on the list of sectors set to record job cuts as more of their clients move away from brick and mortar branches to bank on their mobile phones.

During the company's investor briefing earlier this month, Equity Group boss James Mwangi said the company had already moved the bulk of its operations to its digital platforms.

"At the moment, 97 per cent of transactions go through the bank's digital platforms and we are working to increase the services we can offer through our agency network and mobile application," he said.

Mr Mwangi said the company's upgrade of its digital networks includes overhauling the entire ATM network and introducing smart ATM machines that will allow new functionalities such as Near Field Communication as well as biometric security features in



The voluntary early retirement is an outcome of a clear strategy, where we are looking at how to become efficient in the business that we run," said Mr Mudiwa. "But also, as we digitise, and become more digital, it means some functions will have to be re-organised as a result

the next three months.

The bank will also certify its agents to offer custodial and brokerage services by next month. This means Equity Bank consumers will be able to get several services including loans, bancassurance as well as securities trading through their agents.

Between 2016 and 2017, Equity shed 500 jobs with the number of employees now standing at 6,710 according to the latest figures.

The increased digital deployment will mean accelerated job losses not just at Equity and Stanbic but across the financial services sector, with a similar trend playing out in several firms.

In the case of manufacturers such as EAPCC, the twin pressures of technological disruption and reduced competitiveness of the country's industries will catalyse massive job losses.

Latest figures from State agen-

cies indicate Kenya imported more from the African region than it exported during the first six months of the year.

This is a new low for the country's manufacturing sector that has over the years seen both productivity and market share decline significantly.

A study conducted by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) last year found many sector players are ill-prepared in re-training and cushioning their labour force from the anticipated technological disruption.

"Deployment of digital technologies and robotics in manufacturing will destroy some jobs and tasks but will also create new jobs and tasks in manufacturing sectors that produce and supply parts for these new machines, as well as in complementary services sectors," said the report.

The report said that with more industries blurring the line between physical and digital processes, manufacturers and investors will seek out opportunities for reducing labour costs and increased productivity.

"A persistent digital divide in Kenya in the context of growing digitalisation globally can lead to increasing re-shoring of manufacturing jobs and to the concentration of future production of digitally enabled goods in developed countries," said the report.

"One such international impact pathway is through re-shoring of manufacturing tasks from labour-intensive to capital-intensive regions; robots in the US, in the furniture industry, can become cheaper than Kenyan labour in the year 2033," said the report in part.

This is, however, happening faster and more incrementally than earlier projections largely because

digital adoption is happening much faster than the re-training and repurposing of workers.

Administrative costs This has been clearly exemplified by the mass layoffs at the EAPCC announced last week.

The company more than doubled its operating loss to Sh3.5 billion down from Sh1.3 billion recorded in 2017. Over the same period, revenues were recorded at Sh5.1 billion against Sh5.2 billion in operating costs and another Sh3.2 billion in administrative costs.

In a memo to employees last week, EAPCC Managing Director Stephen Nthei said all employees will apply afresh with the company hiring a lean staff to balance the institutions running cost and current levels of productivity.

"As a result of the restructuring programme, all positions in the company will be declared redundant and the employees released," said Stephen Nthei. "Subsequently, all jobs will be reconfigured in terms of job consolidation and enrichment in line with the re-structured and leaner organisation structure," he said.

However, a day later, the EAPCC put the retrenchment plans on hold.

Like many State-owned factories, the company has been unable to adapt to shifting market dynamics, including changing technology and increased competition from both local and external rivals from the more agile private sector.

For sugar millers such as Mumias, Nzoia, Muhoroni and Sony, hundreds of jobs have been on the line owing to huge debts that they owe debtors with workers going for months without salaries.

This has seen some workers leave without securing other jobs to lean on. To worsen the deal, machines operate on obsolete technology.

The missing women in finance



Hiring women as financial intermediaries can serve the dual purpose of increasing women's usage of bank accounts, and their employment. File photo

Women comprise a very small proportion of the financial industry workforce, and this has implications on the way female clients use and benefit from financial services.

The Indian financial landscape is undergoing a dramatic change. India witnessed a surge in bank account ownership during the 2011-2017 period: 80 percent of Indians owned a bank account in 2017—an increase of 45 percentage points since 2011. This surge is primarily attributed to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PM-JDY).

However, this push for financial inclusion has not achieved its true objective, which is to ensure that all citizens not only have access to bank accounts, but avail other facilities that come with it—formal credit, insurance, and overdraft, to name a few.

According to the Global Findex database released by the World Bank, roughly one out of two bank accounts in India remain inactive, about twice the average of other developing economies. Worse, the gender gap in these inactive accounts is notable: 54 percent of women account holders report not using their account, as opposed to 43 percent male account holders.

This gap needs to be considered against the more general narrative on outcomes for women in India, and progress therein. While there has been a big shift in girls' education in the last decade or so—with more girls enrolling in higher secondary and college education—India's abominably low female labour force participation rates mean that many girls, despite their aspirations, are passing out of schools with no employment prospects.

The debate on low female labour force participation

and the reasons for it are intensive, and have sparked an entire research industry. However a study I wrote at SEWA commissioned as part of the World Bank's Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO) focuses on the possible solutions, one of which is identifying work opportunities available for women in India's financial sector.

Can the financial industry be a prospective employer for the many, now more educated women, seeking work outside their homes?

Why is this a matter of interest? Because evidence shows that women tend to use their bank accounts and save and borrow more if they are served by female bankers and financial intermediaries.

So, what did we find?

First, female staff comprise a very small proportion of the financial industry workforce. The Bharat Microfinance Report 2017 by Sa-Dhan reveals that the total microfinance workforce in 2017 stood at 89,785 workers. Women comprised only 12 percent of the total workforce and 11 percent of the total field staff.

Our primary study confirmed these dismal numbers on women's employment in the financial sector. Most of the field agents and employees of the financial institutions we interviewed were male. Perhaps the most dramatic example was that of microfinance institutions where we found that while all the clients were women, all the officers in the field were male.

Second, SEWA's own studies suggest that women tend to save and borrow more when they are served by female financial intermediaries.

A basic income pilot conducted by SEWA in the state of Madhya Pradesh in 2011-12 compared the extent of financial inclusion in villages where SEWA operated through its network of vitya

saathis (female banking correspondents) and villages where SEWA was not present.

It was found that in non-SEWA villages where no basic income was transferred, women held only 24 percent of their savings in financial institutions such as banks and cooperatives (figure 1). In comparison, in SEWA villages, 64 percent of women's savings were in formal financial institutions.

Other internal studies of SEWA in Bihar and Uttarakhand also show a positive impact of financial intermediaries on women's savings, and livelihoods.

Putting these two facts together, it is clear that hiring women as financial intermediaries can serve the dual purpose of increasing women's usage of bank accounts

on one hand, and their employment on the other.

The job opportunity for financial intermediaries is tremendous

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), of the nearly 460 million basic saving accounts opened in scheduled commercial banks between March 2010 and March 2018, nearly one in every two was opened through business correspondence agents or financial intermediaries. Such is the importance of these agents that the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) estimates 3.7 million incremental jobs for financial intermediaries between 2016 and 2022.

This leads to three important policy insights:

Financial intermediaries are capable of carrying

out financial functions and are perhaps better than a brick-and-mortar financial institution in reaching out to remote areas owing to their mobility.

There is ample opportunity for mobile agents to act as representatives of financial institutions.

The potential for hiring women as such agents is high.

Yet, a report by the Helix Institute of Digital Finance (2015) on the Indian financial agent network finds that of the 2,682 active financial agents surveyed across rural and urban locations, only about 10 percent were women.

If these levels were raised to 30 percent, then of the 3.7 million projected jobs, 1.1 million could be taken up by women financial interme-

diaries, benefitting women account holders in the process.

Women face barriers to entering the financial workforce

Women are not aware of jobs in the financial sector. There are few counselling centres in schools and colleges that expose girls to jobs in this sector.

Not many girls and women think of financial institutions as possible employers, and if they do, the government ones are the most coveted.

Women also feel that they do not have the skills required to make a career in finance; some fear the pressure of targets.

Constraints on mobility and security present further restrictions as does the hesitation of seeing no female peers among existing staff.

A male culture in the sector also serves as a barrier, with male staff often socializing over a drink, late after office hours; bonding events that tend to exclude women.

Managers, on their part, are reluctant to hire women. When asked why there were almost no female staff in his bank, a bank manager emphasised "daudne wala sales officer chahiye" (we need sales officers who are capable of running).

It is clear that most of the obstacles cited above seem to be related to the socially determined roles that women have been traditionally assigned. Both men and women view women's abilities and aspirations through these lenses. This determines why women are either unaware of the opportunities, or are hesitant

to enter the field. It also illuminates why managers fail to encourage women to apply, or when they do apply, only assign women back office jobs.

These barriers call for more awareness campaigns in communities about the importance of employment for women. Equally, some supply side shifts are needed.

They may include:

Employing more female financial intermediaries

Raising awareness about these jobs, knowledge building and career counseling.

Raising awareness among potential employers about the advantages of employing women and what they need to do to attract and retain them.

Providing financial support to buy laptops, point-of-sale machines, and two-wheeler vehicles for women who wish to become intermediaries.

Enabling access to technology.

Examining existing training modules and re-orienting them towards training women as financial intermediaries.

At the policy level it requires partnerships between organizations like the NSDC, the Sector Skill Councils and the Association of Banks to create an ecosystem that works towards employing more women as financial intermediaries.

It also requires collection of gender disaggregated data by financial institutions on employees, agents, banking correspondents, customer service providers and other financial intermediaries and making these figures publicly available to track gender discrepancies in the sector.

***Sanchita Mitra was a contributing author to the larger study that this article draws on.**

Bold criminal justice reforms are needed to uncapture SA

BY GARETH NEWHAM

Testimony before various commissions of inquiry has provided South Africans with a sense of the massive scale of corrupt practices that occurred in government and the private sector under Jacob Zuma's presidency. However, few are aware of the cost that the state capture project has had on their public safety.

From when state capture was well under way in 2011/12 and at the end of 2017/18, the murder rate has soared by 19%, resulting in an additional 4 782 deaths than was the case six years earlier. Moreover, armed robberies increased by 38%, resulting in 37 595 more attacks last year than in 2011/12. The deterioration of the criminal justice system during this period certainly contributed to this situation.

The state capture project started early on with an attack on the independence and capacity of South Africa's criminal justice agencies. The only way the theft of hundreds of billions of rand of funds meant for the public could occur was if those involved could be sure they wouldn't be investigated or prosecuted.

Before Zuma took office, his supporters ensured that the highly effective anti-corruption agency the Directorate of Special Operations (the Scorpions) was shut down. Once he assumed

the presidency, Zuma actively used his authority to appoint to key leadership positions people whose lack of integrity and ability led to the deterioration of the criminal justice system.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) was severely damaged by Zuma loyalist appointees such as recently convicted crime intelligence head Richard Mdluli and former disgraced SAPS national commissioner Riah Phiyega.

Similarly, Lieutenant-General Berning Ntlembeza caused massive damage to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks), and former National Directors of Public Prosecutions advocates Menzi Simelane, Nomgcobo Jiba (acting) and Shaun Abrahams played no small part in the deterioration of the performance of and public trust in the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

The Institute for Security Studies partnered with Corruption Watch to provide the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, chaired by Judge Raymond Zondo, with details of how organisations like the SAPS, Hawks and NPA were manipulated for political and financial gain.

As the capacity to investigate and prosecute complex commercial crimes and corruption was slashed, the looting of state resources soared. Unfortunately, so did serious violent and organised crimes that have a direct impact on the daily



South Africa's development potential requires substantial and urgent changes to the criminal justice system. File photo

safety of the public.

Our submission exposed structural and legal weaknesses in the criminal justice system that enabled it to become severely compromised in the interest of state capture. A key shortcoming is the substantial authority given to the president to unilaterally directly appoint the police and prosecuting service heads, while influencing the appointment of those of the Hawks and Independent Police Investigative Directorate.

Zuma exploited these flaws to appoint compromised people to powerful positions, arguably motivated by maintaining control of the African National Congress and protecting his loyalist cabal enriching itself at the expense of South Africans.

Our analysis led to a series of robust recommendations that

aim to drive renewal and reform in the police, prosecuting authorities, crime intelligence and police oversight agencies. For example, to recover from state capture, all those who occupied or were promoted to senior management positions during this time should be independently assessed in terms of their integrity and performance. Those appointed or promoted without due process and oversight should be prioritised.

Only once compromised individuals are replaced with people of exceptional integrity and expertise will criminal justice agencies be able to deliver on the rule of law and their values of accountability, fairness and impartiality.

We also recommended that government produce an annual report detailing progress

in the investigation and prosecution of all corruption cases, with an update on all major cases. South Africans can then assess the response by criminal justice agencies to corruption. Agencies should also report on the progress of investigations into allegations and disciplinary matters against senior managers.

New legislative provisions are recommended to ensure greater transparency in relationships between the executive and senior leadership of the criminal justice system.

Already under President Cyril Ramaphosa there has been some progress. These green shoots of criminal justice reform must be nurtured. In 2018, Ramaphosa set up a panel to advise him on the appointment of the new National Director of Public Prosecutions,

leading to that of committed reformist Shamila Batohi.

We must continue to strengthen legislative mechanisms to ensure the best possible candidates are considered for appointment to the most important criminal justice roles. This should include a vetting process to ensure unsuitable candidates don't even make the shortlist presented to the president.

We make further recommendations about eligibility for political office. In the past, people facing well-founded allegations of serious wrongdoing have been elevated to positions where they were able to subvert the rule of law. Political parties should change their codes of conduct to ensure that individuals facing such accusations are regarded as unsuitable for political office until they

are formally cleared.

Zuma and his state capture allies kept senior people in acting roles, creating uncertainty of tenure which enabled their manipulation for political or personal gain. We propose a six-month limit on acting appointments for leaders of agencies such as the SAPS and NPA.

The anti-corruption investigation and prosecution capacities of criminal justice agencies should be strengthened, and a review should be conducted of the SAPS crime intelligence division to enhance its performance, transparency and accountability.

State capture was designed for personal enrichment and to protect the Zuma faction while targeting its enemies, but had the severe side effects of making all South Africans less safe and setting the country's development back 10 years. SA won't get back on track until criminal justice agencies are demonstrably professionalised and independent, and able to investigate, arrest and prosecute those who undermine the high potential of the nation.

We have identified the systemic weaknesses and recommended new safeguards. Progress will require great political will and dexterity, but to stall or fail carries far greater risks for the future of South Africa.

Gareth Newham, Head, Justice and Violence Prevention Programme, ISS Pretoria

By Francis Kajubi

Projects financed by World Bank loans will soon be audited by Construction Sector Transparency Initiative Tanzania Chapter to establish if their implementation has given the consumers value for money.

CoST Tanzania Chapter's Chairman, Engineer Kazungu Magili said in Dar es Salaam this week that the construction industry's watchdog is looking forward to signing a memorandum of understanding with the World Bank Group to tracking down transparency and accountability in projects being implemented locally.

Eng Magili stated that his office and the Bretton Woods institution are at advanced stage in talks aimed at signing the MoU that will officially commission the watchdog to audit current and past projects.

"The World Bank has been financing many infrastructure projects in the country especially roads and bridges which do not undergo an independent watchdog audit. But taxpayers need to be well informed about transparency and accountability surrounding such big and small projects being undertaken by the state," Eng Magili noted.

He said because such projects are financed by loans to be repaid by taxpayers it is important that all details should be unveiled to the public by an independent audit institution. According to him, CoST Tanzania is looking forward to work with the World Bank for a period of five years which will involve ongoing projects to upgrade feeder roads in Dar es Salaam and other parts of the country.

COST LOCAL CHAPTER EYEING DEAL WITH WORLD BANK TO AUDIT PROJECTS



A flooded section of Dar es Salaam's Jangwani valley where a World Bank funded Bus Rapid Transit Project has its main hub, as captured earlier this year. File photo.

The CoST Tanzania Chairman asserted that the institution is dedicated at insuring that that transparency and accountability is observed in public funded projects and those funded by development partners by using Infrastructure Data Standard (IDS) mechanism.

He further noted that the watchdog is also preparing to hold talks with African Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, for similar collaboration because the two institutions also finance a lot of projects in the country.

"We are also interested in tracking down projects funded by AfDB and JICA as they are big players in the field for many years," he added while stating that once the MoU with the World Bank is signed, CoST Tanzania will start with the ongoing Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP).

The DMDP 2016-2020 phase one project is financed by the World Bank Group through a soft loan worth US\$300 million with a maturity of 38 years and a grace period of six years. The DMDP is aimed at improving urban logistics through movement and build institutional capacity in the Dar es Salaam's metropolitan area with focus to facilitate rapid emergency response.

Cheap imports a threat to SA's cement industry

JOHANNESBURG

The local cement manufacturing sector has been hit by a double whammy of cheap imports together with lower demand brought on by South Africa's flagging economic growth.

Now the industry is calling out for support from government: it wants tariffs imposed on cement imports, largely from China and Vietnam, as well as special designation from the Department of Trade and Industry (Dti) for government construction contracts to use local cement.

The Concrete Institute (TCI), an industry body representing SA's major cement companies including PPC, AfriSam, Lafarge, Sephaku Cement and Natal Portland Cement, is leading the call and has applied to the International Trade Administration Commission of SA (ITAC) for what it refers to as "safeguard action" against cheap cement imports.

It has also sent a letter alerting the Dti of its plans to seek approval for "special designation" of SA-made cement to be used in state infrastructural projects. The move is along the lines of a similar agreement the struggling steel sector has already secured from the Dti.

Speaking during a media briefing on the issue in Sandton on Tuesday, TCI CEO Bryan Perrie said contrary to some media reports the organisation was not calling for a total ban on imported cement, but rather tariffs to safeguard the local industry. He said imported cement was "undercutting" the local industry by up to 45%.

"A crisis is looming in the cement industry if nothing is done... Besides these imports, the industry is faced with unprecedented low levels of demand due to the country's low economic growth and poor investor confidence. This is effectively a double blow as our industry is facing an existential crisis which threatens to undermine the industrial capacity of our country," Perrie added.

According to the institute, despite having five major cement producers and an industry output capacity of 20 million tons annually, SA has now become a net importer of cement. The local industry produces just un-



One of SA's newer cement plants owned by Sephaku Cement.

der 13 million tons of cement a year, which means it has excess capacity of around 7 million tons.

TCI notes that cement imports have increased by 139% since 2016. Last year more than a million tons of cement was imported. Perrie estimates that cement imports into SA could hit 1.5 million tons this year, threatening the sustainability of the sector. "All we are asking is to compete on a level playing field. The local cement industry cannot be scrambling to survive against under-priced imports," he says. "Our sector has invested billions of rand in production capacity and is well regulated, with local cement pricing reflecting the technical, social and environmental standards that we have in SA. It is not clear whether imported cement meets these standards. Furthermore, in June (this year) the carbon tax was implemented for local the industry, which has increased clinker costs. Imported cement is exempt from carbon tax," he notes.

Perrie says the local cement industry directly employs over 7000 peo-

ple and indirectly supports some 35 000 jobs. "Jobs will be on the line if the government does not step in to protect the local cement industry. We need to defend our industry against subsidised imports."

Rob Rein head of sales at JSE-listed PPC says the application to ITAC to impose import tariffs on cement was submitted last week Monday. "As this is a key issue for the industry, we hope ITAC will be able to wrap this up before the end of the year. We believe we have a good case and it should not be held up," he adds.

"ITAC will assess the application and there may be some consultations before a formal investigation gets underway. If ITAC decides to go ahead with the investigation, it will have to publish a notice in the Government Gazette," notes Rein.

Pieter Fourie, CEO of Sephaku Cement, says that local cement manufacturers have invested more than R10 billion over the last six years into two new plants and an expansion at another. Sephaku Cement is one of the industry's newer entrants and is

jointly owned by JSE-listed Sephaku Holdings and Nigerian-based Dangote Cement, Africa's largest cement producer.

Fourie says one of Sephaku Cement's plants cost over R3.5 billion to build, according to South African regulatory and environmental standards. "The plant could have been built 30% cheaper like plants in other parts of the world that don't operate to SA's strict standards. The higher cost of locally produced cement has also got to do with the higher cost of doing business in SA."

Afrisam SA executive Richard Tomes says that he is optimistic the industry, through TCI, will secure some sort of tariff relief from ITAC. "Back in 2015 the local cement industry was successful in securing tariffs against cheap imports from Pakistan, which is still in place. What has happened since then is increased cement imports from China and more recently from Vietnam, which is now the biggest importer. We need to apply for tariffs for each country as ITAC does not apply general tariffs."

Euromoney Award winner is NMB for seventh straight year

By Property Watch Reporter

THE 2019 Best Bank in Tanzania Euromoney Award has once again gone to NMB Bank Plc, being the seventh year in a row.

In a statement, the organisers said NMB was picked by a panel of judges from a 1,000 submission vying for 20 global awards and more than 50 regional awards. The Dar es Salaam based lender was picked because of its investment in digital transformation and technology which has strengthened its ability to deliver innovative solutions to the market.

"This year our most successful banks have clearly defined what their core strengths are, and built their businesses around them," said London based Euromoney magazine's editor in the statement elaborating that 40 local banks took part in the competition.

Responding to the latest triumph, NMB's interim Managing Director, Albert Jonkergouw said the bank has been one of the key players in financial inclusion agenda in the country through consistent investment in innovative financial solutions.

Jonkergouw further noted that the award reflected the progress the bank has made in delivering a banking experience that captures what customers need currently hence making it the best in delivering on financial inclusion.

"We are today the bank that works, rather than one which exists with tough decisions around capital, businesses and people being made. Throughout that process, we have continued to



This year our most successful banks have clearly defined what their core strengths are, and built their businesses around them,



A Euromoney trophy.

deliver strong financials and pay industry-leading dividends to shareholders," Jonkergouw said.

"We are leveraging on the best of technology in digital banking, innovative products and our extensive branch network and Wakalas add real value to our customers' lives," he added while pointing out that winning the Best Bank in Tanzania award is a clear indication that NMB's efforts are recognized not only in Tanzania but across the globe.

"We acknowledge the dedication of our staff and thank our valued customers for being part of this digital journey," the NMB interim Managing Director, noted.

This year's Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2019, doubles as Euromoney's 50th anniversary as the most prestigious awards in the global banking industry, welcoming over 500 senior bankers around the world at the Tower of London for the ceremony.

MBEYA UNIVERSITY VC SALUTES TIGO FOR 20 COMPUTER SETS DONATION

By Property Watch Reporter

TWENTY desktop computers donated by Tigo Tanzania to Mbeya University will assist with training of the country's next generation of cyberspace technology.

Mbeya University of Science and Technology's Vice Chancellor, Professor Aloys Mvuma said earlier this week that Tigo's donation will also help improve the teaching of information communication technology at the institution.

"It is through such partnerships that we shall be able to impart modern ICT skills and knowledge to the coming generation of professionals, so that the country can meet the demands of the ever-changing information and digital trends in the society and the global economy," Prof Mvuma said after receiving the donation from Tigo's South Zone Director, Henry Kinabo.

The Vice Chancellor's observation was backed by Principal of College of Science and Technical Education at Mbeya University, Dr John John who thanked the mobile phone services company for the much-needed support as the computers will greatly improve the education standards at the institution.

"We sincerely want to thank Tigo for supporting government effort to provide e-learning equipment to Mbeya University of Science and Technology. We believe these computers will improve the learning experience and education standards at the university," Dr John said.

Speaking after handing over



Tigo South Zone Director, Henry Kinabo (C) being welcomed to the computer lab at Mbeya University of Science and Technology by the Principal of Rukwa campus, Dr Duncan Mwakipesile (L) after handing over 20 computers worth 48m/- donated by the company in Mbeya earlier this week. Photo: courtesy of Tigo.

the computers, Tigo's Kinabo said the company believes that the equipment provided will be crucial in transforming the learning experience for the university's students and present an opportunity for them to innovate new technologies and contribute to the economic development of Tanzania.

"Tigo is committed to improving the education levels of the local universities through improved

learning experience to help students and teachers develop the competencies needed for the twenty-first century," Kinabo noted.

He further explained that through the donation, Tigo was supporting government's efforts to transform the country into an industrial and middle income economy by 2025 in which ICT is a fundamental factor.

"Through our social investment

portfolio, Tigo has been at the forefront in supporting the education sector in the country. Apart from the support to higher learning institutions, we have also provided 30 desktop computers to secondary and primary schools in the country," he added.

He named some of the beneficiary schools are Jangwani and Kisutu Secondary Schools in Dar es Salaam, three secondary schools in Mtwara

and one Primary school in Tanga regions.

In 2017, Tigo donated 47 computers to University of Dodoma which benefitted approximately 36,150 students and to date, over 40,700 university students across the country have benefitted from the company's donated computers over the past two years.

Filipe Nyusi inaugurates Mocuba solar power station

MAPUTO

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi on Saturday inaugurated a solar power station at Mocuba in the central province of Zambezia, with the capacity to generate 40 megawatts of electricity. The new power station cost 76 million US dollars, and is part of the national "Energy for All" programme.

It was built under a partnership between the Norwegian independent electricity producer, Scatec Solar, the Norwegian Development Financial Institution, Norfund, and the Mozambican publicly owned electricity company, EDM.

Scatec Solar is the main shareholder in the Mocuba power station, with 52.5 per cent of the shares. EDM has 25 per cent, and KLP Norfund Investments holds the remaining 22.5 per cent. The power produced at Mocuba will be fed into the Mozambican national grid. After 25 years, management of the station will pass into the hands of EDM.

Nyusi told the inauguration ceremony that the Mocuba power station will produce about 79 gigawatt-hours of electricity a year, and will supply clean energy to 175,000 clients. It will also prevent the emission into the atmosphere of about 75,000 tonnes of carbon a year.

"We witnessed today the coming onto stream of the first large scale solar power station built in the country", declared the President. He urged local residents to take care of the station and to be vigilant against any acts of vandalism.

The Mocuba station was built in record time, the President said, as a priority facility in response to the government's strategic electricity plan. It was "a signal of the commitment of the government and its partners to reduce the imbalance in the development of this province", he added.

The strategic goals of the government, he continued, are based on continued expansion of access to electricity at the lowest possible cost, including the use of new and renewable sources of power, stimulating the development of technologies for systems of solar, wind and hydro power.

"Our option for this natural resource for generating electricity will certainly drive the projects that are being born in Zambezia province in particular, and in the entire central and northern region," he said. The representative of the Norwegian Embassy at the ceremony, Tom Eriksen, declared that Norway "wants to continue investing in this country in various fields, particularly the energy sector."

Gold Fields returns to profit as it extends life of Ghana mine

ACCRA

Gold Fields returned to a profit of \$70.5 million in the six months through June, after a loss in the year-earlier period.

The Johannesburg-based producer maintained its output guidance of 2.13 million ounces to 2.18 million ounces for the full year. The company also announced that it plans to extend life of operations at its jointly held Asanko Gold mine by eight to 10 years as it bolsters its position in Ghana.

Key Insights

Apart from returning to profit, investors will also note that Gold Fields turned net cash flow positive in the first half, earlier than originally anticipated. That follows spending to boost output at Damang in Ghana and Gruyere in Australia.

While output at its South Deep mine in South Africa jumped in the second quarter, the company is a long way off from recouping its investment in the operation. Still, increasing production in Ghana and elsewhere means Gold Fields is slowly shedding its South African risk.

Gold Fields also undertook gold price hedging to secure short-term cash flow and protect its balance sheet as the company completes its project ramp up. The miner may now turn its attention to developing Salares Norte in Chile as it expands its geographical footprint. That will require an investment of least \$835 million.



A ferry boat loaded with people and property in Likoni channel, Mombasa.

Delay in delivery of Sh1.8bn ferries set to cost taxpayers

NAIROBI

Kenya might be forced to pay more for delivery of two modern ferries at the Likoni channel due to continued delays.

Public Investments Committee chairman Abdulsamad Nassir said the cost could have escalated as a result of the delay of the vessels that were procured at Sh1.8 billion from Turkey two years ago.

The report said despite a

signed deal dated June 27, 2015, indicating that the new ferries were to be delivered after 17 months, they had not been handed over during an audit last November.

Auditor-General Edward Ouko's efforts to get a confirmation of the exact amount the supplier had received from Kenya Ferry Services (KFS) and the balance were fruitless as the Turkish supplier did not respond to his e-mail dated January 9, 2019.

"In the light of the foregoing, it has not been possible to confirm the validity, accuracy and completeness of the building and supply of two new ferries at a cost of Sh1.5 billion paid to the contractor as at June 2018," reads the audit report.

KFS head of procurement Jennifer Sirindi said the contract was awarded to a bidder who was ranked fourth during technical evaluation but provided no explanation as to how the

firm was ultimately given the job.

The State agency operates four ferries during peak hours at Likoni channel while one serves Mtongwe. Those currently in operation include MV Jambo, MV Likoni, MV Harambee and MV Nyayo at the Likoni channel while MV Kwale operates at the Mtongwe channel.

It is estimated more than 300,000 passengers and over 6,000 vehicles cross the Likoni and Mtongwe

channels between the Mombasa Island and the South Coast mainland every day. The report said Sh26 million weighbridges on both sides of the Likoni channel, remain idle since their installation in 2016.

The KFS told the committee that the weighbridges were a control measure to enhance safety by estimating the weight of vehicles boarding ferries at the channel. According to the Auditor-General's report for the financial year ending June

2018 tabled in Parliament, the KFS was also unable to confirm the validity of the building and supply of the ferries and the accuracy of the cost.

In his report, Mr Ouko said the agency made a down payment of Sh598 million to the locally appointed agent in August 2015 but failed to withhold the six per cent value-added tax of Sh35.8 million and another 20 per cent withholding tax totalling to Sh119.6 million.

CONSTRUCTION

LONDON

UK SUPERYACHT BUILDER GETS UP TO SPEED

Anthony Sheriff came to Princess yachts three years ago, not long after leaving McLaren Automotive. He expected to bring lessons learned from making supercars to yacht manufacturing, a hidebound business famous for losing money the old-fashioned way - hand over first when times got tough.

With no experience in boatbuilding, executive chairman Mr Sheriff suspected many of the car industry's cost-cutting strategies developed over the past two decades would transfer neatly. But he soon found how little the application of time-honoured money savers, like outsourcing and cutting jobs, transferred to hand building yachts and superyachts of up to 40 metres in Plymouth, on England's south coast.

So rather than streamlining Princess Yachts International, Mr Sheriff took a different tack. Go upmarket. Innovate. Improve design. In just a few years he's expanded staff by about 1,000, or almost 50 per cent. Some new looks, such as the R35 come from Italy's storied house of Pininfarina, the hand behind scores of Ferraris, Alfa Romeos and Lancias. Beneath that design, the yacht also features a stability mechanism first developed for British efforts to capture the America's Cup sailing jug.

The timing of the turnaround couldn't be better. The current economic climate, with a growing class of super-rich, has been good for the yacht trade, and Princess, which earned almost £30 million on revenue of some £340m in 2018, has been among the lucky beneficiaries. Its books are filled through the year and well into 2020, with more than £700m in commissions. To match



Anthony Sheriff, chairman of Princess Yachts International.

record boat sales, record-high employment of 3,200 makes Princess one of the UK's largest specialist manufacturers, overtaking Aston Martin.

Princess was sinking financially as recently as 2015, with a £19m loss. L Capital 2 FCPR - a private investment fund underwritten by LVMH, the owner of luxury brands like Louis Vuitton and Dom Perignon - had acquired the company 11 years ago from its founder, David King.

The new owners, along with the family investment house of billionaire chairman Bernard Arnault, brought fiscal muscle and a necessary modicum of patience to the task of righting the respected builder of sturdy, but slightly dull, luxury craft.

A £100m, five-year turnaround plan started in 2016 and coincided broadly with the announcement of a partnership between LMVH and Catterton, the wealthy Connecticut-based private equity firm, an association known as L Catterton. It controls the yacht maker today. Mr Sheriff joined not long after the deal was done.

"When I got here I thought, 'We've got an amazing facility with people with 50 years of experience working in it. We make everything ourselves. We're vertically integrated to a ridiculous extent,'" he says. "And then I looked around and realised, 'Well there's nobody else within 200 miles who can make this stuff anyway.'" So

with outsourcing off the table, hand-craftsmanship became a marketing line. "Our brand is no longer 'Princess.' It's 'Princess, crafted in Plymouth,'" he says.

Some 75 per cent or more of each Princess yacht is made on site - all the way down to wire harnesses and fuel tanks. "We really do have little old ladies and little old men and young men and young women making everything," Mr Sheriff says. "The customers come and they see not just a boat being assembled with purchased parts, but they see sheets of wood coming in and being transformed into this beautiful furniture."

Mr Sheriff, a 56-year-old with American and Italian roots, grew up in New England but has lived

much of his adult life in England. He started at Chrysler before moving to Fiat, then jumped to a top role at McLaren in 2003. He is credited with the successful launch of the F1 constructor's first 21st century road car, the MP4-12C, and its £1.3m P1 petrol-electric hypercar. But he clashed with then-company chairman, Ron Dennis, as, it is fair to say, did many others whose path crossed that of the successful race team owner.

Mr Sheriff's ties to the automobile industry remain strong. He sits on the board at three promising new-tech automotive ventures: Rivian, a Michigan-based start-up that plans to build electric pick-up trucks and 4x4s; Rimac, a dynamic and highly regarded Croatian outfit whose advanced electric vehicle technology and engineering nous have already attracted significant investment from Porsche and other heavyweights; and Pininfarina. Reinvigorated with the backing of new owner India's Mahindra and Mahindra, it is building a 1,900-horsepower, all-electric, all-wheel-drive hypercar: the \$2.1m Pininfarina Battista.

Sheriff still talks like a car guy - for instance,

when describing Princess's just-launched R35 "sports yacht." "It's our nautical equivalent of a supercar," Mr Sheriff says of the swoopy, 10.89-metre V8-powered yacht, which looks like a large but sleek racing boat with a swishy cabin, that will travel at a brisk 50 knots (93 kilometres per hour) until the fuel runs out.

One strategy Princess took from the car industry is "platform sharing", the idea that the parts hidden from view - the undercarriage and mechanical systems, for example - can be shared across a variety of models, while the exterior surfaces change, reducing cost and complexity.

"You'll see a hull which has the same hull molding but a completely different concept for the boat above," Mr Sheriff says. "So what sits above the deck is differently laid out, with different shapes. What sits below deck is identical." That means tweaks to exterior design and treatments create the appearances of new yachts, when in fact they are born from the same mold.

The overall approach has captivated the industry press, said David Robinson, a longtime UK yachting business journalist. "This company

has been totally rebuilt using investment as a catalyst to boost product development, upgrade manufacturing facilities, increase its marketing and enhance its international distribution network," he says. "The outcome of these efforts shows through."

Beyond the sheer number of millionaires and billionaires, Sheriff sees two more industry tailwinds. The big one: just like supercars, improved technology means pretty much anyone can skipper a yacht.

"If you know how to drive a Fiesta, you can drive a McLaren," he says. "Boats are the same. They've become a lot less intimidating ... You want it to stay where it is? You just hit a button. It locks into the GPS - no matter what the current is, it stays where it is." The other trend is a push for solitude.

"People buy them because they love spending time in a quiet place with their family, away from everything else, where the kids can't run off," he says. "They're in tune with this conception of how you want to spend holiday time if you have money: rather than private jets and stuff, you go out on a boat and spend high-quality time."

Cuban beach voted second most beautiful in the world

HAVANA

Cuba's constitution guarantees its people access to its beaches, but many locals are unable to enjoy the island's pristine white sands and crystal clear blue waters.

While foreign tourists flock to such paradisiacal Havana sites as Varadero, which was this year named the second most-beautiful beach in the world by American travel website TripAdvisor, Cubans are typically found elsewhere.

"Not many tourists come here," said 43-year-old Rey Gonzalez, who was enjoying a day at Guanabo, a beach east of the capital. Guanabo's sand isn't as white and the water not quite as clear as Varadero's, but that mattered little to Gonzalez, who was there with his family.

"For me, all the beaches are the same: sand, the sea ... you don't see the difference when you're swimming," said Gonzalez. Sitting on a stretch of beach where numerous stray beer cans were visible, 34-year-old Lazaro Palomino added: "We like the beach, whether it's clean or dirty."

Even so, Palomino recognises that Varadero is on a different level. "All Cubans would love to go. I



Havana's Varadero beach.

went once and I came back in shock" at its beauty, Palomino said with a chuckle.

Beach politics Like everything else in communist Cuba, beaches are a political issue. "In Cuba, there are only Cuban beaches, which are part of the nation's heritage," insists Jose Luis Perello, a tourism expert. He quotes article 23 of the constitution, which asserts that the country's 271 beaches are "socialist property belonging to everyone."

It's been that way since the communist revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959. Before that, the coast was covered by private beaches reserved for

members - who were mostly whites. Even the former dictator Fulgencio Batista, who reigned twice, first from 1940 to 1944 then from 1955 to 1959, was unable to get a membership card because he was mixed race.

But while the revolution established universal beach access, the shoreline remains a place viewed with suspicion. "It was linked to the illegal exodus" of people trying to flee the island's communist rulers "and was the entry point to the country of little groups with certain interests," Perello said, alluding to the failed United States-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Despite the official party line, dissidents like the late writer Reinaldo Arenas complained that they couldn't go to certain beaches that were reserved for members of trade unions. Likewise, for many years, Cubans were banned from hotels, and today they're still not allowed to board boats.

Much-needed cash Another reason Cubans are kept off their island's beaches is tourism. Last year's 4.75 million visitors brought in \$3.3 billion -- money the Cuban government sorely needs as it struggles under crippling United States sanctions. At least one hotel in Varadero

advertises an exclusive beach, and locals say over-zealous security guards kick them off hotel beaches.

The law prohibits such practices, but Perello acknowledged that, "undoubtedly, the hotels represent a business that's trying to put pressure on" the government. For locals, just getting to the beach can often be a challenge. Most don't own a car, and can't afford the bus fare to take them to the shore. Laura Yanis, 21, has been to Varadero only once in her life.

"It's very beautiful, the water is very blue, the sand is amazing," she said. "But it's really very far for me and

I don't have any transport." Sitting on the tiny Bacuranao beach, around 30 kilometers from Havana, she insists that "all Cubans really do have access to all beaches, they're not private or reserved for certain people." "That's important because it's us, the people, who are taking the country forward," she added.

Caridad Vidangel, 48, managed to get to Bacuranao but only after taking a bus and then a horse-drawn carriage. "If we could, we'd go somewhere else," she said of the beach, the closest one to her home. "I've never been to Varadero. I'd like to ... but it's impossible."

WeWork set to unveil IPO prospectus

NEW YORK

WeWork, is planning to make public its prospectus for its initial public offering as early as this week, according sources, unveiling the full financial picture of the office sharing start-up for the first time.

The New York-based company will test public investors' appetite for cash-burning start-ups after the tepid debut of Uber Technologies, the largest IPO of the year. WeWork is looking to raise more than \$3.5 billion, Bloomberg has reported, which would make it the second-largest US IPO this year.

The company said in April it had filed paperwork for the initial public offering confidentially with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. No final decision has been made and the timing of the public filing could still change, the sources said. A representative for WeWork declined to comment.

WeWork has disclosed select financial information since it started selling bonds in 2018. It lost \$1.9bn last year on \$1.8bn in sales. The company has been targeting a September IPO, sources said in July. It has also been in talks to raise billions in debt.

WeWork leases temporary office space to small companies such as start-ups as well as larger enterprises such as Salesforce.com and Microsoft. SoftBank Group, its largest backer, has valued the unprofitable business at \$47bn. Since its founding in 2010, WeWork has raised more than \$12bn in funding.

Chinese heavy machinery supplier targets counties

NAIROBI

Chinese heavy machinery manufacturer XCMG is targeting a growing infrastructure works in counties in a drive that look set to intensify a price war in the sale of equipment like excavators, graders and cranes.

The firm is seeking deals with contractors working in counties in the quest for billions of shillings the national and county governments are spending to revamp roads

and other infrastructure in what is lifting demand for affordable earth-moving gear.

The building of storied buildings in counties has created demand for equipment like excavators, loaders and dump trucks, attracting the eye of firms like XCMG - which is now the sixth-largest equipment maker globally.

The Chinese multinational is seeking a larger share of heavy equipment pie in

line with the global trend where it's eating into the market of dominant operators like Caterpillar, Komatsu and South Korea's Hyundai Heavy.

Emanuel Masika, XCMG general manager for machines sales, told the Business Daily that counties are the new frontier for growth for equipment makers.

"We are seeing more business in the counties on the rising infrastructure and

building activities and we are going big for this market," he said, adding that market share growth will hinge on their global strategy of quality equipment and pricing.

Contractors reckon that people are starting to like Chinese products because "they are almost as good as those made by Western companies, but 30 percent cheaper." XCMG will this Saturday host an open day for contractors, engineers and other building

professionals as well as bureaucrats to showcase its product range. The firm is also offering a credit scheme where contractors can acquire equipment and pay for years.

Kenya had roads projects under construction worth Sh303 billion last year, up Sh59.3 billion in 2016 with the bulk of the road works happening in counties. This are the billions of shillings that attracting firms like XCMG to counties.

India's PM uses Independence Day to defend Kashmir changes

NEW DELHI

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi defended his government's controversial measure to strip the disputed Kashmir region of its statehood and special constitutional provisions in an Independence Day speech yesterday, as about 7 million Kashmiris stayed indoors for the 11th day of an unprecedented security lockdown and communications blackout.

In his live address from the capital's Mughal-era Red Fort, Modi said that Kashmir's previous status – some political autonomy and a ban on outsiders buying land and taking public sector jobs in the Muslim-majority Himalayan region – had fueled a movement for separatism and was unjust for Kashmiri women, because the law said that they lost their inheritance rights if marrying a person from outside the region.

"The old arrangement in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh encouraged corruption, nepotism but there was injustice when it came to rights of women, children, Dalits, tribal communities," Modi said in the speech marking 72 years since India achieved independ-

ence from British rule.

A lockdown in Indian-administered Kashmir has been in place since Aug 4, just before a presidential order to subsume the Muslim-majority region into India's federal government by revoking Article 370 of the constitution and downgrading the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

A new law allows anyone to buy land there, which some Kashmiris fear could change the region's culture and demographics. Critics have likened it to Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories.

India's foreign ministry officials have said Kashmir is returning to normalcy, but The Associated Press and other news organizations operating in the region describe the severe constraints, including the suspension of internet, cellphone and landline services and steel and barbed-wire street blockades.

On the first Independence Day since the revocation of Kashmir's special status, the security restrictions in Srinagar were even more stringent.

More than a dozen Hindu activists were detained as they tried to march to the city center to celebrate, accord-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses to the nation on the country's Independence Day from the ramparts of the historical Red Fort in New Delhi, India, yesterday. (AP)

ing to police officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to reporters.

In Pakistan, which shares divided Kashmir and has fought two wars with India over the region, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi described Modi as a key hurdle to peace and a resumption of dialogue between the rivals.

When asked whether the UN Security Council will be meeting today to discuss Kashmir, Qureshi told Geo News TV station that according to his information, New Delhi was using diplomatic channels to oppose any such session.

Pakistanis and residents of Pakistani-administered Kashmir yesterday observed "the Black Day" in solidarity with Kashmiris in the Indian-controlled portion.

While daily protests have erupted in Kashmir, Modi has received widespread public support in other parts of India.

"Article 370 should have been removed a long time ago, but better late than never," Amarjeet Singh, a businessman from New Delhi, said outside the Red Fort as India finalized preparations

on Wednesday.

"It is good. Everyone will be benefited by this, because every common man will be able to work there and start business there," Singh said.

Yesterday, turning to his agenda to make India a US\$5 trillion economy in the next five years, Modi said that the changes in Kashmir will help the region contribute more to India's development.

"In the last 70 years we became a 2 trillion-dollar economy, but in the last five years, we added 1 trillion dollars to the economy. This gives me the confidence of becoming a US\$5 trillion economy in the coming years," Modi said.

The prime minister, whose Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party won a landslide victory in general elections in May, also announced the creation of a new Chief of Defense Staff to coordinate the country's security operations.

He also made a pitch for restructuring India's electoral system so that state and lower house of Parliament elections are held simultaneously rather than on separate timetables.

Agencies

AU vows to intensify efforts to tackle Ebola crisis as death toll reaches 1,782

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) on Wednesday urged concerted efforts against the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the death toll climbed to 1,782.

"The AU Commission, through the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), is reinforcing its support to the Ebola response in the DRC and other parts of Africa, following the declaration of the outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern," the AU said in its monthly bulletin issued on Wednesday.

According to the 55-member pan African bloc, a total of 1,782 deaths were reported due to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in DRC as of July 27, in which the overall Ebola fatality ra-

tio has reached 67 percent.

Figures from the AU also indicate that a total of 2,659 Ebola cases were reported as of July 27, in which some 2,565 cases were confirmed while the remaining 94 cases are said to be probable Ebola cases.

The AU also said that some 767 people have recovered from the deadly disease as of stated period. The continental bloc also stressed that its "expanded plan in the fight against Ebola will not be limited to the DRC but also includes countries that share borders with the DRC and other countries within the region."

The AU also disclosed the deployment of experts to DRC's neighboring countries that are South Sudan and Uganda "to assess their level of preparedness and identify gaps and areas requiring support."

"The Africa CDC will also post ad-



ditional experts to these and other countries in the region to support preparedness and surveillance, and response in case there is an outbreak in those countries," the statement read.

Noting its plan to deploy more members of the African Voluntary

Health Corps to the DRC and neighboring countries, the AU also called on its member countries for an immediate deployment of healthcare experts.

The African Voluntary Health Corps is a team of epidemiologists, anthropologists, and communication, laboratory and logistics experts, from different parts of Africa who are on standby for deployment when there is a disease outbreak or public health emergency.

Africa CDC, which has been supporting response efforts in the DRC since August 2018, presently operates with 41 experts who were deployed in the field.

Last week, the AU had also disclosed its plan to convene a fundraising forum of African private sector and donors to support the ongoing response against the Ebola

virus outbreak in the DRC.

The AU, which reiterated its grave concern over the Ebola outbreak in the DRC, said that the high-level continental forum under the theme "Africa Against Ebola Solidarity Trust Fund" will be held during the first week of September 2019, in a bid to mobilize resources for the continental Ebola response efforts.

The AU had previously convened a continental fundraising forum back in 2014 for a similar cause when the Ebola virus disease outbreak battered West African countries.

The West African Ebola epidemic, which is regarded as the largest in history, started with cases of Ebola virus in the forested rural region of southeastern Guinea, as reported by the WHO in March 2014.

Xinhua

Foreign officials, experts condemn lawbreakers' violence in Hong Kong, support actions by govt

BEIJING

FOREIGN government officials and experts have recently expressed their condemnation of the violence perpetrated by radical demonstrators in Hong Kong.

Emphasizing the significance of "one country, two systems" for the development of Hong Kong, they also voiced their support for the legitimate actions taken by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government and Hong Kong police to restore order.

Mohammad Faisal, spokesperson of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Pakistan understands the actions taken by the Chinese central government and

the HKSAR government to uphold national sovereignty and maintain Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

Hong Kong's affairs are completely China's domestic affairs, Faisal said, noting that all nations should abide by basic norms and international law to avoid interference.

Singapore's Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam said during an interview with local media that there has been a breakdown of law and order, which any government will have to deal with.

Helen Sham-Ho, former deputy president of the Legislative Council of New South Wales in Austral-

ia, said Hong Kong is favored by tourists and investors as the Pearl of the Orient, but the current chaotic situation there is damaging its prosperity.

There is no doubt that the priority is to resume order, and the police have the right to uphold law and order, she said, adding that police have behaved quite patiently. In reference to the recent attacks on Hong Kong police and the blockade of Hong Kong International Airport by some radical demonstrators, Abdulaziz Alshaabani, Saudi Arabia's expert on Chinese affairs, said such radical acts seriously undermined the rule of law, hindered economic development and harmed the inter-

ests of the people of Hong Kong. If violence deteriorates further, Hong Kong's prosperity and stability will suffer a severe blow, undermining its due international image and status, the expert said, adding that Hong Kong should get back on track as soon as possible and restore social stability.

The continued chaos in Hong Kong, apparently created by anti-government protesters and encouraged by foreign influence, must be quickly stopped, Wilson Lee Flores, columnist of The Philippine Star newspaper, told Xinhua.

Strong measures should be taken as the chaos is not only bad for Hong Kong's economy and tour-

ism, but also disadvantageous for the prosperity of the East Asian region as Hong Kong is an important finance and trade center, he said.

The deteriorating situation will not only bring no benefits to Hong Kong itself, but harm the surrounding regions and the world at large, warned Kim Jin-ho, a professor of politics and diplomacy at South Korea's Dankook University.

"They should solve the problem through close communication and legal procedures, instead of using violence and illegal measures, which is really dangerous," Kim said. "Dialogue and communication is the fundamental way to produce win-win outcomes."

Xinhua

Trump views his personal relationship with Putin as good, adviser says

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump views his personal relationship with the Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin as good, US National Security Adviser John Bolton has said in an interview with Voice of America.

So far, the station has released only short excerpts of the interview.

"I think President Trump thinks he's got a very good personal relationship w/President Putin," VoA correspondent Jeff Seldin quoted Bolton as saying in a Twitter post.

"There are a lot of issues that we have in disagreement, no doubt... I think [Trump] hopes that the personal relationship he has will translate into something more," Bolton was quoted as saying.

On July 31, a telephone conversation between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump was held upon the US initiative. "The US president offered to help Russia with extinguishing wildfires in Siberia," the Kremlin said.

The Russian president expressed sincere gratitude to Trump "for such attentive attitude, for offering help and support." Putin noted that Russia will accept the offer if needed.



S. Korea president urges dialogue with Japan on WWII anniversary

SEOUL/TOKYO

ON the anniversary of

Japan's World War Two surrender, South Korea's president Moon Jae-in yesterday urged Japan to contemplate its wartime past and offered to engage in talks to repair strained ties, while Japan pledged to never repeat the horrors of war.

Relations between Japan and South Korea are arguably at their lowest ebb since they normalized ties in 1965, strained over the issue of South Korean forced labor during World War Two and a bitter trade row.

In a speech marking Korea's independence from Japanese rule, Moon (pictured) toned down his recent harsh rhetoric towards Japan.

"We hope that Japan will play a leading role together in facilitating peace and prosperity in East Asia while it contemplates a past that brought misfortune to its neighbouring countries," Moon said in a nationally televised address.

"Better late than never: if Japan chooses the path of dialogue and cooperation, we will gladly join hands."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday sent a ritual monetary offering to the controversial Yasukuni shrine for war dead in Tokyo. He did not visit in person, an act which would have sparked a heated reaction from Seoul.

Seoul's foreign ministry expressed "deep concerns" over Abe sending the offering to a shrine that "beautifies Japan's colonial pillage and aggressive war".

Bitter memories of Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of Korea have long plagued bilateral ties.

Abe, speaking at a ceremony honoring war dead, said the country had engraved the "lessons of history deep in our hearts", and pledged never to repeat the devastation of war.

"To create a peaceful new era full of hope, we will spare no effort in working with the international community," Abe said.

Diplomacy back on track?

Bilateral relations deteriorated after South Korea's Supreme Court last year ordered Japanese companies to compensate some wartime forced laborers. Tokyo says the matter was settled by a 1965 treaty normalizing ties.

The chill deepened when Japan ended South Korea's fast-track trade status this month, prompting Seoul to follow suit.

Tokyo has cited security concerns for its tightening of controls on exports to South Korea and denied it was retaliation over the forced labor feud. On Thursday, Japan repeated calls for Seoul to explain its revocation of Japan's preferential export status.

Japanese and South Korean vice foreign ministers are likely to meet this week in Guam to discuss the issue, Japanese and South Korean media have reported.

"Recent escalation between South Korea and Japan demonstrated a lack of appreciation for the economic interests at stake, for the other side's domestic politics, and for the severe regional security situation," said Leif-Eric Easley, who teaches international relations at Ewha University in Seoul.

"Moon's references to Japan highlighted the importance of economic cooperation, and left the door open for diplomacy."

Agencies

US will suffer consequences of labeling China 'currency manipulator'

ON August 5, both onshore and offshore exchange rate of the Chinese yuan broke 7 against U.S. dollar.

It was in fact a natural market response to the changes in the international financial market and other external factors such as the U.S. claim last week to impose an additional 10 percent tariff on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports.

However, some American politicians are taking advantage of this and making hypes. On August 6, the U.S. Department of the Treasury designated China as "a currency manipulator".

Such act of the U.S., which harms others without benefiting itself, would not only wreak havoc on the international financial order and cause turmoil in

global financial market, but also severely hinder international trade and the recovery of global economy. Eventually, the U.S. itself will become a victim of the consequences.

It is easy to find a stick to beat a dog just as the U.S. can always find faults with China when it wants to smear the latter.

On one hand, the U.S. is wielding the big stick of tariffs against global countries, causing them to suffer drastic fluctuations in exchange rates; on the other hand, it is willfully labeling countries "currency manipulators", forcing them to accept the so-called "reasonable exchange rates" designated by the U.S. These evil actions of the U.S. revealed the country's pursuit of unilateralism

and protectionism, reflecting the arrogance and arbitrariness of Washington.

Anyone sensible can understand why the Chinese currency has broken the level of 7 yuan per U.S. dollar.

On August 1, the U.S. unilaterally announced that it would impose an additional 10 percent tariff on \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods, which seriously breached the consensus reached by the heads of state of China and the U.S. in Osaka, Japan.

The move frustrated the global market's expectations toward the relieving of China-U.S. economic and trade frictions, and became a blasting fuse of the fluctuation in yuan exchange rate.

Economic and trade frictions affect international trade which in turn has an

impact on exchange rate. Such fluctuation is driven and determined by market forces and will never be "manipulated".

Some developed countries, including the U.S., have constantly demanded China to make yuan exchange rate more flexible since long ago. However, when the yuan exchange rate becomes increasingly market-based and its frequency of fluctuation increases accordingly, some Americans immediately flip-flopped and accused China of "manipulating" exchange rate. It only reflected their absurdity.

Not able to find any actual evidence for their false allegation against China, the U.S. Department of the Treasury turned to the answers offered by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) during a

regular news briefing on August 5.

The statement by the PBOC "is an open acknowledgement by the PBOC that it has extensive experience manipulating its currency and remains prepared to do so on an ongoing basis", said the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The exchange rate of currency is determined by the market, but it cannot be left completely unattended. No country in the world today is adopting a laissez-faire attitude towards its sovereign currency.

As a competent authority of China's foreign exchange policies, the PBOC has always been committed to maintaining the basic stability of yuan exchange rate and keeping it stable at a reasonable and balanced level. In the face of fluctuation in yuan exchange rate and the potential positive feedback in the foreign exchange market, the PBOC would certainly take necessary and targeted measures to resolutely crack down on the short-term speculation so as to guarantee the stable running of the yuan exchange market. These measures have nothing to do with the so-called "manipulating exchange rate."

Not just as China never manipulated exchange rate, in fact, the country has always regarded marketization as a goal of its foreign exchange reforms.

What China adheres to is a market-oriented and managed floating exchange rate system which is formulated in reference to a basket of currencies.

People's Daily

China: One of the world's most attractive countries

By Prof Dr Ralf Speth

I visited China for the first time in the early 1980s. Back then, China had just started reforming and opening up, and was in an early stage of accelerated urban construction. There were not many cars, but the people there, many of whom were riding bikes on the streets, were showing energy in their eyes.

About 10 years later, I went to China again. The country was showing even greater signs of change, with a rapid development of infrastructure. The living standard of the Chinese people was improving everywhere you looked. There was a tremendous momentum all throughout the country.

To put it simply: one noticed right away that the roads were wider, and that automobiles were getting more affordable for average families. I started to realize that, as China's automobile market took off, the country was seeing huge market demand. This demand would soon make China the world's fastest-growing and largest auto market.

Subsequent visits to China gave me a more comprehensive understanding of the country's development potential. After I became the CEO of Jaguar Land Rover in 2010, I immediately led the company to enter the Chinese market. We soon achieved leapfrog growth after entering what had indeed become the world's largest auto market.

We started cooperation with China's Chery Automobile Co. Ltd to produce automobiles and engines. So far, we have set up offices in four Chinese cities, including Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Chengdu, employing over 6,000 staff and authorizing 245 dealers across the country. I continue to be hugely optimistic about the Chinese market, and look forward to finding out what the future will hold.



Dr. Ralf Speth explains traffic safety knowledge to Chinese children at a public benefit activity

As a witness of - and participant in - the miracle of China's development, I am amazed by the spectacular progress achieved since the foundation of the modern nation. My daughter also developed a strong interest in China, under my influence. After she came to see it firsthand, she was immediately attracted by the dynamism and charm of the country. Now she is a doctor serving an internship in Shanghai.

As I started to learn more about this

country, I came to understand why young people around the world are yearning to engage with it. My daughter often tells me that being a doctor in Shanghai means working at the forefront of medical science and having access to the world's most advanced technologies.

This is true. It only took a few decades for China to become one of the leading countries in medical science, and 'miracle' has become the most frequently used word to describe China.

China has not only achieved economic development, but also advanced technological progress and an open and inclusive culture. The country is promoting world peace and development through dialogue and cooperation.

In recent years, China has lifted more than 10 million people out of poverty annually; it is seeing rapid expansion of the middle-income group, which is re-

sulting in a growing set of expectations for the country from the world.

I believe China's development is not only quantitative, but also qualitative. The country is leading the world in multiple areas and becoming one of the most attractive destinations on offer. Young graduates from many countries hope to work in China and get involved in the great tide of the country's development.

Rather than focusing on only its own development, China also hopes to promote shared progress across the world. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) being implemented by the country has created a great opportunity for global economic prosperity. Today, the joint construction of the BRI is yielding rich developmental fruit.

In particular, the initiative is rapidly improving the infrastructure of participating countries. Infrastructure is an accelerator of commercial development, and the Belt and Road countries are seeing the benefits from it already.

Culturally, joint construction of the BRI has significantly boosted understanding and inclusiveness among different civilizations and diverse cultures. The BRI advocates for the principle of seeking shared benefits through consultation and collaboration, which not only helps innovation and fosters mutual understanding, but also improves the livelihood of the people. Besides, it also bears huge significance for promoting peaceful development.

We, as multinational enterprises, welcome the application of such principles. In our industry, the ideals being upheld by the BRI ultimately facilitate the international auto trade and the trade in auto parts. Only by sticking to this kind of reciprocal cooperation can enterprises achieve long-term development.

(The author is the CEO of Jaguar Land Rover.)

(People's Daily)

ROK vows to build peace economy with DPRK via talks

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK) President Moon Jae-in vowed yesterday to build a peace economy on the Korean Peninsula with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) through dialogue and cooperation.

Moon made the remarks in his address on the 74th anniversary of the Liberation Day to mark the liberation of the peninsula from the 1910-1945 Japanese colonization.

"We aim to establish a peace economy in which prosperity is achieved through peace and also complete our liberation through the unification of the peninsula," Moon said.

"The peace economy begins with the efforts to continue dialogue and cooperation so that North Korea can choose economic prosperity over nuclear program upon the foundation of complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Moon said.

North Korea is also referred to as DPRK.

The denuclearization talks between the DPRK and the US have been stalled, but the working-level talks between the two sides would be resumed in the near future after DPRK leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump met at the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjom in June, he said.

"In spite of a series of worrying actions taken by North Korea recently, the momentum for dialogue remains unshaken," he added.

"Now is the time for both Korea and the United States to focus on resuming working-level negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington at the earliest possible date," the president said.

Ethiopia, Kenya eye reduction of deadly conflicts among border communities

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian government on Wednesday urged concerted cultural diplomacy efforts around Ethiopia and Kenya borders so as to alleviate the recurrent deadly conflicts among communities along the two countries' borders.

As part of this cultural diplomacy, the Turkana Culture and Tourism Festival will be jointly organized by the East African neighboring countries bringing together some 10,000 participants towards promoting peaceful coexistence among border communities.

"Cultural diplomacy efforts around Ethiopia and Kenya borders have a pivotal role to alleviate the recurrent conflicts and ensure development," Ethiopia's state-run news agency ENA quoted Meles Alem, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya, as saying on Wednesday.

According to Alem, the upcoming event "will help pastoralist communities of the two countries to create closeness and enable them to have a common understanding on the issue of development and the declining conflicts from time to time."

Conflicts around the two countries border areas, driven by scarcity of pasture and water, cattle rustling, politics of ethnicity and administrative boundary disputes, often cause deadly calamities.

The two countries, in recent

years, have been undertaking various measures towards promoting cultural and diplomatic relations so as to avert recurrent conflicts.

In April this year, a regional conference on peace along Ethiopia-Kenya borders had also emphasized on the need to employ concerted efforts to ensure sustainable peace that enables addressing poverty and development challenges of cross-border communities of the two countries.

The high-level conference, which was organized by the Ethiopia-Kenya Cross-border Peace and Development Initiative in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, mainly explored ways of enhancing peace and security among communities living along the borders of the two countries.

The regional peace conference, which brought together government officials from Ethiopia and Kenya as well as representatives of UN, EU, and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), mainly aimed to tackle recurrent conflicts among communities along the two countries' borders.

The conference is also said to be part of the grand initiatives aimed at addressing conflicts and to ensure sustainable peace and economic growth along the borders of Ethiopia and Kenya, in the areas of Moyale-Marsabit, Omo-Turkana and Mandera.

Ethiopia's State Minister of



Meles Alem, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya

Peace, Zeynu Jamal, who recalled a recent incident in Moyale that had devastating impacts on the lives of communities in the area, stressed that peace conferences would facilitate for open discourse among stakeholders and uncover underlying causes and structural bottlenecks for instability in the area.

"Regrettably, a high number of people died, hundreds of populations became displaced and their livelihoods destroyed, development opportunities lost and poverty aggravated in the area," Jamal said as he described the urgent need to contend such incidents.

Josephat Nanok, Governor of Kenya's Turkana County, also stressed that the communities along the borders of Ethiopia and Kenya share similarities in many aspects, but deadly conflicts occur in those areas.

"We had chronic conflicts among communities across these regions, and most of these conflicts go around the competition of natural resources, fetching in Lake Turkana - Omo River Delta, pastures and livestock," said Nanok.

Mohamad Mohamed Ali, Governor of Kenya's Marsabit, on his part had also underlined the need to employ joint efforts to address the conflicts that may arise among the communities in the cross-border areas, and realize common goals of development and prosperity.

"Destiny of Ethiopia and Kenya is interconnected and our identities are intertwined. We, the leadership in Kenya, nationally and locally believe in the shared identity of our peoples and the common destiny of our countries," said Ali.

Xinhua

Russia hails miracle after plane makes emergency landing

MOSCOW

RUSSIANS hailed a miracle yesterday after a passenger plane carrying 233 people made an emergency landing in a corn field on the outskirts of Moscow after striking a flock of birds shortly after take-off.

The Ministry of Health said 23 people had suffered injuries, but that nobody had been killed when the Ural Airlines Airbus 321 came down in a field southeast of Moscow after striking a flock of gulls, disrupting its engines.

State television said the manoeuvre was being dubbed the "miracle over Ramensk", a reference to the district of Moscow region where the plane came down more than 1 km

from Zhukovsky International Airport. The Interfax news agency cited a source as saying one person had suffered serious injuries.

The Komsomolskaya Pravda tabloid lauded pilot Damir Yusupov as a "hero," saying he had saved 233 lives, "having masterfully landed a plane without its landing gear with a failing engine right in a corn field."

Some drew comparisons with US Airways Flight 1549 which performed a landing on the Hudson River in 2009 after striking a flock of geese.

The engines were turned off when it made the emergency landing and it also had its landing gear up, said Elena Mikheyeva, a spokeswoman for Russia's civil aviation authority.

An unnamed passenger interviewed by state television said the plane had started to shake violently shortly after take-off.

"Five seconds later, the lights on the right side of the plane started flashing and there was a smell of burning. Then we landed and everyone ran away," he said.

The plane was due to fly to Simferopol in Crimea, the peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.

Safety concerns have plagued Russia's airline industry since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, though standards are widely recognised to have sharply risen on international routes in particular in recent years. *Agencies*



This handout picture taken and released yesterday, by the Investigative Committee of Russia shows the Ural Airlines Airbus A321 after a hard landing on a corn field outside Moscow's Zhukovsky airport. (AFP)

China confident to conquer all difficulties, challenges

ON Aug. 13, People's Daily published an article probing into the economic development of China.

The abstract of the article is as follows.

The economic and trade friction unilaterally started by the US has brought too many uncertainties to Chinese economy and even the world.

However, China's economy still maintains stability while making progress despite the domestic downward pressure and trade disputes with the US. It is still a major highlight of the world economy.

Any inharmonious voice that overstates China's short-term economic fluctuation, sings

the blue over the country's economy, or exaggerates the country's economic risks will be turned down in the face of facts.

The major macroeconomic indicators of China have been maintained within a reasonable range, and consumption is served as a more powerful engine of economic growth. In addition, domestic demand is making larger contribution to growth, with continuous improvement being made in people's living standard and quality. More factors are driving high-quality development of the country.

China released half-year economic data in mid-July, saying

its GDP increased 6.3 percent from a year ago, and 7.37 million new jobs were created.

Besides, 19,400 new enterprises were being established on a daily basis, and consumption contributed 60.1 percent to economic growth. In addition, the service sector contributed 60.3 percent to GDP growth.

The annual economic growth of the country is equal to the total GDP of a medium-sized developed country.

China has a population of nearly 1.4 billion, a 900-million-strong workforce, a talent pool of 170 million college graduates and people with professional skills. It is also home to the world's largest middle-

income group and over 100 million market entities.

Domestic demand is a major driving force of China's economic growth. It contributed 108.6 percent to the country's growth in 2018, and final consumption 76.2 percent.

China is the world's second largest investor in R&D, spending 2.18 percent of its GDP in this field. New economic drivers such as the strategic emerging industry and sharing economy are gradually maturing.

China is optimizing its economic structure, transforming development models and improving economic quality. It is seeing a more obvious trend of

maintaining stability and making progress. Facts have proved that China has adequate conditions to keep stable, sustainable and healthy development of its economy.

The confidence for China's high-quality economic development comes from the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPCCC). Such leadership, guiding the overall situation and coordinating the work of all sides, plays a key role for China to handle its affairs well.

The confidence also comes from China's vital decision to implement reform and opening up. During the past 40 years,

China has created an economic miracle, becoming the world's second largest economy, the largest manufacturing country, the largest trader of goods, the second largest consumption power, and the second largest destination of foreign capital. In addition, it has also maintained for years the largest foreign exchange reserves.

Starting this year, the country successively issued Foreign Investment Law of the People's Republic of China which has reduced the items on the negative lists for foreign investment market access in pilot Free Trade Zones and the rest of the country, and further expanded the areas of reform

and opening up, demonstrating its sincerity and resolution to open wider.

The confidence comes from the country's people-centered philosophy of development and also the undying spirit. It is because of the joint efforts made by every Chinese that China has turned risks into development opportunities and pressure into impetus again and again.

When global industrial chain, supply chain and value chain are highly integrating, China and the world need to maximize the common denominator of interests.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Judge Per Lennerbrant faces the media commenting on the court verdict on American rapper A\$AP Rocky and two others, at Stockholm District Court, in Stockholm, Sweden, Wednesday Aug. 14, 2019. Swedish court on Wednesday found American rapper A\$AP Rocky guilty of assault for his role in a June 30 street brawl in Stockholm. (AP)

US rapper A\$AP Rocky spared jail after being found guilty of Stockholm brawl

STOCKHOLM

U.S. rapper A\$AP Rocky was convicted in Sweden on Wednesday of assault over a Stockholm street brawl, but spared time in jail after a high-profile trial that had led President Donald Trump to accuse Sweden of treating him unfairly.

A\$AP Rocky, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, and two members of his entourage were found guilty of kicking and beating 19-year-old Mustafa Jafari after an argument. But the court said allegations they hit him with a glass bottle, which might have brought a tougher sentence, were not proven.

"In an overall assessment, the court finds that the assault has not been of such a serious nature that a prison sentence must be chosen," Senior Judge Per Lennerbrant told a courtroom packed with reporters.

In a comment posted on Instagram, Mayers said he was disappointed with the verdict and that it had been a difficult time.

"Imma keep moving forward," he said. "Thank you to my team, my management, attorneys, label and everyone who advocated for justice."

The rapper, who shot to fame with his 2011 debut "Live.Love.A\$AP", was not court for the verdict. He was released on Aug. 2 after 31 days in jail and a three-day trial, in what legal experts said at the time was a sign the judge was likely not to jail him further.

The court said the fact that the defendants had no prior convictions over the past five years and had already spent time in custody awaiting trial meant they would not serve further time in prison or pay any fine.

Prosecutor Daniel Suneson told Reuters he had not yet decided whether he would appeal any part of the verdict.

"The court has been of the same view as myself, with one big exception, which is whether or not a blow was dealt with a glass bottle," he said. "Beyond that I feel the court

made an accurate assessment."

Slobodan Jovicic, Mayers' Swedish lawyer, told reporters that despite the verdict, the court had ruled in favour of his client regarding some aspects of the case.

"We didn't succeed all the way but on the other hand we got many points proven," he said, adding that he had contacted his client about the verdict via text message and would speak to him later on Wednesday.

SELF-DEFENCE

The case drew global attention, particularly after Trump offered to vouch for the rapper's bail and asked Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven to help free him. Sweden does not have a bail system and Lofven pointed to Sweden's independent judiciary saying he could not intervene.

Trump tweeted messages saying he was disappointed in Lofven and demanding: "Treat Americans fairly!"

Other celebrities, including Kim Kardashian and Rod Stewart, had also spoken in support of the rapper.

During the trial, both the defence and prosecution made liberal use of video taken on mobile phones during the altercation. The prosecution said that after an argument, Mayers threw Jafari to the ground, after which he and the two others kicked and punched the teenager.

Mayers said he acted in self defence after the teenager attacked his bodyguard.

The court said it had been proven that the artist and two of his party had hit and kicked the plaintiff as he lay on the ground, and discounted their claims of self-defence.

Mayers, best known for his song "Praise the Lord", had been in Stockholm for a concert at the time of the fight. He had to cancel several shows across Europe due to his detention.

He is due in neighbouring Finland on August 16 to play the Blockfest festival in Tampere.

REUTERS

Woods needs good week, good health to make it to East Lake

MEDINAH, ILL.

THE course is familiar to Tiger Woods. The circumstances are not. Medinah is where Woods buried that 8-foot par putt on the 17th hole in 1999 to win the PGA Championship for the first time by holding off teenage Sergio Garcia. He returned to Medinah in 2006 and won the PGA Championship again, this time making history as the only player to win multiple majors in consecutive years.

"I've had some good memories," Woods said.

What he needs now is good health and a good week at the BMW Championship. Otherwise, one of his best memories from last year will remain just that.

Woods withdrew last week after one round of the FedEx Cup playoffs opener, citing a mild strain of the oblique. That dropped him from No. 28 to No. 38 in the FedEx Cup because points are quadruple during the postseason.

The PGA Tour projects that he needs to finish at least 11th – he has only one top 10 since winning the Masters – to have any chance of being among the top 30 players who advance to the Tour Championship for the FedEx Cup finale and a shot at the \$15 million bonus.

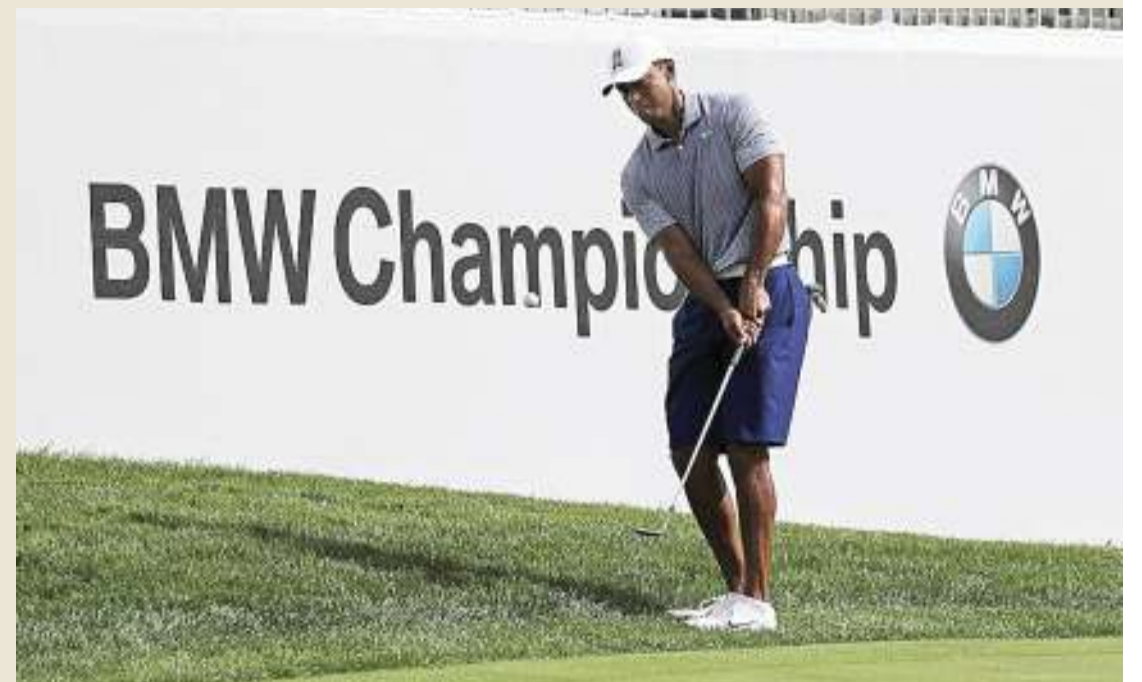
Woods is the defending champion at East Lake, capping off his comeback from four back surgeries with a vintage performance at the Tour Championship.

"I'm trying to win this tournament just like anybody else in this field, and trying to get to East Lake and trying to get to a place where a lot of things changed for me last year," Woods said after his pro-am. "And hopefully, I can make that happen."

That it even might happen is a mild surprise.

Woods says he didn't feel right last week at Liberty National, and it showed in a pro-am round when he didn't hit full shots on the back nine, only chipping and putting. When he withdrew after a 75 in the first round with the oblique injury, it seemed as though that might be the end of his season.

But he showed up Tuesday at Medinah, only to start this week in



Tiger Woods chips an approach shot on the 12th hole during the pro-am round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, in Medinah, Ill. (AP Photo)

the same way as last week.

"Took the back nine off, chipped and putted quite a bit," Woods said. He then added that his body "definitely doesn't feel like it did on Friday, that's for sure."

"It was nice to take those days off," he said, referring to slight changes in his swing to alleviate pressure off a fused lower back.

Woods attributed the injury to slight changes in his swing to alleviate pressure off a fused lower back.

"As I've said before, the forces have got to go somewhere, and unfortunately when I make any kind of tweaks and changes to my swing, it's like a new body part is aching," he said. "Unfortunately, I can't play around the back like I used to. And unfortunately, things flare up."

So many others are in better position, minus the history at Medinah.

Brooks Koepka remains atop the FedEx Cup standings, even with another pedestrian week in the playoffs. Koepka tied for 30th at Liberty National. The

world's No. 1 player has only two top 10s in 16 appearances in these postseason events.

He described it as frustrating, though nothing four major championships won't soothe.

"I've been so burned out," Koepka said. "I've done a better job of being in shape and focusing a little bit more, focusing a little bit harder and trying to gear the schedule for around this. The way the schedule worked out this year, the last four months, just really haven't had too many weeks off."

Most of the focus is on the 30 players who advance to East Lake. There is no cut in the 69-man field, which should help (Kevin Na withdrew because his wife is expecting to give birth). Andrew Putnam is holding down the 30th spot by four points over Ryan Palmer, but anyone can advance. Patrick Reed was 50th starting the playoffs, and his victory at Liberty National moved him to No. 2.

Among those with plenty of work to do are Jordan Spieth, Phil Mickelson and Ian Poulter, who has never been to the Tour Championship since the

FedEx Cup playoffs began in 2007. He still recalls – vividly – the time 10 years ago when he finished two-hundredths of a point behind 30th place.

"I was sitting on the plane, tied 30ths, delighted to go to East Lake, and then being told the plane is going somewhere else," Poulter said. "So great, yeah, I remember it. It's only been 10 years."

Poulter has the strongest memories of Medinah this side of Woods from having led Europe to the greatest Ryder Cup comeback by a visiting team in 2012. Poulter birdied the last five holes to win a fourballs match Saturday evening that salvaged European hopes, and he went 4-0 for the week.

So does Rory McIlroy, at No. 3 in the FedEx Cup. Not only did he meet his wife during the Ryder Cup at Medinah, he forgot what time zone he was in and needed a police escort to the course to avoid missing his tee time.

That squad car was later put up for auction. Poulter bought it for \$7,000.

AP

Fate of India-Pak Davis Cup tie to be decided after Monday

MUMBAI

THE All India Tennis Association will discuss its concerns over next month's Davis Cup tie between India and Pakistan with security advisers from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Monday, AITA General Secretary Hironmoy Chatterjee has said.

Security representatives of the governing bodies will speak in a telephone call that will also be attended by India's Davis Cup captain Mahesh Bhupathi, after which AITA will decide whether the Indian team travels to Islamabad, Chatterjee added.

The Indian side wants safety guarantees before travelling for the Sept. 14-15 tie, with tensions high between the neighbours after New Delhi removed "special status" from its portion of the contested region of Kashmir.

AITA wrote to the ITF on Wednesday to ask if the tie could be moved to a neutral venue or postponed after Pakistan last week expelled India's ambassador and suspended bilateral trade and public transport links with its neighbour.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since

1947 and came close to a third in February after an attack on Indian police by a Pakistan-based militant group resulted in air strikes by both countries.

Chatterjee told Reuters on Thursday that the ITF had shared security arrangements for the Indian team in Islamabad but had "not said anything" about India's request to shift the tie out of Pakistan or postpone it.

"We have been given time on Aug. 19 for a telephonic conversation between the security advisors of the ITF and AITA," he added. "We will take a decision after Monday's call."

"We will try and explain to them the prevailing sentiment and tension among the people of the two countries. The security will be entirely provided by the Pakistan government which has already downgraded diplomatic relations with India."

"The ITF needs to understand that there could be a possibility of the security cover being withdrawn by the government due to public sentiment. In that scenario we will be just sitting ducks there. How can we take such risks?"

REUTERS

Jay-Z defends NFL deal with Roc Nation, talks Kaepernick

NEW YORK

A DAY after Jay-Z announced that his Roc Nation company was partnering with the NFL, the rap icon explained that he still supports protesting, kneeling and NFL player Colin Kaepernick, but he's also interested in working with the league to make substantial changes.

The Grammy winner and entrepreneur fielded questions Wednesday at his company's New York City headquarters alongside NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. When directly asked if he would kneel or stand, Jay-Z said: "I think we've moved past kneeling and I think it's time to go into actionable items."

He then added: "No, I don't want people to stop protesting at all. Kneeling – I know we're stuck on it because it's a real thing – but kneeling is a form of protest. I support protest across the board. We need to bring



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, left, and Jay-Z appear at a news conference at Roc Nation on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019, in New York. A day after Jay-Z announced that his Roc Nation company was partnering with the NFL, the rap icon explained that he still supports protesting, kneeling and NFL player Colin Kaepernick, but he's also interested in working with the league to make substantial changes. (AP)

light to the issue. I think everyone knows what the issue is – we're done with that," he added. "We all have the issue now. OK, next. What are we moving (on to) next? ...And I'm not minimizing that part of it because that has to happen, that's a necessary part of the process. But now that we all know what's going on, what are we going to do? How are we going to stop it? Because the kneeling was not about a job, it was about injustice."

Jay-Z has been among the biggest supporters of Kaepernick, who sparked a fissure in the NFL when he decided to kneel when the national anthem was played before games to protest the killings of blacks by police officers. Some called him unpatriotic, and he has not played for the NFL since he opted out of his contract with the San Francisco 49ers in 2017. Earlier this year, the NFL settled a lawsuit brought by Kaepernick and Eric Reid that alleged that owners colluded to keep them from playing in the league (Reid criticized Jay-Z's new deal with the league).

When asked why he didn't involve Kaepernick in the new Roc Nation-NFL deal, Jay-Z said: "You'd have to ask him. I'm not his boss. I can't just bring him into something. That's for him to say."

Jay-Z also said he and Kaepernick had a conversation about the new deal but offered no details about what was discussed.

Kaepernick didn't comment on the deal, but tweeted about his social justice work Wednesday.

"Today marks the three year anniversary of the first time I protested systemic oppression. I continue to work and stand with the people in our fight for liberation, despite those who are trying to erase the movement! The movement has always lived with the people!" he wrote.

The NFL and Jay-Z's entertainment and sports representation company announced Tuesday they were teaming up for events and social activism, a deal Jay-Z said had been in the works over the last seven months.

AP

Klopp hails big 'personality' Adrian after Super Cup win

ISTANBUL

JURGEN Klopp saluted the "incredible performance" of Adrian despite a lack of preparation time as the goalkeeper's shootout heroics won Liverpool the UEFA Super Cup against Chelsea in Istanbul.

The Spaniard denied Tammy Abraham in the shootout with a trailing leg in the 5-4 victory on penalties at Vodafone Park, with the match level at 2-2 after extra time.

A few weeks ago, Adrian was training with semi-professional side UD Pidas in his country's sixth tier to keep in shape following his release by West Ham United.

He was on the verge of joining Real Valladolid before Liverpool made him an offer to deputise for Alisson as Simon Mignolet joined Club Brugge.

The European champions expected the 32-year-old to have an extended adjustment period following his signing on Aug. 5, but those plans were derailed on the opening day of the Premier League season when Alisson limped off with a calf injury in a win over Norwich.

Klopp saluted the player's big "personality" as a factor in why he has settled so quickly and performed so admirably for Liverpool despite his competitive inactivity.

"He played an incredible game, he had sensational saves," the manager said. "Both goalies had that, but maybe from Adrian it's a bit more surprising because it was without pretty much any preparation. I don't know when he played the last game for West Ham, to be honest, so it's a while ago. Being

ready like he was ready tonight is incredible.

"He's not only on the pitch a great person, he showed me already that he's a proper personality in the dressing room as well. He was maybe louder than I was at half-time. I was not loud because I wanted to give some information, but he was really on his toes and that was good. It's important and it helps us. He deserves that."

"Of course in penalty shootouts it's always lucky, but his performance over the 120 minutes was incredible. Making the save for the penalty is the icing on the cake and is wonderful. I saw now one time that he could really grab his towel before he started celebrating. That's special as well, so he's obviously quick in mind and knows what he wants to do. He helped us a lot and he can be really proud of what he did tonight."

Adrian, who last started a game in January while at West Ham, was adjudged to have impeded Abraham in the box during extra time by referee Stephanie Frappart, with Jorginho converting the penalty to take the contest to a shootout.

Klopp did not agree with the decision, but applauded the officiating of the Frenchwoman and her assistants Manuela Nicolosi and Michelle O'Neill after Frappart became the first female ref to take charge of a major UEFA men's competition on Wednesday.

"I told the refereeing team after the game that if we would have played like they whistled, we would have won 6-0," Klopp said. "That was my absolute opinion."

(Agencies)

Lampard now sees positives as Chelsea miss out on Super Cup

ISTANBUL

COACH Frank Lampard took great encouragement from Chelsea's display in the UEFA Super Cup in Istanbul on Wednesday, despite the disappointment of losing on penalties to English rivals Liverpool.

"I think we can get better, there are things I still want us to improve on in terms of how we play slightly, but I am really happy with the performance," said Lampard after Chelsea held the European champions to a 2-2 draw after extra time, only to lose 5-4 in the shoot-out.

"To lose the game was disappointing but if it means Chelsea's season can be something like how we played today, we'll be OK."

Chelsea took the lead in Istanbul through Olivier Giroud, but Sadio Mane's equaliser meant the match at the home of Besiktas went to extra time.

The Senegal star then put Liverpool in front in the 95th minute, only for a Jorginho penalty to restore parity again.

The decisive moment came after nine successful spot-kicks when Tammy Abraham's effort was saved

by Adrian.

However, Chelsea were a match for Jurgen Klopp's team for long spells and Lampard believed they were moving in the right direction after his first competitive game at the helm ended in a 4-0 defeat to Manchester United.

"You know Liverpool have got to where they have got, and I have complete respect for Jurgen Klopp," said Lampard.

"I am a new manager who's been here for six weeks or so, and what I saw today were things that I want in the team."

- Abraham 'will come back stronger'

Lampard had already twice been on the losing side in the Super Cup as a player for Chelsea, including the 2013 shootout defeat to Bayern Munich.

He admitted that having two days fewer to prepare had been a factor as the match went all the way. Chelsea played at Old Trafford on Sunday, two days after Liverpool beat Norwich City in their Premier League opener.

AFP

Ronaldo lawyers want lawsuit to go to private arbitration

LAS VEGAS

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's lawyers want to push a Nevada woman's lawsuit accusing the soccer star of raping her in 2009 out of a U.S. court and into closed-door arbitration.

Court documents filed in Las Vegas asked a U.S. judge to declare that a 2010 confidentiality agreement and \$375,000 hush-money settlement with Ronaldo's accuser, Kathryn Mayorga, are still in effect.

Such a ruling would stop the public proceeding and invoke a provision allowing out-of-court mediation between Mayorga, a 35-year-old former schoolteacher and model, and representatives of one of the most recognizable and highly paid players in sports.

Ronaldo, 34, plays in Italy for the Turin-based soccer club Juventus and captains the Portugal national

team.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they are victims of sexual assault. Mayorga gave consent through her lawyers to be named.

Her attorneys, Leslie Mark Stovall and Larissa Drohobycz, did not immediately respond Wednesday to telephone, email and text messages.

Ronaldo's attorney, Peter Christiansen, declined to comment.

Ronaldo's lawyers have conceded that Ronaldo and Mayorga had consensual sex in 2009 in his suite at a Las Vegas casino hotel. The attorneys deny it was rape.

Mayorga's lawyers maintain she didn't break the confidentiality agreement and instead say Ronaldo or his associates allowed reports of it to appear in

AP

Super Cup the first of many hurdles in Liverpool's quest to eclipse last season

ISTANBUL

IT was 17 minutes before 1 a.m. when goalkeeper Adrian saved Tammy Abraham's penalty to win the UEFA Super Cup for Liverpool. It was half an hour later by the time captain Jordan Henderson and his teammates had paraded the club's second European trophy in the space of three months around the pitch.

This was football's version of "A Hard Day's Night" for both Liverpool and runners-up Chelsea.

Winning is an intoxicating feeling for any competitor, and the sight of manager Jurgen Klopp and his players sprinting across the turf at Vodafone Park following Adrian's save highlighted just how much victory meant to Liverpool. They appeared as ecstatic in Istanbul as they did in Madrid after beating Tottenham to win the Champions League in June.

But it is only when the dust settles on this 5-4 penalty shootout win against Europa League winners Chelsea, following a 2-2 draw after 90 minutes and extra-time failed to separate the two English rivals, that Liverpool will discover the true cost of this success.

However their season pans out from this point on, the 120 minutes plus penalties in Turkey, when they started on a Wednesday and finished on Thursday, might just prove to be their season in microcosm. It is going to be a tough, long and demanding slog all the way to the finish line. If Liverpool are to build on their Champions League win and end a 30-year wait for the English title in May, they are facing an even greater test of their resolve and fitness than last season, when they came so close to wrestling the Premier League trophy from Manchester City's grasp.

For a start, they must somehow recover their physical and mental



Liverpool's Sadio Mane lifts the trophy as he celebrates winning the UEFA Super Cup with team mates at Vodafone Arena in Istanbul, Turkey on Wednesday. REUTERS

freshness in time for Saturday's 3 p.m. local trip to Southampton, after a four-hour return flight to England on Thursday afternoon. Chelsea, who restored pride and showed promise after Sunday's 4-0 defeat at Manchester United, do not play until Sunday, and they also have the benefit of being at home against Leicester rather than travelling again, as Liverpool must do.

The merits of playing the Super Cup in mid-August, just days after the start of the Premier League season, and then forcing the two teams to endure 30 minutes of extra-time before penalties is perhaps a debate for another day, when the wisdom, or otherwise, of playing for two hours is properly scrutinised. Klopp, certainly, was bemused by the decision to play extra-time rather than go straight to penalties at the end of 90 minutes.

"I don't think anyone in the stadium wanted to see twice 15 minutes," Klopp said. "It was really a killer, but that's how it is. Nobody wanted extra-time."

"We play on Saturday and we have to find a way to be ready. At 90 minutes, [Chelsea manager] Frank Lampard asked where and when we play next. I told him Southampton on Saturday, and he laughed and said, 'Congratulations.'"

Yet having won the Champions League last season, this was a taste of what Liverpool must get used to this time around.

They did not have it easy last season by any means, but Liverpool played just 52 competitive games in all competitions last term. They were knocked out of the Carabao Cup after just one game, losing to Chelsea in round three, while Wolves dumped them out of the FA Cup in the third round in January.

Already this season, Liverpool have played, and lost, the Community Shield against City, with this game against Chelsea another fixture they did not have to contend with last season. Winning the Champions League ensures that Liverpool will compete in the FIFA Club World Cup in December, which will involve two

games, not to mention the eight-hour flight to Qatar and back.

City played 61 games on their way to a domestic treble last season, and Liverpool must realistically plan to play at least 60 this term, unless they suffer similarly tough draws in the entry rounds of the domestic cup competitions as they landed last year. It is difficult to envisage City giving them any encouragement by making things easier for Liverpool this season, so Klopp and his players might just have to get used to their energy being tested as much as it was in Istanbul, when the likes of Fabinho and Joe Gomez ended the game having treatment for cramp.

Klopp also must find a way to manage the fitness and contribution of key players such as Virgil van Dijk, Georginio Wijnaldum, Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, who were all involved in international tournaments for their national teams this summer. Twelve months ago, the Liverpool squad started the season after a much lighter World Cup workload than their rivals, but this year, the boot is on the other foot.

But if winning the Super Cup proved to be a greater drain on their resources than Klopp would have wished, Liverpool still emerged victorious, and that is the major positive that the manager will take from this game. His players have proved their ability and desire to go the extra mile once again, but it won't be the last time they are asked to do so this season.

"It was a big fight tonight," Klopp said. "I didn't know how good it will feel if we won it, but it was outstanding. It was brilliant."

It might only be August, but Liverpool already know they must prepare themselves for a marathon.

(Agencies)

Judgement day for Real Madrid as Zidane's second coming begins

MADRID

ZINEDINE Zidane returned to save Real Madrid and the time has come for results.

In a packed-out press conference under the Santiago Bernabeu in March, the club's president Florentino Perez delivered the grandest of re-introductions.

"We need to start working on a glorious new era," said Perez. "That is why we welcome back Zinedine Zidane."

Some might have expected a bounce but nobody blamed the coach when performances continued to drag and the gap behind Barcelona, rather than narrowing, widened.

Zidane took over a team with nothing to play for and a squad he knew was in need of reform. He knew because he had left it nine months earlier, just before it was broken.

There was no quick fix. In his 11 games at the end of last season, Madrid won five, the only promise of progress the words Zidane kept repeating. "Things will change, for sure," he said.

Zidane denied it but they were seen as trials, every line-up scanned for clues as to who would survive the summer.

Yet in some ways, none of it mattered and the results, not to mention attendances at the Santiago Bernabeu, said as much. "The best thing for us is that it's over," said Zidane, after the season ended in defeat.

And now it begins again, the season, and Zidane's second era as coach.

Many wondered why he came back, risking everything after the perfection of three Champions League titles out of three.

The assumption was he returned to a stronger hand, able to make demands the club were ready to meet and with the backing to rebuild in the way he had always wanted.

He might have been encouraged too, when Eder Militao, Ferland Mendy, Luka Jovic, Rodrygo and Eden



Zinedine Zidane

Hazard all signed for a total close to 300 million euros.

Hazard was the headline act, a throw-back to a previous era that Zidane knew well, when the world's most glamorous players seemed to walk through the doors every year.

"I'm not a galactico, not yet, but I hope I will be one day," said Hazard when he joined.

- Bale stalemate -

But Madrid's pockets are not as deep as they once were and sales were also needed, by the club and their coach.

Zidane showed no inclination to make soothe and use Gareth Bale, instead urging the Welshman to make a move to China.

"It is very close," Zidane said. "We hope he leaves soon, it would be best for everyone."

Bale's agent told AFP Zidane was a "disgrace" and if the Frenchman had hoped to push the deal over the line, he would be disappointed as Madrid changed their mind over the fee.

James Rodriguez is also yet to leave and there were others that proved more difficult to bring in such as Paul Pogba and even Neymar.

In other areas, Zidane has resisted change, backing experience over youth even if many believed experience last season had turned into apathy.

Marcelo, Casemiro and Keylor Navas have stayed while Marcos Llorente was allowed to join Atletico Madrid and Sergio Reguilon and Dani Ceballos were both sent out on loan.

For all the talk of upheaval, Madrid's line-up against Celta Vigo on Saturday is likely to have a distinctly familiar feel.

Yet there could be a new formation, with a 3-5-2

tried after some underwhelming showings in pre-season, allowing Marcelo and Dani Carvajal greater freedom as wing-backs and Hazard to play centrally behind Karim Benzema.

And a shift in focus. Madrid have won La Liga only once in the last seven years, their failures in Spain excused only by unprecedented success in Europe.

"For us next year, the league must be our number one priority," Zidane said in April.

In that sense, Madrid might profit if Barcelona aim their focus at the Champions League. But the Catalans and Atletico Madrid have both strengthened and look ready to challenge again.

"La Liga is the longest competition, it's the one that cannot be missed," Zidane said. "I'm going to drill that in the heads of my players." His players. Now they have to deliver.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Super Cup the first of many hurdles in Liverpool's quest to eclipse last season

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:55 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SISELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)
is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Lions cricketers wallop Kanbis in GP Gymkhana Shield



Lions Cricket Club

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club has boosted its efforts to stay within reach of qualification for this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition last eight, commanding a resounding 40-run win over Kanbis in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

After having been presented with the opportunity to start batting in the Group A's match which took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue Lions made full use of it, notching 122 runs for eight wickets in 20 overs.

Much as they had an achievable target in sight, Kanbis lost steam in chase, given they were skittled for 82 runs in 14.4 overs.

Lions will need to come out victorious in their last group stage match against Gujrat Lions, which has been slated for next month, if they are to harbour hopes of making it to the knockout stage.

Kutchi Leva and Union SC as well had the last laugh in matches which were also held the same weekend.

Kutchi Leva recorded five-wicket win over Punjabi Kings in a Group C clash, Union stepped up their pursuit of a place in the quarterfinals after cruising to five-wicket victory over Patel Samaj in a Group B match.

Punjabi Kings were skittled for 118 runs in 20 overs after getting

the chance to bat first. Kutchi Leva chased their opponents' score zealously, losing five wickets in 18.2 overs.

Union had no trouble chasing a modest target set by their opponents and, in the process, inflict a first defeat on the latter.

After having got the chance to start batting, Patel Samaj notched 105 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their innings.

Union got down to a successful

chase, dropping five wickets in 18.1 overs.

Participating teams in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament have been placed in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

The DGC Cricket Section-organized tournament has

General Petroleum and Premier Refineries as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I&M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

The T20-formatted competition, as disclosed by DGC Cricket Section captain, Ashish Nagewadia, will run for 14 weeks with matches taking place at the club's oval.

Gymkhana Club invites SADC summit delegates to access facilities

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC) has extended a warm invitation on behalf of members to delegates of Southern African Development Community (SADC) to access the club's exclusive Club multi-faceted sports activities on daily basis during their stay in Tanzania.

Established initially as a horse riding facility, over a hundred years ago, Gymkhana has evolved into the premier sports and social sports club in the country.

At a hundred years, it is one of the oldest and largest sports complexes in Africa.

The DGC chairman, Walter Chipeta, noted available sporting facilities include 18-hole golf course, football field, half Olympic swimming pool and cricket field.

Fourteen tennis courts, six squash courts, two snooker tables, a gymnasium, kids' playground and changing rooms are the other facilities the club owns.

There is also a social actively venue with a newly refurbished restaurant and a bar at the main club house plus BBQ hut and a bar at squash section.

Chipeta, said: "we are excited to invite the SADC delegates to experience our excellent heritage."

"In ensuring that our visitors during the SADC Summit enjoys their stay in the country, we felt that it was necessary to introduce a day pass to the club for the delegates to access the club facilities on daily basis using their conference ID and the club is well prepared to welcome the visitors."

Chipeta said that a day spent at the Club reveals an environment rich in diversity, a diverse sense of hospitality which is felt right from arrival and it is rich in efficient and friendly staff will attend to every whim.

He noted a visit to the DGC can never be an intrusion, insisting it can only translate to both activity and relaxation.

He said that fliers have been distributed to the Julius Nyerere International Convection Centre to ensure the delegates get all the necessary information about the club.

"In addition to our facilities are maintained to the highest standards and there are two on duty attendants on every sports section including lifeguards on swimming pool at all times," he disclosed.

He added the DGC invites the delegates to visit the Club and experience what brings value to the venue.

Eritrea host Burundi in CECAFA U-15 competition opener

By Somoe Ng'itu, ASMARA, Eritrea

ERITREA'S U-15 boys' soccer team will be out to start the inaugural East and Central Africa U-15 Boys tournament in grand fashion when they host Burundi in the competition's opening day at Asmara Stadium today.

The competition has been organized by Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) in an effort to promote the sport in the region.

The tournament's opener will see Kenya lock horns with Somalia in an early kick off.

Nicholas Musonye, CECAFA secretary general, noted preparations for the tournament are in place, with 10 teams set to battle it out in the event.

Musonye disclosed the participating sides have been put in Groups A and B. Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Burundi make Group A whereas Uganda,



National U-15 soccer team's players participate in a training session in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the East and Central Africa U-15 tournament, which is set to start in Eritrea today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Rwanda, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Tanzania make Group B.

"Each of the participating squads will have chance to compete in four matches in the group stage. The top two teams will progress to the last four, changes in the competition's fixture has come about given Djibouti announced to opt out of the competition at the eleventh hour," he disclosed.

Musonye pointed out the tournament's final has been scheduled for August 30.

The official praised Eritrea for joining forces with Ethiopia to host the competition, which gears towards giving the region's junior soccer players opportunity to gauge their skills.

The participating teams also use the competition to shape up for the continental and world competition slated for later this year.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

