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Appeal Court reinstates DEDs' position in election supervision

The learned Judges erred in law and in fact by usurping legislative powers reserved for Parliament in striking out the impugned provisions of section 7(1) and (3) of the National Elections," reads the judgement in par

By Guardian Reporter

THE Court of Appeal yesterday overturned a landmark judgment handed by the High Court in May that prohibited municipal, town and District Executive Officers (DEOs) from serving as returning officers in general elections. In its judgment dated 15th October which was made public yesterday, the appellate court found that High Court judges erred in law and fact by declaring as unconstitutional in May provisions of Section 7(1) and 7(3) of the National Elections Act based on Article 74(14) of the Constitution - which was neither pleaded as a violated Article nor made part of the reliefs sought by the petitioner, Bob Wangwe.



The Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) Jenista Mhagama (L) shakes hands with NMB chief of retail banking Albert Mponzi moments after inaugurating the Mastercard QR cashless pay solution for motorcycle transport operators known as Bodaboda in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is Acting Managing Director Ruth Zaipuna. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

JPM learns truth of Nachingwea projects - from elderly resident

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday ordered police in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region to protect one resident aged over 70 years who signaled to him a number of incomplete development projects that local authorities did not disclose. This was after the president had addressed a rally where leaders spoke of the good job they were doing to improve service delivery in the area. One elderly resident named Hashim Mkanjaluka raised his hand and



As for the market, Mohammed said it is an old one and the council had already spent 71mn/- on its rehabilitation which was ongoing

pointed out incomplete projects that were not mentioned, despite gobbling up large amounts of public funds.

"Despite the good things said by our leaders, they are not telling you the truth. But before I proceed, allow me to entrust my safety in your hands because after you leave, I might face the consequences of what I am about to say," he pleaded.

After Dr Magufuli nodded in affirmation, Mkanjaluka continued, naming stalled projects that Lindi Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi, Nachingwea District Commissioner Rukia Muwango and Nachingwea District Executive Director Bakari Mohammed did not remember to mention.

"We have new bus stand project, a market

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Rains kill 18 in Tanga, ruin farms, properties

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

THE ongoing rains have so far killed 18 people including six children in Tanga region, authorities confirmed yesterday. Addressing reporters here, Tanga Regional Police Commander Edward Bukombe said the victims died after flood waters swept them and others gravely hurt by falling debris of houses destroyed in the devastating downpour. The RPC said that the rains which have been pounding the region since October 1 have also left a trail of destruction of properties including houses and farms. Korogwe is the most affected district along with Kilindi and Pangani, with 16



The six children died after the house they were inside crumbled, with five children being rescued in the disaster

people dying in Dindira and Foroforo wards in Korogwe district whereas Pangani and Kilindi recorded one death each.

"The six children died after the house they were inside crumbled, with five children being rescued in the disaster," he said.

The Kwashemshi-Dindila-Bungu road from Bumbuli in Lushoto district was badly damaged due to the hailstorm which also blocked the road at Kwang'andu valley by a landslide.

Other roads that have been laid waste are Lewa -Lutindi, Makuyuni -Bungu, Dindila -Mpale-Mswaha. The Kwashemshi

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Germany avails 20bn/- for ICT in healthcare system

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government of Germany has released euros 8million (20bn/-) to be used in strengthening Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the national health insurance system. The grant is expected to strengthen ICT by establishing modern and functioning ICT equipment and systems which will enable the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to improve service provision for its members, to achieve universal health coverage. "Tanzania plans to attain universal health



coverage; this will be achieved through implementation of the Single National Health Insurance Fund (SNHIF) that will be compulsory for the breadth of the population," said Finance and Planning Permanent Secretary Dotto James. The process of establishing universal coverage is being worked out at different stages within the government and will be pursued by merging public health insurance systems such as the Community Health Fund (CHF) and NHIF. It is expected to widen the scope of services to rural and uncovered areas, he

said, pointing out the need for ICT as expansion covering a great number of people will require sound, convenient and effective ICT systems. During the past four years, Germany has committed grants amounting to euro 213 million, equivalent to 533.14bn/- to support water, energy, biodiversity, good financial governance sectors as well as the National Audit office. In his remarks, Jorg Herrera, the Charge

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JPM learns truth of Nachingwea projects - from elderly resident

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for traders whose construction has stalled. We also had a radio station project that has stopped, and we only had clean water here when the Uhuru Torch passed here but after it left, water also left," he explained.

After he ended his narration, President Magufuli called on DED Mohammed to come to the podium and provide answers. He acknowledged that indeed such projects existed, noting that the stand project had gobbled up 200mn/- but was not yet complete.

As for the market, Mohammed said it is an old one and the council had already spent 71mn/- on its rehabilitation which was ongoing.

"It's true we had a community radio project for quite a while. It had actually started airing programmes but unfortunately our consultant on the project passed away and that's why the project stalled," he said.

After those explanations by Mohammed, President Magufuli alighted from his vehicle and walked to the market to have a look at the project after which he thanked Mkanjaluka for opening up.

"I have seen for myself. There is a problem here, as the building is being rehabilitated since last year yet there is nothing going on," he said.

It was at this point the President Magufuli ordered police in the district to ensure that Mkanjaluka is safe from any possible reprisals after speaking out.

He then called the Regional Commissioner to explain why people removed traders from the market without putting in place a proper project execution plan to avoid inconveniences. RC Zamboni blamed it all on the speed of rehabilitation.

"We directed the council to find a temporary place during the rehabilitation period because the place was dilapidated but the only challenge we face is the slow speed of rehabilitation," he said.

In another development, President Magufuli directed the police in Nachingwea District Lindi region to search and arrest the leader of Agricultural and Marketing Co-operatives Societies (AMCOS) so that he explains the whereabouts of 15m/- which belongs to members.

He made the remarks yesterday at Chiwindi village in the district after complaints from residents that the money was nowhere to be seen.

"I order the leader of the police who is here to search for and arrest this Seif Misesi. He should remain detained until he returns the money. We do not need people who take advantage of poor people to enrich themselves," the president intoned.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe said he already has information that various AMCOS leaders have been arrested and that it was only Misesi who remains at large.

From now all AMCOS will be led by local residents themselves and not managed by middlemen, he stated.

He said it was also the president's directive but also according to the law, it is a must for these associations to be led by members. "Let me use this opportunity to direct all extension officers that anyone who is not a farmer and is leading the AMCOS to step down," he ordered.

This season cashew nuts will be sold openly and that there will be no more price fixing by AMCOS, the deputy minister underlined.

RC Zamboni said already they have arrested those who sabotaged farmers in the region, insisting that "the problem we have is that when we arrest them, our colleagues tell us that the case is bailable. So we have decided to have a meeting with the court and the police so that may be they are not bailed until they return the money."

Germany avails 20bn/- for ICT in healthcare system

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d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dar es Salaam said the ICT project to support health insurance will strengthen the efficiency of the health insurance system through digitization. It marks an important stepping stone on Tanzania's path to reach universal health coverage.

Areas to be strengthened include claims and reimbursement processes, registration and membership data management and authentication, he elaborated.

"We commend the Tanzanian government for the strong commitment and efforts to attain universal health coverage. We believe that a healthy population is the basis of a healthy and sustainable economy," he declared.

Tanzania's National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2015 - 2020) aims to facilitate access for the country's 50 million people to basic health services that meet objective quality criteria and are more strongly geared to the needs and expectations of the population.

However, financial access barriers and considerable deficits in the quality of health facilities are impeding the achievement of this goal. Barely one fifth of the population has health insurance or uses a community-based payment scheme.



Tanzania Military Academy instructors at Monduli in Arusha region catching a glimpse about indigenous tree known as euclea divinity at mount Hanan'g during their training research to promote domestic tourism. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza.

Rains kill 18 in Tanga, destroy properties

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-Dindila bridge at Kwakibili has also been swept away, the police chief noted.

The same rains earlier in Morogoro Region caused the deaths of 11 people,

including children of nine to 16 years.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander SACP Wilbrod Mutafungwa said

on Tuesday that among the dead were five pupils at Nyachiro Primary School

who drowned in Mvuhia River in Kibogwa Ward, Matombo Division in Morogoro District.

He said the incident occurred on Saturday around 16.30 hours at Nyachiro village.

The Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) warned on Friday that the country will experience heavy rains that might cause floods leading to disease outbreaks.

TMA director general

Agnes Kijazi made this observation when briefing journalists on the climate outlook for seasonal rains in Tanzania.

Rains are expected to be above normal in Dodoma, Singida, Tabora,

Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe, Iringa, Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara regions, while Kigoma, Katavi and Rukwa Regions should brace for normal rains.



Finance and Planning Permanent Secretary Doto James (L) and Germany Charge de Affairs to Tanzania Jorg Herrera, display contract agreement documents moments after signing in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Under the contract Germany will disburse 20bn/- grant to Tanzania aimed to improve information technology and communication in National Health Insurance Fund. Photo: Maelezo

Govt urged to enact law compelling farmers to use plant quality seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government through the Ministry of Agriculture has been advised to enact a law to compel farmers to use seeds with proven quality and stop using any seeds they come across and legal action taken to any farmer ignoring the requirement.

This advice was given yesterday by assistant researcher from Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) Matengia Swai when speaking to journalists on cassava seed production, saying

that such a law will spur increased yields of crops, just as it is in France and Kenya.

He said in France the law is strict as any farmer who use seeds whose quality has not been officially certified faces the wrath of the law.

Swai said the unrelenting challenge facing farmers is ignoring instructions from agricultural experts including the use of seeds and fertilizer whose quality has not been certified.

He said farmers still lack agricultural expertise in various crops and also are ignorant of the farm-

ing guideline of planting seeds in a small area that result in high yields.

Hence, he said, the Ministry of Agriculture has to use experts it has to mobilize farmers to engage in productive farming techniques for increased crop production.

A cassava farmer from Mvomero district Erasmo Komba said the issue of requiring a farmer to abide by directives from experts is fine but needs large capital since the cost of quality seeds and fertilizer is still high to many farmers, and is beyond the ability of many farmers.

Appeal Court reinstates DEDs' position in election supervision

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National Elections Act were unconstitutional based on Article 74(14) of the constitution, noting that this provision does not fall under Part Three of Chapter One of the Constitution.

"The learned Judges erred in law and in fact in failing to properly assess the prohibitions under Article 74(14) and the safeguards set out in the National Elections Act and its regulations, the Public Service Act and its regulations, as well as other laws and regulations relating to the conduct and management of elections."

The appellate justices also found that the judges erred in law and in fact by failing to properly indicate how the provisions of section 7(1) and (3) of the National Elections Act violate Article 21(1), (2) and 26(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic.

The justices also found that the High Court judges erred in law and in fact by failing to establish the relevance, admissibility, authenticity, reliability and probative value of the evidence adduced in the affidavit relating to allegations that some returning officers are members and supporters of the ruling party.

"The learned Judges erred in law and in fact by failing to appreciate the legal effect of oath of secrecy and declaration of withdrawal of membership from a political party or not to be a member of a political party taken by Returning Officer before assuming office," the ruling asserted.

They also found that the judges erred in law and in fact by failing to take into account the positive role of the impugned returning officers in the electoral management processes.

"The learned Judges erred in law and in fact by usurping legislative powers reserved for Parliament in striking out the impugned provisions of section 7(1) and (3) of the National Elections," reads the judgement in part.

In May, the High Court in Dar es Salaam declared null and void provisions 7 and 7A of the National Elections Act (2010) which allow DEDs to also assume the role of returning officers during elections.

This was after the applicant convinced the court that the provisions were contrary to Article 74 (14) of the Constitution of the United Republic which prohibits persons concerned with conduct of elections to join any political party.

Last year, Bob Wangwe filed constitutional case number six of 2018 at the High Court challenging the constitutionality of the said provisions. Wangwe was represented by advocate Fatma Karume.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in collaboration with other non-state actors initiated the move and provided technical support to the applicant, explaining that this initiative was aimed at the promotion of democracy.

The applicant had argued that scores of DEDs had unsuccessfully contested for various political positions before their appointments to those offices.

Also, the petitioners argued that allowing directors of local government authorities to oversee elections jeopardised the fairness of the electoral process because the leaders were presidential appointees.

But the Attorney General, Prof Adelardus Kilangi, said that the government, through the Solicitor General, had immediately submitted an appeal.



Foreign Affairs and East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation deputy minister Dr. Damas Ndumbaro discusses the potentiality of Kiswahili in accelerating social, political, economic and cultural integration within the Great Lakes Region during the ministerial meeting held in Brazzaville yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

President promises to improve southern regions' infrastructures

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday promised to build 57kms Nanganga - Ruangwa road in Lindi region at tarmac level.

The President gave the promise when speaking to wananchi of Nanganga (Masasi - Mtwara), Nanganga Station, Nangumbu, Nandagala, Likunja and Ruangwa Town where he held rallies.

Apart from the road, President Magufuli promised that the government will ensure roads in the southern regions which are essential for the areas socio-economic development are built hence he called on the wananchi to work hard.

While on his way to Ruangwa, the President spoke to the people in Kiwalala, Mtama and Nyangao where he announced that Mtama will be the headquarters for Lindi Rural District Council.

He also directed that the name of the Council should be changed to Mtama Dis-

trict Council and stressed that the offices of the Council shift to Mtama by October 30 this month.

While in Ruangwa township President Magufuli unveiled the 5kms Kitandi- Ruangwa tarmac road which is part of Nanganga - Ruangwa road built at a cost of 4.8b/- including street lighting and laid the foundation stone for cashew nuts warehouses with 20,000 tonnes storage capacity that will cost 5.5b/-.

He also directed Tender International, the contractor of the warehouses to complete the work in one month else legal action would be taken against the firm.

At a public rally held at Likangala primary school grounds, President Magufuli received a report from the Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe on the existence of 10 cooperatives which still owe farmers.

The President directed Bashe and the Deputy PCCB Director Gen. John Mbungu to remain in Ruangwa

to ensure the farmers are paid and legal action taken against all those involved for the delay.

Speaking at the rally, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who is also a Member of Parliament for Ruangwa thanked the President for paying attention to his constituency, saying that in the past four years, the government allocated a total of 27b/- for various development projects and social services.

In addition, the PM said the government allocated 27b/- for rural electrification, 5.5b/- for roads in Ruangwa township including street lighting, 1.3b/- for the construction of three health centres and 5.5b/- for building cashew nuts warehouses.

On his part, the Mtama MP Nape Nnauye thanked the President and the government for allocating funds for implementing major development projects including 3.8b/- for water, 2.8/- for district

hospital and health centres and 24b/- for rural electrification as well as having paid the farmers all the money they owe for the cashew nuts crop sold.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe said 80 per cent of 224,000 tonnes of cashew nuts from last season that had remained unsold has now been sold and exported out of the country while the remaining 20 per cent is in the last process of being moved from the warehouses.

He added that 650b/- out of 700b/- has already been paid to farmers and the remainder will start being paid from next Tuesday.

The Minister for Water Prof. Makame Mbarawa, said the government has allocated 14.2b/- for towards alleviating water problems in Lindi region including Kiwalala, Mtama, Nyangao, Nanganga, Nangumbu, Nandagala, Likunja and Ruangwa township.

Govt happy with bulk procurement system for transit fertilizer-official

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Government said it is satisfied with the Bulk Procurement System (BPS) for fertilizer importation despite the existence of several challenges including delay in reaching farmers and price regulation.

Speaking at a workshop organised by the agriculture board attended by agricultural stakeholders held in Morogoro this

week, agriculture officer in the fertilizer and crops division from the Ministry of Agriculture Joseph Lyafwila said that in the agricultural sector, "we have observed success from the new system within three years as of now the fertilizer reaches the farmers in time even though there are still some snags here and there."

He said they are aware that farmers have been complaining on prices and this is due to the fact

that there are some far away villages necessitating price increases, and added that the government was still addressing that issue.

The director of policy and planning from the agriculture board Timothy Mbagu said they decided to research on the new system and advise the government on how to improve it.

"Before the new system farmers were sold fake fertilizer including cement, but we in the agriculture

board raised our voices and we thank that the government for answering to our cries and ultimately coming up with this new system," he said.

He said the fertilizer needs in the country increase all the time and it is estimated that it now stands at 400,000 tons per year but only 70,000 is imported through BPS.

He said since the start of BPS three years ago the main aim was to lower fertilizer prices including

ensuring the input reaches the farmers in time and that the Agriculture Board in conjunction with the government will continue to address the issue.

On his part the Chief Advisor of the research on BPS conducted Dr Lutengano Mwinuka, speaking about the results of the research since its start, said BPS has benefited many farmers who have increased their crops yields.

Dr Mwinuka who is also a Lec-

turer at the Faculty of Economy from University of Dodoma (UDOM) said this was appropriate time for business people to start fertilizer selling points in rural areas for the input to reach many farmers.

He added that the research showed rail transport to be the cheapest means of moving the fertilizer thereby making the input affordable to many farmers.

On their part, users and import-

ers of fertilizer speaking at the workshop said among others, BPS is good and has helped in obtaining the agricultural input without much difficulty.

Joshua Ivan from OCP Fertilizer Company said it is now right time for the correct fertilizer requirement to be assessed before regulating the price thereof and the issuing tenders for its distribution, but also it is important to work closely with the distributors.



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
MTWARA REGION



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

ABOLISHED TARIFF IN THE MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTOR

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), established under Section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act No. 14 of 2017, is mandated through Section 12(1)(d) of the Act to regulate rates and charges in the maritime transport sector.

With respect to the above mandate, TASAC has observed tendencies of some regulated service providers in the maritime transport sector to impose tariff without prior approval of the Corporation, contrary to the requirements of the law. There are cases where service providers quote incorrect names of approved tariff to the extent of confusing customers.

All regulated service providers are hereby directed to refrain from applying non-approved tariff. Stern regulatory measures, including suspension or revocation of licence, will be taken against any regulated service provider proven to violate approved tariff.

Consumers of regulated services are urged to report to TASAC in case they are required to pay unapproved tariff in the maritime transport sector. Notably, consumers and stakeholders should be aware that the following tariff items have been abolished:

SN	Abolished Charge	Unit of Charge	Amount (USD)
1.	LCL charges	per W/M	25 - 40
2.	Delivery Order fees	Per HBL	45
3.	Administration charges	Per HBL	20 - 100
4.	Handover fees	Per HBL	15 - 150
5.	Car service charges (CSC)	Per CBM	1.00
6.	Container Service Charges	HBL or W/M	50/100
7.	Payment of Rebate	Various	Various

Table 2. List of Abolished Charges in Shipping Agency Business

SN	Abolished Charge	Unit of Charge	Amount (USD)
a.	Delivery Order Fee	per BL	45

For any clarification or enquiry please write to info@tasac.go.tz or Director General, TASAC, P. O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam.

Director General
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation

MTWARA INVESTMENT FORUM & EXPO 2019



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Govt to estimate burden of antimicrobial resistance

By Getrude Mbago

THE government in collaboration with various stakeholders has embarked on a special research to find out and evaluate actual impacts and burden of antimicrobial resistance in the country and thus come up with effective solutions to fight the vice, senior health official said yesterday.

According to the government's chief pharmacist Daudi Msasi antimicrobial resistance or drug resistance has continued to grow which is now becoming a major threat to people's health.

He told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the sidelines of the Health Supply Chain Summit 2019.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the ability of a microorganism (like bac-

teria, viruses, and some parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials) from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others.

Dr Msasi said: "We are working with some six organisations including the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) to find out the scope of the challenge in the country, partners are now working to install key equipment and supplies that will help in collecting data in various hospitals."

He named the hospitals where the study is being conducted as the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Mwananyamala referral hospital, Amana and Tembeke hospitals; Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre

(KCMC) referral hospital, Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital and Bugando hospital among others.

He said that a good number of antibiotics and other antimicrobials are failing to cure infectious diseases that were previously managed successfully due to the fact that the pathogens (microbes) have developed resistance to the antimicrobials thus forcing people to opt for more costly medications.

Dr Msasi said that the project has involved a training-of-trainer approach with local microbiologists, ensuring that veterinary laboratories have access to a cadre of expert trainers who can further train and mentor a laboratory workforce beyond the period of the project.

He cited informal be-

haviour of use of antibiotics which has developed to most of Tanzanians was among the major causes to the antimicrobial resistance.

"The research project also aimed to deepen the understanding of the use of antibiotics as well as knowledge, attitudes and practices in regard to antibiotics to fight the challenge," he added.

He called on the public to ensure that any medications they use are well prescribed by a doctor and make sure that they complete the drug dose given to them.

The chief pharmacist also called on health researchers to increase investment and innovation by coming up with new and quality drugs that will be able to effectively fight diseases including the bacterial infections.



A view of a section of ongoing construction of Ubungo Interchange at the junction of Morogoro Road and Mandela Expressway as captured by our roving photographer in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Changing life style key in addressing NCDs, alliance tells Tanzanian youth

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN youth have been urged to change their life style, take balanced diet and make physical activities so as to address non communicable diseases (NCDs), which are becoming serious health challenge in recent years.

"These diseases like cancer, hypertension, sickle cell, kidney disease, among others, are real and any person can get them if he doesn't change his life style," said Happy Nchimbi, Coordinator of Tanzania Non Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCDAA).

She made the advice yesterday during a training to young girls at Zanaki Secondary School in

Dar es Salaam. The training was aimed at educating them on how they change their behavior from early stage so that they don't get NCDs.

TANCDAA coordinator mentioned the main risk factors for NCDs as smoking, alcohol intake, unhealthy diet and low physical activity.

Nchimbi said that their project has started by targeting the young girls because compared to young boys, they get problems particularly at the time of delivering because are unaware of NCDs.

"We started our project in January this year by visiting Arusha, Jangwani and now Zanaki secondary schools; targeting youngest girls in Form One," she said, add-

ing: "We know that when we educate them they will listen and live it and hence forming a generation without NCDs."

She said that they were teaching those young girls to at least recognize the symptoms of NCDs, though it is a difficult thing.

According to her, nowadays youths are faced among others with smoking, alcohol intake, unhealthy diet and low physical activity, they were teaching them to stop doing them, instead they should do the opposite.

"We teach this small group of girls so that they later become champions for others."

"Many people think that making exercises one needs to go for a fitness centers; no, he/she can

even do physical activities within the homestead for at least 30 minutes per day."

Meanwhile, Nchimbi said that discussions where undergoing on how NCDs can be included in curriculum.

For her part, educator on NCDs, Elizabeth James has urged young girls to avoid living unhealthy life as a way of preventing contracting NCDs.

Arafa Said who has been living with sickle cell for the last 32 years has urged the government and other key stakeholders to give more education awareness on NCDs so as to avoid forming a generation with sickle cell.

Said said that she was diagnosed with sickle cell when she

was eight months old.

She said that she has managed to survive with the disease for all these years because of the life style, the kind of foods, and by following doctors' directives, among others.

Getruda Mjindo who has been suffering from high blood pressure and kidney diseases, urged the Tanzanian society to change their life style, make physical exercises, reduce obesity, reduce the intake of fats, sugar and salt.

"They shouldn't have excessive alcohol intake, stop smoking, make physical exercises and take balanced diet," she urged.

A global database on the prevalence of risk behaviours among youth for non-communicable

diseases (NCDs) highlights the need to focus on young people to tackle the growing NCD epidemic—especially in low- and middle-income countries, Tanzania inclusive

Globally there is evidence of the growing burden of Non Communicable diseases (NCDs) especially in developing countries including Tanzania.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), hypertension affects a massive 1.1 billion people worldwide equivalent to around 14 per cent of the global population.

WHO also mentions that hypertension causes around 7.5 million deaths worldwide, which is equivalent to 12.8 per cent of all

deaths.

hypertension also known as high blood pressure is a medical condition where the pressure of the blood flowing through the arteries is constantly higher than normal.

If not treated early on, the condition may lead to other complications including heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, heart failure and even vision loss.

"NCD risk behaviours are projected to increase further in many low- and middle-income countries due to rapid social and economic changes and sustained efforts by tobacco and alcohol beverage companies to target their products to youth in those countries.



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VACANCY – Medical Officer

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation - Tanzania is a non-government organization (NGO) dedicated to supporting the provision of high-quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment to HIV - exposed and infected children and adolescents in the Lake and Southern Highlands Zones of Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania is affiliated with Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) Network which is headquartered at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania is funded by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID), working to support the Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to improve provision of services for children and adolescent infected and living with HIV in the Lake and Southern Highland Zones.

Post : Medical Officers (2)

Location : Mbeya (1) and Mwanza (1)

Reports to : Clinic In-charge

Position Summary:

The position holder will have responsibility for providing medical assessment, evaluation and care to patients in the Zonal Referral Hospital, the Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation -Tanzania Center of Excellence (COE) and in outreach facilities. This care includes the diagnosis and assessment of HIV-exposed and HIV-infected children and adults and the development of individualized care and treatment plans including the initiation and follow-up of children on antiretroviral (ARV) therapy

For details follow the following link: <http://jobs.baylortanzania.or.tz>

Application should reach Baylor - Tanzania not later than November 5th, 2019.

Only candidates from Mbeya are encouraged to apply for the Mbeya position and candidates from Mwanza for the Mwanza position.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Addressed to:
The Executive Director, Baylor College of Medicine Children's
Foundation - Tanzania

P.O. Box 2663, Mbeya Tanzania For Mbeya position
And P.O Box 5208 For Mwanza position

Or send to email:
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XXXXXX



TENDER No. ITB/RDS/DSM/UNHCR/01/2019

INVITATION FOR TENDER TO SUPPLY COMPUTER LAPTOPS

17TH OCTOBER, 2019

Relief to Development Society (REDESOS) is a Tanzanian National Non-Governmental Organization registered under the Non-Governmental Organization Act, 2002 with Certificate No. 1466 in Tanzania. The organization is engaged in Humanitarian and Community Development projects. In the areas of our operation, Local Government has been always one of our key partners. In partnership with UNHCR, REDESOS is implementing the project titled "DAFI Scholarship Programme- Tertiary Education for Refugees" in Tanzania. Part of the funds allocated to this project is intended to be spent for procurement of Computer Laptops. REDESOS would like therefore, to invite applications for pre-qualification from well-established eligible and credible suppliers of laptop computers to tender for supplying laptop computers.

1. Procurement will be conducted through the Competitive Tendering procedures specified in REDESOS's Procurement Manual, 2019, Chapter 2.2 this is open to all potential Tenderers.
2. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from the Tender documents upon submission of written application letter and bank pay in slip for the cost of tender document purchase at REDESOS Head Office. Submissions should be made from 09.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday except for Public Holidays. Location and address is provided below.
3. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS. 20,000/= (Twenty Thousand Shillings Only). Payment should be made through **NMB Bank A/c No. 2013500392 (REDESOS GENERAL ACCOUNT)**.
4. All tenders in one original plus one copy for each envelope of Financial and Technical offer (two envelope system), properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address given below, not later than **15th November 2019**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at REDESOS Head office.
5. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
6. Queries may be directed to Senior Programme Manager, REDESOS Head Office, and Mobile No. +255786 740 746 or email through redeso-hq@redeso.or.tz

IMPORTANT: All bids must be submitted to the address below and must state the tender number clearly on the outer cover and envelope. Technical Offer and Financial Offer must be submitted in two separate envelopes as expressed in the ITB document.

Bid Opening Committee
REDESOS HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 2621, Kinondoni B,
Urambo Street. Plot No. 40, DAR ES SALAAM



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Papua New Guinea • Angola • Colombia • Argentina



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Technicians unblocking wastewater along Uhuru Road at Kariakoo area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

UNIDO develops electronic tool kit

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has developed an electronic tool kit aimed at identifying gaps that the governments and industry stakeholders should address to comply with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) requirements.

UNIDO representative to Tanzania, Stephen Kargbo announced yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the workshop on the organisation's quality infrastructure for trade facilitation tool kit.

The workshop brought together over 50 public and private sector representatives from the Tanzania quality infrastructure system, palm and sunflower

oils sector. The toolkit was developed with the funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. He said that the tool kit will help to identify gaps that governments and industry stakeholders should address to comply with the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) articles 4, 5, 8 and 10.3. TFA provisions are designed to expedite trade procedures including the movement, release and clearance of goods.

According to Kargbo, the tool has already been successfully piloted in Malawi and South Africa for the agro-processing and essential oils sector, with clear roadmap of actions for each country to address.

He added that good re-

sults from evaluating the pilot application motivated UNIDO to develop an electronic tool, which will be piloting today in Tanzania.

"In close collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade as well as national Trade facilitation committee, we are here to pilot the quality infrastructure for trade facilitation tool for the sunflower and palm oil value chains, as they are among the top priorities for the country," said Kargbo.

The results could be integrated into strategic interventions, existing projects or be the basis of action plans for the National Trade Facilitation Committee.

"The tool was developed mainly to build strategic action between public and private sector to address and

improve their competitiveness by strengthening the quality infrastructure system in support of the TFA," project manager for UNIDO Juan Pablo said.

Acting director industrial development division in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Leo Lyayuka said the results of the tool are very useful as it identifies the needs based actions required from the public and private sector to improve the competitiveness of the sectors and clear direction towards key areas to investigate future in respective development plans.

He added that the government is doing a lot to make sure that the products from the country meet the standards required under the national Standard Act and to comply with the TFA.

Musoma's Kwanga referral hospital set for completion by August 2020

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

CONSTRUCTION of Kwanga referral hospital in Musoma, Mara region, which is being executed by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) at the tune of more than 15bn/- is set for completion in August 2020.

This was announced yesterday here by the NHC acting director of creativity Margret Ezekiel when she was briefing the Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula during her inspection tour of the project in the region.

Margaret said the complex covering 24,484 square metres and other adjoining buildings covering 1,039 square metres had three main buildings including one with five storeys, the second with four and the last with two.

She said the construction of the hospital began in September 2019 and the delay of the project was attributed due to various challenges including non completion of the building plan including the appointment of the projects chief advisor.

She said: "Two contractors were involved in the project at different times before it was handed over to NHC. It has made improvements in order to offer all the necessary medical services offered by a referral hospital."

Margaret said the ongoing construction works include plastering the walls in all areas which do not need major changes, demolishing some of the walls and rebuilding them according to the new plan.

On his part, Deputy Minister Dr Mabula said the completion of Kwanga referral hospital will be a big relief for the wananchi as well as patients needing further treatment for they would no longer have to travel to Bugando hospital in Mwanza.

She thanked the fifth government of Dr John Magufuli for allocating more than 15bn/- for the project, whose construction had remained idle since 2011.

In another development, the Deputy lands Minister, Dr Mabula has called on Kiure Engineering Company - who are contractors of Mkendo Plaza - the NHC five-storey investment house to complete it before December 30 2019 else the contract agreement will be abrogated.

Her decision follows the contractor's failing to complete the work since the signing of the agreement in 2015. Kiure Engineering Company started work in 2017.

Young Africans face poor job prospects as education deteriorates, says report

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE quality of education and training provided by African countries has deteriorated since 2014, leaving many of the continent's growing population of young people ill-prepared to enter the job market, an influential report said on Tuesday.

The African Governance Report 2019, which uses data from the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), the most comprehensive survey of its kind on the continent, found that enrolment and access to education was particularly low in the tertiary sector.

"This has resulted in the burgeoning youth population being faced with increasing struggles when entering the job market," researchers at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation wrote ahead of a full report due to be published next year. Under 15s now made up the majority age group in Africa, the authors added.

The index rates 54 African nations on criteria such as security, human rights, economic stability, just laws, free elections, corruption, infrastructure, poverty, health and education.

Mo Ibrahim, a Sudanese telecoms tycoon who launched the foundation, said it was down to Africans to confront the issue. "When it comes to education, really we have a problem," Ibrahim told Reuters. "When you look at the demographics, and you look at the economic growth, you see that we're actually falling behind."

Demographic developments are a hot topic in Africa, which, according to United Nations data, is expected to account for more than half of the world's population growth between 2015 and 2050. The continent's population is projected to double by 2050, and could double again by 2100, the U.N. has said.

"If you manage to take care of your young people, that is a wealth. If you fail to do that, it is a burden, a threat," Ibrahim added.



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Vaccination campaign against measles, rubella set to kick off in Simiyu region

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

THE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children in partnership with Simiyu regional hospital is set to provide vaccination against measles and rubella to 425,980 children in the region.

Rubella, also known as German measles or three-day measles, is an infection caused by the rubella virus. This disease is often mild with half of people not realizing that they are infected. A rash may start around two weeks after exposure and last for three days.

Speaking to journalists in his office early this week, Simiyu Regional Medical Officer Dr Festo Digunge said they expect to vaccinate the children of six months to 12 years of age in 405 vaccination centres and the goal is to reduce deaths and other children's diseases.

Dr Digunge explained that Simiyu region is faced with challenges from children wellbeing because many deaths are due to many of them not being vaccinated.

He said measles and Rubella among children are preventable through appropriate vaccination hence called on parents not to ignore call of taking their children to vaccination centres.

On his part, the coordinator of the vaccination campaign in Simiyu region Beatrice Kapufi said they have already prepared themselves for the campaign and 414 medical staff in 404 centres will be mobilized and the vaccination will take five days starting October 17 to 20.

"We appeal with the wananchi with children to come out and send their children to vaccination centres for vaccination against the said two diseases," she said.



KCB Bank Tanzania head of marketing and corporate communications Christine Manyenye (R) speaks at a farewell event for 10 KCB Biashara Club members going to China for a business trip facilitated by KCB Bank Tanzania as part of their commitment to provide new market opportunities for affordable Tanzanian products. Looking on is the bank's head of retail banking, Masika Mukule (2nd R), KCB Bank head of SME and mortgage Abdul Juma and Saada Sipemba from Sadio Travel and Tours. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania proposes Kiswahili to be used within the ICGLR

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

IN a bid to improve and strengthen Kiswahili language in Africa, Tanzania has proposed Kiswahili language to be used as an official language within the Great Lakes regions, (ICGLR).

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Dr Damas Ndumbaro presented the proposal before the ICGLR foreign ministers meeting held in Brazzaville yesterday by telling the foreign ministers that Kiswahili is already an official language in Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda and of the African Union and other parts of central and southern Africa.

Dr Ndumbaro made his speech and call upon the members of the

Great Lakes Regions to adopt and agree to use Kiswahili as a language within ICGLR.

"We have requested our colleague (ICGLR) to adopt the use of Kiswahili language to be an official language within the Great Lakes Regions. Though there are some six countries which have not yet signed the change of African Charter to allow Kiswahili to be used as the official language in African Union (AU)," he said

According to Dr Ndumbaro, the use of Kiswahili language in the region is an opportunity that would bring national unity within the Great Lakes region and strengthen the union. Adding that Kiswahili as the only language that has nothing to do with colonialism in Africa

"We hope that once we would get the signature of the remaining six countries, we would be left with the correct one country so that Kiswahili could become the official language of work at conferences that would be taking place in Africa," he added

Ndumbaro mentioned the six countries which have not yet signed have not yet signed the change of African Charter to allow Kiswahili to be used as the official language are Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

Along in the same line, the deputy minister added that member states were able to discuss the main agenda of the country's major lakes region, which are Peace, Stability, and Security especially

in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He also availed that majority of the member States commended the DRC for the successful and transparent elections that lead to a peaceful transition and commended for the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Uganda and Rwanda and urged the two countries to fully implement their provisions of the MOU towards restoring the historically strong relations between them.

Speaking earlier during the opening ceremony of the Foreign Affairs Ministers official meeting, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo, Clement Mouamba said he was happy as the meeting focused on assisting the DRC in

the challenges it faces especially in the eastern region.

"I congratulate you on the work you have been doing in collaboration with various stakeholders in ensuring that the Ebola epidemic is eradicated, as I believe together we can," the Premier said. Adding that the Ebola Virus Disease together we have the capacity to fight against such dangerous disease.

Premier, Mouamba also argued the member states of the lakes to continue to protect peace and security in order to continue with various developmental activities as they are the foundation of the union to continue.

For his part, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Congo, who also

chaired the meeting, Jean Claude Gakosso stressed to the ministers of the member states that peace and unity in the region are the most important pillars and should continue to be maintained and protected.

Different efforts have been done by member states in collaboration with development partners like World Health Organization (WHO) to fight against the spread of ebola.

Adding, "Various efforts taken by the DRC Government to date in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other stakeholders in the fight against the disease are to provide immunization and education to the people of the affected areas," said Gakosso.

The foreign ministers meeting was preceded by the national coordinators and the regional inter-ministerial committee of the international conference on the Great Lakes Region all held in Brazzaville.

The meeting was attended by the national coordinators and Foreign Ministers from ICGLR countries are Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda as well as Zambia

On August 2019, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) declared Kiswahili its fourth official language after English, French and Portuguese.

PATH VACANCY

Project Lead, Tools for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Job Description

PATH is a global organization that works to accelerate health equity by bringing together public institutions, businesses, social enterprises, and investors to solve the world's most pressing health challenges. With expertise in science, health, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales solutions—including vaccines, drugs, devices, diagnostics, and innovative approaches to strengthening health systems worldwide.

Tools for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (TIMCI) is a global effort led by PATH to accelerate availability, adoption and scale-up of tools to identify severe illness and decrease mortality in children under five years of age. PATH and its primary partner, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), will implement a four-year project funded by Unitaid. TIMCI has two major goals that both seek to improve detection of severe disease in children under five: 1) to improve healthcare workers' ability to diagnose severe disease by equipping them with pulse oximeters (POX) and electronic decision support tools; and 2) to accelerate the development and market entry of non-invasive devices that augment the features of a standard POX with one or more additional vital sign measurements. This high profile and potentially high impact project will begin in July 2019 and will take place in five countries: Kenya, Myanmar, Senegal, Tanzania, and the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

PATH is seeking a Project Lead to lead the TIMCI project implementation in Tanzania. With a strong clinical background, the Tanzania project leader will bring a passion for child health, market shaping, evidence-generation and project implementation in low resource settings. The Country Project Lead will report primarily to the Tanzania Country Program Representative and secondarily to the TIMCI Project Director. The Project Lead will be responsible for project leadership and management for all activities in their country with support from an in-country team and working closely with a global team. The Project Lead will also work closely with members of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) as well as representatives from key partner organizations such as the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and members of industry.

Specific Duties & Responsibilities:

- Serve as the overall leader of project activities in Tanzania
- Work closely with the health officials of related departments of MoHCDGEC and PORALG to ensure buy-in and alignment with project goals, activities and outcomes.
- Lead, in close partnership with the MoHCDGEC and PORALG, development and implementation of the program including supporting components such as clinical training materials, community engagement plans, and monitoring tools.
- Responsible for interactions and presentations to the Technical

Working Group (TWG) in Tanzania; ensuring the TWG is informed and facilitating decisions and buy-in on key project outcomes.

- Build and maintain relationships with local and regional decision-makers and influencers to update policies and create and implement scale-up and financing strategies.
- Act as liaison/resource between the implementation and research activities and research partners (Swiss TPH and Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) maintaining in-country connectivity with PATH and enabling high-level oversight.
- Lead the Country Implementation Working Group and participate on the Global Implementation Team.
- Actively engage with PATH staff, Swiss TPH, country partners, MoHCDGEC and PORALG and other key stakeholders to gain alignment and ensure high quality delivery of project outputs.
- Lead or contribute to publications and dissemination as required.

Required Experience

- Minimum of a Master's degree in public health, science or medicine, business administration, public policy, or equivalent.
- Minimum of 7 years of experience managing multi-site, complex health related programs in Tanzania.
- Demonstrated ability to manage large multidisciplinary teams, collaborate with internal and external partners, provide technical assistance, and coordinate implementation activities.
- Exceptional problem solving, bridge building, and diplomacy abilities.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with ability to interact culturally, linguistically, and diplomatically with diverse internal and external individuals.
- Comfortable managing in a flexible and changing environment, with ability to be ready to adjust plans and direction in response to local feedback and the iterative nature of the project.
- Excellent organization, attention to detail, coordinating, and management skills.
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills; demonstrated representational experience in professional and global fora.
- Experience implementing new programs into integrating them into existing systems desired.
- Doctor of Medicine or clinical background strongly preferred.
- Experience with electronic decision support tools and/or health diagnostic tools desired.
- Experience introducing new tools and/or processes at the primary health care level a plus.

Detailed job descriptions and application instructions

Please visit our website <http://www.path.org> for more details on this position. Qualified candidates should submit their resume and cover letter online to apply through our website not later than **Friday October 25, 2019**. We appreciate your application but only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.

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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND ROADS DEVELOPMENT

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: TECHNICAL AUDIT FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF HARGEISA BYPASS ROAD (ROUTE 200) IN SOMALILAND

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20181097

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. The Government of Somaliland has been allocated grant funds from TradeMark East Africa which are administered by TradeMark East Africa and executed by Ministry of Transport and Roads Development. TMEA intends to apply the funds to eligible direct payments under the contract for which this request for proposal is issued.

TMEA seeks to engage the services of qualified consultancy firms/consortium to provide Consultancy Services for the above-mentioned consultancy services.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarka.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com.

Only applications from registered firms/consortiums shall be accepted. Interested, qualified and registered consultancy firms/consortiums should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

The closing date for applications is 18 November 2019 at 5.00 pm (Nairobi time).

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender five days or less prior to the submission deadline



Growing Prosperity Through Trade

Half of African children are unregistered, says UN

By Columbus Mavhungu

THE United Nations says about half of all children in Africa are not registered at birth, a lapse that prevents them from accessing essential social services such as health and education. The UN says a number of African countries are working towards addressing this problem, but the countries say resources to make that a reality are scarce. According to the United Nations, the problem of unregistered children in Africa is worst in rural areas, where women give birth at home and don't bother to register the child with the government. Speaking on the sidelines of an ongoing conference of African ministers responsible for civil registration, Columbia Mar Gadio, the head of the U.N. in Zambia, said the problem makes it hard for such children to build prosperous lives. "If you are not registered at birth you are not accounted for," said Gadio. "Therefore in many African countries you cannot access education systems because to be registered in many schools, you need a birth certificate... And if you are not registered in the

educational system you are missing a great opportunity to be educated, to get employment and to be out of poverty." Oliver Chinganya is the director of the African Statistics Center at the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Africa, one of the agencies which organized the five-day conference in Lusaka, together with the African Union. He says over the past eight years, the U.N. has noticed a "tremendous improvement" in registration of African children at birth in 42 countries. "What we have noticed is that 54 percent of the countries, have digitalized their civil registration across the continent," said Chinganya. "We have also noticed that 22 percent of the countries, have now managed to digitalize their national ID systems. Which is a great improvement compared to pre-independence, even some 20 years ago." Zambia is one the countries that has digitalized their civil registration system. But Stephen Kampyongo, Zambia's Minister of Home Affairs, says the southern African nation and the rest of Africa still have a way to go.



Dares Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda inspects maternity ward project at Mwananyamala regional referral hospital yesterday. Left is Mist Engineer (MISTECO) Engineer Moses Moyo. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

African ministers say eradication of malaria by 2030 will take more than just money

By Cristina Matamoros

THE international donors has reached their target of €12 billion to fight malaria and other pandemics. The Global Fund reached its target after French President Emmanuel Macron's last-ditch fundraising proved fruitful for the organisation. One of the organisation's goals is to end HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics by 2030. Professor Awa Marie Coll-Seck,


Senegal's former health minister, told Euronews that to reach the eradication objective more work is needed at the community-level. She gave the example of the Thienaba village, in western Senegal, where a "communitarian approach" was able to eradicate the disease as well as in all surrounding villages. "There was raising of awareness among the women who took on the fight and proved that it was possible to do the same else-

where," she said, adding that the "communitarian approach" was in her opinion the best weapon against the mosquito-transmitted disease. She added that if she was still health minister, she would invest in hiring more health agents to work directly with affected communities. **Eradication by 2030?** So can the disease be eradicated by 2030? Coll-Seck doesn't think so. "We'll be talking about eradication when it becomes global. So eradication will take more time and will probably need other tools, such as vaccination, but we can get to pretty high elimination rates," she said. For Niger's health minister, Idi Illiassou Mainassara, in order to reach the objective of eradication by 2030, resources will need to follow. "If today the resources follow, then in 10 years we'll be able to

eradicate malaria," he told Euronews. The minister also believed eradication depends on a "change of attitude" towards the disease, calling the fight against malaria "multidimensional and multifactorial". "In Africa, the first factor for the propagation of malaria is the unsanitary conditions. Wastewater, domestic animal breeding, and illiteracy also contribute to the disease spreading," he said.

"Because of all those factors, we need more mobilisation, a big communication campaign, and awareness if we want to eliminate malaria by 2030." Capacity building with more agents on the field fighting the disease in the communities is also a requisite for its elimination, Mainassara added. "If all those factors are together, then I think we can decrease even if we don't eliminate completely. We will have results close to 100%."

As for the G7, are they doing enough? "I believe their efforts are not sufficient, they must go beyond discourse to action," said Niger's health minister. "If there is enough funding, we will be able to develop our countries (in Africa) and retain the people crossing the Mediterranean in the pursuit of a better life. "We can stop that, but there needs to be investment in Africa and the partners who work to improve public health."



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Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant positions:

Job Title:	Senior Procurement Officer (1 position)
Location:	Dar es Salaam
Reporting To:	Administration and Security Manager

Position Purpose:
The Senior Procurement Officer will be responsible for supporting sourcing and procurement of Goods, Works, and Services in the most cost-effective manner to PACT Tanzania and its projects under the direction of the Administration and Security Manager.

Job Title:	Monitoring and Evaluation Office (2 position)
Location:	Dar es Salaam and Mwanza
Reporting To:	Cluster Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Position Purpose:
To serve as an active member of the team in the implementation of Pact Tanzania's Kizazi Kipya project (New Generation) with the primary responsibility for supporting monitoring and evaluation functions under the technical direction of the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E) Officer.

Job Title:	Technical Services Coordinator-Bi-Directional Referrals and Linkages (1 position)
Location:	Dodoma
Reporting To:	Cluster Technical Manager

Position Purpose:
The Technical Service Coordinator Bi-Directional Referral and Linkages (TSC-BDRL) will play a pivotal role in ensuring implementation of 90-90-90 strategies and functional bi-directional referral systems between communities, clinical



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTREST FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE

Consultancy Title: Documentation Specialist

Location: Tanzania

Period of Performance: 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2020 (contract renewable)

Summary of Consultancy: PCI Tanzania implements development programs in different regions in Tanzania and we are increasing the documentation outputs. This Documentation Specialist will support the development of high-quality documents to be shared with external stakeholders. She/he will work with the technical teams to fully understand the specific programming approach and will accompany the team in writing the documents. The documents to be produced include success stories; technical briefs; reports; operational manuals; technical guidelines. To be successful, this position requires: regular trips to project sites, constant and effective communication with the project teams, impeccable English writing skills and the ability to deliver high quality documents on schedule.

Terms of Consultancy: One-year (renewable) retainer. Average monthly editing and polishing volume: 25 pages per month. Monthly retainer for first 25 pages, plus payment per page in excess of 25 pages. Monthly Reports and Invoices to be submitted for payments.

Minimum Requirements for Consultants: At least a Master's degree education in related discipline; legally able to sign and execute consultancies in Tanzania; Knowledge of and experience with international development organizations; excellent written and spoken English skills; Kiswahili fluency preferred; Proven experience in producing high quality deliverables without close oversight; Willingness to travel regularly throughout Tanzania; Ability to work with culturally diverse teams.

Expressions of Interests. Qualified parties are invited to submit an EOI that includes: an overview of your technical capacities; CV; availability over the next 12 months; and at least three references from clients in Tanzania. Incomplete EOIs will not be considered.

Complete EOIs should be submitted prior to
31 October 2019 to: info.tz@pciglobal.org

The Guardian

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THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2019

**Taking A New Look
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Honey trade can improve farmers incomes and fight poverty

HONEY is a sweet, viscous food substance made by bees and some related insects. Bees produce honey from the sugary secretions of plants (floral nectar) or from secretions of other insects (such as honeydew), by regurgitation, enzymatic activity, and water evaporation. Bees store honey in wax structures called a honeycomb. The variety of honey produced by honey bees (the genus *Apis*) is the best-known, due to its worldwide commercial production and human consumption. Honey is collected from wild bee colonies, or from hives of domesticated bees, a practice known as beekeeping or apiculture.

Honey is regarded as safe when not taken in excessive amounts.

NATURAL Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu recently blamed the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS)—an agency under the ministry—for the country's failure to supply waiting honey markets in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Speaking in Tabora Kanyasu directed TFS to make reforms to ensure that honey production increases for supply markets that have already been secured in the US, European Union and China.

Ministerial statistics show that estimated potential for bee products in Tanzania is about 138,000 metric tonnes of honey from an estimated potential of 9.2 million honey bee colonies.

The tonnage is based on an average production of 15 kilogrammes of honey and one kilogramme of beeswax per colony annually, but current estimated actual honey production stands at 30,430 metric tonnes or about 22 per cent of recognized potential.

Little has been done to coordinate and boost harvests in strategic honey producing regions of Tabora, Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Geita, Kigoma, Mbeya and Katavi, he stated. He blamed low production levels

on poor coordination between TFS and the Tabora-based Beekeeping Training Institute (BTI), charging that a lot was being done by the ministry to promote beekeeping but little was being done at lower levels.

TFS Chief Executive Officer Prof Dos Santos Silayo acknowledged that honey markets are plenty but they require assurance on supply levels and quality.

He said the agency has embarked on a number of initiatives to increase production as well as conducting promotions which include branding and participation in shows and meetings.

"We conduct honey quality tests in international labs annually to make sure that Tanzanian honey goes to all world markets. We have achieved this since our honey now goes to EU and US markets among others," he said.

Prof Silayo affirmed that TFS was supporting the Beekeeping Association of Tanzania (TABEDO), to form associations to produce honey in groups to ensure quality levels. This initiative has seen production levels going up, he declared.

The Tanzania Honey Council (THC), a non-governmental apex body of honey stakeholders, says beekeeping can be practiced countrywide although production potential varies from one location to another.

In the same vein, recently Belgium ambassador to Tanzania Peter Van Acker has launched a special honey collection centre at Madizini village in Mvomero district, Morogoro region which is aimed to provide closer support to bee keepers in the area.

The centre, among others will be working to train residents on smart bee keeping, help them improve market as well as promote environmental conversation.

It has been built by students from a Belgian-based university AFD Aden Lauven and Mzumbe University through the Belgian funding agency VLIR-UOS.

We should not ignore the plight of those living in poverty

POVERTY is not having enough material possessions or income for a person's needs. Poverty may include social, economic, and political elements.

Absolute poverty is the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. The threshold at which absolute poverty is defined is always about the same, independent of the person's permanent location or era.

On the other hand, relative poverty occurs when a person cannot meet a minimum level of living standards, compared to others in the same time and place.

Therefore, the threshold at which relative poverty is defined varies from one country to another, or from one society to another.

For example, a person who cannot afford housing better than a small tent in an open field would be said to live in relative poverty if almost everyone else in that area lives in modern brick homes, but not if everyone else also lives in small tents in open fields (for example, in a nomadic tribe).

Governments and non-governmental organizations try to reduce poverty. Providing basic needs to people who are unable to earn a sufficient income can be hampered by constraints on government's ability to deliver services, such as corruption, tax avoidance, debt and loan conditionalities and by the brain drain of health care and educational professionals.

Strategies of increasing income to make basic needs more affordable typically include welfare, economic freedoms and providing financial services.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year on October 17 throughout the world.

The first commemoration of the event took place in Paris, France, in 1987 when 100,000 people gathered on the Human Rights and Liberties Plaza at the Trocadéro to honour victims of poverty, hunger, violence and fear at the unveiling of a commemorative stone by Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of the International Movement ATD Fourth World.

In 1992, four years after Wresinski's death, the United Nations officially designated October 17 as The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.

Early in his career as an activist, Wresinski recognised that governments tended to ignore the plight of those living in poverty, leading to feelings of rejection, shame, and humiliation.

As a result, one of the primary goals of the Day is to recognise the struggles of the impoverished and to make their voices heard by governments and ordinary citizens.

Participation by the poorest of people is an important aspect of the observance of the Day.

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Wake up, everyone: ANC NEC'S energy statement is a real new dawn for South Africa

By Mark Swilling

THE policy community and the media seem so set in their respective performances that it seems they can say in advance what the other has said with monotonous regularity. And we collude in this boring cycle of predictability, reading what they say and write until we are numbed enough not to care very much. Well, every now and then it is important to listen when the siren goes off.

This week, the reporting on the ANC NEC statement was no different: it came out in its usual leaden ANC-speak, the press conference was uneventful and the commentary afterwards pedestrian.

But buried quite far down in the nine-page statement was a remarkable game-changer, with major implications for the future of our energy system. It is worth quoting in full:

"The NEC affirmed the approach of a balance between national development goals and global obligations with regards to climate change, particularly in the energy sector. The Integrated Resource Plan should articulate the lowest-cost option for the future energy mix for South Africa, with increased contributions from renewable energy sources. The NEC agreed to develop a strategy on a just transition to a low-carbon path of development that takes into account the interests of workers, communities and broader society. This should include such new technologies as fuel cell applications which require platinum group metals (PGM) which South Africa has in abundance."

Read carefully: climate change acknowledged, the IRP must articulate the "lowest-cost option" for our "future energy mix", and the NEC is going to develop a just transition strategy!

The decision that the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) must articulate a lowest-cost option is seemingly nebulous and obvious, but it is a major game-changer. It is a repetition of the same idea that appeared a few weeks ago in the National Treasury policy document on an economic strategy for South Africa – but that was not ANC policy, it was merely a proposal in a Treasury document. Now



it is the ANC policy. Why is this such a big deal?

Well, the reason why we have not been able to approve an updated IRP since 2010 is that there was no consensus about what the future energy mix should be precisely because the cost was not the dominant criterion.

Back in 2010, the government signed the World Bank loan to build Medupi, subject to the condition it would also build a Concentrated Solar Power plant for \$100-million (which never happened).

Despite the incredible arrogance and certainty of the World Bank modellers who assured the Minister of Finance at the time, Pravin Gordhan, that this was a good deal, it was a deal that was totally unjustifiable because there were cheaper alternatives, and it is the deal that has landed Eskom and the country in a serious debt crisis. Eskom's debt is now 9% of GDP. Knowledgeable experts, including myself, warned then that the World Bank models were flawed.

Then, during the Jacob Zuma years, energy policy was manipulated to justify Zuma's determination to force through a signed deal with Vladimir Putin to build a fleet of Russian nuclear power plants. Again, the cost seemed irrelevant. Nuclear energy is the most expensive form of energy. No Russian nuclear power plant has been built on budget and in time. However, Zuma's nationalist political project required a big and shiny iconic mega-project to legitimise the notion of "radical economic transformation".

The draft IRP that was supposed to be approved at the most recent Cabinet meeting recommends an energy mix that is not the lowest-cost option. The CSIR did the modelling work for the IRP and recommended a lowest-cost option.

This effectively meant investing in renewables, not coal and definitely not nuclear. The end result, as reflected in the IRP, would be 70% of the nearly 400 TWh needed by 2050 would be supplied by renewables. No new coal-fired power stations would be needed. The other scenarios are, of course, also presented.

The lowest-cost option did not suit the policy-makers, resulting in an arbitrary policy decision by the Department of Energy to cap renewables at 40% for most of the other scenarios that were considered – all of which are more expensive, with the scenarios that include nuclear being the most expensive. In other words, the department does not favour a lowest-cost option. It favours an option that includes additional coal-fired power stations, plus renewables supplying the rest.

The obvious question is: why does the lowest-cost option result in no new coal-fired power stations, no nuclear and a massive expansion of renewables?

The answer is simple: renewables now cost 60c/KWh over the life cycle, while coal costs R1.30/KWh and nuclear is between R1.70 and R2.80/KWh. Former Eskom CEO Matshela Koko and his funded social media army will pump out fake news claiming that renewables are more expensive (in order to keep alive the nuclear option for their paymasters), but they are wrong.

They are referring to the levelised cost of renewables over the four bid windows, and back in 2011 renewables were more than R3/KWh. That is no longer true. But we are still paying those old prices now. That is what technological learning is about – costs go down over time thanks to innovation. The facts are indisputable: renewables are the lowest-cost option. This is what the ANC NEC has effectively accepted.

By adopting the lowest-cost option policy this past weekend, the ANC NEC has effectively endorsed the lowest-cost option in the IRP which provides for no new coal-fired power stations. This really is a massive game-changer, and yet it went unnoticed by the media. Telling South Africa that it must break its addiction to coal is like telling the Catholic Church to convert to Protestantism. For many South Africans, this really is a cultural shock – we think that if you can't dig it out of the ground and ignite it with a match, it simply can't fuel the economy.

Well, the world is changing. The president knows this very well. In the message he sent to the Climate Summit in New York last week, he made it clear that South Africa wants a just transition to a renewables-based economy. His ministers in attendance, Barbara Creecy and Naledi Pandor, said the same thing. The ANC NEC statement has now endorsed this position, making it clear that the next step is for the ANC to work out what the just transition looks like.

There are, of course, those who think that coal mining jobs must be protected by building more coal-fired power stations so that the coal mines can stay open. This idea is now totally outdated. The coal-mining sector faces two big challenges: energy costs and carbon taxes. The cost of energy for the average coal mine as gone up from 11% of operating costs to 25% in a decade. And there is no security of supply, and no way of knowing whether costs will drop.

The carbon tax means coal mines pay carbon taxes on the energy they use, which is why many are building renewable energy plants. The Minerals Council has made it clear, they need cheap energy and energy that is lower-carbon to reduce their carbon taxes. What is going to deliver both of these? Of course, renewables! With cheaper decarbonised energy inputs, coal mines can be re-oriented to export coal. The greens might not like this, but it is a reality that may actually convince the minister of minerals and energy to support renewables going to scale.

What it means is South Africa's century-old coal industry becomes decoupled from energy production. The era of the mineral energy complex is over.

But let's be pessimists for a moment. Let's assume that there are some power players who do still think that a lowest-cost option includes investing in more coal-fired power stations.

As far as sources of funding are concerned, according to the highly respected Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, some of the largest financial institutions in the world had announced by February 2019 that they are withdrawing from investments in coal.

Since February 2019, a dozen or so more financial institutions have made similar commitments, as have some of the major mining companies. It follows that if South Africa wanted to replace its current coal-fired power stations that must be decommissioned with new ones, the funding required will be almost impossible to source. And even if it was sourced, the cost of capital would be extremely high. The result would not be cheap energy.

This contrasts with renewables. Total annual investment globally in renewables has exceeded the investment in fossil fuels every year since 2009. By 2019, total investment in renewables was nearly \$300-billion, which is double the total invested in fossil fuels and nuclear combined. Renewables are the fastest-growing energy sub-sector. The world is changing. Even in the US, with a coal champion as president, renewables are about equal to coal now. Germany is planning to close all its coal and nuclear power stations.

In short, this is why the reference in the ANC NEC statement to "lowest-cost option for the future energy mix" is not just a lot more humdrum. It is a game-changer of note.

Wake up, everyone. Buried within those seemingly innocuous words – "lowest-cost option" – is a real new dawn for South Africa.

Shortlisting candidates for interviews and employment

A FEW hours ago I was from my 65th interview, three years after clearing campus. By the way I am scheduled to go for one in a few minutes time, furthermore, I have like two other interviews slated for the same day this week which am still deliberating with the voices in my head on whether or not to honour their summons.

My friends believe am in a blissful state of affairs with lady luck since at least am given a fighting chance in those interviews unlike them who don't even get those" we regret to inform you messages, usually web generated turning down your application by prospective employers acknowledging their waste of ink, paper, interest and time

The response is still the same as the previous ones, "we have gone through your papers, your presentation was excellent, we will get back to you in two weeks time." These are usually the last words I ever hear from the organization.

Do these interview panels really know what they make us go through? Hope they don't, because if they do then they allow interviewees to go through a rigorous process yet they already have a preferred list of candidates within their ranks and the hottest furnace in hell should be reserved for them literally!

Though some relatives will still hold the view that you are a dimwit who couldn't make it past a job interview even after making it to the shortlist, little do they know that the interview process was a public participation exercise meant to improve the organization's public relations; interview all select the 'best' scatter the rest.

How does an organization advertise for two positions shortlist 1000 people with similar qualifications under the pretense of "we are looking for the best candidate" or is the sitting allowance the motivating factor. With their "We are an equal opportunity employer, canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification," which is the corporate lie as canvassing leads to automatic employment.

Am not an expert in HR techniques and practices, but I bet through document analysis of the applicants CV's they can select 10 applicants to square it out for the two vacancies saving the remaining 990 the cost of printing cover letters, Cv's, Certificate of good conduct, HELB clearance and credit clearance certificate to show you honour your debts as if we live in a country where you can just take a loan without collateral. Acquiring all these documents is an expensive and time consuming undertaking.



Going through the organizations website to memorize its mission, vision, core values, structure, heads of departments, history of the organization and notable milestones is not an easy task considering you have to conceptualize them overnight through serious cramming as you await the interview the following morning.

In this interview I met Josh, who was 33 years masters degree holder who had first class honors at undergraduate level, yes a first class 33 year old who was still competing with us ; people of second class honors upper division who were noisemakers throughout campus. Who clusters someone who got a first class with the rest !!!!

As we were lined up waiting for 'slaughter', I got to ask Josh what he was doing here since that job was not well lucrative compared to his academic qualifications. It was a two year contract

So he has been in between internships since completing his degree, here I was thinking all first class ninjas were directly sponsored for masters as they are sharpened to join the career academic ranks. Here he was still tarmacking with no hope of being an assistant lecturer.

"I have been an intern for close to two years in this parastatal, so I thought when a vacancy comes up I would be considered. Three weeks ago, a vacancy came up since one of the department's staff had been redeployed to another state owned enterprise. The HR summoned me to his office to inform me of the new development thus I was to take over her duties as I wait to be confirmed as a permanent and pensionable staff.

My patience had finally paid off, two years wait is no joke my brother, you have to be overly optimistic considering the remuneration of interns in government establishments."

"I took up the role of a civil servant on an intern's stipend performing the duties exemplarily as I knew it was a matter of days before the letter of appointment lands on my desk. However, 'things change...."

College Comfort Zone

With
Salima Hamisi

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"What changed," I asked as he paused After a moment of silence he resumed. "On a Monday, the week I was to be confirmed I found my desk had a new occupant."

"Which desk , the intern's desk," I asked

"Not the interns desk come on, my new desk the permanent and pensionable staff desk I had been promoted to two weeks ago. All my things had been sent back to the sender, the interns desk by the door where I had been operating from for the past two years."

There was grave silence in the office as I went in nobody was willing to give me an explanation of what had happened, was I the one next in line what had just happened. I greeted the new staff member with a plastic smile though inside me I was burning with rage.

She was far much younger as I returned to my intern's post pretending to be fine. Being fine was the last thing I could have been that Monday morning, so I tried to patiently sit out the day but it wasn't possible without a proper explanation of my 'demotion'. Had I done anything wrong, I kept asking myself as I reflected the two weeks probation period where I was in an acting capacity.

As I was going through the newspapers doing the daily media monitoring and analysis the state of my mind couldn't allow me to do anything constructive so I went to the Human Resource office to see the person in-charge to seek clarification of what had just transpired. Unfortunately he wasn't there so I went back to my intern's post perform lighter duties as the day tortoises off.

My colleagues were in shock though they couldn't do anything, it was a matter out of their control. Nobody knew who brought her in so they kept their calm as they sympathized with me encouraging me over lunch break that another chance will just come up, come up from where and after how long I asked myself.

My colleague Martin had other

ideas of how they could sabotage Janice, the new staff member so that she quits or seeks lighter duties elsewhere. An idea I was supporting considering how 'unfair' she just came in and took my place however, Saito had other ideas as he called for caution with his short statement "when you see a tortoise on a table ask yourself who placed it there." She might be the big bosses' property and that might put us in one hell of trouble". So sabotage was out of the question.

"So what did you do," I asked

"I left" he answered

"Just like that," I asked

Yes, In the evening I just picked up what was necessary from my intern's desk then never reported to work the following morning and have never went back since then.

"What of your recommendation letter, didn't they call you" I asked

"To hell with the recommendation letter, do you think they might put in some nice about my contribution to the organization, they never called or bothered to ask where I had disappeared to," he answered.

The HR conducting the interview came out, " Salima Hamisi you are next so have your credentials in order."

As I was arranging my curriculum vitae, academic certificates and other supporting credentials Josh told me he would be leaving for the Yemen next month as a security guard if he won't get this contract as he was sick and tired of these job interviews.

Asking him what a masters holder who had first class honors at undergraduate level would be doing in war torn country as a security guard.

He replied as he wished me all the best in the interview, "in this country education used to be the KEY to SUCCESS until sex, corruption & connections became the padlocks unless you part your legs, part with money or a relative plays part you can't get meaningful employment." he continued. That there was indeed a very sad state of affairs.



China's Jack Ma to eye education, entrepreneurs and Africa after stepping down from Alibaba

SINGAPORE

ALIBABA founder Jack Ma has said his biggest mission in the future will be to look at ways of how education can be done differently and to empower young entrepreneurs in Africa, in his role as the founder of the Jack Ma Foundation.

Ma (pictured) was speaking at a dialogue with Steve Forbes, chairman and editor-in-chief of Forbes Media, at the high-profile Forbes Global CEO Conference 2019 held at the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore Tuesday night.

Last month, Jack Ma officially stepped down as group chairman of Alibaba, handing over the position to the company CEO Daniel Zhang.

The retired business magnate, who initially began his career as a teacher, said he would be spending more time and energy on education, philanthropy and environmental protection.

Ma said the current education system still reinforces the old, industrial-period style of education, where children passively receive the knowledge in the classroom.

Instead, the reality is that many young children are getting their knowledge through the Internet, while machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) can process the information, memorize and calculate faster and better than human beings.

In order to survive in the AI period, a lot more can be done to revamp the education to change the type and way content is taught, and for children to be independent, critical thinkers who are innovative and creative, said Ma.

"You never learn wisdom from the classroom. Wisdom, you only learn through a tough life ... In the classroom, you only learn about knowledge, but life is about experience," said Ma, who added that he will spend the next year "thinking it through" and visiting more countries and schools to study the different models.

Outlining his vision, Ma said that beyond subjects like maths and physics, other subjects like music, painting, dancing and sports are equally important as they teach people how to be artists, to use their "heart", "imagination" and to know the rhythm. "This is the human knowledge ... and I want more people to do more things on that," he said.

Another important aspect is to teach young entrepreneurs to learn how companies fail. Explaining the reason why he gives case studies of failed or bankrupt companies to his staff, Ma said, "When they learn too much (about success stories), they think they can easily succeed.

But going into business is like going into the battlefield ... only those who survive win." "So when you learn the failure cases, you know how to face these mistakes, how to solve it and

challenge it. This is wisdom and this is what we should teach our kids." Ma also outlined his plans for Africa, where he plans to work to empower the young entrepreneurs there and help "discover" more Jack Mas, Bill Gates, Warren Buffetts and Steve Jobs, which can go a long way in uplifting Africa.

Recalling how he first visited Africa four years ago, he said he was impressed by how smart the young entrepreneurs were and their mobile-first culture.

Unlike most entrepreneurs in other countries who just aim for IPO (initial public offering), the entrepreneurs in Africa are "different" because they have a vision "to change Africa" and their lives, he said.

The goal is to make these African entrepreneurs the "heroes," because entrepreneurs are the "most important element to develop a society," said Ma, adding that more can be done to support female African entrepreneurs as well.

"In Africa, we need three Es: e-government, to make the government transparent; entrepreneurs, make them heroes; and education, make the people know what they want and what they don't want," he said. "That's why it's my great honour to go there and do something ... It may not be successful, but at least we tried. So that's where I want to go," said Ma.

As the world enters a new era of change, Ma said that the important thing is to work with young people, as they represent the future. "When you work with most of the successful people, they only talk about yesterday," he said.

While other countries has had a long history of building their philanthropic scene and foundations, China is just beginning to do so, said Ma, who vowed to be among the first to pave the way of creating such an infrastructure or system in China.

"I believe that China, one day, hundreds of thousands of business people will build up their own charity or foundation ... We need a way, so I will be the guy who is testing that and I will share the (mistakes I make)," he said.

On the legacy and vision he left at Alibaba, Ma said it is the spirit of entrepreneurship and creating and the belief that technology will give people a better future. "We always think about what we can do to solve the social problems, instead of complaining.

That's the journey. And I'm having great fun, when you see millions of people's lives changed." Themed "Transcending the Turbulence," the prestigious conference is an annual gathering for some 400 global CEOs, tycoons, entrepreneurs, investors and thought leaders to discuss key issues of global concern and build new partnerships. At the event, Ma was presented with the Malcolm S. Forbes Lifetime Achievement Award.

Xinhua

Building upon the key drivers of tourism growth in Africa

By Special Correspondent

TOURISM is travel for pleasure or business; also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism may be international or within the traveler's country. The World Tourism Organization defines tourism more generally, in terms which go "beyond the common perception of tourism as being limited to holiday activity only", as people "traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure and not less than 24 hours, business and other purposes".

Tourism can be domestic or international, and international tourism has both incoming and outgoing implications on a country's balance of payments.

Tourism suffered as a result of a strong economic slowdown of the late-2000s recession, between the second half of 2008 and the end of 2009, and the outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus, but slowly recovered. International tourism receipts (the travel item in the balance of payments) grew to US\$1.03 trillion (€740 billion) in 2005, corresponding to an increase in real terms of 3.8 pc from 2010. International tourist arrivals surpassed the milestone of 1 billion tourists globally for the first time in 2012, emerging markets such as China, Russia, and Brazil had significantly increased their spending over the previous decade. The ITB Berlin is the world's leading



tourism trade fair. Global tourism accounts for ca. 8 pc of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The word tourist was used in 1772 and tourism in 1811.[12] It is formed from the word tour, which is derived from Old English turian, from Old French torner, from Latin tornare; 'to turn on a lathe,' which is itself from Ancient Greek.

The tourism industry, as part of the service sector, has become an important source of income for many regions and even for entire countries. The Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 1980 recognized its importance as "an activity essential to the life of nations because of its direct effects on the social, cultural, educational, and economic sectors of national societies, and on their international relations."

Tourism brings large amounts of income into a local economy in the form of payment for goods and ser-

vices needed by tourists, accounting as of 2011 for 30 pc of the world's trade in services, and, as an invisible export, for 6 pc of overall exports of goods and services. It also generates opportunities for employment in the service sector of the economy associated with tourism.

The hospitality industries which benefit from tourism include transportation services (such as airlines, cruise ships, trains and taxicabs); lodging (including hotels, hostels, homestays, resorts and renting rooms); and entertainment venues (such as amusement parks, restaurants, casinos, shopping malls, music venues, and theatres). This is in addition to goods bought by tourists, including souvenirs.

On the flip-side, tourism can degrade people and sour relationships between host and guest.

Definitions

In 1936, the League of Nations defined a foreign tourist as "someone

traveling abroad for at least twenty-four hours". Its successor, the United Nations, amended this definition in 1945, by including a maximum stay of six months.

In 1941, Hunziker and Kraft defined tourism as "the sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the travel and stay of non-residents, insofar as they do not lead to permanent residence and are not connected with any earning activity." In 1976, the Tourism Society of England's definition was: "Tourism is the temporary, short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work and their activities during the stay at each destination. It includes movements for all purposes." In 1981, the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism defined tourism in terms of particular activities chosen and undertaken outside the home.

In 1994, the United Nations identified three forms of tourism in its Recommendations on Tourism Statistics:

- Domestic tourism, involving residents of the given country traveling only within this country
- Inbound tourism, involving non-residents traveling in the given country
- Outbound tourism, involving residents traveling in another country

The terms tourism and travel are sometimes used interchangeably. In this context, travel has a similar definition to tourism but implies a more purposeful journey. The terms tourism and tourist are sometimes used pejoratively, to imply a shallow interest in the cultures or locations visited. By contrast, traveler is often used as a sign of distinction.



Mugabe: A champagne pan-Africanist

By Blessings Denhere

SINCE the death of Robert Mugabe on September 6, both the local and international media has been saturated with competing, complementary and contradictory obituaries, opinion pieces and narratives about the life, times and legacy of the former president.

However, what was conspicuous by its absence from these competing narratives was the objective analysis and critique of the his Pan-Africanist credentials.

Hence, Mugabe has been hyper-glamorised, romanticised and fetishised predominantly by the non-Zimbabweans continental and diasporan black and African communities as a great Pan-Africanist who, ironically, in majority of the cases have never experienced first-hand a bitter cocktail of his disastrous statecraft, misgovernance, misleadership, avarice and profligacy. Which is clearly the antithesis of virtues of Pan-Africanism.

Accordingly, it is against this backdrop that I attempt to unpack, unravel and expose the hypocrisy, opportunism and self-serving warped Pan-Africanism of Mugabe.

The best place to start interrogating the Pan-Africanist socio-political and cultural outlook of Mugabe is at the inaugural independence celebrations of Zimbabwe.

During the preparatory phase of the independence celebrations of newly-independent Zimbabwe, there was an incident which happened between Mugabe and Edgar Tekere and it has to do with the entertainment side of the independence celebration. This was about which international performing artist was going to headline the Independence Day celebrations.

Paradoxically, Mugabe, who had built a fearsome reputation during the armed struggle as a radical Marxist-Leninist guerrilla leader, chose and wanted a British conservative pop musician Cliff Richard to perform rather than the revolutionary radical international Jamaican reggae artist Bob Marley.

Bob Marley, in 1979, had released a Pan-Africanist reggae album titled *Survival* and it includes a song called *Zimbabwe*, which was dedicated to the new nation's armed struggle against British colonialism and Rhodesian apartheid. Coupled with the fact Zanu and Zanla propagandist pirate radio station, *Voice of Zimbabwe*, regularly played Bob Marley revolutionary songs which inspired the freedom fighters.

Therefore, the choice of Cliff Richard was out of touch and out of sync with the occasion celebrating the birth of a nation that came through a revolutionary armed struggle. Nonetheless, Tekere's choice of Bob Marley prevailed over Mugabe's choice.

Another interesting dimension to demystify and expose the narrow Pan-Africanist credentials of Mugabe can be gleaned from one of the early interviews he conducted with BBC soon after being inaugurated as the

then first black prime minister of independent Zimbabwe. During the course of the interview, Mugabe was asked whether his government is going to provide logistical support and military bases to South African liberation movements.

Mugabe unequivocally said no he is not going to open up Zimbabwe's southern border to either ANC or the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) to launch guerrilla incursions into apartheid South Africa. This exposes Mugabe's foreign policy was diametrically opposed to the Cold War-era Frontline States Pan-Africanism of the likes of Kenneth Kaunda, Julius Nyerere and Samora Machel who, during the height of the Cold War geopolitical contestations of anti-colonial struggles in Southern Africa, they had mortgaged their countries and meagre resources in support of Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia in their quest for self-determination and independence.

This refusal by Mugabe to provide military bases to South African anti-apartheid liberation movements was analogous to a younger brother in a family who had been supported by other elder brothers to attain his education. However, upon completing his education, he selfishly refuses to help his other younger brother to attain the similar education he was assisted to acquire.

Thus, if Mugabe had taken over the relay baton from the Frontline States, continued with the spirit of Pan-Africanist brotherhood of Kaunda, Nyerere and Machel, and replicated the support Zimbabwe got from the holy trinity of this grouping, South Africa would have probably and arguably got its independence earlier than 1994.

Zimbabwe embarked on its land reform programme during the heightened periods of geopolitical, military and socio-economic global dynamics that played out at the global stage which inevitably pitted the Global South against the Global North.

Accordingly, globalisation was an anathema to the developing world which they saw as another sanitised and deodorised version of the detested and highly unpopular Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (Esap). This was coupled with Anglo-American calamitous military and regime change agendas misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was against this backdrop that Mugabe straddles the world stage and tapped into anti-globalisation and anti-regime change agenda sentiments which were permeating across the Global South. Accordingly, Mugabe opportunistically framed the whole debate on land reform in terms of us against them, and self-imposed himself as the David of the developing world who was taking on imperialistic Goliath of the developed world, particularly Britain and America.

Therefore, when both the diasporan and continental African communities and also the African American communities and other peo-

By Jean Pisani-Ferry

THE deteriorating state of the global economy is high on the international policy agenda. The OECD recently revised down its forecast to 1.5 per cent growth in the advanced G20 economies in 2020, compared to almost 2.5 per cent in 2017. And its chief economist, Laurence Boone, warned of the risk of further deterioration – a coded way of indicating a growing threat of recession.

Structural shifts in the automobile industry, miserable productivity gains in advanced economies, shrinking spare capacity, and the build-up of financial fragilities would be sufficient causes for concern even in normal times. But, today, a combination of cracks in the global trading system and an unprecedented shortage of policy ammunition are adding to the worries.

As the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecast emphasised, a good part of the slowdown can be attributed to the ongoing Sino-American trade dispute. Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute reckons that, on the basis of announcements made, the average US tariff on imports from China will increase from 3 per cent two years ago to 27 per cent by the end of 2019, while Chinese tariffs on US goods will rise from 8 per cent to 25 per cent over the same period.

These are sharp enough increases to disrupt supply chains. Anxieties over a further escalation will inevitably dent investment.

Moreover, US President Donald Trump's erratic tariff policy is symptomatic of a broader reassessment of global production networks.

Even if Trump is not re-elected in 2020, there are hardly any free traders left in the US. The damage to the global trade regime from rising nationalism is likely to outlast him.

And climate-related grievances regarding the unfettered pursuit of lower production costs are bound to grow further. The other big concern is the lack of policy tools to counter a slowdown. In a normal



recession, central banks cut interest rates aggressively to prop up demand. The United States Federal Reserve, for example, lowered rates by five percentage points in each of the last three recessions.

Today, however, the Fed only has about half its normal room to cut rates, while the European Central Bank (ECB) has very little.

Risk-free rates in the eurozone are already negative, even on 30-year bonds. And after the ECB recently loosened policy under outgoing president Mario Draghi, his successor, Christine Lagarde, will inherit a largely empty toolbox.

As Lagarde has said, "Central banks are not the only game in town." Both she and Draghi have called on eurozone governments to provide more fiscal stimulus.

On paper, this looks feasible: whereas the US cyclically-adjusted budget deficit exceeds 6 per cent of GDP, the average deficit in the eurozone remains below 1 per cent.

And the debt-to-GDP ratio in the eurozone, though high, is lower than in the US. Furthermore, as former International Monetary Fund chief economist Olivier Blanchard has emphasised, temporary deficits do not imply a lasting increase in the debt-to-GDP ratio when the interest rate is well below the growth rate, as it is now.

European finance ministers, however, did not even consider contingent fiscal

plans at their most recent meeting in September.

And Germany, which has room to act, still opposes relaxing its "black zero" requirement, according to which parliament must approve a balanced budget, with deficits permissible only if growth undershoots expectations.

While calls to lift this self-imposed constraint are growing louder, the separate "debt brake" enshrined in Germany's constitution limits the cyclically-adjusted federal deficit to 0.35% of GDP.

Eurozone governments thus have only limited room for fiscal manoeuvre and may lack the political courage to enlarge it. Most likely, therefore,

Europe will muddle through with some recession-induced fiscal easing but no aggressive response. Yet, a decade after the Great Recession, Europe's economy is still convalescing, and another period of prolonged hardship would cause serious, potentially dangerous economic and political damage.

Policymakers should, therefore, explore alternative options. That brings us to the outlandish idea of equipping the ECB with new tools.

In the late 1960s, Milton Friedman, the father of monetarism, imagined that a central bank could drop banknotes by helicopter – a metaphor that former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke later used to explain how the Fed could always do more

to counter deflation.

To turn this thought experiment into a real policy option, the Eurosystem could extend perpetual, interest-free loans to banks in member countries, on the condition that they pass the money on to consumers under the same terms.

Concretely, households would receive a €1,000 credit that they would never pay back – in effect, a transfer that would finance more consumption.

Each member country's central bank would either keep a fictional asset on its balance sheet or, more realistically, recoup the corresponding losses over time by reducing the annual dividend paid to its public shareholder.

Such an initiative would face considerable obstacles, however. The first is legal: would the ECB be acting within its mandate? Arguably, it would, provided such an operation were used to help achieve the ECB's price stability objective.

Eurozone inflation is currently too low, and a recession would aggravate this. The second problem is operational: some eurozone households have no bank account, while others have several.

And should the same amount be extended to households in Luxembourg as in Latvia, where per capita income is four times lower?

This may not matter from a macroeconomic standpoint, but it does in terms of equity. The final hurdle is political: the ECB would be accused of breaching the Chinese wall separating monetary and fiscal policy because the operation would be equivalent to a state-administered transfer financed by money creation.

Given the current acrimony over the ECB's monetary strategy, that might be one controversy too far. Time will tell if a deteriorating economic situation and the lack of alternative options justify entering uncharted territory.

It is unlikely that Europe will have the guts for it, and even if it does, the path will be perilously narrow and littered with obstacles.

But the risk of acting might ultimately be lower than the risk of kicking the can down the road.

Ugandan carpenters sharpen tools after govt ban on importation of furniture

By Mu Xuequan

MOST of the roads leading to and out of the Ugandan capital Kampala have roadside furniture workshops. Over the years, youths in these workshops have gained experience and the art of making furniture ranging from office to household furniture.

Despite all these efforts, the youths have had to compete with imported furniture. Government has now resolved that starting this financial year 2019/20, which started in July, no public office would be allowed to import furniture. All furniture in public offices must be locally made.

"Public sector procurement is one of the key tools that government can utilize to support directly or indirectly our domestic industry and overall national economy," Keith Muhakanizi, permanent secretary of the ministry of finance said in a directive issued to all government accounting officers.

The directive issued in July about buying locally made furniture is intended to support the Buy Uganda Build Uganda policy, an import substitution initiative run by government.

Carpenters are excited about the government directive and are optimistic that they will cash in.

"If government starts recognizing and appreciating the fact that we also put in a lot of energy to produce quality, it will boost the industry because they are the biggest spenders in the country," Daniel Gizamba, deputy secretary general of Nsambya Carpentry, Joinery and Crafts Makers Agency, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Gizamba said their main challenge has been unfavorable competition with imported products.

He said most of the imported products are given tax exemptions which makes it extremely hard to compete with.

Rashid Tandaza is another carpenter who told Xinhua that he has already started approaching govern-

ment offices and is optimistic that with the new directive, he would be able to supply them furniture.

"We have high quality products and the president can attest to that because he came here in 2017 and lauded us for the good work. Therefore, Government should support us," Tandaza said.

President Yoweri Museveni through government's wealth creation campaigns has offered financial support to youth groups running carpentry workshops in Kampala and its suburbs.

Ministry of finance figures show that government this financial year plans to procure furniture worth 8.13 million U.S. dollars.

Benson Turamy, executive director of Public Procurement and Disposal Public Assets Authority told Xinhua in a recent interview that the government's directive to buy locally made furniture is a step in the right direction.

"Once adopted by government, the process of procuring furniture from local carpenters needs to be streamlined so that carpenters know the quality needed by government because that is quite important," Turamy said.

"We have so many good furniture producers but some lack just a few skills to match international standards and I think it is only right to support them as government," he added.

Ramathan Ggoobi, an economist from Makerere University Business School, said the directive provided an opportunity for more jobs to be created. He said one of the setbacks for entrepreneurship was lack of available market.

"If government chooses to buy local furniture, then it is with no doubt that more youth will be lured into carpentry, hence creation of more jobs," said Ggoobi.

Uganda, officially the Republic of Uganda is a country in East-Central Africa. It is bordered to the east by Kenya, to the north by South Sudan, to the west by the Democratic Repub-



lic of the Congo, to the south-west by Rwanda, and to the south by Tanzania. The southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, shared with Kenya and Tanzania. Uganda is in the African Great Lakes region. Uganda also lies within the Nile basin, and has a varied but generally a modified equatorial climate.

Uganda takes its name from the Buganda kingdom, which encompasses a large portion of the south of the country, including the capital Kampala. The people of Uganda were hunter-gatherers until 1,700 to 2,300 years ago, when Bantu-speaking populations migrated to the southern parts of the country.

Beginning in 1894, the area was ruled as a protectorate by the UK, who established administrative law across the territory. Uganda gained independence from the UK on 9 October 1962. The period since then has been marked by violent conflicts, including an 8-year-long far right military dictatorship led by officer Idi Amin. Additionally, a lengthy civil war against the Lord's Resistance Army in the Northern Region led by Joseph Kony, has caused hundreds of thousands of casualties.

The official languages are English and Swahili, although "any other language may be used as a medium of

instruction in schools or other educational institutions or for legislative, administrative or judicial purposes as may be prescribed by law." Luganda, a central language, is widely spoken across the country, and several other languages are also spoken including Runyoro, Runyankole, Rukiga, Luo and Lusoga.

The current president of Uganda is Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who came to power in January 1986 after a protracted six-year guerrilla war. He has since eliminated the presidential term limits and the presidential age limit: due to the nature of Ugandan politics, this effectively makes him president for life.

The residents of Uganda were hunter-gatherers until 1,700-2,300 years ago. Bantu-speaking populations, who were probably from central Africa, migrated to the southern parts of the country.

According to oral tradition, the Empire of Kitara covered an important part of the great lakes area, from the northern lakes Albert and Kyoga to the southern lakes Victoria and Tanganyika. Bunyoro-Kitara is claimed as the antecedent of the Buganda, Toro, Ankole, and Busoga kingdoms.

Arab traders moved inland from the Indian Ocean coast of East Africa in the 1830s. They were followed in the 1860s by British explorers searching for the source of the Nile.

Research projects boost aquaculture in Africa

By Nadia Krige

THE University of Cape Town (UCT) is set to make its mark in the development of sustainable aquaculture in Africa, as it embarks on two large collaborative research projects.

As the world population fast approaches 8 billion, fish consumption is expected to increase on all continents by 2030. Except for Africa, where commercially important fish stocks are either fully- or overexploited. With its population growth exceeding supply, Africa has become a net importer of fish; almost 40% of what's consumed on the continent comes from elsewhere.

This has put a premium on seafood products, leading to a steady decline in consumption, as people opt for more affordable protein.

For countries that have historically been dependent on fisheries, the decline is especially alarming, as it could compromise their ability to meet United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture."

What about aquaculture?

Overfishing and depletion of fish stocks is, however, not exclusively an African problem. As fisheries aim to satiate the world's growing appetite for seafood, some 33% of global marine fish stocks are overfished and

59% are fished at maximum sustainable levels.

Aquaculture, however, may offer an alternative to wild-caught fish.

Some 33% of global marine fish stocks are overfished and 59% are fished at maximum sustainable levels.

In 2018, the UN's Food and Agriculture Association reported aquaculture - freshwater and marine - was the fastest growing food production sector in the world and that, as a food resource, production of farmed fish exceeded wild-caught fish.

Despite strong potential and significant expansion of its existing aquaculture industry, which is based mostly on land, Africa accounts for only 2% of global aquaculture production. While the reasons for this are manifold and complex, it comes down to two important factors: resources and expertise.

"Of those few aquaculture enterprises that have been successful, most involve expertise from outside," explains John Bolton, emeritus professor and senior research scholar in the Department of Biological Sciences at UCT. "Furthermore, products are often exported and not used by the local community. This, of course, requires suitable infrastructure and sound financial support."

In South Africa, one major success story is abalone, which represents over 90% of marine aquaculture in the country by value.

Sustainable marine aquaculture



Aquaculture has the potential to provide much-needed food security, create job opportunities and boost local business prospects throughout Africa.

in Africa

In recognising the potential for aquaculture - marine aquaculture, in particular - to provide much-needed food security, create job opportunities and boost local business prospects throughout Africa, researchers from across the continent have joined forces to form the Research Network for Sustainable Marine Aquaculture in Africa (AfriMAQUA).

Launched in September 2019, AfriMAQUA aims to bring marine aquaculture researchers from Southern, East and West Africa, as well as France,

together to exchange knowledge, pool research efforts and strengthen capacities. The overarching goal is to facilitate scientific cooperation for the development of sustainable marine aquaculture.

"Marine aquaculture output in sub-Saharan Africa is very low with a significant portion being produced in South Africa," explains Bolton, one of UCT's AfriMAQUA project leads.

"A major aim of AfriMAQUA is to link scientists working on various marine aquaculture projects in the region to enable synergy and increase the pro-

file of the industry."

AfriMAQUA's kick-off meeting took place at facilities in and around Cape Town, and included delegates from the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa. The network is funded by The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and coordinated by the IRD's Dr Maria Darias.

One Health

As part of larger AfriMAQUA activities, UCT will launch One Health: a ma-

major marine aquaculture project led by Vernon Coyne, an associate professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology.

"The programme is focused on ensuring the healthy production of aquacultured fish and shellfish," Coyne explains.

"We're taking a holistic approach, so it's developing feeds that would boost the immune systems of the animals that you're farming and also improve growth rates."

The project's objectives include developing vaccines against emerging diseases of indigenous fish that are cultured, developing feed supplements for cultured abalone and sea urchins as well as determining the effect of seaweed and probiotic supplements on rainbow trout reared in seawater.

It also aimed at understanding the community structure of microbes living on sea lettuce (of the genus *Ulva*) grown in different conditions.

Coyne's lab will conduct the research in partnership with Bolton's lab, Associate Professor Denzil Beukes from the University of the Western Cape, and Drs Brett Macey and Mark Cyrus from the South African Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

As far as capacity growth is concerned, the project is expected to train at least 15 young researchers, of whom 13 are women.

"We hope that a lot of the research will eventually lead to start-ups - things like probiotic and vaccine production," Coyne says.

"These spin-off companies will use the technology we generate here to service existing aquaculture farms and new farms throughout South Africa - and even the rest of Africa."

Bank sends Tanzanian businesspeople to China

By Guardian Reporter

KCB Bank has sponsored ten businesspeople to visit China for a study tour aimed at building trade relationship with their Chinese counterparts.

The traders are expected to leave for China today for ten-day tour of two Chinese cities.

Bank's marketing, public relations and communication, Christina Manyenye said the Tanzanian business persons, who are customers of the bank, will hold talks with their Chinese counterparts who are producers of top-quality goods instead of meeting middlemen who sell goods at inflated prices.

She said for quite long Tanzanian

businesspeople travelling to China have been facing several challenges that included language barrier and the purchase of China-made goods at skyrocketing prices.

"Many Tanzanian traders were facing the problem of buying Chinese products at inflated prices from middlemen or brokers. Now through trips sponsored by our

bank that problem will become a thing of the past as they meet face-to-face with the real owners of the factories," she said.

On the language problem, Manyenye said KCB Bank will sponsor interpreters to accompany the traders to places where they will visit. Moses Kisaka, the KCB Bank public relations manager for small and

medium customers, said the Tanzanian traders will during their tour hold discussions with their Chinese counterparts on how to improve trade relations between them.

"We're doing this to help our businesspeople to reduce the costs of doing business with Chinese traders. These trips will continue and we

hope next year more traders would visit China," he said.

He said his bank has established a special Biashara Club Unit as a forum for businessmen to discuss various issues related to their activities.

A representative of the ten businesspeople travelling to China, Saada Sipemba, said the trip would

enable them to see various exhibitions by renowned Chinese industrialists.

"This trip will enable us learn more about the giant leap of Chinese industrialists have made as far as production of quality goods is concerned. We want to meet the real Chinese industrialists and not middlemen or brokers," she said.

Despite conservation efforts, Tanzania's forests still under pressure, agency

By Sophie Tremblay

FROM huge expanses of Acacia trees to ancient baobab trees, forests and woodlands cover more than half of Tanzania's rugged landscape.

In this East African nation, forests help fuel the national economy and provide sanctuary for the country's abundant wildlife.

Tanzania is home to one of the largest tree covers in the world, but it's at risk. A forest inventory by the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) in 2015 found that forests and wooded areas cover over 48 million hectares of land, more than the entire state of California. It also found that wood remains the main source of fuel for Tanzanians, even in urban areas.

Trees are felled for firewood or turned into charcoal. With a steady population growth rate over 3 percent, community forests designated to supply wood for fuel are unable to support the growing demand. That daily necessity is causing some serious problems, according to experts.

"Biomass energy provides 92 percent of energy needs, which is causing an unsustainable use of forest resources," said Florian Mkeya, manager of natural forests at the TFS, who worked on the report.

There are other pressures on the environment. Since the 1970s, forests have increasingly been overtaken by farmland and degraded grassland ecosystems due to rampant deforestation. Much of that is due to illegal logging. The current deforestation rate in Tanzania is approaching 373,000 hectares per year, making it among the highest in East Africa.

Even more alarming is an assessment of global forests by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which suggests that more than 5.86 million hectares of Tanzania's forests were lost to deforestation and degradation between 2000-2015. That represents approximately 10 per-

cent of the country's forests overall.

The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) national coordinator for forests in Tanzania, Isaac Malugu, agrees that there are serious problems.

"The top three factors causing deforestation are unsustainable charcoal production, shifting cultivation and illegal timber trading," Malugu told Mongabay.

According to Malugu, the expanse of charcoal sourcing has grown significantly.

"In the 1990's charcoal was being sourced from a radius of about 60 kilometers around Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's major urban center, but in the late 90's we saw that radius rapidly grow to about 300 kilometers," Malugu said.

That's an increased radius of under 40 miles to about 186 miles in just a few years.

Agricultural practices play a role, too. Shifting cultivation and slash-and-burn agriculture, in which farmers cultivate a plot temporarily and then abandon it for another plot, are the most popular farming systems in Tanzania.

In the slash-and-burn method, areas of natural forests are cut down and burned to create fields.

According to the World Bank, land used for agricultural purposes grew by more than six percent from 2000 to 2013. It now accounts for about 45 percent of Tanzania's land area. Efforts have been made to stem the tide of land clearance, such as USAID's program to teach villagers participatory land use planning and land use mobile forest monitoring.

Illegal timber trade

The illegal timber trade is also having a devastating impact on the country's forests and economy. According to a 2007 report by TRAFFIC, an organization dedicated to monitoring the illegal wildlife trade, Tanzania lost more than 58 million US dollars in revenue from illegally traded timber from



Women in Tanzania with seedlings for reforestation. Photo: USAID Africa.

2004 to 2005. The decade-old figures are the most recent nationwide numbers available on Tanzania's timber trade.

The timber trade is fueled by demand from China and the Middle East and made possible by corruption and lack of enforcement, according to the report.

Part of the problem also stems from improved infrastructure, such as roads. In 2003, the government completed construction on the Mkapa Bridge over the Rufiji River and connected the southern part of the country with Dar es Salaam.

This opened an important pathway for large trucks to access forests which were previously difficult to reach by road.

While some of the illegal timber is used in construction projects or to make furniture within the country, most is smuggled out through Zanzibar, an island just off the coast of main-

land Tanzania.

The Port of Zanzibar has been a major trading post for centuries and is an important channel between Africa and Asia.

According to recent WWF findings, East Africa is on track to become a global hotspot for the illegal timber trade in the coming decades. The global trade already has an economic value estimated to be worth between 30 and 100 billion US dollars and makes up 10-30 percent of the wood trade.

Conservation efforts

In 2002, the Tanzanian government passed a new national forest policy which transferred power over forest resources back to the community level and involved citizens in forest conservation.

As part of its environmental strategy, the government requested that every district council plant and care for at least 1.5 million trees every year.

However, the rate of reforestation still seriously lags behind the deforestation rate.

"Millions of trees are planted every year, but with growing demands from expanding population and poverty, harsh growing conditions and lack of tending of planted trees - these disqualify the efforts to restore the degraded forest land," said the TFS's Mkeya.

WWF argues that proactive efforts are making an impact.

"The government is moving in and trying to address the problem, they've done much research, restructured how forests are managed and introduced new policy," said the conservation organization's Malugu. "They also allow NGOs like WWF to help them by running forestry governance and environmental awareness projects and promoting community-based forest management."

He added that WWF and other partners are working with the government to curb illegal commercial logging.

In September 2015, the TSF joined forces with its counterparts in Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar and Uganda to sign the Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products. The declaration calls on the governments of East Africa to work together to reduce the cross border trade of illegal timber.

But despite various conservation efforts by players in government and civil society, many believe more needs to be done.

Experts such as those who authored the TFS forest inventory report recommend addressing what they call a "wood supply deficit." Providing people with cheap alternative energy sources to alleviate the demand for charcoal and firewood is a key focus.

Work that connects the conservation of the forest to the livelihoods of local populations are also promising. Wild coffee plants that grow in the forests of southwest Tanzania have been supplemented with additional plants that live under forest tree cover. Local cooperatives harvest the coffee, which can sell for a premium price on the specialty coffee market. The downside is the lack of diverse forest vegetation.

Learning from REDD and REDD+

Since 2009, Tanzania has participated in many projects from the UN program for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and Conservation of Forest Stocks, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+). Both programs are based on the concept of rewarding developing countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A REDD+ report from 2015 warned that deforestation could cost Tanzania's national economy about 5.6 trillion Tanzanian shillings (\$3.5 billion US dollars) by the year 2033. Shortly thereafter in mid-2016, the government established the National Carbon Monitoring Centre, which will allow Tanzania to benefit from future international carbon trading mechanisms.

Sleepwalking our way to extinction: The climate crisis must be made part of our national conversation

By **Khanyisa Melwa**

THERE is a sense among many young people that although we acknowledge that the climate crisis is a serious matter, it remains largely a white and middle-class concern.

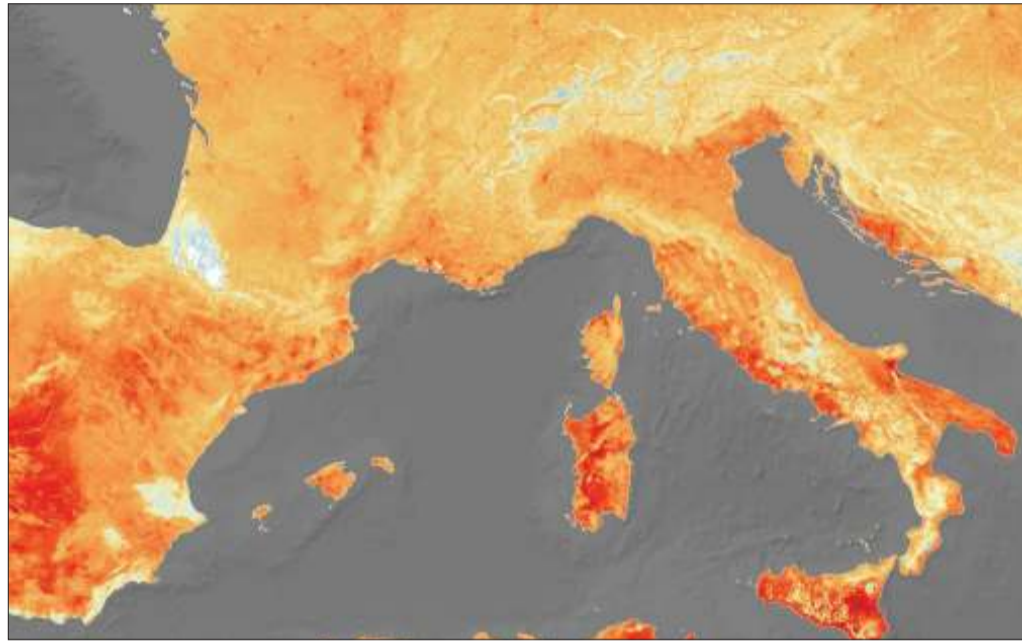
When I was 16, all of 10 years ago, not only was my political consciousness embryonic, but the idea of climate change was not competing for space in my mind. The contenders at the time were the prospect of not making it into the 3rd team rugby squad for the weekend derby or the fear of bombing out at an audition.

These priorities - if I can even call them that - pale in comparison to what the likes of 16-year-old environmental activist, Greta Thunberg, deems important. And that is the fight to save the planet from ourselves, but more on that later.

I watched in awe as the Swedish teenager gave a sterling speech at the UN Climate Action Summit, addressing world leaders and asking them simply, "How dare you?". How dare you carry on with business as usual, when the planet is burning and we face imminent extinction as a species?

Thunberg's publicity has brought back into the spotlight a topic which lingers in our collective consciousness as South Africans, but just like my 16-year-old self, doesn't occupy a prominent position. Nor has this issue enjoyed the level of urgency which it requires by way of policy and legislation in South Africa.

As a student and young professional, I have certainly been guilty of putting climate change on the back burner, especially when it comes to political discussions among peers. It is very easy to do so, as I think there is a sense among young people (I don't speak on behalf of all young people) that although we heed that this is a serious matter, it remains largely a white and middle-class concern. This is said in a context within which white people never concern themselves about the socio-economic struggles of black people unless it adversely affects them financially or even socially. Even then, their sincerity is questionable. Any-



thing they stand up for, naturally, is treated with little regard or suspicion by most black people.

This is compounded by the fact that there are other, more pressing, social ailments, to which we are devoting our energies. These include gender-based violence, femicide, poverty and unemployment, landlessness and an economy in tumult. Do you see? There, I did it again. I treated climate change like the unwanted stepchild, albeit probably the most dangerous of the ills mentioned.

Perhaps this is because we don't feel we have complete control over what happens regarding the climate? Or maybe it's because we feel that we play a smaller role in the burning of our planet, in comparison to the capitalist behemoths of China and America whose CO2 emissions from fossil fuel are no less than 9,839 million metric tons and 5,296 million metric tons respectively, according to the World Economic Forum.

Although these concerns are valid, it still requires us to play an active role in staving off the threat of this self-inflicted human extinction. This, therefore, begs the question: who is championing the climate conversation in South Africa?

Off the top of my head, I must credit the likes of Sipho Kings, environmen-

tal reporter at the Mail & Guardian who has written extensively on climate change and the environment. Further kudos to the Mail & Guardian, under Khadija Patel's editorship, for having signed on to the global climate reporting network, joining 250 other newsrooms around the world in reporting about the climate crisis.

Kevin Bloom's writing about Our Burning Planet for Daily Maverick has been instructive.

Mpho Ndaba's academic research on the matter has also piqued my interest.

Although almost all of these names are members of the media and are influential in setting the national agenda, climate change as a subject has not yet made the national conversation in the way that other topics have, particularly in the policy arena. I think more needs to be done by our political leaders in this regard.

A scan through the 2019 election manifestos of the three major political parties in South Africa tells a story of an opposition that has clear policy proposals insofar as the environment and the climate crisis is concerned.

precedented in the instrumental temperature record, and in historical and paleoclimate proxy records of climate change over thousands to millions of years.

In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report concluded, "It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century." The largest human influence has been the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Effects of global warming include rising sea levels, regional changes in precipitation, more frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves, and expansion of deserts. Surface temperature increases are greatest in the Arctic, with the continuing retreat of glaciers, permafrost, and sea ice. Overall, higher temperatures bring more rain and snowfall, but for some regions droughts and wildfires increase instead. Climate change impacts humans by, amongst other things, threatening food security from decreasing crop yields, and the abandonment of populated areas and damage to infrastructure due to rising sea levels. Environmental impacts include the extinction or relocation of ecosystems as they adapt to climate change, with coral reefs, mountain ecosystems, and Arctic ecosystems most immediately threatened.[21] Because the climate system has a large "inertia" and greenhouse gases will remain in the atmosphere for a long time, climatic changes and their effects will continue to become more pronounced for many centuries even if further increases to greenhouse gases stop.

Global warming is a long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system; an aspect of climate change shown by temperature measurements and by multiple effects of the warming. Though earlier geological periods also experienced episodes of warming, the term commonly refers to the observed and continuing increase in average air and ocean temperatures since 1900 caused mainly by emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the modern industrial economy. In the modern context the terms global warming and climate change are commonly used interchangeably, but climate change includes both global warming and its effects, such as changes to precipitation and impacts that differ by region.[7][8] Many of the observed changes in climate since the 1950s are un-

precipitated in the instrumental temperature record, and in historical and paleoclimate proxy records of climate change over thousands to millions of years.

Climate change occurs when changes in Earth's climate system result in new weather patterns that last for at least a few decades, and maybe for millions of years. The climate system comprises five interacting parts, the atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), cryosphere (ice and permafrost), biosphere (living things), and lithosphere (earth's crust and upper mantle). The climate system receives nearly all of its energy from the sun, with a relatively tiny amount from earth's interior. The climate system also gives off energy to outer space. The balance of incoming and outgoing energy, and the passage of the energy through the climate system, determines Earth's energy budget. When the incoming energy is greater than the outgoing energy, earth's energy budget is positive and the climate system is warming. If more energy goes out, the energy budget is negative and earth experiences cooling.

As this energy moves through Earth's climate system, it creates Earth's weather and long-term averages of weather are called "climate". Changes in the long term average are called "climate change". Such changes can be the result of "internal variability", when natural processes inherent to the various parts of the climate system alter Earth's energy budget. Examples include cyclical ocean patterns such as the well-known El Niño-Southern Oscillation and less familiar Pacific decadal oscillation and Atlantic multidecadal oscillation. Climate change can also result from "external forcing", when events outside of the climate system's five parts nonetheless produce changes within the system. Examples include changes in solar output and volcanism.

Human activities can also change earth's climate, and are presently driving climate change through global warming. There is no general agreement in sci-

entific community on the exact nature of anthropogenic climate change. Some scientists call into question climate adaptation feasibility, with higher emissions scenarios, or the two degree temperature target

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Tunisians hope for better future via presidential election

TUNIS

“I voted for the one I trust, the one who would guarantee the stability of the country and better lifestyle for all citizens,” said a 76-year-old Tunisian who came to one of the polling stations in the capital Tunis on Sunday morning.

This will be the second free presidential election in the North African country following the previous one

held in December 2014.

The polling centers in 27 constituencies opened on Sunday at 8 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) and will be closed at 6 p.m.. They are traditionally located in primary and secondary schools across Tunisia with strong security presence and special forces armed with assault rifles.

A total of 7 million people are eligible to choose a new president between two candidates, Kais Saied and

Nabil Karoui, to succeed late President Beji Caid Essebsi who died on July 25 at the age of 92.

A law professor at Tunis University, the independent candidate Kais Saied is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with constitutional law, but he was barely known before the first round of presidential election held on Sept. 15. Saied participated in drafting



The late president Beji Caid Essebsi

the Constitution of Tunisia but otherwise is a populist in politics. Despite no party behind and running a low-profile campaign, he came out ahead in the first round of the presidential election by winning 18.4 percent of the votes. "He's clean, educated and poor. I vote for Saied," said Mohammed Amin, a 20-year-old university student majoring in engineering. One exit poll in the first round of the election suggested that Saied won more than a third of the youth vote.

Another candidate Nabil Karoui, leader of Tunisian Heart party and a media mogul, was jailed on Aug. 23 for suspected tax evasion and money laundering and released only four days before the second round of presidential election. Compared with low-profile Saied, Karoui was well known for owning the Nessma TV and a charity called "Khalil Tounes,"

which distributed food and clothes to the poor on camera.

"We need food, we need clothes, we need better condition, and Nabil Karoui will provide us with everything we need," said Mabrouka Salhi, an old woman.

Karoui ranked second in the first round of election by getting 15.4 percent of the votes, most of which came from rural areas.

"We need food, but the real thing we need is to find a key solving Tunisia's economic problems," said Terbi Nourddine, a middle-aged lawyer who cast a blank ballot.

In his opinion, an ideal leader of the North African country should find proper ways to improve people's lives.

In the almost 12-million-population country, the unemployment rate climbed to 15.3 percent in the second quarter of 2019, according to official statis-

tics, and inflation registered 6.7 percent in September.

Tourism was vital to Tunisia, contributing around eight percent of GDP and providing thousands of job opportunities. However, this industry was strongly damaged in 2015 after dozens of foreign tourists, most from Europe, were killed in a spate of terror attacks in the country.

Life is not easy for a great number of Tunisians, but they still remain hopeful for the future.

"I'm expecting the elected president to improve Tunisia's economy and develop the health and education sectors in the country," said Hela Belghith Nourira, a young woman.

According to the Constitution, the Independent High Authority for Elections has three days after the election day to release official results.

Xinhua

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT

Word fit puzzle grid with clues: 3 Letter word: EGO, AGO, AID, NOD, NON, IVY, EID; 4 Letter word: FIFE, ADAM, STAB, LOAN, STAN; 5 Letter word: ELECT, RISER, ANVIL, TEASE, MALAY ROUND, ROUST, SITES; 6 Letter word: AFFAIR, MODEST, DELAYS; 7 Letter word: ALFALFA, ANAEMIA, MODESTY; 8 Letter word: GUARDIAN.

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD = 012 =

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: Across: 1. Forward movement (8); 6. Covered in water (5); 7. Set off, begin (5,3); 9. Very angry (5); 11. Difficult experience (6); 12. Video cassette (4); 13. Writing instrument (3); 14. Liberty (7); 18. Pointed end (3); 20. Small animal resembling lizard (9); 22. Sweet cooked dessert (3); 23. Holy person (4); 24. Secret plots (7); 25. Tale (5). Down: 1. Chief city of Russia (6); 2. Follow twisting route (7); 3. Criminal organization (5); 4. Japanese unarmed combat (6); 5. Domesticated animal (5); 8. Remaining sign (5); 10. blue-gray metallic element (8); 14. Third largest country in Europe (6); 15. Used to rub out writing (6); 16. Curtains (6); 17. Reward (4); 19. Worship (6); 21. Small dry particles (4).

WORD FIT CROSSWORD

Word fit crossword puzzle grid with solutions: RING, ABOVE, NEGATIVE, SAAGA, BENCH, KOREAN, NARRA, YAW, ARENA, GASTRO, ENTAIL, REVE, ANAEMIA, GEBE, DARSSALAM, OINTER, MIBATI, LEAST, NARRA, YAW, ARENA, GASTRO, ENTAIL, REVE, ANAEMIA, GEBE, DARSSALAM, OINTER, MIBATI, LEAST.

Yesterday's Solutions

By Mageszi, sanchezlasmur@gmail.com 0789437309



Thursday 17 October 2019



An official with National Bank of Commerce's insurance section, Emorynziana Mtega (R) briefing one of the customers from Mogas Tanzania Limited Grayson Kazeni on importance of taking up an insurance policy and the various insurance products being offered by the bank as part of events to mark NBC's customer care month in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of NBC.

IMF revises global economy outlook on protectionism and geopolitics

NEW YORK

The global economy is in a "synchronised slowdown" and projected to grow 3 per cent this year, its slowest expansion since the 2008 global financial crisis, as a result of protectionist policies and increased uncertainty related to trade and geopolitics that have strained emerging market economies, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The fund's estimate is a 0.3 percentage point downgrade from its April forecast and marks the fifth revision of the organisation's outlook on the global economy, which grew 3.6 per cent last year. The global economy is forecast to pick up to 3.4 per cent in 2020, a 0.2 percentage point reduction from the earlier forecast. Subdued momentum in manufacturing is at the lowest in more than a decade, according to the fund. The fund's last revision was in July.

Global growth figures for this year would have been an additional 0.5 per cent lower in the absence of monetary stimulus by central banks, which cushioned the impact of escalating US-China trade tensions, the fund's chief economist Gita Gopinath said in the 208-page World Economic Outlook report released on Tuesday during the annual IMF World Bank meetings in Washington DC.

"A notable feature of the sluggish growth in 2019 is the sharp and geographically broad-based slowdown in manufacturing and global trade," she said. The downturn is driven by higher tariffs and prolonged uncertainty surrounding trade policy which have dented investment and demand for heavily-traded capital goods.

Growth would be reduced by 0.8 per cent by the end of 2020 if scheduled October and December tariffs are imposed, Ms Gopinath said in a briefing on Tuesday. The removal of all existing and scheduled scheduled would boost the global economy by 0.8 per cent by the end of 2020, she added.

The world's two largest economies are seeing their economies slow. The US economy will decelerate to 2.4 per cent, and China, which has recorded more than a decade of expansion, is forecast to slow to 6.1 per cent. Key issues remain between the two countries despite news of a breakthrough in trade talks last week, which will make lifting the cloud of uncertainty more difficult.

The fund cited a contracting of the globally interconnected automobile industry, where purchases of cars across the world declined 3 per cent, as a result of tapering demand in China impacted by expiring tax incentives, and companies in the eurozone increasingly complying with emissions standards.

As a result of uncertainty related to escalating US-China trade tensions, business confidence has ebbed, with manufacturing firms becoming more cautious about long-term spending and cutting back on equipment and machinery purchases. Consequently, trade volume growth globally in the first half of 2019

Minister Mhagama joins Bodaboda riders in demanding affordable loans from banks

By Beatrice Philemon

COMMERCIAL banks in the country should come up with tailor made loans for special groups such as Bodaboda riders who play an important role of transporting the majority Tanzanians.

Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Jenista Mhagama said in Dar es Salaam this week while launching an NMB Bank Plc's MasterCard digital payment solution targeting Bodaboda riders that the groups also needs cheap loans to improve its services.

"Consider lowering interest rates charged on loans given to special interest groups such as Bodabodas, Mama-lishes and others who serve low income bracket people in our society," Mhagama said.

She commended low NMB's management and staff for playing a key role in the government's financial inclusion agenda while pledging continued support to the banking industry as a source of funding to private investors.



NMB's acting Managing Director, Filbert Mponzi speaks at a past function. File photo.

"What you are doing today, has the government's go ahead as it will help especially youths to take their job seriously and grow while making a positive contribution to the country's economy," said Mhagama.

Through the NMB partnership with MasterCard, Bodaboda riders

will enjoy transaction with their customers via the bank's digital payment solution. Mastercard QR is a modern, secure and easy digital payment solution, which allows customers make payment by scanning a QR code or a merchant pay number using the USSD option on their mobile

phone.

Briefing the Minister on the services, NMB Bank's acting Managing Director, Filbert Mponzi said the move aimed at helping motorcycle riders enjoy banking services while enhancing the safety of their money as well as their own security.

Mponzi said the service will, for the time being only be available in Dar es Salaam but will later be extended Mwanza, Arusha, Ruvuma, Dodoma and Mbeya regions in the coming weeks.

"This payment solution, Mastercard QR, will assist Bodaboda riders in growing their business whilst reducing the cost and risks of handling cash. It will also allow them to be in complete control of their payments thereby increasing efficiency," Mponzi noted.

For NMB, digitization of Bodaboda payments is a key component of NMB's drive to enhance financial inclusion among the communities and customers. "With Mastercard QR, we are providing an efficient means for Bodaboda riders to receive payments from all mobile money network operators and commercial bank customers that are Mastercard QR enabled,"

the NMB acting MD added.

Area Business Head for Tanzania and East Africa at Mastercard, Frank Molla said the platform offers convenient, secure and hassle free rider - passenger experience through its cashless proposition. Molla further said that MasterCard is always working with partners to provide solutions that enable consumers enjoy seamless access to payments.

"We are proud to have partnered with NMB in leveraging our technology to launch Mastercard QR in this integral aspect of the transport sector. With a significant number of people using Bodabodas daily, introducing a seamless cashless solution to the riders provides substantial impact on driving inclusive growth as well as building a digital economy," Molla added.

Under the arrangement, NMB is planning to reach over 75,000 Bodabodas in the next 12 months and at least two million in the next few years. Over 1,000 Bodaboda riders have been trained so far on the use of the Instant QR payment on mobile highlighting its simplicity, convenience and other benefits.

Undermining cotton seed system is affecting production

By The Banker Reporter

THE dismantling of a cotton seed system, popularly known as, Seed Multiplication Zones has badly affected productivity in the cotton sub-sector as the move has disrupted a smooth flow of seed supply upon which the cotton industry depends.

SMZs are specifically designed smallholder farms supplied with high quality cotton seeds by the Tanzania Cotton Board and operate under controlled conditions, allowing licenced cotton companies to buy from them quality seeds that have not been mixed with other cotton seed in the ginning process.

"The undermining of the seed supply system will make it very challenging to trace seed cotton from buying posts to ginners which means that improved seeds for planting are mixed with contaminated seeds," said Chairman of Tanzania Cotton Association (TCA), Christopher Gachuma.

Gachuma added that the move will mean that seeds planted next season will have lower yields due to poor quality which will lead to lower ginning outturn hence impacting on farmers' incomes and government revenue.

In the country, the seed growing system is subject to the Seed Act and regulations as supervised by Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) which means permitting other ginners to buy in SMZs contravenes the law hence undermining the sector's good governance.

"The government, over the past few years, has been able to successfully produce an improved cotton seed



Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa (R) greeting Chairman of Tanzania Cotton Association, Christopher Gachuma at a past event.

variety, UKM08, delivering a significant value to the fledgling sub-sector," Gachuma noted.

"The improved seeds have gradually transformed SMZs, increasing farmer productivity through higher yields and increased ginner productivity through higher ginning outturn-as well as fetching a higher price in the global market," the TCA Chairman said.

The scrapping of the system therefore, according to Gachuma will not only lead to poor quality cotton seeds but will also impact

negatively on production. "The opening of the SMZs to free buying will make it impossible to trace and retain the certified seed that was produced in SMZs in 2018/19. This seed will therefore become contaminated by other seed and will no longer be classified as certified seed or have the associated productivity benefits," he warned.

Stakeholders are also afraid that undermining SMZs will also threaten hybrid seeds producing centers such as Ukiriguru Research Institute (URI) that

came up with UKM08 hence jeopardising government's efforts to modernise agriculture.

"It is estimated that the cost of undermining the SMZs, accompanied by other factors precipitated by the current marketing and pricing crisis in the cotton sub-sector is a huge reduction in 2019/20 cotton season production," the TCA's chief added.

He bemoaned that through the contract farming system, under which the ginners used to

provide farmers with inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and farm implements including tractors, it helped to improve the quality of cotton produced.

However, the decision undertaken by the government to address the current marketing crisis in the sector allow all ginning companies to buy from SMZs, has not gone well with the experts in the industry as it reverses all the gains made by the implementation system over the years.

Banks account for quarter of all taxes paid by companies in Kenya

NAIROBI

Banks accounted for a quarter of corporation taxes paid in two years through December 2018, an industry analysis has shown, underlining Kenya's heavy reliance on the banking industry for revenue.

An assessment by audit and consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) suggested that banks and micro-financiers contributed 26.19 per-

cent, or Sh91 billion, of the estimated Sh347.4 billion corporate taxes in 2017 and 2018. Banks are among the most profitable companies in Kenya, making them among the biggest generators of tax revenue based on their net earnings in a country where there is a low level of tax compliance among companies. In September, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) said that only 33,426, or 8.3 percent, of the 401,306 companies registered for corporation tax

paid up in the financial year through June 2019. "Over the period 2017 and 2018, for every Sh4 of total corporation tax collected by KRA from all taxpayers, approximately Sh1 was paid by the banking sector," PwC said in the report commissioned by the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA), the umbrella body for the industry.

"The industry's high contribution to corporate taxes is also as a result that unlike other industries like manufac-

turing that enjoy a raft of tax incentives, there are hardly any corporate tax incentives for banks." Total corporate taxes paid by banks and micro-financiers, which are among the most regulated institutions, amounted to an estimated Sh39 billion in 2018. This was a significant 25 percent drop compared with Sh52 billion the lenders paid in taxes based on their net earnings the year before, the report based on taxation data from 38 out

of 44 banks and micro-financiers indicates. PwC said the drop in corporate taxes in 2018 was largely because of a 4.79 percent dip in profitability in 2017 when the industry first felt the full impact of the September 2016 legal caps on interest charged on loans.

"The reduction in 2017 profits corresponds with the first full year of the interest rate cap coupled with a prolonged electioneering period. The result was large corporate tax over-

payments in 2017 were utilised against 2018 corporate tax due leading to a decline in corporate taxes paid in 2018," the report says.

Overall, the industry contributed Sh207.2 billion in corporate, employment and other taxes accruing from day-to-day operations such as excise duty on transaction fees in the two years under the review. This comprises Sh108.1 billion in 2017 and Sh99 billion last year, the report says.

Third batch of Tigo Pesa wakala winners take home 6m/-



Members of the public admiring a Renault Kwid valued at 23m/- that one lucky winner of the Tigo Fiesta 2019 Chemsha Bongo complain will take home in Dodoma region.

By The Banker Reporter

THREE Tigo Pesa agents who emerged winners in a promotion that began in September this year have been awarded some 6m/-.

The agents popularly who came from Zanzibar, Temeke and Ilala municipalities of Dar es Salaam received 1m/-, 2m/- and 3m/- cash prizes at a ceremony held in the commercial capital this week.

Tigo's acting Chief Officer for Tigo Pesa, Angelica Pasha commended the winners saying they an important part of the mobile money platform. "Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and commend all our agents for the significant role they play every day in servicing our customers

across the country, secondly I would also like to specifically laud the three winners today, who have distinguished themselves amongst thousands of Tigo Pesa agents in the country," Pasha said.

She revealed that the mobile money platform offers fully-fledged financial services to clients hence the promotion is one of the several activities created in a bid to drive the financial inclusion agenda across the country.

"As a company, we come up with different initiatives, whereby our agents across the country can engage in. We are proud of our contribution in driving the financial inclusion agenda, through Tigo Pesa, by making it possible for millions of Tanzanians to send and receive

money and carry out several financial transactions," the acting Tigo Pesa chief added.

The Tigo Pesa agents who were awarded included Suleiman Hussein from Zanzibar who 3m/-, Vicky Ibrahim from Temeke walked away with 2m/- while Anna Masha from Ilala got 1m/-.

Tigo Pesa is the domestic market's second-largest mobile money platform with over seven million registered customers and a growing network of over 50,000 merchants and around 100,000 mobile agents. Through the promotion, Tigo Tanzania plans to give back to more than 100,000 agents across the country in the course of the next one month.

Meanwhile Tigo Fiesta 2019's Chemsha Bongo promotion has reached the country's capital,

Dodoma. The annual Tigo Fiesta music festival which incorporates the Chemsha Bongo and other entrepreneurship activities will see one lucky winner walk away with a Renault Kwid valued at over 23m/-.

Marketing the mobile phone service company's new product, Saizi Yako, the annual event started in Mwanza last month and will climax in Dar es Salaam later this year.

"This festive season incorporates the Chemsha Bongo competition which is a way of our company showing appreciation to our customers who have been supporting us all the way," said Tigo Tanzania's Northern Zone Manager, Lilian Mwalongo during the launch ceremony.

Airtel comes up with 'Send with withdraw fee' service

By The Banker Reporter

AIRTEL Money customers will now have costs of sending money across other networks directly calculated as the transaction is done hence being sure of the exact fee due.

The service dubbed, "Tuma na ya kutolea," a Kiswahili phrase which can casually mean, 'Send with withdraw fee,' is a solution for Airtel Money customers aimed at improving user experience as it results into an auto-calculated cash-out fee directly built-in the transaction.

Speaking today in Dar es Salaam while announcing the launch of Tuma na Yakutoalea service, Airtel Money Director, Isack Nchunda said "We are launching this service as a way to extend our promises made during customer service week which commenced on 7th October, 2019. Airtel is committed to making sure its customers get the best services at all times," said Airtel Money Director, Isack Nchunda.

He said the company found out that for a long time, many Airtel Money subscribers sent money with extra amount intended to cover the cash out cost. "We are committed to make sure that our customers only get the best hence we want to make it easy, affordable and reliable for all our customers to transact," Nchunda added.

Seconding her peer, Airtel Tanzania Communications Director, Beatrice Singano said it's important to put the company's mobile money platform customers simplify their transactions. "It is



Airtel Tanzania Director of Communications, Beatrice Singano and Airtel Money Director, Isack Nchunda display a placard after launching a service called 'Tuma na ya kutolea' in Dar es Salaam this week.

through Airtel Money a customer can send money for free and now we have come up with cash out fee solution," Singano said.

"We pride ourselves on the lev-

el of transparency our customers get with "Tuma na ya kutolea" because our customer is fully informed of associated transactional costs. Airtel is committed

to continue launching affordable, convenient and reliable products and services that cater for our customer needs," she added.

With over 1,000 Airtel Money

Branches countrywide and over 60,000 agents, Airtel remains one of the top five mobile phone services company in the local market.

Exports to EAC markets at three-year high of Sh77bn

NAIROBI

The value of Kenya's exports to key East African Community's markets hit a three-year high in first eight months of 2019, official data shows, partly helped by Nairobi's efforts to ease trade tensions with Tanzania.

Earnings from goods sold to Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda stood at Sh77.32 billion in the January-August period, fresh data from the Central Bank of Kenya indicates, a 5.98 percent growth over Sh72.99 billion in similar period in 2018.

Kenyan factories have in recent years struggled to grow exports in regional markets largely due to tariff and non-tariff barriers fuelled by mistrust and unresolved trade disputes, particularly with Tanzania and, in some isolated cases, Uganda.

Manufacturers have also blamed multiple fees and levies, relatively high power charges and inefficiencies at factories for piling up the cost of production, making locally-made goods expensive in regional markets.

Ministries of Trade and EAC Affairs have been reaching out to their counterparts in Tanzania and Uganda with a view to finding a long-lasting solution to on-and-off disputes that usually hit Kenyan products such as confectionery and cement.

"The Kenyan team has done a very commendable job in working with the EAC secretariat in bringing both tariff and non-tariff barriers down, and we are also seeing very concerted efforts also on the part of Tanzania to bring these barriers down," said Sachin Gudka, the chairman of Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM).

"We now see that trade is coming in true spirit of an economic community. There's a definite progress, although there will always be teething problems on some of emerging issues. But for now the trend and direction is good and we are grateful for the intervention by Kenya."

President Uhuru Kenyatta met his Tanzanian counterpart, John Magufuli, in July to primarily lobby the southern neighbour to back Kenya's bid for a seat at the UN Security Council, but talks to improve trade ties also featured.

Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania Dan Kazungu said in August talks between the countries had helped eliminate 25 of the 37 tariff and non-tariff barriers (15 on Kenya side and 22 on Tanzania's) by April. Order book from Tanzania expanded Sh2.28 billion, or 8.41 percent, to nearly Sh21.54 billion in the eight-month period through August, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics data shows.

3,000 small-scale farmers benefit from Equity Bank agribusiness

NAIROBI

More than three thousand small-scale farmers in Ol Kalou Constituency, Nyandarua County, have benefitted from free agribusiness training offered by the Equity Bank.

Speaking during the bank's 35th birthday at Ol Kalou branch, Pius Kaniaru, the branch manager, said over 4,000 other small-scale growers have also received financial support to

improve their farming activities.

"In partnership with the county government, we want to empower farmers so that they can engage in meaningful farming activities. We have identified skills, financial support, and financial illiteracy as critical components and challenges facing Nyandarua farmers, despite this being an agricultural county," said Mr Kaniaru.

He said the bank has also part-

nered with the county in other areas such as health, education, and environment. Nyandarua finance executive member Mary Mugwanja said the agribusiness partnership project is a continuous programme, adding that the devolved government is working with the bank in implementation of the Big Four Agenda.

"The ongoing agribusiness training programme has a special package on financial manage-

ment and investment skills," said the finance executive. Ms Mugwanja, who was the chief guest during the event, said the bank has supported education of more than 150 students from poor backgrounds.

"The agribusiness programme seeks to make the farmers appreciate that agriculture is not agriculture but lucrative business. We receive very good services from Equity bank and we pray and

thank the bank management for exemplary management of the bank," said Ms Mugwanja.

Another key area of partnership with Equity Bank is the promotion of the youth agenda through scholarships. The finance executive announced that the government will in the next financial year increase the bursary kitty from Sh100 million allocation this year to Sh120 million.

India Paytm gets closer to \$2bn SoftBank and Ant Financial funding deal

NEW DELHI

Paytm is close to securing \$2 billion in new financing from investors including Jack Ma's Ant Financial and SoftBank Group, a source said, describing a mega-deal that will raise the temperature in India's increasingly heated financial payments arena.

Rob Citrone's Discovery Capital Management is also in discussions to join a funding round that values

the country's top online financial services firm at \$16bn, the source said. The funding will be split evenly between equity and debt and is aimed at helping Paytm fend off an influx of rivals. Initial talks are taking place and the terms could still change, the source added.

If a deal is finalised, Paytm could outshine fellow high-profile Asian start-ups such as Grab and Gojek in valuation. Billionaire Pay-

tm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma is raising capital to protect the start-up's share of a potentially \$1 trillion Indian payments market from newer entrants such as Walmart-owned Flipkart's PhonePe. Over the past year, a string of new apps have made payments increasingly easy, bringing discounts and cash bonuses to young, smartphone-savvy users.

Paytm remains in the lead for now. It has become India's biggest digital pay-

ments brand, attracting big names in investing from Alibaba co-founder Mr Ma and SoftBank founder Masayoshi Son to Warren Buffett.

Mr Sharma got a huge boost in 2016 after India's government moved to eliminate most of the nation's paper money in circulation in a bid to curb corruption. His start-up, a pioneer in the country's nascent field, saw tens of millions of consumers and hundreds of thousands of businesses sign up

for digital services in a matter of months.

"India is a large market," said Kunal Pande, head of financial services risk consulting at KPMG. "Digital payments adoption is growing quickly, yet there is room for massive growth as users get comfortable transacting digitally. The large business opportunity makes it attractive for both domestic startups and large global players."

Paytm, which is also

backed by Alibaba Group, declined to comment. Ant had no immediate comment when contacted, while Discovery Capital and SoftBank declined to comment. Mr Sharma is now extending his online empire into e-commerce and banking, even as others encroach on his turf. The Indian payments market remains a chaotic field where the rules are hazy on what players can offer, yet its promise has lured

MARKETTRENDS

a string of competitors including Indian banks, its postal service and the country's richest man, Mukesh Ambani.

Credit Suisse Group now estimates that the Indian digital payments market will touch \$1tn by 2023 from about \$200bn currently. It's a market with huge potential: cash still accounts for 70 per cent of all Indian transactions by value, according to Credit Suisse, and neighbouring China is

far more advanced with a mobile payments market worth more than \$5tn.

Ant Financial, China's largest provider of internet financial services and one of Paytm's earliest backers, has said it will continue investing in mobile-payment providers around the world to boost offshore revenue and buttress itself against rising competition and tighter regulation at home. It's not clear how much SoftBank would contribute.

Treasury chief dares UTT to mobilise public to invest in Bond Fund

By The Banker Reporter

A fortnight ago, UTT Assets Management and Investor Services introduced a unique investment vehicle in the market, Bond Fund.

The Bond Fund which is targeting to mobilise small investors with some little money to place in a profitable vehicle, is the latest version of a collective investment scheme being championed by UTT AMIS.

"The government formed this company; UTT AMIS under Ministry of Finance, to give ordinary Tanzanians an opportunity to invest in the then privatizing public companies. But there is still lack of knowledge and understanding of the importance of investing in privatised companies by majority of our people, it's your duty to mobilise them," said Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Dotto James.

James who was the guest of honour during the Bond Fund's launch, pointed out that the government through UTT AMIS wants the public, and especially ordinary Tanzanians have a stake in the country's economy.

"So it is of importance to prioritize and push forward sensitization of the public to give Tanzanians their legitimate chance to be part of industrial middle income economy we are building right

now," the Treasury chief noted.

Briefing the Treasury PS about the Bond Fund, UTT AMIS Board Chairman, Casmir Kyuki said management and staff of the scheme have been involved actively in sensitising the public to invest in its various vehicles not only to partly own their economy but also earn profit.

"When we started over a decade ago, there was very little knowledge and understanding among members of the public on the importance on collective investment scheme but today, things are different, there is increasing understanding and participation," Kyuki said.

Kyuki further noted that the UTT AMIS board along with Treasury worked tirelessly for the past several months to prepare the new investment vehicle which was approved by Capital Markets and Securities Authority as required by regulations.

"I want to assure you that the Bond Fund will be marketed to all potential investors countrywide and especially ordinary investors who are rural based," he added saying UTT AMIS has deployed agents and use of modern technology to do so.

Speaking at the same function, UTT AMIS Managing Director, Simon Migangala backed his boss by saying that mobilization of the public to invest in all collective investment scheme including

the Bond Fund, is an ongoing process.

Migangala said because of such mobilisation more than 145,000 ordinary investors from all corners of the country who have put in over 300bn/- under the patronage of CRDB Bank Plc. "UTT AMIS has established itself as the trend-setter and a leader in the field of collective investment schemes in Tanzania," said Migangala who named the five vehicles being managed as Umoja Fund, Wekeza Maisha, Watoto Fund, Jikimu Fund and Liquid Fund.

"Generally the financial performance of the schemes has been exceptionally sound and providing very high returns to investors," he added.

The UTT AMIS chief executive noted that general, information from different funds in similar investment models in Africa, shows encouraging performance.

"It is obvious, according to the share index that there is a drop in Africa. For instance, Kenya shares market dropped by 12 percent, Uganda (10.9), Nigeria (20.9), Ghana (3.4), Zambia (10.5) and nine percent drop of share market has been noticed in Tanzania," Migangala noted while stressing that based on such information by the African Share Index shows that the Tanzanian market is doing fairly well compared to its peers on the continent.

"But generally there are no negative effects to Bond Fund," he stressed while



Treasury Permanent Secretary, Dotto James pressing a laptop button to mark the launch of UTT AMIS Bond Fund in Dar es Salaam recently. Centre is UTT AMIS Managing Director, Simon Migangala and Capital Markets and Securities Authority's CEO, Nicodemus Mkama. File photo.

noting that the Bond Fund is open for investment to both domestic and foreign investors with anyone with as low as 50,000/- being able to invest.

According to investment expatriates, Bond Fund is open ended fixed income unit trust scheme that invest in low risk treasury bonds,

listed corporate bonds and money markets investment.

"In order to cater for different demographics, the Bond Fund offers three plans; reinvestment plan, monthly income distribution plan and semi-annual income distribution plan," said Head of Markets and

Communication at UTT AMIS, Daud Mbaga.

Mbaga said the Bond Fund investors who put in 10m/- will be eligible to receive monthly earnings while those who invest 5m/- and above will be eligible to receive semi annual earnings as profit.

SADC and African nations should fight for economic independence under Magufuli

By The Banker Reporter

Ever since African nations gained their independence from the colonies 60 years ago, the colonists still see Africa as part of their interests. They have continued with their colonial policies by continuing to occupy of Africa, thus controlling it economically, military and politically.

The so-called economic liberators of Africa and human rights defenders have continued their colonial policies of oppressing African nations and interfering with their internal affairs. These new neo-colonial policies are the cause of chaos, war and violence in many African countries.

Apart from African nations being fully independence, however, some Western nations and the US see themselves as the ultimate authority on who should be a friend of African nations and who should not. This tendency is to interfere with internal affairs of African countries while they are no longer under their colonial rule.

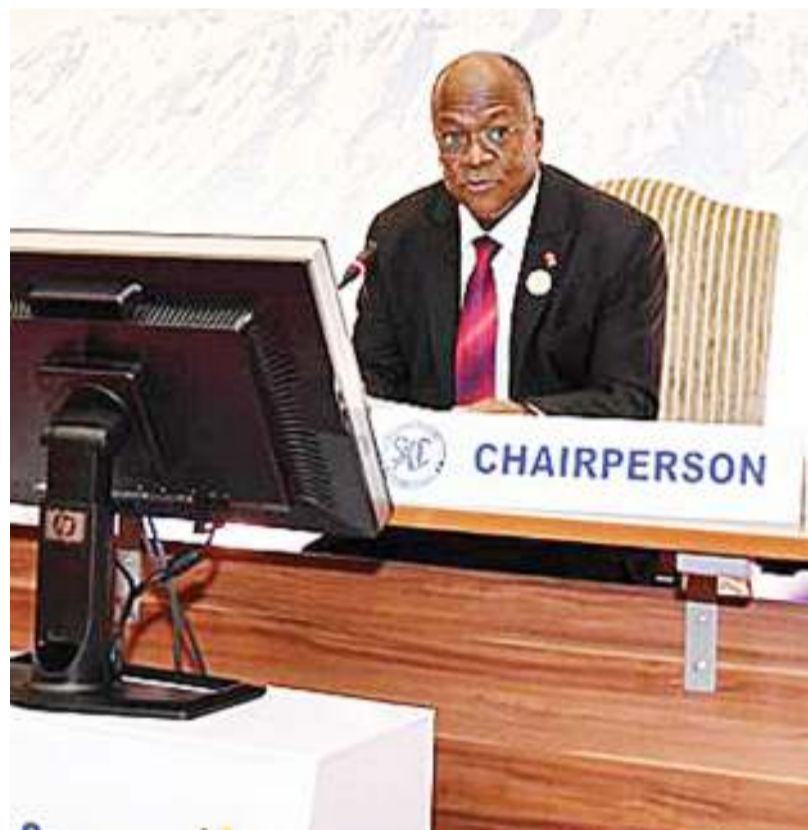
African countries have the decision and the will to choose who to do business with and who to build a relationship with hence Western nations should respect the sovereignty and boundaries of African countries and let them alone choose friends they want.

It is clear that the Western nations are not ready and do not want to see a free and self-sustaining Africa in development, nor do they want to see Africa with new allies especially Russia and China which they consider to be their biggest rivals and a threat to their interests.

Thus, they are doing everything they can to ensure that Africa remains under their control. And to prove that, we have seen how France continues to oppress many countries that were under its rule, especially in the case of Central African Republic and Mali.

Although France claims to be a democratic country and an advocate for human rights and freedom of information, but it has failed to resolve its internal affairs and has detained Yellow Vest protestors. To date, France is still occupying and retains control over the island of Mayotte in Comoros. The island is still under French rule and Paris is not ready to grant it independence.

In CAR, the situation has been volatile for several years since France's military intervention in 2013 to support African-led peace keeping forces but to be precise, the reason for French involvement in the crisis was that it never fully relinquished its control over CAR. CAR still holds a colonial currency, the CFA Franc just like many other African Francophone countries.



SADC Chairman, President John Magufuli.

Apart from CAR, France was behind the military revolution in Burkina Faso and has been interfering with the internal affairs in many of its former colonies including Madagascar and Rwanda where it has caused political conflicts with an aim of controlling their resources.

Since African Countries are independence and no longer under colonial rule, Western nations such as France and the US with others should stop intimidating independent African countries which have the right to choose who to work trade and be allied to. France and other Western powers need to understand that African countries have complete independence, so they have the right to run their own affairs as well as to choose new friends and allies they see fit.

France must also understand that, since it is a member of European Union and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, it must respect and obey international laws such as respecting the borders and cultures of other countries.

France and its allies should stop using economic sanctions as a weapon to influence African countries. It should be noted that, economic sanctions have had devastating effects on the lives of the people in targeted countries. Many countries affected by Western economic sanctions which include: Russia, Syria, Iran, North Korea,

Zimbabwe, Cuba and China are being targeted simply because of their defence of sovereignty and national economies.

These economic sanctions are contrary to international law, thus, the international community needs to unite to oppose this Western bullying.

It is a time now that African nations must free themselves from colonial chains by eliminating neo-colonial mentality and protect their rich resources. As President John Magufuli has often argued, "As Africans, we must keep our eyes open and must oppose any neo-colonial approaches by Western countries." As current Chairman of Southern African Development Community, President Magufuli wants African nations to learn how to govern themselves properly and resist any foreign interference.

Dr Magufuli who has also strongly argued that Tanzania is not a poor country, just like many other SADC countries, is championing a campaign for total economic independence of the continent.

It would be best if the SADC countries plus other African countries join President Magufuli's proposals to oppose neo-colonialism by resisting interfering into their domestic affairs by Western nations. SADC countries also need to form new alliances with any global powers they so wish but should not interfere in their internal affairs.

Too many South Africans are slaves to debt

JOHANNESBURG

The country has 25m active credit consumers - and more than 10m are behind on their payments. If you want to know the frustrations associated with being in debt, ask 27-year-old Muzi Mehla (not his real name). He is over-indebted, despite the fact that he has been working for a financial administrator for the past seven years. His salary has increased a couple of times, but he says it still doesn't allow him to live a comfortable life.

"My salary is not enough," he says. "I do not have the extra money lying around to buy most of my necessities." Clothing, furniture and cellphone accounts and a credit card are what he is a slave to. With the interest he's paying on the credit he has taken out, it's no wonder he doesn't have 'extra money' lying around.

He says that as a result he lives hand-to-mouth. By the end of the first week of the month most of his income is finished. He then depends on his credit card to pull him through the month. Mehla says he regrets the day he allowed himself to fall into the trap of credit providers. "When I started taking credit I did not know much about credit and the impact it could have in the long term," he says.

Credit regulator findings

Mehla is not alone. According to the National Credit Regulator (NCR), South Africans are over-indebted - and still clamouring for more credit.

Statistics released on Friday show the total value of new credit granted in 2019's first quarter (Q1), increased by more than 5% to over R134 billion in Q2, says the NCR's Ngoako Mabebe. Mabebe says one million applications

for new credit were made, with 55.44% turned down. He adds that there are 25 million active credit consumers, and 10.23 million (40%) are behind on their payments.

"There is impairment on at least one of their accounts," he says, adding that on average a consumer has three-and-a-half accounts. "There are 80 million accounts in South Africa, with 21 million in arrears by three months or more." Mabebe adds that 12.7% have adverse listings against their names, while 5.1% of consumers have judgments and administration orders against them.

Reasons

So why do consumers keep adding to their debt?

According to Dr Azar Jammine, chief economist at Econometrix, credit providers lure consumers into taking credit. "Credit providers try and entice people who are not able to buy things to do so," he says, adding that many South Africans feel pressured to 'keep up with the Joneses'.

"In South Africa, there are advertisements for expenditure on all sorts of items such as durable goods and electronics. A large amount is being spent on cellphones and data, which was previously not an expenditure item in people's lives. Somehow this is treated as a priority in people's lives, even though they realise they can't afford it," says Jammine.

He adds that many find themselves in debt because they lack financial education. "Unfortunately, many in South Africa are [financially] illiterate. They are enticed into these things because they think it is a way of uplifting their wellbeing - and they are not fully aware of the consequences because they are not spelled out to them."

Stagnant economy

The slow economy is also contributing to consumer appetite for debt, says Jammine. "The main problem is that the economy is not growing rapidly. People are becoming unemployed and are under a lot of pressure, yet they are trying to sustain their living standards, and they must borrow money to sustain those living standards."

He says an over-indebted country eventually harms its economy. "The consequence of indebted citizens on the economy is that eventually you have less buying power in the economy, and ultimately that results in declining economic growth generally." In short, you don't get the economic recovery you need to return to the levels that existed before the downturn.

Failure-to-launch syndrome

A 2019 financial reality survey by DebtSafe indicated that many of the 1 020 participants were indebted due to: Tough economic times, so they can't afford basic necessities (67%); Education and school expenses for themselves, children and other relatives (38%); and Unforeseen circumstances (29%).

DebtSafe debt advisor Carla Oberholzer says 70% of the participants were females from metro cities, aged between 25 and 27. "Most were single parents affected by the 'failure to launch' syndrome," she says, explaining that they live with their parents and must look after their parents or grandparents as well, instead of focusing on their own responsibilities. Oberholzer says the other big worries for the respondents is their income not keeping up with inflation, and not being able to save.



A credit rescue at Queenstown branch in South Africa where millions are entangled in a debt trap.

WORLD

Blood on his hands: 2020 Democrats slam Trump over Syria

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential hopefuls denounced President Donald Trump's decision to pull U.S. troops back from northern Syria, saying in an Ohio debate on Tuesday he had endangered America's longtime Kurdish allies while empowering foes Russia and Syria.

In the first Democratic presidential debate since Trump announced the withdrawal, the 12 candidates on the stage were united in painting the Republican president as reckless and a danger to American interests around the world.

But some, including leading progressive candidate Elizabeth Warren, said if they were president they would also seek to end the U.S. military presence in the Middle East.

"I think that we ought to get out of the Middle East," said Warren, a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. "I don't think we should have troops in the Middle East."

Warren, whose electoral platform is

dominated by domestic policy fixes, did not say how she would differ from Trump in her handling of the Syria situation. But she slammed the president's foreign policy approach as erratic.

"He has sucked up to dictators, he has made impulsive decisions that often his own team doesn't understand," Warren said. "He has cut and run on our allies, and he has enriched himself at the expense of the United States of America."

Fellow progressive Bernie Sanders, a U.S. senator from Vermont, criticized Trump for first signaling the withdrawal in a tweet.

"What he has done is wreck our ability to do foreign policy, to do military policy, because nobody in the world will believe this pathological liar," he said.

ENDLESS WARS

Trump has defended his reversal of longstanding U.S. policy in Syria as part of a plan to withdraw the United States from "endless" wars in the region. But critics, including senior figures in his

own Republican Party, cast it as a betrayal of the Kurds, loyal allies who lost thousands of fighters in battle against Islamic State.

The abrupt withdrawal from northern Syria cleared the way for a Turkish cross-border assault on Kurdish militia, forcing 160,000 people from their homes, according to the United Nations, and raising fears of a revival of Islamic militancy.

It also allowed President Bashar al-Assad and his ally, Russia, to push into territory held by the Kurds, giving them a foothold in the biggest remaining swathe of Syria that had been beyond their grasp through much of its eight-year-old war.

Trump has since ordered almost all troops pulled out of the country.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who has touted his long experience in foreign policy as a key strength of his candidacy, said if he was president he would have protected the Kurds.

"It has been the most shameful thing that any president has done in modern history in terms of foreign policy," he said.

He would send in "air cover" to protect American troops and make it clear they were not being pulled out, Biden said.

"Our commanders across the board, former and present, are ashamed of what's happening

here," he said.

VETERANS

Hawaii congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard took a different view. A veteran of the Iraq war, Gabbard has defined her campaign around ending America's overseas conflicts, but has come in for criticism for meeting Assad and defending his regime.

"Donald Trump has the blood of the Kurds on his hand, but so do many of the politicians in our country from both parties who have supported this ongoing regime change war in Syria that started in 2011, along with many in the mainstream media who have been championing and cheer-leading this regime change war," she said.

Gabbard was confronted by Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who served in the U.S. Navy Reserve in Afghanistan and who has urged Congress to repeal a law passed days after Sept. 11, 2001, that paved the way for the campaigns against al Qaeda and Taliban militants.

"The slaughter going on in Syria is not a consequence of American presence, it's a consequence of a withdrawal and the betrayal by this president of American allies and American values," said Buttigieg.

Agencies



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden speaks as Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren listen during the fourth U.S. Democratic presidential candidates 2020 election debate at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio U.S., on Tuesday. REUTERS

Global significance of China-India relationship is evident: Indian official

INDIA and China are big emerging economies and rising powers, and the global significance of this bilateral relationship is evident, said Dr. TCA Raghavan, Director General of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) during a recent interview with People's Daily.

Raghavan said he was looking forward to the second informal meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He believes that this meeting will give a big forward movement in the bilateral relationship between the two countries, and China-India cooperation will promote the world multi-polarization and the process of economic globalization.

Established in 1943, the ICWA is an influential think tank of diplomatic policies in India, where Xi gave a very important speech titled "In Joint Pursuit of a Dream of National Renewal" on 18 September 2014.

Xi's pointed out in the speech that China and India should become closer partners for development, cooperative partners for growth and global partners for strategic coordination. Raghavan commented that Xi's remarks have pointed a direction for the future development of the relationship between the two countries.

He said that as the most populous two countries in the world, China and India are both experiencing rapid development.

The ICWA has held multiple meetings with relevant Chinese organizations, and the ICWA General Director is also paying long-term and close attention to China's development. He believes that enhancing the communication between the think tanks of the two countries will be constructive for the promotion of mutual understanding and cultural exchanges.

Giving high appreciation on the informal meeting between Xi and Modi in Wuhan, China the last year, the ICWA official said that high-level guidance is a strategic power that propels the mutual trust between the two countries and advances China-India relations.

He told People's Daily that the two leaders have been proactively promoting the all-round development between China and India, and enhancing dialogues on political and security issues, adding that the Wuhan informal meeting opened a new chapter for China-India relationship.

Raghavan said that the in-depth discussions conducted by both leaders on strategic, long-term and overarching issues at the informal meetings are of profound significance for the two countries and the world.

Since the Wuhan informal meeting, China and India have witnessed prospering exchanges and cooperation on trade and culture.

Raghavan believes that the second informal meeting between the two leaders at Chennai will surely achieve fruitful results.

People's Daily

China condemns US House approval of bill on Hong Kong

BEIJING

A spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council yesterday strongly protested against and condemned the passage of the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 by the US House of Representatives.

The US House of Representatives passed the act, proposed by some congressmen, on Tuesday local time despite strong opposition from the Chinese government.

Yang Guang, the spokesperson, said the move was a gross interference in China's internal affairs,

a blatant backing for the Hong Kong opposition and violent radicals, and a full revelation of the US House of Representatives' and some politicians' political calculations, who attempt to contain the development of China through playing "Hong Kong card."

The disturbance, originated from proposed ordinance amendments, has become ever more violent. It is inescapably related to the overt or covert support from the US side to anti-China troublemakers in Hong Kong, Yang (pictured) said.

He noted that some violent radicals have been wantonly beating,



smashing, looting, causing serious obstruction to the traffic, and vandalizing public facilities.

"They hurled petrol bombs upon subway in operation and produced remote-control homemade bombs," Yang said, adding that they also assaulted police officers and ordinary residents with different opinions, as well as snatched

police guns and even slashed at an officer's neck.

Yang said their actions severely harmed the public order and infringing upon the basic human rights of Hong Kong people including police, such as personal safety and freedom of expression.

China's Foreign Ministry too expressed strong indignation at and firm opposition to the passage of the HK-related bill.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang said in Beijing in a response to a question on the development. "The current situation in Hong Kong has nothing to do with human rights or democracy.

The real issue is to promptly end violence, restore order and safeguard the rule of law. The US House of Representatives is disregarding and distorting facts by referring to serious criminal offenses such as arson, smashing of shops and violence against police officers as an issue of human rights and democracy.

That is a stark double standard. It fully exposes the shocking hypocrisy of some in the US on human rights and democracy and their malicious intention to undermine Hong Kong's prosperity and stability to contain China's development

Xinhua

Brexit talks don't get boost, continue on summit eve

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union and British negotiators failed to reach a breakthrough in Brexit talks during a frantic all-night session and will continue seeking a compromise on the eve of today's crucial EU summit.

An EU official, who asked not to be identified because the negotiations were still ongoing, said yesterday that "discussions continued until late in the night and will continue today."

Both sides were hoping that after more than three years of false starts and sudden reversals, a clean divorce deal for Britain leaving the bloc might be sketched out within the coming hours.

Even though many questions remain, diplomats made it clear that both sides were within touching distance of a deal for the first

time since a UK withdrawal plan fell apart in the British House of Commons in March.

But talks saw no deal materializing between experts from both sides holed up late into the night at EU headquarters in Brussels.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said the negotiations had been "constructive" and would continue.

Johnson is eager to strike a deal at an EU summit starting Thursday that will allow for the UK to leave the bloc in good order on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, fulfilling his promise to get Brexit done, come what may.

But both sides say gaps remain over plans for keeping goods and people flowing freely across the Irish border, the thorniest issue in the talks.

An open border between EU member Ireland and the UK's



Northern Ireland underpins both the local economy and the 1998 peace accord that ended decades of Catholic-Protestant violence in Northern Ireland. But once Britain exits, that border will turn into an external EU frontier that the bloc wants to keep secure.

The big question is how far Johnson's government is prepared to budge on its insistence that the UK, including Northern Ireland,

must leave the European Union's customs union – something that would require checks on goods passing between the UK and the EU, including on the island of Ireland. Ireland and other EU members say any checks in Ireland are unacceptable.

The alternative is to have checks between Britain and Northern Ireland. But Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, the party that props up Johnson's minority government, strongly opposes any measures that could loosen the bonds between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Even if there is a deal, it must be passed by both European lawmakers and Britain's Parliament, which rejected – three times – the agreement struck by his predecessor, Theresa May.

Pro-Brexit Conservative lawmaker David Davis said success

rests on the stance of the DUP.

He said that "if the DUP says 'this is intolerable to us' that will be quite important."

This week's EU leaders' meeting – the last scheduled summit before the Brexit deadline – was long considered the last opportunity to approve a divorce agreement. Johnson insists his country will leave at the end of the month with or without an agreement, although UK lawmakers are determined to push for another delay rather than risk a chaotic no-deal Brexit.

They have passed a law that compels the government to ask the EU to postpone Brexit if there is no deal in place by Saturday.

Johnson insists he won't do that – but also says he will obey the law. It's unclear how the two statements can be reconciled.

Agencies

Kenya's extended railway to boost industrial growth, competitiveness

NAIROBI

THE Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) linking Nairobi to the resort town of Naivasha will spark industrial revival and boost the competitiveness of Kenya's manufactured goods overseas, experts said on Tuesday.

Garrison Ikiara, an economics lecturer at the University of Nairobi said the launch of phase 2A of SGR will boost Kenya's economy through seamless transportation of industrial goods to the hinterland and across the larger eastern African region.

"One of the expected immediate

benefits of the operationalization of the Nairobi-Naivasha section will be a highly significant cost reduction for cargo ferried from Mombasa port to countries like Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, DR Congo and Ethiopia," Ikiara said during an interview with Xinhua.

He said that the establishment of a dry port and Special Economic Zones that will be an integral component of SGR phase 2A infrastructure, will position Kenya as regional manufacturing, logistics and transportation hub.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta is expected to commission the extended

railway line that is a key component of the proposed Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba SGR project.

China Communications Construction Company has been implementing the 120 km modern railway project since October 2016.

Ikiara hailed operationalization of the extended railway line saying it will inspire Kenya's neighboring countries to complete their sections and enhance their link to the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

"The launch will underline the government's commitment to implementing the whole SGR project within Ken-

yan territory in order for neighboring countries to carry the process forward as this part of Africa becomes part and parcel of the Belt and Road Initiative," said Ikiara.

He said that phase 2A of the SGR project will revitalize the rural economy through efficient, safer and affordable movement of goods, labor and capital.

Edward Kusewa, economic lecturer at St Paul's University said that the Nairobi-Naivasha railway line will benefit local horticulture and cash crop farmers through enhanced movement of their produce to export destinations.

"The Naivasha cargo terminal is expected to benefit Kenya's horticultural industry that is concentrated in Naivasha," said Kusewa. Fresh produce from Naivasha will now arrive at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport faster and at more affordable rates as compared to when transported by road," he added.

Kusewa said that tourism will boom in Naivasha and surrounding regions thanks to the availability of a hassle-free mode of transporting visitors to scenic attractions that dot Kenya's expansive Rift Valley region.

Kenyan tea producers said recently

they are anticipating seamless transportation of the commodity from the country's highlands to the port of Mombasa from where it is shipped overseas, once the Nairobi-Naivasha SGR is operational.

"We are currently in negotiations with the government to give us preferential transportation rate so that we can use the SGR terminal at Naivasha and Nairobi to the port of Mombasa to transport the tea cargo for exports," said Apollo Kiarri, chief executive officer of Kenya Tea Growers Association.

Xinhua



MOSCOW

MOSCOW has a lot to offer to African countries in terms of mutually beneficial cooperation, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked if the upcoming Russia-Africa Summit meant that Moscow sought to challenge China and the Western countries on the African continent.

"This is not about competition but about mutually beneficial cooperation. Russia has always been present in Africa, as it is a very important continent. Russia has a lot to offer to African countries in terms of mutually beneficial cooperation. Russia traditionally maintains very close relations with many of these countries," the Kremlin spokesman pointed out.

However, Peskov (pictured) refrained from comment as to how many African leaders had confirmed participation in the summit. He just pointed out that some countries would be represented by their heads of state, while other delegations would be led by prime ministers and foreign ministers.

Russia's Black Sea resort city of Sochi will host the first-ever Russia-Africa Summit on October 23-24.

The leaders of all the 54 countries of the continent have been invited to the event, and more than 40 of them have confirmed their participation.

Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt will co-chair the summit. An economic forum involving heads of state, state officials, businessmen and regional organizations is set to take place on the summit's sidelines.

Agencies

Pence, Giuliani will not cooperate in US House impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani said on Tuesday they will not cooperate with a U.S. House of Representatives impeachment inquiry, prompting a leading Democrat to say that would strengthen the case against the president.

The Pentagon also said it would not comply with lawmakers' request for documents related to Trump's effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate a political rival, further illustrating Trump's determination to stonewall the Democratic-led impeachment effort, which threatens to consume his presidency.

"The evidence of obstruction of Congress continues to build," Democratic Representative Adam Schiff, one of the leaders of the impeachment effort, said at a news conference.

Other U.S. government officials have not been as reluctant to cooperate.

A senior U.S. diplomat, George Kent, said in closed-door testimony that he had been alarmed by efforts by Giuliani and others to pressure Ukraine, according to one lawmaker who heard his testimony.

"He was pretty detailed in talking about some of the shady characters Giuliani was dependent on for misinformation," Democratic Representative Gerry Connolly told reporters.

House Democrats are focusing on Trump's request to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July 25 phone call to look into unsubstantiated allegations about Joe Biden, the former vice president and a leading contender to become the Democratic nominee to run against Trump in the November 2020 U.S. presidential election.

If the Democratic-controlled House votes to approve articles of impeachment - formal charges - the Republican-controlled Senate would then hold a trial on whether to remove the president from office. Success is seen as unlikely at this point as few Republican senators have criticized Trump.

A Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Tuesday found that 43% of U.S. adults believe Trump should be impeached, and 42% said he should not be impeached. Another 14% said they were not sure.

Kent, who has spent much of his career fighting corruption in Ukraine and elsewhere, is the second career diplomat to testify as part of the probe after being subpoenaed. The White House and State Department had ordered them not to appear.

His testimony backed up accounts from other U.S. government insiders who have said they were unnerved by Trump's efforts to pressure Ukraine.

DIPLOMATS TESTIFY



Vice President Mike Pence (L) and President Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani

Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, on Friday accused the Trump administration in testimony of recalling her in May based on false claims.

Kent also said that a top White House official, acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, picked the officials who would handle Ukraine policy after the sitting ambassador was abruptly recalled in May.

"Here is a senior State Department official responsible for six countries, one of which is Ukraine, who found himself outside of a parallel process

that he felt was undermining 28 years of U.S. policy in promoting the rule of law in Ukraine. And that was wrong. He used that word, 'wrong,'" Connolly said of Kent.

Two of those officials, U.S. ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland and Kurt Volker, a special representative for Ukraine, worked with Giuliani to pressure Ukrainian officials to launch investigations that could benefit Trump, according to communications provided to the committee. Volker resigned his post in late September. Sondland is due to testify

later in the week in response to a congressional subpoena.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry was the third official named to handle Ukraine relations, Kent told the committee. Congressional investigators subpoenaed Perry last week.

Lawmakers on Monday heard from Fiona Hill, Trump's former Russia adviser, who said she and her then-boss, former national security adviser John Bolton, were also alarmed by the effort.

Hill told lawmakers that Bolton characterized Giuliani as "a hand grenade who is going to blow everybody up," according to two sources familiar with her testimony. A Bolton spokeswoman said he would have no comment on the testimony.

Giuliani had faced a Tuesday deadline to produce the requested documents. His lawyer, Jon Sale, said the documents were protected by legal principles that shield attorney-client communications and presidential communications.

"This appears to be an unconstitutional, baseless, and illegitimate 'impeachment inquiry,'" Sale wrote, echoing language the White House used last week.

Pence's lawyer, Matthew E. Morgan, also cited the White House's response, saying the House had not voted to authorize the inquiry. **Agencies**

World's petroleum giants highly applaud Egypt's blooming oil sector

CAIRO

HEADS of global oil companies stressed on Tuesday that the Egyptian oil sector has become a friendly-investment environment thanks to the government's legislative reforms and recent oil discoveries in Egypt.

Their remarks came during the Mediterranean Offshore Conference (MOC), held in Egypt's Alexandria, Egyptian state-run MENA news agency reported. Executive VP Upstream JVs at the Royal Dutch Shell, Gerald Schotman, said Egypt is an important destination for his company in oil exploration.

The British-Dutch company is currently carrying out exploration activities at the depth of 6,000 meters in Nile Delta and conducting seismic surveys. It also develops the West Nile Delta phase 9B gas field to start production after six months of drilling. Meanwhile, Managing Director of Edison in Egypt Nicolas Katcharov said Egypt has the potentials to be a major regional energy hub.

Edison pumped investments worth 300 million U.S. dollars to develop its gas field in Alexandria's Abu Qir, doubling its production in the past two years, Katcharov revealed.

He added that the company plans to invest 100 million dollars in Egypt in the current fiscal year, adding that a plan is underway to drill two new wells in the deep water in the Mediterranean in the fourth quarter of 2019.

For his part, Italy's ENI Egypt chairman Luca De Caro reviewed results of oil and gas projects implemented in the Mediterranean Sea, Nile Delta and Western Desert. **Xinhua**

Russia will encourage cooperation between Turkey and Syria, says Lavrov

SOCHI

RUSSIA will continue taking steps to promote dialogue between the Turkish and Syrian leadership on normalizing the border situation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told an international gathering of

intelligence and security chiefs, along with top law enforcement brass in Sochi.

"Russia will continue acting in full compliance with international law and the UN Security Council's resolution, encouraging achievement and execution of agreements between Damas-



cus and the Kurds, and also contributing to forging cooperation

between the Syrian and Turkish authorities on ensuring security on their joint border, as this is regulated by the 1998 Adana pact," Lavrov stressed.

On October 9, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched an offensive in northern Syria, dubbed Operation

Peace Spring, which began with airstrikes on Kurdish units. Turkey's objective is to establish a safety zone in northern Syria for the protection of the Turkish border. Ankara hopes Syrian refugees could return there from Turkey.

The Assad government's state

news agency SANA slammed Erdogan's operation as an act of aggression. In addition, the world community condemned Ankara's actions. On Sunday evening, SANA reported that Damascus had sent troops to northern Syria in order to counter Turkish forces. **Agencies**

Tensions high as South Sudan faces unity govt deadline

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's fragile peace deal is faltering less than a month before the country's president and armed opposition leader are meant to form a coalition government and begin the long recovery from a five-year civil war.

Some doubt it's safe enough for opposition leader Riek Machar to return to the country by Nov 12, when he would again serve as President Salva Kiir's deputy, an arrangement that has collapsed in fighting more than once.

Machar won't return unless security measures are in place, including a 3,000-member force for his protection, said the opposition's deputy chairman, Henry Odwar.

"The city is militarized, mistrust is high and Riek Machar's return in that environment without serious security arrangements in place could be dangerous," said Lauren Blanchard, an analyst with the US Congress who recently visited with a congressional delegation.

It's difficult to see how the new government can be formed safely next month, she said.

The government vows to move ahead. If the opposition doesn't return it will be seen as holding the country "hostage," said government spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny.

South Sudan's civil war killed almost 400,000 people and displaced millions. Implementation of the peace deal signed last year has been riddled with delays and



Opposition soldiers chant "Viva IO", meaning "long live the opposition", during a visit by a ceasefire monitoring team, at an opposition military camp near the town of Nimule in Eastern Equatoria state, South Sudan. (File photo)

a lack of funding.

Two key factors must be resolved before Machar's return. Opposition and government soldiers must be brought together into one national army. At least 42,000 troops, or about half of the new unified forces, need to be ready - along with the 3,000-member force for Machar.

The integration process has been sluggish while food, shelter and medicine are lacking. Some opposition soldiers complained to The Associated Press of government harassment.

Then there's the issue of the number of South Sudan's states, "the most contentious challenge to peace," said Dan Sullivan, senior advocate for human rights at Refugees International.

After a failed 2015 peace deal the government expanded the existing 10 states to 32, a decision

seen by observers as a move to divide the country along ethnic lines. Some vow to return to war if the issue isn't resolved.

"Fighting will take place if the boundaries aren't defined. We are ready to fight," said Aban Yor, a community leader with the Shilluk ethnic group. Grievances are rife among the Shilluk after the government forcibly displaced them from their homes during the war, according to a report last month by Small Arms Survey.

South Sudan's government has said any outstanding issues will be decided in the three-year transitional period before elections.

Even if a unity government is formed, the country's situation is dire. More than 6 million people are hungry and pockets of the country face famine conditions, according to a report last week by the International Rescue Commit-

tee.

Violent crime in Juba has increased, with humanitarian workers likely targeted for their perceived wealth, according to a security report circulated among aid groups this month and seen by the AP. It noted "brazen disregard for law enforcement not previously seen in Juba."

Civil servants haven't been paid in months. While the government cites a lack of funds, critics including the Washington-based group The Sentry allege the money is squandered by senior politicians and military officials. South Sudan's national draft budget this year allocates \$20 million for medical coverage for 400 members of parliament, while about \$14 million is budgeted for the country's entire health care system.

Analysts say the international community needs to think creatively about salvaging the peace.

"The parties have shown an uncanny ability to undermine the agreement in any number of ways. The guarantors should anticipate these moves and be prepared with swift and targeted responses," said David Deng, a South Sudan researcher.

The US government is increasing pressure, last week sanctioning two businessmen, the Sudanese Ashraf Seed Ahmed Al-Cardinal and South Sudanese Kur Ajing Ater, for involvement in bribery, kickbacks and procurement fraud with senior government officials. **Agencies**

Trade data shows resilience of China's economy

DATA released by the General Administration of Customs on Monday shows China's total trade amounted to 22.91 trillion yuan (\$3.24 trillion) in the first three quarters of the year, growing 2.8 percent from a year ago.

The country's exports rose by 5.2 percent to 12.48 trillion yuan and imports dropped 0.1 percent to 10.43 trillion yuan. Trade surplus of China expanded 44.2 percent during the period to 2.05 trillion yuan.

These data carry weight. The new round of high-level China-US trade talks has made substantial progress in some areas, triggering positive feedback from global markets on Monday.

It is of special significance since China's trade can still grow in a harsh environment, which demonstrates the tenacity of the Chinese economy and the effectiveness of the measures to cope with internal and external challenges.

China-US trade has declined by a large margin in the first three quarters, a result of the trade war.

However, China's trade with the EU and ASEAN has grown significantly, enough to offset a drop in China-US trade.

It's worth mentioning that China's trade with Belt and Road route countries grew 9.5 percent. The country has di-



versified its trade markets and optimized its structure.

Under the backdrop of the trade war, the growth of China's exports proves the competitiveness of Chinese products.

The latest WTO data shows that during the first seven months of the year, the growth rate of China's trade surpassed that of Germany, Japan and South Korea, consolidating its status as the world's top commodity trading country.

This enables China to further restructure its economy, and master more initiatives no matter in trade talks or the trade war with the US.

The most important thing is to do our own things well. It is the lesson the trade war has taught the Chinese people. China will continue to open wider and develop its market.

The efforts will create a chain reaction, leading to better-than-expected results.

We have seen the arrogance of some American elites during

the trade war. But the performance of the Chinese economy has made them realize that wishing of a unilateral win for the US is increasingly unrealistic.

However, there are also Americans who opposed a trade war with China from the very beginning. As China's economy shows a greater internal driving force, relying less and less on the US market, rational voices will start to influence US society and sway public opinion incited by those elites.

There will always be uncertainty, but it is nothing to be feared.

The Chinese economy is undergoing a historic transformation, which won't be an easy process.

But we will not be overwhelmed by the difficulties. Hard work, perseverance and an optimistic Chinese society will create a better future.

Global Times

IMF lowers global growth forecast, warns of trade, geopolitical tensions

WASHINGTON

IN its newly-released World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday lowered its global growth forecast for 2019 to 3 percent, warning that growth continues to be weakened by rising trade barriers and growing geopolitical tensions.

Noting that this is the slowest pace since the global financial crisis, IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath told reporters that "there is no room for policy mistakes."

DOWNWARD REVISION AGAIN

The 3-percent global growth projection for 2019 is down 0.2 percentage point from the IMF's estimation in July, while the growth projection for 2020 was also lowered to 3.4 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from the earlier estimation.

Previously, the July WEO report already downgraded growth forecasts for 2019 and 2020, each down 0.1 percentage point from the estimation in April.

"The weakness in growth is driven by a sharp deterioration in manufacturing activity and global trade, with higher tariffs and prolonged trade policy uncertainty damaging investment and demand

for capital goods," Gopinath said during a press conference at the global lender's headquarters.

Mark Sobel, U.S. chairman of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, an independent think tank, wrote in a blog that manufacturing activity is declining in major advanced economies, "in no small part" due to the U.S. administration's "ill-advised trade wars," which may reduce global GDP by up to 1 percent.

According to the estimation by the IMF, overall trade volume growth in the first half of 2019 has fallen to 1 percent, the weakest level since 2012.

"Growth is also being weighed

down by country-specific factors in several emerging market economies, and structural forces such as low productivity growth and aging demographics in advanced economies," Gopinath said at the press conference.

Growth in emerging market and developing economies has been revised down to 3.9 percent for 2019, compared to 4.5 percent last year, the report showed. Advanced economies continue to slow toward their long-term potential, with growth downgraded to 1.7 percent this year, compared to 2.3 percent in 2018.

TRADE TENSIONS' IMPACTS

The U.S.-China trade conflict has not only increased direct costs on businesses and consumers, but also caused "secondary effects," such as the loss of confidence and market reactions, said Kristalina Georgieva, the new IMF managing director, in a recent speech.

After holding a new round of high-level economic and trade consultations last week in Washington, China and the United States have achieved substantial progress in multiple areas, sparking cautious optimism for a possible trade agreement between the world's two largest economies.

"We look forward to more details on the recent tentative deal

reached between China and the United States. We welcome any steps to de-escalate tensions and to roll back recent trade measures, particularly if they can provide a path towards a comprehensive and lasting deal," Gopinath said.

Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, told Xinhua in a recent interview that he remains optimistic that the two sides will eventually reach a trade agreement.

"Both countries realize that this (trade war) had a negative impact. So that's a good starting point for the agreement," he said.

Amid ongoing trade tensions, the IMF in its new WEO report low-

ered U.S. growth forecast for 2019 to 2.4 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from an earlier projection, while downgrading China's growth forecast for this year to 6.1 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous projection.

The global lender recently estimated that the U.S.-China trade tensions will cumulatively reduce the level of global GDP by 0.8 percent by 2020, taking into account the proposed tariff hikes scheduled for Oct. 15 and Dec. 15. If these tariffs were never to happen, Gopinath said, that would bring down the estimated negative impact on global GDP from 0.8 percent to 0.6 percent. **Xinhua**



Cuba Gooding Jr. appears in court to face new sexual misconduct charges, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in New York. The new charges involve an alleged incident in October 2018. Gooding Jr. pleaded not guilty. The defense paints it as a shakedown attempt. (AP)

Gooding faces new charges and a potential parade of accusers

NEW YORK

CUBA Gooding Jr. is facing a growing cast of sexual misconduct accusers, with prosecutors Tuesday unveiling new criminal charges against the actor and telling a judge they intend to have up to a dozen women testify that he violated them, too.

Standing in a New York City courtroom, Gooding pleaded not guilty to an indictment that included the new charges, which allege he pinched a woman's buttocks at a Manhattan nightclub in October 2018 after making a sexually suggestive remark to her earlier in the night.

The indictment expands a case that started with Gooding's arrest in June after a 29-year-old woman told police that the actor, who won an Oscar for his role in "Jerry Maguire," squeezed her breast without her consent at another Manhattan night spot. No trial date has been set.

Gooding's lawyer, Mark Heller, argued the case against him is an example of the #MeToo movement run amok and that overzealous prosecutors are looking to turn "commonplace gestures" into crimes.

The new criminal allegation, Heller said, is the result of a failed shakedown attempt in which the accuser approached Gooding for a confidential settlement after his arrest and then went to the authorities only after he refused to pay up.

"We are shocked, outraged and absolutely dumbfounded that the district attorney's

office has wasted the taxpayers' money, resources and time in charging Cuba with these two incredulous cases," Heller told reporters outside the courthouse. He said video evidence would exonerate his client.

The Manhattan District Attorney's office declined to comment.

Gooding, 51, was released on his own recognizance and didn't comment as he left court. Wearing a charcoal suit and black tie, he smiled as one of his lawyers whispered into his ear as they walked out of the courtroom. In the hallway, several people there for other business cheered as he got into an elevator.

Gooding nodded and winked at well-wishers outside the courtroom. Asked if he had a message for his fans, Gooding said: "I love you!"

Beyond the criminal charges, Gooding's trial could turn into a referendum on his behavior with women for the better part of his career, as prosecutors look to bolster their case with a parade of potential witnesses who say he violated them in similar settings – bars, hotels and restaurants – as far back as 2001.

Some of the alleged incidents happened outside of New York City, in places such as Los Angeles, Dallas and Albuquerque, New Mexico, and some are outside of the statute of limitations. None have resulted in criminal charges, but state law allows prosecutors to call accusers not involved in the criminal case as witnesses as they look to show a pattern of misconduct.

AP



Winners of a promotion, known as 'Faidikana Jero', which is organized by Tigo and SportPesa firms, pictured with their smartphones after presentation ceremony, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others in picture are (L) Tigo Digital Service Manager, Ikunda Ngowi, SportPesa ambassador, Edward Kumwemba, and Yanga midfielder, Papy Kabamba Tshishimbi (R). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Tigo-SportPesa promotion set to offer car this month

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE SportPesa firm, in cooperation with telecoms firm Tigo, have been presenting smartphones to winners of a promotion known as 'Faidikana Jero', which is hosted by the two firms.

But the two firms will at the end of October hand over a brand new car to the overall winner of the Faidikana Jero.

A total of 26 people, as noted by the two firms, have up to now won the smart-

phones.

SportPesa Public Relations Officer, Sabrina Msuya, speaking after the completion of the fourth week's draw, noted: "Through each week's draw we have got winners from Dar es Salaam, Coast Region, Tanga, Dodoma, Morogoro and Mbeya."

"The promotion is still in progress, we are next week expected to get other seven winners, people that emerged as this week's winners will also be presented with smartphones the same

week."

"This week's winners are Gervas Chacha Mgaya from Morogoro, Meshack Sanga from Mbeya, Coast Region's Brighton Mbundo and Dar es Salaam-based Hatibu Shabani, Enea Dawson Mtosa, Khalfan Jama and Ramadhani Tindwa."

Tigo customers, she disclosed, are required to deposit money on their SportPesa accounts via TigoPesa if they want to participate in the promotion and win the prize.

As NBA-China tweet rift continues, LeBron James now enters spotlight

EL SEGUNDO, CALIF.

LEBRON James has stepped into the spotlight of the now-strained relationship between the NBA and China with his comments about the league executive who started the ongoing fallout with what James derided as a "misinformed" tweet. Politicians, human rights groups and ordinary fans on social media have criticized the outspoken superstar, questioning the motivation of James' comments.

James spoke out Monday, his seven-minute session with reporters putting him squarely in the center of the ongoing international schism. Houston general manager Daryl Morey was "not really educated on the situation," James asserted, when he sent out that since-deleted Oct. 4 tweet showing support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests.

On Tuesday, James acknowledged the criticism – and said he expected that it would be coming.

"Obviously, it's a tough situation that we're all in right now, ... I think when an issue comes up, if you feel passionate about it or you feel like it's something you want to talk about, then so be it," James said. "I also don't think that every issue should be everybody's problem as well."

Monday's comments unleashed an immediate backlash against James, who has often spoken out on social and political matters, with some expressing dismay that this time he seemed to be more concerned about protecting his own brand and financial interests in China, where he enjoys enormous popularity.

"I've always been welcomed with open arms," James said. "I've been to China probably 15 to 20 times ... to have this beautiful game that we all love to be able to bring people together in the most positive way."

That is not the case right now. James was in China for the two games last week between his Los Angeles Lakers and the Brooklyn Nets that were played under most unusual circumstances – with no pregame or postgame media sessions, first by decree of the Chinese and then from the NBA, and with several major league Chinese partners pulling their support of the exhibitions.

With the Lakers and Nets now home, the rift and debate about what the league should have done continues, reinvigorated by James speaking out.

"The situation ... has flared up again," said Matt Powell, a sports business analyst at research firm The NPD Group. "LeBron

is getting a lot of criticism on social media."

It wasn't limited to the Twitter world, either.

Protesters in Hong Kong on Tuesday trampled on James' jerseys, burning one, and threw basketballs at a photo of the four-time NBA MVP – a global sports icon whose image has taken a clear hit.

Among James' comments Monday night, his first publicly shared thoughts on the matter: "So many people could have been harmed, not only financially but emotionally, physically and spiritually" by Morey's tweet.

That fanned the fallout fire, including from U.S. lawmakers who said they believed the NBA's primary goal had been to protect the league's massive financial interest when it comes to its relationship with China instead of more vigorously defending Morey's right to free speech.

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, a frequent critic of James, tweeted both Monday night and again Tuesday morning about the NBA star's comments, accusing him of "kowtowing to Communist China." The office of Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska also tweeted at James, saying "you're parroting communist propaganda."

Morey has not apologized, and has not said anything publicly since two tweets on Oct. 6 attempting to clarify his thinking.

At a media availability on Tuesday, several Rockets players and coach Mike

D'Antoni declined to say much of anything about James' comments.

"I haven't seen it," Rockets star guard James Harden told reporters.

Rockets center Tyson Chandler, who was James' teammate on the Lakers last season, also passed on expressing an opinion.

"I think again everybody's thoughts are their own," Chandler told reporters. "I think LeBron's (are) his, Daryl's (are) his and I like to stay out of people's thoughts."

Teammate forward Thabo Sefolosha, who was born in Switzerland and is in his first year with the Rockets, did touch briefly on the free-speech issue. "Everybody is entitled to their opinion, entitled to what they want to say. That's the beauty about this country."

China is considered the fastest-growing market for Nike, with whom James has a lifetime endorsement deal. In the most recent fiscal year, its revenue from China jumped 21% from the previous year, while overall, sales in China made up 16% of Nike's total revenue.

James has often spoken out on issues he feels passionate about. When he played in Miami, he and other Heat players wore hoodies in reaction to the death of Trayvon Martin – an unarmed black teen who was wearing a hoodie when he was shot dead by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Florida in 2012.

He also has supported Colin Kaepernick, the former San

Francisco 49ers quarterback who began kneeling during the national anthem in an effort to raise awareness of racial oppression and police brutality. He's a frequent critic of President Donald Trump, campaigned for 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and most recently sat with California Gov. Gavin Newsom as the Democrat signed into law a bill that will allow college athletes in that state to hire agents and make money from endorsement deals.

Newsom signed that bill while appearing on a special episode of HBO's "The Shop: Uninterrupted" – part of James' off-court business empire. James is also the founder of a school for inner-city kids in his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

James said his reaction to Morey's tweet, which read "Fight For Freedom: Stand With Hong Kong" before it was deleted within hours as the Chinese backlash grew, was not about its substance. Rather, he wrote, it was his belief that the Rockets' executive did not consider the ramifications – or the timing, while he and his teammates were in China.

"My team and this league just went through a difficult week. I think people need to understand what a tweet or statement can do to others. And I believe nobody stopped and considered what would happen. Could have waited a week to send it," he wrote on Twitter.

AP



Demonstrators hold up photos of LeBron James grimacing during a rally at the Southern Playground in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019. Protesters in Hong Kong have thrown basketballs at a photo of LeBron James and chanted their anger about comments the Los Angeles Lakers star made about free speech during a rally in support of NBA commissioner Adam Silver and Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey, whose tweet in support of the Hong Kong protests touched off a firestorm of controversy in China. (AP Photo)

...Column: Clumsy words tarnish the LeBron brand

BY TYM DAHLBERG

LEBRON James had time, and plenty of it, to figure out how best to answer the questions he knew were coming. Long days in hotel rooms in China and a long flight home gave him every chance to carefully craft a response to a controversy he had no part in making but one that directly affects his bank account.

Instead James chose to wing it. He blamed the messenger instead of addressing the message.

And the LeBron brand may never be the same.

He's still one of the greatest basketball players ever, that hasn't changed. But in the space of just a few sentences Monday night James may have abdicated his spot as someone who should be listened carefully to when it comes to social issues.

No one was asking James to come out in support of protesters in Hong Kong. That was always a bridge too far for a player who makes millions in the lucrative Chinese market.

But a player who has always prided himself on speaking out on issues ranging from Trayvon Martin to Colin Kaepernick should have made sure in this instance that he was speaking out the strongest in support of free speech.

James didn't, at least when it comes to Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey and the firestorm Morey set off with his tweet in support of Hong Kong protesters. In his first comments since returning from China, James cast Morey as being "either misinformed or not really educated on the situation" in Hong Kong and not understanding how many people in the NBA could be affected by his tweet.

While James mentioned free speech, in his bungled attempt to chastise Morey what people heard was human rights are great. But don't let them get in the way of the NBA's China cash cow.

The words were clumsy, almost as if James himself was misinformed or not really educated on the situation. Seemingly realizing that, James followed them with a pair of tweets that did little other than rile up people even further on social media.

He also riled up some protesters in Hong Kong, where on Tuesday some were seen stomping on – and in one case – burning his jersey.

Not exactly the way James wanted to start the NBA season. Up until a few days ago, the biggest thing James had to worry about was meshing with new teammate Anthony Davis and

finding a way for his Los Angeles Lakers to beat the Golden State Warriors.

Now he's under fire from both sides in a dispute he had no part in making, but one where he will pay a price – and not just in endorsement opportunities in China.

No one expects James to be an expert on the dispute in Hong Kong, where protesters are chafing under increased Chinese control. But they should expect him to do what NBA Commissioner Adam Silver did last week in China – acknowledge that everyone doesn't look at things the same but that everyone has the right to express their opinion and just leave it at that.

Those opinions were hard to find across the NBA on Tuesday, a week before the opening of the 2019 season. That was especially true in Houston where Morey has yet to resurface and players like James Harden and Tyson Chandler joined coach Mike D'Antoni in either declining comment or saying basically nothing.

Even Steve Kerr, the Warriors coach who has an opinion on most issues of the day and seems to relish sparring with President Donald Trump, is keeping relatively quiet. Kerr demurred last week when asked whether he thought Morey was wrong

in sending out the tweet, saying instead that basketball "should be a force for the greater good."

That earned Kerr a tweet from Trump, who said it was "So funny to watch Steve Kerr grovel and pander when asked a simple question about China."

Indeed, James is not the only one caught in a heated dispute where middle ground will be hard – if not impossible – to find. He's not the only one who stands to lose money – and a lot of it – should the damage to a relationship carefully cultivated over three decades be undone by a Friday night tweet.

He's got a right to market himself in China without getting involved in the country's internal politics, and that's fine. Few begrudge James his millions, and few – at least on this side of the world – are particularly interested in what he thinks about the relationship Hong Kong has with China.

Words matter, though, and so does the right to voice them. Free speech may be an empty concept in China, but it's the very bedrock of democracy in the United States.

Like a lot of us, James is lucky to live in a country where that right is a given.

Hopefully he'll be thinking more about that the next time he speaks up.

Pep Guardiola now slams jail sentences of Catalan leaders

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola has said a Spanish court ruling which saw nine Catalan politicians and civil leaders sentenced to between nine and 13 years in prison is a "direct affront to human rights."

All nine defendants had been held without bail for the last two years over their role in Catalonia's failed bid for independence from Spain.

On Monday, they were all acquitted of rebellion, the gravest charge, but were found guilty of sedition. Three other defendants were found culpable of disobedience but were not handed jail terms.

"The court ruling is a direct affront to human rights, including the right to assembly and to demonstrate the freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial," Guardiola said in a video for Tsunami Democratic. "This is unacceptable in 21st century Europe. Spain is experiencing a drift towards authoritarianism in which an anti-terrorism law is used to prosecute dissidents."

"Neither [Spanish prime minister] Pedro Sanchez's government, nor any other Spanish government, has been brave enough to deal with this conflict with dialogue and respect. Instead, they have chosen repression as the only response."

"We demand that the Spanish government find a political and democratic solution. We demand that Spain sit down and talk. We repeat, there is only one path: sitting down

and talking. Sitting down and talking."

The arrests stemmed from a unilateral independence referendum held in Catalonia in October of 2017. The referendum resulted in an overwhelming win for the separatists and led to a short-lived independence declaration.

Barcelona released a statement on Monday which said that "prison is not the solution," while fellow Catalan clubs Espanyol and Girona also called for dialogue between all parties involved in the conflict between the autonomous region in Spain.

Protests took place all over Catalonia in the wake of the court ruling, with the largest congregation of people forming at Barcelona's El Prat airport and causing delays to flights and traffic congestion.

Barca midfielder Ivan Rakitic was forced to leave the airport on foot due to the demonstrations. He later confirmed on social media that he had arrived home safely and returned to training with his club on Tuesday following international duty.

Guardiola has been a prominent speaker in favour of Catalonia's right to self-determination. He has previously worn -- and continues to wear, when possible -- a yellow ribbon in support of the jailed separatists. He has been banned from wearing it during Premier League games, though, by the FA, who prohibit the wearing of political messages.

(Agencies)

Liverpool eye Premier League title as 'barometer of success'

LONDON

LIVERPOOL chief executive Peter Moore says a long-overdue Premier League title would sit alongside their Champions League triumph as a "barometer of success" for the club.

Jürgen Klopp's side won a sixth European Cup in June, less than a month after they were pipped by Manchester City to the league title by a single point.

The league resumes on Saturday with Liverpool eight points clear of City and favourites to win their first top-flight title for 30 years.

"I think that is what our fans want," Moore told the Press Association. "We were so close last year, 97 points, and in any other year we would have won it."

"But the club goes on and I think that (a league title), for many of our fans, would sit alongside our Champions League triumph as the barometer of success."

City have been the domestic benchmark for their rivals, with four Premier League titles, four League Cups and two FA Cups since 2011, but Moore said Liverpool were

following their own path.

"What Liverpool had to do was bring in a world-class manager, which we have, bring in a world-class squad, which we have, play exciting football, bring in players that are going to draw crowds no matter where they go, we've done that, build financial security at the club, we've done that."

Moore said the Champions League victory had had a huge impact on the club, lifting them back to the level of "European royalty".

Nine years ago Fenway Sports Group, then New England Sports Ventures, completed their £300 million (\$380 million) purchase of the club.

They inherited a club languishing towards the foot of the Premier League with six points from their opening seven matches during the short-lived reign of Roy Hodgson.

"When we look at the health of the club, our revenues have doubled in the last five years and been reinvested back into the squad," said Moore. "We have steadied the ship from some dark days nine years ago."

AFP

Vieira admits Arsenal interest: In any job you want to reach the highest level

PARIS

ARSENAL legend Patrick Vieira has revealed that he would one day love to return to the Emirates Stadium to coach his former team.

The ex-France midfielder was a lynchpin of the Gunners team that lifted the Premier League title in 2003-04 as the 'Invincibles', having negotiated the duration of the campaign undefeated.

He has since graduated to management, earning his spurs at Manchester City before taking the head coach role at New York City before moving to Nice in Ligue 1 in the summer of 2018.

Vieira impressed last term on the Cote d'Azur as he put together a competitive side that narrowly missed out on Europe, despite limited resources and, with more money to spend this summer, appears to have constructed a unit capable of making a similar push.

But while he says he can attain his aspirations at the Allianz Riviera, he would one day love to return to England to put his mind on the greatest stage.

"Yes, like any player, when we do this job we want to reach the very highest level," he told RMC's 'Team

Dugga' program when asked if he would want to manage Arsenal, also confessing he would also be open to coaching France.

"But I can reach a very high level with Nice from the moment we give ourselves the means to succeed and at the moment the way which we work is quite consistent."

"But we do this job, and I do this job, to one day to be the coach of a team that participates in the Champions League or the World Cup."

Vieira turned out for some of the game's biggest clubs, including Juventus, Inter and Manchester City, though it was at Arsenal where he was an icon, having played over 275 league matches for the Gunners, whom he helped to three Premier League titles and three FA Cups.

With France, he was a World Cup winner in 1998 and a European Championship winner in 2000. He played 107 times for his country, just one of six players to have hit treble figures for Les Bleus, and scored six goals, including the winner in the 2001 Confederations Cup final against Japan.

(Agencies)

Spain make Euro 2020 with late Sweden draw, beaten Ireland forced to wait

PARIS

RODRIGO Moreno fired Spain into Euro 2020 with a last-gasp equaliser in Sweden while the Republic of Ireland's chances of reaching the finals are still in the balance after they fell 2-0 in Switzerland.

Spain became the sixth team to qualify for next summer's tournament thanks to Rodrigo, who came off the bench to score a dramatic injury-time leveller in a 1-1 draw in Stockholm, sparking wild celebrations on the touchline.

"Qualification is a must for a team like Spain but achieving it still has value," said Moreno. "It releases the pressure and gives us time to work."

Robert Moreno's side are top of Group F on 20 points after drawing their last two matches. They are five ahead of Sweden and six above Romania, who missed the chance to take second spot when Norway's Alexander Sorloth snatched a late 1-1 draw in Bucharest.

However it was a far from vintage display from Spain, who started brightly but faded as the match wore on against the lively hosts, who were distraught after missing out on a famous victory right at the death.

A celebratory night was tempered slightly by the loss of goalkeeper David de Gea to a thigh injury in the second half, although that will worry his club Manchester United more ahead their meeting with Premier League



Rodrigo ensures a Euro 2020 spot for Spain with his late equaliser against Sweden (AFP Photo)

leaders Liverpool this weekend.

- Ireland left sweating -

In Group D, Haris Seferovic's early strike and Shane Duffy's late own goal kept Switzerland's hopes of automatic qualification alive with a 2-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland.

The win in Geneva means the Irish are just a point behind group leaders Ireland and Denmark with two matches remaining in their campaign, compared to just the one for the Irish, who host the Danes on November 18 needing a win to guarantee qualification.

"It's a cup final. Beat Denmark to reach Euro 2020. I would have taken that at the start and I'll take it now," said the Republic's coach Mick McCarthy.

The Swiss, who also have the better of the head-to-head record with the Irish as the two teams drew 1-1 in September, take on group minnows Georgia and Gibraltar in their final two games.

"The result doesn't mean a lot in our next two games. If we get the points we need against Georgia and

Gibraltar we can turn our attentions to Euro 2020," said Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic.

- Finland edge towards history -

Finland inched closer to qualifying for their first ever European Championships after Teemu Pukki took his qualifying tally to seven in eight matches with a double that helped Finland sweep aside Armenia 3-0 in Turku.

Fredrik Jensen gave the Finns a 31st minute lead. Norwich City striker Pukki then scored just after the hour and got his second two minutes from the end with a neat dinked finish.

Markku Kanerva's side stay nine points behind Group J winners Italy, who maintained their 100 percent record with an eighth straight win, 5-0 against Liechtenstein.

Finland need a win over rock-bottom Liechtenstein to qualify for their first major tournament after fourth-placed Bosnia & Herzegovina lost 2-1 in Greece with an 88th-minute own goal from Adnan Kovacevic.

Israel kept their hopes of qualifying from Group G alive after seeing off Latvia 3-1 as Eran Zahavi scored his 11th goal of the qualifying campaign.

Andi Herzog's side are level on 11 points with North Macedonia and Slovenia and five behind second-place Austria, meaning they still have a chance with two games remaining.

AFP

France have not looked this bad since before they won World Cup

BY JULIEN LAURENS, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

DIDIER Deschamps turns 51 on Tuesday and, obviously, this is not the birthday he wished for. It's been a tough 10 days for the France head coach. First and foremost, his team didn't secure qualification for the 2020 European Championships. A win against Turkey at home on Monday would have been enough, but they didn't take their chances, conceded a late goal on a set piece -- their consistent weakness -- and the doubts about their strength in depth are creeping back in.

On top of that, add a poor performance in Iceland last week (despite a win), an argument with Bayern Munich over the fitness of Lucas Hernandez, the injuries of key players (Hugo Lloris, Paul Pogba, N'Golo Kante and Kylian Mbappe) showing that the squad depth isn't actually that great and Deschamps will need a few days to recover, or even forget, that the past 10 days ever happened.

Of course, Les Bleus will still qualify for the Euros quite comfortably. They just have to wait one more month and will surely get it over the line at home against Moldova on Nov. 14. But even sealing the deal won't erase the problems that the French have had in their two games in this international break.

Take their attack. France scored just twice in two games, both goals from Olivier Giroud and both from set pieces: a penalty in Iceland, a header on a corner against Turkey on Monday. It's not good enough. They hit the post late in Scandinavia but overall there was not enough creativity, movement or even desire to attack in Reykjavik. Against Turkey, the problem was more their collective lack of efficiency. They had a couple of big chances but didn't take them.

When Pogba and Mbappe are not present, it's obviously harder to score and create. But this was a great occasion for Antoine Griezmann, for example, to take more leadership and show he could be the boss of this team. In the absence of many key players, the team relied a lot on the Barca star. Sure, he ran a lot, fought hard, tried hard and got the penalty in Iceland and the assist in Paris, but overall it was disappointing. He should and could have done much better.

The heart of the problem -- and it is an old debate in France -- might well be Deschamps' DNA as a manager. As we saw in Russia when France won the World Cup, Deschamps is more of a defensive coach, always



Deschamps endured a miserable break in which set pieces again hurt the World Cup champions and they looked worryingly lacking in depth. (Agencies)

would have surely been better. Those two games also highlighted how important Pogba, Kante and Mbappe are to this squad. It's nothing new or revolutionary to say this, of course, but when we thought they could be replaced or rotated, we were wrong. Corentin Tolisso and Blaise Matuidi are too limited on the ball to have much of an impact from midfield. Coman, Thomas Lemar, Sissoko and Jonathan Ikone are good players, but they still lack something to be able to be a part of this France team at the international level.

The big winner of the past 10 days is, without a doubt, Giroud. He has now scored 38 times for France (in 95 caps), putting him only three goals behind Michel Platini and 13 behind

Thierry Henry for the national team's all-time record. But should France be worried that their best striker at the moment is a 33-year-old who has hardly played this season for Chelsea?

That said, what likely annoyed Deschamps the most on Monday night against Turkey is the goal conceded by his team. It came from a free kick that Griezmann didn't need to concede. Benjamin Pavard's positioning was poor and he's forced to cover two Turkish players. And Steve Mandanda in goal should have done better at his near post.

Set pieces are an old weakness for France. And since the summer of 2018, a third of the goals they've conceded (excluding penalties) have come from a corner or a free kick. The French are struggling to be solid in those situations and they need to fix it. They had a similar problem before the World Cup but did manage to sort it out in time. Can Deschamps repair it again in time for the Euros?

These two matches against Iceland and Turkey should have been a grand occasion for France to remind everyone that they are the world champions and will be the overwhelming favourites at Euro 2020. Instead, doubts are starting to creep in. The good news for Deschamps and the players is that there is still plenty of time before next summer's tournament to get things right.

And for those who are fans of history, let's not forget that back in October 2017, Les Bleus were in similar disarray, with two narrow wins away in Bulgaria (1-0) at home against Belarus (2-1) after a pathetic draw at home against Luxembourg in September (0-0). Nine months later, they were crowned World Cup champions.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Spain make Euro 2020 with late Sweden draw, beaten Ireland forced to wait

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Zahera satisfied by Yanga preps for CAF Confederation Cup playoff



Young Africans (Yanga) players pictured before the team's Vodacom Premier League game against Police Tanzania played in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League big guns, Yanga, have said the club's head coach Mwinyi Zahera's absence has not affected their preparations for the coming CAF Confederation Cup's playoff against Pyramids FC of Egypt.

Zahera returned to Tanzania yesterday after finishing his duty with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) national team, nicknamed Leopards, who took on Ivory Coast in an international friendly duel.

Hassan Bumbuli, Yanga's information officer, said Zahera, who also serves as an assistant coach at the DRC national side, made his way back to Dar es Salaam at night from France

where he was with the Leopards.

He said there was no need to worry about Zahera's absence because before his departure to France for Leopards' duties, he handed over training program to his assistant, Noel Mwandila, and the club technical committee.

"There is nothing to be worried about, everything is going according to plan, and the coach has a lot of trust in his assistant coach," Bumbuli noted.

"He handed over the training program to his assistant and the technical committee, the other

good thing is that we have a technical committee which has respected and experienced former players like Charles Boniface Mkwasa, Sunday Manara, Ally Mayay and others," he said.

Bumbuli also disclosed that the whole Yanga squad will depart for Mwanza on Monday next week where they are expected to play Mbao FC in a league game slated for Wednesday.

He said his side is well prepared for the Mbao FC encounter as they are looking forward to collecting maximum points.

"The preparations for all two

games against Mbao FC in the Vodacom Premier League and the CAF Confederation Cup against Pyramids of Egypt are all going on well," he noted.

"All of the players are in good health and our head coach will be with the team," he said.

Yanga have started the league on a wrong foot, as they have one victory, a draw and a defeat in three duels.

They succumbed to 1-0 loss to Coast Region's Ruwu Shooting in the first duel and went on to post 3-3 draw with Kilimanjaro's Police Tanzania.

In the third match, the league's big guns recorded 1-0 win over Coastal Union.

Mbao FC who are hosting Ruwu Shooting this weekend have won one game against Biashara United, lost one to Kagera United and posted draw in three duels.

Mbao opened their campaign with 1-1 draw with fellow Mwanza outfit, Alliance FC, the former later on edged Biashara in the following match.

In the following two duels, Mbao FC registered draw with Mwadui FC and Singida United.



Netball players participate in a recent national first division league match in Morogoro.

Chaneta in need of support for national team participation in Africa tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA netball association (Chaneta) officials have said they are optimistic Taifa Queens will travel to South Africa for the African Netball Championship (ANC) which is slated to tip off tomorrow and end on Tuesday next week in Bellville, Velodrome, Cape Town.

Chaneta secretary general Judith Ilunda said they are working hard with a view to seeing to it the national team travel to South Africa for the championship, which has attracted eight nations.

She said it has been a struggle to secure funds for the team, but they have not lost hope of securing funds.

Ilunda said their initial budget for the team's trip for the championship was 104m/- but it has been reduced.

"The initial budget was 104m/- this included camping, but now it has been reduced, what we are looking for now is cash for air tickets, accommodation and allowances for the team," she said.

She said the association's only remaining hope for funds rests on the government.

She asked companies, organizations and individuals to help them with finances and materials so that the national team can travel to the event.

Ilunda said the championship is important to the sport's development in the country.

The tournament, she pointed out, will be a stepping stone for the country to regain its ranking in International Netball Federation (INF).

The competition, according to her, will as well be used as qualifiers for the Netball World Cup.

"As you know the country has not played in any of the INF sanctioned tournaments for more than six years now and we were also removed from the INF rankings, so, this is an opportunity for us to regain our ranking and also play international events," she said.

Taifa Queens are in pool B of the continental event alongside Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya.

The national side will start the championship with a game against Uganda on Saturday.

Pool A is made up of South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Lesotho.

South Africa must act quickly to arrest opener's slide

PUNE

YOU have already read this story about Theunis de Bruyn and Temba Bavuma. If you read between the lines, you also read this about Faf du Plessis. You know by now that the main reason South Africa have been unable to compete in the ongoing Test series in India is because their batting has not been up to standard. But bear with us, because you're now going to read about another member of the line-up, from whom more was expected and little delivered: opening batsman Aiden Markram.

First, though, let's not be too harsh on the young man. Markram is only 19 Tests into a career that many believe is destined for great things, and he has an average of 40.05, no mean feat for an opener in South Africa, operating in the era of revenge pitches. At home, he has been exceptional, with four centuries in his first season, two of them against Australia, at an average of 48.81. So far, so impressive.

Now let's turn to Markram's away form - and remember that the only away Tests he has played so far have been on the sub-continent - and we'll find numbers that are just as eye-catching but in the opposite way. Markram has scored just 84 runs from eight innings in the subcontinent, at an average of 10.50. That includes three ducks, two scores under 10 and a highest of 39. In six of those eight innings, he has been dismissed by spinners; in four by Rangana Herath.

While it may initially appear counter-intuitive that Markram has done much worse when he is away from the treacher-

ous home surfaces, there's consistency in his struggles abroad. It's not speed, swing and the fear of having his head taken off that Markram cannot contend with, it is the lack of pace and the expectation of turn.

In the first Test in Sri Lanka, Markram appeared in a hurry to get away, often coming forward and once even charging Herath, before being beaten for length. By the second, he had changed his focus to look for balls that turned and was twice beaten by the one that went straight. More recently, in Visakhapatnam, Markram went trying to press forward, and in Pune the extent to which his mind is now frazzled was evident: he was dismissed by seamers, to deliveries he would normally know exactly what to do with.

He played all around an inswinger from Umesh Yadav and was struck on the front pad in the first innings, and when the same thing happened in the second against Ishant Sharma, Markram opted not to review. He would have survived had he gone upstairs, and maybe even avoided a pair. Of course, it happens that players get it wrong and don't always know when to ask for a referral. There's even some suggestion that Markram's partner, Dean Elgar, could have had a say, but the resignation with which Markram accepted his fate told a story. He looked as though he was done. Not forever, but done with this tour.

Markram's hang-dog expression when he walked after that dismissal was reminiscent of the way the previous opener South Africa took to India, Stiaan van Zyl, left the field in 2015. And van Zyl's story

could serve as a cautionary tale. Van Zyl, also considered a rising star on the domestic scene, scored a century on debut against West Indies, played a minor part in the rained-out series in Bangladesh, and then went to India, where he collected 56 runs from five innings. All five times, he was dismissed by R Ashwin. Van Zyl's problem appeared to be an inability to read the offspinner's line. He was rested for the final Test in Delhi, but brought back for the home series against England, where he failed to cross fifty in five innings. He was dropped for the final Test of that series and though he played one more match for South Africa, batting at No. 7 against New Zealand, his career was effectively over in India. Van Zyl has since signed a Kolpak deal. South Africa cannot afford the same to happen with Markram and there are no immediate signs that it will. Markram does not face the insecurity some of the others claim to have had. Unlike Kyle Abbott, Markram has not been dropped for a crucial major tournament match, for example, and he doesn't face much competition either. There's some talk of the Malan brothers Pieter and Janneman from the Cobras being international quality, but no suggestion Markram will be displaced by one of them any time soon. Opening batsmen are not easily replaced and South Africa took a long time to settle on Markram, so they are likely to stick with him. But how they manage him is an equally pressing matter.

Giving him the Ranchi Test off would be one way. Even though Heinrich Klaasen is not an opener, per se, South Africa can

afford to gamble and let Markram sit on the sidelines, with the analyst, watching. Then there needs to be an upskilling process. How can Markram get better on the subcontinent? He has already been part of the spin camp and the South African A sides, and he scored centuries against India A - 161, with Kuldeep Yadav, Shahbaz Nadeem and Jalaj Saxena in the opposition - and Board President's XI in the lead-up to the Test series, so what more can be done? Another county stint, perhaps? An IPL deal? Or just the sheer value of experience, which du Plessis said helped him after the last India tour?

The answer may actually lie in the bigger picture of South Africa's coaching landscape. After the World Cup cleanout, South Africa no longer have spin consultant Claude Henderson on board or a specialist batting coach. Both those things may change when permanent appointments for a director of cricket and team director are made, and both could prove crucial for the short- to medium-term future.

South Africa's players, like any others, need some guidance. Their batsmen, especially so. They have spent the last two home summers negotiating unreasonably seamer-friendly conditions and the last two away trying to negotiate slower, spinner-friendly surfaces. The result has been a drop in all of their averages and a dip in their collective confidence. Markram is not the exception. But South Africa need to act quickly to ensure the slide does not get any steeper, otherwise you will read many more stories like this.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHY DO YOU WEAR MINI SKIRTS?

TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT

