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UNDP hails Z'bar for boost in economy



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Bukene to get water from Lake Victoria



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Third of tropical African plants set to go extinct, new study shows

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A third of tropical African plants are at risk of extinction, according to detailed new research which warns about the impact of policy failure to recognise the role plants play in maintaining ecosystems. Several countries in West Africa as well as others in the eastern part, including Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia are among those expected to be worst affected where researchers believe they could lose up to 40 per cent of wild plants. Civilisation is to blame, with the man-made climate crisis and deforestation due

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JPM's govt: TRA adds 23.4trn/- in four-year revenue collection



President John Magufuli and Chief of Defence Forces Gen Venance Mabeyo (L) unveil a plaque at Chamwino on the outskirts of national capital, Dodoma, yesterday to signal the laying of the foundation stone of the planned national celebrations grounds to be developed there. Photo: State House

During the four years the taxman has widened the use of Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) which has helped to improve the revenue collection systems

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) collected 58.3trn/- in the last four years and increased the number of registered taxpayers from 2.2 million to 3.01 million in the same period. TRA Deputy Commissioner Msafiri Mbibo told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that this achievement is an increase of 23.4trn/- compared to the same period under the previous government. From fiscal 2015/16 to the past financial year TRA has collected 58.3trn/- while the same period earlier fetched 34.97trn/-, he said. "The average monthly collection has increased from 850bn/- to 1.3trn/- and for this month alone collections have increased to 1.4trn/-, which is due to government efforts in controlling tax evasion as well as finding new revenue sources," he explained. During the four years the taxman has widened the use of Electronic Tax Stamps (ETS) which has helped to improve the revenue collection systems. One of the challenges that the taxman is facing

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TDPF headquarters: JPM orders director to pay shifted residents

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed the Dodoma City Director Godwin Kunambi to start paying compensation to Kikombo residents whose land has been taken for construction of Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) headquarters. Dr Magufuli gave the directives in the capital when laying the cornerstone for construction of the TPDF headquarters following the government's decision to move to the designated capital. He insisted the re-allocated residents to be paid starting December 1. Amid applause from TPDF personnel and others who attended the event, the president called on the city director to bear the burden of paying a total of 3.399bn/- to the 1,500 families who have been moved. The president said Dodoma City will benefit from TPDF moving to the capital, calling upon people who will receive compensation to put the money to good use by buying land elsewhere and build modern houses. He urged Regional Commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge.

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HIV/AIDS spread: 200 infections daily, youths chalking up 80 cases

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 200 Tanzanian are infected with HIV/Aids per day as annual new infections reach 72,000 at present, the Tanzania Commission for Aids (TACAIDS) Executive Director Leonard Makobo has stated. Addressing a press conference here ahead of the World's Aids Day to be marked nationally in Mwanza, he said statistics show that youth between 14 and 24 years were on the lead with 40 per cent of new infections. In that sense there around 200 new infections daily out of which 80 infections occur among the youth, he said. Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy,

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JPM's govt: TRA adds 23.4trn/- in four-year revenue collections

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now is deliberate tax evasion and dubious businesses that avoid record keeping, he stated.

TRA recorded an increase in excise and Value Added Tax (VAT) from various domestically produced products in the first quarter of 2019/2020 following the rolling out of ETS phase two, he pointed out.

There has been a 35.3 percent increase in VAT and excise collections from spirits and wines and 5.6percent increase in tobacco in the 2019/2020 first quarter compared to the same period last year.

TRA collected 25.8bn/- from spirits and wines produced locally in the first quarter of 2018/2019 but this changed in the first quarter of this year.

Collections from tobacco also increased by 5.6percent in 2019/2020 this fiscal year.

With cigarettes, the main tobacco product, TRA collected 56.7bn/- as VAT from July to September 2019 compared to 53.7bn/- collected during the same period last year.

On soft drinks TRA collected 16.155bn/- as VAT from July to September 2018 but collections rose to 19.05bn/- the same period this year.

He attributed the increase to greater flow of goods at the ports and control of export goods such as cashewnut and animal skin products.

Meanwhile, TRA has said it is willing to offer a helping hand in Uganda's plan to roll out digital tax stamps.

TRA acting director for taxpayer services and education, Richard Kayombo said that having learnt from others, Tanzania was more than willing to extend a helping hand to Uganda and others that may wish to move from paper tax stamps to electronic ones.

He was reacting to a speech by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala last week, backing the implementation of digital tax stamps on goods that are manufactured in Uganda.

The Ugandan leader told tax collectors from across Africa who

attended an African Tax Administration Forum that monitoring the production lines of manufacturing companies would help reduce leakages.

The forum came at a time when the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) launched on November 1 a project that will see manufacturers of sodas, beers, bottled water, cigarettes, wines and spirits place digital tax stamps on their products.

"President Museveni's comment is indeed on track and confirms the decision already taken by Tanzania where we implemented the first phase from 15th January covering wines, spirits, beers and cigarettes while the second phase commenced on 1st August - covering soft drinks, water and carbonated drinks," he said.

Tanzania has already been receiving a number of delegations as countries come to learn various digital taxation aspects like Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs), customs innovations as well as property tax revenue collection developments.

"So far, we have had a delegation from Botswana while Namibia has also proposed to send a delegation. We also learned from others before rolling out such tax innovations, sending people to Morocco, Malaysia, Turkey and Kenya," he said.

ETS enables keeping of records of production quantities and volumes without filing by hand.

Digital Tax Stamps have enhanced technology to allow revenue agencies to monitor in real time the production capacity of manufacturers and also allow consumers to cross check if products are genuine.

The ETS management system automatically stamps the products at the end of the production line and submits the count in real time via installed devices.

ETS was introduced to replace the hitherto paper-based tax stamps initially attached to cigarettes, wines and spirits. The old system was prone to cheating of taxes through under declaration, among other malpractices.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein exchanges greetings with the UNDP Resident representative in Tanzania, Christine Musisi, when welcoming her to Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

HIV/AIDS spread: 200 infections daily, youths chalking up 80 cases

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Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Jenista Mhagama affirmed this impression, noting that youth were leading on the rate of HIV/AIDS new infections.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to grace the climax of the World AIDS Day on December 1 at the Furahisha grounds in Mwanza, the minister noted.

The main focus in marking World AIDS Day was centred on an education and awareness campaign on youth as part of concerted efforts to reduce new infections among this group in

particular.

During activities to mark the International Aids Day, beginning today to November 30, there would be youth friendly services on HIV voluntary testing and counseling.

"This is necessary owing to the high rate of youth infections each year, and specifically young women," she stated.

The commemoration of World AIDS Day is an important opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels.

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Communities make the

difference," as communities contribute to the AIDS response in many different ways.

Their leadership and advocacy ensure that the response remains relevant and grounded, keeping people at the centre and leaving no one behind. Communities include peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV, such as people who inject drugs and sex workers, gays, women and young people, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations and grassroots activists.

The day offers an important platform to highlight the role of communities

at a time when reduced funding and shrinking space for civil society are putting the sustainability of services and advocacy efforts in jeopardy.

Greater mobilization of communities is urgently required to address the barriers that stop communities deliver services, including restrictions on registration and an absence of social contracting modalities.

The strong advocacy role played by communities is needed more than ever to ensure that AIDS remains on the political agenda that human rights are respected and that decision-makers and implementers are held accountable.



Shebilia Idd (L), councillor for Kerenge ward in Korogwe District, pictured yesterday showing Korogwe district commissioner Kissa Kasongwa (in specs) and Col Jimmy Matamwe of the Disaster wing of the Prime Minister's Office the part of Mapangoni village devastated by recent rains. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Third of tropical African plants set to go extinct, new study shows

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to agriculture among the main causes.

The research, lead by Dr Thomas Couvreur of the French National Institute for Sustainable Development, assessed over 22,000 species of plants across tropical Africa.

"Our results underline the high level of extinction risk of the tropical African flora. About 33 percent of the species are potentially threatened with

extinction, and another third of species are likely to become rare, potentially becoming threatened in the near future," the paper says.

The team assessed the status of each plant using a system of revised metrics based on those used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which publishes and updates the "red list" of threatened species. The team's recording techniques allowed them to cover

more ground and more species faster than if they had adhered strictly to the IUCN criteria.

Animals and plants on the red list are given special status and protection, but Dr Couvreur noted that while the list has already assessed 86 per cent of known mammals and 61 per cent of birds, less than eight per cent of vascular plants have been considered.

Dr Couvreur described the conservation of tropical biodiversity

as "a major challenge" and said the risk to plants hasn't been given as much attention as to animals.

He said: "While the conservation status of the majority of vertebrate species has been assessed, the same cannot be said for plants, although they are critical to earth ecosystems.

"This is especially true in tropical regions where the flora is very diverse but remains poorly documented," the paper intoned.

TDPF headquarters: JPM orders director to pay shifted residents

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District Commissioner Patrobas Katambi and divisional secretaries to immediately begin the process of identifying eligible residents entitled for compensation.

The president also warned of foul play in the payments, cautioning the residents to do away with middlemen who claim to be advocates of claimants, saying most of them are little more than conmen.

He similarly directed the regional TANROADS manager to ensure an 18 km stretch of road passing through the area is tarmacked and the tender for the work be announced next week.

Earlier, Chief of Defense Forced (CDF) Gen Venance Mabeyo opposed the Ngome allowance system under which servicemen were deducted money as rent for the houses as the army is owed money by the Shanghai Construction Group which built the houses, and asked President Magufuli to let the government pay the debt.

He said although the 6,064 houses built enabled the servicemen get accommodation the houses have now become an irritation to them through deductions to pay the construction firm.

"When I went through the contract agreement, I saw that the servicemen were the ones to bear the burden of paying that debt through Ngome Allowance," the army commander noted.

He elaborated that Ngome Allowance is used to pay servicemen who fail to get camp accommodation and instead live in civilian areas.

"We live in a difficult environment. You have already paid the soldier his money and then you tell him to pay the debt. This does not make sense

especially considering the huge task they perform in defending the country," he said, requesting the president to look into that issue.

"Just recently Treasury people approached me saying that we have to be deducted. I told them wait a little, hence I pass the issue to you, as we see this is impossible.

"First of all Ngome Allowance is too small. It cannot pay the huge debt. And in case a serviceman pays for the debt it means the house is his own, just like any civilian.

"The houses were built in a military barracks so how can he own it? If he retires he is supposed to move out to let another soldier in the house, so he can't use his own money to pay for the debt."

Apart from the Chinese company, Gen Mabeyo also mentioned other companies - Polytechnologies, Noremco and Catic saying they have sold to the army various equipment, but haven't yet been paid.

"Through projects by these companies, the debts have grown and are of a very long time. They are demanding the money from us and we haven't been able to pay," the military chief intoned.



When I went through the contract agreement, I saw that the servicemen were the ones to bear the burden of paying that debt through Ngome Allowance



NCCR-Mageuzi national chairman James Mbatia pictured at the weekend addressing the opposition party's members who were vying for posts in the just-ended local government elections. Photo: Correspondent Busagaga Busagaga

UNDP commends Zanzibar for registering growth in economy

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has hailed Zanzibar for sustaining high pace of economic growth thus improving social welfare of its people.

Christine Musisi, UNDP country representative said this when she visited and held talks with the Isles' President Mohamed Shein at the State House.

She noted that during Dr Shein's tenure, Zanzibar has done huge transformation in the economy as well as strengthening good governance.

According to statistics Zanzibar's economy grew by 7.7 percent in 2018, performing better than other countries forming the East African Community (EAC).

"We have witnessed a number of achievements in Zanzibar. The country has done a lot in fighting

poverty through various programmes ranging from education, health, water, infrastructures and transport among others," she said.

He promised that UNDP will continue working closely with the Zanzibar government supporting various development projects for the country's economic growth.

Meanwhile, Isles president commended UNDP for its contribution and efforts to supporting social welfare of the people in the Isles.

He said Zanzibar has attained success in various development programmes, including improving infrastructure and the provision of free medical care, health, education and universal pension for the elderly aged 70 years and above.

"We currently also focus much in strengthening the tourism sector to ensure that we attract more tourists

in the country...This involves improving infrastructures of road, airports and accommodation," he said.

President Shein further said that Zanzibar government has continued to diversify its economy by investing on a sustainable blue economy which includes strengthening small-scale industries, tourism, fisheries and other sectors.

He noted that ocean economy is the fastest emerging economic sector with enormous trade potential for Isles to grab.

He reiterated the government's commitment to work closely and productively with the UN agency to ensure that they collaboratively achieve the mission and vision to improve the well-being of the people of Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania in general.

By Guardian Reporter

SIDO develops industrial cluster development operational manual with assistance from JICA

THE Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) has developed the 'Industrial Cluster Development Operational Manual' to drive industrialisation through clustering.

The guiding document prepared with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and with inputs by more than 200 stakeholders will help to sensitise high-ranking government officials and the general public, in addition to assisting implementers as a quick guide. The document will be launched in early 2020.

JICA has supported the industrial cluster development in Tanzania for about 8 years. Since June 2015, JICA

has dispatched a Japanese advisor to SIDO, and the advisor has assisted SIDO to formulate its "Industrial Cluster Development Strategy" and to disseminate the Cluster Development Approach to the regions and local government authorities.

The Industrial Cluster Development Approach has already been adopted as an industrialisation strategy in some regions such as Dodoma and Kigoma.

To assist other regions to follow suit, JICA has supported Mbeya to establish

paddy milling and sunflower oil mill. In Mwanza it supports manufacturing of leather products, Singida (sunflower oil), Kagera (metal and carpentry), and milk processing in Kilimanjaro region.

As a result of the JICA support, the gross value added per cluster member firm increased by between 18 and 22 percent annually. Gross value added in Singida sunflower oil cluster increased from 320m/- in 2015 to 83m/- last year.

Gross value added in Mwanza leather product cluster increased from 173m/-

in 2015 to 230m/- in 2018, In Mbeya rice milling cluster, the gross value added increased to 2,226m/- in 2018 from 494m/- in 2015.

Availability of sunflower seeds increased from 2.9 million tonnes in 2015 to 3.1 million tonnes in 2017.

Prof Michael Porter at Harvard University defines an industrial 'cluster' as a 'geographically proximate group of interconnected companies and associated institutions in a particular field, linked by commonalities and

complementarities'.

In Tanzania, the Industrial Cluster Development Approach aims to drive industrialisation by taking advantage of clustering, through encouraging proactive involvement of various actors along and around value chains and inducing collaboration among them.

Being located nearby and increasing interaction can boost information spillover, which is a source of innovation.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform our esteemed clients and the general public that Mr. Shaibu Sandali who was employed as office messenger is no longer our employee effective from 19th November 2019. Consequently, this office shall not be held responsible for any transaction done with him.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Cornel Lundu Apson
1944 - 2019

We, the family of the late **Cornel Lundu Apson** of Mbezi Beach Dar es Salaam, would like to express its sincere and heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends and all others who took part in the burial of our beloved Mzee Cornel Lundu Apson – who passed away on **October 7, 2019** and was laid to rest **October 12, 2019** in his family farm graveyard at Shiwanda in Vwawa, Mbozi District. **We now invite all of you to join us in a thanksgiving mass that will be held at 10 a. m. on the Sunday of December 1, 2019 at the Vwawa Catholic Church Parish in Mbozi.** The event will be followed by lunch together at the deceased's family home at Shiwanda. You are all cordially invited to join us.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to **Hindu Mandal Hospital, Emilio Mzena Hospital, the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, South Africa's Wilgers Hospital, Tanzania's Embassy in South Africa, the President's Office, and the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service – and very special thanks to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli.**

2 Timothy 4:7: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

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Bukene now to get Lake Victoria water, says Prof Mbarawa

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE government is expected to spend 5bn/- for laying down pipes for pumping Lake Victoria water to Bukene in Nzega District.

This was revealed yesterday by the Water Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa during his tour of Nzega District to inspect the development of Lake Victoria-Tabora Water Project.

He said the funds for the project have already been secured and survey thereof has been completed, and added that the water to Bukene will be drawn from a giant communal water reservoir at Nzega, 36 kms away.

Prof Mbarawa said in the original plan Bukene was not included in the water project from Lake Victoria, but the government has sourced funds for the project.

He said since the funds are available the work will commence immediately and its completion will solve water problems in 19 villages of Bukene by ensuring them of clean, safe water.

The minister said the implementation of the water project from Lake Victoria is 85 percent complete and hoped that from December this year it will be almost fully completed.

He said the aim of the government is to ensure more and more wananchi get safe and clean water.

Earlier an engineer from Tabora Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (TUWASA) Athuman Kilundumya said more than 240,000 people are expected to benefit from the increase of the area to be served by Lake Victoria Water Project, in Igunga, Uyui and Nzega districts.

Some of the areas he mentioned that would benefit from the water project include 19 villages in Bukene District, seven villages in Nkinga in Igunga District, and 16 villages in Uyui District that includes Igalula, Goweko and Kigwa wards.

Kiludumya said the implementation of the water project from Lake Victoria was progressing well and within three weeks the taps in Tabora Municipality will start dripping with water from Lake Victoria.



Prof Mbarawa said in the original plan Bukene was not included in the water project from Lake Victoria, but the government has sourced funds for the project



Aisha Khalifa of Tandala village in Chemba District, Dodoma Region, draws water for domestic use from a shallow well yesterday. However, the quality of the water was highly questionable. Photo: Ibrahim Joseph

Don fined 5m/- in plea bargain over sexual corruption offence

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam has sentenced Samson Mahimbo (69), lecturer at the National Institute of Transport (NIT) to pay a fine of 5m/- or go to jail for three years after he entered a plea bargain with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in which he pleaded guilty for soliciting sexual bribe and asked for clemency.

In addition the accused has already paid 2m/- compensation to the government in a deal struck with the DPP.

The judgment was read yesterday by the Courts Principal Resident Magistrate, Huruma Shaidi after the accused pleaded guilty in the economic sabotage case No 80/2019.

The magistrate said offences related to sex corruption were on the rise in the country especially in colleges and must be frowned upon.

"To disclose answers of examinations to students means we end up with low grade professionals, and the only way to eradicate such acts is to take them to court for severe punishment, you will pay a 5m/- fine or go to jail for three years," said magistrate Shaidi, reading the judgment.

Elaborating, the magistrate said the offence committed was shameful for his age and as a professional in his field he was supposed to be an example to others, but instead he elected to engage in love affairs with small children not of his calibre.

Earlier, Senior State Attorney Zakaria Ndasco said in court that the republic has no records of the accused's past offences and that he has already paid 2m/- compensation

to the government.

Before the judgment was read, defence attorney Claudia Msando claimed that the accused was of advanced age and that he has started to suffer various illnesses affecting the old including hearing and sight impairment and had a family to support.

In the principal case, the accused is claimed to have solicited sexual favours from Victoria Faustine, a first year student of the college.

The prosecutor from the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Vera Ndeoya alleged that on January 12 2017 at Camp David Guest House in Mwenge, Dar es Salaam the accused solicited sex as a bribe.

He claimed that the accused, employed as lecturer by NIT, and by virtue of his position coerced the said students to have sex with him, so that he could ensure she passes her roads maintenance and transport examination.



To disclose answers of examinations to students means we end up with low grade professionals, and the only way to eradicate such acts is to take them to court for severe punishment, you will pay a 5m/- fine or go to jail for three years

Agriculture stakeholders decry VAT imposed on hermetic storage bags

By Correspondent James Kandoya,

recently in Morogoro

THE Tanzania Post-Harvest Management Platform (TPMP) has urged the government to remove Value Added Tax (VAT) charged to hermetic storage bags so as to curb post-harvest loss and aflatoxin in crops.

Hermetic storage bags are designed to protect farm produce against contamination by molds and pests.

TPMP secretary Honesti Mseri made the call recently here at the Annual General Meeting that involved different stakeholders in the agriculture sector across the country.

Mseri said once bags are charged zero rate it will promote wide-scale manufacturing and utilisation of the technology especially thus storage expenses of crops, according to study conducted recently.

He said the study entitled An Economic Assessment of Government Incentives needed to Promote Wide-Scale Utilisation and Local Manufacture of Hermetic Storage Technologies (HSTs) was conducted early this year across the country by Talanta International.

The study was sponsored by the Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) in collaboration with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

He said currently, an average cost of the hermetic bags stands at 5,000/- which is expensive for majority of the farmers to afford.

Mseri who is the Head of Programme at AGRA said the utilisation and

manufacturing of hermetic storage technology (HST's) is very low in the country, mainly due to affordability.

He said if VAT was to be removed, price of hermetic bags will drop by 18 percent, farmers will increase their demand from 103 bags to 154 bags, noting that the VAT removal will increase demand by 1.5.

"The current demand stands at 5 million hermetic bags, if VAT is removed, then demand will increase to 7.5 million bags," he added.

According to him, the technology will help farmers to store their produce for a long time contrary to how it is now where sometimes they are forced to sell their produce at low prices for fear of crops' decay.

The head of programme further noted that with new HST, farmers will be able to serve \$11.2 per tonne due to storage loss reduction as a result of using hermetic bags.

"The choice of a storage method by farmers hinges on the price of the storage technology, its ability to maintain the quality of the stored product and its availability," he said.

Besides that, the benefit which farmers accrues from using HST come from lower storage losses compared to not using HST and higher market value of the produce because of high quality and possibility to exploit the opportunity of selling the products when prices are better.

Others are lower or no costs of using storage pesticides, estimated losses at storage stage is equivalent to 8.4 percent (maize) upon using hermetic bags the loss is lowered by 5.6 percentage points (67 percent loss reduction).



East African Community Secretary General Liberat Mfumukeko speaks at the launch of the 'EAC I Deserve' citizens engagement campaign at the regional economic bloc's headquarters - in Arusha - yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) has embarked on a year-long regional drive dubbed "Citizens' Engagement Campaign" which comprises a number of activities as part of commemoration of the 20th anniversary since its revival on November 30, 1999.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign recently, EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko said that the campaign will enable citizens, particularly the online community, to use the digital space as platform for engaging EAC Secretariat, partner states, the East African

EAC sets forth citizens' engagement campaign

Legislative Assembly, the East African Court of Justice and all institutions of the bloc.

He said that the campaign will further closely engage key partners such as the media, civil society, development allies and students, among several other stakeholders, in rejuvenating the enthusiasm of each one in realising the EAC agenda.

Mfumukeko said this broad campaign, which comprises sub-campaigns, will ignite and sustain the enthusiasm and create a new

momentum that will inspire all people to embrace the integration agenda.

"As we celebrate what we have achieved so far, we wish to hear stories from every East African on the impact the EAC has made to his or her life and the future he or she visions the region to be," he said.

He added that "Among other things, the campaign will feature social media interfaces and a regional Youth Videos and Animations Competition, involving all our six partner states. A total prize of \$25,000 awaits the

innovative 30 youthful winners in the competition."

The secretary further said that as the bloc focuses on achieving new milestones set out in the EAC Vision 2050; life in East Africa in the past 20 years has tremendously improved.

The region has achieved progressive and commendable results through various policy initiatives, including new infrastructure, regional industrialisation policies, healthcare approaches, common external tariffs and Common Higher Education Area,

to mention but a few.'

"I, however, recognise that our children are still in dire need of safer places to play in East Africa and that we need to do better to protect ourselves against effects compounded by climate change; I recognise our mechanics deserve simpler trade policies and that our members of the business community are worthy of healthier access to credit," he added.

The official went further to say that the EAC recognises that citizens

deserve more stability, also recognise that manufacturers deserve incentives to boost production in order to compete with larger global players who have lower cost of production.

But also recognises that investors deserve a stable and predictable regional market that has a clear regulatory and statutory legal tax framework.

"I also recognise our pressmen and women deserve better working environments in East Africa...EAC Secretariat is keen on capturing dreams and aspirations of every citizen of the region during and after," Mfumukeko added.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Idd (R) is briefed by an entrepreneur after visiting an exhibition held in Zanzibar yesterday to mark the 20th anniversary of the East African Community. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

‘War on violence on persons with albinism is succeeding’

THE government says it has achieved great success targeting persons with albinism (PWA) who in the past were being killed for their body parts especially during elections.

This was revealed yesterday by a community development officer, Davis Justine at the launch of four-month project to enable 30 women who have children with albinism to be ambassadors in households and the society in general within all districts of Mwanza Region.

The project, which is sponsored by Under The Same Sun, an organisation that defends the rights of PWA in partnership with Canadian donors,

aims to enable the said women to recognise their condition, how it came about and fight all challenges and report to authorities about any acts or intentions of cruelty against them.

Justine said the government used a lot of efforts to fight the vile acts against albinos that used to occur during elections for political posts.

He said the success was achieved after the government with assistance

from the various stakeholders exposed all those involved in the vice.

He said as for now the PWA live in relative peace and have formed groups and many have access to bank loans.

He also called on them to contest for elective posts as they should prove that they can do so like any other and in the event of any danger to them they should dial 116, specifically set aside for albinos.

The project’s coordinator from Under The Same Sun, Grace Wabanu, said they have prepared the women to be ambassadors because many cruel acts against albinos took place in Mwanza and Shinyanga regions, where the project will be conducted.

She said the women will be ambassadors and instructors at seminars in other regions in the Lake Zone on the cruelty against their kind.

RC orders police to apprehend officials behind rehabilitation of public schools up for repair

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

KAGERA Regional Commissioner Gen Marco Gaguti has directed police to arrest officials supervising the rehabilitation of old public schools over failure to complete the project within planned deadline.

According to the RC, the government had disbursed all the required funds, but the projects are being implemented at a ‘snail’s pace’.

He issued the directive on last week when he visited the schools where he wasn’t happy with the speed of project implementation. The visited secondary schools are Kahororo, Rugambwa, Bukoba and Kagemu which were all provided with 2,595,890,485.33/-.

While at Kahororo secondary school the RC directed the police to arrest and put in custody the contractor—Mzinga Holding Company, project engineer, Festo Tarimo, school headmaster, Mark Ogambage, Bukoba Municipal procurement officer, Batreth Rwiguza and Bukoba Municipal acting engineer, George Geoffrey.

“I am disappointed with your failure to supervise the project and lack of accountability and transparency in expenditure of public funds”, said the Regional Commissioner.

At Bukoba secondary school, RC Gaguti faulted the school administration over failure to complete rehabilitation of the school infrastructures despite receiving 1,481,701,194.33/- . He tasked the school headmaster to ensure timely completion of the project since more than 900m/- of the disbursed funds have been spent.

Kagemu secondary school has already spent 49,485,277.22/- out of 152,000,000/-. Kahororo secondary school received 893,883,994/- of which 297,966,594.96/- have been spent. Rugambwa secondary school has so

far spent 275,125,889.25/- out of the provided 872,800,297/-.

Gaguti noted that although most of the schools have spent more than half of the provided funds, they were yet to complete the project.

He however said the government is taking measures against reckless contractors including those implementing road projects.

He said the government has prohibited JASCO Building and Civil Engineering Contractors from constructing a five-km road from travelling outside Kagera region.

The RC said the road project funded by World Bank at a cost of 7.3bn/- was to be completed last month but it has only been implemented by 40 percent.

He argued all the government officials responsible for supervision of various construction projects to ensure value for money. He insisted on them to ensure the projects are completed within set deadlines for the region to achieve its goals.



I am disappointed with your failure to supervise the project and lack of accountability and transparency in expenditure of public funds

Poor transport services hamper business development in Mafia

By Beatrice Philemon

TRANSPORT challenges have been cited among major problems affecting small-scale businesses in Mafia Island.

Traders are concerned that poor transport services in the islands of the Mafia archipelago hampers business development due to high transportation cost.

This was said recently by Mwanaiman Abdallah from Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia (SAWAMA) when speaking during a training to entrepreneurs conducted by ActionAid Tanzania through its Local Right Programme (LRP) executed in Mafia.

Through the programme women are trained on how to make quality products, keeping business record, saving for business and marketing of their products.

“We experience problems when travelling from Mafia to Dar es Salaam because we use old traditional boats. It takes us several hours from Dar es Salaam to Nyamisati and Mafia,” she said adding at times they spend between three and four days to reach Dar es Salaam.

She said: “We are thankful to ActionAid Tanzania since we can now make various traditional accessories, hand-crafts, organic coconut oil and lotion products”.

According to her, the business has helped her to buy a land plot, bricks and animal feed. She can also meet her daily family demands.

Abdallah said the small funds she raises are partly invested in the Village Community Bank (VICOBA) so as to get loan to boost business.

She said women through Action Cycle programme have also been capacitated to discuss and find solution to their challenges including gender-based violence against women and girls.

ActionAid Tanzania Project Coordinator for Mafia, Samwel Mesiak said that so far a total of 10 reflection action cycles have been established in 10 villages namely Baleni, Kilindoni, Kiegeyani, Kilongwe, malimbani, Bweni, Kanga, Chunguruma and Utende.

“We train them on how to form reflection action cycles to analyse their socio-economic and political status and take action,” he noted adding women are can now participate in different committees at district level.

Mesiak noted that the organisation has also managed to change the mindset of Mafia residents towards education. He said previously, parents were only prioritising talking to school boys, but they are now educating both, girls and boys.

“We are now witnessing a reduction on gender based violence cases. Parents are motivated to encourage their children to go to classes hence reduced school dropouts,” said Mesiak.

According to Mafia District Planning Officer, the island has a population of 51,219 people, among them, 25,317 are men and 25,902 women.



Mkalama district commissioner Jackson Masaka inspects a pass-out parade mounted by members of the militia in Ibagwa ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Elisante John

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Stakeholders in Mbeya establish sunflower forum

SUNFLOWER stakeholders in Mbeya Region have formally unveiled a special forum that will deal with various challenges facing the crop while the government has called on seeds growers to produce enough seeds for farmers’ needs.

The forum was formed last July under the sponsorship of Netherlands International Development Organisation -SNV through Tanzania Agricultural Markets (TAM) project in collaboration with various stakeholders including

farmers.

Speaking at the Forum’s launch at the weekend, TAM Policy Advisor Renatus Mbamilo said they decided to partner with sunflower stakeholders after they identified challenges facing the Forum.

He said they aim to make the sunflower crop to become a cash crop instead of letting farmers cultivate it as an age tradition and that they are implementing the TAM project through funding from UK Agency for Interna-

tional Development (UkAid).

He added: “The Forum’s aim is to bring together stakeholders to discuss various challenges facing the crop and finding solutions thereon, they can also deliberate the country’s various challenges with the view of correcting them where and when necessary.”

He said Mbeya Region is the first region in the country to unveil the Sunflower Forum and added that Kilimanjaro Region established Dairy Forum

which is doing well.

Mbamilo also said that TAM project in the Southern Highlands zone is being implanted in the three regions of Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi.

He mentioned other stakeholders involved in the Forum apart from farmers as owners of sunflower oil processing plants, transporters of the crop, business experts and other sunflower traders.

The chairman of the forum’s prepar-

atory committee Stanley Kibakaya who is also a trade officer from the office of the Mbeya Regional Commissioner said sunflower crop is among profitable crops in the region.

He said sunflower oil has great demand in Mbeya Region and the country as a whole on reason that it is safe for consumers than other types of oil.

He said: “Currently cooking oil produced in the country satisfy only 30 percent of the country’s needs and 70

percent is imported, hence we believe the forum will assist in the increase of sunflower crop and thereby increase in sunflower oil production.”

Speaking at the forum Mbeya District Commissioner Paul Ntinika said the government is ready to cooperate with stakeholders to solve various challenges facing the crop for better yields.

Among the challenges he said the government will assist in solving is finding markets for the crop, availability of better sunflower seeds and the same rate of levy in all districts of Mbeya Region.



Handeni District livestock officer Franaely Nnko (3rd-R) inspects roast goat meat at a village auction at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 300 people in Dar es Salaam have benefited from the free medical screening organised at the weekend by three health facilities.

The camp was organised by the Dar es Salaam-based TMJ super specialised polyclinic in partnership with Lions Club of Dar es Salaam, Mzizima and Samiro Pharmaceutical Ltd, which altogether conducted a free diabetes screening camp to commemorate the world diabetes day.

Lions Club of Dar es Salaam, Mzizima chairman, Shabbir Khanbhai said that the camp was part of commemorating the world diabetes day-a global awareness campaign commemorated on every November 14.

Khanbhai said apart from diabetes, residents also checked random blood sugar, blood pressure, height, weight & body mass index (BMI), counseling on

300 residents of Dar benefit from free medical check-up

management, care and nutrition as well as free consultation with doctors.

He said: "Diabetes is one among Lions International five service platforms which includes paediatric cancer, vision, hunger and environment. Our service today meets one among our obligations".

TMJ super specialised polyclinic director, Sheetal Buch said the clinic has been involved in various social welfare activities in and around Temeke district aiming to improve health conditions of Tanzanians.

"We conducted various free medical

management, care and nutrition as well as free consultation with doctors. He said: "Diabetes is one among Lions International five service platforms which includes paediatric cancer, vision, hunger and environment. Our service today meets one among our obligations".

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"The populaces are those who were not even able to access a single meal per day, but the programme has helped them improve their lives as they are now able to get all basic needs with access to three important meals per day."

Meru District leaders commend Tasaf after witnessing a boost in poor residents' lives

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has distributed a total of 3,056 chickens and 234 dairy goats to poor households in Meru district council, Arusha Region to enable them generate extra income and move out of poverty line.

Speaking recently when journalists visited some of the projects in the area, district executive director Emmanuel Mkongo commended Tasaf for initiating the projects saying that the activities were complimenting the council's efforts by improving people's lives.

According to him, a total of 729 poor households in eight villages have benefited by getting the chickens, milk goats and sheep which are now paying them a lot.

"The district received 200.6m/- to implement the projects in the villages of Songoro, Nsongony, Mbaaseny, Shishtony, Karangai, Nkaoansio, King'ori, Kimundo and Ushili..We truly appreciate this initiative as it has transformed lives of a number of villagers who were once living in abject poverty," he said.

Mkongo also said that besides supporting beneficiaries run income-generating activities, Tasaf has also transformed a total of 5,485 households that were previously living in absolute poverty through monthly grants given to them.

"The populaces are those who were not even able to access a single meal per day, but the programme has helped them improve their lives as they are now able to get all basic needs with access to three important meals per day."

He noted that through the implementation of the Tasaf III ProductiveSocialSafetyNetprogramme (TASAF III PSSN), beneficiaries also participate in public works such as putting up infrastructures in the area of education, health and water to improve social services and earn extra-income through the salaries they receive after work.

A beneficiary at Sakila village in Kakiti ward in the district Sabina

Nassari observed that before enrolling to the programme most of the villagers were living a very vulnerable life but through TASAF projects their lives have improved however recommending that besides encouraging beneficiaries to engage in income generating activities, the Fund should also invest much of its efforts in furnishing the beneficiaries with entrepreneurship skills.

Another beneficiary, Lightness Joshua urged the government to deploy more extension officers to penetrate to the rural areas to visit and educate TASAF beneficiaries on better agricultural practices, poultry and livestock keeping.

Sophia Sarakikya, also one of the beneficiaries said: "I have children to take care off at home, but without TASAF I couldn't have managed to feed them and provide all the basic needs..These funds has helped me to construct a house, pay school fees to my children and buy balanced diet for my family."

She commended TASAF saying that said the funds they receive help a lot in providing basic income security, guaranteeing healthcare and education to children.

TASAF coordinator in Meru District Council Boniface Mwilenga pointed out that the programme does not only provide funds to the beneficiaries but also training them on better use of the grants including establishing community savings and investments groups.

According to him, despite dishing out direct grants, TASAF has been investing in providing entrepreneurship and financial training for the beneficiaries to embark on small scale income generating activities.



...These funds has helped me to construct a house, pay school fees to my children and buy balanced diet for my family

Chadema 'cadre' found dead in his Arusha home

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE contestant of Street Council membership for Mnara wa Voda Esso Street in Unga Limited Ward, Sirilij John Homary, was found dead after he was reportedly slain in his Mnara wa Voda home three days ago.

Arusha Regional Police Commander ACP Jonathan Shana confirmed the incident, saying it occurred three days earlier.

He said the deceased was found in his home while his house key was inside and added:

"We are still investigating and we will issue a statement because the deceased was found inside his house with the key inside, it could also be suicide due to depression."

He said there are politicians who are inciting chaos over the incident and warn that he will deal with them should they continue to do so.

The Member of Parliament for Arusha Godbless Lema, told this paper that the issue is tragic and very depressing and he has spoken to the RFPC who told him several people are being held and were being questioned over the incident.

He said Chadema in Arusha Region have formed a special committee to follow up the incident since the deceased was a well-known party's cadre.

Lema said: "It is not customary for the police to remain so quiet, there is some controversy here, the RPC ought to have called the media who should have posed questions to him, the silence is surprising many of us."

He said: "those who claim he committed suicide are making us think - how a person in his sane mind came to slaughter himself while even a trouser's belt would have done the job, and added:

"In human beings, only about one in 100,000 can take his own life by slaughtering himself, as it is not easy to do so since it perhaps needs insanity, the RPC shouldn't provide simple answers to this incident."

However, Lema said the incident cannot be connected to politics because the deceased and other opposition parties have boycotted the civic polls.

He said the body of the deceased was to be transported to his home area in Katesh, Hanang district for burial.



The appearance of a section of Dar es Salaam's Ubungo Interchange - at the Morogoro Road/Mandela Road/Sam Nujoma Road intersection - which is still under construction. This scene was captured yesterday. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

THE Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children Minister Umyy Mwalimu is expected to be the official guest at the climax of the celebrations of 16-day National Campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

A statement issued by the ministry's Head of Government Communications, Community Development Department Erasto

Umyy to officiate at this year's celebrations climax against GBV

Ching'oro, said this year the campaign's celebrations will be held at national level at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma from November 25 2019 and the climax will be on December 10 2019.

The statement said the celebrations aim at increasing persuasion, exchange of information and experience, mutual capacity building,

better use of the available resources and join forces in the mobilisation, educating, censoring and taking joint steps to strongly oppose all acts of gender based violence in the country.

The statement added: "The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Equal Generation: Stand Against Rape' and it gives all of us the opportunity to ponder over our responsibility as a

generation that believes and values gender equality.

"This theme drives us to ensure that every person raises his/her voice and take steps in preventing an d eradicating all acts of sexual abuse especially rape and other acts of gender violence against women and children everywhere."

The statement said in fighting

the vice, the ministry calls on all Tanzanians to join forces to find a permanent solution thereof, and added that in some areas positive results are now being seen, and this is from combined forces by community, traditional and religious leaders whose voices are held in high esteem.

The origin of the celebrations is

attributed to the former UN Secretary General Koffi Annan statement in 2006 that called on the world to recognise the gravity of gender based violence in the community and said there was a need to have a special campaign period to shut down the vice. The UN adopted the period to be from 25 November to 10 December for the campaign.

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF DAR ES SALAAM (AT KINONDONI)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 597 OF 2019

THE REPUBLIC

VERSUS

1. YAHYA IBRAHIM DAHAL.....1ST ACCUSED PERSON
2. FATMA YAHYA IBRAHIM.....2ND ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Yahya Ibrahim Dahal
Plot No. 2, Block 73, Livingstone Street
Kariakoo Area, Ilala Municipality
Dar Es Salaam City

Fatma Yahya Ibrahim Dahal
Plot No. 2, Block 73, Livingstone Street
Kariakoo Area, Ilala Municipality
Dar Es Salaam City

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 16th day of November 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 20th day of November 2019

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
Resident Magistrates
Resident Magistrate Court
Dar-es-Salaam

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF KIBAHA (AT KIBAHA)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 171 OF 2019.

THE REPUBLIC

VERSUS

RESPY FABIAN KAVISHE.....ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Respy Fabian Kavishe
Mlandizi Kati, Kibaha District,
Pwani

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 26th day of November 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 19th day of November 2019

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
KIBAHA-COAST

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF KIBAHA (AT KIBAHA)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 167 OF 2019.

THE REPUBLIC

VERSUS

EZEKIEL MASSAWE.....ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Ezekiel Massawe
Plot No. 110, Block H, Makurunge Street
Bagamoyo

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 26th day of November 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 19th day of November 2019

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
KIBAHA-COAST

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF KIBAHA (AT KIBAHA)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 172 OF 2019.

THE REPUBLIC

VERSUS

SHIHUI FENG.....ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Shihui Feng
Managing Director / shareholder
KEDDS Tanzania Company Limited
Plots Nos. 593 & 594 CBD
Areas 197, 199
Kibaha Industrial Area,
Kibaha Municipality
Pwani Region

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

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GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 19th day of November 2019

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
KIBAHA-COAST

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

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TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2019

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Dividends ultimatum right step towards lessening national debt

CHANGE is in the air in the way the government runs the parastatals sector, as President John Magufuli has unrelentingly required better performance from state-owned companies and agencies.

This demand is now becoming even more persistent, with the president having now warned the heads of 187 parastatals that they have 60 days to pay dividends to the government or part ways with their positions. It isn't the sort of thing many are used to hearing, as subsidies talk was for long all but impossible.

The president used his address to heads of parastatal organisations to make a maiden official function at the new State House in the national capital, Dodoma, as he received dividend cheques from companies in which the government holds shares.

He said only 79 out of 266 such firms or agencies paid dividends in financial year 2018/2019, and his must have resulted from sharp reminders from 2016 that that the firms were supposed to do business and not just offer services.

Government sources estimate that capital invested in parastatals come to 56 trillion/- in total, which some watchers look at more as an accounting formality rather than real market value of those firms.

Even with the requirement that the firms remit returns to the government or their leaders leave office, it is hard to picture a situation where the government actually gets a profit in the sense of returning the capital and starting to earn real profits.

Thus far, the government is signalling that when the 60 days elapse, the boards of directors of companies failing to pay dividends will be put out of work.

This notification is a complete shocker to board officials and their respective managements, but likely not sufficiently clear as policy. For instance,

will new boards appointed thereafter to continue pushing the stone up the mountain, as it were, or do the firms go to DSE?

It is evidently true, as the president put it, that it is unacceptable that parastatals complete with boards, CEOs and a host of handsomely remunerated experts should operate at a loss.

This story of losses is as old as some of the parastatals themselves and when the matter began raising queries with the IMF and the World Bank in the early 1980s, their reaction was defensive.

The firms argued that they were not making profits simply because politicians kept interfering with the work of the boards and management professionals.

To a considerable extent, they carried the day, and sometime later there was indeed little interference in what they did - as well as few privatisations.

The situation did not improve much, though, and what the management professionals often do when in office is now clearer than previously. The question is whether one unacceptable team in management and boards shall give way to another, or the parastatal system will itself be put to intense review.

President Magufuli has at times indicated that he isn't looking at the government's links with parastatals as self-contained and without possible alternatives. When receiving a plane from a Canadian firm for use by the state-run and often-troubled Air Tanzania Corporation, he was categorical that the 'bird' was merely being leased to the firm and that, unless they made profitable business, the government would surely look for an alternative lessee.

This means that there is an open mind on the use of the parastatal system, or so many parastatals for that matter, but that would likely come up for clarification later. For now, however, it will be business, business, business - and nothing else.

Religious leaders should help with drive on cervical cancer education

THE Health ministry officials and the Medical Women's Association of Tanzania (Mewata) are in the thick of a campaign to talk 14-year-old girls, mostly in primary school, into cervical cancer vaccination.

The measure is intended to obviate chances of contracting the virus-based disease linked to the human papillomavirus (HPV), which medical experts say has its own vaccination.

However, sections of society see the measure as part of a devious family planning drive geared at sterilisation of African girls as a population-reduction scheme.

This sentiment has been there for many years in relation especially to HIV and AIDS, where many radical pseudo-experts in the medicine and mass communication kept suggesting that the virus was laboratory prepared as part of Cold War bacteriological warfare research.

This has over the years been proved blatantly false, as HIV is a retroviral type of virus and analysts say the medical profession (that is, biomedicine) knew nothing about such types of virus and only connected the dots or parameters in studying the virus.

In several countries in West Africa in particular, where militant and extremist organisations are more implanted in society than obtains in East Africa, polio vaccination has always been problematic.

Conspiracy theories spread the same false alarms - that these campaigns are aimed at jabs upon African society as a whole or those of a particular faith, thus threatening to sabotage government efforts to eradicate polio.

Measles is meanwhile back with a vengeance in some parts of Africa and other parts of the world as certain areas

did not complete their vaccination efforts at certain moments, effectively making the virus start spreading again.

Mewata president Dr Mary Charles was on record at the weekend as making the point that cervical cancer vaccination has no link with family planning efforts. She said that the "link" was being alleged by certain community leaders who mistrust things like vaccination campaigns.

Obviously, at some level of society, it is not possible for one to separate agencies responsible for family planning and those pursuing measles or cervical cancer vaccination.

It is easy to lump them together for reasons including cultural mistrust, which is part and parcel of nationalist ideology and other influences.

Therefore, it is not enough that community leaders at local government level or in schools or education departments in district councils take up the matter.

It is as important that moral leadership is affirmed in the matter, where religious authorities are usually the most credible moral leaders as public officials are judged at the level of public opinion by their respective religious obedience if the matter touches on religion.

It is thus vital that other relevant community leaders take up this campaign, if only to allay fears that there is something sinister up the sleeve of unscrupulous health and other authorities. It can also be done by a statement at the top level, even without a spirited and generalised campaign. Public health is a matter of fundamental significance, and no one should play games with it. Urgent measures must be taken to arrest any chances of the matter getting out of hand.

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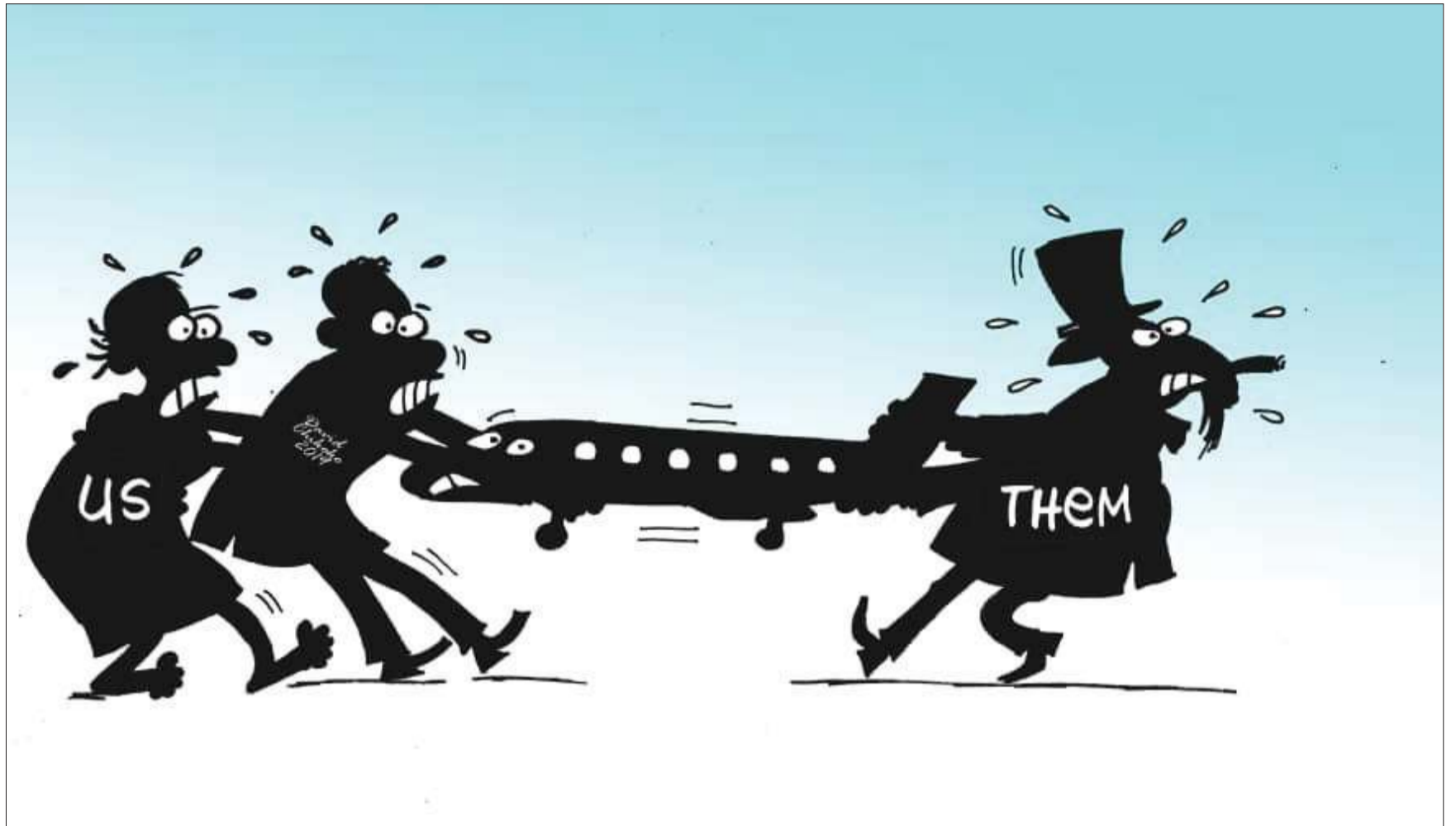
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By Mariam Yinusa and Edward Mabaya in Abidjan

MONICA Musonda, CEO of Zambian food processing company Java Foods, certainly faced hurdles in her rise to the top - but she overcame them.

"Although the barriers to entry for women can be frustrating, they are often basic and relatively easy to resolve. My climb up the agribusiness ladder has been challenging but definitely worthwhile," she says, playing down her struggles.

Musonda, whose company produces affordable and nutritious food snacks made from local ingredients, is one of just a handful of female agribusinesses who have successfully broken through the proverbial glass ceiling in Africa's agribusiness industry.

Women are the backbone of Africa's agricultural sector. From farm to fork, African women are players along the entire agricultural value chain, be it as farmers, livestock breeders, processors, traders, workers, entrepreneurs or consumers.

While their influence on the continent's growing agribusiness industry is undeniable, more solutions are needed to address the gender-specific challenges they face to boost their participation.

The average African woman is a budding entrepreneur either by choice or by circumstance. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Women's Report 2016/17, the continent has the highest percentage of female entrepreneurs in the world, with one in four women starting or managing a business. The agribusiness industry is often the natural focus of this participation.

Access to finance is the most frequently cited obstacle by African SMEs. Women entrepreneurs face multiple difficulties in securing funding,

Getting women in the driver's seat of Africa's agribusiness revolution

entrepreneurial drive.

Across the continent, women dominate as primary processors post-harvest, as traders with bustling market stalls, as owners of fast food restaurants and with increasingly frequency as manufacturers of packaged ready-to-eat food products.

Yet, despite this dynamism, female-led agribusinesses tend to remain small, fragmented and informal in nature. They struggle to sustain and scale up their agribusinesses into well-organised profitable enterprises.

Admittedly, the challenging business environment in many African countries - including poor infrastructure and unreliable legal and regulatory systems - affects all business activities of both men and women.

However, in addition, women-led businesses must also grapple with a number of gender-specific constraints inhibiting their expansion into more lucrative market segments.

Firstly, African women often lack the technical know-how. Despite the gains in female education made on the continent, highly productive agribusinesses require specialised vocational and technical skills in fields such as food safety, food conservation, packaging and product certification which many African women do not readily possess.

It often takes very little to make a difference. The capital injection required by the majority of female-led

mainly owing to lack of collateral in the form of land and other tangible assets and a high-risk perception.

According to the African Development Bank, an estimated \$42 billion financing gap exists for African women across business value chains, including \$15.6 billion in agriculture alone. Women are forced to rely on personal savings and family loans which are rarely enough to fund their businesses to scale.

Thirdly, socio-cultural barriers and stereotypes persist: African women remain the primary caregivers in families, meaning that managing those responsibilities while growing a thriving business can become a difficult balancing act.

Over the last two decades, many governments and development institutions have rolled out programmes to promote access to finance, agricultural inputs and provide technical support and business training to female agribusinesses.

The African Development Bank recently set up the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), a bold pan-African initiative meant to bridge the financing gap facing women. It adopts a three-pronged approach centred on improving access to finance, providing technical assistance and strengthening the enabling environment.

It often takes very little to make a difference. The capital injection required by the majority of female-led

SME agribusinesses on the continent is typically less than \$50,000. And women have consistently proven to be more credit-worthy than men, usually paying back loans within agreed timeframes.

Successful solutions for women for women such as microfinance and saving groups, peer-to-peer training and information sharing should also be reinforced and taken to scale.

More of such initiatives are urgently needed across the continent. Solutions must be based on in-depth engagement with the women business owners themselves to properly understand their frustrations and needs.

Tailored programmes designed to specifically address these pain points are critical. The Global Gender Summit is a timely opportunity to drive this forward.

Women are central for Africa's agricultural transformation to be successful, sustainable and inclusive. More African female agribusinesses must be supported to grow and progressively transition into the business segments of agricultural value chains which are most profitable. It has been proven time and time again that when African women thrive the entire society shares in those dividends.

Mariam Yinusa and Edward Mabaya are principal economist and manager, respectively, in the Agribusiness Development Division of the African Development Bank.

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin told the 19th congress of his country's ruling United Russia that the party has never been afraid of assuming responsibility and making difficult decisions necessary for the country.

"As the country's largest and leading political party - and it has acquired this status because it has always prioritised the protection of citizens' interests, the interests of our Motherland - United Russia has never been afraid of responsibility at the most complex twists of history, has always assumed and shouldered this responsibility, and has not been afraid of difficult decisions that do not yield situational popularity and do not give extra points at elections," he said here at the weekend.

Such audacity is needed to ensure the country's security, ensure the stable life of people for a long term, he noted.

The Russian leader thanked the United Russia members for their joint work, substantive and active support, noting: "The party has numerously displayed its will-power and proven

Putin: Ruling United Russia can never be afraid of making difficult decisions

its rightness, offered a unifying agenda based on the people's freedom and well-being, patriotism, our traditional values, a strong civil society and a strong state."

He described the implementation of national projects as the most important task for the party, adding: "First of all, coherent and responsible work is needed for implementing the priorities of Russia's development. Now this is the most important task for each of you, for your regional teams, for all who support the party."

Putting elaborated: "I request you to concentrate on achieving tangible results in the implementation of all national projects so that people can feel positive changes in their lives and, as importantly, can themselves participate in this joint work and note that all our joint efforts are aimed at positive and qualitative changes in the life of people."

The main thing in the party's work is to stand together with the people and

know in detail their needs and problems and respond to them immediately, the Russian leader stressed.

"It is only in the daily mode of communication with people that you will be able to confirm and strengthen your competence and will prove your leadership by your deeds, attention and care about citizens," he said.

Speaking about the implementation of national projects, Putin was emphatic that people should themselves participate in the collaborative efforts and appreciate the fact that such efforts are aimed at positive and qualitative changes. "More precisely, the results achieved for the sake of people rather than empty words and promises not backed by anything should become the party's main argument in the upcoming electoral campaigns at all levels, from municipalities to the State Duma (legislative assembly)," he said.

He appealed to United Russia members to put the heat on officials to secure decisions necessary for citizens,

adding: "You see and you know yourselves that now a dilapidated hospital, then something else is shown in media footage. Locally, you must see that if officials fail to do so. You should keep constant pressure on them to secure decisions."

The party should be the leader in everything, Putin declared, adding: "You should yourselves find and raise acute issues, without waiting for my next annual Q&A Direct Line. You should seek to solve such issues on your own, striving for justice."

The president stated that United Russia was there to serve the people for the sake of the country's future rather than to rule, noting further: "Having the status of the ruling party means being the party of power - and means to listening to, and serving, the people rather than to rule. The essence of this service relates to the future of our citizens, our children who have already been born and will be born."

• TASS

To survive first we must heal the land, then heal the planet

By James Blignaut

FOOD and water security is neither an environmental issue nor an agricultural one, but rather a question of survival. This encompasses the survival of every man and his proverbial dog.

Parched the sun-baked land lies. Lifeless in, quite literally, a hot rock oven, in angry revenge radiating the sun's fury back at it, but to no avail. Mankind, animal and plant alike beg for respite – rain – an eluding refuge, again to no avail.

How long will we arrogantly battle the forces of nature?

To what depths of despair and destruction will our arrogance take us?

And then the thunder breaks overhead, releasing a deluge of water gratefully received. But wait, fate knocks at the door. Both the barren land and the naked cropland turn into a brown, watery world – like a herd of wild galloping stallions the stream filled with preciously scarce topsoil rages downhill. Soil lost. Nutrients lost. Land capability lost.

How long will we arrogantly battle the forces of nature?

To what depths of despair and destruction will our arrogance take us?

Is this the invariable future of all productive lands? The answer lies in our hands. The solution starts by realising the multi-dimensional stages of degradation.

First it is a mental and emotional stage – a mindset of static sterility shouting to the world that nothing can be done to undo degradation, that dreadful news is the new normal. This new normal is mixed with the surreal superiority syndrome of I'm ok, so,



whatever dude, being hot is the new cool. It is the stage of the emotionally dead and morally defunct psycho- and sociopath whose deceptive lies have penetrated the minds of a people numb to reality.

Then the biophysical stage: erosion scars and degradation abound. However, these are only the outward, physical manifestations of our inward ineptness to deal with our hurt, pain, pride, stupidity and various other forms of misalignment and fragmentation. The result of ignorance embedded in our past actions.

Third and last, the financial stage. Erosion and degradation cost money,

Whether you and I are in the city or on the farm or managing a game park, restoration is everyone's business, and it is big business, says the writer. File photo

everybody's money. To produce food from degraded soils requires more effort, more energy, and that for less return, causing the produce to become more expensive, too expensive to buy. Thus, neither the farmer nor the consumer profits. Food and water security is neither an environmental issue, nor an agricultural one, but rather a question of survival. This encompasses the survival of every man and his proverbial dog. We, be it the professional or the pauper, the city slicker or the rural saunterer, are together in this disastrous bot-

tomless race.

Arrogance, how powerful you are. In a mere 80 years you have emboldened a single generation to place at risk an entire civilisation and the rich legacies of those before us to feed your insatiable greed for more irrational wealth, as if it has no impact on the world around you and the generations to come.

Healing, simple yet powerful, starts with a brave look in the mirror. A person or a society reflecting is one that takes a deep breath, albeit of polluted hot air, while gazing at the charred land-

scape and agrees that change for a restorative future is, and must be, the new normal. It is an acknowledgement that while degradation is real, it is but a stage – and one that can be defeated. Restoration and healing are ongoing processes, delightful alternative narratives. Healing the land leads to the healing of people, but the process needs to start with a decision.

Mental and emotional revitalisation starts with the realisation that I'm connected to others – people past, present, to posterity, and I'm connected to the land – relationally connected since dust we are and dust we will become while the nourishment from the soil feeds our bodies. What we therefore do matters greatly, and thus also our restorative actions. These generate a legacy that will endure, making sure that, as Robert Browning wrote, "a man's reach exceeds his grasp" – thus healing the soul from selfish greed. Restoration, while seeking guidance from the past, is futuristic, and is propelled forward on the wings of exhilarating confidence and the promise that tomorrow the wounds of the past will be healed.

This revitalisation of the soul will manifest itself in biophysical healing. Overwhelming evidence exists to prove this. Conservation and regenerative agriculture and the restoration of degraded landscapes bring forth many benefits. Such soils absorb more water and more carbon and are host to many more microbes, a biodiversity-rich sub-soil ecosystem essential to produce healthy food. This service they render free and it leads to increases in yields and that at affordable prices. Moreover, such prudent land use management improves above-soil biodiversity, a richness of species that is aesthetically pleasing and

feeds one's being with its colours and contours.

Where and how will this healing conceptualise itself in practical reality? When we boldly decide we will not push the cost of degradation on to our children. We will pay the restoration bill so that they can reap the prolonged benefits. Our legacy will be one of restoration, one of healing, one of building bridges and ushering in the future with the knowledge that cool the planet is the new hot. This is done when we let the herbivore roam. Together these actions will connect culture, conservation, climate action and our collective future.

Whether you and I are in the city or on the farm or managing a game park, restoration is everyone's business, and it is big business. The man in the city can help the farmer and the park manager by supporting restorative actions. The farmer and the park manager can collaborate to manage the landscape as a connected mosaic whole. Similarly, the farmer and the park manager can serve the urban dweller by making available healthy food and landscapes that rejuvenate the soul.

Healing will come when we're humble, talk to one another respectfully, take responsibility for the gross mistakes of the past and set out on a path of corrective, restorative action. The means and the mechanisms to do so exist. The evidence base to support future actions exists. The people to engage in such restorative actions exist.

Healing: it is low-tech, it is down-to-earth, and it is in the soil. South Africa, restoration is your future.

DM

Ageing: Another barrier to South Africa's economic stability

BY ALANNA MARKLE

THE wave of global ageing that has spread across Europe and East Asia is lapping at the shores of countries in the Global South. In the next 25 years, South Africa will be the fourth country – after Mauritius, Seychelles and Cape Verde – in sub-Saharan Africa to become an ageing society. In efforts to eradicate poverty, this increase in demographic dependency can have negative consequences.

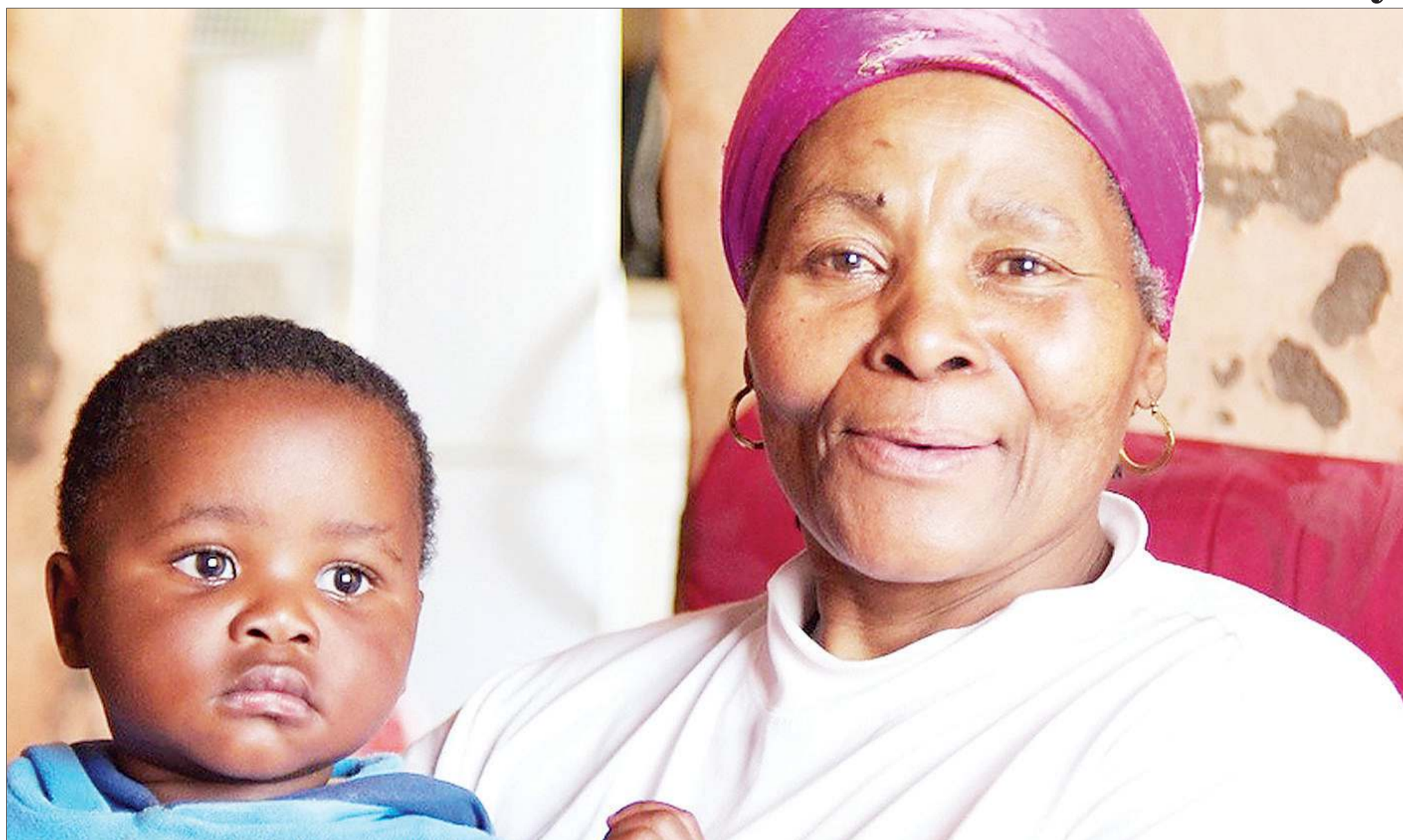
By 2045, the share of South Africa's population that is over 60 (the qualifying age for an older person's grant) is expected to double, from 8% to 16%. In absolute terms, the number of older adults will increase from about 4.5 million to 10.6 million, growing at an average annual rate of 2.9% compared to 0.6% in the overall population (Figure 1).

Responses to population ageing have differed around the world. Japan is spearheading robotics for elder care, whereas in Eastern and Central Europe responsibility lies more with the family. South Africa will offer one of the first case studies for managing ageing in Africa, and with the benefit of foresight, it is today's policymakers who can determine whether it will be one to be emulated or avoided.

Population ageing is in its early stages in South Africa, so an examination of the issue still generates more questions than answers; however, several known issues should be considered.

First, ageing creates economic vulnerability. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, South Africans have minimal savings and on average can expect to earn only 16% of their working salaries in retirement, compared to 69.5% in Brazil and 87.4% in India. This means most South Africans will rely on family members' financial support in retirement or risk falling into poverty.

Second, South Africa's dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases manifests in high levels of unhealthy ageing. There is a reinforcement loop between unhealthy ageing and low incomes in South Africa, and black African women are especially vulnerable to experiencing poverty and having their care needs go unmet in older adulthood.



Third, ageing creates economic risks at a macro level. Population ageing leads to slower economic growth, and as the proportion of older adults rises, so will the size of the economically vulnerable population and demand for social grants. These trends will challenge both the country's fiscal stability and the dream of ending poverty.

Given the dual relationship between health and income, there is however also an opportunity to make the future of ageing brighter. Since it is an emerging trend, there is time to invest in healthy ageing, which is best supported by enhancing well-being along the life course. The rollout of a national

Becoming an ageing society will challenge both the country's fiscal stability and the dream of ending poverty. File photo

health scheme in particular offers an opportunity to start making routine medical care more forward-thinking. In addition, demographic pressure in high-income countries is accelerating research into healthy ageing, and resulting technological advances could help bring down its cost. Importantly, South Africa will need to consider whether and how medical technologies that ease the financial and physical costs of ageing will be able to be equitably accessed.

Finally, some solutions to the challenges associated with ageing may lie in changing the way

society views older adulthood in the context of the life course. Typically, life is expected to occur in three stages: education and training, work, then retirement. The World Health Organization argues that this view is outdated, and that if policy permitted, there could be 'endless variations on the traditional categories'. As such, it says, 'such shifts may benefit not only the individual but also society more broadly'.

For example the changing nature of work in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is expected to require lifelong learn-

ing to become the norm. Policies enabling more and better ongoing education could support both the quality of older adulthood and economic vibrancy.

Likewise, there is a link between well-being in older adults and other age groups. Analysis by the Western Cape government's Strategic Foresight project found that making use of older adults' time and skills to support public school capacity could improve outcomes for both learners and programme participants. An earlier study in South Africa showed that fiscal transfers to woman pensioners

improved the nutrition status of girls.

Ageing is a physical process, but also a social construct. Older adults are one of society's most diverse groups and an effective policy response will be one that values this group for its unique characteristics. It should make the most of what its members have to offer, while ensuring the availability of the support that we all inevitably need in life's final stages.

Alanna Markle, Researcher, African Futures and Innovation, ISS Pretoria

Climate crisis opportunity: Making money on the road to hell

By Sasha Planting

If anything has happened in 2019, it is that the world's climate crisis is finally on policy and investment agendas as pressure from ordinary citizens and investors pushes governments and companies to adopt resolutions for change. 25

Extreme weather events are reinforcing the urgency. In Alaska, more than 90% of days were warmer than normal in 2019, bushfires are raging in Australia and cyclones and floods hit parts of Africa that are not accustomed to extreme weather.

Facing this problem head-on is not altruism, or a nice to have. It is modern risk management. Earlier in November, more than 11,000 scientists published a joint statement in the journal *BioScience*, warning that humanity faces "untold suffering due to the climate crisis" unless there are major transformations to global society.

However, as the scientists also point out, "despite 40 years of global climate negotiations, with few exceptions, we have generally conducted business as usual and have largely failed to address this predicament".

The uncomfortable reality is that urgent carbon reduction is required. For a start, fossil fuels need to be replaced with low-carbon renewables and other cleaner sources of energy. And ideally, the remaining stocks of fossil fuels should be left in the ground, the scientists say.

Currently, renewables account for about 20% of the global energy mix. This needs to rise to 85% to meet globally agreed climate goals.

For investors, the climate crisis has a tangible number.

"In terms of our estimates, climate



change puts 15% of the value of global investments at risk in terms of what companies might have to do to offset their carbon footprints," Charles Prideaux, global head of investment at Schroders, told media at a recent event in London.

Investors are alive to this and are increasingly using their voting power to press for change or propose shareholder resolutions at AGMs, he says.

In South Africa, this type of shareholder activism is at last emerging, and two AGMs scheduled for the last week of November 2019 have attracted the attention of shareholders.

At Sasol, which is SA's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the board recently rejected the tabling of a share-

holder resolution by a group of six institutional investors.

The institutions – Old Mutual, Sanlam Investment Managers, Coronation, Abax, Aeon Investment Management and Mergence Investment Managers – had asked for greater transparency from Sasol on how its long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction strategy, and executive rewards, align with the Paris accord on climate change.

This is the second year in which Sasol has rejected a shareholder resolution asking for more disclosure on its climate change mitigation strategy, notes Tracey Davies, director of Just Share, a non-profit

shareholder activism and responsible investment organisation.

As a result, Sasol investors and civil society activists will be attending the fossil fuel producer's AGM to engage on these issues.

Similarly, at the FirstRand AGM on 28 November, shareholders will vote on the second set of climate risk-related shareholder resolutions to be tabled in South Africa (the first was Standard Bank).

The first resolution proposes that the bank prepare a consolidated report to shareholders, by end October 2020, on its assessment of its exposure to climate-related risks (transition and

physical) in its lending, investing and financing activities.

The second proposes that FirstRand should adopt and publicly disclose on its website, by October 2020, a policy on lending to fossil fuel-related projects, including coal-fired power plants, coal mining operations and oil and gas exploration and production projects.

The board has endorsed the latter proposal, but not the former, arguing that it does not "have time" to achieve what is being asked for.

"Bank lending and investments make up a significant source of external capital for carbon-intensive industries," says Davies. "Every rand invested by South African banks in new fossil fuels increases climate risk, renders it harder to achieve a just transition to a low-carbon economy, and exposes the banks to reputational and financial risks."

From a shareholder perspective, climate risk poses a material financial risk to many classes of investments in the short, medium and long term.

The flip-side of this coin is that there is a massive opportunity available for investors willing to fund the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Schroders estimates that \$2-trillion of annual investment is needed if society is to meet the Paris Accord agreements.

Investment opportunities lie in clean power generation, energy storage, transmission and distribution, energy efficiency, transport electrification and emission reduction technologies, says Alex Monk, global renewables analyst at Schroders.

He believes the transition to renewable energy is set to pick up speed and cites three reasons for this.

First, there is an emerging po-

litical will to confront the fact that the world is facing a climate catastrophe. Leaders from the UK, to China, to New Zealand have set ambitious emissions reductions targets for their countries.

Supporting this is that renewables are now competitive with fossil fuels in terms of cost.

And third, consumers are demanding that this happens and are voting with their feet.

This is more evident in Europe, the US (at a state, but not national level) and parts of the East. It is not evident across much of Africa and certain other developing markets, where reliance on fossil fuels is central to economic growth.

For instance, in the UK, 30% of electricity will be produced by renewables by 2020. In Germany renewables are now the main source of power generation and coal will be totally phased out by 2038 and Spain is targeting 100% of energy from renewables by 2050.

In the US, even conservative state Pennsylvania plans to source 100% of its power from renewables by 2050, while California is aiming for 2045.

"India and China have ambitious targets and are using climate change as an opportunity to solve pollution, emissions and energy poverty," says Monk.

Companies are making changes, too. Online retailer Amazon has made a commitment to becoming net carbon-neutral by 2030 and in September 2019, Google signed clean energy deals worth about \$2-billion to supply it with electricity from wind and solar projects across the world.

"The investment opportunity is huge," Monk says. "It's a simple choice: either we spend money mitigating, or we spend money picking up the pieces." **BM**

Can Trump win in 2020? Hell yes

By James Cannon Boyce

THE issue is the Electoral College and how it works in the United States Presidential Elections. If the issue of Trump even having a chance baffles you, the Electoral College will be even worse.

I will make this short and simple - you can search and learn more about the Electoral College's start as (some argue) a method for preserving slavery, or how it actually violates the US constitution as every vote does not end up counting and how some states are working to overturn it - slow and unlikely.

But the Electoral College matters, a lot - and if you are interested in the 2020 US election, you need to understand it.

To win the Presidency of the United States, you have to win 270 electoral college votes. There is a great website that tracks this - called, with no irony, 270towin.com. If you look at their core map, you will see that number of states in red (the colour of the Republicans in the US) - these states are primarily in the centre of the country and their electoral college votes pull more weight than their population.

The blue states at the coasts (blue, being Democrats) have a much heavier population but their voting power is capped by the number of electoral college votes.

Take even a small state like my home state of Massachusetts - bluer than blue. We only have 11 electoral college votes but if every vote counted, you would see more Democrats voting there because it mattered, and in fairness, Republicans often don't vote because it's a winner take all strategy.

When we lost in 2004, it was really fundamentally because we lost Ohio by 60,000 votes. We lost all of Ohio's Electoral College votes and George W Bush won re-election.

Hillary won the general vote by over 3,000,000 and if every vote had counted in California and New York it probably would have been more.

Is it a flawed system? Maybe. I don't know and I don't care because those are the rules. I really hate Democrats who pout and scream against the rules



which are the law of the country.

Think of it this way. I have been a Springboks fan for well over a month now. Imagine if you kick three what I call field goals but the other team scores 2 tries. You can't argue you win because you scored three times and

US president Donald Trump

they scored twice - so that's what Democrats do - they know the rules going in, they need to win by them. And in my opinion, this will not change in our lifetimes.

So on to 2020.

On a national level, Donald

Trump has no chance. None. He will lose the popular vote and probably lose it by more than he did last time. People in California and New York and other blues states will want to punish him and voting registration and voter

engagement is extremely high.

I have seen estimates that he could lose the popular vote by as much as 10,000,000.

But he can still win another term and it's not too far-fetched to be honest.

In many parts of the country, including many states he won last time, Trump's rhetoric maintains its appeal. The five beige states in the chart above are what we call "swing states" because they are so close - the 2000 election in Florida was decided by hundreds of votes and George W beat Gore because of that.

North Carolina I know a little about. A distant cousin of mine ran for Senate twice, a extremely well liked and popular man. He ran as a Democrat and lost both times. North Carolina often has a shade of blue, but it will probably go for Trump.

I have to believe Arizona does as well. But Trump is only at 230 Electoral College votes now.

Florida. A true swing state. Gore barely lost in 2000. We put tens of millions of dollars in there in 2004 and lost by over a million as I recall - i.e. we invested much more and went backwards. Democrats have a chance here. But right now, the polling in Florida says Trump.

I chatted with a number of pretty smart people over the weekend - they all say Trump wins Florida.

Now Trump is at 259 Electoral College votes. Getting nervous? You should be.

Back in 2016, I was asked to give a prediction on the race. I said something along the lines of I am not sure Trump wins, but watch out for Wisconsin and Michigan. Trump ran the table there, and a few other places, and won.

If you want a Joe Biden argument, it's that he is from Scranton, PA. But Biden would lose in a lot of other places Sanders or Warren would win, so it's not valid really (and after calling marijuana a gateway drug, Biden is truly done. Someone

should look to see where all his money went - he's down to a few million dollars in the bank.)

Penn. I don't have a prediction right now.

Wisconsin, I know some about, and if you want a Sanders argument, he beat Hillary there and his story would resonate well in that state. (Fascinating note on Trump's win there in 2016. It was former Obama voters that put him over the top - most people including me see that as people who just don't want a legacy politician.)

So despite all his troubles, Trump has a path. Here are a few other states that could go either way:

Nevada and New Mexico are shaded light blue (this is based upon state polling FYI) New Mexico is a stretch though George W did win in 2004. Nevada might go red - not likely but Trump's team might have its eye on that. Minnesota and New Hampshire are the only other long-shot Republican pickups.

From the Democratic side, I am surprised that Iowa's shaded red. Iowa will see all the Democrats up close - and Trump's China policies have hurt farmers badly there. If I am the Democrat, I am looking at those votes, the ones in Ohio, and that's really my only pickups after the Swing States.

The states with the slices of colour - they have changed their laws and they are not winner take all any more - but it's only 9 votes total.

So Trump is not out of it. By any stretch.

Will he win? It's a long walk from here to there and I am not sure. All the swing votes could easily go blue and he would suffer a monumental defeat of historical proportions. (Make Texas blue as well and boom, it's a massive blue wave.)

But all the swing votes could go red and he could walk back into the White House pretty easily.

But the answer is absolutely - yes, he can.

DM

Women in western regions demanding rights to land ownership

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN outcry on the right to acquire land, use and own have for a long time been one of the main challenges in Tanzania especially in rural areas. Men and women have made to believe that only men can own land while women can only have access to it in terms of cultivation and other minor activities. This belief has been backed up with customs and traditions of many tribes in Tanzania, in Rukwa and Katavi regions things are no different.

'It has not been an easy journey' as the customs and tradition has gone too deep that even some of the women believe that it is not their right to own land and this goes to a girl child when it comes to inheritance, girls and women are not expected to receive any piece of land as an inheritance from the family or husband land no matter how big or small the inherited land is, said Grace Shio, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator for Shared Resources Joint Solution initiative.

Through a number of intervention done by Shared Resources Joint Solution initiative such as peer educators training, training to village natural resources and environmental Monitors, public debates, engagement with village leaders, traditional leaders, religious leaders on equal rights to access, use and control of land among men and women, and environmental law trainings as well as distribution of information education and communication (IEC) materials to the villagers among many activities has brought a notable increase of Women demanding for the right to use and own land.

For instance, Catherine Mwasiga (35) from Ilambila village had the following to say: "After the training and capacity building I received from the Shared Resources



A resident of Sitalike Village in Katavi Region airs her views on the right of women to land ownership. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Joint Solution initiative I went back to my father and informed him about my rights as one of his children. I told him that I am entitled to a piece of land the same as my brothers and I requested him to provide me with a piece of land, fortunately after the discussion my dad agreed and I was given two acres of land.

Increased confidence amongst women is another achievement registered by the initiative. Some women can now air their voices in different platforms. I

can confidently stand and demand for my rights as I understand that I am entitled to buy, sell, own and inherit land regardless of my gender, secondly, I understand that all children have equal rights when it comes to matters related to inheritance, gender difference has nothing to do with entitlements, said Magdalena Minga during village general meeting in Nankanga village.

Apart from women demanding for their right to inherit and own land, they have further managed to take charge

and control of the family land. A good example is Mary Maembe from Matandalani village who stopped her husband from selling family land without her consent.

"The buyer and some of village leaders was already on the family land where my husband was showing them the boundaries, I arrived and told the village leaders that the family land is not going to be sold, I made it clear to the buyer that if he is going to give my husband money it will be on his own

risk. I am glad that the village leader understood my concern and cancelled the transaction," said Maembe.

As much as some notable changes have been seen in women, men are not left behind. There is quite a shift in changing behaviour and understanding of men about women rights.

Julius Mwanakatwe from Kalaela village is a good example of men who understood and accepted that men and women have equal rights to land ownership and other village natural resources.

"At first it was difficult for me to easily digest the idea of women owning land let alone inheriting from their family or their husbands, but after attending several training offered by Shared Resources Joint Solution team, am now in agreement that women indeed have equal rights as men and since it is the requirement of the law to adhere to this fact, I have now changed my behaviour towards women, Julius took upon himself to now educate other men convincing them to do away with traditional and customs which are oppressive to women and girl child.

As a matter of fact, some village leaders have changed their practices when it comes to women rights and now whatever decision they make or conflict they solve they first think about women rights and take bold decisions unlike before.

Isaya Busanda, a chairperson from Majimoto village shared the story; "when I noticed that Mercia's husband had sold family land and received first instalment, I called Mercia to find out if she was aware of what was going on, as I thought, Mercia said she was not informed and that the mentioned land is what her family had always depended on for cultivation. I advised her on the procedures to follow to claim back her family land and she managed. I am

very grateful to the SRJS team as I have learned all these from them and from books that was given to the villagers. Without these training I would not have taken such decision to stand for women rights, added Isaya.

Shared Resources Joint Solution (SRJS) is a five years (2016-2020) policy influencing programme aiming to "secure ecosystem-based international public goods in particular, water provisioning, food security, climate change resilience and biodiversity, for improved livelihoods".

The programme is implemented in 16 low and lower-middle-income countries across nine eco-regions. In Tanzania this initiative has been carried out in Rukwa and Katavi regions.

For four years now the Shared Resources Joint Solution (SRJS) initiative funded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Netherlands (IUCN NL) and implemented by a consortium of seven Organisations led by Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT) have been working on, among many things to train both men and women at the village level to understand and respect the law of the land which give equal rights to men and women to land ownership.

The programme is mobilising and establishing dialogues with key stakeholders, build institutional capacity of the CSO community and support the policy development for the establishment of responsible investment in mining (both industrial and artisanal); seek to bring government, non-government, and private sector together so that identified and emerging environmental issues are discussed and optimal regulatory mechanisms are adopted. 7000 people, 35 percent been women have so far benefited from different programmes interventions.

Youth to table action plan designed to shape future of food systems across Africa

By Guardian Reporter

HUNDREDS of youth from east and central African countries are next week expected to participate in the event dubbed: "Shaping the future of food system in Africa".

Most of the youth are members of the Indigenous Terra Madre (ITM) network, the Slow Food Youth Network (SFYN), as well as the Hivos Sustainable Diets for All (SD4All) programme.

The participants will come from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa.

"Shaping the future of food system in Africa" is a 5-day training event to allow the young delegates to acquire the tools necessary to protect and promote their food heritage, learn how to engage in policy and decision-making processes and turn their plans into action.

During the training, delegates will work on a common Action Plan to be presented to local and international institutions at a public event to be held on the last day, December 7th. Feedback received from these institutions will help to create synergies and common agendas so that the project may be pitched to interested parties.

"For four days, delegates will attend capacity-building workshops and networking events as young SFYN food leaders, both indigenous and not," states Valentina Gritti of the Slow Food Youth Network.

"In addition to developing Action Plans pushing for change in the African food system, they'll celebrate raising awareness and appreciation for traditional products and crafts. The event will be an opportunity to discuss and share their approaches towards healthy diets, land rights, agroecology, seeds and gender in agriculture."

"This event is an important milestone in the Road Map towards 2020 set up by Indigenous Terra Madre network in Kenya," affirms Maasai Tunda Lepore, a member of the ITM Advisory Board.

"Youth involvement is paramount for the continuity of the fight against harmful food production and other related challenges.

It's fundamental that younger generations and indigenous peoples have opportunities to confront and share their knowledge and skills in addressing global challenges like climate crisis and hunger.

We, indigenous and non-indigenous youth, need to be allies on this. We need to make our voices heard and do it in a more strategic way, and that's what this event is about."

Delegates will gain hands-on experience through field trips showing how local communities deal with specific issues, such as seeds, land rights and agroecology: they will visit the Seed Savers Network Kenya, the Ogiek Honey and Mau Forest Dried Nettles Slow Food Presidia and the Slow Food Karirikani Community Garden.



Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) board member Jamhuri Ngilime (L) and corporate affairs manager Emmanuel Kondi (R) present to President John Magufuli a dummy cheque for 1.150bn/- in the firm's dividend to the government. This was at an event held at State House at Chamwino on the outskirts of Dodoma city on Sunday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Study investigates access to food in sub-Saharan households

By Guardian Reporter

A survey of over 6,000 sub-Saharan households has shown that an estimated 39 percent experience severely unreliable access to food and 49 percent have inadequate diversity in their diet, putting them at risk for micronutrient deficiencies. The study is said to be among the largest of its kind, and also the first to correlate food access and nutrition to time of year, as well as demographic, agricultural, ecological and economic factors.

"Recent work has suggested that global chronic hunger could be brought to an end by 2030 with an additional annual investment of \$11 billion, but

this will only be possible with highly targeted and well-designed interventions," said study lead Dr Simon Fraval, Wageningen University, the Netherlands. "Our study set out to combine food access indicators with household characteristics to estimate the prevalence of food access deficiencies as well as to understand how those correlate with rural livelihoods across sub-Saharan Africa throughout the year."

In 2017, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that nearly a quarter of the sub-Saharan African population suffers from chronic hunger - representing nearly 274 million people. However, the real scale of malnutrition and food

accessibility is considered difficult to capture, because surveys are often limited by geographical reach and time of year, which significantly impacts food availability.

Fraval's study spans 12 projects across eight African countries. The surveys included questions about the severity of food access problems, ranging from whether participants worried about getting food to whether they went for entire days without eating due to access issues. In contrast to previous surveys, the study asked participants about the worst month a household had experienced during the past year, as opposed to shorter time frames such as the past 24 hours.

Malaria: New chemical formulation for bed nets shows promising results

MANILA

LONG-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets have been a lifesaving tool against malaria, but increased resistance against pyrethroids - the key chemical ingredient used - had researchers looking for alternatives or adjustments. Now, they may have found one.

In a major trial in Uganda, researchers found that although traditional pyrethroid-treated bed nets continue to be effective, households given bed nets with a combination of pyrethroids and the chemical piperonyl butoxide experienced 27% fewer cases of malaria among children ages 2 to 10. These households also had 80% fewer malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

"We need to guard against complacency, mosquito genomes are highly diverse, and it is almost inevitable that resistance will emerge."

- Martin Donnelly, head of vector biology department, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

"The results from Uganda show that by using an insecticide formulation that interferes with the mechanisms mosquitoes use to defeat pyrethroids, we are seeing a significant restoration of pyrethroid efficacy - not back to pre-resistance levels, but enough to buy us critically needed time while we develop new insecticides and interventions," said Martin Donnelly, co-leader of the evaluation project. The results of the trial were presented Thursday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Cities need to pull their weight in using education to help migrants and refugees

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW policy paper by the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report at UNESCO, released ahead of the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum next month, shows the increasingly important role of cities using education of people on the move as a lever for their inclusion.

It calls for international and non-governmental organisations to recognise cities as partners and for governments to clarify and support cities' role in education.

People on the move tend to concentrate in urban areas,

whether arriving from rural areas or across borders. Many living in cities are foreign born - from 46% in Toronto to 62% in Brussels, 83% in Dubai and 39% in Sydney. Those forcibly displaced also often end up in cities, with around 60% of the world's refugees living in urban areas.

Manos Antoninis, Director of the GEM Report, said: "Currently, many migrants in poorer countries end up in slums with limited access to a free education. In richer countries they are often segregated into schools in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Strong urban planning, inclusive

learning environments and fighting discrimination are just some of the essential functions that cities can serve in addressing segregation. It's a waste not to tap into this potential."

The paper shows many cases of segregation happening in richer countries. In France, immigrants in 2007 were more likely to be in classes where 15% of students were immigrants. In Germany's Hessen state, about 41% of children who did not speak German at home went to day-care centres where at least half the other children did not speak German either. In Turkey, housing market analy-

sis indicated that natives moved out of neighbourhoods where Syrian refugees had settled.

Yet, the new paper, 'Defending the right to the city for all', shows that many cities, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, have no mandate and little financial support to tackle the issues. A review of Amman, Beirut, Tangier and Tunis, all with significant migrant or refugee population flows, showed they did not have any authority for delivering education services. A further review of 23 cities faced with migrant and displaced communities found that only 5 had a dedicated

budget to support their efforts.

Cities that do have clear roles can make a huge difference in improving education access. Some are entirely or partly responsible for early childhood or primary education as in France, Italy and Germany and have the power to open access to people on the move. A few years ago, Turin in Italy decided not to apply a law requiring a residence permit to access education, spearheading a change in national policy. The city of Zurich in Switzerland provides an average of CHF 40,000 per year to schools with more than 40% of students with an im-

migrant background to help with language and reading skills.

Many cities help improve language skills, whether through on-line services as in Germany, or in language courses as in Italy with attached babysitting services so that migrant women can attend. Sao Paulo offers 600 places in municipal schools to learn Portuguese as a second language.

Links between schools and migrants are also prioritised. In Frankfurt, Germany, immigrant mothers and fathers attend their children's classes in kindergarten and primary school twice a week; Linköping in Sweden trains tu-

tors with knowledge of Somali or Arabic to act as 'link people' for parents.

Cities also help fight discrimination with awareness campaigns, or by fostering exchanges between inhabitants. Valongo in Portugal created a Human Library project, called 'Don't judge a book by its cover', whereby people can be 'borrowed' as though they are a book to answer questions on a variety of topics. Oslo in Norway set up a community festival to encourage intercultural exchange, and Seoul in Korea had an annual Migrant World Film Festival for more than a decade.

More austerity for developing countries: It is bad news, and it is surely avoidable

By Isabel Ortiz and Thomas Stubbs, WASHINGTON DC and LONDON

AFTER years of austerity, a number of Eurozone countries are now considering expansionary fiscal policies. And in the UK, government spending is set to return to levels last seen in the 1970s. But austerity abounds elsewhere in the world, including in some of the poorest countries.

Since 2010, governments around the world have been cutting public expenditure. New research found that about 75 per cent of the global population, or 5.8 billion people, will be in countries undergoing austerity by 2021.

This new wave of austerity will commence next year and will affect 130 countries, most of which are in the developing world. As many as 69 countries will undergo “excessive contraction”, cutting expenditure below levels achieved prior to the global financial crisis of 2007. The list includes countries with dire development and human needs, such as Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Iraq, the Republic of Congo, and Yemen.

Rather than investing in a robust recovery to bring prosperity to citizens, governments are cutting pensions, public sector wages (including those of teachers and health workers), social assistance, and labour protections. Yet, the social consequences of austerity policies are already painfully clear. Millions of people will be pushed into poverty as a result, many of them



As the West questions damaging austerity policies, it is becoming the new normal for the rest of the world, risking achievement of sustainable development goals. File photo

women, children, and persons with disabilities.

In the developing world, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) advises governments to undertake austerity reforms either as part of its

regular surveillance missions, or when countries have to sign up to its structural adjustment programmes to borrow money.

While the IMF claims to protect social spending in these

programmes, independent research proves otherwise. IMF-mandated policy reforms led to cuts in government education and health (pdf) spending, increased income inequality (pdf),

reductions in labour rights (pdf), declining access to healthcare, and a rise in neonatal mortality in developing countries.

Beyond these direct effects on social protection, there is another less-recognized problem. By shedding qualified civil servants, IMF austerity prescriptions have undermined the administrative ability of governments (pdf) to deliver effective public services in the future. Recent evidence also shows IMF-imposed tax reforms do not result in greater government revenues (pdf). It simply reshuffles where revenues come from: more from regressive goods and services taxes, and less from other sources. This represents a passing of the buck onto the poorest members of society.

The recently completed Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank presented an opportunity to take stock of the damaging consequences of austerity. In the wake of widespread protests in Ecuador's ongoing IMF programme, continuing from earlier protests in Argentina, the need for an alternative path was especially pressing. Critical observers hoped for intellectual leadership and concrete commitments away from austerity. What they got was more of the same: trumped-up statements on the need to strengthen social spending, but with a bottom-line of fiscal belt-tightening.

Austerity does not need to be the “new normal.” One of the most disturbing conclusions after the past decade of austerity is that these budget cuts were never actually necessary. Governments could—and should—have pursued alternative policy options. These would have brought prosperity

to citizens and avoided the current wave of social discontent.

Even in the poorest countries, governments can create fiscal space. Public services and investment can be funded through progressive taxation, a crackdown on illicit financial flows, improved debt management, more accommodative macroeconomic frameworks, and—in the case of the poorest countries—lobbying for more aid. For example, more than 60 countries have renegotiated sovereign debt in recent years, allowing governments to spend less in debt service and more in necessary development expenditures.

These strategies for increased funding are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals, agreed upon by 193 countries in September 2015 at the United Nations, with specific commitments for universal education, health, and social protection.

Meeting these internationally agreed development goals means putting-to-bed the damaging austerity policies of the past decade. Most importantly, it entails recognition that an austere future is an avoidable catastrophe.

Isabel Ortiz, a former director of the International Labour Organization and UNICEF, is director of the Global Social Justice Program at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University.

Thomas Stubbs is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a Research Associate in Political Economy at the Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge.

One in three women experiencing physical, sexual abuse



UNITED NATIONS

VIOLENCE against women and girls is among the most widespread, and devastating human rights violations in the world, but much of it is often unreported due to impunity, shame and gender inequality, the UN highlighted ahead of Monday's World Day to stamp out abuse of women and girls.

Here is the grim reality, in numbers: A third of all women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, half of women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family, and violence perpetrated against women is as common a cause of death and incapacity for those of reproductive age, as cancer, and a greater cause of ill health than road accidents and malaria combined.

The prevalence of the issue, “means someone around you. A family member, a co-worker, a friend, or even yourself” has experienced this type of abuse, Secretary-General António Guterres said in his message to mark the Day.

“Sexual violence against women and girls is rooted in centuries of male domination”, he added, reminding the world that stigma, misconceptions, under-reporting and poor enforcement of laws perpetuate impunity in rape cases.

“All of this must change...now”, the

UN chief urged.

Damaging flesh, imprinted in memory

A third of all women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, half of women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family, and violence perpetrated against women is as common a cause of death and incapacity for those of reproductive age, as cancer, and a greater cause of ill health than road accidents and malaria combined.

To spotlight the scale of the problem, on this year's International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations is sharing the many ways in which the scourge manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, and the organisation is underscoring the life-altering, adverse consequences women suffer as a result.

- intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide);
- sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment);
- human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation);
- female genital mutilation
- child marriage.

The Declaration on the Elimination

of Violence Against Women, issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”, the UN highlighted on the Day.

Beginning Monday, and for the upcoming two years, the UN chief's UNiTe to End Violence against Women campaign will focus on the issue of rape as a specific form of harm, encouraging people to join the initiative and “Orange the World.”

UN Women's Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, expressed her concerns when it comes to rape specifically.

She said the end of the horrendous act would mean eliminating a “significant weapon of war from the arsenal of conflict”, the absence of a daily risk assessment for girls and women who actively work to avoid an incident that could leave them scarred.

“Rape isn't an isolated brief act. It damages flesh and reverberates in memory. It can have life changing, unchosen results – a pregnancy or a transmitted

disease”, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka stressed, adding that consequences of a one-time act can sprawl into damaging long-term effects.

“It's long-lasting, devastating effects reach others: family, friends, partners and colleagues”, she continued. ●

In addition, research by the World Health Organization (WHO), details disturbing impacts of violence on women's physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health:

Women who experience physical or sexual abuse are twice as likely to have an abortion, and the experience nearly doubles their likelihood of falling into depression. In some regions, they are 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV, and evidence exists that sexually assaulted women are 2.3 times more likely to have alcohol disorders.

More women abused than not, in US

Some national studies examining incidents in the United States show that up to 70 per cent of women have experienced physical and or sexual violence from an intimate partner, according to UN Women.

The agency cited that nearly a quarter of female college students reported having experienced sexual assault or misconduct in the US, but harm targeting women and girls knows no bounds.

Multi-country investigations by WHO show partner violence to be a reality for 65 per cent of women in some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, and around 40 per cent of women in South Asia, as well as Andean parts of Latin America.

Meanwhile, even in regions where incidents are less likely, as in East Asia and Western Europe, more than 16 per cent and 19 per cent of women have experienced intimate partner violence, respectively.

Psychological violence is another layer to the problem, with some 82 per cent of women parliamentarians in a recent study, reporting having experienced remarks, gestures, threats, or sexist comments while serving – most often via social media.

While gender-based violence can happen to anyone, women who identify with the LGBTI community, migrants and refugees, indigenous minorities, and those living

through humanitarian crises, are particularly vulnerable to gender-based harm.

“Almost universally, most perpetrators of rape go unreported or unpunished”, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka explained. “For women to report in the first place requires a great deal of resilience to re-live the attack...In many countries, women know that they are overwhelmingly more likely to be blamed than believed.”

Attacks targeting women continue to be an obstacle to achieving equality, and impede the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to leave no one behind.

Several public events are being coordinated for this year's International Day to commemorate the fight against gender-based violence, spotlighting rape specifically.

Criminalizing the offense, placing women in positions of power, and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, are some steps to increase accountability in incidents of sexual assault.

The effects of such violations suppress voices and traumatize, at “an intolerable cost to society”, said Mlambo-Ngcuka.

“No further generations must struggle to cope with a legacy of violation.”

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CURRENT NEWS

Mafia women entrepreneurs form association to address transport, other challenges

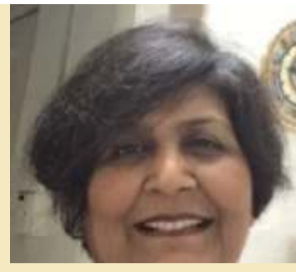
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Treasury Registrar sets record in 2018/19 with 552pc rise in collection of dividends

By Smart Money Reporter

ANUAL dividend and fees collections by Treasury from companies which have state shares have increased by 552 percent from 161.04bn/- in 2014/15 to 1.05trn/- to 2018/19 fiscal year.

Treasury Registrar, Athumani Mbutuka told President John Magufuli this week during a dividend handing over ceremony at State House in Chamwino that of the amount, 683.23bn/- which was collected during the year ending June 2019 was deposited in Treasury Registrar's account while 370.59bn/- was deposited directly into government's central account.

Mbutuka named Tanzania Ports Authority, Gaming Board of Tanzania, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation as parastatals that directly deposited their amounts in the government's central account.

"The non-tax income comes from divided, 15 percent contributions and social services payments," Mbutuka said while paying tribute to President Magufuli for spearheading a campaign to reclaim government shares at Usafiri Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (UDART), Airtel Tanzania, Acacia Mining Plc, Mecco Ltd, among others during the year.

He further noted that talks are going on at various other private companies to ensure that Treasury shares are returned or complete takeover of such institutions which



President John Magufuli greets Treasury Registrar, Athumani Mbutuka (R) at a past event. File photo.

had been usurped by dishonest investors. "Treasury Registrar's office has the re-

sponsibility to supervise performance at 266 public companies and institutions, fol-

low up efficiency at 341 agriculture estates, privatised companies and institutions after

the abolition of Consolidated Holdings Corporation," he noted.

The Treasury Registrar further noted that his office is poised to increase annual collections because the majority of the 266 companies in which the state has a stake are not paying any dividend nor submitting any contributions as required by signed contracts.

"The number of companies paying dividend and other contributions to Treasury remain dismal compared to their actual numbers in operation. Forty such companies and institutions out of 80 which are supposed to pay dividend failed to do so because of making losses or having very small capital," Mbutuka added while pledging to continue pressing managements and boards of the relevant institutions to deliver on their contracts.

Speaking after receiving the dividend, President Magufuli gave managements and boards of the non-performing state companies and institutions to pay up in 60 days or face the sack. "Under my administration, it will not be business as usual, parastatals and corporations that don't deliver will have their management teams and boards of directors dismissed.

Dr Magufuli warned that many state enterprises and privatised companies fail to pay dividend or any contributions to Treasury because of mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds which often benefit senior managers and board members.

Rise in digital mobile loans in Kenya leads providers of services into 'bugging' data

NAIROBI

A significant increase in digital loans in Kenya has resulted in some service providers extracting data from the mobile devices of unsuspecting customers in order to evaluate risk profiles.

A new report by finance and economy focused organisation FSD Kenya, established in 2005 by the UK's Department for International Development, titled Digital Credit Audit, said that the scraping of data from a users' phone strengthens the financial system through credit scoring.

An excerpt from the report reads: "A FinTech app-based lender without access to potential borrowers' financial data may require permissions for the app to scrape data from the borrower's phone, including reading messages with details of financial transactions."

It added: "The borrower's phone number, name, e-mail address, ID

or passport number are the most requested information during sign-up. Some lenders also require potential borrowers to provide income data such as employment status and monthly income, while others require borrowers to have a social media account."

SMSs, call logs, phone contacts and GPS locations was among the most requested data, according to the report. However, the report acknowledged that the use of this data could pose risks to the consumer. It explained that most consumers often do not know what data is being used, or how their data is being shared, and neither can they easily control how the data is used.

Shivani Siroya, the founder and chief executive officer of mobile lending company Tala says customer protection needs to be at the forefront for the industry to grow. "The way we design our product ultimately it's their (customers') decision.

They have to give us access to that information of their phones," said Siroya. "We then give the optionality to take it away."

She said that in addition to self-regulation by the 33 companies representing the industry, the government must move to support regulation and ensure the protection of client data. The FSD Kenya report urged an immediate introduction of regulation to protect customers and their data. "Inevitably, there have been growing calls to regulate the sector. Consumers have a collective interest in many elements of regulation," the report stated.

The Central Bank of Kenya has already published a draft mandate for credit sharing within the sector, a move the FSD Kenya has welcomed. The country has also passed the Data Protection Bill 2019 which will regulate how personal information is collected, processed and shared. The legislation is not yet enforced.



Shivani Siroya, the founder and chief executive officer of Tala.

Exxon Mobil considers selling \$25bn of assets to boost growth



Exxon Mobil's CEO, Darren Woods.

TEXAS

EXXON Mobil plans to sell up to \$25 billion of oil and gas fields in Europe, Asia and Africa in its biggest asset sales for decades, seeking to free up cash to focus on a handful of mega-projects, according to three banking sources.

The sell-off would be a marked acceleration of the US oil major's previous divestment plans.

It would represent an ambitious attempt by chief executive Darren Woods to catch up with competitors who carried out sweeping portfolio reviews and sold swathes of assets following the 2014 market crash.

Exxon's shares have underperformed its major rivals' in recent years. The disposals would help the company increase spend-

ing on new developments and appease investors unhappy with weak cash generation and oil output, which flatlined under Woods's predecessor Rex Tillerson.

The sales would see Exxon effectively quit its upstream oil and gas business in Europe, according to the three banking sources with direct knowledge of the plans. They would free up cash to invest in new developments in Guyana, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Brazil and the United States.

An Exxon spokesman declined to comment on specific assets offered for sale but noted it has told Wall Street its asset sales could reach \$25bn through 2025. Shares in the world's top listed energy company rose following the Reuters report and were up 1.5 per cent at 1816 GMT.

In recent months, the Texas-based company has drawn up an extensive list of as-

sets that it wants to divest, spanning at least 11 countries, the sources said. The list, details of which have not been previously reported, would easily exceed its current divestment target which envisages it selling about \$15bn of assets by 2021.

Exxon has struck a number of deals in recent months including a \$4.5bn exit from Norway, and is also already offering assets in Australia, Nigeria, Malaysia.

The expanded plan will see Exxon also sell out of operations in the British North Sea, Germany and Romania, according to the sources. In Europe, that would leave it with production only in the Netherlands, where it holds a stake with Royal Dutch Shell in the giant Groningen gas field which the government plans to shut down in 2022.

The new plan would also see Exxon significantly pare back operations in South-

east Asia with the sale of its assets in Indonesia and Malaysia, the sources said. In Africa, Exxon wants to sell its operations in Chad, Equatorial Guinea as well as parts of its Nigerian assets.

While Exxon is set to ramp up its spending sharply in the coming years to develop new oil and gas projects, most of its peers have more cautious spending plans due to an uncertain outlook for oil prices and growing pressure from investors to diversify away from fossil fuels towards renewables.

Exxon responded more slowly to the 2014 oil price crash than some of its rivals that sharply cut spending, putting it under pressure from shareholders to reduce costs. Exxon's shares heavily underperformed relative to other oil majors over the past five years.

Mafia women entrepreneurs form association mainly to tackle transport and other challenges



Sawama Facilitator Fatuma Mdoe explains how Reflection Action Cycle works for women on Mafia Island to a delegation of ActionAid Tanzania who visited the area last week. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon.

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

CRIPPLING transportation and other logistics hindering women entrepreneurs in Mafia district of Coast region access lucrative mainland markets in Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Lindi has forced them to form an association to address such bottlenecks.

Facilitator of Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia Association (Sawama), Fatuma Mdoe told a delegation of ActionAid Tanzania officials and journalists who visited the island district last week that their only means of reliable transport remains dhows and engine powered wooden boats with limited capacity.

"We have failed to exploit the lucrative Dar es Salaam market because of transport and logistics, the dhows and canoes are not reliable because of their capacity. Travelling between Mafia and Nyamisati in Rufiji district takes days," said Mdoe who explained that as a result, their merchandise which include traditional accessories, handcrafts, contain coconut oil, lotion and other cosmetics, are bulky hence attract huge fares.

The Sawama members who have benefitted from ActionAid Tanzania's Local Rights Program to build their entrepreneurial capacity, are requesting the government to speed up procurement of a ferry boat that will provide reliable transportation with the mainland.

"Our association was established so that as women entrepreneurs we can speak with one voice, share experience from different villages so that we can lobby

the government to improve on issues surrounding the doing business environment," she added.

Mdoe also said because of the poor capacity of the dhows and wooden boats, business women are sometimes stranded on high seas with broken down vessels which endangers their lives while damage their property.

"Although ActionAid Tanzania has trained us on entrepreneurship skills and how to produce high quality products free of charge, we are yet to benefit from the skills acquired because much of our earnings go to pay transport and district council taxes," she noted while revealing that most of the vessels are aged and dilapidated.

Giving an update of the ActionAid Tanzania backed LRP, Mafia, Project Coordinator, Samwel Mesiak said after successfully training the women on entrepreneurship skills through Reflection Action Cycle, the group's income generating activities are blossoming hence assisting to reduce poverty within their families.

"Under this project, women in Mafia have also started demanding their rights such as access to mar-

kets for their produce, a conducive environment to do their businesses, education and health services access to their families including girls," Mesiak said.

The project has also enabled the women actively participate in different committees at village and district levels where discussions on various development issues are held and often dominated by men.

He said because of the project, more parents on the island district are aware of equal rights among both genders with girls who were formerly married off after attaining puberty, now being allowed to pursue education up to university level.

"Child marriage have almost disappeared while domestic labour laws are now being strictly followed to prevent girls from dropping out of schools to get employed as house girls," he underlined.

Sawama has also established community structures involving school management committees and Boda boda ambassadors to spread the word. Boda boda riders have often been associated with giving teens girls pregnancy by luring them with free rides when coming or going to school.

Tigo customers keeping deposits in mobile wallets to win 20m/-

By Smart Money Reporter

TIGO Pesa subscribers who keep a minimum of 500/- in their mobile phone wallets stand a chance of winning up to 20m/- during the end of year festive season.

Tigo Tanzania Limited's Head of Core Products for Mobile Financial Services, James Sumari said during the launch of the 'Kishindo cha Funga Mwaka' campaign in Dar es Salaam this week said more than half a billion shillings will be won in 30 days of the exercise.

Sumari said during the one-month-long campaign covering December 2019, apart from the 20m/- grand prize, second and third runners up will take home 15m/- and 10m/- respectively while an additional eight lucky winners, will be awarded 5m/- weekly and another similar number pocketing 1m/- each daily.

"Customers should simply put or receive e-value (money) into their Tigo Pesa accounts through cash in from any Tigo Pesa agent, banks or other networks and they will automatically stand a chance to win," Sumari said.

He pointed out that the exercise is free to all Tigo Pesa customers except that they need to keep a minimum of 500/- in their mobile wallets but pointed out that the higher the value of deposits that one has, the

higher the chances of winning.

"We expect a total of 331 winners in the one-month duration of this campaign and the aim is to show gratitude to our customers for being with us throughout the year. We are delighted to once again offer our Tigo customers these prizes, which will enable them to enjoy the festive season as well as begin the New Year with a bang as they continue to benefit from our digital lifestyle

services," Sumari added.

Speaking at the same function, Tigo Pesa Manager for High Value Customers, Mary Rutta said the mobile money platform is more than a payment solution because of its fully-fledged service that among other things intends to empower customers by offering solutions that solve their financial needs.

"Tigo Pesa has continued its spirit of leading in innovation,

adding to its portfolio different products such as; loans, insurance, corporate solutions for collections and disbursements in the country," Rutta said.

According to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, Tigo Pesa is the second largest mobile service provider that boasts a network of over 150,000 agents and merchants country-wide.



Tigo's Head of Core Products for Mobile Financial Services, James Sumari and Tigo Pesa Manager for High Value Customers, Mary Rutta fielding journalists questions during the launch of the 'Kishindo cha Funga Mwaka' campaign in Dar es Salaam this week. Photo courtesy of Tigo.

Africa's start-up ecosystem is on the brink of massive growth

CAPE TOWN

THE growing number of start-ups securing major financial commitments sets the stage for an entirely new era of growth in the African venture capital industry.

This is according to Venture Capital for Africa (VCA) which, together with the African Business Angels Network (ABAN), recently hosted the sixth edition of the Africa Early Stage Investor Summit in Cape Town, South Africa.

Delegates agreed that Africa's start-up ecosystem is maturing. To-date in 2019, over US\$1-billion has been raised with 83 deals alone exceeding US\$1-million, and with 18% of those companies co-founded by women. "More women than in Silicon Valley," as VCA's Ben White pointed out in his opening keynote.

Key topics discussed included growing interest from foreign investors (and an increasing number of Chinese investors), start-up valuations becoming too high, entrepreneurs increasingly looking to international markets and whether or not entrepreneurs are really benefiting from the influx of funding.

Industry leaders challenged these topics while sharing insights and lessons learned from investing in the continent's top businesses. "... participants dove head-first into these and many more start-up ecosystem topics with African powerhouses like Pieter de Villiers, Eghosa Omoigui, Keet van Zyl, Rebecca Enonchong, Ido Sum, Lauren Cochran, Tomi Davies, Marième Diop, Johann Choux, Paul Cook, Yassine Oussaifi, Llew Claasen, Abu Bakr Cassim, Olivier Furdelle, Khaled Ismail, Ben White, David van Dijk and many others, leading the conversations," reads an excerpt from a statement released by the organisers.

Key takeaways from the Summit include: The number of women (co-) founders are on the rise at 18% in 2019; Africa's start-up ecosystem, as of 2018, is on par with Southeast Asia's of 2014, with major increase in early-stage investing expected; Ecosystem actors need to stop looking to Silicon Valley and create own ecosystem model and path for growth; African start-ups create social impact but investing for profit remains leading driver for investor participation; and Fund managers and investors need to play the long game to reap any returns while there is a need for more fund managers to enter the industry.

At the event ABAN announced its Catalyst initiative. Rebecca Enonchong, female founder and treasurer of ABAN, explained that the initiative, in partnership with Afrilabs and funded by the AFDB, will stimulate angel investing across the continent by matching investments up to €60K.

Enonchong said: "This mechanism helps build layers in the ecosystem and creates more pipe-line for investors since angels will be able to invest in more businesses." According to organisers the event attracted 330 investors from 35 different countries representing over 110 investor organisations.



Rebecca Enonchong, female founder and treasurer of ABAN.

Ramaphosa wants South African businesses to do more on apartheid legacy

PRETORIA

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa urged businesses to do more to end the legacy of apartheid and give black people a meaningful role in the economy, only a week after coming under fire for appointing a white man as head of the country's largest state-owned company.

"The significant progress that has been made in the public sector has not been matched by the private sector," the president said in his weekly letter to the country on Monday. "Business needs to urgently do some serious introspection. Our transformative agenda cannot succeed unless we work together to broaden the participation of all South Africans in our economy, and it begins in the workplace."

Ramaphosa's demand for greater inclusion comes after his government was criticised for naming Andre de Ruyter as chief executive officer of Eskom, the debt-stricken power utility. The company's two largest unions said the appointment is a setback to racial transformation, while the Economic Freedom Fighters, the second-largest opposition party, said the decision was a deliberate attempt to diminish the role Africans play in the economy.

"Redress continues to be a crucial pillar of government policy, whether it is in land reform, employment equity or in economic transformation," Ramaphosa said in Monday's open letter to the country. The upper echelons of management in private companies are still dominated by white men, although they make up just 5% of the economically active population, he wrote.

"Africans only make up 15% of top management, despite accounting for 79% of the economically active population," he said, citing a reported release by the Commission for Employment Equity in August.

Tanzanian engineer seeking 115bn/- for investing in low-cost LNG plant



Abraham Baisi at work in his simple office in Dar es Salaam during a recent interview with The Guardian. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

By Francis Kajubi

Tanzanian chemical engineer is seeking US\$50 million (over 115bn/-) to invest in a simple technology liquefied natural gas plant that will help serve domestic consumers with the energy source.

Iringa based founder and CEO of Syntroleum Petrochemical Group Limited, Abraham Baisi said he is currently US\$300,000 (over 690m/-) to hire a consultant that will prepare a bankable feasibility study to get a bank loan for the ambitious project.

Baisi said has come up with a cheap way of processing natural gas into LNG for use by households countrywide as international oil companies seeking to establish a US\$50 million LNG plant negotiate with the government on the massive investment.

He said the technology will allow construction of a single plant to convert natural gas into LNG for domestic and industrial use that can produce 320 tons of per week by using 1,440,000 standard cubic feet of methane. The plant will produce 1,280 tons of LNG per month and

15,360 tons per year.

"The formula that brought about this technology can be applied in production of massive LNG that can be supplied to households easily," said Baisi who said he has already been in touch with Prime Minister's Office and State House on the subject.

The 35 year old Tanzanian chemical engineer further noted that his proposed mini LNG plant will convert natural gas into LNG at low cost hence serve the majority of rural consumers who are currently relying on charcoal and firewood as key sources of energy.

"For example, if the government invests US\$250 million it will build five plants of that capacity. 15,360 tons of LNG that can be filled 30 kilograms gas cylinder that will total 1,024 cylinders. It means that 1,024 households will buy and use LNG cylinders a time," he added.

He said that he has already presented to President John Magufuli a concept note on the technology which he also presented to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Energy.

"I presented the concept note of the technology to the Parliamentary Energy Committee for two days last month and the response was positive so am hoping to get the assistance needed," Baisi added.

Through his new found technology, the founder and CEO of Syntroleum Petrochemical

Group Limited said it involves converting Methane which is the main component of the natural gas to HD5 grade Propane which is commonly known as the Liquefied Natural Gas.

According to him, the technology to convert Methane into Propane using a device called Fischer-Tropsch Chemistry Reactor is known as Steam Methane Reform. His company is licensed to conduct scientific research that brings in new technologies and insights that can help simplify access to gas and coal by consumers for energy sources.

After graduating with a Chemical Engineering degree at University of Nairobi in 2011, Baisi joined a six-month course at University of South Africa specializing in synthesis materials in 2012. In August 2012 he returned to Tanzania and started his lab scale research to establish a formula for converting Methane to Propane that lasted in 2017.

From that lab scale research Baisi produced 1200 grams (1.2 kg) of HD5 grade Propane which was converted into 205 cubic meters of Methane obtained from processing 500 kg of wood dust for 21 days using a device called anaerobic digester. With over 54 trillion standard cubic feet of natural gas, the country stands a better chance to benefit from Baisi's innovation if put into practice.

Financial companies can boost revenue by \$700bn with better products for women

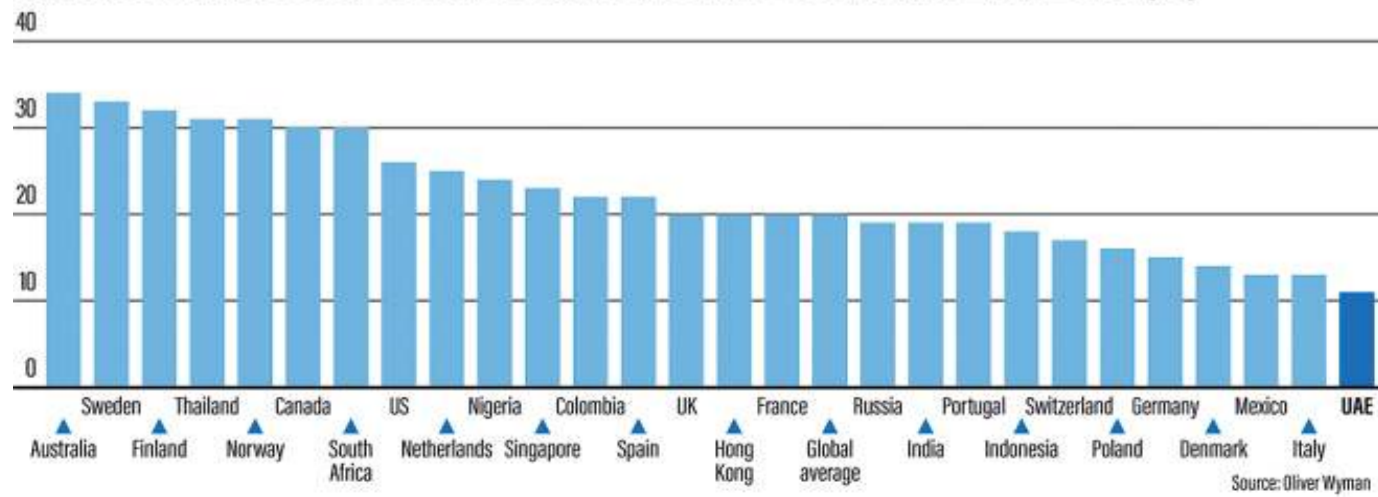
LONDON

FINANCIAL services firms can capture more than \$700 billion in additional annual revenue by serving women better – an estimate greater than the annual proceeds of the world's largest financial institutions, according to global management consultancy Oliver Wyman.

To tap the unrecognised revenue, companies must understand women's needs and create wealth products and services tailored to those requirements, rather than treat the gender as a single customer segment, according to the consultancy's Women in Financial Services 2020 survey. Current products are not consistently designed for women and those that appear gender-neutral are slanted towards male customers, the report found.

"Women are arguably the single largest underserved group of customers in financial services. Despite playing increasingly influential roles as buyers of financial services, their needs are not consistently being met," said Jessica Clempner, principal and lead author of the report. "Firms are leaving money on the table by not listening to and understanding their women customers."

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, 2019 (%)



The proportion of women on executive committees has increased to 20 per cent in 2019 from 16 per cent globally in 2016, the study said, with the percentage of women on boards reaching 23 per cent, an increase of 4 per cent since 2016.

Gender balance in the workplace is a global issue with narrowing the gender pay gap, combating discrimination and rolling out flexible working policies key issues. In the UK, for example, April 2017 regulations require companies with more than 250 employees to report their gender pay gap figures.

Two years of reporting has seen the gap shrink slightly to 9.6 per cent from 9.7 per cent, but almost eight in 10

companies still pay their male employees more, according to UK government figures published in April.

However, there is still work to do globally with 19 per cent of financial services firms' executive committees still made up entirely of men along with 15 per cent of boards. Chief executive and chair representation figures also remain far too low, at 6 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, said Oliver Wyman.

It means as well as creating suitable products and services for women, firms must also take a broad approach towards gender diversity to ensure "meaningful progress" in the workplace, the report found, with supervisors and

shareholders increasingly applying pressure on firms to drive better returns through diversity and inclusion.

In the UAE, for example, the government made gender balance a national priority. Last year the UAE cabinet endorsed a bill ensuring equal pay for men and women. Currently in 46th place in the United Nations Development Programme's Gender Inequality Index, the UAE aims to be one of the world's top 25 countries for gender equality through its Vision 2021.

"Here in the Middle East, we are seeing progress, but there is a lot more that can be done to ensure steps are being taken by companies to improve regional diversity and inclusion," said

Jeff Youssef, partner, public sector, Oliver Wyman.

"Private and government sectors must come together to deliver the next wave of change by applying frameworks that drive a much broader approach to gender balance. We know that when gender balance is at the core of a firm's business strategy there is a far greater chance of delivering better business outcomes."

Australia leads the way with 38 per cent of executive committees made up of women, followed by Sweden at 33 per cent and Finland at 32 per cent.

The UAE featured high on the list compared to other Gulf countries with a percentage of 11 per cent.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Handling diabetes

CORPORATE WELLNESS

By Bhakti Shah,

DIABETES refers to a condition that affects how your body uses blood sugar (glucose). Glucose is vital to your health because it is an important source of energy for the cells that make up your muscles and tissues. It is also your brain's main source of fuel.

The underlying cause of diabetes varies by type. But, no matter what type of diabetes you have, it can lead to excess sugar in your blood, resulting in serious health problems.

Type 1 diabetes can develop at any age, though it often appears during childhood or adolescence. Type 2 diabetes can develop at any age, though it is more common in people older than 40.

To understand diabetes, we must understand how glucose is normally processed in the body.

• Insulin is a hormone that comes from pancreas - a gland situated behind and below the stomach:

• The pancreas secretes insulin into the bloodstream

• The insulin circulates, enabling the sugar to enter your cells.

• Insulin lowers the amount of sugar in your bloodstream

• As your blood sugar drops, so does the secretion of insulin from your pancreas.

• Glucose - a sugar - is a source of energy for cells that make up muscles and other tissues.

• Glucose comes from two major sources - food and your liver

• Sugar is absorbed into the bloodstream, where it enters cells with the help of insulin

• Your liver stores and makes glucose.

• When sugar levels are low, such as when you haven't eaten in a while, the liver breaks down glycogen into your glucose to keep your glucose level within a normal range

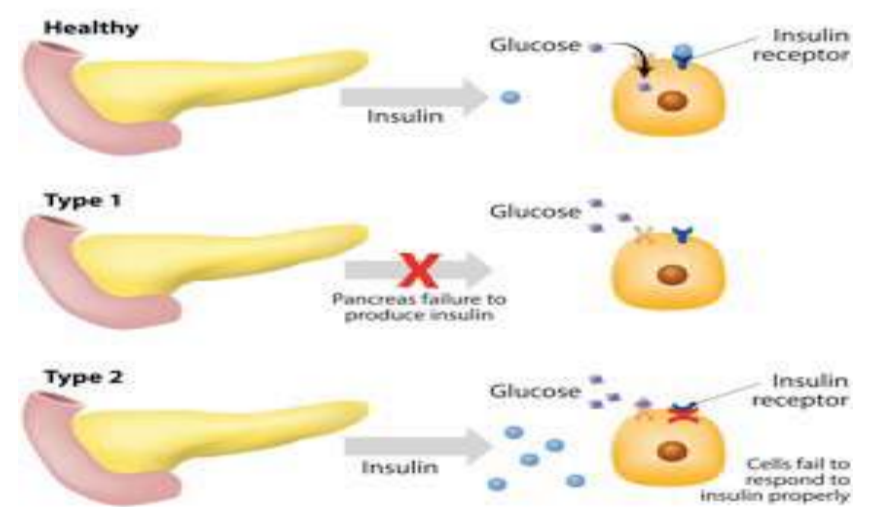
Causes of Type 1 diabetes - The exact cause of type 1 diabetes is unknown. What is known is that your pancreas does not produce insulin and therefore, sugar builds up in your bloodstream.

Type 1 is thought to be caused by a combination of genetic susceptibility and environmental factors. Weight is not believed to be a factor in type 1 diabetes.

Risk factors for Type 1 diabetes are

- Family history
- Environmental factors
- Presence of damaging immune system cells - autoantibodies
- Geographical location

Causes of pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes - In prediabetes - which can lead to Type 2 diabetes, your cells become resistant to the action of insulin, and your pancreas is unable to make enough insulin to overcome this resistance. Instead of moving into your cells where it is needed for energy, sugar builds up in your bloodstream.



Being overweight is strongly linked to Type 2 diabetes, but not everyone with type 2 diabetes is overweight.

Risk factors for Type 2 Diabetes

- Weight
- Inactivity
- Family history
- Race - black, Hispanic, American Indian or Asian are at increased risk.
- Age
- High blood pressure
- Gestational diabetes
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCO)
- Abnormal cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

Causes of Gestational Diabetes - During pregnancy, the placenta produces hormones to sustain your pregnancy. These hormones make your cells more resistant to insulin. Normally, your pancreas responds by producing enough extra insulin to overcome this resistance. But sometimes, your pancreas can't keep up. When this happens, glucose is not absorbed by the cells and too much stays in blood, resulting in gestational diabetes.

Risk factors for gestational diabetes

- Age: Women >25 years are at increased risk
- Family or personal history
- Overweight
- Race - black, Hispanic, American Indian or Asian are at increased risk.

Complications:

Long-term complications of diabetes develop gradually. The longer you have diabetes - and the less controlled your blood sugar - the higher the risk of complications. Possible complications include:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Nerve damage
- Kidney damage
- Eye damage
- Foot damage
- Skin conditions
- Hearing impairment
- Alzheimer's disease
- Depression

Prevention

Type 1 diabetes can't be prevented. However, the healthy lifestyle choices that help treat prediabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes can also help prevent them:

- Eat healthy foods
- Get more physical activity
- Loose excess weight

Medication is an option - however, the healthy lifestyle choices remain essential. Have your blood sugar checked at least once a year to check that you have not developed type 2 diabetes.

Reply back to bhakti@impactafya.com or call +255 754 694 643 with your feedback. We welcome your suggestions for corporate wellness tips you'd like to see covered in our future columns.

Bhakti Shah, MPH is the Founder and Managing Director of Impactafya Ltd, collaborating with Workplace Options and Mayo Clinic, USA to provide Corporate Wellness and EAP Solutions in East Africa. Bhakti is also the Advisor for the Africa Business Portal and the Past President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania.

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WORLD

Britain is a dangerous mess - former PM Blair

LONDON

FORMER prime minister Tony Blair said yesterday that Britain was in a dangerous mess and that neither his own Labour Party nor Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives deserved to win a Dec. 12 election.

Britain is holding an election three years ahead of schedule because parliament was deadlocked over Brexit, unable to agree on how or even whether to leave the European Union. "We're a mess," Blair said at a Reuters Newsmaker event. "The buoyancy of the world economy has kept us going up to now, but should that falter, we will be in deep trouble."

Blair, Labour prime minister from 1997 to 2007, said both major parties were peddling fantasies, adding that if

the opinion polls were accurate, Johnson's party looked likely to win a majority.

Blair, the only Labour leader to win three elections, said his party was now controlled by its "Marxist-Leninist wing" and that its leader Jeremy Corbyn was promising a revolution.

"The problem with revolutions is never how they begin but how they end," said Blair. "The problem with revolutions is that they always end badly."

"The truth is: the public aren't convinced either main party deserves to win this election outright."

The Dec. 12 vote presents a stark choice between a socialist-run state under Labour, which is offering a second referendum on leaving the EU, and the free-market Conservatives,



Former prime minister Tony Blair

who want to "get Brexit done" by the end of January.

RISK OF NO-DEAL BREXIT

Blair, an opponent of Brexit, argued for a second referendum on the decision to leave, saying it would need to be followed by another general election.

Johnson has pledged to take Britain out of the EU by Jan. 31 if he wins a parliamentary majority and then to negotiate a comprehensive deal with the bloc covering trade and future relations during a transition period due to end next December.

Blair cast doubt on that timetable and said there was still a risk that Britain could exit the

EU in a year's time without having struck a deal with its biggest trading partner.

"No-deal Brexit is not off the table," Blair said. "This negotiation (on the future relationship) has no chance of being concluded in that transition period."

Blair said he did not know whether Labour, which has tacked sharply to the left under Corbyn, would ever return to the center ground of British politics, but added: "We must set about the urgent task of reconstructing the sensible mainstream of British politics."

"Otherwise, this laboratory experiment in populism running riot will end very badly for our nation."

Agencies

Senior Democrat says next step underway in Trump impeachment probe

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC U.S. lawmakers have begun the next step in the impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump - writing a report on their findings - but still could take more testimony and hold additional hearings, the chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee said on Sunday.

Representative Adam Schiff, whose committee is leading the inquiry that threatens Trump's presidency, said the panel has started work on the report after two weeks of public hearings with testimony from current and former U.S. officials. The panel has held five public hearings and has no more scheduled.

The report is an important step toward a possible vote in the Democratic-led House on articles of impeachment - formal charges - against the Republican president.

If those are approved, the Senate, controlled by Republicans, would then hold a trial on whether to convict Trump and remove him from office. Republicans have shown little inclination toward removing Trump, who is seeking re-election

in 2020.

The inquiry centers on a July 25 phone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate political rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden as well as a discredited conspiracy theory promoted by Trump that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Hunter Biden had worked for Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company.

"We don't foreclose the possibility of more depositions, more hearings. We are in the process of getting more documents all the time. So that investigative work is being done," Schiff said on CNN's "State of the Union."

"What we're not prepared to do is wait months and months while the administration plays a game of 'rope a dope' in an effort to try to stall. We're not willing to go down that road," Schiff said.

Democrats have accused Trump of abusing his power by pressuring a vulnerable U.S. ally to interfere in an American election by digging up dirt on his domestic political opponents. Biden is a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in the November 2020



Adam Schiff

election.

With the first party nominating contests set for February, "there's an urgency to make sure the election and the ballot box have integrity," Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell, an Intelligence Committee member, told the "Fox News Sunday" program.

Trump's administration has refused to provide documents requested by House Democrats and blocked witnesses from testifying, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former national security adviser John Bolton and acting

White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. The president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, also has refused to cooperate. Bolton and other officials have sought court rulings on whether they should comply with a congressional subpoena or honor the Trump administration's order not to testify, a process that could take months.

REPUBLICANS DEFEND TRUMP

Trump has said he did nothing wrong and dismisses the inquiry as politically motivated. Many Republi-

cans in Congress have rallied to his defense and assailed the Democrats leading the inquiry.

There were "no impeachable offenses" and no direct evidence against the president, Representative Elise Stefanik, a Republican Intelligence Committee member, told the Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures."

Schiff said the committee is learning more every day but the evidence already collected is so "overwhelming and uncontested" that Democratic lawmakers decided to begin writing a report on the findings for transmission to the House Judiciary Committee, which would draft any articles of impeachment.

"Even as we compile this report, even as we submit evidence to the Judiciary Committee, we're going to continue our investigation," Schiff said on NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

The Judiciary Committee could conduct more proceedings if needed, including hearings, that allow Trump and his counsel to participate. The panel would draft any articles of impeachment against Trump before they would go to the full House for a vote. **Agencies**

Xi, Abe hail mechanism on people-to-people exchanges

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent congratulatory letters yesterday on the first meeting of the China-Japan high-level consultation mechanism on people-to-people and cultural exchanges in Tokyo.



In his letter, Xi (pictured) noted China and Japan are close neighbors enjoying deep historical and cultural connections. In their exchanges lasting for more than 2,000 years, the two peoples have learned from each other, which has not only promoted their respective development, but also contributed to the progress of Asian civilizations.

The world has been going through profound changes unseen in a century, and humankind cannot address common challenges and strive towards a bright future without the power of culture, Xi said, adding people of all countries in the world should grasp and conform to the trend of the times and deepen exchanges to write a new chapter of human civilizations together.

Xi stressed that currently, China-Japan relations have been continuously improving. He said he hopes China and Japan can make good use of the mechanism to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges and foster better understanding between their people, so as to provide cultural and popular support for the building and development of China-Japan relations that fit the needs of the new era.

Abe, in his letter, said the high-level consultation mechanism is from a consensus he reached with Xi in their meeting in Osaka this June, with an aim of deepening mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples through broad exchanges.

Abe said he hopes the mechanism can consolidate the foundation of public opinion for the building of Japan-China relations that fit the needs of the new era, and contribute to opening up a new future for bilateral ties.

Xinhua

'US Senate's move further jeopardises Hong Kong'

LAST week the US Senate passed a controversial Hong Kong bill, which is bound to have an adverse impact on the restoration and stability in Hong Kong, as well as on the overall Sino-US relations.

The newly passed so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 requires the US State Department to conduct an annual review of Hong Kong's autonomy status, and links the US tariff status granted to the territory to that review.

A similar bill had already passed the House of Representatives. Next, the two chambers of US Congress need to reconcile the differences between the two versions of the bill and come up with a single version for President Donald Trump to sign.

The Chinese government has stressed on many occasions that Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs and the US Congress's interference in Hong Kong affairs is a blatant violation of international law.

Against the backdrop of continuing violence in Hong Kong, the US Congress's insistence on advancing this legislation sends the wrong message to Hong Kong rioters. As analysts have pointed out, it will only hinder the restoring stability in Hong Kong.

On Tuesday afternoon, before the Senate passed the bill, several senators spoke about the situation in Hong Kong. It is not hard to see from their statements that they have a complete selective blindness to what is happening in Hong Kong.

While throwing groundless accusations at Beijing, these senators completely ignored the rioters in Hong Kong who smashed and burned public property, and openly stood up for the violent forces in the city.

Over the past months, some US politicians, such as Florida Senator Marco Rubio, are keen to play up the current mess in Hong Kong.

Judging from their public statements, it is not hard to see that what they care more about is not how to restore stability in Hong Kong, but how to make political capital for themselves by playing the China hawk roles. Indeed, such a choice would be downright self-defeating.

Even inside the US, there are many analyses suggesting that Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act would also be a blow to the interests of US companies.

The pass of this Hong Kong bill also exposes a more serious problem. At present, there is a very strong political force in the United States whose handling of the relationship between China and the US is full of ideological prejudice.

People's Daily

Putin calls United Russia a party that is not afraid of difficult decisions

MOSCOW

THE United Russia party has never been afraid of assuming responsibility and making difficult decisions necessary for the country, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the party's 19th congress on Saturday.

"The United Russia as the country's largest and leading political party - and it has acquired this status because it has always prioritized the protection of citizens' interests, the interests of our Motherland - has never been afraid of responsibility at the most complex twists of history, has always assumed and shouldered this responsibility and has not been afraid of difficult decisions that do not yield situational popularity and do not give extra points at

elections," the Russian president said.

Such audacity is needed to ensure the country's security, ensure the stable life of people for a long term, Putin said.

The Russian leader thanked the United Russia members for their joint work, substantive and active support. "The party has numerously displayed its willpower and proven its rightness, offered a unifying agenda based on the human's freedom and well-being, patriotism, our traditional values, a strong civil society and a strong state," Putin stressed.

National projects

He added, that the work on implementing national projects is the most important task for the United Russia



party.

"First of all, coherent and responsible work is needed for implementing the priorities of Russia's development. Now this is the most important task for

each of you, for your regional teams, for all who support the party," the Russian president said, addressing the congress delegates.

"I request you to concentrate on achieving tangible results under all national projects so that people can feel positive changes in their life and, importantly, can themselves participate in this joint work and see that all our joint efforts are aimed at positive and qualitative changes in the life of people," Putin stressed.

The main thing in the party's work is to be together with people and know in detail their needs and prob-

lems and respond to them immediately, the Russian leader stressed.

"It is only in the daily mode of communication with people that you will be able to confirm and strengthen your competence and will prove your leadership by your deeds, attention and the care about citizens," Putin said.

Speaking about the national projects, Putin stressed that people should themselves participate in this joint work to see that such efforts are aimed at positive and qualitative changes.

Agencies

Pope voices concern over future energy as he comforts victims of Fukushima disaster

TOKYO

POPE Francis expressed concern about future energy sources as he comforted victims of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster yesterday, noting a call by Japan's Catholic bishops to abolish nuclear power outright.

Around 18,000 people died or were classified as missing after the so-called Triple Disaster, when a massive earthquake set off a tsunami - in some places 30 meters high - destroying a wide swath of Japan's northeastern coast and triggering a nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

Radiation from the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl forced hundreds of thousands to flee the area

and thousands will never return.

"Important decisions will have to be made about the use of natural resources, and future energy sources in particular," the pope said in an address to survivors in downtown Tokyo.

"Until social bonds in local communities are re-established, and people can once more enjoy safe and stable lives, the Fukushima accident will not be fully resolved," Francis said.

"This involves, as my brother bishops in Japan have emphasized, concern about the continuing use of nuclear power; for this reason, they have called for the abolition of nuclear power plants," he said.

In a statement released following the Fukushima disaster, Japan's Catholic



Bishops Conference said the cessation of all nuclear power generation in the country was "imperative" given the country was disaster prone.

Resource-poor Japan has long pushed nuclear power as a solution despite being one of the world's most earthquake-prone nations. All nuclear power plants were shut after 2011 but several have since been re-opened.

Francis listened intently as Toshiko Kato, the head of a Catholic kindergarten in Miyako City, told him: "Along with the rest of the town, my home was swept away by the tsunami."

Several Japanese Catholic officials at the meeting said Francis had repeatedly expressed a desire to go to see the disaster zone first-hand, but scheduling would not permit the trip so they brought some survivors to Tokyo to meet the pontiff.

Teenager Matsuki Kamoshita, who

was eight years old at the time of the accident, said radiation was still being emitted and demanded the truth from adults about the long-term effects of radiation.

"It will take many times longer than my lifetime to restore the contaminated land and forests. So, for us who live there, adults have a responsibility to explain without concealing anything about radioactive contamination, exposure, and possible damage in the future. I don't want them to die before us, having lied or not admitting the truth," he said.

Despite the sombre nature of the meeting, held in a convention center in downtown Tokyo, a chamber orchestra played a tango in honor of the

Argentinian-born pope to greet him as he walked in and he later thanked them for it.

Francis, who is making the first trip by a pontiff to Japan since 1981, used visits over the weekend to the holy cities ever hit by atomic bombs - Hiroshima and Nagasaki - to underscore his campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. He reiterated his belief that their possession is indefensibly perverse and immoral and their use a crime against mankind and nature.

After meeting with the Fukushima survivors, Francis met with Emperor Naruhito. He is also scheduled to talk with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe later in the day.

Agencies



Copper concentrates imported from Chile are unloaded at a port in eastern China's Anhui province, Aug. 26, 2019. (File photo)

China's foreign trade remains stable

CHINA'S foreign trade volume expanded 2.4 percent year on year to 25.63 trillion yuan (about \$3.67 trillion) in the first 10 months of this year, with exports up 4.9 percent to hit 13.99 trillion yuan.

The country's foreign trade has maintained general stability, continuously optimized its structure and steadily improved its quality, despite the sluggish global trade and investment, as well as a development environment full of challenges and uncertainties.

Quarterly speaking, China's import and export volumes in the first, second and third quarters were 7.01, 7.66 and 8.24 trillion yuan respectively, and the scale increased quarter by quarter.

At present, China has trade relations with more than 230 countries and regions. In the first 10 months, its trade with Belt and Road countries totaled 7.47 trillion yuan, up 9.4 percent year-on-year, higher than the overall average.

"China has diverse trade partners, thus ensuring higher capability of risk resistance," said Liang Ming, director of the Institute of International Trade (IIT) under the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, a think tank with the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

China's foreign trade used to develop at double-digit growths, but now the speed has been lowered. In this regard, experts explained that the evaluation of foreign trade growth calls for not only domestic data but also global figures, not only the size but also the quality.

They believe that scientific and rational judgment can only be made in the context of global economy and based on the characteristics of foreign trade development in different phases.

Horizontally, China's foreign trade growth is still leading the world's major economies despite the slowdown of its import and export growth. The country has further consolidated its position as the world's largest trader of goods.

According to the information recently released by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the export performance of major economies in the first 8 months of this year, the exports of the US, Japan and South Korea were down by nearly 1 percent, 4.8 percent and 10 percent, respectively. The WTO also reported varying degrees of decline in the export of other important exporting countries.

However, China was the only country that has maintained growth. "The country's export volume is expected to take 13 percent of the global share this year," Liang said.

Comprehensively, the growth rate of China's foreign trade is slowed down, but the country has optimized its regional distribution, coordinated

export and import development, and granted a more important role to foreign trade in promoting high-quality economic development and meeting the people's needs for a better life.

Central and western China witnessed rapid growth of foreign trade, while consumer products, advanced technologies and equipment, and key parts were the sectors that saw expanded import.

"This demonstrates that China is continuously unleashing the potential of domestic demand, upgrading industrial structure and expanding the demand for high-quality products," said Fu Dahai, Associate Professor at the School of International Trade and Economics of Central University of Finance and Economics.

Although the growth rate of China's foreign trade has slowed down, relevant enterprises have gradually developed new competitive advantages by reducing costs, increasing R&D input, and implementing market diversification. As a result, Chinese brands are gaining an obviously larger share in the total export.

Liang believes that, the decline of China's foreign trade growth is an inevitable process in China's upgrade and optimization of market structure, and is in line with the characteristics of foreign trade development in different phases.

Thanks to the country's complete industrial chain and huge market, China's foreign trade remains constant transformation and upgrading.

Customs statistics show that in the first 10 months of this year, China's exports of value-added mechanical and electrical products increased significantly. Among them, the exports of electrical and electronic products stood at 3.73 trillion yuan, up 5.5%.

In addition, Chinese enterprises have accelerated the brand building process for their export commodities, as a result of which China's exports of domestic brands rose by 12.9% in the first three quarters.

Since this year, China's economy has maintained stable operation and achieved remarkable performance in the global context, laying a solid foundation for coping with external risks and challenges and realizing steady growth of foreign trade, said Li Kuiwen, spokesperson of China's General Administration of Customs.

Since 2018, Chinese authorities have twice cut taxes on imports and facilitated customs clearance, cutting the clearance time for imports and exports by 56.4% and 64.7% respectively in the first nine months compared with 2017.

"Policies had been introduced intensively to improve the quality of foreign trade, which played an important role in stabilizing and advancing foreign trade," Liang pointed out.

People's Daily

ROK PM calls for sincere talks with Japan to resolve disputes

TOKYO/SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK)'s Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon said yesterday that it was important for Tokyo and Seoul to hold sincere discussions in a bid to settle issues that both sides remain at odds over.

"It is necessary to hold sincere discussions to seek full-fledged resolutions over outstanding issues between the states," Lee (pictured) told political and business leaders from Japan and ROK in a message delivered at a meeting in Tokyo.

Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso, who serves as the chairman of Japan's committee, said that

it was important for promises to be kept and for both sides to be mindful of ties being handed over to future generations.

"Relations between Japan and South Korea are in the most severe situation. But we have to hand over ties our predecessors have established to the next generation," said Aso, who also serves as Japan's finance minister.

ROK is also referred to as South Korea. The remarks by Lee and Aso come



a day after Japan and ROK took fresh swipes at one another, raising questions about whether relations between the US allies would improve after they reached a last-minute deal on Friday to rescue an expiring intelligence-sharing pact.

Japan late Sunday rejected a ROK complaint over the wording of an announcement that the two sides would hold talks on a dispute over export controls. Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said on Twitter that the announcement was in line with prior discussions with ROK, after Seoul accused Tokyo of intentionally leaking and distorting information about the agreement. **Agencies**

Media mogul Bloomberg enters US presidential race, takes aim at Trump

WASHINGTON

BILLIONAIRE media mogul Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of America's largest city, jumped into the race for the Democratic U.S. presidential nomination on Sunday as a moderate with deep pockets unabashedly aiming to beat fellow New Yorker Donald Trump in the November 2020 election.

Bloomberg's belated entry into the race - just three months before the first of the state-by-state party nominating contests - reflects his skepticism that any of the other 17 Democratic candidates can unseat the Republican president.

"I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg, a 77-year-old former Republican, said in a statement launching his campaign.

"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," he said.

The move represents an about-face for Bloomberg, who had said in March he would not run for president. He will compete with former Vice President Joe Biden and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana to become the moderate alternative to liberal U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

Bloomberg, founder and CEO of prominent media company Bloomberg LP and a leading philanthropist, has a financial advantage over his Democratic rivals. It already is on display as he has spent at least \$31 million in television ads that will run in states across the country over the next two weeks, a campaign spokesman said.

He has won allies in the party with his advocacy and philanthropy on climate change and in fighting gun violence, pouring millions of dollars into groups pushing for more restrictive gun laws.



Bloomberg will face significant disadvantages because of his late start, which means he will be playing catch-up with rivals who have been putting together campaign staffs for months.

Ranked by Forbes as the eighth-richest American with an estimated worth of \$53.4 billion, Bloomberg joins activist Tom Steyer as the second billionaire to enter the Democratic race and will have the advantage of being able to self-finance his campaign and pour millions of dollars into advertising and hiring staff.

He announced earlier in November a \$100 million online ad campaign targeting Trump in four battleground states. "We do not believe that billionaires have the right to buy elections," Sanders said in a Twitter post on Sunday. "That is why multi-billionaires like Michael Bloomberg are not going to get very far in this election."

'I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES'

While some Democratic candidates had warned against making the election all about Trump, Bloomberg kept the focus squarely on the president, with whom he has been well acquainted

for decades. Trump was a notable New York real estate developer during Bloomberg's three terms as mayor from 2002 to 2013.

"I know what it takes to beat Trump, because I already have. And I will do it again," Bloomberg said, stressing his success as a self-made businessman who came from humble roots.

Bloomberg called himself a "doer and a problem solver - not a talker."

Bloomberg, who filed paperwork on Thursday with the U.S. Federal Election Commission to run for president, previously had filed paperwork to be eligible for the Democratic primaries in Alabama and four other states with early deadlines for ballot qualification.

To counter his late campaign start, he plans to pursue the unorthodox strategy of skipping the four states with early nominating contests in February, beginning on Feb. 3 in Iowa, and focus primarily on states that hold primaries and caucuses starting on so-called Super Tuesday on March 3.

Bloomberg already has come under fire from liberal critics who say he would be the wrong choice for a Democratic Party turning against corporate money in politics and dedicated to ending income inequality in America.

He apologized this month for New York's "stop and frisk" policy that allowed police to stop and search people on the street, which was decried by critics as racist for overwhelmingly targeting black men. Black voters are a critical Democratic voting bloc.

Bloomberg also has been mocked by some critics for attempting to ban sodas sold in cups larger than 16 ounces (473 milliliters) in an effort to reduce sugar consumption at a time of high rates of obesity in the United States. The proposal was struck down by New York courts.

Agencies

Russian senators call on parliamentary organizations to condemn blockade of Cuba

MOSCOW

THE Russian Federation Council (upper house of parliament) has approved a statement on solidarity with the Cuban people and on the prospects of development of bilateral relations, in which it called on international parliamentary organizations and other countries' parliaments to condemn the ongoing economic blockade of the republic.

"The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the parliaments of foreign states, the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Latin American Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the Mercosur Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Parliament to express their support for the Cuban people by condemning the economic, trade and financial blockade of the Republic of Cuba," the statement reads.

The Federation Council strongly condemns the destructive actions of the US against Cuba that have lasted for sixty years and represent "an act of economic aggression against the Cuban people." "Only in the last year, the damage from the embargo introduced by the US against the Republic of Cuba reached over 4 billion US dollars, while the total damage in all the years has reached nearly 1 trillion US dollars," the senators stated.

The Russian lawmakers are confident that unilateral sanctions bypassing the UN Security Council only aim to make the governments of sovereign states act in the interest of those introducing economic sanctions. "However, the example of unyielding Cuba inspires other states who fell victim to US economic aggression to resist and continue an independent political course. The neocolonial policy of economic coercion is unlawful and categorically unacceptable in the conditions of an emerging multipolar world. It is necessary to apply every effort to eradicate this anti-democratic practice violating human rights and freedoms from modern international relations," the statement stresses.

Agencies

Hong Kong bill will eventually bring disgrace to the US

THE "performance art" action of the United States Senate passing the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 is a joke.

The bill is cloaked in the rhetoric of "human rights" and "democracy". However, its purpose is to preach "democracy" for the rioters, defending their "right" to violence. It deprives the majority of Hong Kong residents of the right to live, express and work.

Due to violence, Hong Kong's economy experienced negative growth for the first time since 2009. The rioters and radicals paralyzed the city's traffic, set fire to facilities at universities, and caused the death of a 70-year-old street cleaner.

Violence is the enemy of Hong Kong. Over the past five months, violence has gone rampant as rioters and radicals vandalized public property, hurt and even killed civilians, assaulted Hong Kong legislators, and left a trail of fire around the city.

Turning a blind eye, individual US senators pushed for the bill, supporting the rioters. Talking about "democracy" and "human rights," they act on behalf of Hong Kong residents and defend their own "right" to point fingers at Chinese affairs.

The bill raises concerns about whether rioters could have access to the "right" to commit violent offenses, but pays no attention to whether Hong Kong residents could express their opinions freely, earn a living safely, and go to schools and work without fear.

Some US politicians claimed that violence in Hong Kong "is a beautiful sight to behold" and that they are obliged to bring "human rights" and "democracy" to Hong Kong. They seem to care about the city more than Hong Kong residents do.

Some US politicians claimed that violence in Hong Kong "is a beautiful sight to behold" and that they are obliged to bring "human rights" and "democracy" to Hong Kong. They seem to care about the city more than Hong Kong residents do.

For the international community, the bill is a farce in which the US justifies its wrongdoings under the banner of "human rights" and "democracy". One day, the show will come to an end, exposing to the world that the US is the black hand behind all chaos triggered by the revision of the extradition bill.

The Chinese government is determined to protect national sovereignty, security and development interests, implement the "one country, two systems" policy and oppose any external force interfering in Hong Kong's affairs.

People's Daily

US Navy chief fired over handling of SEAL saga involving Trump

WASHINGTON

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper fired the Navy's top civilian on Sunday over his handling of the case of a Navy SEAL who was convicted of battlefield misconduct in Iraq and later won the support of President Donald Trump.

Esper also determined that the sailor in question, Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, should be allowed to retain his Trident pin designating him as a SEAL - effectively ending the Navy's efforts to carry out a peer review that could have ousted him from the elite force.

Trump, who publicly opposed taking away Gallagher's Trident

pin and had intervened in the case to restore his rank, cheered the moves.

"Eddie will retire peacefully with all of the honors that he has earned, including his Trident Pin," Trump said on Twitter.

The fired Navy Secretary Richard Spencer last week suggested a possible split with Trump by telling Reuters that Gallagher should still face a peer review board.

The SEAL was acquitted by a military jury in July of murdering a captured and wounded Islamic State fighter in Iraq by stabbing him in the neck, but it convicted him of illegally posing with the detainee's corpse. That had led to his rank being reduced.

The White House said in November that Trump had restored Gallagher's rank and had pardoned two Army officers accused of war crimes in Afghanistan. Critics had said such actions would undermine military justice and send a message that battlefield atrocities will be tolerated.

In a letter acknowledging his termination, and seen by Reuters, Spencer (pictured) took parting shots at Trump and defended the need to preserve "good order and discipline throughout the ranks" - something Navy officials had believed the peer review board would help ensure.

"The rule of law is what sets us apart from our adversaries,"



Spencer wrote. "Unfortunately it has become apparent that in this respect, I no longer share the same understanding with the Commander in Chief who appointed me."

Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the U.S. Senate, commended Spencer for "standing

up to President Trump when he was wrong, something too many in this administration and the Republican Party are scared to do."

Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman offered a different version of events leading up to Spencer's dismissal, saying

Spencer also had a private line of communications with the White House.

"Secretary Spencer had previously and privately proposed to the White House - contrary to Spencer's public position - to restore Gallagher's rank and allow him to retire with his Trident pin," Hoffman said.

Spencer never informed Esper of his private proposal, Hoffman said.

Esper decided to ask for Spencer's resignation after "losing trust and confidence in him regarding his lack of candor over conversations with the White House," Hoffman said.

Esper had favored letting the review process "play itself out objectively and deliberately, in

fairness to all parties," Hoffman said. But that now appeared impossible.

"At this point, given the events of the last few days, Secretary Esper has directed that Gallagher retain his Trident pin," Hoffman said.

Trump said he would nominate the U.S. envoy to Norway, Ken Braithwaite, to replace Spencer as Navy Secretary.

In an appearance on Fox News Channel on Sunday, Gallagher indicated that he hoped to retire next Saturday, "without the board" convening to decide whether he could continue to be a SEAL, considered among the most elite of U.S. fighting forces.

Agencies



SportPesa Tanzania's Public Relations and Communications Manager Sabrina Msuya speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the company's promotion known as 'Cheza Bila Bando'. The promotion will make it easy for Vodacom and Tigo networks' subscribers to browse the gaming company's website and application free of charge. The promotion has specifically been introduced for this festive season. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

SportPesa launches new promotion

By Guardian Reporter

SPORTPESA has come up with a new promotion, known as 'Cheza Bila Bando', which will see Vodacom and Tigo networks' subscribers browse on the SportPesa's application and website without being compelled to pay for the service.

SportPesa Tanzania's Public Relations and Communications Manager Sabrina Msuya disclosed during the promotion's launch the Tigo and Vodacom networks' subscribers will enjoy a variety of sports events in the likes of netball, football, basketball, boxing, cricket, wrestling, handball, volleyball, rugby and tennis via SportPesa website by browsing free of charge. "We everyday come up with a variety of initiatives which will see to it our customers get entertainment, particularly

in making it easy for them to bet and afford internet connection costs, given we are in digital world," Msuya disclosed.

"The promotion's target is seeing to it one saves his or her bundle's use in betting, as well as giving our customers chance to browse our website free of charge during this festive season." "This is an opportunity for a Tanzanian and a sports follower to enjoy the promotion and browse free of charge, place bet."

"The customer will only be charged after he or she had placed bet."

The gaming company had in October this year handed over a brand new car, Renault Kwid, to Serengeti resident Yusuph Jackson (29) after he had emerged as the overall winner of the company's promotion, known as 'Faidika na Jero'.

Taylor Swift puts rancor aside, smashes all-time American Music Award record

LOS ANGELES

TAYLOR Swift took the high road as she won six American Music Awards on Sunday to surpass Michael Jackson's all-time record, avoiding any direct mention of a bitter dispute with her old record company.

Swift won the top award, artist of the year, and four others. She was also given an honorary artist of the decade award, taking her all-time total to 29 American Music Awards, organizers said. That easily outstripped the 24 awards picked up by Jackson.

"All that matters to me is the memories that I have had with you guys, with you the fans, over the years," Swift, 29, told the audience at the ceremony in Los Angeles after performing a medley of her old hits.

Swift had been expected to speak out about a long feud with record industry executive Scooter Braun, who owns the master recordings to her first six albums after Swift signed with a new label in 2018.

Swift accused Braun last week of refusing permission for her to sing songs from her back catalog at the awards show. The public spat culminated last week with Braun saying that his family had received numerous death threats after the pop singer urged her 122 million Instagram fans to let Braun "know how you feel about this."

But on Sunday, the "Fearless" singer made no mention of the dispute, although she opened her performance wearing a white shirt printed with the titles of her old albums.

"This year for me has been a lot. It's been a lot of good, it's been a lot of really complicated,"

she said, without elaborating. She beat Drake, Ariana Grande, Halsey and Post Malone as artist of the year.

Newcomer Billie Eilish, 17, took home two statuettes for best new artist and best alternative rock artist after a breakout year that saw her top the U.S. charts with her single "Bad Girl."

"You made it all happen," said Eilish, thanking her fans.

Eilish showed her support for environmental causes by wearing a T-shirt with the slogan "No Music on a Dead Planet" as she gave her first awards show performance with "All the Good Girls Go to Hell."

Selena Gomez kicked off the ceremony in her first live TV performance in two years after undergoing a kidney transplant in 2017 and battling anxiety and depression.

Body positive R&B singer Lizzo performed her new single "Jerome," and Cuban-born Camila Cabello and boyfriend Shawn Mendes sang their hit pop single "Senorita," which won the award for collaboration of the year.

British rocker Ozzy Osbourne, 70, who has been sidelined by serious health problems for a year, was mostly seated as he took to the stage with rappers Post Malone, Travis Scott and rocker WATT for their single "Take What You Want."

Punk rockers Green Day got the audience to its feet as they marked the 25th anniversary of their 1994 breakout album "Dookie."

Other performers included the Jonas Brothers, Kesha, Halsey, Christina Aguilera and Shania Twain.

REUTERS



Camila Cabello, Taylor Swift and Halsey perform during the 2019 American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, U.S. on Sunday. (Agencies)

Why Bongoland 'dance music' seems to be on oxygen

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

PUNDITS in the music industry and acknowledged experts, practitioners in its commercial side as well as veterans of all sorts of music patterns had a festival of sorts to exchange views on the state of music in the country, where it appears the crucial issue was what is happening to 'dance music.'

This expression is used apparently for lack of a better term as all music is about dancing - that there is no such thing as somber music to be listened upon rather than dance, with possible exception of funeral music. In the latter case people stand in one minute silence, total disconnect.

To be sure the matter was not new, but after the ground breaking public forum, there will be less itching to raise such and similar opinions in the grand public as it will be assumed that the issues are known anyway, if indeed earlier there was a feeling of being locked out in a sense.

Possibly all important actors in the music industry were present or in the wings, and the situation was so charged and involved that the ITV-Radio One-Capital Radio management decided to add an hour to the discussion, well beyond the usual allocated time. It means everyone must have been heard.

Or at least the major lines of argument, as there are as many opinions and variations of opinion as there are individuals, so the particular opinions could not all have been presented, but hardly a shade of opinion was missing from start to end.

Even the other sequence, of



Msondo Ngoma Music Band's singers put their skills to show in the band's recent show in Dar es Salaam.

opinions reacting to views and perspectives presented in the talk show there were plenty that same night, in which case most pundits and even routine enthusiasts will have a balanced view of things, as each one has had a missing portion beefed up. Exchange educates everyone to be balanced in perspective.

The crucial issues remained a pair, or say one issue was pivotal and the other was an accessory to critical defenses of the principal matter, namely the state of 'dance music' or say traditional jazz band music, though the words were scarcely spoken in the dialogue. It is routinely asserted that 'bongo flewa' music or rather hip hop kind of throb music has taken the stage so strongly that 'dance music' or jazz band musical artistry is bent on one knee, literally begging for audiences.

There is an auxiliary point in that assertion, namely that 'bongo flewa'

lacks ethics, ruins culture.

As to the last point, some strongly insisted towards the end of the show that producers care for the customer, that it is to them that products are styled, edited or synchronized, not to abstract ethical preliminaries that ought to inform all music industry products.

Two issues come up on this point, that 'dance music' fails because it doesn't cross ethical boundaries and thus those who dare to do so get the audiences as they tend to fill halls with mischief-minded youth, instead of the respectful adults of yesteryears, as it were. How far this is the case is debatable, in the least.

What though sparks the debate isn't ethics of local hip hop but its success in the face of the slumber of erstwhile jazz band music. There is a chasm between these types of music and their public performances, as

jazz band music has permanent or contracted staff members, all of them technicians in their given areas, playing this or that instrument or vocals. There is usually a bevy of showgirls to enliven the place, bring the crowd to their feet or at times move to give out cash.

It is this kind of adult music, group performance and staid culture of slow moving and thoughtful lyrics which were often punctuations of national life as a whole, whose fate is being quizzed. Not only did many performers of yesteryears slide into poverty in their old age - in like manner as soccer players, to be sure, and we ought not to forget a bevy of civil servants and political leaders - unlike the more enterprising musicians of later years.

They have indisputably individualistic performances where they need some backup but the songs are theirs, and often such back up is pieced together by the producer, leaving the musician starring on his own, stuffed up with cash.

It means that it isn't just musicians of the earlier period who give airs of having failed in life but really it is a specific format of doing things - collective music and dance hall based fans - vis a viz the more enterprising individual sort of performance albeit with auxiliaries, and on-line fan base for the better part.

Yet this isn't a hip hop vs adult jazz music per se but a Tanzanian sort of environment, as in DR Congo the best part of jazz music is in the past where they were legends locally and abroad. Tanzanian musicians lived with the general level of income, on a regular weekend-based earnings routine, and its group character doesn't allow real stardom, personalized earning s.



Youngsters, who took part in the Children Shaolin Kung-Fu (CHISHAKU) training, pictured after the completion of the training's 12th examination which took place at Ardhri University sports ground in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Master Hussein Hwago (Standing 3rdR) and Jimson Mwasoye (R) conducted the training. PHOTO: GUARDIAN STAFF

Nadal delivers glory for Spain as Davis Cup starts new era

MADRID

SPAIN'S talisman Rafael Nadal sealed a sixth Davis Cup title for his country on Sunday when they beat Canada 2-0 in the final of the revamped event.

After a week of relentless tension and late-night heroics it was perhaps asking too much for the first final in the Davis Cup's new guise to deliver a classic and so it proved as Spain became the last nation standing of the 18 who assembled in Madrid.

With Spain's King Felipe watching on, the 33-year-old Nadal fought off Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov 6-3 7-6(7) to give Spain their first title since 2011.

If any player deserved to get his hands on the famous old trophy again it was Nadal after he worked overtime all week, often into the small hours, to win all eight matches he played.

But he surely would have been happy had it been team mate Roberto Bautista Agut to have delivered the winning point.

Bautista Agut had given the hosts a flying start, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6(3) 6-2 after returning to the squad following the death of his father.

"An amazing week in every way," said Nadal, who has now won 29 successive Davis Cup singles matches since 2004. "The vital person has been Roberto Bautista."

After beating Auger-Aliassime, Bautista Agut was embraced by his captain Sergi Bruguera and there were emotional scenes at the end as roars of "Campeones" echoed around



The Spanish team poses with the trophy after Spain defeated Canada 2-0 to win the Davis Cup final in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019. (AP Photo)

the arena.

"It was a dream day and all the team members have made an incredible effort, especially Rafa, going to sleep at three, four and five in the morning and the next day going out to play," Bautista Agut said. "It can only be because we are Spanish."

SHAKIRA SINGS

For Gerard Pique, the Barcelona soccer player who has made revamping the Davis Cup into a tennis World Cup his mission, it was the perfect climax to a week in which the new format suffered glitches but could be judged a qualified success.

Too many late nights, one session finishing at 4.07 a.m., a complicated group stage and tiny crowds at some times mean there is still lots to improve if the \$80 million Pique's Kosmos company is investing in the event each year is sustainable.

But Sunday felt like an authentic Davis Cup final, even if an appearance from Pique's pop singer wife Shakira added a little more glamour than usual.

Once the tennis began it quickly became apparent that Canada captain Frank Dancevic's decision to change his lineup for the first time all week might have backfired.

Vasek Pospisil, ranked 150, had been outstanding all week, beating Italy's 12th-ranked Fabio Fognini and American Reilly Opelka in the group phase, taking down Australia's John Millman in the quarter-finals and partnering Shapovalov to a deciding doubles victory over Russia in the semi-final.

Auger-Aliassime, who has been out with an ankle injury, was given his first call of the week but was outplayed by a rock-solid Bautista Agut, who rejoined the squad on Saturday.

That left Shapovalov seemingly facing mission impossible and his only chance was Nadal's tank being dry.

Having come this far there was no chance Nadal would falter - not with 25,000 Spaniards roaring at every whipped winner.

When he took the opening set with a single break it was all feeling a little anti-climatic for the neutrals but Shapovalov injected some late drama into the proceedings.

The Canadian's serve began to click and his groundstrokes finally took the zip out of Nadal's legs.

Incredibly Nadal showed mercy at 6-4 in the tiebreak, failing to put away a short forehand, and Shapovalov arched a winner down the line. The Canadian, cheered on by hundreds of his countrymen, saved another match point then had a set point of his own but Nadal averted the danger with a heavy serve.

Nadal got to a third match point and this time Shapovalov could not fight back.

REUTERS

Defiant Bale down but not out at Real Madrid

MADRID

WHEN Zinedine Zidane dropped Gareth Bale for a Champions League game against Paris Saint-Germain last year, Bale believed it was the beginning of the end at Real Madrid.

Two seasons on he remains but Madrid face PSG again at the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday, with the Welshman's future still in doubt and his standing among the fans perhaps never lower.

Madrid's two last 16 legs against PSG in the Champions League in 2018, towards the end of Zidane's first spell as coach and en route to their third consecutive European triumph, marked a turning-point between Bale and his coach.

By leaving him out, Zidane's message was clear: he did not trust Bale in the biggest matches. The pair hardly spoke for the rest of the season, even as Bale scored twice as a substitute in the final against Liverpool.

Bale was set upon leaving that summer, only for Zidane to go instead, and while Bale stayed, Zidane came back and their relationship has been frosty ever since.

But in the last few weeks, as Bale's behaviour has wavered and the criticism increased, Zidane has become his staunchest defender.

When Bale returned to London to visit his agent earlier this month, Zidane said he had permission to go. When Bale joined up with Wales despite missing six Real Madrid games through injury, Zidane said it was bad timing.

And when Bale celebrated behind a flag that put his club lower down his list of priorities than his country and playing golf, Zidane urged the fans to remember his achievements. "Too much noise".

"I have said before, we need our fans with us," said Zidane after the game on Saturday.

"There's a lot of noise, too much. He wants to be with us and do well and he's done that. Talk, talk, talk, it's not necessary. He's a big part of the group and we are together."

Zidane's pleas had fallen on deaf ears not long before, when the screeching whistles at the Bernabeu were loud enough to conclude the majority of fans were unimpressed and wanted to make their point.

AFP

Guardiola: Prem title not important this season

LONDON

PEP Guardiola has said it is not important whether or not Manchester City win the Premier League title this season and the only demand on his team is that they push Liverpool as far as they can.

City remain nine points behind leaders Liverpool after a 2-1 win over Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday. Guardiola is searching for a third successive Premier League success but lifting the trophy again is not the Spaniard's main concern.

"I think it's not a good message for society, for our kids, for our teenagers, showing them that just the winner is perfect," Guardiola said. "We are creating a depressed people, loser people."

"It is not. Important is the effort, the

commitment, the situation. In football I know we want to win but just win once and the other is disaster? It's not, it doesn't work in that way. That's why I said to the players relax, do your job, we will see in December, January, February, March and we will see what position we are in.

"If the position is far away, OK it's far away. We are going to try again next season."

There has been speculation Guardiola could quit as City boss at the end of the season, although last week the 48-year-old moved to quash the rumours and said he wants to stay. But as City attempt to chase down Liverpool, the one caveat to that, according to Guardiola, is if his players throw in the towel over the remaining six months of the campaign. (Agencies)

Man United comeback 'beyond tactics' - Solskjaer

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer was proud of Manchester United's valiant comeback at Sheffield United on Sunday, telling reporters that last year's team would not have produced such a strong response after going down 2-0 early on.

Quickfire strikes from Brandon Williams, Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford had United improbably in front, 3-2, with a little over 10 minutes to go but a stoppage-time Oliver McBurnie equaliser ensured a deserved point for the hosts in the end.

Asked what sparked his team's fight after a dismal first half, Solskjaer told Sky Sports: "Sometimes football is beyond tactics. The energy compared to ours in the first half and then we get that goal and we start to believe. The difference in the team this year compared to last is huge. They never give in. Last year we would have gone four or five down instead of coming back. We

would not have been able to come back."

United looked listless in the opening 45 minutes and were lucky not to be down by more than two goals at half-time. But young academy products Williams, Greenwood and Rashford helped spark United back to life. "Sheffield United looked like they wanted it more than us and believed in their game plan more than we did. We did not have a shot on target first half which is not acceptable," Solskjaer said.

He added: "When you are 2-0 down you have to go for it, play with less fear and just go for it. The average ages of the goals is less than 20, it's something we are proud of. It's a great experience for our young players because it's not easy to comeback at a place like this." "It shows the quality that you can score 2-0 in a match and we didn't really perform. We were lacking in physicality in midfield today but the boys fought back and never gave in." (Agencies)

Mourinho back in Champs League, on charm offensive at Spurs

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho's charm offensive has been in overdrive during his whirlwind first few days at Tottenham.

He has lauded Tottenham's training complex as being "second to none" and without comparison across Europe "at any level." He says he has slept in the club's pajamas at its on-site hotel which he rates as "six star," with its "soft pillows, amazing duvet."

Now it's time for a first taste of Tottenham Hotspur Stadium – "the best stadium in the world," he has purred – as Mourinho continues his quest to win over fans who might still be skeptical about his appointment.

Getting the team through to the knockout stage of the Champions League wouldn't do him any harm in the ingratiation process.

Three days after guiding Spurs to a Premier League victory at West Ham in his first match since replacing Mauricio Pochettino, Mourinho will take charge of them in a home match for the first time when Olympiakos visits Tuesday in the Champions League.

A victory guarantees progress out of Group B alongside Bayern Munich with a game to spare.

It would complete a decent week's work for Mourinho as he attempts to rebuild his coaching reputation after a fractious, and ultimately disappointing, 2½ year spell at Manchester United that ended almost 12 months ago.

The Portuguese coach hugged his players and kept a respectful distance from the traveling Spurs fans while he celebrated the 3-2 win against West Ham on Saturday. It might take some time for them to accept Mourinho and take him to their hearts, especially considering the work Pochettino did in raising standards at Tottenham – even getting the team to a Champions League final last season when it lost to Liverpool.

Mourinho has done that with Porto and Inter Milan, winning the title match on both occasions, so is seeking to become the first manager to win European club soccer's biggest prize with three different clubs – all from different countries. None of them could be classed as modern-day continental heavyweights, either, making that achievement all the more impressive.



Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho embraces Toby Alderweireld after the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham and West Ham, at the London Stadium, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019. (AP)

The closest he has come to winning the Champions League since that 2010 triumph with Inter was a trio of semifinal appearances – all with Real Madrid – in 2011, '12 and '13. He got Manchester United out of its group last season, only to get fired before the knockout stages even began.

If he was happy to be back in the Premier League – his "natural habitat," he called it – at the weekend, imagine how he will feel making a return to the Champions League arena.

Three teams have already qualified after four of the six rounds of games: Bayern, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus.

RESTED RONALDO

Seeking a win to advance along with Juventus in Group D, Atletico Madrid is well aware of the dangers of a rested Cristiano Ronaldo. Ronaldo took some time off before the second leg of the last 16 in the Champions League last season and responded with a hat trick against the Spanish team as Juventus overturned a 2-0 deficit. Ronaldo was rested again at the weekend, for Juve's 3-1 win at Atalanta, as he continues to recover from a knee injury.

Ronaldo showed little sign of any problem while playing for Portugal in the recent European Championship qualifiers, scoring a hat trick in one match and also netting in another.

Juventus is looking to secure top spot in

the group with a win on Tuesday.

FAVRE UNDER PRESSURE

Borussia Dortmund coach Lucien Favre has little room for error ahead of the side's trip to Barcelona on Wednesday.

A win would put the German side, which is a point behind first-place Barca in Group F, through to the knockout stage, but the manner of Dortmund's performance will have a big say in Favre's future.

Dortmund fans reacted with fury after a 3-3 draw with last-place Paderborn in the Bundesliga on Friday, berating the players after their latest lackluster performance in a signal that their patience is wearing thin.

Barcelona can seal first place in the group with a win.

REAL REVENGE

Real Madrid can qualify from Group A – and gain a measure of revenge – by beating PSG on Tuesday. PSG overwhelmed Madrid 3-0 in Paris in September, a result that left Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane under some pressure.

"We're in better shape," said Zidane, whose team is only behind Barcelona in the Spanish league on goal difference. "We had a tough game in Paris, but that's in the past."

Group C leader Manchester City will advance by beating Shakhtar Donetsk at home on Tuesday. Liverpool has a one-point lead over Napoli heading into their meeting Wednesday in Group E, in which Salzburg is a further four points back before its game against out-of-contention Genk. In Group H, Ajax, Chelsea and Valencia are all on seven points. Valencia hosts Chelsea on Wednesday, when Ajax travels to Lille.

In Group G, Leipzig and Lyon can advance by beating Benfica and Zenit St. Petersburg, respectively, on Wednesday.

AP

Tottenham banking on Mourinho recovering golden touch in Europe

LONDON

TOTTENHAM turned to Jose Mourinho to try and maintain their status as a Champions League club, but a terrible start to the Premier League season leaves the Portuguese with a mountain to climb either domestically or in Europe.

Mourinho's appointment was not a universally popular one with the Spurs' support given his past as a two-time Chelsea manager.

He managed to make the right first impression by securing Tottenham's first away win in the Premier League since January with a 3-2 victory at West Ham on Saturday that was far more comprehensive than the scoreline suggested.

A vital three points cut the gap between Mourinho's men and the top four to nine points, but strong starts from Liverpool, Leicester, Manchester City and Chelsea mean one of them will have to falter significantly in the coming months to open the door to Spurs.

The fact that Mourinho's deal signed last week reportedly contains a £2 million bonus for making the top four is an illustration of how tough a task it will be.

Could winning the Champions League for the first time in the club's history actually be Spurs' best way to secure the riches and prestige of Europe's premier club competition for a fifth consecutive season?

Under Mauricio Pochettino, who was sacked after five-and-a-half years in charge last week, Tottenham improved each year in Europe and last season fell just one hurdle short after a dramatic run to Champions League final.

Despite their dreadful domestic form and a 7-2 thrashing at home to Bayern Munich last month, Pochettino left with his side well-placed to reach the last 16 once more.

Victory over Olympiakos in Mourinho's home debut on Tuesday will secure their passage into the knockout stages.

"I think we can go and win that match at home and qualify in the Champions League," said Mourinho, who has a proud record of always qualifying from the Champions League group stages in spells as Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Manchester United.

A rejuvenated Spurs could certainly cause problems for some of Europe's more fancied sides come the new year as they showed in shocking City and Ajax on their way to last season's final.

- Negative approach -

Mourinho labelled himself "humble" on his return to management after 11 months out of the game last week, but was quick to point out in his first media briefing that, unlike Tottenham, he had never lost a Champions League final.

He has lifted the trophy twice, with Porto and Inter, but the second of those successes came 10 seasons ago and there are questions over whether he is still the man to deliver Champions League glory.

The 56-year-old has failed to win a single knockout tie in the Champions League over the past five years.

The nadir of that run came when the negative approach that has often characterised Mourinho's



Jose Mourinho

sides came undone for Manchester United against Sevilla in the last 16 of the 2017/18 season.

That style contrasts sharply with the thrilling comebacks away from home that carried Spurs to the final in June as they scored three times in Manchester and Amsterdam.

"Before teams just defended and used the counter-attack, now most of the teams have

the courage to play," said City manager Pep Guardiola, after seeing a fearless Chelsea under Frank Lampard go to the Etihad and have secure more possession than the English champions on Saturday.

"Young managers, they have nothing to lose, go forward and that's why the football is nice."

Attack has tended to beat defence in the latter stages in recent years with attack-

minded Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Liverpool the only sides to lift the Champions League in the past seven seasons.

Spurs could not have chosen a more different approach. Now they have to see if Mourinho is still capable of Champions League miracles.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Danes, Swiss through to Euro
2020 as rampant Italy hit nine

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli.

Dar athletes urged to battle for Kilimanjaro Marathon top prizes

By Guardian Reporter

KILIMANJARO Premium Lager, the main sponsors of Kilimanjaro Marathon, have called on Tanzanians to aim for the top prizes in the 42km race in next year's race.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, said they are offering 20m/- as prizes in total from the first to the 10th where the first male and female runners will get 4m/- apiece.

As a way to motivate Tanzania's runners, the Brand Manager said Kilimanjaro Premium Lager will give an extra 1.5m/- to the first Tanzanian regardless of position and same amount to the first Tanzanian female in the 42km race.

On registration, she called on participants to register on time and take advantage of the early discounting period for the 42km and 21km races which are currently going for 15,000/- for locals and will increase to 20,000/- after January 15, 2020.

"The registration exercise is already on through www.kilimanjaramarathon.com and through TigoPesa '149*20#," she said.

She disclosed that the marathon was officially launched on November 1, 2019 and is expected to take place on March 1, 2020 in Moshi.

Tanzania Breweries Limited Sponsorships Manager, David Tarimo, who is also in charge of Grand Malt brand, which is sponsoring 5km race, has called on participants to consume a lot of Grand Malt for more energy before and after the marathon.

"This is a non-alcoholic drink that is appropriate for persons of all ages including children and has a new look in a new slim can but the quantity and quality is the same," he said.

He said Grand Malt will be involved in various promotional activities where participants and spectators of the marathon will walk away with different prizes from Grand Malt.

Main sponsors of the Kilimanjaro Marathon include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager - 42 km, Tigo-21km and Grand Malt-5km.

Others include Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Barclays Bank, Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWorld Security, Precision Air and CMC Automobiles.

Kilimanjaro Marathon is organized by Wild Frontiers and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Bangladesh prove inadequate to the test task again

KOLKATA, India

FEW expected Mominul Haque and his men to upset India on their home soil, but the tourists' back-to-back defeats, both inside three days, underlined just how much Bangladesh have stagnated in the long format.

Since debuting as a test nation in 2000, Bangladesh have played 117 matches and won 13, six of them against Zimbabwe who are currently 11th in the official test rankings.

The 2-0 drubbing they received in India follows similar losses in South Africa, West Indies and New Zealand.

Over-reliance on spinners, lack of quality pace bowlers and technical inadequacy of their batsmen bred on low and slow pitches are often blamed for their struggles abroad.

Mominul accepted the progress has been tardy though he expected a turnaround.

"You need quality pace bowlers to improve in test cricket," the 28-year-old said after beginning his captaincy tenure with a 2-0 loss against India.

"But we're now getting sporting wickets and quality pace bowlers are coming through the ranks. So I'm optimistic of improvement."

Regular exposure against strong opponents was necessary if the ninth ranked test team wanted to move up the ladder, he said.

REUTERS

Para swimming coaching course set for next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA is set to host the first ever basic para swimming coaching course in Dar es Salaam next month.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, the training's coordinator, disclosed Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) has organized the course, which will be held from December 16-20 at a venue to be announced later.

He said the course has been organized with the aim of having many para swimming coaches who will in turn identify, nurture and train more para swimmers.

Namkoveka (pictured) said the country has only one para swimmers, Gerald Sokolo, who is recognized and classified by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

He said Sokolo was classified at a para swimming event which was held in Kenya in February last year.

"The Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) has organized a course for Para Swimming coaches, this will be the first to be held in the country," he noted.

"The aim is to have many para swimming coaches, it's our hope that the coaches who will graduate from the course will help in identifying new talents."

"I'm sure the country has many para swimmers only that they are not unearthed."

The course coordinator said TPC is looking for 10m/- to successfully host the course which is set to involve over 30 coaches and will be conducted by instructor, John Belela.

He appealed to companies, organizations and individuals to help the committee with finances and materials so as to successfully host the course.

He described the training as a good step in the development of Paralympic swimming in the country.

"TPC does not have money to host the course, we are asking stakeholders to help the committee so that this first ever course can be held successfully, those who wish to help can contact our secretary general Tuma Dandi."

According to him invitations have been extended to all swimming coaches in the country.



Kilimanjaro Queens' fullback, Happiness Mwaipaja (2nd R), gets the better of Harambee Starlets' players in the final of this year's CECAFA Senior Women Challenge Cup, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Harambee Starlets dethrone Kilimanjaro Queens in Senior Women Challenge Cup

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS by Mainland Tanzania women football team, Kilimanjaro Queens, to defend their trophy in this year's CECAFA Senior Women Challenge Cup have ended in vain, given they conceded 2-0 defeat to Kenya 'Harambee Starlets' in the final in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Second half substitute, Jentrix Shikangwa, was Harambee Starlets' hero in the clash, which took place at Azam Complex, netting both goals for the eventual winners.

Uganda's She Cranes took the competition's third spot, cruising to a 2-0 victory over Burundi in the third place play off, which took place at the stadium in the afternoon.

Harambee Starlets put Kilimanjaro Queens defense under pressure on two occasions shortly after kick off, the defenders stood firm and kept the former in check.

The hosts went close on the third minute, as striker Eneka Kasonga sped on the right and released fellow striker, the visitors' defenders foiled the move.

Harambee Starlets' keeper Annette Kundu came to the squad's rescue on the eighth minute, calmly saving a dangerous cross floated in by Kilimanjaro Queens' winger Mwanahamisi Omary from the right.

Much as Kilimanjaro Queens started putting pressure on Harambee Starlets' defense later on, the Tanzania side found it difficult to unlock the opponents' de-

fense, which was marshalled by Vivian Makokha.

Kilimanjaro Queens kept on pressing for an opener, given Harambee Starlets' keeper Annette went for a good save to foil an effort by Kilimanjaro Queens' forward Donisia Minja off a free kick on the 16th minute.

Harambee Starlets will live to remember a good opportunity, which went their way on the 29th minute and was wasted by midfielder Mercy Airo.

Mercy received a good pass from fellow player outside Kilimanjaro Queens' area, the midfielder ended up attempting a weak right foot effort, which was easily saved by keeper Najat Abbas.

Harambee Starlets had an upper hand in the latter stages of the period, pressing forward and forcing Kilimanjaro Queens' defense to defend solidly.

Kilimanjaro Queens' keeper Najat was called into action on the 40th minute, collecting a dipping long range shot by Harambee Starlets' Janet Bundi.

Kilimanjaro Queens wasted a good chance on the 45th minute, in which an effort by skipper Asha Rashid flew across Harambee Starlets' face of the goal.

The hosts had made a good counter attack which had Mwanahamisi releasing Asha almost 40 meters out, the muscular forward made a good turn but ended up unleashing a wayward right foot effort.

Neither of the two teams had managed to notch a goal at the end of the opening

period.

Kilimanjaro Queens had a good opportunity on the 52nd minute, which had Mwanahamisi collecting a pinpoint assist by fellow player, the winger's effort disappointingly went wide.

Kilimanjaro Queens later on squandered another chance when an effort by striker Donisia Minja from a free kick went way over.

Kilimanjaro Queens went close after Mwanahamisi had jinxed past three Harambee Starlets' defenders a few meters from the area, she then cracked a left foot effort, which went into keeper Annette's hands.

Harambee Starlets got a penalty on the 78th minute as Kilimanjaro Queens' Donisia was deemed to have blocked the ball with her hand within the area as she attempted to boot the ball away.

Second half substitute, Jentrix Shikangwa, who was until the clash the competition's leading goal scorer, confidently dispatched the spot kick to give Harambee Starlets the opener.

Kilimanjaro Queens had an opportunity to level matters after they had won a free kick almost 30 meters on the 76th minute, an effort by Donisia went over.

Jentrix put the match beyond Kilimanjaro Queens' reach three minutes from the end of the clash as she notched the second for Harambee Starlets.

The muscular goal getter received a good pass from fellow player and beat Kilimanjaro Queens' Najat with a fierce left foot shot from the edge of the box.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



5 EATV **TONIGHT @21:00**

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11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hits

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09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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