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All developing countries need digital visions, says Prof Ndulu

By Guardian Reporter

DEVELOPING countries including Tanzania should define their future digital pathways from emerging technologies by tapping opportunities to achieve technological transformation, a guru has advised.

Former Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Prof Benno Ndulu (pictured) made the suggestion in Dar es Salaam on Monday when commenting on a report: 'The Digital Roadmap: How developing countries can get ahead,' which is to be launched today in Kenya's capital Nairobi, by the World Bank-affiliated Pathways for Prosperity Commission on Technology and Inclusive Development.



In the report 'The Digital Roadmap: How developing countries can get ahead,' the commission outlines ten steps that can put countries 'firmly in the driving seat' in determining their future digital pathways

He said countries must work to increase agriculture value through better connectivity to markets by bridging gaps in the value chains as well as creating new avenues in the global value chain by analyzing on how to exploit and participate in the global market.

Prof Ndulu said through global trade and by contracting out various services, developing countries have the ability to provide such services trading the services because services have a much bigger share in the global economy, contributing more than 50-percent to global income compared to manufacturing which contributes 16 percent to the global economy.

"Connecting informal sector to formal sector through technology is already doing this on its part like provision of insurance to bodaboda. These are digital platforms which can connect those who need and those who supply services to those who need them," he stated.

For countries to achieve this objective they must be digitally ready, an extremely

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I was misled, used in EPA scandal - Mkapa



President John Magufuli launches former President Benjamin Mkapa's memoirs - My Life, My Purpose - in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him are former presidents Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Benjamin Mkapa and Jakaya Kikwete. Photo: State House

Uongozi Institute Chief Executive Officer Prof Joseph Semboja said that it took four years to write the book, which has been published by Mkuki na Nyota

By Henry Mwangonde

FORMER President Benjamin Mkapa has lifted a lid on how powerful individuals around the president can influence development or underdevelopment through corruption and mismanagement of the economy.

In his memoirs 'My Life, My Purpose' which was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the retired national leader admits that he sanctioned the siphoning of over 133bn/- meant for external debt payment from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT)'s External Payment Arrears (EPA) account while in office.

The scandal broke out in 2007 in a leaked audit report by Ernst and Young which showed that the funds were used to make illegal payments to about 20 national and foreign private enterprises.

But in his book, Mkapa writes that he was opposed to the deal, but was convinced into sanctioning it by the former BoT governor Daudi Balali who told him that the moneys would later be used to fund his CCM party in the next general election.

Prof Rwekaza Mukandala from the

University of Dar es Salaam in his analysis of the book said the book describes incidents and happenings that Mkapa went through from a young age to the presidency.

Uongozi Institute Chief Executive Officer Prof Joseph Semboja said that it took four years to write the book, which has been published by Mkuki na Nyota.

"We decided to support this idea because when we were established in 2010 we were mandated to cement leadership skills in Tanzania and Africa and now after almost ten years of doing this job we have learnt a lot," he said.

Prof Semboja said the institute believes that the skills to nurture leaders differ from country to country and in this programme of documenting the history of leaders they have learnt a lot.

He observed that most African leaders do not write their memoirs because of the environment for writing which does not support it, with many taking it as a private issue.

"We believe that a national leader's life is a public matter because these countries are undergoing various

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...It's Mkapa who made me president, says JPM

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday opened up about his political journey, crediting his ascendance to the top seat to former Head of State Benjamin Mkapa.

In his speech during the launch of Mkapa's memoirs entitled 'My Life, My Purpose' in Dar es Salaam yesterday, President Magufuli said the journey began while he was campaigning for a parliamentary for then Biharamulo Constituency.

It was Mkapa—then CCM presidential candidate for his first term—who held up his hand at a rally and said "I want to work with this young man."

Upon winning the seat, Mkapa who also obtained the presidency appointed him Deputy Minister for Works and he then rose to full minister and served in various portfolios before contesting for and winning the presidency in 2015—again with immense support from Mkapa.

"After being appointed deputy minister in that most challenging ministry, he did not leave me alone. He advised and encouraged me to continue even when I felt like resigning," he said.

President Magufuli further revealed that he almost quit his post as a minister during President Benjamin

Mkapa's tenure after he was poisoned. The president said he has decided to unveil what has been a well-guarded secret all this time saying some former ministers did not like him due to his strictness and hard working spirit.

"I remember President Mkapa once named me as a 'parachute trooper' because of the tasks being carried out in the construction ministry at that time," Dr Magufuli elaborated.



President Magufuli further revealed that he almost quit his post as a minister during President Benjamin Mkapa's tenure after he was poisoned

This had a negative impact on his life because some cabinet ministers started to hate him and in no time he was poisoned while in Dodoma.

President Magufuli said he wanted to resign but he was told to carry on and put God ahead, by former president Mkapa.

The president did not give details on that that incident, or whether the suspects were brought to book or not.

MPs divided over HIV testing age, pass Bill

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament were yesterday divided over the age of consent for HIV/Aids self-testing with some suggesting the law to allow testing for children below 15 years.

The lawmakers were concerned that HIV/Aids infections amongst children aged below 15 years are on the rise, which may hamper government efforts in achieving targeted results through the 90-90-90 campaign.

Under the 90-90-90 campaign which aims at ending the AIDS pandemic by 2030, the government wants 90 percent of people living with HIV to know their status, 90 percent of people diagnosed with HIV infections receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90 percent of people receiving ARVs attain viral suppression.

They were contributing to debate on a bill, the HIV

and AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 2019 tabled under the Written Laws Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2019 which was passed by the House yesterday.

The new law will allow 15 year old children to undergo HIV/Aids testing, but insists the process should be voluntary. It also requires a person assisting another one to undertake HIV self-testing to comply with requirements of confidentiality.

Special Seats MP Suzan Lyimo said there was nothing wrong for 12-year-old children being tested for HIV "since our aim is to ensure all those infected know their status."

Presenting opinions of the opposition camp, Special Seats legislator Salome Makamba (Shinyanga, Chadema) said since there are laws that recognize a 12-year-old as a person who can engage in sexual intercourse, the passed bill should also allow children of similar age to

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Following the ongoing deepening and general modernisation of Dar es Salaam Port, the facility can now handle huge ships including this one, MV Glovis, which The Guardian found docked there yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Geofrey

I was misled, used in EPA scandal - Mkapa

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transformations being carried out by presidents whose beliefs and

assessment of issues has an impact on the life of the majority," he said.

Prof Semboja says work to prepare the book began in 2016 and it took

almost four years because of the various consultative works that had to be done before the actual writing could begin.

The memoir which has cost the institute about 230m/- will be available in bookshops and online platforms in various regions, he added.

Developing countries need digital visions - Prof. Ndulu

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important component which must also be country-based and led by assessing the country's status digitally and discussion to find out potential winners and losers, the don elaborated. In the report 'The Digital Roadmap: How developing countries can get ahead,' the commission outlines ten steps that can put countries 'firmly in the driving seat' in determining their future digital pathways.

"Just as there is no one-size-fits-all blueprint for digital development, so there is no substitute for getting government to lead conversations with business and civil society around a table and collectively agreeing the digital vision for their country," said Prof Ndulu, academic director for the Pathways Commission.

"Countries can't just import global tech policies wholesale- we need to ensure laws and regulations work for our national contexts and keep up with the rapid speed of change," he told the gathering.

From the tech start-ups of Bangalore to government ministries in Ethiopia and nomadic farmers in Mongolia, the Commission has spent two years gathering a rich body of evidence to show how lower-income countries can harness new technologies to deliver development for all citizens, not just the privileged few.

"This year, half the world is online for the first time ever. The challenge is to ensure that the growing digital trajectories are a force for inclusive development.

"Failure to switch on economies for the digital age will risk widening the

gap between rich and poor countries, as well as fueling inequalities within them," the report asserts.

Some of these trends are daunting. Africa's labour force will grow by 285 million people from 2010 to 2030 - more than all the manufacturing jobs in China and India. Ensuring there will be opportunities for these people will be the key to social and political stability, he pointed out.

Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Indonesia's Finance Minister and co-chair of the Pathways Commission, is quoted in the report as declaring that this is a critical moment in history and the stakes for developing countries could not be higher. "Governments and societies cannot sit back passively and watch the digital revolution happening around them - they must pick up the tools that are available and become authors of their own digital destinies. Getting digitally ready will take vision, collaboration and deliberate planning to ensure everyone benefits."

One of the Commission's key recommendations is that countries craft a 'national digital compact.'

It involves bringing together representatives of all parts of government, civil society and the private sector to create and agree the vision and manage the trade-offs inherent in national digital transformation.

This agreement will help countries to navigate the profound impacts technologies are having on their societies and economies. From here, countries can develop inclusive digital strategies - futures where everyone gains, he added.



Josephat Kandege (2nd-R, foreground), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) lays the foundation stone for the proposed cardiac centre at the Moshi-based Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre on Monday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Al-Shabaab targets AU troops' convoy

MOGADISHU

Reports from Lower Shabelle in southern Somalia indicate that Somali government forces are conducting operations in many parts of the region yesterday morning.

The operation came after Al-Shabaab targeted AMISOM convoy with IED blast in Muuri area of Lower Shabelle region on Monday night, according to the residents

The explosion has led to a direct confrontation between the AU troops and Al-Shabaab militants, though the casualties were not confirmed.

Al-Shabaab, which claimed responsibility for the attack, said the bomb explosion damaged one of AMISOM's armored vehicles.

The situation is currently tense and

military activities are being felt in some areas of Lower Shabelle in southwest Somalia.

More details are coming out of an attack reported on the outskirts of Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo on Sunday night.

The assault which was one of the biggest raids in months was targeted a military base run by Jubaland state forces, according to local residents, who spoke to Radio Shabelle via phone on Monday morning.

It is not clear how many casualties were caused by the attack.

In response to the ambush, Jubaland state troops have launched operations to search for the attackers who are believed to be Al-Shabaab members.

Al-Shabaab frequently attacks allied forces' bases in the Jubba regions

of southern Somalia as part of its attempt to oust the UN-backed Somali Government and expel the foreign troops.

Meanwhile, Somali Federal Government said it is very concerned about a comment made by the former head of state, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed on Sunday.

Minister for Information, Mohamed Hayir Mareye termed the remarks made by the former President after he visited flooded hit city of Beledweyn as "astounding".

Sheikh Sharif blamed President, Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo's government for disrespecting the constitution through violation of freedom warning that if the current administration will not desist they will use all necessary to stop it.

MPs divided over HIV testing age, pass Bill

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go for HIV testing.

Tabora Urban legislator, Emmanuel Mwakasaka (CCM) said South Africa changed the age of consent from 18 to 12 years after which the number of new infection has increased to 24.7 percent in 2018 from 12 percent in 2012 when self-testing was restricted to persons aged 18 years and above.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu said amendment of the law is part of strategies to push more Tanzanians to go for HIV/Aids as well as achieve the 90-90-90 targets by 2030.

Mwalimu said the 2015/2016 Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) indicated that infections among children up to 14 years stood at 0.4 percent, with most of them infected by their mothers.

"We have amended the age of consent for HIV self-testing because the latest TDHS mentions 15 years as the age of first sexual engagements," she said.

Attorney General Prof Adelardus Kilangi said Section 27(3) of the law was amended to increase penalty for the offence of misleading the public regarding the cure, prevention and control of HIV/Aids. It also discourages people from making any such statements without scientific verifications.

Section 47 of the Act enables the court

to make an order for compensation to victims who acquired HIV by being intentionally infected by another person, he pointed out.

Health Ministry statistics indicate that new infections among youth aged 15 to 19 are quite high, about 65,000 yearly and out them 80-percent are girls and only 20-percent are boys.

Tanzania has 1.4 million people affected by HIV and the government wants 90-percent of the country's population to know their status, whereas currently it is only 62 percent who know their status.

It is estimated that over 3000 patients died in sub Saharan Africa on a daily basis due to HIV in 2015. Ten countries in Africa carry 80 per cent of the total HIV burden, namely South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The National Assembly also amended the Animal Diseases Act, Cap.156, the Animal Welfare Act, Cap.154, the Bank of Tanzania Act, Cap.197 and the Government Loans, Guarantees and Grants Act, Cap.134.

The list also includes the Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act, Cap. 182, the Mining Act, Cap. 123, the National Leaders' Funeral Act, Cap.419, 419, the Ports Act, Cap. 166, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Cap. 19 and the Registration and Identification of Persons Act, Cap. 36.

Brazil judge authorises Lula's release from jail

CURITIBA

A judge in Brazil on Friday authorised the release of jailed ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, after a Supreme Court ruling paved the way for thousands of convicts to be freed.

Hundreds of supporters gathered outside the federal police headquarters in the southern city of Curitiba where Lula has been held since April 2018 cheered after the order was issued.

It came hours after Lula's lawyers requested the immediate release of the 74-year-old leftist icon, who has been serving a nearly nine-year sentence for corruption and money laundering.

Late Thursday, the Supreme Court overturned a rule requiring convicted criminals to go to jail after losing their first appeal. Lula is one of several thousand

convicts who could benefit from the decision.

Those convicts would remain free until they had exhausted their rights to appeal - a process critics say could take years in cases involving people able to afford expensive lawyers.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was born 27 October 1945), popularly known simply as Lula, is a Brazilian politician and former union leader who served as the 35th President of Brazil from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2010. Lula was a founding member of the Workers' Party (PT) and ran unsuccessfully for President three times before achieving victory in the 2002 election, being re-elected in the 2006 election.

The introduction of social programmes such as Bolsa Familia and Fome Zero were hallmarks of his time in office. As

President, Lula played a prominent role in international matters including activities related to the nuclear programme of Iran and global warming, being described as "a man with audacious ambitions to alter the balance of power among nations". Succeeded by his former Chief of Staff, Dilma Rousseff, he left an enduring mark on Brazilian politics in the form of Lulism. He is the fifth President of Brazil who has ever gone to jail and the first to be arrested for corruption.

Lula has been called one of the most popular politicians in the history of Brazil and while in office was one of the most popular in the world. He was featured in Time's 2010 The 100 Most Influential People in the World and Perry Anderson called him "the most successful politician of his time".

AGANCIES



Ilala District acting administrative secretary Christina Kalekezi (in purple dress) looks on in Dar es Salaam at the weekend as an employee (with microphone) with Consumer's Choice Ltd, a company contracted to roll out 500,000 ethanol-powered cooking stoves in Dar es Salaam Region, takes part in the launch of a campaign to promote the use of the items. Second left (in jacket) is the representative for UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Tanzania, Stephen Kargbo, who pioneered the project. The idea is to provide alternative types of cooking fuel for use in the country. Photo courtesy of UNIDO

Govt to launch five-year digital strategy on health

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government will tomorrow launch the national non-communicable diseases prevention and control programme as well as the digital health strategy (2019-2024) and the national non-communicable diseases control programme, it has been stated.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to be the chief guest at the event to initiate strategies aimed at shaping the health sector.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the Director Curative Services, Grace Magembe said the aim is to see how to control communicable diseases that had become another serious cause of deaths in the country.

She said the event is part of the week-long free testing for the diseases and public education currently taking place at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma. "The aim is to help create awareness of such diseases and end new infections" she said, adding that the diseases are caused mainly by lifestyle.

On the five year digital health strategy, she said it will help the country accelerate its progress and leadership in digital health, ensuring that the country continues to digitalize health care and improve health outcome.

"The strategy establishes the government of Tanzania as a global leader in digital health and paving way for better patient outcomes" said the director.

One of the critical components of the strategy is the governance, which adds teeth

and rigor to the government's new digital health strategy.

Two governing bodies that will be primarily responsible for implementing the strategies are the National Digital Health Steering Committees (NDHSC) and the National Digital Health Secretariat (NDHS).

In order to ensure effective implementation of the strategy, she said the government will also launch the Technical working group, online platform that will digitalize all workings of health sector technical working groups.

To avoid duplication of efforts, the government will also launch the digital health initiative and digital library to ensure there is transparency and stakeholders have access to information on existing health initiatives and all documents.

The new strategic plan aligns with the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, the Health Sector Strategic Plan (2015-2020) and other key policies advancing the country's efforts to build an end , interoperable digital health system.

The Director of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Haji Bamisi while speaking about the strategy noted that it builds on and directly responds to learning from previous strategies (2013-2018).

He said to inform the design of the new strategy, the government consulted the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union National e-Health Strategy Toolkit.

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

'Govt has paid out 2.5trn/- for implementation of SGR'

THE government had until September 2019 disbursed 2.5trn/- for implementation of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), The National Assembly heard on Monday.

Finance and Planning Deputy Minister, Dr Ashatu Kijaji told the National Assembly on Monday that completion of the SGR project will help the government to save over 6.7bn/- spent annually for repairing roads.

Dr Kijaji was responding to queries

raised by Members of Parliament during a week-long debate on the Second Five-Year National Development Plan (2016/17 - 2020/21) and national budget estimates for the 2020/202.

She said the standard gauge railway project, purchase of aircrafts and the Stiegler's Gorge Hydroelectric Power project in Rufiji have in total spent 36 percent of 2019/2020 development budget.

She said implementation of the flagship projects have stimulated the economy since most of the construction materials such as cement and steel are sourced locally. She said more than 640 local contractors are directly engaged in the SGR project.

"We have offered tenders worth 664.7bn/- to local contractors. More than 9 million bags of cement will be used for implementation of the

522-kilometre-long Dar es Salaam-Morogoro and Morogoro-Makutupora section of the SGR project", said Dr Kijaji adding all the cement used in the project is manufactured locally.

She said the project has offered 13,117 jobs until September this year, adding more jobs will be created in future.

Upon completion, the SGR is expected to usher in the country, for the first time, a fast and modern

passenger train with a speed of 160 kilometres per hour and a freight train with a top speed of 120 kilometres per hour.

The SGR will also help ease the flow of goods and people in the neighboring landlocked countries of Uganda, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi and Rwanda.

The Deputy Minister informed that

House that a total of 1,456 jobs have been created through implementation of the Stiegler's Gorge Hydroelectric Power project, insisting most of the tenders will be given to local contractors.

Construction of the dam and hydroelectric power plant is expected to be completed in 2022 at a cost of \$1.38 billion (6.5trn/-). The plant will produce 2,115 MW.

Laws alone cannot curb child pregnancies - CJ

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

CHIEF Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma has advised government leaders in Rukwa region should not depend on laws alone as cure in eradicating child pregnancies instead the whole society must be involved in finding solutions to the challenge.

The CJ said yesterday when speaking with regional government leaders here during his two-day visit to inspect the functions of the courts in the region's three districts.

CJ call came barely a month when President John Magufuli expressed his shock over the high rates of pregnancies for school girls in Rukwa region where more than 200 girls were pregnant in 2018 alone. On October 7, this year, when he visited

the southwestern region, President Magufuli directed security organs and social welfare groups to come up with a proper strategies to address the situation.

He said on the issue of child pregnancy the society must be directly involved so as to speak in one language and come up with a solution, and not to depend on the law courts.

Rukwa Regional Commissioner, Joachim Wangabo said at the meeting that this year there had been reports of 294 child pregnancies whereas strategies are in the pipeline that will involve all stakeholders in taming the challenge.

He said the region's advisory committee will sit soon and one of its agendas will dwell on the strategies to confront the challenged, after which the implementation thereof will start immediately.

Meanwhile the Chief Justice said the Judiciary is looking on the possibility to establish procedure to issue copies of judgments in Kiswahili to make easy for the wananchi to obtain justice from their judicial apparatuses.

He also said this will help them to understand with ease what has been ruled upon by the court hence it will make it simple for the side that wants to appeal.

The issue was raised by the Sumbawanga District Commissioner Dr Halfan Haule who said the Judiciary should see the need of issuing court rulings in Kiswahili, and added that those needing to appeal against rulings spend a lot of time finding translators.

He said the situation now had made many people being denied their basic rights



Dr Inmi Patterson (C), Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Tanzania, presents a grant certificate in Dar es Salaam yesterday to representatives of Relief to Development Society, (Redeso) one of seven groups engaged in US-supported development projects. She is with chief executive Abeid Kasaizi and project coordinator Phulumensi Kavumvuli. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

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NBC Malengo Account campaign manager Mtenya Cheya (C) presses a laptop button in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the first draw of a promotion campaign by the bank. Each of five customers won a new Yamaha motorcycle. She is with counterparts Alina Maria Kimaroy (marketing) and Dorothea Mabonye (liability).

'Harmonisation of tax systems in Mainland, Zanzibar in the offing'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar are in talks to harmonise existing laws and computation of taxes to facilitate residents to cruise motor vehicles registered in both parts of the union.

Currently, the laws requires motor vehicles registered by the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) are required to obtain a special permit before being allowed to cruise in Tanzania mainland.

In his question, Shaurimoyo MP, Mattar Ali Salum (CCM) said the current system inconveniences Isle residents who wish to use their cars in Tanzania mainland.

The MP complained as to why vehicles registered by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Tanzania mainland are allowed to cruise freely in Zanzibar and yet those registered by ZRB in the islands are required to first obtain a permit before being allowed on the roads on the mainland.

Salum claimed further the procedure to obtain a permit in Tanzania mainland is so cumbersome for motor vehicles registered in Zanzibar compared to those from neighbouring countries of Kenya and Uganda.

Responding, Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, said the harmonisation of the laws and taxes will follow all required procedures set by the National Assembly and

Zanzibar's House of Representatives.

The deputy minister said the laws governing registration of motor vehicles in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar are different and do not fall under the issues of the Union.

In view of the above, the governments are currently working to harmonise laws and computation of taxes for motor vehicles to enable residents from Zanzibar to drive their cars in Tanzania mainland without obtaining permits.

The deputy minister explained further that registration in Tanzania is undertaken by TRA through the Road Safety Act of 1973 and its regulations while in Zanzibar it is done by ZRB under the Road Transport Act Number 7 of 2003.



The deputy minister said the laws governing registration of motor vehicles in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar are different and do not fall under the issues of the Union

By Poycarp Machira, Dodoma

COMMUNICATION stakeholders in the country have been called upon to invest in TV White Space (TWS) technology to enable more rural population access internet service.

TV White Space database, also commonly referred to as geolocation database, is an entity that controls the TV spectrum utilization by unlicensed white spaces devices within a determined geographical area. Its sole objective is to enable unlicensed access to white space spectrum while protecting incumbent broadcasting services. TV White Space database was first brought as a way to overcome the technical hurdles faced by spectrum sensing techniques to precisely detect very weak primary signals.

Spectrum is deemed available, or unavailable, to unlicensed usage depending on criteria that are regulator specific and thus the database operation can significantly

Communication stakeholders urged to invest in TV database technology

vary between countries. Regulations on white space spectrum utilization are of extreme importance since they pose limits to the amount of white space spectrum that can be reclaimed by White Space technology for wireless broadband access. Having a certain degree of spectrum accessibility is crucial to the relevance and the successful adoption of TVWS as a technology.

The call was made here recently by the minister for Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Prof Joyce Ndalichako while addressing the 4th Summit on Community Networks in Africa held at the University of Dodoma (UDOM).

She said internet service was vital to facilitate the country to attain its goal of industrial economy as the country move towards middle income economy.

"Business operators and other stakeholders should take opportunity to invest in TV White Space technology to enable more rural dwellers get access to internet service," noted the minister.

The summit, which has been organised by the University of Dodoma (UDOM), brought together about 130 participants from various countries in Africa seek to connect communities in Africa to the global internet.

Michuki Mwangu, senior

development manager for Internet Society also observed that community networks provide a sustainable solution to address the connectivity gaps that exist in urban, remote and rural underserved areas around the world.

He said in Africa such gaps are more evident, a recent survey identified 37 community networks initiatives in 12 African countries, of which 25 are considered active.

"Majority of the populations in Africa reside in the underserved areas, where the traditional models of providing connectivity find it difficult to be economically, community networks offer a complementary solution to

connecting the underserved and unconnected," he said.

He said it was important to note that national policy and regulations play an essential role in creating an enabling environments for community networks to emerge and grow, saying unfortunately, few African countries have policy and regulations that support community networks.

"We are however pleased to note that the just concluded African Union member states Ministers in charge of Communication and Information and Communication Technology (CICT) recognized the need for new strategies and pilot projects to support community networks," he said.

Assistant lecturer at UDOM, Jabhera Matogoro, said Kondoa Community Networks, which was initiated by him, connects educational institutions in the district and provides fast internet access to community members around the host institutions.

"Internet has been a game changer to schools in Kondoa, teachers are able to access to teaching and learning resources which has raised the students' performance," he said.

Local Access Policy and Regulation Coordinator for the Association for Progress Communications, Prof Carlos Rey Moreno, on his part said that community networks in Africa are thriving in spite of enabling policy and regulatory environments.

He noted that innovations such as the ones used by Kondoa community networks should make regulators and policy makers rethink the way they support such types of connectivity models within their national frameworks.

Tanzania submits 13 'priority' projects at SA investors forum

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has submitted 13 priority projects to strategic investors at investors forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango (pictured) who is representing President John Magufuli at the forum said the project for building a factory for various drugs that will cost USD 408 million had attracted many investors.

He mentioned the investors who were attracted by the factory project to be built at Kibaha in Coast region coming from Korea, Turkey and international financial institutions and added that by early 2020 one or more investors will have been picked for the project. He said the factory is expected to produce 230 different kinds of drugs.

He said apart from alleviating drugs shortage in the country as well as

fighting importation of fake drugs, the factory will also provide hundreds of jobs opportunities for Tanzanians.

Dr Mpango said the government sets aside more than 230b/- from its annual budget for the purchase of drugs while the actual drugs requirements in the country costs 1.4tr/-

He explained that the other 12 projects submitted to the investors are in preparatory stages in hydro power and cotton processing factories to increase its value for textile production, all which go in tandem with the government's goal to attain industrial economy.

The project manager from Tanzania Medical Stores Department (MSD) Eng Fredrick Pondamali explained the evaluation work on the drugs factory had already been completed including two more factories whose investors are being sought for.

He said the drugs factory project was picked by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to forward it to investors for the procurement of funds due to its importance for Tanzania and neighbouring countries.

The annual Africa investors forum now in its second year has been organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) by involving various investors and this year more than 4,000 investors from various countries of the world had participated.

The aim is to increase investments in infrastructures to spur the pace of economic transformation in African countries.



Residents of Coast, Dar es Salaam and Morogoro regions with eye diseases wait for free cataract surgery yesterday at Tumbi referral hospital in Kibaha District, Coast Region, a service made possible courtesy of support from South Korea's international blindness relief organisation Vision Care. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

South Korea agency holds eye testing camp at Tumbi

By Beatrice Philemon

MORE than 100 people from three regions are expected to benefit from free eye medical camp at Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital organised by South Korean International Blindness Relief Organisation (Vision Care).

Vision Care Tanzania country director, Taegyun Kim, said that two Korean doctors and two nurses from Korea are in Tanzania and will spend five days from November 11 to 15 this year at Tumbi hospital.

Dr Jaeyoon Kim, Dr Jihong Bae including two nurses Yoona Kim and Hyemin Song are in Tanzania to restore sight by treating people with visual impairment so that they will be able to see and train their Tanzanian counterparts on cataract surgery that in turn will help them to do it themselves.

He said the team of eye specialists performs free cataract surgery in collaboration with Tanzanian ophthalmologist Dr. Susan Justin Kimaro.

"We have decided to provide cataract surgery in Tanzania after discovering that majority of Tanzania especially low-income earners they don't have enough funds to get this services," he noted.

While in Tanzania, Korean doctors will provide training to their Tanzanian counterparts on surgery skills.

In February next year the Korean doctors will be in Tanzania to provide free cataract surgery and train Tanzanian doctors on various issues relating to cataract and glaucoma surgery.

Tumbi regional referral hospital ophthalmologist, Dr. Eligreayer Mnzava said that among the patients five are patients with glaucoma and most of the patients came from the regions of Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Coast.

While in Tanzania, Korean doctors will provide training for two ophthalmologists from Muhimbili National Hospital and others from Tumbi hospital to help them be competent on how to use it and provide best services to cataract patients.

She also commended Vision Care for donating modern cataract surgery machine to Tumbi hospital.





Tanzania Railway Corporation workers pictured at Gerezani in Dar es Salaam yesterday clearing sand from a section of the Central railway, a development associated with the recent rains. Photo: Guardian Photographer

'Government paid 2.528trn/- for infrastructure services'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has paid over 2.528trn/- to suppliers, contractors, consulting engineers, service providers as well as public servants with arrears between the 2016/2017 financial year and the first quarter of 2019/2020.

The Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Ashatu Kijaji (pictured), told the National Assembly here yesterday that out of the amount, 379.072bn/- was disbursed to pay suppliers, contractors and other service providers.

She was responding to a basic question by Tabora Urban MP, Emmanuel Mwakasaka (CCM) who wanted to know on arrears owed by the government to suppliers and service providers in the specific period.

Dr Kijaji explained that the government has been allocating funds in every financial year to settle various debts. She added that the government pays the debts after they are verified.

"The government has put in place a strategy aimed at settling all debts which have been verified to avoid longstanding arrears. These include those owed by government ministries, departments and agencies in addition to regional secretariats and arrears owed to public servants", said the Deputy Minister.



A big chunk of debts owed by the government will be settled during the forthcoming 2020/2021 financial year, she said.

Dr Kijaji assured Members of Parliament that the government will continue allocating funds every year to settle debts it owes to various service providers after verification of the same.

She said the government issues a circular every year which guides the ministry of finance and planning to enable the government to release funds to settle debts on one hand and still provide services to the people on the other.

Sniffer dogs to track down poachers, animal trophies

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA Wildlife Authority (TAWA) in collaboration with Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) have established a procedure in the use of technology in involving sniffer dogs to examine and inspect government trophies at the country's points of exit including international airports.

It was announced yesterday by the Deputy TAWA conservator Dr James Wakibara, when speaking at function to close the training for special sniffing dogs.

Eight partakers from various regions in the country and six others from Cameroon participated in the training that took place at Usa River College in Arumeru District, Arusha

Region.

Wakibara said the plan will also help to conduct operations in residential areas to spot government trophies including elephant ivory that have been hidden.

Head of TAWA Special Unit John Kaaya, said the sniffing dogs brigades were established by providing special training to participants.

He said since the establishment of the training in 2015 they have succeeded in having sniffing dogs brigade in Dar es Salaam which inspect goods at exitpoints including border posts, airports and sea ports.

He said Tanzania has a lot of wildlife hence poaching is thriving and that is why it was decided to establish such training by incorporating sniffing

dogs technology, and the first training was conducted in Dar es Salaam and thereafter moved to the northern regions to cater for Namanga, Holili border posts and Kilimanjaro International Airport(KIA).

On his part AWF Director of Conservation and Science Dr Philip Muruthi said it is thankful to have a continent endowed with a lot of wildlife including natural forests and added that the greatest challenge that destroy these natural resources is poaching for monetary gain hence he called for control against this crime.

He said AWF has decided to cooperate with the Tanzania government in giving training to sniffing dogs for nine-week by involving technology in order to arrest the situation.

Agriculture ministry talks tough on use of oversize gunny bags in buying crops

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga (pictured) has called on regional commissioners in the country, in collaboration with regional security and defence committees to arrest traders who buy crops in oversize gunny bags, popularly known as 'lumbesa'.

The Minister gave the directives early this week at a public rally during his official visit in Mang'gora Barazani Ward, Karatu District, Arusha Region, the visit that dwelt on issues of oversize gunny bags and deceptive weighing scales.

He said the use of 'lumbesa' and deceptive weighing scales is a crime by law hence political committees from ward level upward should oversee the issue and submit reports thereon so that the wananchi should not continue to be defrauded of their farm produce.

Speaking at the rally that was also



attended by the Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo, farmers from Man'gora Village said the bags used to pack onions are of oversize capacity - from 120 kgs to 180 when the traders buy the crop from farmers.

They also complained of high production cost hence they incur huge losses when they sell onions and other crops in 'lumbesa' bags hence they were asking for the intervention of the

government.

In another development Minister Hasunga has directed the Irrigation Commission from the Ministry to go to onions growing areas at Mang'gora in Karatu District to identify sites for digging boreholes to assist farmers water their farms, and added that there is also a need to construct dams for similar purpose.

He assured farmers that the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Ministry of Water, the Ministry of State, President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEM) as well as district councils to come up with concrete strategies to help farmers produce crops in yearly periods instead of seasonal depending on the availability of rain.

He also called on stakeholders in the farming sector to assist in boreholes and dams construction that will rescue the acute water shortage in Karatu District.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Councils urged to emulate performance by Simanjiro

Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) has called on all district councils in the country to emulate Simanjiro District Council in Manyara region which has already paid all teachers' benefits in time, hence improving their working environments.

TTU secretary general Deus Seif said at the event to mark of World Teachers Day held at Orkesumet town in the district.

He said he's pleased to learn that Simanjiro district council cares for teachers upgrading them in time and paying their dues benefits in time.

"The District Development Director (DED) has just explained to us funds

for end of year leave are ready hence education officers should prepare payroll so that payments are made, said Seif.

Simanjiro's DED Yefred Myenzi said they are ready to pay the money for leave to all the claimants.

Simanjiro District TTU chairman Abraham Kisimbi said the Union thanks the government for caring them as public servants, and added that many teachers' claims had been worked upon by the Council and called on teachers to work hard.

The District Education Officer for primary schools Silvanus Tairo said they are in the process to prepare the teachers details of the payments.

On his part, the district's Education Officer for secondary schools Augustine Bayo said what remains is for the names to be forwarded to the DED's office for final approval and payment.

Simanjiro District has a total of 892 teachers out of whom 622 are for primary schools and 270 for secondary schools.



ADVERTISEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES FOR THE YEAR 2020

Relief to Development Society (REDESO) is a national non-governmental organization, registered under the Non-Governmental Organization Act, 2002 with Certificate No. 1466 in Tanzania. The organization is engaged in Humanitarian and Community Development projects implemented under the humanitarian to development nexus concept. In the areas of our operation, Local Government has been always one of our key partners. REDESO is a partner with UNHCR serving Burundian and Congolese refugees in North-western Tanzania and urban caseload in Dar es Salaam.

REDESO invites interested qualified and competent Tanzanians and International Expatriates who meet the listed criteria to apply for the following positions:

The following vacancies (1 to 23) are based in Kasulu.

1. Programmes Coordinator (1 Post)
Reports to: Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Job summary
The incumbent shall be responsible on daily operations, coordinating the relationship between the office and the government and monitor the implementation of programs of field office.

2. Finance Manager (1 Post)
Reports to: Senior Finance Manager

Job summary
Finance Manager will oversee all financial and accounting matters, procurement, budget planning and monitoring and periodic financial reporting.

3. Human Resource Manager (1 Post)
Location: Kasulu

Job summary
Human Resource Manager will handle a variety of personnel related administrative duties. He/she will provide information and clerical support to Human Resource Coordinator and employees.

4. Senior Accountant (1 Post)
Reports to: Finance Manager

Job summary
Senior Accountant will oversee the financial aspects of the project, ensuring that the paperwork submitted for payment is donor compliant, and financial reports are submitted in a timely manner and sufficient liquidity is available at all times.

5. Procurement and Logistic Officer (1 post)
Reports to: Finance Manager

Job Summary
Procurement and Logistic Officer will be responsible in managing REDESO stores, inspecting equipment, goods and properties including all procurement related matters.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Officer (1 Post)
Reports to: M&E Specialist

Job summary
MEAL Officer will be responsible in performing result based monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning and reporting of project activities. The incumbent will also be responsible in ensuring best practices in data collection, analysis and reporting as well as project evaluation and recommendations

7. MEAL Assistant (1 Post)
Reports to: MEAL Officer

Job summary:
MEAL Assistant officer will work closely with MEAL Officer in project data collection during monitoring and evaluation including documenting lesson learnt and reporting.

8. Project Officer Energy Solutions (1Post)
Reports to: Energy Specialist

Job summary
Project officer energy solutions will be responsible in dealing with all project matters related to energy for domestic consumption in refugee camps and host community. The incumbent will also be responsible in conducting energy surveys.

9. Project Officer, Environmental Education (1 Post)
Reports to: Project Manager

Job summary
Environment education officer will be responsible in raising awareness in environmental conservation in refugees and host community. S/he will also deal in managing and supervising environmental education activities

10. Senior Camp Officer (1 Post)
Reports to: Project Coordinator

Job Summary
Senior camp officer will be responsible in providing direction, instructions and guidance to camp based staff for the purpose of achieving REDESO and donor's goals and objectives.

11. Secretary/Receptionist (1 Post)
Reports to: Human Resource Manager

Job Summary
Will be responsible in managing front desk office including incoming and outgoing mails and calls, visitors, head of office diary, and secretarial services.

12. Field Officer-Soil Conservation (1 Post)
Reports to: Senior Camp Officer

Job Summary
Field Officer-Soil Conservation will be responsible for making patrol in the natural areas to ensure their conservation and protection.

13. Field Officer Forest protection (1 Post)
Reports to: Senior Camp Officer

Job Summary:
The incumbent in this position will be responsible in ensuring proper execution of all project activities regarding the development and management of the forest within the camp and to the host community. S/he will ensure that the forest as well as woodlots inside and outside the camp is well protected.

14. Field Officer- Energy (1 Post)
Reports to: Senior Camp Officer

Job Summary:
Field Officer-Energy will be responsible for making follow up and give feedback on progress of energy solutions stoves and propose an innovative and sustainable energy solutions approach.

15. Nursery Supervisor
Reports to: Senior Camp Officer

Job Summary:
Nursery Supervisor will be responsible in managing daily nursery development and management activities. S/he will be responsible in supervising casual laborers in executing their nursery functions.

16. Environmental Extensionist (5 Posts)
Reports to: Senior Camp Officer

Job summary
Environmental Extensionist will be responsible in planning and supervising all technical and professional practices regarding environmental management affairs including ensuring tree nurseries and planting are professionally prepared, executed and managed.

17. Drivers (4 Posts)
Reports to: Procurement and Logistic Officer

Job summary
Drivers will be responsible in performing all regular driving duties related to program operations and ensuring that all safety procedures related to vehicles and travel are followed.

18. Office Attendant (1 post)
Reports to: Human Resource Manager

Job summary
Office attendant will be responsible in taking care of daily office cleanliness, mail delivery and collection as well as ensuring that refreshments are prepared and served to staffs and visitors.

19. Security Officers (3 Posts)
Reports to: Human Resource Manager

Job summary
Security officers will be responsible in ensuring that the safety of office premises, equipment and personnel is well maintained including prevention of losses and damage by reporting irregularities.

20. IT Expatriate (1 Post)
Reports to: Project Coordinator

Job summary
The incumbent will be responsible in managing all Information and communication matters, system designing, development and maintenance. S/he will also be responsible in provision of technical assistance to in house IT experts.

21. Monitoring and Evaluation Expatriate (1 Post)
Reports to: Senior M&E Manager

Job summary
The M&E Specialist will be responsible in designing, implementing and supervising program's M&E activities, ensuring that lessons learned are integrated into program implementation to continuously improve quality of interventions and outcomes.

22. Energy Solutions Expatriate (1Post)
Reports to: Project Coordinator

Job Summary
The energy solutions specialist will be responsible in providing expert services and professional solutions on all matters related to the development, follow-up and implementation of energy program and all other aspects related to renewable energy development.

23. Help Desk Officer (1 Post)
Reports to: Senior Camp Officer

Job summary
Help desk officer will be responsible in receiving and gathering all vital information concerning environmental and energy matters from the refugees and communicate them to REDESO field team for technical and professional intervention.

24. Community Development Officer (1 Post)
Location: Kibondo
Reports: Project Coordinator

Job Summary
Will be responsible for technical lead of the programme, leading on community mobilization for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning and identifying, providing technical support requirements for delivery of prioritized interventions.

25. Senior Social Counsellor (1 Post)
Location: Dar Es Salaam
Reports to: Senior Programme Manager

Job summary
Senior Social Counsellor will provide psychological and mental counselling to Persons of concern. S/he will also act as link between REDESO and PoC in all social interventions such as food, housing and all travel arrangements

Note: Detailed information regarding minimum qualifications, duties and responsibilities for mentioned positions can be found via this link: <http://redeso.or.tz/index.php/2019/11/11/vacancies-announcement-2/>

REDESO is an equal opportunity employer Women are highly encouraged to apply.

All interested candidates should submit their applications by 27th November, 2019 via email: recruitment@redeso.or.tz or redeso-hq@redeso.or.tz
For any inquiries, you should not hesitate to contact this office mobile number: +255786 740 746.

Close link between primates and Ebola infection, residents of Kagera warned

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

RESIDENTS of Kagera Region have been cautioned not to come into contact with meat or blood from non-human primates namely monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees to avoid Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Although residents of the region don't eat meat of the animals like communities in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), but through hunting with dogs, they might come into contact with flesh or blood of the primates, hence catching EVD.

The caution was made yesterday by three officials from Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Said Makora, Crala Joas and Fadhili Kilamile during the presentation of awareness campaign for infection prevention and control of the disease to Kagera journalists, at NSSF hall in Bukoba municipality.

"It is important to educate the community to report immediately, if they see any suspected victim for immediate check up from health centres (immediate units) which have been established for the purpose of controlling the possible outbreak," said Mkora.

The immediate units are located Missenyi (Kabyaile Health Centre), Ngara, Karagwe and Kyerwa districts.

He mentioned the symptoms as body malaise, acute fever, headache, severe muscle pains and others.

Ebola viruses were first described after outbreak of EVD in Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan in August 1976.

The bats live with the viruses, when eating fruits, and the remains are eaten by primates, then transmission of the viruses to humans through direct contact with body fluids, the incubation

period being 21 days.

The recent Ebola outbreak in DRC which is the tenth, was confirmed by its Ministry of Health and WHO, in August 1st 2018, and until November 9, 2019, there were 3287 confirmed cases and 2192 deaths.

Makora said in Tanzania there has not been any confirmed case but advised that people ought to keep control of the disease by keeping observing cleanliness through regular hand washing with detergents.

Apart from Ebola being a deadly disease, it also put the country in economic shambles as to attend one patient costs approximately 20mn/- a day citing an example of doctor personal protection equipment (gown) which costs 500,000/- and a patient is attended by at least eight doctors, and the gowns have to be changed and destroyed after every six hours.

In August this year, scientists announced a breakthrough after decades of search for Ebola cure.

The trials which began in November last year involved four drugs but two emerged the most effective.

"From now on, we will no longer say that Ebola is incurable," said Prof Jean-Jacques Muyembe, General Director of the National Institute for Biomedical Research of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) whose institute oversaw the trial. "These advances will help save thousands of lives."

"It is important to educate the community to report immediately, if they see any suspected victim for immediate check up from health centres (immediate units) which have been established for the purpose of controlling the possible outbreak"



National Assembly deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson Mwansasu (C) chairs a seminar on the role of the legislative body in 'revolutionising' nutrition in Tanzania held in Dodoma yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has built two classrooms, dormitories and administration block at Oldonyowas Secondary School in Arusha District Council in a move aimed at improving teaching and learning environment in the area.

The fund has also capacitated the school with desks, toilets and teachers residences.

Worth 370m/- the project will among other things continue to improve attendance of children in class as well as improve their performances in school and national examinations.

Various reports point out that favourable learning and teaching environment is vital in improving children's performance in schools.

Speaking here yesterday, acting school's head master Kastuly Wema

TASAF supports Arusha school with better teaching, learning environment

commended TASAF saying that most of the students were previously studying under unfavourable classrooms something which was affecting their attendance and performance.

He told a team of journalists who paid a visit to the school to witness its progress and challenges. The project at the school was implemented by TASAF with funds from organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

According to him, previously, students had to walk for over 10km to reach a school in far villages something which was threatening their attendance, performance, safety and

development.

TASAF Coordinator in Arusha District Council, Grace Makema pointed out that apart from other projects, TASAF III also focuses on improving education delivery in the country by supporting schools with classrooms, desks, water, power and other equipment to enable better provision of education to children.

She said that TASAF's major aim is to help poor households to increase incomes and opportunities for enhancement of livelihoods through community savings and investments.

Makema said that through the established Productive Social Safety

Net (PSSN) in TASAF III beneficiaries 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. "The programme focuses on the construction of primary school buildings, health facilities and potable water supplies in villages with inadequate services," she said.

For his part, chairperson of the implementation of the project at the school, Anael Obedi observed the reason for selecting the particular area was due to a challenge which the village has been grappling with for years.



A flower vendor hunts for customers along Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Road yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer

Zanzibar initiates gender desks at police stations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar government has made efforts to boost rights of the children by establishing gender desks at police stations that would deal on issues of child abuse.

This was revealed by the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Khamis Juma Mwalim at the 20th International Judges Conference in Lucknow, India.

He said children groups are faced by various acts of child abuse, including

their failure to access justice, being subjected to bodily abuse and denial of their basic needs.

Mwalim said these challenges are largely contributed by lack of knowledge in safeguarding children's rights, hard living and broken families that spur denial of economic assistance from the families.

He explained that there is a need to introduce a special procedure to fight against all kinds of abuse to children through international law that

safeguard children to be implemented all over the world.

He said Zanzibar is part of the United Republic of Tanzania which has already certified various international protocols and resolutions that safeguard the rights of the children in the country.

From these protocols Zanzibar has initiated various policies and laws that go in tandem with the international protocols and cited the Law of the Child of 2011, Education Law of 1982 and the

2018 Penal Code which together deal extensively on the rights of the children as well as safeguards thereof.

He said for several years world governments have been fighting for children's rights including placing priorities on human rights whereas local and international civil society organisations have been identifying the needs of various groups in the society that need special attention for the protection and well being of children.

Invest more in science, technology, Ndalichako urges African countries

By Aisia Rweyemamu

AFRICAN governments have been urged to invest heavily in science and technology, which plays a key role in scaling up socio-economic development of the continent.

Minister for Education, Science, and Technology, Prof Joyce Ndalichako made the call on Monday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the official opening of the five-day African Science Granting Council 2019.

The meeting brought on board research funding agencies, scientists, innovators, policy makers and development partners from 15 African countries.

Prof Ndalichako also called on the council member states to identify scientific and technological problems and implementing jointly the flagship research innovation programme in social sector for the future benefit of science and technology.

According to her, science forms the basis for sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the society through increase in productivity, employment creation and competitiveness.

"For this to happen there must be investment in science as well as technology transfer resulting to new products," she said.

She added: "Economic progress requires more and better use of technology and research, in this regard research plays a crucial role in economic development of any society."

She also suggested the need for councils to come up with a platform that would encourage members to exchange scientists, researchers and experts of science, technology and innovation.

Prof Ndalichako further said: "Tanzanian government is looking forward to receive recommendation

from the meeting and work on it for the better future of funding science technology and innovation in Africa.

For his part, COSTECH board chairman, Prof Makenya Maboko said that in order to have good result scientists need to come together, collaborate and work hand in hand and support equality and status of women in research.

Director General for COSTECH Dr Amos Nungu said that the commission is part of the Science Granting Councils Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa, which is a five-year initiative launched in 2015.

He explained that council's initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of science granting councils in sub-Saharan Africa to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development.

He explained that the Science Granting Councils Initiative is strengthening the capacity of science granting councils, leading to more effective research investments and strengthened research leadership for development in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Initiative is jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

African Science Granting Councils meeting is co-hosted by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) in collaboration with the South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF) and African Technological Policy Studies Network (ATPS).

Kigoma RC urges port users to obey importation procedures

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

PORT users in Kigoma Region and Manyovu border have been urged to follow all procedures in importation of goods so as to avoid loss that might occur in case they didn't.

This was revealed recently by Kigoma Regional Commissioner Emmanuel Maganga, when opening a seminar for entrepreneurs, food processors and port users that was organised by Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

The seminar attracted more than 80 participants from the region and nearby areas. Speaking on behalf of the RC, the acting Regional Administrative Secretary, Dr Vedast Makota, said they play a big role to develop private sector and increase income to the government hence are required to follow all procedures.

He said the seminar would enable participants to understand all procedures to be followed before they import particularly product certification and all challenges involved in the institutions and the government since this event aims to impart you with knowledge on Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity," he said.

For his part, the Acting Director of Quality Assurance, Gervas Kaisi, said TBS has been conducting similar seminars to producers and importers in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tanga

and Kilimanjaro regions in order to make them understand various issues regarding standards.

He said according to the clause no 36 of Standards act no 2 of 2009, the government enacted compulsory batch certification of imports regulations through government gazette Notice no 405 of December 25, 2009. Kaisi said the said regulations gave TBS powers to control quality of imported goods before they enter into the country, hence traders are required to conduct their activities without violations.

He said apart from the said regulations, on February 1st 2012, TBS commenced PVoC programme to control importation of substandard goods which has helped to minimise challenges facing traders.

Some of challenges were; delay of cargo removal from port, existence of some dishonest traders who use to import their goods through unofficial routes and lack of modern equipment to test every product imported in the country.

The official said TBS has contracted four international companies to inspect quality of goods abroad before they are shipped to Tanzania.

They are SGS, Bureau Veritas, Intertek CCIC which inspects cargo on behalf of TBS and issue Certificate of Conformity (CoC) after being satisfied on its quality.

Apart from inspection abroad, he said there is another programme known as destination inspection (DI) where all products are inspected upon arrival and given a go ahead after passing the test.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angeline Mabula cuts ribbon in Dodoma yesterday to launch TPB Bank's small housing loans. With her are the bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi (R), and sales director Deo Kwiuyukwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Women traders decry sharing of toilet with men

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari,

Mtwara

WOMEN traders in Mtwara Mikindani Municipality, Mtwara Region have said they are compelled to share one public toilet with men at the municipality's market because of lack of a separate facility for ladies.

This, they said, risk their health and deny them privacy and dignity since they are forced to wait longer as men use the key room.

Women from 'Sauti ya Mwanamke Sokoni' organisation revealed this yesterday here during

entrepreneurs study visit organized by Equality For Growth (EFG) a non-governmental organisation aimed at discovering challenges faces women in markets.

Magdalena Malembe, the chairman of 'Sauti ya Mwanamke Sokoni' in Mtwara main market said women were allocated only two latrines despite of their big number.

"They have reserved only two rooms for us, unfortunately one is closed, we remain with one...this lead us sometimes to use men's toilets.. So we share with men, we are not happy with this situation," revealed Malembe.

She added that: "We are at high risk of being infected with various illnesses as well as irrespectively our dignity... this is a big challenge and we call upon authorities to act against it."

Saba Saba Market Secretary Charles Chambea insisted the authorities to maintain conducive environment for women entrepreneurs to work smoothly including construction of enough toilets.

EGF project Officer Susan Sitta said the project aims at empowering financially women in markets by offering saving skills in order to uplift their livelihood.

"Women are busy nowadays

but when the sun sets they find themselves with nothing saved or very little money...they are incapable of budgeting, they are doing subsistence business, with this project they will be empowered with saving skills."

Municipal Mayor Geofrey Mwanichisey promised to immediately solve the toilet challenge and they should remain patient.

The project is now implemented at nine regions including, Mbeya, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Lushoto-Tanga, Musoma, Lindi, Mtwara and Dar es Salaam with a total of 6500 members.



A Mbalizi resident (R) assists another, who was transporting firewood to Mbeya city for sale yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Green activists call for more incentives to scale up forest conservation

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya,

Morogoro

ENVIRONMENTAL activists have suggested the need for the government and other stakeholders to come up with incentives that will encourage local communities to see the importance of conserving natural forests.

One of the environmental activists, Emmanuel Lyimo described human activities as among the key drivers of deforestation in Tanzania, which can only be addressed if local communities are given alternative income generating activities.

According to him, agriculture is one of the most prevalent drivers recorded in 89 per cent of all surveyed points causing deforestation in the country.

Lyimo, Assistant Executive Director with the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) said this yesterday when speaking at a two-day training to journalists from different media outlets.

He said that a study carried out between 2010 and 2017 shows that agriculture is one of the main drivers of deforestation in Tanzania. Other drivers include charcoal making,

overgrazing and fire. Lyimo said that 76 per cent of the area mostly affected by deforestation was the village land because it is public and nobody cares to protect it.

He said that unless the government and other key stakeholders in the agricultural sector take strong measures to address uncontrolled agriculture, particularly on the village land, agriculture will remain the major driver of deforestation in the country.

Lyimo said that the current policies in place focusing on reducing demand for woody biomass such as fuel efficient stoves and tree planting are not solutions to address the main deforestation driver.

He said that for Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) to be sustainable, communities need to benefit directly from their village land forest reserves, to be supported by local government.

"In order to address deforestation, TFCG has supported 30 communities to establish and manage village land forest reserves, and as a result were able to protect 114,883 hectares of natural woodland in Kilosa, Mvomero and Morogoro districts, said Simon Lugazo, TFCG's capacity building officer.

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Mwanga District spearheads children's protection project

MWANGA District authorities yesterday launched a strategy aimed at ending violence against children at home and school. The strategy which has been prepared by the students in collaboration with their teachers at Dr Asha-Rose Migiro Secondary School is also geared to raise awareness and call on each member of the society to contribute to a healthy, safe and secure living environment for children, especially the most vulnerable children. Launching the strategy, Mwanga

District's Education Officer, Mariana Mgonja said the strategy is in line with the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children that was launched in 2016.

She however commended the role played by the Moshi-based NGO-Action for Justice in Society (AJISO) through their child protecting project.

An official from AJISO, Tatu Mruttu explained that their organisation has provided awareness on child abuses,

child violence, and children's rights to primary pupils and secondary students to eliminate violence against them.

"We started by creating awareness on child abuses and violence against Women and children to the district child protecting committees in Mwanga district before spreading the knowledge to primary and secondary schools pupils," she explained. She added that, the implementation of the project aims at joining government's efforts to

eliminate gender-based violence (GBVs) through National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.

She named the four primary schools that AJISO has reached in Mwanga district as Muongodi, Mwanga, Relini Juu and Mramba; and formed a special student's club against GBVs at Dr Asha Rose Migiro Secondary School.

For her part, the Legal Officer from AJISO, Angelica Salewa explained that they introduced child protection

project in Mwanga district after experiencing high number of children abuses and violence cases.

"AJISO collaborates with special Child Protection Committees from village levels to regional levels to make sure that women and children rights are not denied that's why we have started creating awareness to members of those committees and children themselves from primary to secondary schools," she explained.

Cultural leader, Chief Jabiri Msofe, and Dr Asha Rose Migiro headmistress Flaviana Sumawe explained that, the awareness training to child protection committees and to the children themselves comes at a right time as there is high increase of child abuses and gender-based violence against women and children.

"My appeal to all children is to provide information to their parents, guardians, teachers or police gender desks if their rights will be denied instead of hiding for sustainable children's rights..." the school headmistress insisted.

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There is need to reinvent African reading culture

FORMER President Benjamin Mkapa yesterday unveiled his book 'My Life, My Purpose' at a function held in Dar es Salaam. We congratulate Mkapa not only for providing Tanzanians the insight of his life and presidency, but also he might be spurring confidence to potential book writers - the commodity that had been fast disappearing.

Several years ago, when launching a Book Festival in Dar es Salaam organised by Tanzania Book Council (Bavita) the then Vice President Mohamed Gharib Bilal threw a challenge to authors in the country to write books which would be marketable to all sections of the community instead of sticking to school teaching books.

He revealed what has been the truth until this day - that the nation was hurting for lack of a reading culture among the people, as a nation without readers was like "dessert without fruits".

The situation is near apathetic - young and upcoming authors have almost failed to produce books and distribute them to the market probably because they don't know the demand of their target customers or because this time many people read intensively when faced with examination in order to get certificates or jobs.

In fact we doubt whether the country still has authors of note, no doubt because of the invasion of satellite TV, Internet etc, that saw the reading culture within the general public all but disappeared in the country.

Kenyan renowned author Ngugi wa Thiong'o whilst on a visit to Tanzania several years ago also aired his misgivings on the diminishing of reading culture among Africans and that such a phenomenon was

detrimental to African development.

He believed that the root causes for this state of affairs was donor dependent funds, which perpetuated many Africans to depend more on books authored by Europeans than by Africans. He said that was precisely a way of maintaining neo-colonialism on the continent.

So as we embark on the reinvention of the reading culture we should also endeavour to decolonize and emancipate ourselves from these external literary forces.

For Tanzanians, it is a challenge to our authors and policy makers. Many books we use in schools especially in higher education institutions are still imported from abroad.

Many prestigious bookshops in Dar es Salaam and elsewhere in the country have vanished over the years due to the disappearance of readers. In 1960s and 70s, one would witness young people, including students in commuter buses reading novels by English authors such as James Hadley Chase, Earle Stanley Gardner or Alistair Maclean.

That is of course history, as our people now opt to watch English Premier League matches on TV or Hollywood films. This has contributed to their poor mastering of the English language.

As stated with the spread of satellite TV and use of Internet, coupled by the availability of many online books, local authors thought they can now breathe since whatever is needed in class can be obtained online.

But even what is posted online has been written by a particular author and so there is no reason to give in. In fact, it calls for more creativity and use of talents so that the local authors can also emerge as best book writers

Battle against wildlife poachers has become increasingly high-tech

POACHING has been defined as the illegal hunting or capturing of wild animals.

In 1998, environmental scientists from the University of Massachusetts Amherst proposed the concept of poaching as an environmental crime, defining any activity as illegal that contravenes the laws and regulations established to protect renewable natural resources including the illegal harvest of wildlife with the intention of possessing, transporting, consuming or selling it and using its body parts. They considered poaching as one of the most serious threats to the survival of plant and animal populations. Wildlife biologists and conservationists consider poaching to have a detrimental effect on biodiversity both within and outside protected areas as wildlife populations decline, species are depleted locally, and the functionality of ecosystems is disturbed.

This year marked a milestone in the battle to protect endangered species, when an international team of scientists announced they had successfully created two northern white rhino embryos.

The landmark achievement is a promising step towards pulling the white rhino back from the brink of extinction.

It also highlights how technology is being harnessed to protect wildlife - including efforts beyond the lab in places like South Africa.

More than 760 rhinos are killed annually in South Africa - including 421 slaughtered last year in Kruger National Park.

Rhinos are killed for their horns, which are prized in traditional Asian medicine and command high prices when poachers hawk them on black markets. But international trade in rhino parts is illegal.

Research indicates that tech

innovations have already helped to curb poaching in Africa. Black and white rhinoceros - the continent's two rhino species, classified as endangered and threatened, respectively - have increased in population in recent years, reports WWF.

In conservation hotspots across the world, artificial intelligence, drones, and surveillance platforms are among the technologies that have become the latest line of defence against the \$23bn global illegal wildlife trade, which claims the lives of 800 rhinos - along with 15,000 elephants and untold numbers of pangolins, impalas, bush pigs, warthogs and other animals - in Africa every year.

Only 25,000 rhinos, 415 African elephants, and dwindling numbers of other at-risk species survive on the continent in the wild today.

"There is too much to protect, and too few people to protect it, so technology has become essential when addressing the global poaching crisis," says Rohit Singh, head of the Zero Poaching initiative for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

As conservation groups get smarter about technology, so do the poachers they are battling to stop. Environmentalists say the fear of never being more than one step ahead is tangible in their campaign to save animals hunted for their horns, tusks, pelts, scales or skin - or for capture as exotic pets.

"With illegal wildlife trade being run by increasingly organised crime syndicates, poachers already use technology and are often far better equipped than those protecting nature and wildlife," says Singh.

"Smartphone and GPS trackers are used to both locate wildlife and to avoid ranger patrols. But the benefits of technology in protecting our iconic wildlife and forests far outweigh the negatives."



We beg to differ: Classical liberalism is exactly what South Africa needs

By Mpiyakhe Dhlamini

Distributed via

IN the Daily Maverick article, 'No country for Libertarian men' Professor Balthazar launches a frontal assault on libertarianism, an American word for what we know in South Africa as liberalism, or so-called 'classical' liberalism. He is wrong.

Freedom produces prosperity. This fact is put beyond question by indices like the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World report, Freedom House's Freedom in the World report, and the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. The countries where the freedom of the individual - including their right to own private property - is respected and protected, are the countries that consistently top the indices that measure human development and prosperity.

Life expectancy is the highest and malnutrition lowest where liberty is prioritised. On the other hand, where the state and its ideological goals are placed front and centre as the organising principles of society, there is destitution. Most importantly, the Fraser report shows that the poorest 10% of the people in countries with freer markets have incomes six times higher (\$10,646) than their counterparts (\$1,503) in the most regulated markets.

These are the products of liberal thought, liberal law, and liberal government.

In the Daily Maverick article 'no country for libertarian men' Professor Balthazar launches a frontal assault on libertarianism, an American word for what we know in South Africa as liberalism, or so-called 'classical' liberalism. Despite many other problems with his argument, Balthazar correctly identifies some of the key aspects of liberalism: individual liberty, personal responsibility, and an insistence on limited government. We would add constitutionalism and the Rule of Law as further aspects. These are the things that have created immense levels of wealth for the people of every society that chose to adopt them.

South African politics is clearly dominated by race. It is the lens through which we perceive all issues. Any proposal to solve our problems which does not take account of race is rejected outright. Thinking about it rationally, however, this sentiment can, and has, only perpetuated racialism. The law, understood to be an institution that protects people's rights to liberty and property, should only concern itself with the circumstances of the

case as they relate to the individuals in question, without regard to their race.

It is somewhat disconcerting that Balthazar likens liberalism - the very idea of freedom itself - to a "white male norm" or "standard", as if the right to be free from coercion by the heteronomous power of the state is an exclusive entitlement of white men. We fundamentally disagree. Everyone should - must, in fact - have the right to determine what is best for themselves, especially in light of South Africa's history of state oppression.

There has been a relatively consistent refusal among commentators to acknowledge that liberal theory represents a legitimate (rational even) answer to the problem of conflict over scarce resources that has bedeviled mankind since the beginning. Here, the conflict has taken a racial character, with the various governments that have and still rule here classifying us, to varying degrees, according to race and other immutable characteristics. In the course of this refusal, a strawman argument commonly employed against liberals is that they do not care about righting the wrongs of the past. This criticism underlies Balthazar's article.

The problem with this argument is it ignores the key role restitution plays in classical liberal thought on property rights. To the classical liberal, Murray Rothbard, property rights lie at the heart of recognising the inherent dignity and worth of the individual to decide for themselves. He wrote that property rights provide the very basis of human rights, without this recognition, rights become contradictory and vague, and therefore open to abuse and weakening by government.

Given this principled stance, which led liberals to oppose apartheid, it makes sense then that liberals continue advocating for the restitution of property to those who had it seized by the state. If liberalism did not care about past wrongs and restitution, it would make for a poor legal philosophy. Where the dispossessor - given South Africa's past, this is almost invariably the government - can be identified, they have an obligation to restore the victim to where they were before the dispossession.

South Africa has had a land restitution programme - supported by liberals - since the end of apartheid. Restitution is enabled by section 25 of the Constitution, arguably the most important and transformative provision in our highest law. Millions of black South Africans had their property seized and the opportunity

to own property denied to them in the previous century, and the Constitution sought to put this right.

Balthazar claims classical liberalism, and particularly non-racialism, are "at war with the innermost commitments of the Constitution". But the contrary proves true.

Non-racialism is a founding value in section 1(b) of the Constitution. Section 1, by virtue of being the most difficult provision to amend in our highest law, is the embodiment of the innermost commitments of the Constitution. Furthermore, the Constitution is itself a product of the liberal world order in which we find ourselves today. Indeed, constitutionalism - the only useful definition of which is an institution that limits the scope and power of government - is one of the most successful liberal phenomena, next to free markets, that have produced unprecedented prosperity around the world.

Balthazar, claiming to be one of South Africa's foremost legal minds, finds things in the Constitution that are in fact not there. He writes that the Constitution eschews "the previous white male standard by which to judge conduct or performance" and that there is an imperative to ensure "that the vast majority of CEOs and other leaders are black". But the Constitution does neither.

The Constitution abolished apartheid and obligated the state to take measures, within the framework of the liberal phenomenon of constitutionalism, to undo the damage done to property rights and legal equality. The Constitution also nowhere requires demographic representivity in the private sector. It requires it in two respects exclusively: in the public administration and in the judiciary. Elsewhere, section 1(b) standard of non-racialism applies. If the Constitution contemplated racial representivity in the private sector, it would simply have provided so, given that it had already accepted the premise for the courts and civil service.

To imply that liberals have made no proposals for the alleviation of poverty is also disingenuous. It is laughable, in fact, given there is now a sustained push by the socialists whom Balthazar supposedly supports, to change the liberal Constitution to weaken private property rights and, as a result, entrench the otherwise temporary condition of poverty.

Liberals propose allowing the poor to take ownership of property improperly held by the state. State

ownership introduces ambiguity to property relations since, while in theory all citizens "own" the state in some sense, we cannot exercise this right in any meaningful way, like selling our shares or having the state declared insolvent and thus liable to have its assets distributed to creditors. This "common" ownership we all have in South Africa is useless, and therefore state ownership subverts the liberal rationale for property rights and especially the law: to peacefully resolve conflict over finite resources.

We are glad that Balthazar quotes Adam Smith. Smith was by no means a complete classical liberal, but neither was he the big government welfarist Balthazar tries to make him out to be.

In his Lectures on Jurisprudence, Smith said the "four great objects of law are justice, police, revenue, and arms". He then methodologically set out the role of government by law. Recognising the notion of natural individual rights, Smith wrote that as a matter of justice, the government must protect the private property rights of its subjects. A Scotsman, Smith elaborated on property law in great detail. In South Africa, our very own, majestic Roman-Dutch common law system has the same law of property that guarantees protected private property rights for all, regardless of race.

We live in a better South Africa today because, with the adoption of the Constitution, we made a lot of progress towards respecting individual liberty. We still fall short in many areas: the precariousness of women's property rights in communal areas and the failure of the government to properly undo apartheid property law are but two examples. Indeed, millions still live on municipally owned land as tenants because their ancestors were deemed "temporary sojourners" in white South Africa. The democratic government's failure to give them the title deeds they are naturally entitled to represent a great failure to ensure equality before the law regardless of one's racial identity.

The government continues to classify us not as individuals who possess inherent rights, but as either a part of the racial collective that was denied rights or the collective that infringed rights. This was exactly the same logic behind Afrikaner nationalism, and we would all be better off if we rejected it in favour of those liberal values that respect human dignity and liberty, and which will soon cause the end of absolute poverty where they are respected.

Shalaw's breathtaking story of return and reintegration

By **Yad Abdulqader**

SHALAW Abdulstar owned a clothing shop for four years before several financial crises hit Iraq's Kurdistan Region in 2014, causing many businesses to fail.

"After the crises hit, I was barely making any money. I couldn't pay the shop's rent to continue my business, let alone other expenses. I had no choice but to close the shop and stay at home," Shalaw said.

Shalaw (35) is from Erbil. He decided to move permanently to Europe with his brother in late 2017, and sold his car and other belongings to collect money for the journey.

"We first contacted a smuggler here in Erbil and went to Turkey. From there we went to Edirne, which is a city at the border between Turkey and Greece; we walked for eight hours non-stop before crossing the border into Greece," Shalaw explained.

"The most dangerous part was when we walked in between military camps; we could see the soldiers training. We had to bend down and walk through the dense forest to stay hidden," he said.

He added: "I regretted embarking on the journey the moment I crossed the Turkish border. I missed my family and my wife, and wished I had never made the decision to emigrate."

After their perilous journey to Greece, the brothers still had to travel a long way to reach their intended destination - Germany.

"When we reached Greece, we wanted to go to Athens as some friends were waiting for us there. We went to a train station and found out that the tickets would cost us 120 Euros, for both of us," Shalaw recalled, noting: "We checked all our pockets and only found 60 Euros, so we started rifling through our belongings to find more money."

"The agent at the ticket booth understood that we didn't have the money. He asked us to give him what we had, and gave us the two tickets for 60 Euros," said Shalaw.

He added: "Seeing how tired and hungry we looked, he gave us 10 Euros back and pointed to a nearby market. It was an unbelievable moment; I don't know what we would've done if



not for his generosity."

Shalaw and his brother stayed in Athens for four months. During that time, they made several attempts to cross the border into Italy and Germany.

"We tried every possible way, but we failed. The last time we tried; we hid in the axle of a truck," Shalaw recalled.

"The truck was supposed to go on a ferry to Italy, but just before getting into the boat, police dogs detected us. We ran away towards a mountain nearby; this had happened before. But this time, the police chased us down," he narrated further.

Shalaw's brother got nervous and jumped off a cliff to evade capture and broke his ankle in the fall. The police eventually caught up with him and took him to the hospital.

"I stayed on the mountain that night.

In the morning, I went to the hospital and found my brother. The doctors had to put four platinum rods in his ankle," Shalaw recounted, adding: "It was devastating to see him like that."

After Shalaw's brother was released from the hospital, the pair went back to Athens and decided that they wanted to return home.

"I missed my family so much, especially after my brother's incident. I felt their absence and I wanted to come home," Shalaw said, noting: "My wife was pregnant, and I wanted to be back home before the baby was born."

Shalaw approached the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) office in Athens and applied for voluntary return assistance. The agency took care of the brothers' travel arrangements and they were able to go home on January 1, 2018.

"IOM treated us well; they gave us pocket money and provided us with accommodation. They also called in a doctor for my brother, to continue treating his ankle," Shalaw explained.

After returning to Iraq, IOM conducted face-to-face counselling sessions with the brothers and provided them with in-kind assistance. Shalaw was able to re-open his clothing shop

and enrol in a two-month vocational training to learn English, while his brother received assistance to open a market stall.

"I was in a very bad situation. I didn't have any money left. IOM's assistance helped me get back on my feet," Shalaw said, adding: "Our situation is so much better now; my brother's ankle healed, and we are both happy that we decided to come back."

When asked if he would consider leaving again, Shalaw said: "Never - maybe only as a tourist. I learned the value of being among friends and family. People in Greece were very good to us, but I don't want to live away from my family again."

IOM's assistance to Shalaw was funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the German Corporation for International Development and the German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration in Iraq.

An IOM dispatch.



Gender equality and women empowerment at the heart of ICPD25. File photo

Call to action as thousands breathe new life into the Cairo promise at ICPD 25 Nairobi Summit

NAIROBI, Kenya

EVERY DAY 830 women die while giving life. At least 33,000 girls are

forced into child marriage with 11,000 girls undergoing female genital mutilation. These are some of the cruel realities young women face every day. However, there is renewed hope that delegates expected to attend the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Nairobi this week will re-energise and breathe new life to the Cairo Promise.

"The Summit is a call to action to accelerate progress towards the world we imagined in 1994," Arthur Erken, one of the three co-chairs of the International Steering Committee of the Nairobi Summit, tells IPS. He emphasises that the magic of the first ICPD conference is in the paradigm shift from "a numbers-driven approach to development to placing people, their needs and aspirations, at the heart of sustainable development".

Erken says this summit is, therefore, a call to action to countries and partners to fulfil the Cairo Promise by making concrete commitments towards achieving the ICPD goals.

Unfulfilled promises and Re-energising the global community

Co-hosted by the governments of Kenya, Denmark and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Nairobi Summit takes place on the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Unfortunately, says Erken, this promise has for millions of women and girls around the world not been fulfilled. "The world we imagined in Cairo is not a reality," says Erken. He says the Cairo Promise was about ensuring that all people have access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, including safe pregnancy, childbirth and family planning services, and are free from all forms of violence and harmful practices.

Other experts such as Beatrice Okundi, assistant director of the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD), affirms that at the heart of the promise is gender equality, and the emphasis placed on equality and empowerment of women and girls.

Raising awareness

Okundi says that accelerating the Cairo Promise will require raising awareness on the relationship between population growth and sustainable development. "For Kenya to absorb an additional one million people every year as it has done for the past 10 years, our economy must grow at a double-dig-

it figure up from the current 5.7 percent," she tells IPS.

Five themes to a call for Action

Erken explains that the summit is focused around five themes: universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, financing the ICPD agenda, drawing on the demographic dividends, ending gender-based violence and harmful practices and upholding the right to sexual and reproductive health-care, even in humanitarian and fragile contexts.

He says the summit is also about achieving three critical zeroes: zero unmet need for family planning, zero maternal deaths and zero violence and harmful practices against women and girls, including child marriages and female genital mutilation. "ICPD25 is also about assessing how much these three zeroes will cost governments as well as partners, and emphasises the need for innovative financial models," Okundi adds.

She says that "ICPD sets in place a far-sighted plan that advances human well-being and their rights, well ahead of numerical numbers".

Erken points out the Nairobi Statement "is not a negotiated document". However, it is nonetheless the overall global framework formulated and based on wide consultations with diverse stakeholders, including governments and CSOs, among others. "This statement is an embodiment of areas that need prioritising. It is a reflection of the state of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the areas where concrete commitments are required in order to move the ICPD agenda forward."

Finish what we started...

But not every expert or delegate is as hopeful, as expressed by Angela Nguku, the executive director of White Ribbon Alliance, an international coalition on safe motherhood. She argues there is no need for new promises or commitments.

"We need to finish what we started in Cairo by removing obstacles, especially corruption from our path," she says. Nguku says that misappropriation of public funds continues to stand between populations and Cairo promise.

"On this continent, the ICPD agenda remains unfulfilled, not because of a resource gap, but a leadership and governance gap. We need to put the resources we have where they are needed," she tells IPS.

Nonetheless, delegates expect that the new commitments made in the next three days will lead to completion of the unfinished business of ICPD.

Can African leaders put free trade above nationalism?

By **RONAK GOPALDAS**

THE signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) couldn't have come at a better time for the continent. Globally, the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union (EU) stumbles along with growing acrimony while United States (US) and Chinese policymakers struggle to find common ground, and common interest.

The collective effort required to get 54 of 55 African countries to sign the AfCFTA, particularly on a continent divided by disparate political agendas, short-termism and sporadic diplomatic standoffs, shouldn't be underestimated.

While the agreement is lauded as an African solution to African problems, it is worth remembering the pitfalls of those who've travelled a similar journey to avoid the same mistakes. This is even more important as trade agreements worldwide show signs of unravelling.

In Europe, trade relations were forged over decades following World War II to counteract the factors that caused the war, and collaborate for sustained economic growth and prosperity. Reaching agreement was an arduous process. Africa seeks the same outcome in less than a tenth of the time and on a far grander scale.

But given the nature and extent of Africa's challenges, the continent doesn't have the luxury of time and can't afford to follow the traditional path towards integration. The AfCFTA came into force in May, was operational in June and is set to start trading in July 2020 - the timeframe is tight and the stakes are high.

There are three key dilemmas Africa's policymakers must resolve to realise the initiative. The first is harmonising Africa's heterogeneous economies under one agreement. There are massive infrastructure and industrialisation development gaps among African Union (AU) members. Less developed and less export-oriented countries risk the allure of cheaper goods imports not sufficiently offset by export volumes. Ultimately



this leads to a balance of payments crisis, economic growth divergence, rising inequality and social unrest.

More developed African countries must take the lead in avoiding trade mismatches that could destabilise economies and drive a wedge between the continent's economic powerhouses and smaller states. An efficient and inclusive institutional approach is needed to avoid leaving any economies behind.

The second challenge is that forging ahead with AfCFTA will require huge trade-offs from political leaders. They will need to think beyond short-term election cycles, and cede sovereignty in policymaking. Aligning continental objectives with a domestic agenda won't be easy, especially as global populism and nationalism is rising, and protectionist approaches are being advocated.

Nigeria has a history of open hostility towards foreign multinationals in the telecommunications, mining and retail industries. It has recently banned the import of a host of food, consumer and industrial goods to protect domestic industry. Similarly, Tanzanian President John Magufuli declared war on foreign miners and clamped down on media freedom to quell dissent.

Sceptics also point to the xenophobic violence against African nationals in

Global lessons show that for AfCFTA to work, the continent's leaders must think beyond short-term election cycles. File photo

South Africa, and Nigeria's recent border closure with Benin due to rice and tomato smuggling, as examples of what the continent's leaders will have to contend with. The increase in such incidents is a timely counterpoint to the optimism surrounding the AfCFTA, and highlights how difficult achieving its vision will be.

The third dilemma is that for the agreement to succeed, African politicians must accept that the benefits for their countries far outweigh stalling the entire process over pockets of discontent. This narrative must be driven down to the private sector and electorate.

The divide between the 'average Joes', business and politicians must be bridged. This is best done by governments denouncing any form of populism, nationalism and protectionism. Allowing xenophobic violence to go unchecked, closing borders to trade and badgering foreign companies sends the wrong message and perpetuates a mistrust of foreign intentions.

Africa must also contend with additional complications that the EU didn't face in its efforts to integrate. Building social consensus around key policy issues is harder today, when

populism and social media make time a luxury in policymaking. African leaders are expected to deliver AfCFTA in an environment where populism is more fashionable than technocracy, and where emotions matter more than evidence. The appetite for painful but effective long-run solutions finds little resonance with impatient electorates.

The examples above highlight the threat nationalism poses to broader continental ambitions. While appearing to protect domestic industries and workers, the unintended inflation it generates eventually makes ordinary people the victim. Moreover, such spats often degenerate into tit-for-tat retaliation between countries - a zero-sum game that could affect the whole continent.

This is not just an African problem. Europe and the US have shown how populist opposition politicians can seize on a rising sense of dissatisfaction and use scaremongering tactics for political gain. Most of the nationalist promises made to the electorate were empty, and only attainable at great trade and economic cost. Rather than reinforcing their sovereignty, these countries are finding themselves increasingly isolated.

'Consumer demand drives revenue growth in Africa's E&M industry'

By Special Correspondent

THE rise of increasingly personal and personalised media interaction fuelled by technology and evolving customer behaviour is gaining momentum, with consumers using an array of connected devices to organise, curate and discover their own unique worlds of media.

In response, companies are designing their offerings to revolve around personal preferences, using data and usage patterns to pitch their products not at audiences of billions, but separately at billions of individuals.

These are some of the highlights from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's (PwC) 10th annual edition of the Entertainment & Media Outlook: 2019-2023 - An African perspective released yesterday.

These profound shifts are taking place against a background of ongoing global growth in entertainment and media (E&M) revenues. By 2023 total E&M revenue in South Africa is expected to reach Rand 170.5 billion, up from R128.9 billion in 2018.

Consumer spending on Internet access is a major contributor to growth, accounting for 61 per cent of the overall rise in E&M revenue. Total Internet access is forecast to increase at an 8.2 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) over the forecast period and reach R77.7 billion in 2023.

Vicki Myburgh, Entertainment and Media leader for PwC Southern Africa, says: "This year, The Outlook looks at the industry through the eyes of the consumer - the central theme of this growing media is personal and increasingly digital. There is an increasing shift to personalised experiences all around us in the fast-changing human behaviours involving E&M."

"Consumers around the world want to exert greater control over how they experience and enjoy media content," she notes, elaborating: "They are managing their own media consumption by way of smartphones and an expanding array of devices, by curating their own personal selection of channels via over-the-top (OTT) services and by bringing more digital media content into their lives via smart homes and connected cars."

The Outlook is a comprehensive source of analyses and five-year forecasts of consumer and advertising spending across five countries - Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania - and 14 segments: Internet, data consumption, television, cinema, video games, e-sports, virtual reality, newspaper publishing, magazine publishing, book publishing, business-to-business, music, out-of-home (OOH) and radio.

Annual revenue growth continues in the industry

Although the growth of Internet access in the share of overall E&M revenue will fall by 2023, its 46 per cent share of the total in that year will exceed the global average of 33 per cent, indicating that many South African consumers find that access alone provides sufficiently compelling and free entertainment experiences.

Charles Stuart, Entertainment and



Media Partner, PwC South Africa adds: "The advent of 5G networks will also impact the entire technology, media and telecommunications value chain over the next decade."

He elaborates: "5G will impact virtually every industry, but E&M companies will be among the earliest to incorporate 5G into their offerings and business models. It will also enhance the customer experience further and accelerate growth for many subsectors within the E&M industry, from video games to high-definition video streaming of sporting events."

The growing segments of VR (virtual reality), AR (augmented reality) and mixed reality (MR) will also accelerate as a result of 5G. The potential use cases from this mobile revolution will be seized by the most agile and innovative E&M firms to create new revenue streams stretching into, and fundamentally changing, the future.

South African consumer revenue is set for a 6.4 per cent CAGR between last year and 2023, increasing from R99.4 billion to R135.6 billion.

Although print-exposed segments are proving a drag on growth, there are many pockets of positivity here, with gaming, video and music revenue all performing strongly.

Meanwhile, Internet revenue takes a major proportion of overall revenue, but it is positive to note that three other sectors - video games, e-sports and virtual reality - have stronger CAGRs than Internet to 2023. Music and podcasts are also other good sources for consumer revenue, as is television.

Advertising revenue in South Africa rose by 2.8 per cent year-on-year last year, reaching a total of R29.5 billion. Further reasonably consistent rises at a CAGR of 3.4 per cent will see the total reach R34.9 billion in 2023.

South Africa enjoyed 24.2 per cent year-on-year growth last year in total Internet advertising revenue. Whereas globally Internet advertising has already become the biggest advertising medium by revenue, in South Africa it still trails TV advertising.

International evidence, however, suggests that Internet advertising will continue to catch up rapidly. Over the forecast period, its revenue will increase at 12.4 per cent CAGR, doubling to R8.7 billion by 2023. This fast

growth will see Internet advertising overtake TV advertising in 2022.

Differences in growth rates at segment levels

Looking at specific E&M segments, the video games market in South Africa will continue to see growth over the next five years, with total revenue rising from R3.5 billion last year to R5.4 billion in 2023. Social/casual gaming represented 56.6 per cent of total video games revenue last year and is set to increase significantly to 68.4 per cent in 2023.

Digital music-streaming providers continue to gain traction among consumers. Consumers have an array of music-streaming providers to choose from.

Digital music streaming revenue reached R325 million in 2018, up almost 57 per cent year on year. Streaming revenue is set to increase at a 20.1 per cent CAGR to total R815 million in 2023.

South Africa continues to be the largest TV market on the African continent. Despite a challenging macro-economic environment and political uncertainty in recent years, the TV industry has shown growth and will expand at 3.9 per cent CAGR to R40.5 billion in 2023. TV advertising will grow at 1.8 per cent CAGR but will account for a smaller proportion of the market in 2023.

VR remains a niche category, but the industry is slowly overcoming certain challenges such as content availability, comfort, compatibility and affordability. This sector continues to attract significant investment from major media and technology companies that are eager to seize a share of this fast-growing market.

The popularity of e-sports in South Africa is indisputable. Total e-sports revenue is forecast to reach R138 million in 2023, a 24.7 per cent CAGR rise from the R46 million recorded last year.

Radio continues to have a solid listener base in South Africa, with 47 per cent of listeners tuning in for more than 20 hours in a given week. All being well over the next five years, total radio revenue has the potential to edge towards the R5.0 billion-mark, totaling R4.8 billion in 2023.

The print-exposed newspapers, books and consumer magazines segments have the worst forecasts through to 2023, with revenues projected to suffer declining or constrained CAGRs of -2.3 per cent, 0.3 per cent and 1.1 per cent, respectively.

Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania

In Nigeria, E&M revenue is set to rise at 19.3 per cent CAGR to reach US\$10.8 billion in 2023 from US\$4.5 billion last year. Nigeria's E&M revenue was dominated by Internet access during the year, with the figure expected to rise to 81 per cent in five years' time.

Although the Internet dominates much of the revenue, there is still room for improvement in service. Outside of Internet access, TV and video will push towards US\$1 billion in revenue by 2023 after adding US\$172 million over the five years.

Kenya's E&M market is set to see growth at 10.3 per cent CAGR over the next five years, reaching nearly US\$3.0 billion in 2023. Last year the market rose by 13 per cent year-on-year to reach US\$1.8 billion.

Internet access is integral to this revenue and growth, but not quite to the extent that it is in Nigeria. TV and video are also major contributors to overall revenue, responsible for 17 per cent of Kenya's total last year.

Ghana's E&M industry is set for the fastest growth of any of the countries considered in the Outlook, forecast to rise at a 19.8 per cent CAGR to reach nearly US\$3 billion by 2023. This comes after the country's E&M market rose 36.3 per cent year-on-year last year, to reach US\$1.2 billion.

TV and video are the largest contributors in terms of non-access revenue. Over two-thirds of Ghana's TV industry is attributable to advertising revenue, with the subscription TV market limited and struggling for growth.

Tanzania's total E&M revenue rose 17.2 per cent year-on-year last year, reaching US\$598 million. A CAGR of 18.3 per cent is expected to see the market stand at US\$1.4 billion by 2023.

Between them, the five countries considered in the Outlook will add US\$13.1 billion in revenue over the next five years, a CAGR of 11.9 per cent.

This is indicative of the still-strong capacity for organic growth across the countries, with many millions of consumers seeing improvements in their discretionary incomes over the next five years that will enable them to enjoy E&M experiences.

"The breakneck pace of technological progress is the catalyst for growth, as Internet access revenue rises drive overall revenue forward. But away from this, trends and norms differ greatly by country, with markets firmly resisting easy characterization," says PwC Southern Africa's Myburgh.

"All of this means that companies that want to position themselves for a successful future will have to focus intently on consumers, innovate and experiment continually and be prepared to make significant investments," she notes.

A PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) dispatch filed from Johannesburg.



Merchants and buyers negotiate during a matchmaking conference of the second CIIE.

High popularity of second CIIE reveals vitality of Chinese economy

economy.

THE China International Import Expo (CIIE) is a platform for global enterprises, and also a mirror that reflects China's economic vitality. The second CIIE currently being held in Shanghai is demonstrating the strong pulses of the Chinese economy.

High market demand bringing high popularity of the second CIIE

Paul Lindblad, President of international chemical company Wacker Chemicals, Greater China, told People's Daily that the sales volume of the Greater China currently accounts for 20 per cent of the group's global total, and it had exceeded that in Germany as early as 2010, becoming the largest single market of the group. This year, coming to the CIIE for the second time, Wacker Chemicals has upgraded its booth to an independent one.

Over 500,000 professional buyers registered for this year's CIIE, more than those in the first session. 39 trade groups and about 600 trade sub-groups consisting of enterprises from around the country participated the grand event. The numbers of professional buyers from different regions of China witnessed obvious increase, with some even doubling the figures in the previous year.

This year, all of China's 97 central enterprises have established trade sub-groups, and their total number of professional buyers has reached 21,000, up by 4,000 from a year ago.

At the Matchmaking and Purchasing of Henan Cross-border E-commerce and Signing Conference of the second CIIE held on Nov. 6, Henan Bonded Logistics Center purchased a total of 3.22 billion yuan of imported products and services.

Technology contributing to innovation of Chinese enterprises

At the second CIIE, equipment and technological products are receiving close attention from professional buyers. The higher the technologies are, the more demand these products are seeing. It demonstrates the urgent need of the Chinese enterprises to promote their own innovation capability through foreign high-tech products.

Ji Nengping, chairman of Jiangsu Shanglong Water Supply Equipment Co., Ltd., told People's Daily that they bought two sets of large processing equipment from a Spanish company at last year's CIIE which could keep the error range within only 0.01 millimeter and improve processing efficiency by over three times. "Such equipment can not only improve product quality, but also promote independent innovation of enterprises," Ji said.

Fabrice Megarbane, president and CEO of L'Oréal China, noted that China has become a "world lab", and more and more innovation from the country is contributing huge energy to the development of the global

Upgrading consumption structure leading to higher importance attached by manufacturers on quality

With a "beep" sound, two cups were filled with coffee of different tastes under a coffee maker made by Italian company De'Longhi exhibited at the second CIIE. The coffee maker attracted huge crowds at the Expo.

"As Chinese consumers are having strong demand of featured and quality products, China is now a giant and potential market for coffee consumption," said Wang Yingpin, marketing manager of De'Longhi, introducing that all of the company's coffee makers have been equipped with Chinese operation interfaces.

Deng Jianxin, general manager of an agricultural company from southwest China's Guizhou province arrived in Shanghai on Nov. 5, hoping to find his company proper equipment producers at the second CIIE. "Though we are a startup, we are committed to becoming the world's top processing company of roxburgh rose drinks," Deng said.

A great number of small- and medium-sized companies just like Deng's are attending the second CIIE. Thanks to China's policies of tax and fees reduction, they are releasing stronger energy and becoming a major purchasing force at the event.

Merchants assured by China's favorable business environment

"Upgraded 3D-print facial masks are expected to be introduced to Chinese stores soon," said Gao Xin, general manager of marketing department of AmorePacific, a South Korean beauty and cosmetics conglomerate. Due to the restriction of policies, this product was not able to be introduced to the Chinese market during last year's CIIE. Learning the information, related government officials visited the company and had relevant discussion, Gao noted.

"This year, we brought the second-generation of the 3D-print facial masks," Gao told People's Daily, adding that the print speed is four to five times faster than that of the previous generation. More importantly, these products are now totally accessible for Chinese consumers, Gao said.

This year, the efforts to protect intellectual property rights are a highlight of the CIIE. At the comprehensive service area, and the Service Center for IPR Protection and Commercial Dispute Resolution, which are inevitable passages for the exhibitors, relevant legal consultation and mediation services are provided.

Heads of attending foreign enterprises noted that China's enhanced efforts to protect IPR have prominently improved the environment for innovation, and assured their confidence in the Chinese market.

People's Daily

How fake news and rumours are stoking division in HK

SOON after Alex Chow Tsz-lok fell off the edge of a parking garage in Hong Kong, the allegations began spreading online. Posts circulating in chat groups and on social media claimed the 22-year-old student was chased - and maybe even pushed - by police who were clearing protesters with tear gas nearby. Officers blocked an ambulance from reaching Chow, the posts alleged, delaying aid that could have saved his life.

Nevertheless, the claims were unsubstantiated, that police denied chasing Chow and that mainstream news outlets, including the South China Morning Post, described the circumstances of his fall as unclear.

Hundreds of protesters seized on his Nov 8 death to engage in clashes with police that resulted in one person being shot on Monday.

As Hong Kong's protests, triggered by the extradition bill incident, stretch into their 23rd straight week, the city is being inundated with online rumors, fake news and propaganda from both sides of the political divide.

The polarizing rhetoric is fueling

distrust and violence, making it harder to resolve the crisis that has plunged Hong Kong into a recession and raised doubts about the city's role as Asia's premier financial hub.

"False information feeds itself to polarize public opinion," said Masato Kajimoto, an assistant professor at Hong Kong University's Journalism and Media Studies Centre, who has spent the last seven years studying fake news. "I worry that it reaches a point where reconciliation of this divide is no longer possible."

While the spread of disinformation has become a growing concern around the world, few places have been as affected in recent weeks as Hong Kong.

In the past 24 hours alone, local authorities have denied rumors that they ordered police to fire on protesters at will; planned to cap cash withdrawals from banks; and would use emergency powers to shut financial markets and schools.

After one of the most violent days since protests started in June, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor urged residents to

"stay calm and see the facts."

Hong Kong doesn't have a fake news law, though the city's Secretary for Security John Lee Ka-chiu said this month that "most of the laws in the real world are applicable to the online world," such as publishing information that threatens public safety.

In October, the city's high court granted an injunction banning anyone from "disseminating, circulating, publishing or re-publishing" internet posts that incite violence on popular platforms including Telegram and LIHKG.

Three quarters of the population get their news from the internet today, up from 48% in 2016, according to the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute. In August, a third of people rated the internet as their most trustworthy news source, surpassing television for the first time since the institute began tracking the issue in 1993.

Once unsubstantiated claims about the protests start spreading on social media, they're often hard to contain. When violent clashes erupted between protesters and riot police at Hong Kong's Prince Edward MTR station

about three months ago, protesters alleged the altercation ended with fatalities after the police and the train's operator MTR Corp evacuated the station and closed it off to media and first aid providers.

The allegation was denied by police, but the protesters' story line was amplified after separatist Joshua Wong posted on Twitter that lives were sacrificed during the protests, a claim repeated by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The backlash has resulted in dozens of vandalized subway stations.

Both sides have stepped up online efforts to win the battle for public opinion.

Many posts in support of the protest movement and against the city's authorities are authentic. But there's evidence that some have gone beyond digital activism and into the realm of misinformation, which researchers define as erroneous posts spread unintentionally. That differs from disinformation, which is false content spread with the specific intent to deceive, mislead or manipulate.

Agencies

Zanzibar women hail construction of market building

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

MANY women in Kajengwa village of Makunduchi area in Zanzibar can find time to perform their responsibilities without having to worry where they will get food supplies for their families, thanks to construction of a market building that is on the finishing touches. Even now when construction is still going on, villagers have already started using it, bringing to the market vegetables, fish, coconuts and other supplies and thus creating a one-stop centre for women to get their needs instead of wandering from one place to another looking for goods.

"Most of the women in the village are seaweed farmers. We usually come home late from our work and we had problems getting vegetables and other requirements for evening meals for our families. But since this market started operating on part time basis, the problem has been solved; we are happy about it," said Khadija Abdallah Mduru.

Women who engage in seaweed farming spend almost the whole day in their farms and come back home in the evening. They must then prepare the evening meals for their families. "The problem is that when we come back home we are very tired. But we have to go out again to look for requirements for the evening meals and that is not easy. When you cannot find what you need from one place, you have to move from one house to another. This market



has made life easy for us," explained Fatuma Makame Chande, a resident of Kajengwa and a seaweed farmer. Currently only a handful of goods are brought for sale to the market on account that there is interference with construction and vendors operate only part time, usually bringing their foodstuffs in the

evening. On completion it is expected that more goods will be brought and business will be conducted throughout the day. Construction of the market building is funded by a grant from UNDP's Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the costs stands at about 17m/-

It is part of grant amounting to a total of about 100m/- that also finances four other projects: supply of clean and safe water, beekeeping, conservation of the environment and tree planting.

Women are particularly grateful to the SGP for allocating 15m/- for

the seaweed farming project which has greatly improved their incomes. The grant has been directed towards purchase of equipment used in the farming and the cost of transporting the product from the farms to homes or directly to the buying centres within the village.

"Seaweed farming has set us free economically and socially. For one thing it is easier than cutting trees in the forest and selling firewood or charcoal, for another we earn much more from seaweed farming than in selling firewood. I don't have to depend on my husband to buy what we need at home, I earn good money from seaweed farming," explained Mdunga Sima Musi.

Women who undertake seaweed farming earn an average 30,000/= per month, "But those who are hard working earn as much as 60,000/-month. You can't get that much money from selling firewood," she said.

The beekeeping project is also paying dividends with individual beekeepers earning as much as 5m/- a year. "We have a group of beekeepers which is like a cooperative society but each member works individually. So buyers of honey move from one farmer to another and although the entire product is sold, they could fetch a better price if all the honey was sold at one point.

The producers could also have the bargaining power and this could drive the price higher," explained Id-risa Haji Hassan the coordinator of the projects funded by SGP in the village. The SGP has injected 24m/- in this project.

Hassan explained that plans are afoot to make sure that all the honey is sold at the market so that producers can bargain with buyers as a group and not as an individual who can be manipulated by the buyers.

Mafia embarks on new approach to protect girls from 'predators'

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

AUTHORITIES in Mafia district have embarked on new approach aimed at protecting girls from teenage pregnancies and early marriages in the Indian Ocean island-located southern part of Dar es Salaam.

Mafia District Acting Community Development Officer, Yohana Lwenda said that between 2015 and 2019, about 21 students were impregnated. "This figure seems to be small, but in reality there are early pregnancy among the schoolgirls are rampant, there are many cases which are unreported. So, it is a serious challenge that we're working on."

"That's why we're bringing in all players as government alone cannot address this challenge," Lwenda said.

Number of stakeholders have been involved such as district councilors, religious leaders, police, parents, teachers, students, magistrates, civil society organizations (CSOs) such as ActionAid Tanzania and government institutions such as Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The idea is meant to provide a room for girls to get access to education and other social services as it is to their boys' counterparts.

Speaking to Fr. Francis Massawe of Roman Catholic Church in Mafia District also said early pregnancy and marriages as a challenge, noting: "As religious leaders we're demanding birth or baptism certificate before officiating marriages to protect girls from such marriages."

"Just look I have been in Mafia for three years now, I have never seen early marriage in our church because as the catholic demands birth or baptism certificates before officiating marriage," he said.

He expressed thanks to ActionAid Tanzania, Mafia district council and other stakeholders to embark on this

initiative to help girls enjoy their rights to education, meet their dreams, prevent early marriage in school that is one of the main barriers to girls' education in Mafia as well as increase access to quality primary and secondary education.

He said apart from ActionAid Tanzania, religion leaders have already met with Mafia district Commissioner to discuss how they can fight early marriage and teenage pregnancies and the meeting has brought positive results that's why we have decided to demand birth certificate before we officiating marriage.

For his part Senior Resident Magistrate In charge, Mafia District Court, Moses Maroha also said that at the moment rape remain the leading gender-based violence for children and youth in Mafia.

According to him, in 2018, twelve cases were reported to the district court. Other cases include sexual harassment, unnatural offences and rape.

He also said that between January and October, this year nine cases were reported to court and among those seven were rape cases and two are sexual harassment cases. The magistrate said that some cases were dismissed for lack of sufficient evidences, while one unnatural offence case had been sentenced to 2 years in prison or to pay a compensation of 1m/-.

He also said that majority of mafia residents don't report cases to the responsible authorities, the situation that fuels GBV in the Indian Ocean island.

"This is what made the court to come up with new special program to educate students on how to report such GBV cases," he said, adding: "This helps students to be confident on the matter."

ActionAid Tanzania - Mafia, Project Coordinator, Samwel Mesiak said the campaign is part of the 'Stop Violence Against Girls in School (SVAGS)' pro-



ActionAid Tanzania - Mafia project coordinator Samwel Mesiak speaks to women on how to address teenage pregnancies and early marriages. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ject, which was introduced in Mafia three years ago. He said the idea of the project was to change mindset for students and prevent traditions and cultural barriers that contribute violence against girls in schools, increase school enrolment for girls', community behavioral change, help them pass their exams and reduce dropout out of school for girls and being implemented by ActionAid and Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia.

According to Mesiak, the project has improved the learning environment in terms of classrooms construction, improved sanitation facilities and enhance the review and amendment of school by-laws) which has facilitated an increase in the number of school girls' enrolment, attendance and performance from 30 percent to 70 percent since the project inception and has embarked them to access secondary education.

Amend the law to help missionaries work smoothly, Church advises govt

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

ROMAN Catholic Church in the country has called on the government to nullify the Non - Citizen (Employment Regulation) Act of 2015 to give rights to missionaries to exercise their duties.

The President of the Pontifical Missionary Society (PMS) Archbishop Damian Dallu said that yesterday in his homily at the closure of the Extra Ordinary Missionary month of October.

The event also moved concurrently with welcoming of President of Pontifical Missionary Society (PMS) Archbishop Gianpietro Dal Toso and National Directors of English Speaking Countries (NDESA)

He said the Act put missionaries and investors coming in the country in a one group when seeking for working permit hence infringe the rights of missionaries.

Dallu who is the archbishop of Songea Roman Archdiocese said the laws among others demand missionaries coming in the country to pay for the permit which becomes an obstacles for them.

The clerics said in view of the fact, the missionaries coming in the country are not investors therefore the government must exclude them and not charge for work permit.

"Work permit is one of the big challenges our missionaries intentionally came in the country faced. We must cancel out the act to avoid unnecessary disturbance and cumbersome process," he said.

According to the cleric, once the law was nullified, the missionaries coming in the country will be freely to move and work without any obstacles.

Archbishop Dallu further noted that the section 12(4) give the right for missionaries to renew their permit every after two year but does not allow them to continue working in the country after five year.

He said since the constitution of the republic of Tanzania had clear stated that religious institutions should not be interfered, so do the missionaries.

For his part, Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) Chairman Archbishop Gervas Nyaisonga said celebration was the communion of the between the universal church and the local once.

He said highlighted the need to foster and increase awareness in evangelizing to transform the church and the missionary lives.

"Our five days meeting that will kick off from today among others is very important to set strategy for evangelization," he said. He said the meeting had invited more than twenty National Directors of English Speaking Countries (NDESA).

Some of the countries are Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Ethiopia South Africa, Liberia Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The PMS President Archbishop Gianpietro Dal Toso said called on the Tanzania church to involve more youths to inherit missionaries spirit.

Precision Air pledges to offer world-class airline services

By Guardian Reporter

PRECISION Air has pledged to continue offer its clients the world-class airline services regardless of sheer competitions experienced in recent days.

Precision Air Services Plc, board chairman, Michael Shirima was speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at the fifth annual general meeting.

He said that the airline business in Tanzania has experienced several scenarios that have impacted market trends.

"We have seen increased competitions in the market during the reporting period. Nevertheless, we continue to do well in our performance as we have witnessed our losses decreasing year by year. We're confident that according to the cur-

rent business plan in two years to come the company will start making profit," Shirima said.

According to him, the privately-owned airline made an operational profit of 1.4billion/- during the first quarter that ended on March 2018.

He said that the company's total revenue has increased by 43 per cent in the year 2017/18 compared to the performance for the

financial year 2016/17 which has also increased by 7 per cent, from the performance for the previous financial year.

"We managed to fly 392 million seat per kilometers compared to previous years, 375 million seats per kilometers an increase of 5 per cent," he added.

Shirima said that the company is set to implementing a strategic plan which is expected to turn

the 21billion/- loss before tax into profit during the period. He attributed the reported performance to the accrued aircraft ownership cost and depreciation of our currency versus the USD. "We are happy with our performance as we have continued to witness a reduction of our losses and this is a good indicator that soon we will start realizing profits in our business. For the year

2017/18 our losses have dropped by 28 per cent compared to the year 2016/17 and by 69 per cent compared to 2015/2016," he explained.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Precision Air's New Group Managing Director and CEO, Patrick Mwanri, said that Precision Air will focus on efficiency improvement projects, cost control, optimal Utilization

of Aircraft, cement code share, and increasing ancillary revenues as the strategies to turn around the business in the next five years.

"With the successful implementation of our five year strategic plan, we're expecting to post profit by the year 2021. We will achieve this through offering the superior services that will meet our customer expectations."

A 'brown revolution' can secure our water future

By Jay Bhagwan

AS South Africa and the government, we live through a water crisis daily and one which we have managed to date. Changing climate and new extreme weather events, together with growing population and poor water use behaviour, puts greater pressure on our water management and security.

There are many new solutions such as harvesting, reuse, reducing leaks etc to alleviate this challenge. However, more radical and disruptive interventions are required - these being behaviour change in water usage and new non-sewered sanitation (or off grid sanitation). These kinds of interventions are required to "future proof our water security".

With current conventional sanitation and sewerage systems associated with the flush, we are using anywhere between 30 to 60% of all household water consumption. This practice of moving large amounts of human waste using fresh treated water puts pressure on an already constrained water resource environment.

Not only does it become unsustainable, but it contributes to water quality challenges through the introduction of new pollutants. At present many parts of the country are experiencing



heatwave conditions and there are some areas where water supply is constrained. In these circumstances, current sanitation approaches become extremely vulnerable.

Herein lies the greatest opportunity of the "brown revolution". The ability to disrupt the flush practices through new non-sewered sanitation solutions offers the opportunity to release and

contribute nearly 30 to 60% water to the resource, and thereby improve both water and sanitation security. The additional benefits relate to closing a pollution pathway which so seriously affects the environment, extension of capacity of existing infrastructure and possibly a reduction in the need for new and larger in-

frastructure.

Further, this new non-sewered sanitation will have the elements of a circular economy which will see human waste as a resource, which allows a whole ecosystem of beneficiation to be derived from processing, by-products and servicing models which support self-sustaining businesses.

It will have a catalytic effect of stimulating and developing a series and variety of logistics and supply chain models which brings greater convenience to the user/customer and the much-required capacity which is a weakness in the public model. There are already many of these initiatives in application where human waste is being turned into valuable products such as bio-char, oil, protein and fertilisers. This resource approach opens up new opportunities for a sanitation economy.

Leading this "brown revolution" in South Africa is the Water Research Commission under the banner of The Sanitation Transformation Initiative - known under the acronym SanITi - an approach conceptualised by the Water Research Commission which aims to disrupt the current sanitation paradigm by presenting a new pathway and presents a national strategic direction for the South African sanitation industry for various partners and stakeholders to break away from the current engineering and economic paradigm, to a more water secure paradigm.

As the build-up and contribution to the World Toilet Day on 19 November, the Water Research Commission and its partners the Department of Science and Innovation, Department of Human Settlements, Department of Water and Sanitation, SABS, and the Department of Trade and Industry, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foun-

ation, is launching the South African Sanitation Demonstration Programme (SASTEP) on 14 November 2019. SASTEP will support and accelerate the application and uptake of the latest cutting-edge toilets through evidence-based policy adjustments, demonstration, testing and science-based improvements towards localisation and industrialisation. This includes technologies supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's "Reinvent the Toilet" programme. The revolutionary toilet systems will offer water-saving or water-recycling features, be aspirational in design, and more important, offer dignity and convenience.

This is our contribution to South Africa and the developing world towards closing the sanitation backlogs by creating the platform for leapfrogging these solutions in growing urban cities and rural areas of the developing world. This bold and ambitious attempt will transform sanitation and will be the new gold standard enabling universal access to sanitation.

It is upon all of us to agitate for this "brown revolution"; however, it is important to prepare our people for such a revolution, lest we become a group of sanitation rebels. We need a common message with many voices. The sanitation revolution has taken us thus, now is the time for the sanitation "brown revolution" to take us to the future.

DM

This is precisely how the fall of the Berlin Wall began

By Yuri Paniev

AT 9:20 p.m. on November 9, 1989, the border crossing gate at the Bornholmer Strasse checkpoint was raised, essentially heralding the fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of German reunification.

Few people know that the event was preceded by a series of secret consultations between East German and Soviet leaders.

"The GDR (German Democratic Republic - or East German) leaders were perfectly aware of the fact that the time had come to ease the prohibitive procedure for leaving the country," Igor Maksimych, senior researcher at the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences and from 1987 to 1992 minister-counsellor at the Soviet/Russian embassy in Berlin, told RBTH.

He added: "On November 7, Egon Krenz, General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), and Oskar Fischer, GDR Foreign Affairs minister, informed Soviet ambassador Vyacheslav Kochemasov that a new draft law had been prepared on exiting the country."

[Russia Beyond The Headlines - RBTH - was launched in 2007 by the Rossiyskaya Gazeta, the Russian state newspaper of record.]

The initial border opening was met with Moscow's apparent 'approval', much to the surprise of East German leaders.

East German authorities wanted to open a special checkpoint on the border with West Germany through which citizens who wished to move to the West could do so freely.

"Krenz and Fischer asked for Moscow's opinion on the matter, and in the morning of November 9, Ambassador Kochemasov replied that the Soviet side had no objections," noted Maksimych.

That very same evening East German Politburo member Günter Schabowski gave a live news conference devoted to a plenary session of the SED Central Committee, mentioning that new regulations were being introduced allowing GDR citizens to travel freely to West Germany.

Asked by an Italian journalist when the new regulations would come into effect, Schabowski replied, with some hesitation, that they took effect "immediately, without delay".

Going to meet capitalism

Winfried Petch recalls how crowds of East Berliners immediately head-



ed for the nearest checkpoints and stormed them. At least 20,000 people crossed the border within an hour through the Bösebrücke Bridge without any identity checks. At this time, however, the border guards were still stamping passports.

Petch still has his GDR passport, which bears the stamp of the border guard service 'Nov. 9, 1989'. The stamp was placed right on top of his photo, which meant at the time that he was not supposed to be allowed back into East Berlin.

"Together with my wife, we stood by the border crossing gate, and I said

to her: 'Let's go across and then come back.' Now this stamp is a relic of that time. My wife and I are proud of it," says Petch.

That night, Helga Krauze was also on the Bösebrücke Bridge, and a quarter of a century later she can't hold back the tears: "I had lived in the area for about 20 years; every day I saw the bridge but couldn't even dream of going onto it. So I was standing on the bridge, crying. People who lived on Osloer Strasse, which is on the western side, came up to me with champagne and we drank it

together."

Judging by the accounts of participants in those events, there was ecstatic joy on both sides of the Berlin Wall, and they thought that "a miracle had happened - the strip of death in the centre of Europe was gone".

More than 100,000 East Germans had tried to cross the Berlin Wall. It is still not known precisely how many were killed during those attempts. According to researchers at the Potsdam Centre for Contemporary History, 138 people can definitely be

established as having fallen victim to the wall.

General secretaries' kiss as symbol of liberation

The wall, with its guards armed with automatic rifles on watch towers, machine gun nests, barbed wire, anti-tank "hedgehogs", mines and electric alarm systems, had filled people with terror for 28 years.

Now, it was being demolished piece by piece; not immediately, but some time later. Winfried and his neighbours smashed it

with hammers and chisels. Some rammed it with lorries and road rollers.

Nowadays, fragments of the concrete wall are excellent souvenirs for people known as "wall woodpeckers" in Berlin. It is from them that the state now vigilantly protects the remaining fragments of the "20th century's wall of shame".

"The largest remaining section of the wall - 999 metres long - is located on Mühlenstrasse," a Berlin tour guide explains, adding: "What was in the past a formidable and impregnable stretch of the Cold War border has turned into an open-air art gallery. Artists and architects have restored graffiti painted at the time of German reunification on the wall slabs."

The graffiti-daubed wall is the main image of 1989, a historic year for Germans as well as the rest of humankind. There, Russian artist Dmitri Vrubel painted the famous kiss on the lips of Soviet and East German leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Erich Honecker, respectively.

The artist said that he came to Berlin for a completely different reason. "It all happened by accident. An acquaintance who invited me to Berlin with an exhibition lived 500 metres from a section of the wall on which artists were allowed to paint," Vrubel says.

He adds: "The area was grim and scary. East Berlin was empty anyway, with everyone from there having fled to the West and people leaving behind their apartments and furniture."

The restoration in 2009 of the graffiti that made Vrubel world-famous looked more like a street performance than anything else.

"For three days I couldn't start the work, and completed it only a month later. I would draw one letter a day. I would come and sit down to work, and immediately fifteen hundred people and journalists would turn up," he recalls.

He elaborates: "I would hand out autographs and give interviews. The old graffiti survived only on postcards and magnets. I had to replicate a work of art that didn't exist any more but was in every Berliner's head."

* Piece published courtesy of the Tanzanian Russian Cultural Centre. [Hyperlink](#):

EXPOSURE

Council programme 'graduates' to attend summit in Riyadh for young entrepreneurs

By Guardian Reporter

THREE young entrepreneurs are leaving the country this week to attend a global youth entrepreneurship summit to be held in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh.

Tanzania Entrepreneurship Competitive Council's Promotion and Mobilization Manager, Abdul Juma, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a farewell briefing of the trio, that all of them are products of the council's various programmes.

"They are leaving for Riyadh to attend a global youth business conference where they will have an opportunity to share knowledge and skills with their peers," Juma said while pointing out that the trio, Mfaume Hamza who graduated from 'Kijana Jijiri' program; Consensa Mushi and Zeredi Amir who are graduates of VIA Jiandae Ajira, have been picked based on merit.

Over 3,000 youth have so far undergone TECC's various entrepreneurship and competitive training programs nationwide. Juma said the three days conference will convene over 6,000 participants from 80 countries, will give the three young entrepreneurs exposure on international competitiveness required to contribute towards the country's industrialization drive.

"I urge you to make good use of the conference to gain knowledge and skills and come back as completely different individuals," he added.

In response, the trio promised to make the most of the global business gathering and come back home as more competent internationally ready to play a leading role in the government's industrialization plan and movement towards middle income status.

"I am a graduate of University of Dodoma who has decided to become



Abdul Juma (gesturing), Tanzania Entrepreneurship and Competitive Council's Promotion and Mobilization Manager, addresses the media at a farewell briefing of three local entrepreneurs heading to Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, to attend a Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit. Photo courtesy of TECC.

an entrepreneur making fresh juices which earns me more money," Mushi said noting that her ambition is to become a globally competitive business woman.

"We are going to get experience and

network at this conference and hope to come back completely changed," said Hamza who is a resident of Dar es Salaam.

On the other hand, Amir also promised to make the most of the confer-

ence in the interest of the nation. Youth Business International's Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit is a weeklong gathering of connections, ideas and inspirations. Since 2014, over 95,102 young entrepreneurs

have been assisted to start or grow their businesses by delivering a range of entrepreneurship support services, from training and mentoring to access to finance and other business development services.

COMPETITIVENESS

Dar's not-for-profit social enterprise Ubongo conquers Nairobi

By Guardian Reporter

A CHILDREN'S edutainment company billed as one of Africa's leading producers of children's storytelling digital platforms Ubongo, has hosted its second annual stakeholder event, themed Storytelling for change, over the weekend in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speaking at the event, Ubongo's Kenya Country Representative, Daisy Kambuni said the company strives to create engaging and locally relevant digital content for learners in Africa. "Our mission is to transform learning for the 440 million kids in Africa through localized education on accessible technologies, opening the door to a future of effective learning," Kambuni said.

"We use stories to create positive and impactful messaging for kids, and tonight, we gave you a glimpse of this human centered design thinking process," she added. The event drew representation from various key stakeholders in the social enterprise, education and development sectors including policymakers, innovators and development partners.

The stakeholders were engaged through workshops, discussions, and presentations with discussions built around four key objec-



tives: Youth employment; Agriculture and food security; and Conservation and girls' education.

"The aim was to find out, through storytelling and conversation, what drives and motivates organizations, and how they use these narratives to achieve goals," the Ubongo Country Representative in Kenya, added.

Ubongo's Chief Business Officer, Doreen Kessy backed Kambuni's observations by noting that stories are important to kids because it is how creative ideas are introduced in the world in addition to self-reflect by the people.

"Stories shape our perspectives, our dreams, our identity, our actions and even-

tually - outcomes. The question we should all be asking ourselves is, what kind of stories are we telling?" Wondered Kessy.

"Are our stories shaping our communities for the better? If we all start thinking that way, we will make a positive difference in our communities," she added.

Ubongo is a non-profit social enterprise that creates fun, localized and multi-platform educational content that helps kids learn and leverage their learning to change their lives. Ubongo reaches millions of families across Africa through accessible technologies like television, radio and mobile phones.

We use stories to create positive and impactful messaging for kids, and tonight, we gave you a glimpse of this human centered design thinking process

PESSIMISM

Burned by last crisis, Zimbabweans seek to shelter savings for the future

HARARE

"I no longer trust pension people. [A] pension is supposed to help secure your financial future when you can't work anymore. Without it, life after retirement would be a mess."

Salome Makani, a 45-year-old procurement officer in Harare, is currently poised to experience that mess, but not through any fault of her own. A habitual saver, she saw her pension wiped out when she was in her mid-30s. This was at the height of Zimbabwe's economic crisis a decade ago. "My experience has not been a good one," Makani told Al Jazeera. "I know better now."

Makani's road to disillusionment with Zimbabwe's pensions system dates to 2009, when hyperinflation forced the government to abandon its sovereign currency and adopt the US dollar.

Like many Zimbabweans, Makani left her job - a position she had held for 13 years, with one of the country's top insurance companies - to seek better opportunities beyond Zimbabwe's borders. But the pension she had tucked away during that time soon became worthless, thanks to hyperinflation.

Pensioners in Zimbabwe, who are estimated to number about 500 000, are among the hardest hit by the Southern African nation's economic crisis. "When you resign, you get a withdrawal benefit from your pension," she explained. "I had left the country in that period and the company I worked for gave my husband a cheque. In the process of cashing it, hyperinflation eroded its value."

COMPETITION

KRA to appeal SportPesa, Betin victory on bet prizes tax dispute

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Monday said it has lodged an appeal against a ruling by the Tax Appeals Tribunal that a punter's betting stake cannot be charged 20 percent tax on winnings.

The taxman is also challenging another ruling that the responsibility for payment of the tax should be on the punters and not the betting firms, shielding the latter from prosecution and aggressive pursuit of the 20 percent withholding tax.

The tribunal sitting in Nairobi had on Wednesday ruled that the 20 percent tax should be charged on the positive difference between the payout made and stakes placed in a given month. The case looks set to influence an ongoing tax dispute between KRA and more than 20 betting firms - including SportPesa and Betin Kenya - which have been denied operating licences for the year starting July.

"Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) will challenge the judgment of the Tax Appeals Tribunal (TAT) delivered

on 6th November 2019 in favour of the betting firms," the taxman said in a statement. "KRA has commenced the appeal process by filing a notice of appeal, which it did on 8th November, 2019."

KRA has been demanding billions of shillings from betting firms based on the gross amount paid to the punters, including the staked amount. SportPesa on September 27 announced it was halting operations due to a drastic hike in taxes on betting stakes and the unresolved disputes with KRA. Betin Kenya also ceased its operations, citing the heavy taxation as the main reason.

The Treasury last year reintroduced the 20 percent tax on winnings, which is arrived at by deducting the amount staked by the punter. But this was revised to include gross winnings.

"KRA is aggrieved by the tribunal's finding that it had no legal backing

in demanding withholding tax from the betting firms and the manner in which it had enforced collection of the tax," said the taxman. The High Court had referred the dispute over tax on winnings to the tribunal after SportPesa, represented by Iseme, Kamau and Maema Advocates, sued KRA in a suit that saw other betting firms including Betin get enjoined.

KRA has been demanding Sh5.59 billion from Safaricom #ticker:SCOM as withholding tax arrears due from the two major betting firms - SportPesa and Betin Kenya. The taxman demanded that Safaricom pays Sh5.29 billion withholding tax arrears due from Gamcode Limited, trading as Betin, and a further Sh3.29 billion due from Pevans East Africa, which trades as SportPesa.

The gaming companies largely relied on Safaricom's network to take bets, communicate with users and process payments through paybill numbers. The government in July ordered Safaricom to stop processing payments for sports betting companies, effectively grounding their operations.



SportPesa gamblers at a kiosk in Nairobi

ATTRACTIVE

Micro-finance institution giving farmers affordable loans

By Guardian Reporter

SMALLHOLDER farmers and business owners who join Jatu Saccos and buy shares in Jatu Plc, the savings and credit cooperative's subsidiary company, can get loans which attract only 10 percent interest payable in between 6-12 months.

The beneficiaries can also get health insurance cover for their families from

Sanlam Insurance or Strategis Insurance companies by parting with 230,000/- per annum for a family of six (including four children).

Jatu Plc General Manager, Asifiwe Mzava said in Dar es Salaam this week that the company is mainly focused on small-holder farmers and small business owners because of the growing demand by the groups to acquire affordable loans to invest

and grow their businesses.

"Our main goal in targeting farmers is to help them get affordable credit to invest in farming and graduate into commercial farmers instead of continuing with subsistence farming," said Mzava who called on farmers to join Jatu Plc as a prerequisite to become Jatu Saccos member which allows them to get cheap loans.

"In order to become a Jatu Plc shareholder, one needs to pay 30,000/- registration fee, 10,000/- membership fees for the Saccos but also buy at least 50 shares," he stated while noting that members are also supposed to deposit at least 10,000/- every month as deposit for their account.

After completing the membership process, one can also get a loan to invest

as capital to expand their businesses or invest in a new business. "We have all types of loans although our focus is on farming," he added while payment of the loans is by instalment as per the borrower's ability.

He said in order to qualify for the loans and other benefits, farmers need to meet all the membership conditions including payment of all contributions

and have a good credit history in addition to having guarantors who are the Saccos members.

"Borrowers also need to be Saccos members for at least three months since attaining official status," the Jatu Plc General Manager stated while echoing the group's slogan of 'Borrow with investment goals, repay timely.'



Jatu Plc founder and CEO Peter Isare speaks at a stakeholders' meeting

Blockchain expert thwarts crypto scandal in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS

A MAURITIUS-based blockchain expert has helped uncover a possible crypto scam operating in the country after he filed a formal complaint with the country's financial regulator, the Financial Services Commission, which in turn issued a scam alert.

Horizon Africa's Suyash Sumaroo said his complaint against Cloud Token Wallet App, which claims to enable

Mauritians who invest in cryptocurrencies make up to 15% returns per month based on a proprietary trading algorithm called 'Jarvis AI', was his way of thwarting a potential crypto scam that "could have real effects on people, like them losing real money".

He said: "The crypto space already has a lot of bad players trying to misuse the technology to swindle money and we don't need any more especially in

Mauritius, where crypto adoption is still low. People need to trust the blockchain technology and crypto in general. The less bad players we have, the better."

Mauritius' small size and its seemingly growing tech space may have made Sumaroo's intervention effort easier to launch unlike in bigger countries like Nigeria where curtailing the spread of such an attempt could have been harder to nip.

PROMOTION

Five winners take home NBC's Maendeleo Account motorbikes

By Francis Kajubi

FIVE lucky winners including a Kilimanjaro based tour guide, William Msack have emerged as winners of National Bank of Commerce's motorbikes from a Maendeleo Account lottery.

Dubbed, 'Ibuka kidedea na NBC,' the lottery which seeks to mobilize depositors put a minimum of 100,000/- into their bank account prior to end of year festivities, the bank said it wants to encourage people adopt a savings culture during the spending spree period.

"I am very happy, in fact am proud of being one of the winners of the bank's lottery because I was not expecting such a surprise gift although I had plans to buy a motorcycle," Msack said while thanking God for the surprise end of year prize.

A retiree based at Msasani in Dar es Salaam, Augustin Hatar was also excited to learn that he won a 'Bodaboda' saying he didn't expect such an end of year prize when depositing his cash in his Maendeleo Account.

"I was aware of the campaign though I was not sure of winning anything since there are hundreds of NBC customers who make saving on a daily basis," he said while noting that the good news actually found him lying in bed suffering from an unknown dis-



NBC marketing manager, Alina Kimaryo addresses to journalists at a past event

ease hence the news was a big relief.

The other winners of the first lottery draw were Daudi Majani from Segerea, Scholastica Yamawasa from Tegeta and Honest Kimaro a resident of Goba all of them from Dar es Salaam city.

In remarks to congratulate the winners, NBC's Marketing Manager, Alina Kimaryo said the campaign will for six months whereby 20 motor cycles will be given to the winners after

draws. "Customers who will deposit a million and above shall be qualified to compete for three Toyo rickshaws and those who will deposit a sum of 50m/- by mid-December will either win a holiday trip to Seychelles or a tour to Serengeti National Park," Kimaryo said.

The bank is paying an interest of 7 percent to the account's holders every month and there are no monthly maintenance charges.

INVESTMENT

Adnoc signs LNG agreements with oil majors BP and Total

ABU DHABI

ABU DHABI National Oil Company signed agreements with BP and Total to book the majority of its liquefied natural gas production up to the first quarter of 2022.

"With these new supply agreements, Adnoc LNG has shown that it can react quickly and decisively to changing market conditions while ensuring the security and quality of delivery," said Fatema Al Nuaimi, Adnoc LNG chief executive.

"With the support of our shareholders, we have maximised access to new markets with strong LNG growth potential," she added.

Adnoc LNG is a joint venture between the Abu Dhabi state oil company, which holds the majority 70 per cent share, Japan's Mitsui with a 15 per cent stake, BP has 10 per cent and France's Total with 5 per cent.

Adnoc LNG produces 6 million tonnes annually of the super-chilled fuel from its facilities on Das Island, which has been operational since 1977. Until April, Adnoc supplied 90 per cent of its LNG to Japan's Jera, its single biggest offtaker.

However, the Abu Dhabi company has since diversified its customer base, supplying 90 per cent of

its LNG volumes to clients in more than eight countries in South and South-East Asia, including India, China, South Korea, and Taiwan.

"The two-year LNG supply agreement contributes to the growth and flexibility of Total's LNG portfolio and strengthens our longstanding relationship with Adnoc LNG," said Laurent Chevalier, vice president Middle East, gas, renewables and power at Total.

Last week, Adnoc announced additional hydrocarbon reserves of 7 billion "stock tank" barrels of oil and 58 trillion cubic feet of conventional gas and 160tcf of unconventional gas, taking the UAE to the sixth position from seventh globally in terms of hydrocarbon reserves, according to data listed by the US Energy Information Administration.

The UAE is reliant on imports to meet its gas needs and growing demand for cleaner fuel to generate electricity and power industry.

Unlocking its gas caps, much of which is sour - having high sulphur content - as well as utilising its new discoveries for additional LNG production is part of Adnoc's strategy to maximise value from the fuel.

Abu Dhabi can expect to develop significant LNG export capacity by 2024, consultancy Wood Mackenzie said last year.

IMPRESSIVE

MultiChoice profits leap on cost-controlling measures



MultiChoice chief executive officer, Calvo Mawela.

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S biggest pay-TV group MultiChoice saw half-year profits leap 22%, it said on Monday, as it further cut losses outside of its home market South Africa and as foreign exchange swings worked in its favour.

The company, spun off by South African e-commerce giant Naspers in February, said last week its profits for the period could increase by up to 25%. Its headline earnings per share (Heps), the main profit measure in South Africa, stood at 341 cents for the six months to Sept. 30, compared to 78 cents a year earlier.

Core HEPS, which MultiChoice sees as a more accurate measure of its performance, were up 22%. "We have reduced our losses by R700 million in the first six months of this year, and it is our focus to ensure that the rest of Africa turns profitable in the medium term," said MultiChoice chief executive Calvo Mawela.

MultiChoice shares were down 0.1% at R133.42 by 1655 GMT, outperforming a 0.9% drop in the wider index. "The group added 1.2 million 90-

day active subscribers, representing 7% year-on-year growth, taking the overall 90-day active subscriber base to 18.9 million households at 30 September," it said in a statement.

Subscriber growth rates were reflecting "more normalised trends", it said. It said its performance had benefited from tight cost controls and the lower depreciation of the rand against the US dollar compared to the prior period that led to a drop in unrealised foreign exchange losses related to liabilities from US dollar-denominated transponder leases.

Since its foundation three decades ago, the company has grown to reach 18.9 million households across 50 African countries with pay-TV products and a streaming service called Showmax that competes with rivals like Netflix.

The subscriber base is split between 8.2 million households in South Africa and 10.7 million in international markets. The group reported a 2% increase in its home market revenues and a 5% increase in its other African markets.

Loss-making operations

elsewhere in Africa are still weighing on performance but are moving back towards profitability, it said, adding that the growing TV and streaming market on the continent is central to its growth strategy.

The group announced in June that 2,000 workers would be laid off in a shake-up of its customer care service. Mawela said that the group will be making an announcement in the coming days confirming the final outcome of the process. "We still need to make sure that we tick all the boxes from a legislative perspective," Mawela said.

As well as Netflix, the company faces competition from a host of other local and regional players in both streaming and pay-TV, and from other industries also in the battle to win screen time, such as gaming and user-generated content.

MultiChoice spun off Naspers in February, when it made its debut on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Its shares rose 15% following the much-anticipated listing, launching MultiChoice straight onto the top-40 firms on Johannesburg's bourse.

DIVERSIFICATION

Kigali investors team up to start Rwf6bn logistics enterprise

KIGALI

SEVERAL Kigali based businesspersons have teamed up to start a logistics enterprise seeking to improve the importation and exportation of goods.

The group, which has set up a firm, Nine United Traders, is made up of 24 investors most who have had been involved in logistics in smaller capacities previously. The

firm has so far invested about Rwf6 billion to acquire 100 cargo trucks after securing a loan from Bank of Kigali to add on to their capital.

The cargo trucks will, among other things, be involved in cement trade (acquisition and importation), cargo transportation and general importation. The firm also has a clearing and forwarding agency. The firm's trucks will mostly be plying the Kigali-Dar es

Salaam route.

Andre Bitwayiki the Chairman of the firm told Business Times that they got into the sector to seize an opportunity created by large demand for goods in Kigali and inadequate logistics. This, he said has often affected projects underway in Kigali in ways such as delays in project implementation or driving up the cost of projects.

He said that prior to their debut,

the sector in Rwanda has been dominated by foreign players as well as few small fragmented operations which has done little to improve the efficiency of operations.

"We have invested in logistics as there is quite a demand in importation at the moment. Our investment was informed by challenges in logistics that affect project implementation," he said. The venture is projected to have a monthly

turnover of about Rwf300M when operating at capacity.

The firm is banking on the members' experience in the logistics sector over the years in their small capacities. Bitwayiki said that operations in the sector have been eased by the establishment of the one stop border posts as well as pre-clearance procedures which cut on the transit time.

He, however, called for an inter-

vention in the cost of insurance which he said was too high especially for logistics operators in the local market. The investors also cited a challenge in the state of a road they often used in Tanzania, a stretch of about 80 Kilometres which they say often leads to accidents.

Stephen Ruzibiza, the Chief Executive of the Private Sector Federation, welcomed the synergy

saying that it could serve addressing long-standing challenges in logistics. He said that, over the years, the operations of small players often lacked bargaining capacity in terms of capital and management. With Rwanda having multiple development projects, he said that there is a demand of importation of capital goods. The challenges of logistics he said have often driven up the cost of goods.

TRADE WAR

China's October exports fall, but less than expected as trade war grinds on

BEIJING

CHINA'S exports and imports contracted less than expected in October, providing some relief for the economy as Beijing tries to reach a partial trade deal with Washington.

But even if a US-China trade deal is signed soon, economists say it is unlikely to help boost exports and manufacturing for some time yet and could still mean more stimulus is needed from Beijing to avert a sharper downturn.

China's October exports fell for the third straight month, down 0.9 per cent from a year earlier, customs data showed on Friday, less than a 3.9 per cent fall forecast in a Reuters poll and September's 3.2 per cent contraction.

"Even if the 'phase one' US-China trade deal crosses the finish line, it is unlikely to alleviate the main headwinds facing exporters and outbound shipments look set to remain weak in the coming months," Martin Rasmussen, China economist at Capital Economics, said.

He attributed the rise in exports to a pick-up in US demand after both countries outlined an interim deal and Washington suspended a threatened tariff hike set for Oct. 15. There were other bright spots in the data. Exports to the United States in October fell 16.2 per cent, less than a 21.9 per cent drop the previous month, according to Reuters calculation based on customs data.

Betty Wang, senior China economist at ANZ, said anecdotal

evidence also showed exports may have been boosted as Chinese firms rushed out hi-tech shipments after the US government put some of the country's tech firms on a trade blacklist.

If a partial deal is reached this month, it is widely expected to include a US pledge to scrap tariffs scheduled for December 15 on about \$156 billion worth of Chinese imports, including cell phones, laptop computers and toys.

So far, US President Donald Trump has only cancelled a scheduled Oct. 15 tariff increase on \$250bn goods. China's imports shrank for the sixth consecutive month, though the 6.4 per cent drop was smaller than an expected 8.9 per cent and September's 8.5 per cent decline.

That left China with a trade surplus of \$42.8bn in October, versus September's \$39.65bn surplus. Analysts had forecast a \$40.83bn surplus. Despite the more modest drop in imports, domestic demand appeared to remain weak, with imports of iron ore and copper falling.



Shipping containers, some marked 'China Shipping', are stacked at the Port of Los Angeles, the nation's busiest container port, in California.

The trade data lines up with recent readings on shrinking factory activity and bleak producer prices. The slowdown

points to lingering weakness in domestic demand and the limited impact of policy stimulus so far. Beijing and Washington have

been locked in a trade feud for 16 months, but hopes have risen that an initial deal may be signed soon.

In a new sign of progress that lifted market sentiment, Beijing and Washington agreed to roll back tariffs on each other's goods as part of the first phase of a trade deal, officials from both sides said on Thursday.

The Chinese commerce ministry, without laying out a timetable, said the two countries had agreed to cancel the tariffs in phases. In what could be another gesture to boost optimism, China's state news agency Xinhua reported late on Thursday that the Chinese customs and Ministry of Agriculture are considering removing restrictions on US poultry imports.

China's trade surplus with the United States was at \$26.42 billion in October, up from \$25.88bn in September, according to Reuters calculation based on customs data. Economists and analysts warn that the path toward a full deal is still highly uncertain and expect that a partial trade deal may only relieve some pressure on the world's second-largest economy.

SUBSTITUTION

Indian Oil Corporation exploring possibility of purchasing Russian oil to meet rising demand

NEW DELHI

STATE-OWNED Indian Oil Corporation, the biggest refiner in India, is looking at importing Russian crude to meet growing demand in one of Asia's fastest growing economies, its chairman said.

"When it comes into buying options, we would prefer to have as wide options as possible. Our existing suppliers are GCC countries and Iraq, but we are also trying to look into getting Russian crude," said Sanjiv Singh.

The company is also importing a significant quantity of low-sulphur crude from West Africa and has entered into a term contract for American crude, Mr Singh told reporters on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference. "We have been keeping a lot flexibility in our overall system, so that we have diversified sources in case of any restrictions not only from Iran but any other source so that we have options available."

India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude and one of the biggest drivers for oil demand growth globally thanks to an increasing population of middle class consumers. The country gets much of its fuel from the Middle East, with Iraq currently its top source for imports. However, New Delhi looked at

increasing imports from Russia after prices surged following the September 14 attacks on facilities in Saudi Arabia.

Russian firm Rosneft bought India's privately owned Essar Oil in 2017 for \$12.9 billion, giving it control over its refinery at Vadinar. The company has since been renamed Nayara and imports crude sourced by Rosneft from a variety of markets, including Venezuela.

Indian Oil Corporation imports close to 65 million tonnes of crude oil annually, Mr Singh added. Demand for diesel fell in the second quarter of this fiscal year due to a slowdown in the economy as well as the monsoon season, he said, but expressed optimism that demand for diesel would grow in the next six to 12 months on growing consumption.

"Diesel demand is growing 1.5 per cent year-on-year, which I won't say [is] very good but is positive," he said. As a result of the slowdown in its economic growth, India has recently become a source of diesel exports after consumption of the widely-used fuel slumped to its lowest level since the start of 2017. IOC offered as much as 130,000 tonnes of October-leading diesel last month, with the slowdown in demand prompting the refiner to shut down at least two refineries in September.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

SATURDAY 09 Nov		MONDAY 11 Nov		TUESDAY 12 Nov		WEDNESDAY 13 Nov		THURSDAY 14 Nov		FRIDAY 15 Nov	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
10:00	National Spelling Bee competition-live	9:30	Isidingo	9:30	Uchumi na biashara	9:30	Uchumi na biashara	9:30	Uchumi na biashara	9:30	Uchumi na biashara
12:30	Series rpt: The Slingshot	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	Watoto wetu
15:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa
15:15	Igizo: Utelezi	11:00	Jagina rpt	11:00	Jagina rpt	11:00	Jagina rpt	11:00	Jagina rpt	11:00	Jagina rpt
16:00	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	11:30	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	11:30	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	11:30	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	11:30	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	11:30	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa
18:00	Jiji Letu	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera	12:00	Al Jazeera
18:15	Mapishi	12:30	Jungu kuu rpt	12:30	Jungu kuu rpt	12:30	Jungu kuu rpt	12:30	Jungu kuu rpt	12:30	Jungu kuu rpt
18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Wiki ya Azaki	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa
19:00	Sanaa na wasanii	13:00	Mjue Zaidi	13:00	Mjue Zaidi	13:00	Mjue Zaidi	13:00	Mjue Zaidi	13:00	Mjue Zaidi
19:30	Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019	13:45	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	13:45	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	13:45	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	13:45	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	13:45	Sanaa na wasanii rpt
20:00	Habari	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa
21:00	Shangweka	14:00	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	14:00	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	14:00	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	14:00	Sanaa na wasanii rpt	14:00	Sanaa na wasanii rpt
21:15	Kipindi Maalum: Wajibu	14:15	Series rpt: The Slingshot	14:15	Series rpt: The Slingshot	14:15	Series rpt: The Slingshot	14:15	Series rpt: The Slingshot	14:15	Series rpt: The Slingshot
21:30	Kesho leo	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa
22:00	Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru	15:00	Meza Huru
22:15	Hawavumi lakini wamo	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	Watoto Wetu
23:00	Isidingo rpt	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base	17:00	The Base
01:30	CNN International	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
		18:10	Aibu yako rpt	18:10	Aibu yako rpt	18:10	Aibu yako rpt	18:10	Aibu yako rpt	18:10	Aibu yako rpt
		18:15	Mapishi rpt	18:15	Mapishi rpt	18:15	Mapishi rpt	18:15	Mapishi rpt	18:15	Mapishi rpt
		18:30	Kesho leo	18:30	Kesho leo	18:30	Kesho leo	18:30	Kesho leo	18:30	Kesho leo
		19:00	Afya ya Jamii	19:00	Afya ya Jamii	19:00	Afya ya Jamii	19:00	Afya ya Jamii	19:00	Afya ya Jamii
		19:30	Isidingo	19:30	Isidingo	19:30	Isidingo	19:30	Isidingo	19:30	Isidingo
		20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
		21:05	Dakika 45	21:05	Dakika 45	21:05	Dakika 45	21:05	Dakika 45	21:05	Dakika 45
		22:00	Insta Bet	22:00	Insta Bet	22:00	Insta Bet	22:00	Insta Bet	22:00	Insta Bet
		22:15	Series: The Sling shot	22:15	Series: The Sling shot	22:15	Series: The Sling shot	22:15	Series: The Sling shot	22:15	Series: The Sling shot
		23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari	23:00	Habari
		23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base	23:30	The Base



Sanjiv Singh, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.

WORLD

'Shameful' of UK not to publish report on Russian meddling, says Hillary Clinton

LONDON

FORMER U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton criticized as "shameful" British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision not to publish a parliamentary report on Russian meddling in UK politics until after an election next month.

The report by parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) has been cleared by the security services but it has not yet been given approval for publication by Johnson's government, so will not appear before the Dec. 12 vote.

"I find it inexplicable that your government will not release a government report about Russian influence. Inexplicable and shameful," Clinton told the BBC in remarks reported on Tuesday. "Every person who votes in this country deserves to see that report before your election happens."

"There is no doubt - we know it in our country, we have seen it in Europe, we have seen it here - that Russia in particular is determined to try to

shape the politics of Western democracies," Clinton said.

Britain has accused Russia of meddling in the domestic politics and elections of several Western countries, including the U.S. presidential election. The British government says it has not seen evidence of "successful" Russian interference in UK elections, including the 2016 vote to leave the EU.

Moscow has repeatedly denied any meddling and says the West is gripped by anti-Russian hysteria. U.S. intelligence agencies say Russia sought to influence the 2016 presidential election through hacking and spreading propaganda, aimed at helping Donald Trump defeat Clinton, his Democratic opponent.

The British parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee's report contains allegations of Russia's attempts to interfere in Western politics and includes evidence from Britain's main intelligence agencies, MI5, GCHQ and MI6.

The report was completed in March and then went through redaction by



Hillary Clinton

the Cabinet Office and security services, a process completed by early October, according to Dominic Grieve, who chaired the committee.

Grieve, who was expelled from the parliamentary group of Johnson's Conservatives for defying him over Brexit, said the report was sent to the prime minister on Oct. 17 for final approval, a process he said customarily takes 10 days.

Johnson's government says the delay is a result of normal procedures: "There is a proper process that these reports go through. The ISC are aware of that," Johnson's spokesman said on Monday. "That process hadn't completed by the time that parliament was dissolved."

As the report is supposed to be presented to parliament, which is not sitting during the election campaign, its publication could be delayed by months.

The opposition Labour Party has said the decision not to release the report is an attempt to withhold the truth from the public and has said both Johnson and his most senior adviser, Dominic Cummings, have links to Russia.

Johnson's government has denied suggestions by the Labour Party that either the Conservative Party or the government are linked to Russian disinformation campaigns.

Agencies

Africa sees improvements in visa openness - report

CAPE TOWN

AFRICA has seen great improvements in visa openness as Africans can travel to more countries visa-free, according to the 2019 Africa Visa Openness Index released on Monday.

For the first time, Africans on average can travel to approximately 27 countries visa-free or with a visa on arrival, said the report compiled by the African

Union Commission (AU Commission) and African Development Bank (AfDB).

The progress on visa openness in Africa follows growing momentum for greater integration between countries and signals that policymakers across the continent are pushing reforms, making it easier for African businessmen and women, investors, students and tourists to travel, said the report, released on the sidelines of

the Africa Investment Forum underway in Johannesburg.

The report shows that 47 African countries improved or maintained their visa openness scores in 2019.

African travellers no longer need a visa to travel to a quarter of other African countries, whereas visa-free travel was only possible to a fifth of the continent in 2016, according to the report.

Currently, 21 African countries

also offer eVisa platforms to make travel more accessible, up from 16 in 2018, 13 in 2017, and nine in 2016, said the report.

The 2019 top performers on visa openness rank among the top countries for foreign direct investment in Africa, and benefit from strong levels of growth, including in tourism, the report said.

The index shows that Seychelles and Benin remain the top two countries on visa openness in

Africa, offering visa-free access to all Africans.

Ethiopia moved up by a record 32 places on the index and entered the top 20 most visa-open countries in Africa. "Our work on the Africa Visa Openness Index continues to monitor how Africa is doing on free movement of people," said AfDB President Akhilesh Adesina. Progress is being made but much still needs to be done, he added. **Xinhua**

Agencies

China hopeful as US trumpets support for student exchanges

CHINA hopes the United States will put its words into action, be sincerely welcoming to Chinese students and create more favorable conditions for bilateral education cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Monday.

Student exchanges between the two nations have long promoted communication and mutual understanding, Geng told a daily news briefing.

Geng's remarks came after Terry Branstad, the US ambassador to China, published a Chinese article in China Youth Daily on Monday, expressing that the US welcomes Chinese students to its universities.

The US has made no change to its student visa policies. Around 360,000 Chinese students studied at US universities last year, the highest among all nationalities, which clearly signals that US higher education is open to Chinese students, the ambassador said.

He noted that it is difficult to build bridges between the two cultures, but it is worth the extra effort. Those who choose to study in the US and integrate into its society will broaden their career prospects, contribute to China's sustainable development and reinforce China-US relations, he said.

When meeting Vice-Premier Liu He last month, US President Donald Trump said the US is not going to "make it tough" for Chinese students, who will be treated just like everybody else.

"We want all the people that want to come over from China. We have the greatest university system in the world, and we're going to keep it that way," he said.

The remarks made by Trump and Branstad were undoubtedly positive and served as an alleviation for past visa policies adopted by the US, China Youth Daily said in an editorial on Monday.

It bears important significance in relieving tensions between the two coun-



Chinese graduates at the Commencement ceremony of the 262nd Academic Year of Columbia University in New York, the United States (File photo)

tries in certain fields, and China welcomes it, the newspaper said.

"Chinese people believe in keeping one's word, and we hope the US will be welcoming to Chinese students," the editorial said. The US embassy in China could not be reached for comment on Monday.

In June, the Ministry of Education issued a warning about the risks of studying in the US, citing a soaring number of visa rejections. According to the China Scholarship Council, 182 government-funded students and scholars failed to get into the US because of visa restrictions from

January to March this year, 13.5 percent of the applicants.

Ran Wei, chief expert for overseas study at New Channel International Education Group, a consultancy for overseas studies, said it is only rational for policy makers to set no hurdles on education cooperation, which is beneficial for all people.

"It is encouraging to hear that the US will not discriminate against Chinese students in issuing visas, and we hope more Chinese students can go to US universities to study," he said.

Living in a different country for an extended period can help students learn its culture, make friends with local people and understand their way of thinking to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings and conflict, Ran said.

Agencies

Lavrov dismisses claims Russia plays policeman's role in Middle East

PARIS

THE attitude to Russia as an international policeman in the Middle East is an exclusively Western invention, which has nothing to do with reality, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the Russian session of the Paris Peace Forum yesterday.

In the course of the discussion the panel's moderator asked Lavrov for a comment on claims that Russia had become the Middle East's policeman. This is a "Western invention," Lavrov replied. "This logic is not applicable to what we witness in Syria," he stated.

Lavrov recalled that the Syrian crisis had begun with crimes committed by the Western countries in the Middle East.

"Don't forget that the Syrian crisis started against a background of huge crimes committed in the Middle East not by us.

One can recall the moment when George Bush Jr. declared the victory of democracy in Iraq. Look at Iraq, at what is going on there now.

Following the invasion in Iraq in 2003, ISIS was established and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was released from the American prison and became number one in this Caliphate. The aggression against Libya triggered several waves of terrorism in Africa and of illegal migration into Europe."

"When the Syrian government was about to be toppled by ISIS, when the terrorists were on the outskirts of Damascus, and when the president of Syria requested our help, yes, we helped.

And I believe we did the right thing because apart from Idlib and some areas on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River the terrorists are not in control of that country and the legitimate government is back in the driver's seat," Lavrov said.

Asked if everything should be blamed on the West, Lavrov replied with a pinch of irony that the West was entirely responsible only for its own mistakes.



Kenya says population summit to revitalise maternal health agenda

NAIROBI

THE International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 25) which opens in Nairobi on Tuesday will raise the bar in maternal health through access to contraceptives, officials said on Monday.

Macharia Kamau, principal secretary in Kenya's ministry of foreign affairs said the three-day global population summit, will renew commitment to reduce maternal deaths, eliminate gender-based violence and other harmful practices like girl child marriages and female genital mutilation.

Kenya will be hosting the three-day global population summit that will review the progress of implementation of a sweeping plan of action that was adopted in Cairo in 1994 to advance reproductive health rights of women and girls.

Macharia (pictured) said that world leaders, policymakers, lawmakers and representatives of multilateral lenders are expected to announce new financial commitment to promote universal access to contraceptives among women of child-bearing age.

The official said the summit will also include discussions around gender equality, youth leadership, innovations and partnerships required to revitalize the global family planning agenda.

Kenya has partnered with the government of Denmark and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to host the ICPD 25 summit.

Among key themes that will be discussed at the summit include, sexual and reproductive health as part of universal health coverage, demographic diversity, measures to end gender-based violence as well as access to reproductive health rights in fragile situations.

Arthur Erken, director of communications and strategic partnerships at UNFPA said that policy reforms and funding is required to ensure that access to contraceptives is embedded in the global maternal health agenda.

"We must step up our efforts to make modern contraceptives available to all who want and need it, improve maternal health care and protect women and girls from gender-based violence and harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation," said Erken.



Israel kills Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza, another targeted in Damascus

GAZA/JERUSALEM

ISRAEL killed a top commander from the Iranian-backed Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in a rare targeted strike in the Gaza Strip yesterday, and militants responded by firing rockets at Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv.

In the most serious escalation in months, an Israeli missile attack also targeted the home of an Islamic Jihad official in Damascus, killing two people including one of his sons, Syrian state media said. Israel declined any comment on that incident.

"Israel executed two coordinated attacks, in Syria and in Gaza, in a de-

claration of war," Islamic Jihad leader Khaled Al-Batsh said at the Gaza funeral of Baha Abu Al-Atta.

Israeli officials described Al-Atta as "ticking bomb" who was responsible for a string of recent cross-border rocket, drone and sniper attacks and was suspected of planning more.

"We conducted the attack (on Al-Atta) because there was no other choice," Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Conricus said. "I want to emphasise that we are not looking to further escalate the situation."

Al-Atta's slaying, in his home along with his wife, looked likely to pose a new challenge for Gaza's ruling Hamas

faction, which has mostly pursued truces with Israel since a 2014 war.

Israel casts rising Gaza tensions as part of a regional struggle with arch-enemy Iran that has also played out in Syria. Conservative Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has cited such scenarios in trying to form a coalition government with centre-left rivals after two inconclusive elections this year.

Islamic Jihad said the target of the Damascus attack was the home of a political leader, Akram Al-Ajourri. His possible significance to Israel was not immediately clear.

SCHOOLS, BANKS SHUTTERED

Palestinian militants fired dozens of rockets into Israel, setting off sirens as far north as Tel Aviv and prompting several municipalities to close schools. Similar precautions were ordered in Gaza.

The Israeli military said its Iron Dome air defence systems intercepted some of the Palestinian rockets. Israeli hospitals reported several civilians with injuries.

Israel's banking regulator instructed banks in areas within rocket range to operate under emergency procedures, with essential staff only. The main Tel Aviv share index .TAI25 was down 0.5%. The shekel ILS- was 0.2% weaker

against the dollar.

A later Israeli air strike on two men riding a motorcycle in Gaza killed one and wounded the other, Palestinian residents said. Israel said the men were an Islamic Jihad rocket crew.

Israel "bears full responsibility for all consequences of this escalation," Hamas said in a statement, pledging that Al-Atta's death "will not go unpunished".

Syrian state media said the Israeli attack in Damascus had been carried out using several missiles, one of which was shot down over the nearby suburb of Daraya.

At the scene of the Damascus strike,

a Reuters journalist said the top floor of a two-storey building had been completely scorched. A neighbour said he had been woken up at around 4 a.m. by three consecutive explosions that had blown open the doors in his house.

Syrian state media said six people were wounded in the attack, describing the target as a civilian home in Mezzah, a western district of the capital where several foreign embassies are located.

In recent years, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria against Iran and the Tehran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group, which it calls the biggest threat to its borders.

Agencies



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos in Athens, Greece, on Monday. (XINHUA)

Xi's visit to Greece usher in bright future for bilateral cooperation - Greek official

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's visit to Greece is bound to bring China-Greece relations onto a new level and usher in a bright future for cooperation between the two countries, said Adonis Georgiadis, Greek Minister of Development and Investments during an interview with People's Daily.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, led a delegation to the second China International Import Expo which kicked off on Nov.5 in Shanghai, to further boost the economic and trade exchanges between the two countries, Georgiadis introduced.

The minister expressed his gratitude to the Chinese companies for their active investment in and great support for Greece when the country was in a major crisis.

The Chinese-invested Piraeus Port project in Greece has achieved huge success and set an example of cooperation between China and Greece, providing experiences for other European countries, said Georgiadis.

China's investment in Greece has brought about win-win results, said Georgiadis, explaining that Chinese companies have not only turned the Piraeus Port into one of the first-rate ports in the Mediterranean region and revitalized Greek economy, but also enabled Chinese products to enter Europe in a more convenient way and at a more competitive price.

China and Greece also maintain a close cooperation in such fields as energy and shipping, and have witnessed remarkable results and growing momentum of cooperation, Georgiadis noted.

Today, Greece enjoys stable economic and social development and

is constantly improving investment environment, Georgiadis stressed, disclosing that the Greek government is actively upgrading and renovating the country's infrastructure in an effort to create a better environment, which is believed to generate new opportunities for cooperation between Greek and Chinese enterprises.

Chinese companies are welcomed to invest in Greece so as to give impetus to Greece's development, constantly deepen bilateral cooperation in such areas as economy, trade, investment, and finance, and help the two countries achieve mutually beneficial and win-win results, said Georgiadis.

Greece has been the first developed country in Europe to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China to jointly advance the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This year, Greece joined the cooperation mechanism between China and Central and Eastern European Countries, which will bring about broader cooperation between the two countries.

Despite the current complicated international situation, Greece and China will continue strengthening cooperation and treasuring broad common interests and vast space for cooperation, no matter what difficulties they might encounter, said Georgiadis, adding that Greece will make better use of the opportunities presented by the joint construction of the BRI.

It is believed that President Xi's forthcoming visit to Greece will yield more fruitful results in the cooperation in various fields between the two countries, Georgiadis said.

People's Daily

S. Africa's Parliament welcomes relaxation of visa regulations

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's Parliament on Monday welcomed a government decision to relinquish additional documents for foreign children to enter the country.

This came after Minister of Home Affairs Aaron Motsoaledi on Friday signed a waiver which will allow foreign children to enter the country without additional supporting documents such as birth certificates and consent letters.

The waiver has been applicable since Friday after the minister's signature. "As of Friday, November 8, 2019, foreign children can enter and depart the country without being required to provide birth certificates, consent let-



Minister of Home Affairs Aaron Motsoaledi (pictured) said in a statement.

ters, and other supporting documents relating to proof of parentage," Motsoaledi (pictured) said in a statement. The move concretizes the commitment made by President Cyril Ramaphosa to relax visa regulations to make it easier for tourists to visit the country with the aim of boosting the tourism sector, said Bongani Bongo, chairperson of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs.

Bongo said his committee has reg-

istered its support for this move and recognizes its importance and potential contribution for economic growth and job creation.

Bongo urged the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), together with the Department of Tourism and the Department of International Relations and Co-operation to communicate extensively the new requirements so as to reverse the effects of the previous regulations that were a concern to tourists.

The committee will in the near future engage the DHA on the impact of the changes to the regulations and where the DHA hopes to further explore in efforts to have entry-friendly requirements that are also able to ensure the security of the country, said Bongo.

Xinhua



Trump to 'delay decision on EU auto tariffs for 6 more months'

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is expected to announce this week that he will delay a decision on whether to impose additional tariffs on imported autos from European Union (EU) for another six months, local media reported.

Citing an unnamed person familiar with the decision, Politico reported on Monday that Trump is expected to announce another six-month delay of tariffs on EU autos, which would avoid a new bruising dispute with one of the United States' biggest trading partners.

But the person also cautioned that there is always uncertainty surrounding Trump's final determination when it comes to trade and tariffs.

Trump in May put off the decision on the auto tariffs for 180 days, while instructing US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to negotiate agreements with the EU, Japan and other trading partners to "address the national security threat" posed by imported foreign autos and auto parts.

If the negotiation process does not yield agreements within 180 days, Trump will determine what further action needs to be taken. The deadline is Wednesday.

Citing people familiar with the deliberations, The New York Times also reported on Monday that Trump is widely expected this week to delay the auto tariffs for several months, "because there is little appetite in the administration to move ahead with them now."

Lighthizer told reporters in September that he did not expect Trump to impose tariffs on imported Japanese autos and auto parts, after the two countries reached a deal on digital trade and tariff reduction for agricultural and industrial products.

However, trade talks between the United States and the EU have not produced a deal, mainly because the EU refused to put agriculture on the table in the negotiations, according to Politico.

Agencies

WFP chief vows more 'aggressive' action on sexual harassment

CAIRO

IN the wake of an internal survey that detailed multiple allegations of rape and sexual harassment of its female staffers, the leader of the World Food Program is vowing to go after abusers.

David Beasley, the UN agency's executive director, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press that he is "making hard choices to bring change" to the WFP.

"If we have a claim of rape by anyone in the WFP, if we can substantiate, I can't begin to tell you how aggressive" actions will be, he told the AP in a phone interview from the agency's Rome headquarters.

The warning comes after an internal survey which Beasley (pictured) commissioned found that at least 28 employees said they experienced rape or sexual assaults while working at the agency. More than 640 others said they were victims of or witnessed sexual harassment, or 8 percent of the total sample of 8,137. The survey was first reported last month by The Italian Insider.

The findings are lower than the UN Safe Space Survey, which was conducted across the world body's agencies and was published in January. Of its more than 30,000 respondents, 38.7 percent said they experienced sexual harassment while working in the UN.

Over the past year, Beasley said that the agency fired and banned five staffers implicated in sexual abuses, doubled the number of its investigators, lifted the time limit on reporting abuses, and is spreading the message



among staffers to speak up about abuses of power.

Some advocates and WFP employees question whether the agency had the ability to adequately investigate itself. The two staffers spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

"They love PR, but in reality nothing changes," said one female employee who filed a sexual harassment report in one of the agency's regional offices this year. She said it was largely ignored and was never investigated.

She also said that harassers are typically forced to resign, not fired, allowing them to seek employment with other UN agencies. She said her agency recently hired an official accused of harassment at the World Health Organization.

A second senior official at WFP ticked off a list of names of officials at the agency's regional offices he said have been accused of sexual abuses but remained in their positions because of they were protected by managers.

"When managers are powerful, they become like mafias," he said.

Paula Donovan, a former UN employee who founded the Code Blue Campaign, which seeks to end impunity for sexual offenders in the U.N.

system, called the 28 cases of rape and sexual assault "shocking and disgusting."

Donovan said the UN has a conflict of interest. "We are the employer of the accused and the accuser," she said, calling for an independent body from outside the UN to investigate.

"You can double, triple the number of investigators," she said. "But as long the results are handled internally and turned over to other biased individuals to make judgments and final decisions, none are real changes."

Sexual abuses are rife especially in remote areas away from the spotlight.

Local employees in other international agencies operating in Yemen complain that senior officials have free rein to exploit female staffers. The staffers said women are also prevented from speaking out against sexual abuses by broader cultural and social restraints in Yemen, where women who complain of harassment often face punishment.

A senior female employee at one non-UN group said, "the strong majority of Yemeni women working for international agencies suffer silently from sexual harassment."

The United Nations has been in the spotlight for several years over allegations of child rape and other sexual abuses by its peacekeepers, especially those based in Central African Republic and Congo.

According to UN figures, there were 80 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving peacekeepers and 65 allegations involving UN civilian staff in 2016 - an increase from 2015, according to the most recent data.

Agencies

Kremlin: No need for Putin, Zelensky to meet for the sake of meeting

MOSCOW

A meeting between Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Vladimir Zelensky of Ukraine would make little difference if it's not well-prepared, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding that Moscow was focused on the next Normandy Four summit.

"Putin has said himself that he never refuses to hold such meetings but he believes that a meeting for the sake of a meeting will make little difference, there is a need to make thorough preparations," the Russian presidential spokesman pointed out.

"We are currently focused on preparations for the Normandy Four processes. In this regard, the parties should fulfill the obligations they took



on Minsk," he added.

Nazarbayev's initiative

When commenting on former Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative to arrange a meeting between Putin and Zelensky, Peskov emphasized that Moscow "is always grateful to Nazarbayev and values the efforts of our Kazakh colleagues to help improve Russian-Ukrainian relations."

"President Putin is in favor of improving relations and bringing them back to normal but it is impossible as long as Kiev refuses to adopt the same approach," the Kremlin spokesman stressed.

Peskov (pictured) specified that a telephone conversation between Putin and Nazarbayev had taken place on Monday "by mutual agreement." According to Peskov, Nazarbayev put forward his initiative concerning Putin's meeting with Zelensky during that phone call.

According to the Russian presidential spokesman, Moscow welcomes the disengagement of forces in southeastern Ukraine. "We consider the disengagement process in Zolotoye and Petrovskoye to be a positive move and believe that the parties need to contin-

ue fulfilling their obligations, which is important in terms of preparations for a Normandy Four summit," he noted.

Peskov agreed that Russia and Ukraine should work at the bilateral level to restore relations. "It is Ukraine that needs to resolve the situation in the country's southeast, as it cannot be resolved between Kiev and Moscow because Moscow is not a party to the conflict," Peskov added. "Direct contacts between Kiev and the self-proclaimed republics could facilitate efforts to find a solution," he said.

When asked if the Kremlin believed that the special status of Donbass should be enshrined in Ukrainian laws before a Normandy Four summit took place, the Russian presidential spokesman said that it was one of the obligations that Kiev had to implement.

China contributes to global intellectual property rights protection

CHINA has developed a path of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection with Chinese characteristics through perseverance and constant exploration.

The country was ranked 14th among more than 100 economies worldwide in a global innovation ranking in 2019 by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), moving up 11 spots from 2016. It has been the fourth year straight for China to have lifted its ranking in this regard.

The ranking indicates the recognition of the international society on China's active efforts to protect IPR and crack down on IPR infringements.

China's progress in IPR protec-

tion was applauded by Chinese and foreign corporations present at a forum on international cooperation in fighting IPR infringement and counterfeiting held during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) on Nov.6.

At the forum, domestic and foreign guests gathered together and shared their insights on building a global governance pattern of IPR protection and combating IPR infringement and counterfeiting.

J Bruce Schelkopf, senior vice president and global chief IP officer of ABB, said China is optimizing environment for IPR protection in the making of laws, regulations and policies, as well as law enforcement and juridical

protection.

China ranks 31st among 190 economies in terms of ease of doing business, up from the 46th last year, according to a newly-released report by the World Bank. It is the second year in a row that the country has ranked among the top 10 economies in the world that improved the most on the ease of doing business, said Gan Lin, vice director of the State Administration for Market Regulation of China, pointing out that new progress has been constantly made in innovation and development.

The WIPO has long been dedicated to enhancing global IPR protection and building a balanced and efficient IP management and application system,

with the aim of promoting innovation-driven development of the world, said Minelik Alemu Getahun, assistant director general of WIPO.

Chinese government places high importance on IPR protection and anti-infringement and anti-counterfeiting, actively strengthens coordination on IPR protection, and enhances collaborative cross-agency, cross-regional and cross-border enforcement efforts, he pointed out, adding that these experiences and practices are globally exemplary.

In 2019, China has taken new efforts and made new progress in fighting against IPR infringement and counterfeiting.

By building a more complete

legal system, the country has laid a solid legal foundation for the fight against IPR infringement and counterfeiting.

On January 1, the E-commerce Law took effect, requiring e-commerce operators to protect intellectual property rights and fulfill their obligations and responsibilities. The revised Trademark Law increased the upper limit of compensations that may be imposed on trademark infringement.

On October 22, the State Council released a regulation on improving business environment, which said that the country will set up a punitive damage system for infringements on intellectual property and improve the mechanism for rapid and coordinated IPR protection. Besides, the For-

eign Investment Law will come into force on January 1, 2020.

China is perfecting a punitive damage system for infringements on intellectual property and strengthening the top-level design in this respect.

The country has created a better environment for IPR protection through launching harsher punishments.

From January to August, Chinese police arrested about 16,000 suspects involved in

13,000 cases of IPR infringement and counterfeiting. Chinese courts at all levels tried 11,000 cases related to IPR of first instance, and concluded more than 8,300 cases, a significant increase from the same period last year.

Procuratorates across China approved the arrest of over 10,000 suspects involved in more than 6,000 IPR infringement and counterfeiting cases. A total of 16,000 suspects involved in 8,600 such cases were prosecuted. In a word, the country is fortifying efforts on IPR infringement crackdown.

China has provided comprehensive support for IPR protection through carrying out stronger special rectification actions. Between January and August, the law enforcement departments at all levels investigated and punished 190,000 infringement and counterfeiting cases related to IPR.

People's Daily



Anitha Msangi, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Marketing Manager (2nd L), shakes hands with Lugalo Golf Club's chairman, Michael Luwongo, after announcing SBL's sponsorship of an annual competition, known as Waitara golf tournament 2019, which will take place at the club's course in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Looking on (R) is the club's skipper, Japhet Masai, and the club's administration officer, Samwel Masha. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Company to sponsor Waitara golf tournament 2019

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

ABOUT 120 top golfers from across Tanzania are set to battle for supremacy in this year's edition of an annual competition, known as Waitara golf tournament, which will be held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) has sponsored the competition through Serengeti Premium Lager brand.

The 2019 Waitara golf tournament will take place at the Lugalo Club's golf course.

Anitha Msangi, SBL Marketing Manager, told reporters in the city yesterday the brewers' support to the tournament is aimed at promoting the sport's development in the country.

"SBL, through its flagship brand Serengeti Premium Lager, is proud to be the main sponsor of this year's Waitara golf tournament. Our support to this tournament shows our solid commitment in supporting the developing of sports in the country," Msangi said.

The company also sponsors senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, via the Serengeti Premium Lager brand.

The company is, as well, the main sponsor

of the Mainland Women Premier League via the Serengeti Lite brand.

Lugalo Golf Club's chairman, Michael Luwongo, expressed his appreciation to SBL for the sponsorship and urged other companies and organizations to come forward and support golf development in the country.

"We are very grateful for what SBL has been doing in supporting the development of golf as well as other sports in the country," Luwongo noted.

"We are particularly happy to note that the beer-makers have now become the biggest supporter of this tournament."

The Waitara golf tournament is held every year with the objective of honouring retired army officer George Waitara's contribution to the sports sector in Tanzania by overseeing the establishment of the golf course at the Lugalo Golf Club.

The golf course started operating in 2006 following the immense contribution of Waitara when serving as Chief of Tanzania People's Defense Forces.

His contribution was also greatly enhanced and supported by his successor, Davis Mwanunyanje.

Curry hopes to return from broken hand 'in early spring'

SAN FRANCISCO

GOLDEN State Warriors star Stephen Curry "definitely" plans to return this season from his broken left hand and is hoping to be back on the court at "some point in early spring."

When exactly the two-time NBA MVP will be able to play again remains uncertain.

Curry (pictured) addressed the media Monday night for the first time since getting injured Oct. 30 and said he needs a second surgery on his non-shooting hand, probably in early December, to remove pins that were inserted during the first procedure Nov. 1 that involved his hand and index finger.

(Managing the) swelling is something that's going to be of the utmost priority early in the rehab process," Curry said, "to get me a chance to come back and get my range of motion back pretty quickly."

The Warriors initially said Curry would be re-evaluated three months after the surgery, which would be early February.

Curry referred to himself and injured teammate Klay Thompson as "caged animals right now, wanting to be unleashed."

Thompson, the other part of Golden State's Splash Brothers combo, is recovering from surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. The team hopes he can return in the second half of the season.

Curry said he experienced some minor nerve irritation shortly after he underwent his first hand surgery, a common byproduct of the procedure. That's one thing doctors will continue to monitor throughout his rehab process, and it will impact when he can return.

For now, Curry is working out his lower body and doing whatever training is permitted by the team's medical staff, saying he's using this three-month period without basketball as a "mini offseason" to fine-tune his body.

The Warriors' longest-tenured player had praise for his teammates, who took the court Monday night against Utah with a 2-8 record that was tied with the New York Knicks and New Orleans Pelicans for the worst in the NBA.

Curry described rookie Eric Paschall's energy as contagious and said the play of new guard D'Angelo Russell has been "unreal." Asked what the benefits would be for he and Thompson to return to the court this season if it was only for the final few weeks, Curry had an answer.

"Just to understand the chemistry with the young guys," he said. "We can play around with rotations and just get a vibe of what the following season, when we're all healthy, looks like."

Meanwhile, Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward had surgery on his broken left hand, a move that is expected to keep him out for about six weeks.



Pros and cons of Yanga reappointing Mkwasa

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IT is nearing a week since Young Africans (Yanga) had sacked head coach Mwynyi Zahera and appointed Charles Boniface Mkwasa to replace the Congolese coach.

Yanga have since won one Vodacom Premier League match against Mtwara's Ndanda FC.

The domestic top flight big guns edged Ndanda FC 1-0 at the latter's backyard, Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium.

Mkwasa appeared to be an inevitable choice at least on an interim basis given his history at the club, with that in mind, we have run through the pros and cons of his returning to the Jangwani Street side for a third crack of the whip.

Pros

Mkwasa is hungry and fresh
It is not just this season that Yanga appear to be struggling, but over the course of the last two seasons in which they have ended without a single trophy and finished second and third.

During this period, they have gone through two different coaches of varying degrees of experience who employ different styles of football.

Head coach George Lwandamina left in a hush, Zahera project failed, so a back-to-basics approach is now needed.

Maybe it is not about appointing someone who employs a dazzling brand of football, but bringing in a coach who will get you results, get



Yanga's interim head coach, Boniface Mkwasa

the team organized, disciplined and wipe out the silly mistakes.

Given how long Zahera was under pressure, logically speaking you would think that Yanga would have had a coach in mind when they eventually axed the Congolese.

But that is evidently not been the case. Unlike a number of the other names that have been linked with the Yellow and Green outfit, Mkwasa had been out-of-work for over one year and is now interested resuming his coaching career that hit a snag when he was fired from the senior national team 'Taifa Stars' job.

Unite the team

Mkwasa's place in Yanga's folklore ensured he received a rapturous welcome when he was announced as the interim coach and made visited the club's headquarters.

His first task will be to rally the

team together after the cracks within forced the club management sack Mwynyi Zahera.

He issued a rallying cry that the all is well in the squad and all that is needed at the moment is unity and peace in the club.

"The atmosphere in the team is magnificent, the boys are in good morale. These are things that come and go but I urge for peace in and unity in the club to forge ahead."

Cons

Pragmatism over excitement
One of the reasons Yanga stuck by Zahera for so long is that they could see what he was desperately trying to implement in the most difficult time for the club, but ultimately it didn't work out.

While Mkwasa represents a solid and steady replacement, his football philosophy is not exactly enthralling.

He is defensively focused and his team's displays are often effective yet sleep-inducing.

Not a long-term solution

The majority of Yanga fans crave a coach that can excite them, get bums off seats and employ an attractive brand of football.

They want a high profile coach with an impressive CV in the CAF inter-club competitions. It was assumed the club would seek a new direction with the appointment of a coach has at least guided a team to the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League or CAF Confederation Cup.

Mkwasa could work in the short-term, but he's not a long-term solution in the eyes of fans who have seen what Simba have achieved recently.

Third time unlucky

Mkwasa's achievements at Yanga will never be forgotten: ten consecutive years as a player, the memorable away victory in Zimbabwe.

Even when he served as a secretary, he did not exactly leave on a high but he left with his reputation intact. He has dispelled the 'never go back' myth, but would he be able to succeed for a third time?

The verdict

The football will not be great but history tells us that Mkwasa will get results, which at this time is the most important thing. A short time appointment makes sense.

Samatta joins Stars' camp for AFCON qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadono

TAIFA Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta, who arrived in Dar es Salaam on Monday night, has joined the team's camp and said he is ready for Friday's 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers' Group J game against Equatorial Guinea.

Taifa Stars are currently preparing for the game against the West Africa nation's side that will take place at the National Stadium in the city.

Samatta, who plays for KRC Genk of Belgium, said Taifa Stars must win the Friday's game against Equatorial Guinea and next week's away match against Libya.

The wins will see Taifa Stars stay on course for realizing their dream of making back to back appearance at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) competition.

The 2021 AFCON qualifiers' Group J has Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea, Libya and Tunisia.

He promised to work hard with his friends in camp to make sure that Tanzania records good results on the two games.

"Personally, I'm well prepared



Senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta.

for the Friday match and next week's match and I'm sure the same is true to my fellows who are already in camp," Samatta said.

"The Friday match is very

important to us and I promise to work hard with my friends so that we can deliver the required results."

The Stars' skipper said although his team are favourites on the Friday

game as they will be at home, they risk putting their bid for back to back appearance at AFCON in jeopardy, if they will bank on their home record and history.

Samatta also commented on his performance in the Belgian Super League and UEFA Champions League, saying he is enjoying playing in the two competitions.

Other Taifa Stars' players, who joined the camp include, Farid Mussa who plays for Tenerife of Spain, Simon Msuva who plays for Difaa El Jadida of Morocco, David Kisu of Kenya's Gor Mahia, Hassan Ramadhan Kessy that features for Zambia's Nkana, and Eliuter Mpepo of Buildcon of Zambia.

The Friday match will be the first assignment for Equatorial Guinea's newly appointed head coach Sebastien Migne, who is also the former Kenya's senior national team 'Harambee Stars' head coach.

Migne was sacked by Kenya Football Federation after Harambee Stars had succumbed to a loss to Taifa Stars in the first round of the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers.



Dar es Salaam's Villa Squad FC players take part in training session at the Uhuru Stadium in the city yesterday to gear up for Second Division League (SDL) assignments. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Klopp: No pressure to win Reds' first world title

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp says he feels no extra pressure to deliver the team's first Club World Cup title next month but expects an intense tournament in Qatar amidst a busy run of fixtures across all competitions.

Liverpool enter the tournament at the semifinal stage and face a second-round winner on Dec. 18 and the German believes the European champions could be pushed hard by unfamiliar opponents in the seven-team competition.

"I'm not someone who has to be the first on the moon or the first winning the World Cup with Liverpool, but when we're there we'll try with all we have," Klopp told the FIFA website.

"So far, I don't feel any pressure. I see it as an absolute opportunity... the interesting and difficult part is that we'll be playing against teams from other continents, which doesn't happen that often... it'll be a tough one for sure."

The teams involved in the Dec. 11-21 tournament are CONCACAF champions Monterrey of Mexico; Qatar champions Al Sadd; Oceania title holders Hienghene Sport of New Caledonia; African champions Esperance of Tunisia; the eventual South American champions and the Asian Champions League winners.

"We'll prepare for it as we would usually and we'll see if it's right or wrong... I don't get to see a lot of Brazilian, Argentinian, Mexican or Arabic football... so I don't know too much about them... It'll be really intense," added Klopp.

Liverpool outclassed Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in the Champions League final in June to claim their sixth European Cup and followed that by beating Europa League winners Chelsea 5-4 on penalties to lift the UEFA Super Cup.

Klopp's side have an eight-point lead atop the Premier League as they target a first English title in 30 years and can add another trophy to their cabinet before the year ends.

"Unfortunately, we won't round off 2019 in that moment [with the Club World Cup trophy] because there

will be games to come before the year ends," said Klopp, whose side play 12 games across four competitions between Nov. 23 and Jan. 2.

Such is the fixture crunch that Liverpool could field two different squads in the League Cup quarter-final on Dec. 17 and Club World Cup the following day due to a lack of available dates to postpone the domestic game.

Klopp said he would not take the Club World Cup for granted.

"The only reason for us to go there is for the opportunity to win it and that's what we'll try... the boys want to play it so it'll be interesting... it'll feel big for us, 100%."

Meanwhile, Liverpool have major concerns over Mohamed Salah's ankle injury after the forward took another knock to it in the 3-1 victory over Manchester City, sources have told ESPN FC.

The Premier League league leaders wanted the 27-year-old to remain on Merseyside and undertake a scan on the problem, which has been carefully managed by Liverpool, but was aggravated after a fair but firm challenge from Fernandinho at Anfield on Sunday.

The injury has been troubling Salah since Hamza Choudhury's "dangerous as hell" tackle in the 2-1 win over Leicester in October.

However, he insisted on reporting for Egypt duty and doing the assessment with the national team.

Liverpool now face a nervy wait on feedback from the scan.

Salah missed the 1-1 draw at Manchester United following October's FIFA break as he nursed the issue and the European champions are loath to lose him as the busiest period of the season approaches.

Jurgen Klopp shed light on the nagging element of the injury earlier this month, saying: "I think it is more really annoying - for him, not me - the fact that it always has a bit of fluid in, and he has to deal with it, we get it out and it comes back, and stuff like that."

Egypt host Kenya in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier on Thursday, before an away test against Comoros next Monday.

(Agencies)



Arsenal back Unai Emery but warn results must improve

LONDON

UNAI Emery has been offered the backing of the Arsenal board for now, but has been warned that results must improve.

The Spaniard has come under mounting pressure following a string of poor performances and a record of just two wins from their last 10 Premier League games.

A 2-0 loss at Leicester on Saturday saw the Gunners fall eight points behind the Premier League's top four.

Emery's target had been to secure a return to the Champions League for the first time in four seasons next year, either via a top four finish or by winning the Europa League.

However, the club's head of football Raul Sanllehi and managing director Vinai Venkatesham insist Emery remains the right man for the job.

"We are as disappointed as everyone else with both our results and performances at this stage of the season," Sanllehi and Venkatesham told Arsenal staff at a pre-

planned meeting on Monday.

"We share the frustration with our fans, Unai, the players and all our staff as they are not at the level we want or expect."

"Things need to improve to meet our objectives for the season, and we firmly believe Unai is the right man for the job, together with the backroom team we have in place."

The backing comes with supporters unrest rising due to poor performances on the pitch and the Emery's decision to make Granit Xhaka club captain earlier this season.

Xhaka was stripped of that honour after a foul-mouthed tirade towards his own fans when being substituted at home to Crystal Palace on October 27.

"We have to make the tough decision Arsenal! It's not getting better," said former Arsenal striker Ian Wright after Saturday's defeat.

"No definitive style or plan. Negative goal difference. No improvement in the defence. Not creating anything," added Wright on Twitter.

AFP

Premier League sharpshooters in Africa as CAN qualifying begins

JOHANNESBURG

ENGLISH Premier League sharpshooters Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah flew to Africa this week, seeking goals as 2021 Cup of Nations (CAN) qualifying kicks off.

New Arsenal captain Aubameyang has claimed eight league goals this season and Liverpool duo Mane and Salah seven and six respectively, putting the trio among the top 10 scorers.

The form of Gabonese Aubameyang, Senegalese Mane and Egyptian Salah will encourage their nations as they face two matches each between this Wednesday and next Tuesday.

Mane, who is looking good to succeed two-time winner Salah as African Footballer of the Year, will be first into action with Senegal hosting Congo Brazzaville in Thies Wednesday.

Having scored for Liverpool in a 3-1 triumph over reigning champions Manchester City Sunday and travelled to Dakar Monday, Mane will have little time to prepare for the Group I clash.

Fortunately for 2019 Cup of Nations silver medalists Senegal, whose defence is marshalled by Napoli centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly, Congo have not impressed recently.

Any outcome other than a comfortable win for Senegal would be surprising as the nation currently ranked first in Africa launch another attempt to win a maiden Cup of Nations title.

Aubameyang and Salah play Thursday with Gabon away to central African neighbours the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group D and Egypt at home to Kenya in Group C.

Salah will work with recently appointed Egypt coach Hossam el Badry for the first time, having missed a warm-up win over Botswana last month because of an injury.

El Badry succeeded Mexican Javier Aguirre, who was sacked after the Pharaohs flopped as 2019 Cup of Nations hosts, losing to South Africa at the last-16 stage. Another Premier League star available to the new coach is Mahmoud "Trezeguet" Hassan, who scored for Aston Villa in a weekend defeat at Wolves.

- Unhappy memories - Kenya appeared at a Cup of Nations this year for the first time since 2004 and edged Tanzania be-

Distributed via jppmedia

Arsenal should bring Wenger back as technical director - Nicholas

LONDON

ARSENAL should bring Arsene Wenger back to the club as technical director, says Charlie Nicholas, with Unai Emery in need of assistance as he is left "hanging on" to his job at Emirates Stadium.

The current man at the Gunners helm, who stepped into the shoes of an iconic predecessor in the summer of 2018, is seeing some uncomfortable questions asked of his ongoing presence.

Struggles for consistency, particularly on the road, remain a serious thorn in Arsenal's side under Emery, and Nicholas believes turning to a familiar face for help could prove to be a shrewd move.

The ex-Gunners forward told Sky Sports: "I would go in for Wenger and get him on the board or get him in as the technical director."

"Why let him talk to Bayern Munich and float about on TV when you can have that brain, fabric and understanding at the club right. He could work with an experienced manager to get it right. He can also improve the decision making. Why did Arsenal miss out on Gary Cahill, for example?"

"Wenger couldn't sort his own problems, but he could help Emery in certain ways. I was always teased about the hierarchy not being right, but we have around four guys arguing over transfers. Is Edu the one who says these are the players Arsenal are getting? Is he in strong communication with Emery?"

Nicholas believes there are a number of issues for Arsenal to address, with the club having lost the identity which once saw them billed as one of the most fearsome ball-playing sides in Europe.

The Scot added: "What is Arsenal's style? It's a complete disaster of a style and formation. He (Emery) does not know his best starting line-up or his best formation. This is why he's under the pressure he is under, but I don't think he will get sacked."

"He is asking for time, but will he get the 18 months that takes him to the end of next season? There are plenty of Arsenal fans wanting Emery to go now, but reports suggest the club's hierarchy are going to stick with the Spaniard for the time being. However, if things don't turn around quickly, it may go down the line of Emery losing his job."

"Come January when the transfer window opens, the Arsenal board will say they have no money, but they need money for defenders. It's either that, or you need to get rid of the dead wood. They got rid of plenty in the summer but in my opinion there's more to go."

A 2-0 defeat at fellow top-four hopefuls Leicester last time out has seen more pressure piled on Emery, with Nicholas conceding that the Spaniard has not been helping himself at times.

He added: "I am confused with where this is going, and that is created by Emery's own choices. If he doesn't sort it out before Christmas, he does come under scrutiny."

"The top four was there for the taking, but Man Utd were struggling, Leicester and Chelsea are doing better than anticipated, but you want to be in there fighting. Arsenal are hopeless yet are still in sixth, but you have to stay at it and give yourself a chance to fight for



Sadio Mane - Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - Mohamed Salah

tween group losses to eventual champions Algeria and runners-up Senegal.

Aubameyang, the son of a former international, and Gabon have unhappy memories of recent Cup of Nations.

They could not win any of three 2017 group matches despite being hosts and made a humiliating first round exit before faring even worse in the following edition by failing to qualify.

Aubameyang struggled for form in Africa and refused to travel from Gabon to South Sudan for a 2019 qualifier because he believed the chartered aircraft was unsafe.

Only a handful of countries leave DR

Congo capital Kinshasa with maximum points and a realistic target for new Gabon coach Patrick Neveu would be a draw.

Algeria star Riyad Mahrez has managed only two Premier League goals for Manchester City this season and was an unused substitute at Liverpool.

The 'Desert Foxes' hope this will not affect his performance when the trophy-holders host shock 2012 African champions Zambia, who failed to qualify for the last two Cup of Nations, in Group H.

Nigeria, third at the 2019 Cup of Nations, have called up Premier League midfielders Alex Iwobi of Everton and Wilfred Ndidi

from second-place Leicester City to face Benin in Uyo.

Saudi Arabia-based captain Ahmed Musa returns for the Group L match after missing a friendly draw with Brazil in Singapore due to injury.

Although Ghana are the third most successful country in the Cup of Nations with four titles, the last came 37 years ago when Abedi 'Pele' Ayew was a teenager.

Now retired after an illustrious career, he will watch England-based sons Andre and Jordan tackle unpredictable South Africa in Group C in Cape Coast.

AFP



Arsene Wenger - Unai Emery

those places.

"Emery must go positive to win football matches after international break. If this doesn't work, he may be out by January - he is hanging on. The board will not look to ease him out, but a lot of people are wondering why they should wait."

Meanwhile, Arsenal should be looking to move Mesut Ozil, Granit Xhaka, Sead Kolasinac, Calum Chambers and Shkodran Mustafi out of the club, says Paul Mariner, with the latter said to need "studs in his shorts because he's always on his backside".

The Gunners are facing plenty of uncomfortable questions amid their ongoing strug-

gles to deliver positive results and performances in 2019-20.

Many of those are being aimed in the direction of under-fire manager Unai Emery, but supposed stars on the field are also attracting plenty of criticism.

Xhaka has been stripped of the club captaincy after hitting out at disgruntled supporters, Ozil has seen limited game time, Chambers is considered to lack the required quality and Kolasinac faces fierce competition for places at left-back.

German defender Mustafi is another who has failed to convince throughout his time in north London and ex-Arsenal forward

Mariner believes sweeping changes are required at Emirates Stadium.

He told ESPN of Mustafi: "When he came to the football club, what we do is we get on WyScout and we look at what body of work a player has done."

"I looked at the body of work that he's done and I said he needs to have studs in his shorts because he's always on his backside. 'You look at his gear when he's playing football, his shorts are absolutely full of grass stains and mud - he's always on his backside, he doesn't know how to defend properly. He's got to go.'"

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Premier League sharpshooters
in Africa as CAN qualifying begins

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aces Cricket Club's Ali Mpeka (R), receives man of the match award from Grand Restaurant's official, Kumesan Pather, after the completion of this year's DRCC Caravans T20 tournament's game between Aces and Shree Kutchi Leva, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Aces won the match. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Aces cricketers clobber Shree Kutchi Leva in Caravans T20 tournament

By Guardian Reporter

ACES cricketers notched a 59-run drubbing of Shree Kutchi Leva in this year's DRCC Caravans T20 competition's game between the two sides, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Caravans Club has hosted the tournament, which is held annually, under the auspices of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), targeting to promote the game at the domestic level.

This year's competition's sponsors include Petrofuel, Alliance Insurance, Grand Restaurant, Colourflex, RAS Logistics and SBC through Pepsi brand.

Shree Kutchi Leva won the toss and put Aces in to bat first in the in the Group B clash. Aces made the most of the chance, racing to 120 runs for nine wickets in 20 overs.

Aces had an impressive start in the innings, in which opening batsmen, Jumanne Mohamed and Ankit Baghel, put solid knocks and recorded 28 runs and 24 runs respectively.

The decent start had Aces scoring 45 runs for no loss of wicket in the first five overs, the match was thereafter briefly stopped because of rain.

Immediately after the break, Aces lost two wickets in quick succession. Ali Mpeka and Salum Jumbe, however, stepped up Aces' pursuit of an imposing total, scoring 15 runs not out and 16 runs respectively as Shree Kutchi Leva bowlers began putting pressure on Aces' batsmen.

Aces made full use of quick running between the wickets and took the game strategically beyond Shree Kutchi Leva.

Aces, ultimately, reached 120 runs for nine wickets in the allotted 20 overs with the last ball being six struck by Raza Imam.

Vinesh Gorasiya, Naran Vekariya, Vipul Pindoria and Jayantilal Pindoria ended their bowling spells with two wickets each for Shree Kutchi Leva.

In response, Shree Kutchi Leva found the going tough in the chase and were eventually skittled for 61 runs.

Anil Pindoria had so far the only significant batting showing for the squad, recording 13 runs.

Aces' medium pacer Jumbe and pacer, Mpeka, mercilessly punished Shree Kutchi Leva and took three wickets apiece.

Mpeka had a much better economy rate of 2.18 and the pacer was, as a result, declared man of the match.

Aces' senior player and the outfit's founder, Azim Thakur, disclosed, "Mpeka and Jumbe have so far been quite impressive on the pitch, which hardly favours bowlers."

"Aces' fast bowlers have been playing their hearts out, with this pitch being not conducive for fast bowlers."

"The fast bowlers have been the most effective pacers, although Aces also have two very good leg spinners in Raza Imam Zaidi and Mohamed Ali."

"Fielding wise, Aces would have loved more compact situations but with today's conditions, the team have pulled off very good results, which favour them going forward."

"Jumbe was sent to Pakistan by our club for a three-month training, he later on went to South Africa for more training, so he has learnt the attitude of making a comeback, and he truly has the never-say-die attitude."

"Since the early days of his participation in cricket we have seen he can either go off or have a bad day but, on his day, he can rattle the strongest of the opponents."

Madagascar complete field for COSAFA Men U-20 Championship

ANTANANARIVO

MADAGASCAR have been confirmed as the 12th team to compete at the 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships that will be staged in Lusaka, Zambia from December 4-14.

The islanders complete the field for the regional showpiece tournament and will take their place in Friday's draw, ensuring this year's competition is an all-Southern African affair with no guest nations.

They join Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and hosts Zambia in the pots for the last of six COSAFA tournaments across all age-groups this year.

The draw will be held in Lusaka on Friday at 14h15. Madagascar are previous winners of the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships, one of only four nations to lift the trophy, but have not competed in recent years.

They beat Lesotho 1-0 in the final in 2005, joining Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe as past winners, in what is also their only previous final.

They will appear in the competition for the first time in six years, having last played in 2013 when they lost both games in a three-team Group B in the first round, going down to Angola (1-5) and Mozambique (0-6).

They also went winless in 2011 after defeats to Angola (0-1) and Namibia (1-3), and a thrilling 5-5 draw with Zimbabwe.

They had a three-team pool in 2010, which started with a thumping 5-0 success over Seychelles and was followed by a 2-0 win over Mozambique.

That meant a semifinal with Namibia, which was lost, before the team went down 3-1 to Zimbabwe in the bronze-medal match.

The side also made the third-place play-off in 2009 but lost on penalties to nemesis Zimbabwe after they had been beaten 4-0 by Zambia in the semifinals.

They did win the bronze medal in 2007 though as they defeated Namibia 2-1 in the play-off.

Their championship success in 2005 came as they played in a five-team first round group and beat Namibia (7-0), Malawi (3-2) and Seychelles (7-0), but also suffered a loss to Angola (0-1).

They edged Zambia on penalties in the semifinals after a 1-1 draw, before Rajaonison Tojoniaina got the only goal of the game in the 70th minute as they beat Lesotho in the decider.

Madagascar debuted in the competition in 1999 when they exited in the first round, and had similar results in 2003, 2004 and 2006. They reached the quarterfinals in 2001 but lost to Angola (0-1).



Taifa Stars' captain Mbwana Samatta

Samatta admits knowing nothing about Equatorial Guinea

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team "Taifa Stars" face a tricky 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers' match against Equatorial Guinea, which will be held in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

And Taifa Stars' skipper, Mbwana Samatta, has admitted that Equatorial Guinea, who occupy the 135th spot in the latest FIFA ranking, are a mystery to him.

Taifa Stars are currently placed 133rd in the world football governing body's latest ranking.

Samatta said he is in the dark over the Central Africa nation, and does not know any of their players.

When asked how much he knew about their next opponents, Samatta said: "I am in good shape, let us wait for Friday. I know nothing about Equatorial Guinea. I don't know any of their players."

He insisted, however, that all the focus is simply on being ready to take on their op-

ponents in the pitch and have an electric start in their 2021 AFCON qualifiers.

"We should put all our focus on that match and have the best possible preparation to avoid a repeat of 2017 AFCON qualifiers where we drew at home against Lesotho in our opening match," he noted.

Equatorial Guinea had been one of the lowest ranked African teams until 2012 when they co-hosted the AFCON tournament with Gabon.

In 2015 they finished at a respectable fourth place to catapult themselves into continental recognition.

Tanzania have shown signs of improvement in recent months by qualifying for Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) finals and AFCON 2019 finals.

Equatorial Guinea have struggled since their high heights of 2012 and 2015. They are now the lowest-ranked team in the group which also has Tunisia, who are favourites to top the group, and Libya.

The top two teams from the 12 groups

will qualify for the 24 edition of the African Cup of Nations tournament to be hosted in Cameroon in 2021.

As the host nation, Cameroon have already secured their spot for the final tournament.

Taifa Stars kick-off their qualifiers when they host Equatorial Guinea on Friday before traveling to Tunisia to face Libya four days later.

The 2021 AFCON qualifiers will then take a nine-month break. When the competition resumes in 2020, Tanzania will play back-to-back (home and away) matches against Tunisia in September.

Tanzania's 2021 AFCON qualifiers' fixture:

November 15, 2019: v Equatorial Guinea (Home), November 19, 2019: v Libya (Away), September 4, 2020: v Tunisia (Home), September 8, 2020: v Tunisia (Away), October 10, 2020: v Libya (Home), November 13, 2020: v Equatorial Guinea (Away)

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I LIKED THE IDEA OF WORKING FROM HOME...

...NOW I CAN HARDLY LEAVE THE BED...



Fielding wise, Aces would have loved more compact situations but with today's conditions, the team have pulled off very good results, which favour them going forward

EATV TODAY @11:00

DADAZ

WEDNESDAY DADAZ

10:59 Jikani Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:00 FUNGIKA
14:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
20:00 EPL REVIEW
21:30 Mid Week Movie

DADAZ This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM