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USAID signs \$10m portfolio guarantee for Amana Bank

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE US government through the Agency for International Development (USAID) yesterday signed a \$ 10 million (22.9bn/-) financing portfolio guarantee agreement with Amana Bank to strengthen its ability to provide financing to agro-sector businesses.

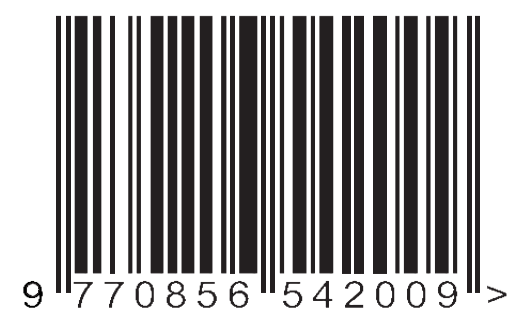
Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the signing ceremony, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Africa Bureau, Dr Diana Putman said the financing guarantee will benefit micro, small and medium enterprises as well as women and youth-owned businesses.

"The guarantee agreement is intended to strengthen Amana Bank's ability to provide financing to agribusiness in Tanzania. We anticipate this program to contribute to sustainable growth of agriculture-related

businesses," she said. In addition to supporting increased access to credit, Putman said the agreement expands access to customers and regions throughout Tanzania, including Zanzibar. The administrator noted that the agreement with Amana Bank is the first in partnership with an Islamic Bank in sub-Saharan Africa. The US government supports business development and the role of the private sector in contributing to Tanzania's development and capacity to achieve self-reliance. Amana Bank Managing Director Dr Muhsin Masoud said the signing is historical as it marks another milestone in Amana Bank efforts to push for access to finance.

He cited limited access to finance as impeding the growth of women-owned businesses in developing countries, noting that the scheme will help to curb many challenges in agribusiness that women and youths face.

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Rate of schoolgirl pregnancies shocks JPM



NMB Bank Plc acting managing director Ruth Zaipuna (2nd-R) and chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday as they flagged off the inauguration of a digital campaign whose thrust is on the improvement of the bank's mobile platform and NMB Klik App, mainly enhancing accessibility and convenience by customers to financial services. Others are NMB senior officers. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

In his remarks, EU Acting Head of Delegation Charles Stuart said about 51.26 million euros has been set aside for water development in various towns and cities in the country

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday expressed his shock over the high rates of pregnancies for school girls in Rukwa Region where more than 200 girls became pregnant in 2018 alone, directing security organs and social welfare groups to come up with a proper strategy to address the situation.

Speaking at a rally at Sumbawanga, the president said it was shameful to see Rukwa on top of the list of regions with the highest number of school girls who were impregnated, where it last year alone had 229 girls becoming pregnant.

"I call upon religious leaders and local authorities to take time out and sensitize surrounding communities on the matter, otherwise efforts to educate these girls will be in vain," he said.

The mentioned number was only for girls that were reported, in which case the actual number might be higher than this, he said.

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In 2017, President Magufuli announced that secondary school students who get pregnant will not be allowed back to school after giving birth. That would not happen under his leadership, he had famously declared.

The move sparked reactions from various NGOs in empowerment for girls drive, saying it was tantamount to shattering their dreams. Discussion on the ban exposed how the subject was divisive and the gap that women and rights organizations needed to cover to bridge the gender sensitivity gap.

Data shows that 69,067 primary and secondary school girls dropped from school for reasons like pregnancy, absenteeism, deaths and other challenges in 2017.

In February 2016, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training issued guidelines on how to enable pregnant schoolgirls resume their studies.

The move was part of efforts to implement the Education and Training Policy (ETP) of 2014, which emphasised access and equity to quality education for all.

Chapter three of the guidelines, made a provision that affected girls would be accorded one re-entry opportunity per school cycle and will be required to resume schooling within the year.

Transit motor vehicles at Dar port in sharp increase

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of imported on-transit motor vehicles that pass through Dar es Salaam port to neighboring land-locked countries rose to 159,639 from January this year, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has stated.

Landlocked countries that use the Dar es Salaam port to ferry vehicles are Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, DRC and Zimbabwe.

TPA Director General Deuseddit Kakonko attributes the increased number of consignments with higher efficiency and interventions by the port authority to curb tampering of goods amongst port officials.

Statistics indicate that the number of vehicles passing through Dar es Salaam

It's only through cooperatives that many fishers can graduate from subsistence to commercial fishing," the minister said

port in the 2017/2018 financial year stood at 132,035 after having dropped to 93,000 in 2016/2017. About 164,000 cars were ferried through Dar port in 2014/15 and 127,335 in 2015/2016.

Kakonko told journalists over the weekend that the drop was due to

increased pilfering with motor vehicles, which is an aspect of corruption that pushed transit importers to shun Dar port.

"The drop was a shock. I had to go on a campaign to sensitize our neighbours to continue using Dar port after we successfully controlled such practices and improved efficiency. I met with stakeholders in Lilongwe (Malawi), Uganda, Zimbabwe and Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Most vehicle importers complained of chaotic inspections by traffic police officers along with theft of goods and car parts, he said.

The traders also accused officials from

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IDA boosts TASAF III with \$450m soft loan

By Getrude Mbago

THE implementation of forthcoming second phase of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF-III) programme will focus more in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning opportunities to enable them establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Doto James (pictured), announced in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the signing ceremony of the financing agreement between the government and the



International Development Association (IDA) to provide a concessional loan amounting to \$450 million, about 1.035 trillion/-. The funds have been provided by the

World Bank through IDA to support the implementation of the second phase of the TASAF III Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) which will benefit over five million individuals.

Beyond training the beneficiaries on acquiring entrepreneurship skills, the programme will avail them with a roadmap to support them manage and expand their business units, he elaborated.

He underlined that despite impressive achievements realized during the first phase of the programme, extreme poverty

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He cited other challenges as property rights and control over assets, regulations and customary laws which often restrict women's access to and control over assets that can be accepted as collateral, such as land or livestock.

Another challenge was lack of collateral and start-up capital, where access to collateral and assets-based lending generally constrains would-be borrowers from accessing credit.

He however noted that some women lack awareness on financial options available for them, noting yet another challenge as the cost of getting information. It is sometimes high due to family obligations, he pointed out.

"I would like to give commitment to the USAID team on Amana Bank's role in ensuring this scheme is going to have a positive impact on Tanzanians," the director added.

JPM shocked by schoolgirl pregnancy rate

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The guidelines allow that a young mother will have the choice to go back to the same or another school and be free to choose formal or non-formal learning. Zanzibar has also an elaborate policy on the matter.

President Magufuli launched a 35bn/- water project for Sumbawanga town funded by the European Union (EU) and the government of Germany through KfW development bank.

In his remarks, EU Acting Head of Delegation Charles Stuart said about 51.26 million euros has been set aside for water development in various towns and cities in the country.



Dr Diana B. Putman (2nd-L, seated), USAID's Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Africa Bureau, and Amana Bank managing director Dr Muhsin Salim Masoud (2nd-R, seated) sign a new Development Credit Authority (DCA) agreement in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The United States government, through USAID, signed a US\$10 million Financing Portfolio Guarantee Agreement with the bank. The DCA is meant to strengthen the bank's ability to provide financing to agriculture-related micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises as well businesses owned by women and youth in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of USAID

Transit motor vehicles at Dar port in sharp increase

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both public agencies and private institutions of extortion, especially at Kasumuro border post between Tanzania and Malawi.

"Vehicle importers from Zimbabwe had already started to use a port in Mozambique, but they are mostly back to our port," he said.

Kakonko narrated that he once saved a woman from DRC who

was about to lose her imported car through an auction. Port officials conspired with accomplices from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to ensure the woman fails to clear her car on time so that it is auctioned.

"I intervened after realizing that officials were plotting to auction her expensive vehicle. I directed TPA and TRA officers to allow the woman to finish the clearance

without paying any taxes," he elaborated.

Interventions have helped to boost traders' trust in port authorities, he asserted.

As of June this year, the port was capable of loading or offloading over 600 containers from a vessel within 24 hours, reducing the time of vessels to stay at the port. The previous capacity was 330 containers.

In the past, container ships were avoiding the port over fears of incurring more costs due to overstaying.

Working round-the-clock was among areas which were improved through implementation of a directive by President John Magufuli.

Dr Magufuli, early upon taking office, ordered the ports to operate 24 hours to quicken cargo

clearance. The directive boosted port efficiency, with considerable potentials of accelerating economic growth for Tanzania and landlocked countries using the port, he declared.

The 24/7 working system also aimed at solving challenges that clients customers were facing in importing or exporting goods, he added.



Mbeya city residents look on forlornly at the bridge supposed to connect Mbeya Region's Mwasanga and Mwakibete wards but now rendered impassable following destruction caused by ongoing rains. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

IDA boosts TASAF III with \$450m soft loan

FROM PAGE 1

and vulnerability remain key developmental challenges that the government is strongly committed to address using various mechanisms including social protection.

"This phase builds on first phase achievements and will especially focus on productive and financial inclusion, through support services such as public works, savings groups, training and livelihood grants."

He further asserted that PSSN II will support the Social Action Fund to enable many extremely poor households "not simply to temporarily move out of poverty, but to progressively build their asset base, human capital and resilience necessary to keep themselves out of poverty for the

longer term."

He further highlighted that the government over the years has taken a number of measures in poverty reduction, including established TASAF at the turn of the century to pursue focused work in poverty alleviation.

"The first phase was implemented in 40 most poor districts in Mainland and Zanzibar whereby a total of 1704 community projects worth 72bn/- were implemented, while reaching 7.3m direct beneficiaries. The second phase of TASAF was implemented from 2005 to 2013 whereby a total of 12,347 projects worth 430bn/- were implemented, reaching at least 18.7 million people in 126 poor districts," he said.

Bella Bird, the World Bank country director hailed the implementation

work of TASAF saying that it is pioneer programmes in ending poverty in Africa.

Tanzania's earlier social safety net programme helped beneficiaries to save more money and obtain more assets. As a result, many had more food and access to better education and health care, the director noted.

"Still, this new support will be critical to improve the lives of many more people in need and overall raise the country's human capital index, which is still very low at 0.40," she further stated.

"We will continue to work with the government and engage with ordinary people and other stakeholders on the complex set of development issues facing the country and its people," she emphasized.

For his part, TASAF Executive Director

Ladislaus Mwamanga hinted on the government agenda to industrialize the country and that phase two of TASAF III is tailored to be in line with that goal.

"The phase two of TASAF III has incorporated a necessary component of entrepreneurship which is going to help the beneficiaries to adopt best practices in their income generating activities to boost growth and sustainability," he stated.

In addition to the newly approved IDA support, the overall PSSN program is being financed by the government and other development partners including the UK DFID, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UN Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, NORAD (Norway), SIDA (Sweden) and the OPEC Fund.

RC calls upon land officers and urban planners to address unplanned settlements

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA regional commissioner Binilith Mahenge has called on land officers and urban planners in the country to help addressing squatter settlements, noting that there is increasing growth in urban areas.

He said urbanisation processes of rural areas and small town development had attracted considerable attention which is instrumental in rural poverty reduction.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Mpwapwa District Commissioner, Jabir Shekimwari, while officiating the opening of spatial planning training in Dodoma, he noted that proper planning of urban areas can spur economic growth.

The training organised by the Nairobi-based African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) brought together land and planning officers from Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro and Iringa regions.

"As we are all aware, Dodoma just like other urban areas in the country is growing very fast, thus the need to have proper methods and technology for urban planning" he said.

He thanked AICAD, an institute working under support of the three East African countries of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda for the decision to have the training in the country, noting that it will help empowering urban planners and land officers in the country to improve in their duties.

The institution has held similar trainings in Kenya and Uganda, aimed at helping solve problems caused by poor planning in the three countries.

"I am glad to hear that such trainings in the neighbouring countries have brought tremendous changes, I hope the same will happen in Tanzania, especially in Dodoma where the government has recently relocated to" he added.

According to the RC, research has shown that growth of small urban areas and towns open opportunities for development compared to big towns and cities like Dar es Salaam.

Speaking earlier, AICAD's Executive Director, Prof. Dominick Byarugaba said lack of proper land use plan is majorly the main cause of land conflicts in many parts of the country.

"The aim of spatial training is to empower land and planning officers with the right skills on analysis, preparation, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development planning" he said.

He said AICAD, in keeping with African Union Agenda 2063, AICAD is out to promote speedy integration and fulfill the expectations of researchers by linking knowledge to application within communities in order to reduce poverty on the continent.

Ministry to bring on board retired veterinary officers

By Francis Kajubi

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has decided to bring on board its retired veterinary officers to influence their wisdoms and knowledge that will bring new insights of improving the sector apart from acting as mentors of graduates of the livestock profession.

The ministry's decision to collaborate with veterinarians at a time that the country keeps millions of cattle but missing its real output. The ministry said at a meeting with 40 retired veterinarians and 20 livestock experts from the private sector held yesterday in the city.

Permanent Secretary, Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel, said that the ministry is collaborating with the retired offices so as they can go around colleges and universities to share their experiences with students taking courses based on livestock.

"We need experienced mentors for our students in universities and colleges. It is obvious that today's graduates on livestock can't even afford to raise chicken. We have decided to collaborate with you so you can help us in shaping graduates and bringing new insights on how we can make the sector more productive and competitive in the continent" Prof Gabriel told the veterinarians.

According to him, the Livestock Training Agency (LITA) will also use the retired veterinarians as special invited guest speakers at its colleges of Tengeru and Mpwapwa so as to share their experiences to students on how things are done practically.

"We are now creating a database of all veterinarians so as even private colleges in need of experts to share experience to their students can be easily accessed" said Prof Gabriel.

He said the number of cattle was 32.5million as of June this year, there are 20million goats, 5.5 million sheep, 2 million pigs, chicken are 79.1 million while eggs they lay amounted to 4billion. The figures are promising in achieving the industrial economy, but it is important that all resources are processed for value addition.

"There are only 1.28million milk cows out of the 32.2 million in the country which produces 2.7billion liters a year but we only 70 million liters while Kenya processes up to 803 million liters and Uganda 600 million liters," he said.

He said Tanzania needs at least cattle of 700kg and above to attract milk production. He said the government is investing heavily in educating the pastoralists not to practice ordinary ways of livestock keeping but embark on new models that are scientific. According to him, ordinary methods of livestock keeping just focus on the price of selling without considering the expenses incurred in raising the same. In 2018/19 fiscal year the livestock contributed 8 per cent of the national income and its growth rate stood at 5 per cent.

"The problem is, majority of Tanzanians do cherish foreign manufactured products than local ones. A population of an estimated 56million is quite enough for local manufacturers to have their product sold out compared to imports;



CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-L) gets set to serve breakfast to customers at the Kariakoo (Dar es Salaam) branch as part of the bank's Customer Service Week celebrations. With him are corporate affairs director Tully Esther Mwambapa, head of customer experience Yolanda Uriyo and eastern zone manager Cornell Meseyek. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Majaliwa blasts councils for favouritism in employment

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the director of Singida Municipal Council, Bravo Lyapembele to remove three officers who collect toll at the bus stand who were allegedly employed through favoritism and are

claimed to be misappropriating council's revenues.

The PM issued the directive yesterday when speaking to Councilors and other workers of two councils - Singida Municipal Council and Singida District Council in a joint meeting held at Roman Catholic Hall in Singida town.

He said: "There are three youths at the bus stand who have been employed through sheer favouritism - Kennedy Francis (son of the Director), Seleman Msuwa (brother of a Councilor and Salehe Rajab brother-in-law of another Councilor. Write that letter today, these people must go and send other

faithful people."

He said there is a dirty game going on of collecting revenue but not remitted to bank and the main culprits are the Municipal's Treasurer, Aminiel Kamunde and Internal Auditor Ibrahim Makana.

He warned Ward officials who deal in revenue collection to send

the money to the bank and receipts obtained. He called on the councilors to ensure such habits are stopped, and warned the mayor and Council Chairmen not to be drawn in this as he said, the money collected from wananchi must be ploughed back to them.

Majaliwa also decried the habit,

also rampant in other councils, of Director and Treasurer demanding money in cash from Ward functionaries. He warned them not to take money in cash to any council official, all money must be remitted to the bank.

He said another despicable habit found during his current tour is

the changing of expenditure allocation by abandoning the original intention of the allocations. He said the money from the central government come with special directives for its use. Money for building a health centre must not be used for paying allowances, or for another project, he said.



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
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Expression of Interest: Grain Silo Storage and Handling Services.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP's region of East and Central Africa (RBN) covers Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Tanzania. WFP procures food items including cereals (maize, sorghum, rice) and pulses (Beans) to support the agency's global fight against hunger.

For the past 3 years, WFP purchased approximately 1,000,000 MT of food locally and regionally. Average annual volumes purchased to date are about 250 – 300,000 MT, of which about 70% is maize, 15% sorghum and 15% pulses.

WFP RBN is exploring working with reputable companies that have Grain silos which are operational and in good condition. WFP RBN invites such companies to respond to this expressing their interest in the provision of Grain Silo Storage and Handling Services. Our target countries included Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Burundi.

Prospective responders must be registered with the relevant authorities in their domicile countries and have a legal authorization to provide these services.

WFP hereby invites qualified responders to express their interest by emailing wfp.rbnprocurement@wfp.org and tanzania.procurement@wfp.org. Subject: Expression of Interest – Grain Storage and Handling Project until 25th October 2019, 17:00 hours (Nairobi time). The interested responders will receive a questionnaire and form for preliminary vendor registration to be submitted until 30th October 2019, 17:00 Hours (Nairobi time). The Expression of Interest will be followed by the inspection of your facilities and other amenities by WFP.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation only should be sent via e-mail to: wfp.rbnprocurement@wfp.org

Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY FEES FOR REGISTRATION FORMS

Nairobi, 20/09/2019

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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND TRAINING ON USE OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR KEBS MOYALE, GARISSA AND MERU REGIONS

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190271

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organisation funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa.

Kenya Bureau of Standards with the support of TMEA is seeking proposals from qualified firms/consortium for the Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Training on Use of Laboratory Equipment for KEBS Moyale, Garissa and Meru Regions.

The Specifications and the Invitation For Bid (IFB) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submission is **Monday, 28 October 2019 at 5 PM (Kenya Time)**

Applications are open only to firms/consortiums. Interested bidders MUST submit their bids via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com and all attachments must be 5 MBs or less.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven (7) days or less prior to the submission deadline.



21548801



TTCL Corporation board chairman Mohamed Mtonga (L) cuts a cake in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch the firm's Customer Service Week celebrations. To his left is director general Waziri Kindamba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TTCL Corporation marks Customer Services Week

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) has launched customer services week pledging to continue expanding service delivery to enable the underserved community access and use communication services.

Speaking during the launch, TTCL board chair ambassador Mohamed Mtonga said that Telecommunication Company will continue improving its products and to offer quality communications services using modern ways and technology.

According to him, the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) report of December 2018, cited TTCL as among the fast growing telecommunication companies in the country.

"Currently TTCL has managed to

reach two percent of telecommunication customers in the country which is equivalent to two million customers. With our T-PESA, we have reached over 400,000 customers," he said.

He added that TTCL had launched its App and special Whatsapp customers service number (0738 151511) to bring its customers closer.

For his part, TTCL chief executive officer Waziri Kindamba said: "We have continued to innovate new ways to keep closer to our customers. It's our hope that with this App and a Whatsapp number, our clients will have access to the service support anytime seven days a week."

According to him, customers will be able to access services through the TTCL App even if they don't have internet connection in the mobile phones.

In February last year, the government launched officially the opera-

tions of the new TTCL, with a strong call for increasing efficiency as a pro-peller for economic growth.

This followed the endorsement of the Tanzania Telecommunication Corporation Act, 2017, to replace the Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL).

The entity is operating as fully-fledged communications corporation with the main objective of safeguarding national security, promoting socio-economic development and managing strategic communications infrastructure.

Under the new law, the corporation is tasked to enhance safety, security, economic and commercial viability of national telecommunications services and telecommunications infrastructure promotion for effective management and operations of telecommunications services.



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES – DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL CORRIDORS TRANSPORT OBSERVATORY TOOLKIT SYSTEMS.

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20180947

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organization established in 2010. Its main aim is to promote economic development in all East Africa Community states by supporting trade facilitation. TMEA works closely with East African Community (EAC) institutions, Corridor Authorities, National Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations to increase trade by unlocking economic potential through. TMEA offered financial and technical support for the development of both NCTO (for NCTTCA) and CCTO (for CCTTFA). TMEA therefore seeks to hire the services of an ICT consultancy firm to develop new Transport Observatory Toolkits for each of the two corridor institutions for NCTTCA and CCTTFA.

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

The closing date for submission of this tender is on **Wednesday, 30 October 2019 at 11.59pm Kenyan time.**

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums must submit their bids through TMEA's mail box using the email address, procurement@trademarkea.com, clearly indicating the tender number and description. All attachments must be 5 MBs or less.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.

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MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

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INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TENDER TITLE: TRANSACTION ADVISER FOR PROCUREMENT OF A PRIVATE PARTY FOR THE GULU LOGISTICS HUB PROJECT UNDER A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) ARRANGEMENT

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190340

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

As a result, TMEA now invites bids from eligible bidders for Transaction Adviser to advise on the Procurement of a Private Party for the Gulu Logistics Hub Project under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. All queries quoting the Tender Title and Number in the email subject should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

The tender documents can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submissions is **8th November 2019 at 5.00 pm (Kampala Time)**. This tender is open to firms/consortiums ONLY.

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



21548801

TRC to facilitate cotton bales transportation

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

DIRECTOR General of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) Masanja Kadogosa has said the corporation has facilitated transportation of cotton bales by rail so as to reduce expenses borne by gineries.

Apart from reducing these costs, he said, rail transport is more trusted and also safe as even during the rainy seasons the goods will arrive safely at destination and promised that TRC will put up friendly infrastructure for the task.

Kadogosa said this yesterday when he toured cotton gineries owned by Alliance Ginners in Kasoli Ward and NGS Ginners in Bariadi District in Simiyu Region, and added that apart from transporting cotton, the wananchi are supposed to use the opportunity to better their economic wellbeing in general.

In another development, Kadogosa said the wananchi should think of building meat processing factories so that instead of transporting livestock, they transport meat as Simiyu region is home for big livestock keepers in the country.

The Simiyu Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka said there are huge challenges faced by business people especially in transporting bales of cotton as they are forced to use trucks which carry small loads at huge cost.

On his part, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) chairman for Simiyu region Enock Yakobo called on the busi-

ness people to see the importance of rail transport as the service has been brought nearer to them and will assist them in reducing transport cost and loss of their bales of cotton.

He also said the construction of storage facility for bales of cotton at Malam-paka should be given priority.

The Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Simiyu Region Ibrahim Kadudu said it was estimated that the region would produce 180 million kilograms of cotton up to September 22 this year, and 148,836,601 kilograms was collected by the cooperatives, and 116,391,208 kilograms has already been transported. He said the cotton that has already been paid for out of that which was transported was 875,166,453 kilograms.

He added that 31,106,818 kilograms of cotton was moved without being paid for, while 32,445,393 kilograms is still in godowns.

Alliance Ginners manager who is also secretary for cotton buyers association in the country Boaz Ogolla said production has increased which has spurred great demand of trucks for transporting bales of cotton.

He gave an example of Alliance Ginners which produces 400 bales per day out of which only 200 bales are moved each day, hence with the advent of rail transport the challenge would be eased, as a railway wagon can carry up to 90 bales while a truck carries only 25 bales.



Anna Gidarya (C), a Chadema Special Seats legislator, in jovial mood with her fellow opposition Chadema members after an internal meeting held in Manyara Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

PM disappointed over construction of Ndago health centre in Iramba

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Mjaliwa yesterday expressed disappointment over the construction progress of Ndago health centre in Iramba district, Singida region insisting the building is not worth the money spent on it.

PM Mjaliwa was talking to Ndago residents shortly after he inspected the construction of the

health facility.

“There is no value for money; the buildings are old and half-finished. I have visited similar projects across the country, but nothing tangible had been done here, you have spent our monies inappropriately,” said the Prime Minister vividly annoyed by the way officials have supervised the project.

When asked on the amount of

funds spent so far on the project, Iramba District Executive Director, Leno Mwageni said they have finished all the 400m/- allocated for construction of the health center.

Majaliwa said the government was aware of health challenges facing the residents, and that it working to improve provision of social services including medical treatment to the people of Iram-

ba.

“We are constructing health centers across the country; we want to bring services closer to the people. Tanzanians should not travel long distances in-search of medical services, we want the health centers to provide all the services equally those provided at regional and district hospitals”, he told the residents.

He explained that more money

will be allocated for the project specifically for construction of a mortuary, theatre, mothers and children ward and a doctor's house. The Premier insisted that the government will take stringent measures against officials failing to implement development projects in their specific areas.

Earlier, Iramba Member of Parliament, Mwigulu Nchemba informed the Prime Minister

that he contributed 400 cement bags to the project and that the residents assisted in collecting stones that were used during the construction. Briefing journalists on Monday last week, Singida Regional Commissioner Rehema Nchimbi said that the Premier will be in the region for a week from October 4th 2019. She said the Premier visit Manyoni, Itigi, Ikungi districts and Singida mu-

nicipal before going to Mkalama and Iramba districts.

He is also expected to visit and inspect regional and national projects including the construction of a 400kV transmission line from Singida to Isinya in Kenya through Babati, Arusha and Namanga which upon completion will enable the country to sell power to the neighboring country of Kenya.



PRESS RELEASE

On 14th June, 2018, the Minister for Finance and Planning announced a tax amnesty order under The Tax Administration (Remission of Interest and Penalty) Order, 2018 for taxpayers with outstanding tax liabilities and those who voluntarily disclosed or affirmed their tax liabilities and were ready to settle their outstanding principal taxes due within the period and conditions prescribed by the Order.

The tax amnesty order was designed to operate within a limited period of time commencing from 1st July, 2018 and ending on 30th June, 2019 and would apply to outstanding tax liabilities.

However, the Government through The Tax Administration (Remission of Interest and Penalties) (Extension of Period of Payment) Order, 2019 extended the period for payment of principal taxes to 31st December, 2019 for taxpayers who had

- a) applied to the Commissioner General for remission of interest and penalty;
- b) been granted remission;
- c) executed a settlement agreement with the Commissioner General for remission of interest and penalty under the Tax Administration (Remission of Interest and Penalty) Order, 2018;
- d) agreed to pay the principal tax assessed in lump sum or installment; and
- e) up to 30th June, 2019 failed to liquidate the agreed amount of principal tax assessed.

Eligible persons granted with the remission of interest and penalty are required to liquidate their principal tax as specified in the settlement agreement on or before 31st December, 2019 and no further extension will be granted.

It should be noted that, where an eligible person who has been granted with a remission under the Tax Administration (Remission of Interest and Penalty) Order, 2018 fails to implement any of the terms of the settlement agreement, the Commissioner General shall rescind the settlement agreement and proceed to demand the eligible tax as if no remission was granted.

From 2nd January 2020, recovery measures shall be applied to collect any tax outstanding without further notice.

“Together We Build Our Nation”

**Dr. Edwin P. Mhede Ph.D
COMMISSIONER GENERAL**

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Dar es Salaam rapid transport bus project workers rehabilitate a sewage system in downtown Kisumu area yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Insurance firm offers free health screening to 300 Dar employees

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 300 employees from 20 companies in Dar es Salaam over the weekend took part in different sports activities and free health screening, thanks to medical insurance provider-AAR Insurance Tanzania.

Addressing journalists at a sporting event which took place over the weekend, AAR Insurance Managing Director Violet Modichai said they decided to host the event to bring various stakeholders together as well as educate them on how to overcome non-communicable diseases.

"The event is part of efforts to support the government which has been emphasising on the importance to control Non-Communicable diseases," she said.

Non communicable diseases are said to be the leading cause of deaths being responsible for 44-percent of all the deaths and projected to be the

cause of about 55-percent mortality by the year 2025 if the situation is left as it is.

During the event, AAR Insurance brought medical doctors to sensitize participants on the importance of exercising as well as go through regular medical checkups.

One of the participants of the event Hilally Mremi who is the communication officer for Precision Air hailed the insurance company for leading and being an example on the matter.

The government is set to launch a national plan to contain the alarming rate of NCDs this month.

The first approach in the plan will be to have data in the first phase of implementation such as having the number of Cancer cases and many others for proper intervention.

NCDs are the leading cause of mortality in Africa for Tanzania they contribute 44 per cent of all death; these diseases are here to stay if we will not an action.

Abide by work ethics, Lukuvi tells teachers

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

MINISTER for Lands and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi has warned teachers countrywide to put on clothes of respect when in class, as students may fail to grasp what they are taught.

The minister issued the warn-

ing yesterday at celebrations to mark 50 years of Tabora Teachers College when giving speech before the college's graduates.

He said many teachers have the habit of wearing short dresses that expose their bodies, the habit that is against work ethics and disciplinary action is supposed to be taken against them.

Lukuvi said when teachers are at their work places they are supposed to be humble and to abide by government regulations on work ethics, including teaching students lessons as allocated in the timetables.

He said putting on short dresses, drunkenness, nonattendance, and general un-

countability are intolerable in the Fifth-Phase government led by President John Magufuli.

The minister reminded them that the teaching profession is good but needs composure to deal with students at schools, considering the fact that they have learned a lot at the college they were graduating from,

including hard work and discipline.

He said it is better they know the foundation of their profession while at work places, but above all they should abide by government regulations that guide their profession.

On his part the Commissioner of education in the Ministry of

education, science and technology Dr Lyabwene Mtahabwa praised Minister Lukuvi for agreeing to participate in the celebrations of the college's important milestone.

Dr Mtahabwa called on all graduates to adhere to work ethics, love students and should not cane them without taking

considerations, because canning does not make students to be brighter, but only instill fear while in class.

He said teachers should be people who develop themselves to higher levels as in doing so they will attain great knowledge which will assist them while in class.



Jhpiego is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University. For more than 46 years now, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego, implementing a number of projects in Tanzania, wishes to recruit for the following 2 positions.

Regional Program Manager [One position based in Kagera]

Position Overview:

The Regional Program Manager will be responsible for leading regional operations and oversee program implementation in all districts targeted by the Project in the Kagera region. S/he will work closely with Regional and District Health Management Teams (R/CHMTs) counterparts to set Regional and district priorities, and will provide leadership and management support to project staff and ensure they are working in a coordinated, rational and integrated way in the pursuit of Project deliverables. The Regional Program Manager will also coordinate with the USAID Boresha Afya Project Technical Leads to tailor assistance based on district needs and will engage other sectors at the district level. The person selected for this position will actively participate in regional RMNCAH and malaria policy and strategy discussions including planning and progress reviews with other stakeholders, as appropriate.

Required Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in program management (e.g. MBA), healthcare management or other relevant field. Degree in clinical medicine or nursing desirable.
- At least 7 years demonstrated experience implementing and managing healthcare programs (This includes human resources, procurement and sub-grantee management, development of regional strategies, budget and work plans)
- Experience in managing a large office and professional staff
- Proven leadership in team building, and demonstrated ability to achieve results
- Extensive knowledge of the local health systems
- Previous experience and understanding of USG funded programs
- Demonstrated experience in one or more of the following areas: MNCH, Family Planning, and/or Postpartum Family Planning
- Demonstrated ability to develop working relationships with local government, key stakeholders and other agencies
- Demonstrated experience in writing quarterly and annual report, as well as documentation of program results
- Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills in English and Kiswahili
- Ability to travel up to 30%

Regional Technical Lead [One position based in Kagera]

Position Overview:

The Regional Technical Lead will support the Regional Program Manager to provide technical and program leadership in the areas of Reproductive maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) including family planning (FP), emergency obstetric and newborn care (both basic and comprehensive); antenatal and postnatal care; essential newborn care; and Malaria. Responsibilities include coordinating with Regional and District Health Management Teams, and providing leadership and technical guidance to the regional project team in the development and implementation of integrated RMNCAH activities, utilizing cross-cutting approaches such as performance and quality improvement ensuring the technical and methodological soundness of RMNCAH activities and, in collaboration with the technical team and other partners, supporting the implementation of clinical service delivery strategies, based on sound and current scientific evidence. The Regional Technical Lead will also be responsible for ensuring that activities are on schedule and are being properly documented. S/he will also be responsible for gathering the

relevant program data and drafting quarterly progress reports for related technical areas.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Advanced degree in clinical medicine
- Five or more years of work experience in Reproductive and MNH. Experience working in Maternity care is a plus.
- Be an excellent classroom and clinical trainer with at least two years' experience in clinical training
- Experience working in the private sector/NGOs
- Demonstrated experience designing and implementing capacity-building programs for improving service delivery
- Ability to coach, mentor and develop technical capacity in service delivery programs and technical staff in the areas of maternal, newborn and child health, and performance and quality improvement
- Experience managing quality assurance
- Proven leadership and management skills with the ability to multi-task
- Self -management is necessary (i.e. motivation, dealing with pressure, adaptability).
- Ability to communicate effectively, instilling trust and confidence.
- Be cooperative, competent, hardworking, flexible and dependable.

Jhpiego offers a competitive package for selected candidates in line with salary history, academic qualifications and relevant experience.

To apply please indicate the position title of the position you are applying for on the subject line of your e-mail. Applications should also include an up-to-date CV with three contactable professional references, a cover letter and your salary history.

Applications, which do NOT include ALL of these elements, will NOT be considered.

All applications should be sent through email: USAIDBoreshaAfya.Applications@jhpigo.org

Electronics applications are encouraged. The subject on your application email should be the Title of the position you are applying for, so that we do not miss your application. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 22 October 2019, at 5:00 P.M.

Jhpiego is an equal opportunity employer promoting gender, equity and diversity. Persons with disabilities and other minority groups are encouraged to apply

Caution to the applicants:

There have been some bogus adverts online that require candidates to apply through some email addresses of public domains e.g. Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail, etc. Kindly note: USAIDBoreshaAfya.Applications@jhpigo.org is the address to use for this recruitment. Please ignore any of those adverts. We also do not charge any application fee nor entertain any meetings or telephone calls. If shortlisted, you will get an official call from our office and receive required steps. If you suspect any wrong - doing kindly write to the Director of Human Resource, through inquiries.tz@jhpigo.org

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THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

FOR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY, DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN AND PREPARATION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR THE UPGRADING OF KITOGANI – PAJE, MAHONDA – DONGE, DUNGA - CHWAKA – PONGWE, KINYASINI – KIWENGWA, MUYUNI – NUNGWI AND KIZIMKAZI - MAKUNDUCHI IN UNGUJA ISLAND ZANZIBAR.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

This request for expression of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo Newspaper, Issue no. 5789 dated 22nd July, 2019.

The Government of Zanzibar under the Ministry of Infrastructure Communication and Transportation has set aside fund in the Budget of Financial Year 2019/2020 and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the eligible payments under the contract for Consultancy services for Feasibility Study, Detailed Engineering Design and Preparation of Tender Documents for upgrading of Kitogani – Paje, Mahonda – Donge, Dunga - Chwaka – Pongwe, Kinyasini – Kiwengwa, Muyuni – Nungwi and Kizimkazi - Makunduchi in Unguja Island, Zanzibar.

The services include: Carrying out an economic and environmental feasibility study, Social impact assessment, detailed engineering design and preparation of bidding documents for the upgrading works. Phase 1 covers the economic feasibility study, Environment Impact Assessment and Preliminary Design of the road and Phase 2 covers the Detailed Engineering Design, Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and preparation of bidding documents. Phase One is expected to complete in Six (6) months period while phase Two is expected to complete in Nine (9) months.

The Ministry of Infrastructure Communication and Transportation on behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms must provide statement of capability and experience indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may constitute joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short - list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act, No. 11 of 2016 and its Regulations.

Interested Consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 7.30 to 15.30 hours East African Time, on Monday to Friday inclusive, except on public holidays.

Written expressions of interest clearly mentioned the name of the services must be delivered to the address below by 24th October, 2019 at 10.00 am local time on Thursday.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,

Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation
Kisauni Street along Fumba Road, P.O. Box 266 Zanzibar.
Tel: +255 24 2941140, Fax: +255 24 2941139, Mobile +255 777 410 500
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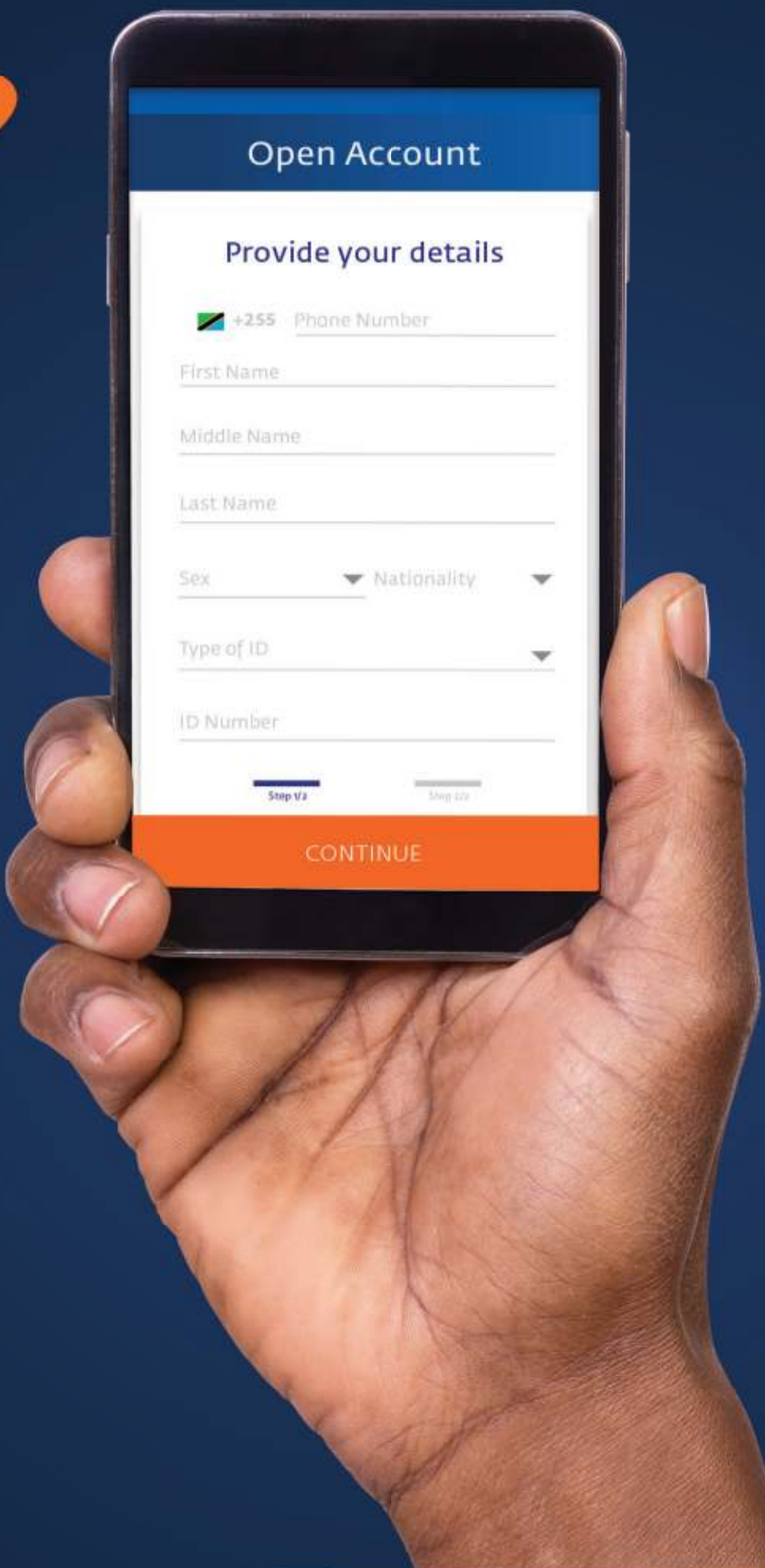
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The Guardian

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TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2019

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

Africa needs agricultural systems able to withstand stormy weather

FOOD security is a measure of the availability of food and individuals' ability to access it. Affordability is only factor. There is evidence of food security being a concern many thousands of years ago, with central authorities in ancient China and ancient Egypt being known to release food from storage in times of famine. At the 1974 World Food Conference the term "food security" was defined with an emphasis on supply. Food security, they said, is the "availability at all times of adequate, nourishing, diverse, balanced and moderate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices". Later definitions added demand and access issues to the definition. The final report of the 1996 World Food Summit states that food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

Household food security exists when all members, at all times, have access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Individuals who are food secure do not live in hunger or fear of starvation.

Food insecurity, on the other hand, is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a situation of "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways".

Food security incorporates a measure of resilience to future disruption or unavailability of critical food supply due to various risk factors including droughts, shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability, and wars. In the years 2011-2013, an estimated 842 mil-

lion people were suffering from chronic hunger. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, or FAO, identified the four pillars of food security as availability, access, utilization, and stability. The United Nations (UN) recognized the Right to Food in the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and has since said that it is vital for the enjoyment of all other rights.

The 1996 World Summit on Food Security declared that "food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure.

A food security crisis looms in Africa, experts and leaders in the agriculture sector have warned, calling for urgent action for the continent to meet its goal to end hunger by 2025.

They made the call recently in Kigali during the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue—which seeks to stimulate more investment in agriculture to halt the worsening food security crisis by building climate resilient agricultural systems.

Three consecutive global food security and nutrition reports that consistently show a deteriorating situation of the food and nutrition security in the world and particularly in Africa.

Globally, nearly 821 million people live with hunger, of whom 31 per cent are in sub-Saharan Africa, on the basis of the 2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The report shows that food crises are caused primarily by conflict and climate change shocks.

Hunger is on the rise in almost all African sub regions, making Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment at almost 20 percent of its estimated 1.2 billion population, the report underlines.

Let's strive to reduce impact of natural catastrophies for sake of our own future

A disaster is a serious disruption occurring over a relatively short period of time that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope on a timely basis using its own resources. Developing countries suffer the greatest costs when a disaster hits - more than 95 per cent of all deaths caused by hazards occur in developing countries, and losses due to natural hazards are 20 times greater (as a percentage of GDP) in developing countries than in industrialised countries.

Disasters are routinely divided into natural or human-made, although complex disasters, where there is no single root cause, are more common in developing countries. A specific disaster may spawn a secondary disaster that increases the impact. A classic example is an earthquake that causes a tsunami, resulting in coastal flooding. Some manufactured disasters have been ascribed to nature.

A natural disaster is a natural process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Various phenomena like earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, tsunamis, and cyclones are all natural disasters that kill thousands of people and destroy billions of dollars of habitat and property each year. Airplane crashes and terrorist attacks are examples of man-made disasters: they cause pollution, kill people, and damage property.

Human-instigated disasters are the consequence of technological or human hazards. Examples include stampedes, fires, transport accidents,

industrial accidents, oil spills, nuclear explosions/nuclear radiation. War and deliberate attacks may also be put in this category. One opinion argues that disasters can be seen as human-made, due to human failure to introduce appropriate emergency management measures.

Many people around the world have lost their lives, homes or access to essential facilities, such as hospitals, due to natural disasters, including earthquakes, droughts, tsunamis, heavy flooding, hurricanes or cyclones. Some of these disasters have caused economic damage to some countries. The UN acknowledges that education, training, and information exchanges are effective ways to help people become better equipped in withstanding natural disasters.

On December 22, 1989, the UN General Assembly designated the second Wednesday of October as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. This event was to be observed annually during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1990-1999. On December 20, 2001, the assembly decided to maintain the observance to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Activities for the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction usually include media announcements about launches for campaigns that center on the day's theme. Governments and communities also take part in the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction through various events such as drawing, drama, essay or photography competitions that focus on making people aware of natural disaster reduction and increasing their preparedness for such situations. Other activities include: community tree planting; conferences, fairs and seminars; and street parades.

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Commonwealth model offers hope for easing multilateral trade tensions

By Patricia Scotland

GLOBAL uncertainties and tensions are escalating and affecting trade in every region. We see rising protectionism, while multilateral cooperation - including through the World Trade Organisation - is increasingly under threat.

Meanwhile, the resilience of many smaller or less developed countries is being undermined by the impact of climate change and extreme weather unprecedented in living memory, together with other natural disasters.

These factors combine to make the general outlook for economic growth and prosperity sombre. Yet through the encompassing gloom, Commonwealth connection and cooperation shine as beacons of hope guiding towards safer and saner waters.

This year, world GDP is projected to grow 2.6 per cent, down from 2.9 per cent last year, while world merchandise trade volumes are now expected to rise by only 1.2 per cent in 2019 - the weakest growth since the global financial crisis.

Our citizens experience the effects of these trends in their day-to-day lives as the prices of food, fuel and basic services rise, jobs become harder to find, and there is reduced potential for businesses to grow.

Against this backdrop, this week in London the UK is chairing a meeting of trade ministers from the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. Building on the distinctive nature of Commonwealth connection and cooperation, ministers will consider approaches for tackling pressures on international trade, and for making even more of the Commonwealth Advantage enjoyed among our member countries.

Most importantly, ministers will review progress towards the target agreed by Heads of Government at CHOGM 2018 for annual trade within the Commonwealth to be worth at least \$2 trillion by 2030 - a goal closely linked to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The challenges may seem daunting, but our governments know that through coordination and with the right policies in place the prizes can be brought within reach. Collective strategic action can unlock promising opportunities for all members of our diverse



and geographically widespread family of 53 Commonwealth countries.

Our studies have shown that on average the nations of the Commonwealth countries tend to trade 20 per cent more with each other than with non-Commonwealth countries.

This very real and valuable tendency is an important factor in Commonwealth Advantage. It is the product of historical ties, shared language, and similar legislative, governance and administrative systems based on the common law. As a result, trade costs are on average 19 per cent lower between Commonwealth country pairs than comparable non-Commonwealth counterparts, and our member states also invest on average 10 per cent more in each other than they do in non-members.

These benefits are now further bolstered by our Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda, which provides powerful mechanisms for structured dialogue, sharing of best prac-

tices, networking and collaboration on trade and investment among our member countries.

Intra-Commonwealth trade in goods has increased by around \$100 billion over the past three years, reaching almost \$450 billion in 2018. With rapid population and per capita income growth in developing countries, especially in Asia, trade in goods and services is expected to reach the \$700 billion mark by 2020.

With more than 60 per cent of the combined Commonwealth population of 2.4 billion under the age of 30, these drivers of growth and prosperity are unlikely to slow for some very considerable time.

The digital economy holds further untapped opportunities, with the number of internet users globally trebling over the past decade. Yet in low-income Commonwealth countries only 18 per cent of the population currently have internet access, compared with 85 per cent in high-income countries.

So the economic case for tackling the digital divide is persuasive: full access to broadband internet could add up to \$1 trillion to combined Commonwealth GDP.

Certainly, with 49 of our members belonging to the WTO, the Commonwealth can play an increasingly strategic role as a champion of free trade, advocating for a transparent, inclusive, fair and open rules-based multilateral trading system.

Commonwealth discussions provide space for broader wide-ranging dialogue in the spirit of goodwill and an atmosphere of trust rather than treaty.

This means that deadlocks are less likely to hinder pragmatic progress towards practical solutions. Our member countries gain advantage through cooperation and coordinated action, and remain free to move forward with their preferred domestic reforms unfettered by obligations, deadlines or legally binding commitments.

It is within this context that we can look forward to Commonwealth trade ministers, when they meet this week, offering powerful messages which, while rooted in reality and notwithstanding the diverse economic interests represented, proffer the prospect of progress towards hope and harmony within a broad unity of purpose.

For, while the global trading system may be far from perfect, it is the most potent pathway towards eradicating poverty. That is a prize not to be lost. By enhancing opportunities for enterprise and investment among all our member nations, and by working together for the common good, we shall truly live up to the ambition and aspiration of being a Commonwealth.

•Patricia Scotland (pictured) is Commonwealth Secretary General.

Agriculture ministry gives sorghum farming a face-lift through morden technologies

By Gerald Kitabu

TARI Hombolo in Dodoma which is under the Ministry of Agriculture is working to ensure Agronomy plays a big role in ensuring effective and efficient sorghum production in the country. The Centre, through the department of research and innovation is also working to ensure availability of technologies useful for farmers to increase sorghum production. Our reporter GERALD KITABU caught up with Agricultural research officer from the research centre MASHENENE MALIMA who is currently pursuing his PhD on Molecular Plant Virology at Ondokuz Mayıs University in Turkey and here he sheds light on the subject matter. EXCERPTS

QUESTION: Briefly explain what do you mean by agronomy?

ANSWER: Agronomy is the science and technology that focuses on yielding optimum food production through effective field management. The scope of Agronomy as being a branch of agriculture is promising for those who love plants and love to experiment of producing and using plants for food, fuel, fiber, and land reclamation. Agronomy has come to encompass work in the areas of plant genetics, plant breeding, plant physiology, meteorology, and soil science. Thus, Agronomy is a science that looks at agriculture from an integrated, holistic perspective, informing practical decisions pertaining to food and fiber production.

Q: What is the contribution of agronomy in ensuring sorghum production?

A: Agronomists work to develop methods that will improve the use of soil and increase production of food and fiber crops. They conduct research in farming techniques such as (intercropping, mono cropping, and



Agricultural research officer from TARI-Hombolo in Dodoma Mashenene Malima explain how proper agronomy can ensure increased sorghum production for the farmers. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

crop rotation), irrigation and drainage, plant breeding, soil classification, soil fertility, weed control, and other areas. The main importance of agronomy in sorghum production is to provide farmers with agricultural information about how to grow and care for sorghum and soils in certain environments. Factors such as climate, roots, moisture, weeds, pests, fungi, and erosion can pose significant challenges when farmers attempt to produce a plentiful harvest.

Q: What are the challenges associated with sorghum production

A: In Tanzania, sorghum is grown in the central zone, covering Dodoma and Singida regions, Lake Zone covering Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions, and southern zone

covering Lindi and Mtwara regions. Although the value of the crop has increased substantially, its supply to meet industrial market demand is still low. This is partly because sorghum is still produced in a traditional way that depends on the natural rainfall, which is erratic and unpredictable. The yields obtained are usually below farm's potential, with stagnant or decreasing trends with time. Farmers keep on expanding their farms believing that the yield per unit area would increase.

Thus, the most attributes to sorghum farming are characterized as abiotic and biotic constraints that include low soil fertility (nutrient deficiency), drought, lack of irrigation facilities, inadequate infrastructure, information barriers, less productivity enhancing technologies use improved seeds), unreliable market, weeds, birds, disease like smut, insect pests like stalk borer infestation and pathogens. Although these constraints cause a significant loss of grain, the level of losses varies from region to region. The genus Striga is a major production constraint in most sorghum producing areas. The weed limits the productivity of the crop by allelopathy, competition for nutrients and limiting

the expression of the full genetic potential of sorghum plants in the marginal lands.

Q: What are the technologies useful for farmers to increase sorghum production?

A: Although the majority of the farmers still grow local varieties, there is a substantial use of inputs such as seeds of new cultivars. The local varieties include a group of varieties that have been locally adapted or selected. The local varieties are obtained from other farmers and passed from generation to generation. Almost all local varieties are tall, long season maturity, bad threshing ability and tolerance to weevil. Due to highest effort by TARI staff working with sorghum section, currently farmers are adapting new technologies developed by researchers such as soil fertility practices which include fertilizer incorporation, integrated nutrient management, following, use of livestock manure (goats, cattle, chicken), crop rotation (beans, cowpeas and sorghum), incorporation of stover and grass or avoid burning of grass and intercropping.

Also in the list are better and efficient use of water resources available (that is in situ soil water harvesting techniques) that include tired-ridges, infiltration pit and ripping. Integrating technologies that include in situ water harvesting techniques in combination with farmyard manure using Striga-resistant varieties (HAKIKA and WAHI). In areas where there is no Striga weed, integrating other drought-tolerant genotypes notably NACOI, MACIA, PATO and TEGEMEO with promising local plant nutrient sources. There is also bird scaring and application of pesticides, land preparation, integrated weed management, quality seeds and planting period, spacing and thinning are other agronomic packages that farmers follows to increase sorghum production in their respective areas.

Q: As TARI Hombolo, what have you achieved in Agronomy?

In the past, the average yield of sorghum ranged from 0.9 to 1.17 tones per hectare in Tanzania, which was less than the world average yield (1.48 tones per hectare). However, high consistent effects of researchers, the productivity have risen to 2 tones per hectare. This is due to the fact that we have developed different technologies and disseminated to farmers for adaption in sorghum production.

Among of them are; curtailing the effect of Striga weed, improving moisture availability and increasing soil fertility are essential strategies to increase the productivity of agriculture in the sorghum producing semi-arid areas of Tanzania. The adoption of Striga resistant sorghum varieties and inorganic fertilizer on small subsistence farms in Striga prone areas of Tanzania was reported to be sustainable solution to reduce hunger and lasting poverty. It is therefore assumed that combining these technologies, we do share with farmers through field experimentation, training, field days, seed fair, demonstration plots and creation of swahili leaflets have enhanced sorghum grain yield and consequently contribute to sustained household food security, livelihood and poverty alleviation.

TARI-Hombolo we have different strategies that have increased sorghum production. The main strategies are to produce new and well-adapted sorghum genotypes with high yield potential and the genetic capacity to withstand major constraints (biotic and abiotic stresses). This mostly achieved by evaluating sorghum lines developed in different locations, keeping the breeding pipeline full and finding locations for testing breeding materials. Strengthen seed production and delivery systems for improved varieties (achieved by training the Trainers and Quality declared seed "QDS" producers). Accelerating the scaling out of new dry land cereals technologies, quantifying the uptake and adoption, gender, and impacts to sorghum production (farmers' extensive and well-developed knowledge comprises perceptions are effectively obtain through baseline study that usually undertaken using participatory rural appraisal (PRA) technique. The other technique is the development and sharing of sorghum user friendly information materials (developing GAP training modules), Participation in Agricultural events such as Nanenane shows and Expo.

Q: So, What is your call?

On behalf of TARI - Hombolo staff, I would like to call the government of Tanzania to invest more in sorghum research program so that scientists can continue developing and delivering new technologies for sorghum farming household with aiming of improving food security, income and livelihood in the country.



DO DIGITAL DEVICES HARM OUR EYES?

A display device is a device for presentation of information in visual form. When the input information that is supplied has an electrical signal, the display is called an electronic visual display. These devices include laptop and desktop computers, tablets, smartphones, e-reader etc.

Since the advent of personal computers, these devices have become an integral part of modern-day life and they have become more portable, versatile and indispensable. Furthermore, these ubiquitous devices have taken over the lives of younger and younger people to the point where children and toddlers are now using them to greater degrees.

The increased use of digital devices in the society at large has brought about the development of a number of health concerns. According to experts, computers do not emit any harmful rays to cause damage or 'burn' the eyes. However, many individuals who use these devices report a high level of complaints and symptoms. These include ocular discomfort, muscular strain and stress. The level of discomfort appears to increase with the amount of computer use.

This is known as digital eye strain or computer vision syndrome which is defined as the physical discomfort felt after two or more hours within close or mid-range distance of a digital device. Unlike typewritten or printed pages, the images on

a computer screen are not precise or sharply defined. Moreover, the level of contrast is reduced and the presence of glare and flicker the screen may make viewing more difficult.

Viewing distances and angles used for computer work are also often different from those commonly used for other reading or writing tasks. As a result, the eye focusing and eye movement requirements for computer work can place additional demands on the visual system. Children who stare at tablets or use computers during the day at school can have issues too, especially if the lighting and their posture are less than ideal.

People who tend to focus on a computer or other digital devices for protracted, uninterrupted periods of time may experience;

- Blurring of vision
- Eye irritation and discomfort
- Dry or watering eyes
- Burning sensations
- Changes in colour perception
- Headaches
- Neck or back pain

Currently, there is no evidence that Computer Vision Syndrome causes any long-term damage. However, if these symptoms are not properly treated the symptoms will continue and possibly worsen. Activities that are visually and physically taxing may result in impeded productivity, reduced accuracy and decreased job satisfaction.



The above-mentioned problems can be resolved with a few changes in the environment in which these devices are used. Below are some of the changes that can be implemented to ensure a satisfactory experience while using digital devices.

It is very important to have a comprehensive eye review to make sure you have no pre-existing eye problem. During your examination, be sure to tell your eye Doctor how often you use a computer at work and at home. Get your children's eyes checked as well as they might not complain, thus their visual problems might go unnoticed.

The human eye is very sensitive to excessive light which leads to eye strain as well as photophobia (extreme sensitivity to light). The source of light emitted from the digital device in use should be adequate for performing visual tasks. However, most people work in situations whereby there is an inordinate amount of ambient light either from

outdoor sunlight coming in through a window or from harsh interior lighting. It is advisable that the ambient light should be half of what is usually found in most offices when using a digital device. This can be achieved by blinding windows as well as controlling the amount of overhead lighting either by shading, using lower intensity bulbs or switching off where possible. An anti-glare screen, computer hood or even glasses with antireflective coatings may also be used to further remedy the situation.

It is also beneficial to adjust the brightness and contrast of your digital screen so as not to strain your eyes. Adequate brightness is achieved when it is adjusted to a point whereby it no longer resembles a light source but at the same time does not seem dull and gray. For the best contrast, consider black lettering on a white surface while making sure that font size is such that your eye is able to read without straining from an adequate distance. Avoid busy backgrounds as they make texts tiring to read.

Like any other muscle, the muscles in the eye tend to tire after long periods of work. Relax your eye muscles using what is known as the 20-20-20 rule. This basically states that for every twenty minutes of intensive computer work, you should rest for twenty seconds by looking at an object that is twenty feet away. The significance of this exercise is that the eye muscle takes approximately twenty seconds to relax when looking at a distant object. A pop-up reminder can be used to prompt a user to perform this action.

Many people tend to engross themselves in their digital devices to a point where they rarely blink. The normal human eye blinks after approximately every four seconds to lubricate the eye and eliminate dryness. Failure to do so results in "dry eyes" which is characterized by irritation and inflammation. Use of artificial tears, which are readily available, while intensively using your digital device, help to ameliorate the problem.

Finally position your digital device in a way that does not strain your back or neck whilst ensuring that it is at least 20 to 25 inches from your face with the centre of the screen 10 to 15 degrees below eye level. With these few tips it is easy to avoid digital eye strain and thus allow you a healthier and happier time in the digital age.

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Can the Central African Republic's peace deal be saved?

BY MOHAMED M DIATTA

EIGHT months after the 6 February peace deal was concluded between the Central African Republic (CAR) government and 14 armed groups, several important challenges continue to affect the country's stability.

The most recent major episode of violence was last month's conflict between the Mouvement des libérateurs centrafricains pour la justice (MLCJ) and the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique in Birao in the country's north. Both groups had signed the peace agreement and MLCJ's head, Gilbert Toumou Deya, is now a cabinet member in charge of relations with armed groups, as per the agreement.

Presidential and legislative elections scheduled for December 2020 could lead to further instability, as opposition leaders and parties are already gearing up to face off with incumbent President Faustin-Archange Touadéra.

A breakdown of the peace deal will reverse the progress made so far in stabilising the country. The African Union (AU), as guarantor of the 6 February agreement, should implement the clauses that sanction spoilers and ensure that those armed groups still on board remain compliant.

Since February dozens of violations of the peace agreement have occurred each week. Following negotiations in Addis Ababa in March, Sidiki Abass (also known as Bi Sidi Souleymane), leader of Retour Réconciliation Réhabilitation (3R), was appointed military adviser to Prime Minister Firmin Ngrébada.

Abass was put in charge of the mixed special security unit - comprising government forces and armed group members - in the Ouham-Pendé region, which his group already controlled. This was part of the AU's attempt to iron out differences over the post-Khar-

toum national unity government and salvage the February peace agreement. But the 3R group subsequently massacred 46 civilians in Paoua, Ouham-Pendé, in May.

Two other rebel leaders, Ali Darassa and Mahamat al-Khatim, entered the government at the same time as Abass. Both were made military advisers in charge of mixed special security units, also in areas they controlled before their appointments. The decision to appoint rebel leaders to lead regions already under their control was bound to create challenges for the peace agreement.

Subsequently both Abass and al-Khatim resigned from the government over unclear roles and differences with the prime minister. They have officially reneged on the February peace deal and gone back to the bush.

On 30 July another rebel leader, Abdoulaye Miskine, called on Touadéra to resign, short of which he would be 'removed by all means necessary.' Miskine was also a signatory to the Khartoum peace agreement and was appointed to the government, but declined to take up the position, although his group is represented in cabinet. Miskine has now formed an alliance with the Parti du Rassemblement de la Nation Centrafricaine, a rebel group created in June.

The commitment of armed groups to implement the peace agreement they signed is clearly in question. The opportunity they have been given to remain in charge of areas they already controlled has revealed its drawbacks. It has helped preserve the prevailing power balance and has failed to incentivise armed groups to fully commit to the agreement, while legitimising their control over those areas.

Compounding these problems, the United Nations Panel of Experts on the CAR reports that weapons are still flowing into the country. Several armed groups have shown their reluctance to



The decision to appoint rebel leaders to head regions already under their control was bound to create problems. File photo

comply with the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process, scheduled to end in January 2020.

The tri-border area - between Chad, Sudan and the CAR - has always been a hotbed of various kinds of trafficking and has fuelled instability in all three countries. Instability in both Sudan and Chad contribute to the CAR's fragility.

Meanwhile the CAR also has to contend with a proxy battle between Russia and France. The CAR is historically a preserve of France, and CAR authorities have built strong ties with Russia since 2017. The Russian presence and France's pushback are exacerbating internal political dissension which is likely to intensify, especially in the run-

up to the 2020 presidential polls.

Another political complication ahead of the 2020 elections is that at the end of May 2019, civil society and opposition parties set up a platform called the United Front for the Defence of the Nation, or E Zingo Biani. It blames the government for appointing armed group leaders to government in what it calls a bad compromise.

E Zingo Biani places itself in radical opposition to Touadéra's rule, which is bound to contribute to a tense political climate. In the past, violence has erupted before elections to prevent them from taking place or to highlight the government's incapacity to stem insecurity.

Too many diverging interests, both among Central African leaders themselves and among external powers, make the Central African quagmire even more intractable.

The guarantors and partners should review the implementation of the agreement and the challenges it has faced so far. One possibility is reversing the balance of power, which overwhelmingly favours armed groups. They should also look at whether mixed special security units are still appropriate, and what strong coercive and mitigating measures can be taken against spoilers. All this must be done within a clear time frame.

The AU as the primary guarantor

must fully play its role by ensuring the timely allocation of resources to implement and monitor the agreement, if it can be saved.

The diverging interests of external powers and those within the CAR, as well as the instability in neighbouring Sudan and Chad, will continue to pose obstacles to peace and stability in the country. Unless these are addressed in parallel, the prevailing situation will not improve and the future of the CAR will remain bleak, at best.

Mohamed M Diatta, Researcher, PSC Report, ISS Addis Ababa

Multiple measures taken by Hong Kong to boost economy

A NUMBER of measures have been taken by the government of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to support enterprises, ensure employment and alleviate the pressure of local people, according to Chief Executive of the HKSAR Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor.

The HKSAR government pays great attention to economic pressure felt by Hong Kong citizens and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) amid the sluggish economy. These measures were issued to tackle the challenges currently faced by the special administrative region, Lam said in a recent public event.

Lam also received supports from many Hong Kong officials, who posted supporting messages on the internet, saying that the HKSAR is inputting huge amount of resources to improve people's livelihood and promote economic development.

Enterprises are major players in market economy, and their fate is under direct influence of the economic condition. The HKSAR government, considering the impacts faced by the SMEs in the region, has issued multiple measures to relieve their stress.

Not long ago, the HKSAR government offered a 12-month exemption for 27 categories of administrative charges to help reduce costs for enterprises, benefiting many sectors such as the maritime, logistics, retailing, catering, tourism, construction, fishery, and agriculture industries.

Besides, tenants of short-term land leasing, street-side market stalls, restaurants, retail stores, cargo handling berths, and booths in wholesale produce and fish markets can also enjoy a 50-percent discount in the rent for half a year.

To help SMEs find accessible and affordable financing, the HKSAR government extended the application period of the Special Concessionary Measures under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme and the validity period of three "Enhancement Measures" the government rolling out last year to June 30, 2022.

There were about 40 government



funds available with funding worth HK\$35 billion (about \$4.46 billion) up for grabs, said Edward Yau Tang-wah, Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

The government will streamline the procedures and eligibility requirements of these funds so as to help more SMEs ride out the storm, said Yau.

In order to expand employment, Hong Kong government has intensified its efforts to launch small construction projects, including the Pier Improvement Programme, Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, and Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme. These projects all help create new jobs for Hong Kong citizens.

Moreover, the HKSAR government are planning to initiate special training programs to help those who lost their jobs to the current recession.

To enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong's

human resources, the Development Bureau established the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders this July. The first two batches of students from the center have started taking courses at Oxford University this August and September respectively.

Infrastructure construction and cultivation of talents for project management are important investment for Hong Kong's future, said Hong Kong's financial secretary Paul Chan Mo-po, noting that the HKSAR government will make great efforts to boost progress in these areas and promote continuous development of Hong Kong.

A series of relief measures worth HK\$ 13 billion were recently rolled out by the HKSAR government, issuing subsidies to social security recipients and students from kindergarten to secondary school.

Besides, the government will grant each eligible residential electricity account a electricity charges relief of HK\$2,000, and provide one-off subsistence allowance for eligible low-income residents.

In addition, the government of HKSAR has adopted a proposal put forward by the Hong Kong Commission on Poverty, and is going to raise the subsidies for low-income families living subdivided flats.

Two new types of family structures, families with three and families with four or more, will be included in the subsidy scheme, and they will receive up to HK\$11,500 and HK\$13,000, respectively. It's estimated that about 24,000 citizens will benefit from the scheme.

Meanwhile, under the efforts of the HKSAR government, a series of new measures and moves targeting the housing problem in the city are being

introduced and put into practice, such as gazetting the proposal of vacancy tax on properties, resuming land for urban renewal projects, and paying one month's rent for lower income public rental housing tenants.

The HKSAR government is preparing a platform for dialogue, which is expected to bring Chief Executive Lam and heads of government departments and bureaus to communities in an effort to hold discussions with citizens on solutions to long backlogged issues concerning such aspects as economy, society, and people's livelihood, said Chan.

It is hoped that various sides can work together in a peaceful, rational and mutually respectful atmosphere, so that the HKSAR government can draw on the wisdom of everyone and formulate more powerful measures, Chan added.

People's Daily

300 youth raise voices demanding enabling environment to boost participation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

OVER 300 youth aged between 15 and 30 years from Mbeya city council have raised their voices demanding to be consulted on matters that affect them and relate to young people's sexual, reproductive health and rights (SRHR). They aired their views at six different centres being conducted in Mbeya city by 'SheDecides Movement'. They were concerned about teenage pregnancy, maternal mortality, HIV, female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, gen-

der based violence (GBV), and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).

SheDecides is a global movement that advocates for fundamental rights of girls and women globally, through empowering politicians, organizations, young people to change the narrative so as to create a world where every woman and girl can decide what without a question on

what to do her bodies, future, and life.

The organization believes that when a woman or a girl decides individuals and com-

munities wins.

Anna Myovella, Assistant Coordinator Youth Education through Spots Tanzania (YES TZ) said: "The big turn up of young people is clear testimony that young people want to be consulted on matters that affect them."

Myovella thanked DKT Tanzania, for their collaboration and support in mobilizing the youth. DKT is one of the world largest providers of family planning, HIV/Aids prevention and other reproductive health products and services.

Speaking prior to the exercise of collecting young peo-

ple's views, George Mbijima, Mbeya regional youth officer said young people face many sexual, reproductive health and rights challenges, hence the need to listen to their views.

Mbijima noted that SheDecides Movement helps in shaping interventions that aim to serve young people.

"It is important to appreciate that young people know about what is happening in their lives, they know about what matters in their lives, and engaging them like this help us finding lasting solutions on issues affecting them", said Mbi-

jima.

According to Halima Lila from Hope Centre for Children, Girls and Women in Tanzania, an organization that host SheDecides Movement in Tanzania, safeguarding the rights of young people and investing in them create a conditions under which they can achieve their full life potential.

Lila underscored the need to invest in youth's quality education, decent employment opportunities, effective livelihood skills, and access to sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education.

Lila said the views collected will be presented to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and at the forthcoming International Conference on Populations and Development (ICPD) scheduled for November in Nairobi, Kenya.

According to ICPD Programme of Action, the path to sustainability will demand better leadership and greater innovation to address critical needs, to extend human rights and protect all persons from discrimination and violence, in order that all persons have the

opportunity to contribute to and benefit from development.

ICPD believes that investing in the capabilities and creativity of the world's young people assures future growth and innovation; strengthen health systems to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health to enable all women to thrive, and all children to grow in a nurturing environment.

SheDecides youth caravan, apart from collecting young people's voices from Mbeya region, they also collected youth voices from other 15 regions.



Minister tasks NBAA to train more qualified professionals

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has urged the National Board of Auditors and Accountants (NBAA) to train more qualified professionals to work in the country's public and private sectors especially for the oil and gas industry.

The Deputy minister for finance and Planning Dr Ashantu Kijaji made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the NBAA 41th graduation ceremony.

Dr Kijaji urged them to live up to their professional oaths, observe ethical rules when conducting their duties which include unearthing mismanagement of public finances.

She said that auditors and accountants had also a great role and capability to fight corruption and embezzlement as per their oaths.

"Professional accountants, auditors should remain impartial and loyal to ethical guidelines when reviewing a company or individual's financial records for

reporting purposes, manipulating financial records will affect the country's development," she noted.

The deputy minister noted that there is no doubt that, in today's national agenda, accountants will play an important role in the development of the economy. "Any economy in the world depends on the excellence of finance professionals. These professionals should be well prepared to serve the country by ensuring that all finance issues are well designed and properly controlled...So NBAA has a great role to play," she said.

"Minerals, oil and gas sectors are among key sectors that need strengthened protection. So, NBAA should get prepared to supervise the sectors by bringing into the market, well trained professionals and experts," Dr Kijaji added.

For his part, the board's chairman Prof Isaya Jairo said that the board has been monitoring closely the work of auditors and account-

ants and taking ethical measures to those who are found violating the professional rules.

"We are facing a lot of challenges where ethics and integrity among public servants have been deteriorating; with many reportedly getting involved in corrupt practices... therefore employers should also abide by the laws of the country and employ certified public accountants, to avoid unnecessary thefts and dishonesty in their companies," he said.

NBAA executive director Pius Maneno said that the board will continue to strengthen efforts to cooperate with established colleges in the country to ensure that they enrol as more graduates to meet the country's needs.

He said that the board offers a number of courses such as Certificate and Diploma in IPSAS, Accounting Technician Certificate (ATEC), Diploma in Accounting/Accounting and Finance (NTA level 6) where graduates received their certificates in the courses.

Villagers in Musoma Rural pump in 136m/- for building hospital

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

VILLAGERS in Musoma Rural Council have contributed 136m/- as part of their contributions to the construction of a district hospital in the area.

The council has a total of 68 villages, whereby every village contributed 2m/- for the purpose.

In a telephone interview, chairman of Musoma District Council, Charles Magoma said that the central government has given 1.5bn/- for the construction of the hospital.

According to Magoma, the hospital

will be built in Kwikamano area of Sugiuti village, and with some of the buildings already under construction.

In ensuring the district hospital is built in the area, Musoma Rural MP, Prof Sospeter Muhongo has so far donated 100 bags of cements.

The council chairman commended the villagers and the central government for their contributions to the proposed district hospital, which will be a redeemer to thousands of people who have been struggling to get healthcare services as far as Mara Regional Hospital located far as 100km.

Magoma also extended his appreciations to the Musoma District Commissioner, Dr Vicent Anney and Musoma District Council Director John Kayombo for their leadership in managing the implementation of Musoma Rural development projects.

Musoma Rural currently has two health centers, Murangi and Mugango, with 24 government dispensaries providing 24 hours services, four private and other 13 are under construction.

"Villagers, government, legislature and other development partners have helped to get the constituency to take

action, and now there is a health center being built in Nyambono village," he said.

According to Magoma, the ruling CCM 2015 /2020 election manifesto, which implores the need for every village to have its own dispensary, every ward to have well-equipped health centre.

The CCM election manifesto (2015-2020) has been penned in line with the nation's Development Vision 2025, which aim at bringing about sustainable development for Tanzanians in the said time-frame.

Lancet Laboratories staff hand over medical supplies to MNH children suffering from cancer

By Correspondent James Kandoya

LANCET laboratories workers have donated assorted medical facilities to children suffering from cancer at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) as part of commemorating the seventh anniversaries in medical lab services in the country.

Lancet group managing director Dr Ahmed Kalebi handed over the donation to MNH's Upendo Children cancer ward over the week end in Dar es Salaam.

Dr Kalebi who is a pathologist named some of the items as thermometers, BP pressure, sanitizers pampers, books and stationeries adding that they would make it to be routine.

He described cancer in children as a growing problem, calling for concerted efforts to contain it by persuading the people to adhere regular medical checkup.

Dr Kalebi, added that Lancet Laboratories Tanzania was planning to conduct awareness to communities next year across the country

to increase awareness about cancer.

"As a leading pathology laboratories operating throughout Africa - we are planning to conduct awareness to the general public in Tanzania next year to increase awareness about cancer which is on the increase killing thousands of our people," he said.

For his part, public relation officer at the national facility, John Steven said the hospital admits children with cancer from across the country and gives special care and treatment at different stages of their treatment.

He said as hospital has taken several initiatives including providing quality healthcare to the patients and handle them with their parents in hostels wards until recover and discharged.

"I call on the community to support all those diagnosed and found with cancer materially and spiritually. Cancer is treated if diagnosed at early stage. I call on the community to adhere to regular medical checkup," he said.

Nurse attendant at the children cancer ward, Hawa Mpina said all parents with their children admitted at the centre were coming from across the country and therefore it was not easy for them to go back home.

She said the centre also admitted children with cancer from countries as far as Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"Cancer in children is a growing problem that needs special attention including awareness. Cancer is treated if it is early diagnosed at early stages," she said.

About 85 per cent of childhood cancers occur in developing countries, including countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Late presentations at treatment centers, delayed diagnosis and poor access to healthcare contribute greatly to the poor survival outcomes in these countries.

Upendo Children's cancer ward at MNH is the only children's cancer ward in the country, whereby all services are provided for free.



Stanbic's head of oil and gas, Elias Ngunangwa (L), speaks at a panel discussion at the just-ended Third Oil and Gas Congress held in Dar es Salaam. The panel brought financial sector stakeholders together in discussing the role of financial institutions in financing Tanzania's oil and gas projects infrastructure. With him is Bowmans Pan-African law firm partner Asha Sabrina Ayub. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Three ways to end HIV stigma and discrimination

ABUJA

As a Public Health Doctor, I often meet people who experience stigma simply because they live with HIV. One person who still haunts me is a woman who is HIV positive and when she was in labor, a midwife would not help her. Instead she shouted at her to just push out the baby and then she stood far away from the bedside, disgusted by the woman's HIV status.

No one should go through such stigma at a vulnerable situation when they are about to birth life. Another lady I met was denied university admission because she is HIV positive. She was screened for HIV without her consent, her HIV-positive status was disclosed publicly, and she was asked to leave the private university.

This is not okay. All forms of HIV-related stigma must stop. When people experience stigma and discrimination they may be afraid or ashamed to access HIV services. This fear of stigma has far-reaching implications - it could cause people to delay being tested and knowing their HIV status and getting help, before it's too late.

Globally, there are approximately 37.9 million people living with HIV, with 770,000 deaths, based on 2018 data. In 2018, there were 1.7 new HIV infections. Seventy-five million people have been infected by HIV since the epidemic began and 32 million have died as a result. HIV-related stigma can have serious consequences.

These are ways to deal with it.

First, government across the globe should increase investments in health education to improve people's knowledge of HIV and its modes of transmission. It should not be taken for granted that people are aware.

For instance, according to a survey of Americans by the Kaiser Family Foundation, Americans wrongly believe that HIV can be transmitted through sharing saliva (27%); touching toilet seat (17%); and swimming in a pool with someone who is HIV positive (11%). Instead, one can get



HIV when there is contact with body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk.

Targeted information should be deployed on platforms where people congregate and interact. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and WhatsApp serve this purpose and should be used. Globally, there are about 3.5 billion social media users - an estimated 2.7 billion of these are Facebook users.

In 2016 at peak of the Zika virus epidemic in Brazil, Facebook pulled anonymized posts about conversations on Zika virus. This was shared with UNICEF to design a campaign that provided the right information for individuals to protect themselves against Zika virus.

Facebook can replicate the same to tackle misinformation about HIV and reduce stigma.

Second, enforce HIV antidiscrimination laws to deter offenders from discriminating against people living with HIV. For instance, in 2015, the Nigerian President Jonathan signed the HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination law.

One of the objectives of the law is to help more Nigerians to seek testing, treatment and care services without fear of facing stigma and discrimination. The law does not permit HIV screening as a prerequisite for employment and school admissions. There are fines of \$1400 for individuals and \$5,700 for institutions who violate the law. The fines could come with prison term of up to one year in addition to these fines. Although not as robust as Nigeria's HIV antidiscrimination law, Ghana's patient's charter protects individuals from discrimination based on type of illness.

Third, end the discrimination against key populations like men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people as this discourages them from accessing care, pushes them underground and increases their risk of transmitting HIV. Globally, these populations account for 54% of new HIV infections - 88% in Western and central Europe and North America; 95% in Middle East and North Africa; and 64% in Western and central Africa. Compared to non-key populations, the risk of acquiring HIV is 22 times

higher among men who have sex with men and injection drugs users; 21 times higher among sex workers and 12 times higher for transgender people.

Specific changes include ending discriminatory laws. Countries including Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia and others criminalize LGBT folks and that needs to change. Further, transgender people are harmed and killed without consequences for the perpetrators. For example, recently, a black transgender woman was burned to death in Florida. Therefore, donors must keep working with governments to repeal these laws and punish those who perpetrate violence against key populations.

The Former Wales rugby captain, Gareth Thomas' revelation this month that he is HIV positive because someone threatened to blackmail him, shows that no one is immune to stigma. As long as new HIV infections occur, governments, donors, private sector and communities must continue work to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

IPS



The Felix Houphouët-Boigny stadium and the surrounding buildings in downtown Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. File photo

Can cities save the world?

By 2050 two thirds of the world's population will live in cities, and that infrastructure could be the key to managing the climate crisis, if we act now.

By 2050 about two-thirds of the human population - that is six out of the world's nine billion people - will be living in cities. Given that 55% of people already live in cities, this should not come as a surprise. The only question is whether this urbanisation will be seen as a problem, or as an opportunity. For a few people, the future of the city may determine the success or failure of humanity's ability to deal with the climate crisis.

Cities occupy only 2% of land but they produce about 70% of global waste, emit nearly 70% of greenhouse emissions and consume more than 60% of energy. While more and more infrastructure will be built in the coming decades - with about 75% of infrastructure that is expected to be in place by 2050 is yet to be built - there is ample opportunity to begin with the housing sector.

"We don't need nudges and tweaks but transformation on a massive scale, starting immediately," says Aniruddha Dasgupta from the World Resources Institute.

Even as one billion people live in informal settlements globally, the housing sector uses 40% of the planet's total resources and represents over one-third of total greenhouse emissions.

"Small but efficient technology can change the whole urban settlement pattern. Sustainable design can provide decent affordable housing and control overuse of natural resources," said Anna Dyson, a professor at the Yale Centre for Ecosystems in Agriculture.

An example of innovation Experts who gathered at Stanford University in California on the first week of September to discuss the planet's health urged policymakers to focus on cities as an opportunity to kick off action. Several innovations around housing are underway globally, with the tiny house designed by the Yale Centre for Ecosystems in Architecture serving as one example.

"These new innovations can be a model that would revolutionise the world's urban housing systems as the current housing systems consume so many resources. Measuring just about 22 square metres, this structure is a type of 'tiny house' which traditionally has one room with a loft or pull-out bed, complete with hidden storage, and condensed amenities, such as a kitchen, that maximises the space available to live in," said Dyson.

In addition, the micro-farming wall provides vegetables the year-round by using natural daylight and plant-based air purification.

This is just one of many innovative ideas that are being developed globally. This week, the Urban Opportunity report released by Coalition for Urban Transitions has said that it is possible to cut 90% of emissions from cit-

ies using currently available technologies and practices in buildings, transport, materials efficiency and waste.

"Implementing low-carbon measures in cities could support 87 million jobs by 2030 in sectors such as clean energy and public transport," the report said.

Particularly in South Asia, cities are growing outward quite unlike the cities in North America, Europe and East Asia - a reality which requires more resources. These cities have fewer financial resources to manage their growth but are expected to hold more than 2 billion additional people by 2050.

"As we know that just three countries - India, China and Nigeria - are expected to account for 35 percent of the global urban population growth between 2018 and 2050. As these cities grow in population, continuing their unwieldy expansion outward could push them into crises as outward expansions are often challenged by distorted land markets, deficient services in growing areas and disjointed informal expansion," said Jilian Du at the World Resources Institute.

It is estimated that reduction of carbon emissions would require an investment of USD 1.8 trillion (approximately 2% of global GDP) per year, which would generate annual returns worth USD 2.8 trillion annually in 2030, and USD 7.0 trillion in 2050 based on cost savings alone.

"Many of these low-carbon measures would pay for themselves in less than five years, including more efficient lighting, electric vehicles, improved freight logistics and improved solid waste management," added the report. About 70% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the cities and more than 60% of energy consumed.

Managing mobility and food

While housing is a major issue, another is urban transportation. As most of the human population will be living in cities, urban mobility plays a key role. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions the most effective way is to network every moving object and use it as efficiently as possible.

"From Henry Ford to now, nothing much has changed in our urban mobility model. But in the age of the internet, every moving thing will be networked. Innovation to use it can make cities better and sustainable. So, mobility represents the third stage of the internet. The networked mobility will change urban transportation, so we need to enhance it. Uber is an example and much more is possible," said John Rossant, Founder and Chairman of New Cities.

What about food then? More agricultural lands will be converted to build cities and more will be used to feed humans in the cities. A study conducted by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2013 had estimated that total annual emissions from agriculture were about 14.5% of all human emissions. The beef industry was responsible for 41% of this.

IPS

Isles TAMWA working to erase negative attitude to women leadership in politics

By Correspondent Suleiman Rashid Omar, Pemba

ZANZIBAR society still has negative attitude towards women participation in politics and political leadership in shehia, ward up to constituency level.

A lot of challenges have been raised in community meetings led by TAMWA Zanzibar in collaboration with Male Change Agents in 31 shehias, with 19 located in Unguja and 12 in Pemba.

In sensitization meetings conducted by Male Change Agents in 11 districts of Unguja and Pemba, women have been emerging in large numbers, describing the stumbling blocks in reaching leadership levels in the society.

Among other things, superstition plays a big role in discouraging women from appearing for leadership positions.

Mwandiwe Makame, a resident of Unguja North A district, states that she tried to run in the 2015 general election in her constituency and was threatened by a fellow candidate who asked her to withdraw from candidacy or else it would cost her a lot. "As if the threats were not enough, he sent emissaries from the community to advise me to surrender."

"I continued with my plans but I was dropped in the early stages. However I did not survive physically as my health to this day is fragile; my legs are affected, I can't walk, the problem is unknown, medical tests failed to diagnose the disease," says Mwandiwe.

These are just some of the problems women face when trying to run for leadership positions, since the community feels that leadership belongs to men as a right.

Another woman who once emerged to contest for a leadership position at the district level says that another stumbling block is corruption. "Many of our fellow candidates (men) are economically viable so they allocate money to voters starting from party polls. Among us (women) with our limited resource it is more difficult to pass," says Bahati Suleiman, a resident of Unguja Central



District.

However, there is hope gained from the one-year initiative to encourage communities to change attitudes and view women as legitimate candidates and give them a chance to contest and win.

Communities need to change attitudes and view the woman as a legitimate candidate, activists emphasize. Huzaima Ali Hamdani from CHADEMA says that they have realized that "there is a need to support our fellow women when they stand up because it is clear that the development agenda has no party and women have great power and will to push

that agenda forward."

Maryam Saleh from Chama cha Umma (CHAUMA) Chake Chake in Pemba talked about the high cost of taking on a contesting form which holds them back since their investments are so small that it becomes a barrier to having that money. In previous elections for some parties the candidate forms cost Sh200,000 apiece.

Political parties also play a key role in stopping women from holding leadership positions especially when they feel that they will lose the seat to male candidates contesting via other parties, although there are exam-

ples of women who contested and won.

TAMWA advises communities and political parties to change negative attitudes towards women in the contest for leadership positions as reality shows that when women get leadership positions they work better than men and maintain peace and tranquility.

TAMWA Zanzibar in partnership with UN Women from November 2018 to November 2019 is implementing the Women's Participation in Leadership and Politics project, encouraging the community to view the woman as a legitimate candidate and capable of being a leader at all levels.



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NMB Bank's digitisation move merges mobile, application with NMB Mkononi

By Smart Money Reporter

IN a bid to improve its digital platform services, NMB Bank Plc has merged its NMB Mobile and NMB KLIK application into NMB Mkononi.

Announcing the dramatic changes in Dar es Salaam this week, NMB's Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said the changes come with a new digital campaign focusing on the improvement of the bank's mobile platform and its application to enhance accessibility and convenience to financial services.

"With NMB Mkononi, anyone can open an account instantly through a feature or smart phone. They will be able to transfer money to mobile network operators up to 2m/-, transfer money from NMB account to other banks, pay bills for free, withdraw cash without an ATM card, and make payment of goods and services at Mastercard QR and Visa on mobile payment points," Mponzi said.

He pointed out that the new brand name for the bank's mobile platform is aimed to ensure that all Tanzanians, from all walks of life can resonate with the mobile banking services and be able to access NMB's banking services easily in the palm of their hands.

Recent findings by FinScope Tanzania indicated that one of the main drivers of access to financial services has been the take-up of digital financial services which

require mobile phone ownership with 63 percent of Tanzanians own mobile phones.

"NMB Bank is optimistic on

increasing the number of customers from the current 3.5 million, through self-account opening on mobile phones and reaching the unbanked

population," the NMB Chief Retail Banking said.

With the new platform, customers can also be able to effect payment

of different taxes through the government's electronic payment system. "The re-launch of the innovative service revitalizes NMB's customer-centric approach to our services, allowing them to have the convenience of accessing banking services anytime, anywhere. NMB Bank is the only bank in the market that allows customers and non-customers to send money from NMB account to other banks without visiting branches," Mponzi added.

The rebrand will elevate NMB's focus on the ability to provide a strong customer experience and financial services offering to well serve existing customers as part of celebrating customer service week.

"Our ability to provide strong customer experience while exhibiting unique brand values and products is a key differentiator in the market," the NMB Chief Retail Banker stated.

The country's largest commercial bank by branch network and net profits, has more than 220 branches, over 6,000 agents and more than 800 ATMs across the country with presence in all administrative districts of the country.

The bank has over three million customers and employs over 3,000 staff. It is listed at the Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange with its largest shareholders being Netherlands based Rabobank which has 34.9 percent and Treasury with a 31.9 percent.



NMB KLIK application is displayed on a mobile phone. File photo.

Deficit falls as Kenyans spend less on imports

NAIROBI

Kenyans cut their appetite for foreign goods in the first six months of the year, reducing the trade deficit by Sh141.82 billion.

Expenditure on imports dropped by Sh2785 billion or 3.1 percent (year-on-year) to Sh871 billion in the first half of the year, according to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). For instance, spending on imported clothes, furniture and beddings dropped by Sh976 million in the six months to June compared to a similar period a year earlier.

China and India remain Kenya's largest source of imports, accounting for Sh141.82 billion, or 31.52 percent of total import bill in the six months through June, and rising to 39.33 percent of non-oil orders.

According to the KNBS data, earnings from exports also contracted by Sh16.7 billion to stand at Sh303.31 billion in the same period. This narrowed the trade deficit marginally by 1.93 percent in the first half of 2019 compared with the same period a year earlier.

The deficit - the gap between imports and exports - dipped to Sh567.89 billion in the January-June period from Sh579.05 billion in the first half of 2018.

Industrial machinery Shipments of industrial machinery and metals into Kenya dropped by Sh19 billion in the six months to June, reflecting a cooling of economic activity. Machinery imports dropped by Sh13.9 billion, iron and steel (Sh5.1 billion) while agricultural machinery like tractors were down Sh912 million.

The slowdown in industrial spending works against Kenya's quest to rev up its manufacturing for growth and jobs creation. The sector has stagnated at 10 percent of the gross domestic product for the past 10 years, despite previous government efforts to put the economy on the path to industrialisation by 2030.

Kenya's economy grew by 5.6 percent per cent in the second quarter of the year under review, down from expanding 6.4 percent in the same period a year earlier. A flat growth in exports suggests a difficult operating environment for domestic enterprises, hurting income and job opportunities.

Kenya's main exports are agro-based such as tea, horticulture and coffee which are usually prone to shocks largely as vagaries of weather and a glut in international markets, which reduces prices.

Trade deficit A persistently higher trade deficit, economists say, slows down the creation of new job opportunities for the growing number of graduates as most revenue earned in Kenya is spent on buying goods abroad, boosting foreign factories.

Sachen Gudka, who chairs the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, said enhanced power and tax incentives for factories producing clothing, iron and steel products can help ease pressure on Kenya's import bill.

Under-fire Shoprite to overhaul exec pay

JOHANNESBURG

Shoprite Holdings, which has been under significant pressure on executive pay in recent years, will overhaul the remuneration of its top managers. However, the changes will only be implemented next year.

The group has been criticised for the performance criteria on both its short- and long-term incentives, which are identical. Previously, the CEO's short-term incentive was based on a single metric: trading profit. Shareholders have also called into question the vesting of long-term incentives, which is not conditional on future performance.

The changes come following the astonishing result at its last AGM where 73% of ordinary shareholders voted against the group's remuneration policy and 69% against its implementation.

The detailed votes on resolutions were disclosed by the group for the first time in April. Previously, it would publish only a single result that is distorted by the high-voting deferred shares under the control of chair Christo Wiese's Thibault Square Financial Services. The group says its remuneration committee, "together with executives and the company secretary, led the engagement with dissenting shareholders [following the AGM] to understand their concerns".

The result is a fundamental overhaul of the group's remuneration policy, a process being steered by new lead independent director, Professor Shirley Zinn. Zinn joined the board in August 2018. Following the departure of Edward Kieswetter (who returned to the South African Revenue Service last year), she took over as lead director and chair

of the group's remuneration committee.

Performance criteria? From 2020, short-term incentives will now be measured on an expanded set of "performance criteria that will apply to all executives, including the CEO and CFO". Elsewhere in the remuneration report, the group says there will now be five criteria, without detailing what these are.

"For 2020, we will revise the performance criteria and adjust the designs relating to long- and short-term incentives," it adds. "These changes will first affect executives and senior management before being rolled out to additional eligible employees in 2021."

Comprehensive changes to the long-term incentive scheme will be finalised during the coming year and presented to shareholders for approval at the next AGM. The group further proposes increasing the number of remuneration committee meetings per year. In 2019, it held just two.

Top earners In the year to August 2019, CEO Pieter Engelbrecht received total remuneration of R21.27 million, an increase of 4.5% on the prior year. The bulk of this was comprised of a 7.5% increase in his salary. His short-term incentive was marginally lower than the prior year at R4.4 million. New CFO Anton de Bruyn's total remuneration was R6.7 million.

The group's largest shareholder, the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), with 11.85%, voted against both (non-binding) resolutions on remuneration last year. It says: "The remuneration policy appears to be inconsistent with best practice. Although the remuneration policy

does disclose some information, there are some shortfalls as they relate to other disclosures that aim to foster enhanced accountability on remuneration."

The PIC says it "voted against the implementation as a result of not endorsing the company's remuneration policy." "Even though the implementation report does contain the details of the remuneration awarded during the reporting period, the remuneration was awarded based on the principles that we do not support as disclosed in the company's remuneration policy."

One further change is that the proposed remuneration for chair Christo Wiese for the past year, if approved, will be implemented retrospectively. The group proposes that Wiese's director fees more than double to R1.209 million for 2019. Defending this, the group says "the median remuneration for the board chairperson at comparator companies is R1 456 269 (PwC Shoprite Holdings Ltd: Non-executive directors remuneration benchmark, June 2019)."

Wiese's remuneration as chair of Shoprite has soared since 2017. In that year, director fees for the group's chairperson totalled R397 000. It jumped to R598 000 in 2018. If approved at the November AGM, Wiese's fees will have increased by 205% in the past two years.

The group will also align the fees paid to the chair of the remuneration committee (Zinn) to what it calls "comparator companies." The group says benchmarking by PwC found the "median remuneration for the remuneration committee chairs" was R193 679. If approved, Zinn's fees for this role will increase by 146% to R193 000 for 2019.



In the 12 months to August, CEO Pieter Engelbrecht received total remuneration of more than R21m.

Exxon to finalise LNG investment today - Mozambique government

MAPUTO

US energy giant Exxon Mobil will finalise its investment in Mozambique's lucrative liquefied natural gas fields in a signing ceremony on Tuesday, the African country's government said via state television.

Exxon's Rovuma LNG project, jointly operated with Italian firm Eni, will produce, liquefy and sell natural gas from three res-

ervoirs located in the Area 4 block offshore Mozambique's northern coast. Exxon estimates the fields, which are due to come online in 2024, will cost \$30 billion to develop.

State television news channel TVM on Sunday said the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy would host a signing ceremony with Exxon and other firms in the capital Maputo on Tuesday. Exxon has said it expects 17 000 tons of liquefied pe-

troleum gas (LPG) per year during the production phase, with the signing of an initial investment decision paving the way for the massive infrastructure project to begin.

The gas fields are located off the coast of the northern Cabo Delgado province, which for the last two years has seen intensifying attacks on surrounding communities and government buildings by an extreme Islamist militant group.

Over 400 confirm attending cultural tourism entrepreneurial fair in Dar



A Maasai entrepreneur negotiates the price of her products with a tourist in Arusha.

By Beatrice Philemon

MORE than 400 micro and small scale entrepreneurs from different parts of the country have confirmed to participate at a Micro and Small Scale Trade Fair aimed at showcasing cultural tourism products and services.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week, Kimbilio Letu in Pair International Network's Policy and Planning Manager, Charles Sabinian said the fair will also showcase the different traditional dishes consumed by the over 120 tribes

in the country.

Sabinian said visitors will also sample some of the foods while admiring locally made batik clothing, vikoï while also being allowed to buy. "We want to show visitors that Tanzania has high quality and unique cultural products and services that can compete at international markets," he said.

The trade fair will take place at Travertine hotel on November 7th to 11th this year.

He further pointed out that the fair will help cultural entrepreneurs promote what they have to offer in their areas, share experience and have a face-to-face

discussion with professionals from financial institutions, hotels and regulators.

"We have put up a unique and effective program to make it easy for top quality buyers to attend the event," he noted while noting that government officials and religion leaders will also attend the fair to share their experience and knowledge.

Seconding Sabinian, Maendeleo Bank Plc's Marketing and Sales Manager, Adam Marinya called on exhibitors and the public to attend the unique gathering and also visit the bank's pavilion to get financial services that include investing in

production of high quality products.

"You will get financial services wherever you are without physically visiting any Maendeleo Bank branch as we have invested in digital platforms," Marinya said naming account opening, cash depositing, bills payment and other financial services," he noted adding that the bank also has a network of agents countrywide.

The bank can issue loans of between 500,000/ to 3m/- small business owners and up to 30m/- to SMEs with affordable rates and good repayment schedules.

Tigo marks customer service week with focus on improving services



Tigo Tanzania's Head of Customer Service, Mwangaza Matotola, speaks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week when she kick-started customer service week celebrations. Photo courtesy of Tigo.

By Smart Money Reporter

MOBILE phone services company, Tigo Tanzania has kick-started its customer service week with special treatment of its subscribers countrywide.

Tigo's Head of Customer Service, Mwangaza Matotola said in Dar es Salaam this week that the leading digital lifestyle company, appreciates its millions of customers hence its staff teams are committed to provide superior customer care service.

Matotola said the week-

long celebration is being marked under the theme, 'Magic of service,' will also focus on appreciating the company's staff who are passionate and motivated to serve customers at Tigo shops and other digital platforms.

"Customer service is at the heart of our business and we are focusing on providing an exceptional service that leaves the customer feeling valued and respected every day. Tigo resources are committed to crafting a delightful and

wonderful customer experience," the Head of Customer Service noted.

Tigo's customer service week festivities will involve a range of activities including live chats with customers, meetings with customers and stakeholders besides providing awareness on how they can jointly improve the quality of service being provided.

"We understand that good service is magical as it can turn an unhappy customer into a satisfied

long term customer and that is why we insist in giving reliable and efficient services to our customers daily," Matotola added.

She encouraged the mobile phone service company's customers to visit Tigo shops and access other digital platforms including its Call Center, WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook to experience the best services.

Matotola further said Tigo continues to invest in providing unmatched customer service by train-

ing its customer care team but also in the Customer Call Center with technology that include an escalation system which has improved the time taken to serve our customers.

"At the end of the week, there will be a customer care staff awards ceremony during which outstanding customer care staff who had demonstrated the highest level of service to customers with professionalism will be acknowledged and rewarded," she stated.

Posta woes intensify as letters fall to new lows

NAIROBI

The number of letters posted locally in a year fell to 47.1 million to June – the lowest in a decade on the increased use of Internet-based mailing systems shinning the light on the waning demand for the services by Postal Corporation of Kenya.

Latest industry data by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) shows that this was a 24.4 per cent fall from 62.3 sent in 12 months to June last year as the once-dominant state corporation faces bleak days ahead.

The sharp fall coincides with the growing coverage of fibre connections to homes and offices and Internet use that offer users the faster and convenient Web-based mailing platforms and the private couriers.

In the period under review, the number of fixed Internet connections rose by 13 percent to 420,980 at the back of growing increased investments by the telcos to link more homes and offices to fibre-optics network. "During



"During the period under review, postal and courier subsector registered mixed trends as most consumers take preference in digital communication services,"

the period under review, postal and courier subsector registered mixed trends as most consumers take preference in digital communication services," the CA said in the report.

The record fall in letters posted come at the back of financial constraints at PCK which has, in turn, turned to other business portfolios to shore up its revenues. At 47.1 million letters posted in 12 months, this is a decline of more than double from 109 million posted in the 2010-11 period-the days when Posta enjoyed dominance through its traditional mailing services.

While the number of post offices dropped from 623 in 2017 to 592 last year, the number of private couriers increased from 997 to 1,027 in the same period piling pressure on the Posta that is already fighting to stay afloat as telcos increase Internet coverage.

Safaricom – the second-largest service provider in the fixed Internet after Zuku-owned Wananchi Group increased its fibre connections to homes and offices to 6,700km from about 5,000km last year. In the last 10 years, Internet service providers and the entry of giant telco Safaricom, have drastically cut the reliance on Posta for the physical delivery of letters.

The parastatal struggles are further underlined by the high number of idle boxes that stood at 70,000 as at September 2017. The State corporation in a bid to stay afloat entered the clearing and forwarding business mainly handling car imports from September last year. Some of its customers include National Oil Corporation of Kenya, the Central Bank of Kenya and individuals.

Subscribers lose out on kykNET, Mzansi Magic as MultiChoice shuts down DStv Select

CAPETOWN

Many DStv subscribers are set to lose access to the Mzansi Magic and kykNET channels with MultiChoice that in turn will lose DStv customers altogether after the pay-TV operator told subscribers that it will shut down its two DStv Select packages at the end of the month.

DStv Select subscribers who have had access to kykNET for instance, are suddenly facing an almost 100% increase in what they will have to pay if they want to continue watching it, with many shocked customers saying they can't afford it and are done with DStv.

MultiChoice is eliminating its two legacy packages – DStv Select 1 that contains Mzansi Magic as a TV channel as part of its collection, as well as DStv Select 2 that provides kykNET as a part of its collection.

Exclusive to DStv HDTV (channel 177) is the global authority on everything home, with engaging on-screen superstar experts, fascinating families, compelling renovations and stunning transformations that make all things home fun.

MultiChoice is putting DStv Select customers before the choice of either cancelling their DStv subscription, switching to the DStv Family package which doesn't contain these channels, or to suddenly pay a lot more for access to the channels they used to get.

DStv Select 1 subscribers who are paying R265 will now have to pay R399 per month for DStv Compact to get Mzansi Magic. DStv Select 2 customers will suddenly have to fork out R519 per month – a sudden once-off increase of around 96% – which many existing DStv customers say they simply can't afford.

DStv Select subscribers have complained that they don't know what's going on, can't understand why MultiChoice is taking their package away, and are accusing MultiChoice of not having communicated with them properly. They are saying that they are being forced to now drop DStv as loyal customers because they can't afford the massive subscription fee jump just to continue to watch the channels and shows that they used to get.

MultiChoice stopped offering the DStv Select packages in April 2013 which it started as an offering in conjunction with Vodacom. At the time MultiChoice promised existing DStv Select subscribers that they can remain on DStv Select for as long as they keep paying for it.

Over the past five years MultiChoice took several channels away from DStv Select and didn't replace channels that it terminated with new ones as it does on its other bouquets. It also didn't add any new channels.

Yet, DStv Select subscribers kept holding on to their DStv Select subscriptions and for good reason – the Mzansi Magic and kykNET channels. When MultiChoice terminated its legacy M-Net analogue package, MultiChoice moved those loyal subscribers to a like-for-like DStv service that still included M-Net without making them pay more, but the same isn't happening for DStv Select subscribers.

MultiChoice told DStv subscribers that they will be moved to DStv Family at R265 per month from 29 October 2019. DStv Select subscribers have the option to contact the pay-TV operator and cancel their service altogether or upgrade to a much more expensive package.

"Your favourite channels are however still available on our various other packages," MultiChoice is telling DStv Select subscribers.

"This is so painful. I have supported DStv and kykNET for many years as a loyal subscriber, but I can't suddenly pay double," said a distraught DStv Select subscriber from Port Elizabeth.



This is so painful. I have supported DStv and kykNET for many years as a loyal subscriber, but I can't suddenly pay double

African economies with greatest potential for trade growth named

LONDON

African economies come first and third in the Standard Chartered Trade20 Index, which identifies the markets with the greatest potential for future trade growth.

Côte d'Ivoire is the market that has most rapidly improved its trade growth potential over the past decade, according to new research from Standard Chartered. The Trade20 index, which identifies the 20 rising stars of trade, places African markets Côte d'Ivoire in the top spot, and Kenya at number three.

The Trade20 index determines each market's trade growth potential by analysing changes within the last decade across a wide range of variables, grouped into three equally-weighted pillars: economic dynamism, trade readiness and export diversity.

The study examines 66 markets around the world. It finds that while existing trade powers like China and India continue to rapidly improve their trade potential, African economies are making particularly strong progress from a relatively low starting point.

Kenya is consolidating its position as the trading hub of East Africa, while Côte d'Ivoire is cementing its position as a West African trading hub. Ghana also performs well in the index, placing just outside the top 10.

The key findings of the Trade20 index for African markets are: Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya have significantly improved their trade readiness, demonstrating that investments in infrastructure and business environment improvements are paying off. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana also fare well for economic dynamism, with Côte d'Ivoire enjoying robust GDP



Saif Malik, regional co-head, Global Banking, AME, Standard Chartered.

and export growth, and Ghana seeing an influx of FDI.

Saif Malik, regional co-head, Global Banking, AME, Standard Chartered, said: "Home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, Africa has the potential to become a much bigger player on the global trade stage. Already connected with the trading powers in Asia, particularly China, through the Belt and Road Initiative, and with the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, we see numerous growth opportunities for trade and investment in the years ahead. Additionally, the growing young, digitally-savvy population and an increasing female workforce will aid in the continent's economic transformation."

66 markets
Trade20 examines 12 metrics across 66 global markets - the major global economies plus the major economies in each region - to reveal the 20 economies that are most rapidly improving their potential for trade growth.

While most traditional trade indices are based on a market's present performance, the Trade20 index captures changes over time to reveal the markets that have seen the most improvement within the last decade. This enables us to identify the economies where recent positive developments may point to an acceleration in trade growth potential.

These markets are identified by measuring changes in 12 metrics under three pillars: economic dynamism (foreign direct investment, export and GDP growth), trade readiness (infrastructure, e-commerce, and ease of doing business) and export diversity (the range of exports).

While most traditional trade indices are based on a market's present performance, our index captures changes over time to reveal the markets that have seen the most improvement during the last decade. A high ranking also suggests a market that is improving as a possible outsourcing location.

New US strategy for Africa: It's tussle for influence with China

JOHANNESBURG

With its strategic location, great number of population and rich resources, Africa has continued to attract the interest of not only the economic powerful countries of the West but also recently from China and Russia.

Analysts view that the new US strategy towards Africa, which was spelt out by the then US national security adviser, Ambassador John Bolton in December 2018 in his speech at the conservative Heritage Foundation, is the continuation of another chapter of policies that aim at cementing further Washington's geopolitical influence and geo-economic interest at the time of increasing competition from China and Russia.

In their article: "The Trump administration's Africa strategy: Primacy or partnership?", Witney Schneidman and Landry Signé are of the view that with the new strategy, the US seem to compel "African governments to choose the United States over China

and Russia for their commercial, security, and political relations."

Cornelia Tremann seems to share similar opinion with Schneidman and Signé. In his article: "The new US Africa strategy is not about Africa. It's about China," Tremann explicitly noted that "the US Africa strategy should focus on US-Africa relations, and not on China-Africa relations."

"Unfortunately, the positive aspects of the strategy were a little lost in the speech because the new US Africa strategy is not really about Africa. It's about China," says Tremann in the article, adding: "According to Bolton, the greatest threat to the US in Africa comes not from migration or extremism, but from China (and to a lesser extent, Russia)."

Unlike China, despite increasing its reach to investment projects around Africa, Russia seems not to be a threat to the US commercial interests on the continent. Schneidman and Signé say

despite the fact that the new Washington's strategy revolves around three core issues: prosperity, security and stability, "the focal point of the strategy is countering China's commercial, security, and political influence in Africa."

The questions are why the Donald Trump Administration saw that it is a wise proposition to come up with the new strategy? Is the new strategy a scheme just to entice African governments to accept its aid package in the name of promoting economic stability?

It is not a secret that Washington feels that it is losing grip over Africa despite managing to extend its influence on the continent with military and logistic support to fight terrorism and counter armed conflicts. For decades, the US has had trade and commercial ties with African countries, both with individual countries and regional blocs. However, China's growing trade and commercial ties with African seem to give the Trump Administration a headache.



Mobile money in Accra, Ghana.

Nigeria misses the mobile money revolution

LAGOS

Every month, Ifeyinwa Abel, the secretary of a Pentecostal church in Lagos, spends as much as a quarter of her salary sending money to pay for diabetes drugs to her mother 430 miles away in Abia Ohafia, a small agricultural village.

It isn't easy. First Abel, 35, has to go to a bank branch in Lagos, the country's commercial hub, and transfer 6 000 naira (\$17) into the account of a friend in Ebem Ohafia, another town in Abia state. Then she's got to pay 2 000 naira to 4 000 naira for her 65-year-old mother, Uche Arua, to get on the back of a motorcycle and ride 8 miles from her village to Ebem Ohafia to pick up the money.

At least that's what happens if this fragile arrangement doesn't break down. Some months, Abel can't afford the motorcycle fare; other times, rains make the dirt road impassable. "Sometimes I am unable to send the money, and she stays without the drug, and I am pained," Abel says, shaken and dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief. "She must get the money and buy her drugs to survive."

Abel's story would be unusual across much of the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. In a region that accounts for half of the world's 866 million mobile banking and payment accounts and two-thirds of all money transferred by phone, Nigeria is a laggard. There are an estimated 172 million mobile phones in the country, but it didn't award a single mobile banking license until July, when it gave one to South Africa's MTN Group. Its foot-dragging - encouraged by the traditional banking sector, say industry analysts and telecommunications companies - is blamed for declining financial inclusion in this country of almost 209 million people.

Nigeria vies with South Africa as the continent's largest economy and is its most populous, but it's a "sleeping giant" in the world of fintech, according to GSMA, a trade body that represents 750 mobile phone operators globally. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the adoption of mobile payments, which incur lower costs than traditional banking, has helped bring financial tools to the masses. Financial inclusion in the region grew by more than 8 percentage points from 2014 to 2017, to an average of 43%, according to World Bank data. In Nigeria the rate dropped almost 4 percentage points, to 39% - far short of the Central Bank of Nigeria target of 80% by 2020.

Even with its new license, MTN doesn't look much like a bank: It can't lend money or pay interest. In Kenya, by contrast, Safaricom acts much more like one. Part-owned by a unit of Vodafone, it launched its M-pesa app in Kenya in 2007. Today 22 million people, almost half of the population, use M-pesa as a mobile bank - buying groceries, borrowing money, transferring cash. "There's no excuse for not sending money home because it's now very easy," says Kip Ngetichi, a 28-year-old waiter in Nairobi, who, with a few keystrokes,

sends money twice a month to his mother 240 miles away in the western town of Kitale.

Telecommunications companies and analysts say Nigeria is straggling behind its neighbours because its banks successfully campaigned to forestall the introduction of mobile payments. "The banks have been lobbying hard to protect their interests," says Christophe Meunier, a senior partner at Delta Partners Group, an advisory firm for technology and media companies.

The new law, critics say, is hardly a cure-all; indeed, the way it's structured will likely slow MTN and its rivals in line for licenses - Bharti Airtel, Globacom, and 9Mobile - in their attempts to roll out services. Without the ability to lend or pay interest, mobile operators may struggle to encourage people to keep money in their accounts, says Usoro Usoro, the general manager of mobile financial services for MTN Nigeria. "Mobile money in its delivery is intrinsically a collaboration of multiple industries," he says. "We haven't received as much collaboration as required." As things stand, says Meunier, "the way the legislation is written, even now, is very favourable to the banks."

With 61.5 million subscribers and a network that spans all of Nigeria's 774 local government jurisdictions, MTN can offer a larger consumer base than any of the nation's banks. It plans to accredit 500 000 agents just to pay money out to recipients of mobile transfers if they want hard cash. Still, Usoro says, adoption of the technology will be slower than it could have been if regulators had allowed MTN to provide a wider range of financial services, including savings accounts and loans. "For mobile money to make the impact that we've seen in other African countries, it needs to be utilised as far more than a simple money-transfer business," he says.

For their part, Nigeria's banks are adamant that they haven't intentionally slowed the introduction of mobile money. They blame the country's low literacy levels and poor financial infrastructure in rural areas. Nigeria's literacy level is 51%, compared with 79% in Kenya, according to the World Bank. "Financial presence as well as financial literacy is not adequate in rural and remote areas," says Iphy Onibuje, head of digital banking at Lagos-based Fidelity Bank Plc. Digital transfers only began to be piloted in 2012, she says. To win more business, she adds, the bank is willing to partner with mobile phone companies that have greater reach into rural areas.

As inadequate as the new legislation is from the standpoint of the mobile phone companies, their services are hugely in demand and are expected to take off fast as more licenses are granted. The country's adult population of 111 million - which dwarfs the 64 million in Ethiopia, another major sub-Saharan country where mobile banking has made limited inroads - is a big draw for providers.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Healthy city - healthy heart

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

World Heart Day observed on 29th September every year, is the world's biggest platform for raising awareness about cardiovascular disease. The 2019 campaign focuses on creating a global community of Heart Heroes. People from all walks of life who are acting now to love longer, better, heart healthy

lives by making a commitment to:

- Families to cook and eat more healthy
- Children to do more exercise, help them to be more active, to say no to addictions and help those addicted to stop
- Invest in heart-healthy workplaces
- Support policies that promote healthy hearts.

Heart health is more than a diet, exercise and stress management. We now are more aware that environment influences health. For example, rapid increase in heart disease can be related to environmental pollution, availability of safe and efficient public transport, safe walking and bicycle paths, a lack of well-maintained open spaces for physical recreation and accessibility to healthy food. Urban cities directly influence citizen behavior and policy makers and city planners are realizing that good health is good politics.



Dar es Salaam is the third fastest growing city in Africa and the ninth fastest growing in the world with a projected population of over 8.5 million by year 2025. Considering the growing population together with increasing evidence linking air/noise pollution, commuting time and overall lifestyle to heart disease, it is important that the city planners promote policies which support heart health by promoting

healthier urban environment such as:

1. Making it easier to live more active lifestyles by providing safe public areas. Dakar, Senegal has erected an outdoor public gym at the Fann beach with equipment that uses body resistance, including pull-up bar.

2. Making it easier to eat healthier foods - Kuwait city tied up with major bakeries to reduce salt content in bread to help decrease the incidence of high blood pressure among its citizens.

3. Promoting pollution control measures such as car pooling, sustainable public transport, parking efficiencies, efficient sewage disposal, clean water and energy efficiencies - Beijing has an off driving days to decrease the amount of air pollution. Our own DART won the prestigious 2018 global award for sustainable transport.

The World Health Organization defines a Healthy City as "one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environment and expanding those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life

and developing to their maximum potential". A Healthy City aims to:

- Create a health - supportive environment
- Achieve a good quality of life
- Provide basic sanitation and hygiene needs
- Supply access to health care

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

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

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WORLD

US diplomats to testify about Trump-Ukraine efforts as Democrats build impeachment case

WASHINGTON

A PARADE of U.S. diplomats will head to Capitol Hill for closed-door testimony this week as Democrats build their impeachment case against President Donald Trump, while the White House considers ways to slow down the process.

The interviews could yield more fodder for Democrats' impeachment drive over a whistleblower's allegations that Trump leveraged \$400 million in aid to secure a promise from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate political rival Joe Biden, and his son Hunter, who sat on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and assailed the probe.

Among those due to testify: Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the

European Union who was involved in efforts to get Ukraine to open the investigations, and Masha Yovanovitch, who was abruptly recalled from her post as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in May after Trump supporters questioned her loyalty to the president.

Trump's White House could formally tell House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as early as Monday that it will ignore lawmakers' demands for documents until the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives holds a vote to formally approve the impeachment inquiry.

Pelosi says a vote is not needed, but Democrats say she would prevail if one were held, although very few Republicans would be expected to side with the Democratic majority. Congress returns to Washington on Oct. 15 after a two-week recess.

"There's no question in my mind

that she would have the votes," Democratic Representative Jim Himes said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

The impeachment investigation could lead to the approval by the House of formal charges against Trump.

A trial on whether to remove him from office would then be held in the Republican-controlled Senate, but few Republicans have broken ranks with Trump so far for asking Ukraine and China to launch investigations of Biden, a former vice president and leading contender for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in the November 2020 presidential election.

SECOND WHISTLEBLOWER

On Sunday, lawyers said a second whistleblower had come forward to substantiate an August complaint from an unnamed U.S. government official, which touched off the investigation.

Diplomatic text messages released by Democrats last week show that U.S. officials were involved in the effort to secure a public commitment from Ukraine to look into the business dealings of Hunter Biden.

Trump has alleged that Hunter Biden profited in his business dealings in both Ukraine and China from his father's position, and that Joe Biden, as vice president, pushed Ukraine to fire a prosecutor to impede a probe of a company tied to his son.

There has been no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of either Biden.

Those texts show Sondland seeking to downplay the concerns of another U.S. diplomat, William Taylor, that the United States was withholding \$400 million in aid in order to secure Ukraine's cooperation.

"The President has been crystal clear no quid pro quo's of any kind," Sondland wrote. "I suggest we stop the back and forth by text."

Sondland is expected to testify on Tuesday before the three House committees leading the impeachment probe. State Department counselor Ulrich Brechbuhl is also scheduled to testify that day.

Deputy Secretary of State George Kent is scheduled to testify on Monday. Yovanovitch is due to appear on Friday.

Agencies



President Donald Trump

Fate of future DPRK-US dialogue depends on US attitude - DPRK

PYONGYANG

THE Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said on Sunday that the fate of future DPRK-U.S. dialogue depends on Washington.

In a statement by the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, the DPRK blamed the United States for the failure of the recent working-level talks in Sweden and said it has no intention for further negotiations unless Washington changes its "hostile policy."

Pyongyang approached the negotiations "with expectations and optimism" because Washington repeatedly expressed that it was ready for dialogue based on "a new method" and "creative solution," said the statement.

"However, the trite stance shown by the delegates of the U.S. side at the negotiations venue made us feel that our expectations were no better than an empty hope and rather increased a doubt as to whether the U.S. truly has a stand to solve the issue through dialogue," it said.

The spokesperson also noted that "the recent negotiations have left us skeptical about the U.S. political will to improve the DPRK-U.S. relations and made us think if it isn't its real intention to abuse the bilateral relations for gratifying its party interests."

Delegations from the DPRK and the United States held a meeting that lasted over eight hours in Stockholm on Saturday, in a bid to revive a nuclear diplomacy that has stalled since DPRK top leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump ended their second summit without a deal in Hanoi, Vietnam, in February.

But shortly after the meeting, DPRK delegation's chief negotiator Kim Myong Gil called the talks a "failure" as the United States did not offer a new proposal.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus, contradicting Kim's remarks, said that its delegation "brought creative ideas and had good discussions with its DPRK counterparts."

Xinhua



Chief negotiator Kim Myong Gil

Russia worried over escalation of tension over drilling activities in Cyprus economic zone

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is worried over the escalation of tension around the development of hydrocarbon fields in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone and call on all parties concerned to refrain from destabilizing steps, the Russian foreign ministry said on Sunday.

"We follow with concern the escalation of tension around the development of hydrocarbon fields in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone," the ministry said. "We call for refraining from steps that may entail destabilization and buildup of the crisis potential in Eastern Mediterranean, for strict compliance with the principles of international law, for resolving disputable issues only by peaceful means."

The ministry also called for the soonest relaunch of a negotiating process in order to reach a lasting, viable and fair solution to the Cypriot problem in the interests of all Cyprus' residents. "As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, we will do our best to promote this process," the ministry stressed.

Large natural gas field has been discovered on Cyprus' shelf and in its exclusive economic zone. Thus, the Aphrodite field discovered by US' Noble Energy in 2011 is believed to hold about 140 billion cubic meters of gas.

Turkey, which does not recognize the Republic of Cyprus, challenges the borders of its exclusive economic zone, saying it won't tolerate any drilling activities off Cyprus' coastline without consent from the Turkish Cypriot community.

Drilling vessels dispatched to the area by Ankara under licenses from the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus enjoy protection from Turkey's Naval Forces.

Agencies

We call for refraining from steps that may entail destabilization and buildup of the crisis potential in Eastern Mediterranean, for strict compliance with the principles of international law, for resolving disputable issues only by peaceful

Bangladesh lifts about 8m people out of poverty in 7 years - World Bank report

DHAKA

BANGLADESH has lifted about 8 million people out of poverty over the past seven years, showed a World Bank report released here yesterday.

It said Bangladesh has progressed significantly in reducing poverty and improving living conditions, mostly driven by labor income. "Between 2010-2016, about 8 million Bangladeshi exited poverty," revealed the report titled "Bangladesh Poverty Assessment."

"The progress that Bangladesh has made in reducing poverty in

the last decade is remarkable," said Mercy Tembon, World Bank Country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

During the same period, according to the bank, rural areas accounted for about 90 percent of the poverty reduction in the country.

There was little poverty reduction in urban areas and the share of urban people living in extreme poverty remained the same. This has slowed the national progress in poverty reduction.

Industry and services, not agriculture, mostly led poverty re-



duction in rural areas. Agriculture growth was slower and less pover-

ty reducing than before. In urban areas, manufacturing, in particular the garments sector, led the poverty reduction.

"The report highlights that traditional drivers of poverty played a role, but also notes the limits of some of these drivers in bringing about progress," said Maria Eugenia Genoni, World Bank senior economist and report co-author.

"Further, to achieve its vision of upper middle-income country by next decade, Bangladesh can build on its own experience of innovative policy experimentation to tackle poverty in a more sophis-

ticated and urbanized economy."

Since the country is facing new and re-emerging frontiers of poverty reduction, that is urban poverty and a re-emerging east-west divide, the report advocates that by adopting traditional and fresh solutions, Bangladesh can reduce poverty faster.

AHM Mustafa Kamal, Bangladeshi minister of Finance, was the chief guest at the report launching event, where policy makers, civil society, private sector and media representatives joined.

Xinhua

US withdraws troops from northeast Syria ahead of Turkish offensive

ISTANBUL

THE United States said it was pulling troops from northeast Syria, in a major policy shift which opens the way for a Turkish offensive against Kurdish-led forces and hands Turkey responsibility for thousands of Islamic State captives.

The move angered the Kurdish-led forces who have been Washington's most capable partner in fighting Islamic State in Syria. The forces, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), accused Washington of reneging on an ally, warning it would have a "great negative" impact on the war against the jihadists.

Reflecting concern about potential harm to civilians, a U.N. official said civilians must be spared in any Turkish

military operation in northeast Syria, adding the United Nations hoped that displacement and atrocities can be prevented.

"We are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst."

Panos Moutmtzis, U.N. regional humanitarian coordinator for the Syria crisis, told reporters in Geneva.

A U.S. official said American troops had withdrawn from two observation posts on the border, at Tel Abyad and Ras al-Ain, and had told the commander of the SDF that the United States would not defend the SDF from an imminent Turkish offensive.

"Turkey will soon be moving forward with its long-planned operation into Northern Syria," the White House said after President Donald Trump spoke



to Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan (pictured) on Sunday.

"The United States Armed Forces will not support or be involved in the operation, and United States forces, having defeated the ISIS territorial "Caliphate", will no longer be in the immediate area," it added in a

statement.

Turkey has long argued for the establishment of a 20-mile (32 km) "safe zone" along the border, under Turkish control, driving back the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia - which is the dominant force in the SDF alliance and which Ankara considers a terrorist organization and a threat to its national security.

The United States helped the YPG defeat Islamic State militants in Syria, and had been seeking a joint "security mechanism" with Turkey along the border to meet Turkey's security needs without threatening the SDF.

The SDF accused Washington

of turning its back on an ally.

"The American forces did not fulfill their commitments and withdrew their forces from the border areas with Turkey, and Turkey is now preparing for an invasion operation of northern and eastern Syria," it said in a statement.

SDF official Mustafa Bali said U.S. forces were "leaving the areas to turn into a war zone".

The White House statement appeared to hand over to Turkey responsibility for captured Islamic State jihadists who are currently held in SDF facilities to the south of Turkey's initially proposed safe zone.

Agencies

MSF warns of decline in international funding for fighting HIV/TB

CAPETOWN

DOCTORS Without Borders (MSF) yesterday warned of a decline in international funding and rapid shifting of the financial burden to affected countries after a decade of strong commitments to fight the twin epidemics of HIV and tuberculosis (TB).

The decline is in danger of reversing lifesaving gains and causing an "epidemic rebound" in some countries, MSF said in a report emailed to Xinhua.

The goal of ending HIV and TB is still far from being achieved as the diseases together still kill upwards of two million people each year, MSF said.

Despite this, donor and domestic funding for HIV programs declined in 2018 for the first time in more than a decade, falling by 1 billion U.S. dollars in low and middle-income countries,

while the funding gap for TB programs widened further, reaching 3.5 billion dollars per year, MSF cited UN figures as saying.

"This recent downward trajectory in funding comes at a critical juncture for the HIV and TB response," said Dr Mit Phillips, one of the contributing authors of the report.

"While gains made in countries such as Mozambique are at significant risk of backtracking, there is an even higher risk that countries in regions such as West and Central Africa, which are already lagging behind in the HIV and TB response, may see the situation deteriorate even further."

Based on studies in nine countries where MSF runs HIV and TB programs, the report documents how international funding shortfalls and insufficient domestic resources available are already



causing wide-ranging gaps in HIV and TB diagnosis, prevention and care services.

"Every day, MSF teams in these countries witness how patients are suffering and dying from these treatable dis-

eases," said Dr. Maria Guevara, another contributing authors of the report.

"The number of people on lifetime HIV treatment keeps on expanding, but the money available to support them keeps on shrinking," he said.

With not enough drugs or support services available, many people are not starting treatment on time or are forced to abandon treatment altogether, while others must dig deep into their pockets to pay for drugs so as not to interrupt their treatment, Dr. Guevara said.

All of this contributes to increased transmission, higher mortality, more treatment failures and an even higher prevalence of drug resistance, further increasing the cost of care for HIV and TB, he said.

According to MSF's report, the impact of current HIV and TB funding gaps are underestimated and likely to increase, as vulnerable countries struggle to compensate for the decline in external financial support. Even where the political will exists to contribute more, many countries are not ready to take on this responsibility in the short term.

Some of the countries reviewed in this report, such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea and Mozambique, are struggling with conflict or political and economic problems.

The report calls for a comprehensive assessment of relevant countries' real ability to increase domestic health resources in the short term, given the impact of funding shortfalls on the lives of people living with HIV and TB and the ability of health workers to care for them.

Donor countries must urgently reverse the recent decline in HIV and TB funding and adapt their approach to the challenges facing their partner countries, now and in the coming years, said Dr. Guevara. "Failing to fix this will undermine past achievements and may lead to an epidemic rebound that will cost many lives," he warned.

Xinhua



President Cyril Ramaphosa

South Africa's future lies in Africa - president

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's future lies in Africa whose faster growth will bring very real material benefits for the country, President Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

"The economies of the African continent are together growing at a rate far greater than our own, and we need to see the opportunity that such growth presents for our economy and for our people," the president said in his weekly nationwide address from the Desk of the President, a copy of which was emailed to Xinhua.

It is for this reason that South Africa has embraced the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), he said.

The AfCFTA will be a game-changer, both for South Africa and the rest of the continent, Ramaphosa said.

The AfCFTA, which aspires to create a tariff-free continent that can grow local businesses, boost intra-African trade, spur industrialization and create more jobs, will become the world's largest free trade zone by the number of countries, covering more than 1.2 billion people, with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.5 trillion U.S. dollar. The time is right for a new era of intra-African trade, where African countries no longer look abroad for the products and services they need, but to other countries on this continent, Ramaphosa said.

In so doing, they will be helping to establish new African industries, create African jobs, open up new markets and steadily turn Africa into a powerhouse of global production, said Ramaphosa.

"With our relatively established manufacturing base, our developed road, rail, port and energy infrastructure, and our deep financial markets, South Africa is well-placed to make use of the opportunities a free trade area could provide," said Ramaphosa.

When South Africa takes over chairmanship of the African Union (AU) in a few

months, the country will have a great responsibility to guide the implementation of the AfCFTA, he said.

"We will need to work to turn aspirations into action," he said.

Ramaphosa stressed the need for African countries to put in place all the rules, regulations and mechanisms needed to make such a free trade area work.

"But we will also need to invest in the infrastructure that we need to move goods from one African country to another, and that we need to produce such goods in the first place," he said. While South Africa is undertaking a massive investment drive, it is also encouraging investment in other parts of the continent, said the president.

"We do so in pursuit of the shared African vision of Agenda 2063, but also because we know that South Africa cannot prosper unless Africa as a whole prospers," he said.

South Africa's commitment to developing Africa through greater integration is not merely sentimental or ideological, Ramaphosa said.

"African integration is overwhelmingly and undeniably in our national interest," he said.

Ramaphosa linked his country's future with Africa at a time when South Africa's relations with some African countries were challenged by xenophobic violence in the country.

"The recent public violence targeting foreign nationals has challenged our efforts to build stronger ties with other African countries," Ramaphosa said. At least 12 people, including foreigners and South Africans, were killed in the violence that hit parts of the country last month.

These attacks, fueled by misinformation spread on social media, provoked much anger in different parts of the continent leading to threats against South African businesses and diplomatic missions, Ramaphosa said.

Xinhua

Hong Kong police denounce rioters for 'taking law into their own hands'

HONG KONG

HONG KONG police yesterday strongly condemned rioters who "took the law into their own hands" and overstepped the bottom line of any civilized society by beating up bystanders.

Rioters set fires, blocked roads and vandalized banks, metro stations and shops in various districts of Hong Kong after unlawful assemblies turned violent again on Sunday afternoon.

The police noted in a statement that in Wan Chai, a protester suspectedly drove away a drilling vehicle from a construction site without

authority and attempted to drill carriageways.

Rioters also hurled petrol bombs at police officers, with one petrol bomb hitting a reporter at the scene. Local radio RTHK later confirmed that the victim was one of its journalists, and he was sent to hospital for treatment.

The statement said in response to the rapidly deteriorating situation, the police "conducted dispersal operation with appropriate force, including tear gases, rubber bullets and bean bag rounds."

Condemning the rioters for "taking the law into their own hands," the police said one taxi driver was pulled out from his vehicle after a traffic ac-

cident in Sham Shui Po and severely battered by rioters to unconsciousness.

Another large group of rioters later attacked a man and left him unconscious in Mong Kok, where a woman was also beaten up allegedly for taking photos of rioters' vandalism acts, the police said.

Noting that the violent acts are spreading and escalating drastically, and Hong Kong is being pushed to the verge of a very dangerous situation, the police pledged to continue with resolute enforcement action and bring all lawbreakers to justice.

Xinhua

Macron: EU Brexit deal decision 'at end of week'

LONDON

THE EU will decide at the end of the week whether a Brexit deal is going to be possible, French President Emmanuel Macron has told Boris Johnson.

President Macron said talks should now proceed swiftly to see if an agreement could "respect" EU principles.

Johnson said the EU should not be "lured" into thinking there would be a delay to Brexit beyond 31 October.

The PM will hold further calls with EU leaders on Monday to discuss his latest proposals for the Irish border.

Downing Street said Johnson was expected to hold phone calls with the leaders of Sweden, Denmark and Poland, after speaking to Macron on Sunday.

The prime minister told the French president over the phone he believed a deal could be achieved, but that the EU must match compromises made by the UK.

A French government official said President Macron told Mr Johnson "that the negotiations should continue swiftly with Michel Barnier's team in coming days, in order to evaluate at the end of the week whether a deal is possible that respects European Union principles".

The comments come ahead of a key few days of negotiations as both parties try to find a new agreement in time for a summit of European leaders on 17 and 18 October.

Arrangements for preventing a hard border on the island of Ireland continue to be a sticking point, with the EU calling for "fundamental changes" to the UK's latest proposals.

A senior Number 10 source said: "The UK has made a big, important offer but it's time for the Commission to show a willingness to compromise too. If not the UK will leave with no deal."

Under the Benn Act, passed last month, the prime minister must write to the EU requesting a Brexit extension if no deal is signed off by Parlia-



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

ment by 19 October, unless MPs agree to a no-deal Brexit.

Government papers submitted to a Scottish court said that Johnson will comply, despite his assertion that there will be "no more dither or delay".

The Number 10 source called the legislation a "surrender act" and said its authors were "undermining negotiations".

"If EU leaders are betting that it will prevent no deal, that would be a historic misunderstanding," they said.

Johnson has claimed his plans will be supported by Parliament.

At the weekend he said his untested plan to use technology to eliminate customs border checks would take the UK out of EU trade rules while respecting the Northern Ireland peace process.

He claimed MPs from "every wing of the Conservative Party", Northern

Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party and from Labour have said "our proposed deal looks like one they can get behind".

Speaking on the BBC's Andrew Marr Show, Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay said talks were under way with Labour and other opposition MPs aimed at securing their support for a new deal.

He said ministers were "considering" the idea of putting the PM's proposals to a vote in Parliament to test support for them ahead of the EU summit.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Corbyn is set to meet the leaders of other opposition parties to scrutinise the government's new Brexit proposals.

The cross-party meeting between Labour, the SNP, Lib Dems, Greens and others on Monday will decide the next steps to "hold the government to account".

Agencies

Gunmen kill at least 9 soldiers in NW Nigeria

LAGOS

AT least 9 soldiers have been confirmed killed by gunmen in Zamfara, a troubled state in northwestern Nigeria, an official said late on Saturday.

Abubakar Dauran, state security assistant, who confirmed this to Xinhua in Gusau, the state capital, said the incident happened on Thursday when a group of gunmen attack a joint security outpost at Sunke village in Anka area of the state.

The attack also left some of the attackers dead, he said, noting that injured troops were admitted in Federal Medical Center, Gusau for proper medical attention.

The attack is the first major security breach since the government initiated dialogue with bandits in the state, Dauran added. According to him, the attackers were from neighboring Niger state.

Local security sources have also confirmed the killings, saying the bandits that attacked the joint security outpost numbered over 200, riding motorcycles.

Zamfara have witnessed a series of onslaughts by gunmen in recent months. This is one of the several attacks against Nigerian security forces in the northern part of the country this year.

Kremlin calls for refraining from steps that may hamper Syrian settlement

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin calls for refraining from actions that may hamper Syrian settlement, Russian president's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov said yesterday commenting on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's statement that Ankara is gearing up for an operation in northeastern Syria.

"In this case, it is important to refrain from any actions that may create obsta-

cles on the path of Syrian settlement. We know that certain perspectives are opening up and we understand that it will be a long and thorny path.

And now that the Syrian Constitutional Committee has been formed and when the date for its meetings has been appointed, it is vital to refrain from any steps that may hamper Syrian settlement," he said. Meanwhile the Kremlin expects that in its preparations for an operation

in northeastern Syria Turkey will proceed from the postulate that the territorial and political integrity of that country must be preserved.

"The Kremlin knows Turkey is committed to the postulate of Syria's territorial and political integrity, to the understanding that Syria's territorial integrity is the point of departure - both in the course of efforts to achieve a settlement in Syria and in all other matters. We hope that our

African expert lauds China's development miracle in past 70 years

ADDIS ABABA

CHINA'S socio-economic development miracle over the past 70 years has helped the country to become one of the major global economies and political powerhouses, an Ethiopian scholar said on Sunday.

Claiming China's economic showcase over the past decades as a miracle, Costantinos BT Costantinos, who served as an economic adviser to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, told Xinhua on Sunday that China has been "rapidly globalizing, fine-tuning to emerging technological prowess, building dazzling infrastructure and capitalizing heavily on human development."

Costantinos, also a professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, further stressed that China has been working together with Africa mainly through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as well as various other joint initiatives.

China and African countries are, within the framework of the FOCAC, vigorously advancing economic and trade cooperation, and actively exploring a common path that reflects both China's and Africa's realities, the scholar said.

"Through the common efforts of China and Africa, bilateral economic and trade cooperation now enjoys a consolidated foundation and improved mechanisms, with new common interests and growth points in cooperation constantly emerging," he added.

Costantinos said that China's policymakers are already focused on how to change the country's growth strategy to respond to the new challenges that will come.

Describing the current international situation as experiencing "profound and intricate changes," Costantinos also stressed that "newly emerging and developing economies have become the major force pushing forward the world's economic development."

Noting that "skeptics are wary of China's interest in Africa," the expert also emphasized African leaders' comments in refuting negative claims in China-Africa overall ties.

"As President Cyril Ramaphosa stated -- In the values that it promotes, in the manner that it operates, and in the impact that it has on African countries, FOCAC refutes the view that a new colonialism is taking hold in Africa, as our detractors would have us believe," said Costantinos.

Xinhua

China's agricultural modernity wows foreign journalists

FOREIGN journalists were amazed by China's modern agricultural facilities and lauded the country's agricultural modernity as they visited Yangling Agriculture Hi-Tech Industrial Demonstration Zone, a national-level high-tech development zone in northwest China's Shaanxi Province during a recent media workshop held by the Belt and Road News Network (BRNN).

Their questions about Chinese agriculture such as spray and drip irrigations, as well as fertilizers "stormed" Ma Xinshi, president of an entrepreneurship and innovation park of professional farmers in Yangling, who was surrounded by enthusiastic Latin American and Spanish journalists at the

park.

Several journalists from Spain's Radio International and Agencia EFE were attracted by the irrigation system of the park which according to Ma, has a high efficiency and can save 70 percent of water thanks to its drip irrigation.

Referring to a row of bags containing farmyard manure and organic fertilizers that lined up in a fruit greenhouse, Ma introduced that such fertilizing method would bring down the restrictions of local soil qualities on the growth of plants, and these bags are easy to carry.

China has done a great job applying organic fertilizers, said Cinthia Velarde, a journalist from Peruvian news agency

Agencia de Noticias Andina, explaining that the original taste of the food has been better preserved thanks to the agricultural innovations made by the parks in the region.

Leaving the entrepreneurship and innovation park, journalists visited the Sino-Israel Agriculture High-tech Demonstration Park in Neixiang County, central China's Henan Province, where the Internet of Things (IoT) system for greenhouses in a fertigation control center caught their eyes.

The journalists were greatly impressed by a screen equipped for the system on which real-time conditions of the park's irrigation system were shown.

Moreover, the intelligent system has enabled the demon-



Journalists on short-term media workshop under the Belt and Road News Network show great interest in China's achievements in agricultural modernization.

stration park to significantly lower the amount of labor and

fertilizers needed, reduce water pollution, and improve the

quality of the produce. "The advanced control sys-

tem here impressed me a lot," said Marco Antonio Bravo, Director General of Confirmado, net in Ecuador. He told People's Daily that technological innovation is vital for farming.

China's modernization efforts have helped its people secure a better life, said Alejandro Garza, Sub-director of International News of Notimex, official news agency of Mexico.

Many people are engaged in agriculture in Mexico, said Garza, noting that he hopes the Mexicans can live a better life by exchanging experiences and conducting cooperation with the Chinese people.

The long-term development of agriculture is bound to benefit the future generations, Garza remarked. **People's Daily**

The
Guardian

SPORT



SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas (2nd R), speaks to the press after presenting cash prize totaling 260, 319, 960/- to SportPesa Jackpot winner, Scolastika Ngwalueson (3rd L), in Dar es Salaam recently. Looking on (C) is Scolastika's brother, Edgar. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CORRESPONDENT

SportPesa jackpot winner's brother revels in achievement

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

EGDAR Ngwalueson, a brother to SportPesa Jackpot Bonus winner, Scolastika, has expressed delight in his sister's win.

Scolastika received cash prize totaling 260, 319, 960/- from SportPesa that are conducting the game after she had placed right bets on matches.

Edgar congratulated his sister for winning and advised Tanzanians to believe the gaming firm is genuine. He has been teaching his sister how to bet.

Scolastika has turned out to be the first female winner of the game a few days after the other two winners, Kingsley and Marwa, were presented with 825m/- and walked away with 412m/- apiece.

"I have been helping her bet via SportPesa prior to winning the millions of cash, I will continue helping her bet," he disclosed.

"She had on several occasions been asking

me to help her bet via her phone, she had done so because I have information on several teams."

"I had, before helping her bet, been observing records of the particular teams and she eventually won the cash prize."

"I had looked at the record before placing bets and in the end help my sister win the bets."

"I believe her life will change tremendously after the win, she will not be living the way she did in the past, all I want to see is she should invest the cash wisely."

"I'm the first witness to my sister's win, the truth is SportPesa do not favour anyone, the firm's games are genuine."

"All one needs to do is place right bets, you will receive your cash shortly after winning. I have witnessed it all after my sister had won the millions of cash."

Second Russian Children's Song Festival held in Dar



Some of Feza School's students and teachers showcase prizes they had received from Russian Children's Song Festival organizers after the completion of the event in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RUSSIAN CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

ON Saturday a gala concert was held in the Main Hall of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture (RCSC) in Dar es Salaam, with which the second International Russian Children's Song Festival 'Chiriku' ended.

Eligible participants in this musical festival were determined by the jury of the festival in the course of a four-day selec-

tion competition. Over a hundred Dar es Salaam school children and students participated.

The concert featured Russians' favorite childhood songs produced by outstanding composers and songwriters in whom Russia is rich. Now Tanzania's school children sang them. And they did not just sing, they also performed colorful costumed musical numbers.

Russian cartoons, for example 'Two merry geese', helped them in this.

Specifically to participate in the gala concert, a Russian children's ensemble 'Rosinka' had come all the way from Moscow to the festival 'Chiriku'.

The soloists of this ensemble are pupils of the Big Children's Choir of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (VGTRK). In its excellent performance, it treated the guests of the concert to a pot-pourri of many Russian children's 'hits'.

The appearances of the young

Russians were greeted by the guests of the festival with high enthusiasm.

The grand prix of the festival was awarded to children of the Feza School and to the ensemble of the school for supplementary education, 'Gift of Speech' of the RCSC.

The concert will be shown on Tanzania's popular television station, ITV, in the program - 'WatotoWetu' (Our Children).



Dar es Salaam-based karate players, who attended a seminar organized by the Tanzania Kyokushin Karate Association (TKKA), in a group photo after the completion of the training at Upanga in the city over the weekend. Master Linda Marchanda from UK (standing 7th R) oversaw the seminar. The training served as preparation for international seminars and championships which will be held in Australia and Canada later this year, as well as in Japan in March next year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Basketball's NBA under fire over Rockets' twitter furore

SHANGHAI

THE National Basketball Association came under fire on Monday for its response to a tweet by a Houston Rockets official in support of Hong Kong protests for democracy, the latest overseas business to run afoul of political issues in China.

Rockets' general manager Daryl Morey apologised on Monday for the tweet, which he swiftly deleted over the weekend, but his support for protests in the Chinese-ruled city angered Beijing, Chinese fans and the team's business partners in a key NBA market.

"I did not intend my tweet to cause any offense to Rockets fans and friends of mine in China," Morey tweeted on Monday.

"I was merely voicing one thought, based on one interpretation, of one complicated event," he said, adding that he had since heard and considered other perspectives.

The Rockets are widely followed in China, partly because they drafted Yao Ming in 2002, who became a star for Houston and helped build the NBA's following in China.

Morey's initial tweet included an image captioned: "Fight For Freedom. Stand With Hong Kong."

It prompted sportswear brand Li-Ning and sponsor Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (SPD Bank) Credit Card Center to suspend work with the Rockets, while the team's games were dropped by China's state broadcaster.

The post was later deleted and Morey said his views did not represent the team or NBA.

In a separate statement, the NBA said it recognised Morey's views have "deeply offended many of our friends and fans in China, which is regrettable."

"We have great respect for the history and culture of China and hope that sports and the NBA can be used as a unifying force to bridge cultural divides and bring people together," it said.

U.S. lawmakers said the NBA response was shameful and showed how China was using its economic power to censor speech by Americans in the United States.

"As a lifelong @HoustonRockets fan, I was proud to see @dmorey call out the Chinese Communist Party's repressive treatment of protestors in Hong Kong," Texas Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican, said on Twitter. "Now, in pursuit of \$\$, the @NBA is shamefully retreating."

Other legislators accused the NBA, no stranger to American politics, of a double standard when it comes to China.

NBA stars and some coaches have been outspoken in their criticism of U.S. President Donald Trump, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has encouraged players to speak out on issues of concern, including questions of police brutality and gun violence.

"And the #NBA, which (correctly) has no problem with players/

employees criticizing our gov't, is now apologizing for criticizing the Chinese gov't. This is shameful and cannot stand," New Jersey Congressman Tom Malinowski, a Democrat, said in a tweet.

The Rockets are in Japan for a preseason exhibition against the Toronto Raptors. Star player James Harden said after a practice on Monday the controversy had not affected the players.

'LONG TIME TO REPAIR'

The furore is another example of an overseas business caught in the politics of the Hong Kong protests, which have plunged the city into its worst political crisis in decades and pose a major challenge to Beijing.

A m a z o n . com faced a backlash in August after Chinese social media users found T-shirts on its website with slogans supporting the protests.

Chinese internet users also blacklisted bubble tea brands from Taiwan after a Hong Kong franchise urged solidarity with protesters.

Joseph Tsai, owner of the Brooklyn Nets and co-founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, said the damage from Morey's tweet "will take a long time to repair."

On Sunday, Chinese sportswear brand Li-Ning also condemned Morey's initial tweet. "We have already stopped our cooperation



Daryl Morey

with the Houston Rockets, and continue to urge them to give a clear answer on this matter," it said on the Weibo platform.

China's SPD Bank suspended marketing activities and publicity with the NBA team, and state broadcaster CCTV's sports channel said it would halt any further broadcasts of Rockets' games.

China's consulate in Houston also issued a statement saying it "made stern representations to the Rockets and requested them to clarify, to immediately correct any mistakes, and to eliminate any negative influences."

REUTERS

Silverwood replaces Bayliss as England head coach

LONDON

CHRIS Silverwood was named England head coach on Monday in place of Trevor Bayliss as the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) opted against another overseas candidate to take the team forward.

British media reported last week that former India and South Africa coach Gary Kirsten had emerged as the leading contender, but Silverwood, the team's former bowling coach, was preferred.

Australian Bayliss departed last month after England's drawn home Ashes series against Australia having led the team for four years.

They struggled for consistency in tests under his guidance, slipping to fourth in the world rankings, but enjoyed sustained success in one-day cricket, rising to the top of the rankings and winning their first 50-over World Cup title this year on home soil.

The 44-year-old Silverwood played six tests and seven one-day internationals for England as a fast bowler during his playing career, the majority of which was spent with his native county Yorkshire.

He moved into coaching and in 2017 led Essex to their first County Championship title for 25 years before becoming England pace bowling coach.

"Chris was the standout candidate," England director of cricket Ashley Giles said in a statement.

"He is what we need to take our international teams forward. He's somebody we know well, but it is his intimate understanding of our structures and systems and his close relationships with test captain Joe Root and white-ball captain Eoin Morgan that will help us develop our plans for the next few years," Giles added.

"He has performed exceptionally well during his role as an assistant coach and has the ultimate respect of the players' that have worked with him."

Silverwood's first assignment will be England's tour of New Zealand on which they play five Twenty20 internationals starting on Nov. 1 and two tests, before they travel to South Africa.

REUTERS

'Nervous' City have a lot to do in title race - Pep

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola has admitted his team have it all to do in the title race after being hit by nerves during their shock 2-0 defeat to Wolves.

City slipped eight points behind leaders Liverpool after suffering their first defeat at the Etihad Stadium since December thanks to two late goals from Adama Traore.

"It was a bad day, sometimes it happens," said Guardiola. "We started quite well and after we conceded two situations in our build-up where it's impossible to defend, we got a little bit nervous."

"It is a lot of points. They [Liverpool] didn't drop points for many circumstances. It is better not to think that one team is eight points ahead."

Liverpool opened up a seven point gap on Boxing Day last season but City still managed to rein them in to secure back-to-back titles.

They have now lost two of their first eight league games -- their worst start to a campaign since 2013 -- but Guardiola still believes his team can make it three in a row.

"I know these guys," he added.

"Still they are incredibly involved and can do it. What happened, happened."

"Most of the teams who won in the past, the year after, don't win. Today was the day not in our level. The previous games were good."

"But the distance is big. I know that. Liverpool is not dropping points. But we are in October, still a lot of games."

Guardiola revealed he was forced to substitute Kyle Walker at half-time because the full-back was suffering the effects of a stomach virus that prevented him from training during the week.

He also refused to criticise centre-back Nicolas Otamendi despite the Argentinian making a series of mistakes which led to Wolves' chances, including diving in on Raul Jimenez in the build up to the first goal.

"They [centre-backs Fernandinho and Otamendi] were quite good," said Guardiola. "They suffered because we lost the position in front of them."

"No central defenders can sustain this kind of balls we lose in the first moments. They were good."

(Agencies)

Dembele red for 'very bad' remark - ref's report

BARCELONA

OUSMANE Dembele is poised to miss the Clasico after being sent off for telling referee Mateu Lahoz he was "very bad" in Barcelona's 4-0 win over Sevilla.

The France forward scored the third goal as Barca moved second in La Liga behind Real Madrid, with Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal and Lionel Messi also on target at Camp Nou on Sunday.

But Dembele's night ended in disappointment when he was expelled in the final minute for protesting a red card that had been shown to teammate Ronald Araujo, who was making his Barca debut.

Dembele had already been shown a yellow card when Lahoz branded a straight red to leave him facing a ban of at least two games.

"The player Ousmane Dembele was sent off for saying: 'Very bad. You are very bad,' to me while gesticulating with his arms from a close distance," Lahoz wrote in his report.

Insulting a match official carries a suspension of at least two games. Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa was banned for eight matches last season after he was sent off for abusive comments about referee Jesus Gil Manzano's mother.

The Spanish champions travel to Eibar after the international break and then host league leaders Real Madrid on Oct. 26. Barcelona will

have the option to appeal any ban handed to Dembele.

Barca coach Ernesto Valverde said he didn't know what Dembele had said but joked that his level of Spanish meant it couldn't have been anything too serious.

"I haven't spoken with Dembele yet," Valverde said. "It is a mystery. I don't know what he could have said, but it can't have been a long phrase. But I don't know, more than anything because even I find it difficult to talk to him [in Spanish]."

Dembele was criticising Lahoz's call to send off debutant Araujo for a last-man challenge on Mexican striker Javier Hernandez.

"It's up to the referee to apply the criteria when it comes to assessing those kinds of fouls," Valverde said when it was suggested the centre-back's red card was not deserved.

"It didn't seem like a foul to me at the time and it looks very harsh on the television."

Barca's win over Sevilla was their fourth on the bounce in all competitions since defeat to Granada two weeks ago. They are now just two points behind Madrid at the top of the table.

Sevilla, meanwhile, were made to lament a string of missed chances early on, with Dutch forward Luuk de Jong wasting three opportunities to open the scoring before Suarez struck at the other end.

(Agencies)

United face uphill task to finish in top six, admits Solskjaer

LONDON

MANCHESTER United face a "big, big uphill task" to finish in the Premier League's top six, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said on Sunday after his lacklustre side lost 1-0 at Newcastle United.

Matthew Longstaff's second-half winner increased the gloom for United who will enter the international break languishing in 12th place -- 15 points behind leaders Liverpool.

Solskjaer's side had plenty of possession on Tyneside on Sunday, they were toothless with England striker Marcus Rashford barely having a sight of goal all afternoon.

A United line-up missing the likes of Anthony Martial, Paul Pogba and Jesse Lingard looked powder-puff against a defence that leaked five goals last week against Leicester City.

While Solskjaer rightly pointed to the absentees, he said there was no quick fix for United's current malaise which stretches back to the latter stages of last season.

"It will take as long as it will take," he said when asked for a realistic time frame for the club's fortunes to revive.

"I can't give you a time but we will get there. We have given ourselves a big, big uphill task to get in the top four, never mind the top six."

"We need to get a run together and get the confidence back. If you only walk on sunny days you will never get to your destination."

"It's disappointing, but we know where we want to get to."

Solskjaer said he would try and "evaluate" the opening eight Premier League games, from which United have only nine points in their worst start to a league campaign since 1989-90, during the international break.

"We are disappointed, of course," the Norwegian said. "The boys worked their socks off. But we don't create enough chances to win a game of football."

Goalkeeper David de Gea said it was the worst moment for the club since he joined in 2011.

Asked what was missing, the Spaniard said: "Everything. There is lots to improve. We just try to keep trying and fighting, improving every day. It's a hard moment for us."

Former United defender Gary Neville, analysing the game for Sky Sports, said this could be a season of pain for the club. **REUTERS**

Man City shocked by Wolves, Man Utd beaten again at Newcastle

LONDON

MANCHESTER City's Premier League title defence suffered another huge blow in a shock 2-0 defeat to Wolves, while Manchester United endured another miserable day in a 1-0 loss at Newcastle on Sunday.

City now trail runaway leaders Liverpool by eight points after just eight games as Adama Traore punished a sloppy performance by the champions with two goals in the final 10 minutes at the Etihad.

"Today we were not at our level," admitted City boss Pep Guardiola. "We had problems to make our game. We have faced many teams defending deep and found a solution, but not this time."

City badly missed the presence of injured duo Aymeric Laporte and Kevin de Bruyne as Wolves soaked up plenty of possession from the hosts, but always looked the more dangerous side on the counter-attack.

Raul Jimenez failed to make the most of three breakaway chances before the interval, but the Mexican made amends with a great run past the hapless Nicolas Otamendi to set up Traore's opener.

The same two players then combined in stoppage time as Traore raced through to seal a famous win for Wolves.

"The first thing you have to do is stop them and we did that because the players were running like crazy," said a proud Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo.

City have now dropped more



Manchester City's players were found wanting against victorious Wolves - AFP

points at home this season than the entirety of the previous Premier League campaign, but Guardiola is not yet giving up the title fight.

"The distance to Liverpool is big, but we must not think about the eight-point gap. We are still in October and there are lots of games and lots of competitions to play."

Toothless Man Utd beaten again While City's off day came as surprise, United's defeats are becoming ever more routine as they dropped to 12th after failing to win on the road for an 11th straight game.

The Red Devils' lack of a killer instinct in front of goal was again in evidence as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men lacked imagination to open up a defensive-minded Magpies.

But Newcastle hit back with devas-

tating effect on the counter-attack 18 minutes from time when 19-year-old Matthew Longstaff sealed a dream Premier League debut by drilling the ball past David de Gea from outside the box.

"We've given ourselves a big, big uphill challenge to get among the top four but it's tight and we need to get a run together," said Solskjaer with United just two points off the relegation zone and five outside the top four.

However, De Gea was more scathing in his assessment. "We didn't create any proper chances," said the Spaniard.

"We have some big injuries but that's no excuse. We are Manchester United, we need to keep training hard, fighting and winning games."

AFP

Are Manchester United facing a relegation battle?

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

IT is a thought most Manchester United fans would never imagine, especially during the trophy-laden glory years of Sir Alex Ferguson, but after losing 1-0 to Matthew Longstaff's goal at Newcastle United on Sunday, the nightmare scenario of a relegation battle cannot be ruled out.

While Liverpool have surged eight points clear of champions Manchester City at the top of the Premier League table with eight wins from eight games, United are languishing in 12th position, just two points above the bottom three after their third league defeat. They have won only twice and scored just nine times; four of those goals came in one game on the opening weekend against Chelsea.

If this was any other club, alarm bells would be ringing ahead of a long struggle for survival. And with barely a quarter of the campaign gone, it would be foolish to suggest that United will find themselves locked in a battle against the drop between now and next May.

When you consider both the short- and long-term form slide suffered by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team, though, there are few positives. Since a remarkable 3-1 Champions League victory against Paris Saint Germain in March, United have not won a single away game in any competition.

And since that famous victory at Parc des Princes, United have the third-worst record among teams that played in the Premier League this season and last. They have taken just 17 points from 17 games since, and now, in the first week of October, succumbed to a Newcastle team that began the game in 19th, with just five points and who were beaten 5-0 at Leicester last Sunday.

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Manchester United are struggling. Can Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, right, turn their fortunes around? (Agencies)

just 17 points from 17 games since, and now, in the first week of October, succumbed to a Newcastle team that began the game in 19th, with just five points and who were beaten 5-0 at Leicester last Sunday.

To place Solskjaer's woeful run into context, his predecessor Jose Mourinho was sacked last December after collecting 26 points from 17 games.

The word from within Old Trafford is that the Glazer family are determined to stand by their manager as he attempts to rebuild the club's squad. United's owners, who bore the brunt of hostile chants from supporters at St James' Park, persisted with David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Mourinho long after it became clear those managers had lost the plot, so Solskjaer may be safe for a while yet.

But one point per game from the equivalent of half a season is relegation form, plain and simple. Clearly, United are one of the richest clubs in the world and so possess the financial muscle to make changes in January when the transfer window

reopens. Where will this team be by that stage? Liverpool visit Old Trafford next, with a difficult trip to Norwich immediately afterward for Solskjaer and Co. If United lose at Carrow Road, it will be impossible to find reason to argue against a battle for survival.

It could be argued that one big reason for the current woes is Solskjaer's failure to sign a replacement for Romelu Lukaku or Alexis Sanchez, both of whom were shipped off to Inter during the summer transfer window. Moreover, at Newcastle, the starting XI was shorn of first-team regulars such as Victor Lindelof, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Luke Shaw, Jesse Lingard, Anthony Martial and Paul Pogba due to injury.

When those players are fit and available, United will be much stronger. But if their squad is so shallow that it cannot cope with the loss of five players -- none of whom could be classed as a world-class game-changer -- then it does not bode well for a long season that also involves the distraction of Thursday football

Arsenal up to third Arsenal were also far from convincing but did enough to edge out Bournemouth 1-0 thanks to David Luiz's first goal for the club to move into third.

The Gunners were lucky to escape as Bournemouth enjoyed by far the better chances after the break with England striker Callum Wilson somehow failing to find the net after rounding Bernd Leno.

"We are very happy with that result. I'm very proud with our work in the first-half, but we are very critical with ourselves to improve things," said Arsenal boss Unai Emery.

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard was much happier after his side rounded off an excellent week with a 4-1 win at Southampton to remain just one point behind Arsenal in fifth.

Tammy Abraham and Mason Mount put the Blues in command early on at St. Mary's before Danny Ings pulled a goal back for Saints.

However, N'Golo Kante quickly restored Chelsea's two-goal lead and Michy Batshuayi came off the bench to round off the scoring and the Londoners' third win in eight days a minute from time.

Abraham now has eight goals in eight Premier League appearances this season and nine in all competitions.

"I trusted him at the start of the season," said Lampard. "He also has (Olivier) Giroud and Batshuayi there, and he has made the place his own at the moment. I will keep on him because I want more."

AFP

in the Europa League.

Of those who have been available, Marcus Rashford has become a non-scoring striker, Juan Mata is no longer capable of making an impact at this level and Brazil international Fred is repeatedly anonymous in midfield.

As manager, Solskjaer must find a way to make his squad perform better and come up with a tactical plan that creates and converts chances in front of goal. If he survives in the job, he also needs to inject some fight into a team that is too timid and lacking the ability to respond to setbacks.

Despite this latest setback, Solskjaer insisted that his players possess the right spirit.

"We have started a rebuild, so this is not a similar situation to Everton (last season, lost 4-0), where I felt some had given up," he said. "These boys haven't given up. They have given everything for the shirt."

"But it's where we are at the moment. We don't create enough chances to deserve to win a game of football. I couldn't see that (performance) coming before the game. Ball seemed like a hot potato; it was bouncing off our feet."

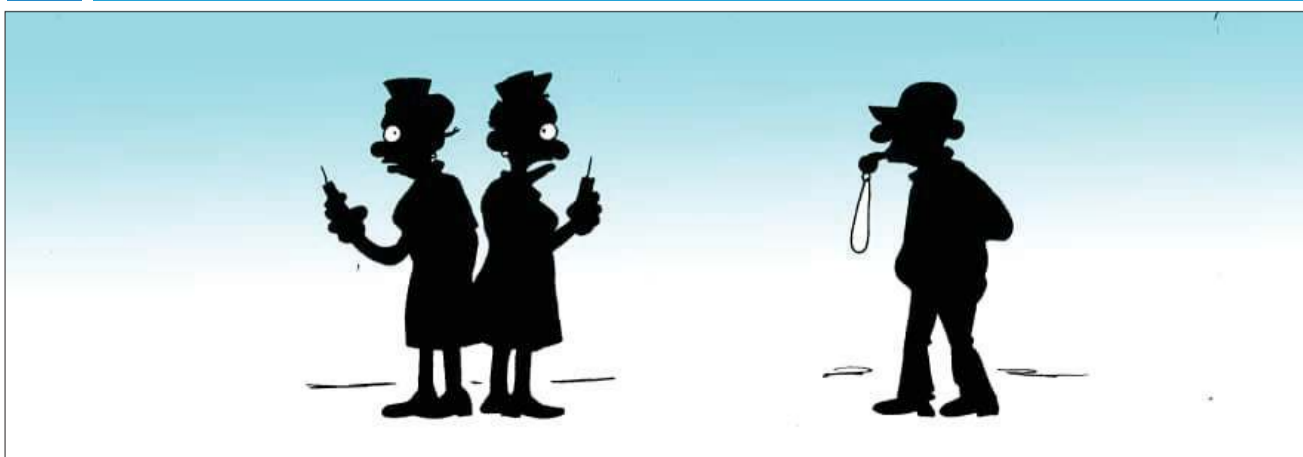
With two whole weeks until his side's next game, United's manager pledged to examine what has gone wrong, before Liverpool come to town.

"Luckily for us it's now the international break," Solskjaer said. "We get time to evaluate what's gone on over these eight games. But it's my responsibility. I need to sort their heads out. Young boys lacking confidence; they need some help from experienced players and staff."

Solskjaer also looks like he needs help, but will he get it and will it come in time? The reality of Manchester United is that there are more questions than answers.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City shocked by Wolves, Man Utd beaten again at Newcastle

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

TONIGHT @21:00

EATV

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZI (HWE)
12:30 Kori ZC Wanda
14:00 ZWIKWIZO (Kw) Mwanangoni
15:00 FUNKUKA
16:30 #SHITAD
17:00 SBEKET
17:30 KUBO
18:00 #NEWS
18:30 #MUSIC
19:00 EATV 3.A.1
19:30 #JAZZOLA
21:00 #SIVANA
21:30 WAKASHA
22:00 GRACE HO ARI Rangwe
22:30 Bongo Hits

eastafrica
RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipengo Xtra
13:00 Pioneer Bongo
15:00 EA Drive
22:00 Kipengo
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Mchenga seek title retention in Sprite Bball Kings tourney



Tamaduni basketball team's players (in green jerseys) and their Mchenga Bball Stars' counterparts in action during the second game of this year's finals of a competition, known as 'Sprite Bball Kings', at the National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE second match of the finals off this year's basketball tournament, dubbed 'Sprite Bball Kings', was played at the National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The competition's defending champions, Mchenga Bball Stars, registered victory over

Tamaduni in the duel to record a second consecutive win over the latter in the five-match finals.

Mchenga Bball Stars notched a resounding 104-89 over Tamaduni and the former need victory in the third match, scheduled for today, to successfully defend the trophy.

The first game of the finals which took place at Don Bosco courts, saw Mchenga Bball Stars grind out a 122-121 victory over Tamaduni.

Should Mchenga Bball Stars

win today's clash, the squad will lift the competition's trophy for the third year in a row.

Goza Chuma, the tournament's information officer, noted the third clash of the finals will be played at Don Bosco courts.

Tamaduni have an opportunity to win the duel and put Mchenga Bball Stars' title celebrations on hold.

"Should Tamaduni win the clash, the two teams will have to play the fourth match, given a team need to win three duels to win the trophy," he noted.

"Should Mchenga maintain their winning ways today, they will lift the trophy."

Chuma disclosed East Africa Television and East Africa Radio are the competition's hosts.

Coca Cola Company sponsors the competition through Sprite brand.

The tournament tipped off in August this year and brought together 42 sides, which locked horns in matches that were played in knockout format.

The 42 sides were trimmed to 16 which made it to the second round of the competition.

The tournament later on moved to the quarterfinals, semi-finals and final which pits Tamaduni against Mchenga Bball Stars.

Mimi Mars salutes MIS talents at International Music Day

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

POPULAR Bongo Flava musician, Marianne Mdee, nicknamed Mimi Mars, has hailed music talents which were in view at an event known as International Music Day, organized by Morogoro International School (MIS) last weekend.

The event, which took place at MIS premises, brought together the region's community, the school's pupils, students, and parents.

Mimi Mars was invited as a guest judge to identify outstanding talents in various competitions, singing, dancing, karaoke and lip-syncing.

The performances were varied and had a good turnout of competitors of different age categories. Mimi Mars did the honour of awarding the winners after the show.

She declared Lucy Kiluma, a former student at the school, and Neema Kanju as karaoke champions.

The duo's victory was assessed on the basis of multiple musical aspects that formed their on-stage performance.

"Neema is a gifted singer, songwriter and an avid piano player and Lucy excels at rapping, she writes and performs her own lyrics," Mimi Mars noted.

"Lucy is an amazing musician in the making who knows how to master the stage, she has good punch in her voice, articulates the words eloquently and has done an amazing performance with her partner.

Sarita Maeda received recognition for her karaoke act that showed her love of music through her confident performance on stage whilst thoroughly enjoying her performance.

Mimi Mars selected Ipfasha Richard as the winner of the lip-sync category due to the all-round performance the pupil showcased.

Richard, according to the judge, also danced well to the beat and had good use of the stage.

She also applauded Richard's fashion choice and heartfelt singing.

Alarice Sika and Angel Daudi Makuri finished second and third respectively in the lip-sync category.

"They were amazing to watch, they showcased great enthusiasm and had good rhythm...these are the stars of tomorrow," Mimi Mars added.

In dance category, which turned out to be a thrilling event, Stacey Maria, Lugano Chile and Kengel Wizza emerged as champions for showing great passion, creativity and uniformity in their dance routines.

Ashley Hassan Mkwizo, Zainab Karimjee and Avneet Jabal, who are classmates at the school, finished as runners-up in the category.

The trio had been practicing for the day since August.

The category's third position went to Seif Hamis from local community and Saleh Balhaboo, a young artiste who mimicked Michael Jackson.

Saleh showed off his moonwalking skills just like the late King of Pop.

Mimi Mars handed over T-shirts bearing MIS International Music Day logo to the event's winners.



Bongo Flava musician, Marianne Mdee, popularly known as Mimi Mars (standing C), pictured with Morogoro International School (MIS) pupils after the completion of International Music Day, organized by the school in the region last weekend. The KCB Bank, Nashera Hotels and others sponsored the event. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Everyone who participated in the event showed great determination in showcasing their talents on stage.

Mimi Mars thanked the school for organizing such a great event, which is a celebration of music and the power of music to inspire and bring people together.

She also urged other schools in Tanzania to take up the initiative. She also expressed appreciation to the pupils, students, teachers and the community which was

present at the event. "Playing music changes the way your brain works, when you play it, the music gives balance to the two sides of the brain," she disclosed to the students.

"Music, as well, rejuvenates your mind so you can study with focus and you might find that you can achieve good grades... music is part of body fitness."

The Bongo Flava artiste performed three of her favourite songs alongside enthusiastic students.

She, as a result, forged a great relationship and

bond with the school. She promised to always come back whenever the school needs her for the event.

Richard, a 10-year old pupil at the school, congratulated his school for having the best teachers who are committed to nurturing kids' talents through tireless training in sports, music and dance.

The International Music Day, which takes place every year, celebrates the power of music to change people's lives.

It is a brilliant initiative that brings people together in a big celebration of

music, be it local dance group, a school choir, the staff and student band or one of Tanzania's prominent musicians.

The event gears towards nurturing music talents and encouraging the region's youngsters to seek excellence in the profession.

The MIS hosted the fourth edition of the International Music Day, which was backed by KCB Bank, Nashera Hotels, Pepsi, Dragonnaires, Babu Garage, Piras Supermarket, Mr. Price and Foxes Safari camps.

South Africa name final squad for COSAFA U-17 Championship

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa's U-17 soccer team's head coach Vela Khumalo has named his final 20-man squad that will compete in the 2019 COSAFA men's Under-17 Championship, which will take place in Blantyre, Malawi from October 11-20.

Khumalo noted it was not an easy process to whittle down his squad, given the fact that he had a very talented group of 30 players to select from.

He pointed out he is, however, pleased with the personnel that will represent South Africa in Malawi.

"I must admit that we had a very difficult time coming up with the final team, and that is mainly because the boys we had called up in our provisional squad were just too good in their respective positions," Khumalo disclosed.

"After a thorough assessment we had to go with the 20 players as per the regulations of the tournament, but I know that even the ones being left behind are very talented unfortunately we can't take them with."

"I am also confident that they will represent the country well in the COSAFA Cup. I am very positive they will fight to reach the final."

Khumalo added that he has gone for much younger players to compete in the tournament, because the focus is on the future, not the immediate.

"We could have brought in much older players as compared to the Under-14s and Under-15s we had selected to compete in this year's COSAFA edition. However, that approach was going to hurt our plans in the long run as we are preparing for next year's COSAFA tournament, which will also double up as the 2021 Under-17 Africa Cup of Nations which we want to qualify for," he disclosed.

"Getting a spot there will give us an advantage as our ultimate goal is to qualify for the 2021 FIFA Under-17 Men's World Cup - and we can only achieve that by giving these young players the needed experience to grow from this year's tournament, so that they can get used to this level of competition come next year's U-17 AFCON qualifiers."

In the 2019 edition of the COSAFA Cup, Amajimbo are pitted in Group A alongside hosts Malawi, Zambia and Eswatini.

The top two nations will proceed to the semi-finals of the competition.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?



YES, BUT HE IS NOT FROM THIS NATION...

... HE IS FROM MY IMAGE-NATION!