



## REGULATOR



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## DRC army quells artisan miners resisting eviction

KINSHASA

SECURITY forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday fired at miners who were protesting against being evicted from a copper and cobalt mine run by the British-Swiss multinational Glencore, activists said.

The shots were reportedly fired at the miners after they marched to the governor's office and pillaged shops in the southern town of Kolwezi.

It was not immediately clear whether live rounds or rubber bullets were used.

The move by the police and army came one week after a landslide at the Kamoto Copper Company (KCC) concession, majority-owned by a Glencore subsidiary, killed 43 people, prompting a government pledge to remove the miners.

Glencore said in a statement that DRC's army had been deployed to an area around KCC. It said the company had insisted that the soldiers exercise restraint and respect human rights.

Earlier this week, the miners defied a



**It was not immediately clear whether live rounds or rubber bullets were used**

deadline from the army to leave the mine. Activists said they feared the standoff would lead to violent clashes and human rights abuses.

Rights activists have criticized the planned expulsion, saying it would do nothing to address underlying factors such as poverty and unemployment which push people to brave dangerous conditions in mines.

Glencore estimates that about 2,000 illegal miners enter KCC every day.

Last week, the army evicted thousands of miners from China Molybdenum's nearby Tenke Fungurume mine.

The artisanal miners were forcibly evicted from the Glencore mine after they ignored a deadline set by the government for them to leave.

The decision to evict the miners came after more than 40 of them were killed in a landslide last month.

Glencore expressed the hope that security forces would "exercise restraint and operate in accordance with... international human rights standards".

The DRC produces more than half the world's cobalt, a key component in batteries for mobile phones and other devices.

# CSOs urge health, education funding for industrialisation



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges greetings with Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali yesterday. Premier Majaliwa represented President John Magufuli at the 25th anniversary of the country's liberation from genocidal forces, mid-1994. Left is Sierra Leonean President Mada Bio. Photo: PMO

Presenting his speech on the state of the economy in the National Assembly, a sort of Budget preview, the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango said private sector growth increased from 0.8 per cent during the year ending April 2018 to 10.6 per cent during the year ending April 2019, projecting a brighter future for the country's economic outlook, attributing the change to government initiatives

By Henry Mwangonde

FOR Tanzania to realize its industrialization drive and attain the envisioned middle income status by 2015, allocation of funds for sectors that directly affect people's lives such as health and education must be increased, fully disbursed and utilized, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have recommended in their 2019/20 budget analysis.

Through their umbrella body, the Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS), leaders of the civic organizations said despite infrastructure developments that Tanzania has been focusing on for the past three years, there is need for this effort to go together with the development of human capital by investing more in human capital development, especially education and health.

Speaking yesterday at the FCS 2019/20 budget analysis meeting in Dar es Salaam, Prof Honest Ngowi of Mzumbe University who was led the discussion said though this year's budget is based on encouraging businesses to grow, CSOs wants local companies to participate fully in implementation of the various projects being undertaken.



**In March 2017, the BoT cut the minimum reserve ratio required of commercial lenders to eight percent from 10 per cent in a move to reduce costs of borrowing and stimulate economic growth, he said in illustration**

"There are low lying economic fruits during the implementation of such projects, therefore when local companies participate the private sector grows at the same time contributing enough to the economy because in the process they employ Tanzanians," he said.

Prof Ngowi said the country needs a strong private sector which can help in nurturing the economy by investing in human capital development. Much has not been done on a people-centered economic development, he said, noting that research is also lacking in that direction.

FCS capacity development manager Edna Chilimo said the aim of the meeting was to identify areas that FCS should focus for advocacy pushing.

She said the role of the CSOs is to see to it that the budget is fully implemented for the betterment of the people, underlining that in the past advocacy by civic organizations has initiated policy change.

CSOs Forum director Israel Ilunde said CSOs have a role to play in ensuring that the budget was well implemented to serve the people.

Presenting his speech on the state of the

## Prisons starts processing palm oil at Kimbiji plant

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE Prisons Department has started processing palm oil at its recently-completed plant in Bagamoyo, Coast region, in a bid to help the country cut dependency on imported edible oil which stands at 60 per cent.

Tanzania Prisons Marketing Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons Yunge Saganda said yesterday at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair that the plant has a capacity to produce 2000 litres of palm oil and 1000 litres of palm nut oil per day.

"To start with, we have already begun to produce 300 litres of palm oil per day for the domestic market, mainly for use by Prisons



**So far around 200 acres of land has been allocated at Kimbiji for palm tree farming so that the plant obtains raw materials for palm oil and palm nut oil production**

officers and inmates as well as soap-making in small and medium industries," she said.

The plant, located at Kimbiji, whose construction was completed last December, is operated by Prisons officials working with inmates through rehabilitation programmes the department operates, ASP Saganda said.

So far around 200 acres of land has been allocated at Kimbiji for palm tree farming so that the plant obtains raw materials for palm oil and palm nut oil production.

"We decided to build this plant after discovering that the demand of palm oil and palm nuts oil is huge in the market," she said.

"Apart from that, we are right now waiting for

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## 'Population growth, encroachment on national parks threaten wildlife'

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla yesterday expressed concern over the survival of the country's protected areas like national parks and game reserves, amid increasing population and consequent encroachment of conservancies.



Dr Kigwangalla (pictured) made the remarks here when opening an annual meeting with senior journalists and editors organized by Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa).

The minister said that the future of wildlife conservation is uncertain due to myriad

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Industries and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (R) listens to Kilimanjaro Machine Tools Ltd general manager Andriano Nyaluke, on the measures taken to revive the factory during his visit yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Prisons starts processing palm oil at Kimbiji plant

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other production machines for palm oil nuts so that we can supply the product to entrepreneurs and industries for soap making while others use it domestically," the officer noted.

In a bid to increase production, the

department plans to build another plant at Kwitanga in Kigoma region whose feasibility study is underway, she stated.

A wide ranging shortage of edible oil was felt last year after six local refineries suspended production of the commodity for lack of unrefined

oil.

Since then, the government has been seeking investments in edible oil processing to help bridge a supply gap of 320,000 tonnes.

Tanzania's annual demand for edible oil stands at 500,000 tonnes, whereas the country can supply

around 180,000 tonnes and is thus compelled to import 320,000 tonnes annually.

With demand forecast to rise from 500,000 at present to 700,000 tonnes by 2030, "there is a growing market for investors the product for the foreseeable future," she added.

## 25 years after liberation, Kagame addresses nation on leadership, foreign aid and African states unity

Johannesburg

On July 2, this year Rwanda celebrates the 57th golden jubilee of independence and the 25th anniversary of liberation. Held under the theme "Together We Prosper," this year's celebration is an opportunity to recommit to Rwanda's vision for a peaceful, united, prosperous and self-reliant nation.

A group of local and international journalists have embarked on a #Kwibohora25 media tour taking them through a number of historical sites that led to the liberation of Rwanda 25 years ago. The first leg of the sites tour is Gabiro Combat Training Center. The second stop of the media tour was Musanze District, formerly Ruhengeri where the Rwandan Patriotic Front abandoned conventional war tactics and returned to guerrilla warfare. The third stop of the tour continued at National Liberation Museum Park, that tells the story of the Rwandan Liberation struggle that brought an end to the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.

A series of activities leading up to #Kwibohora25 celebrations have been taking place across the country, including a number of socio-economic development projects led by the Rwanda Defence Force in partnership with local government institutions.

President Paul Kagame (pictured) then joined media and government officials for a Conversation on Liberation on the rooftop of the Parliament building.

Here are some key points he made during the session:

- There was the war which started in 1990 originating from injustices where hundreds of Rwandans were being denied their rights, those living outside and those inside living under harsh

conditions.

- After the war we started rebuilding. We had to call upon everybody's contribution. Rwandans from outside and those inside were able to move together and get us where we are now...

- In Rwanda we never saw ourselves as an island. We are part of a much bigger family, the African continent. We are part of the EAC and a much wider continent as it is

- The best way to reconnect and tap into this relevancy of coming together is through social, political and economic integration. Working together. Thus problems that affect all of us will be dealt with more easily. Making this continent what it should be...

- The rest of the world approaches Africa as Africa, but then divide it for ease of "management". That's why you find the narrative is one...

- You can imagine, you divide Africa and then later on, you divide Rwanda. Rwanda suffered this division among ourselves. They divided us and we accepted it, we reaped the consequences. We don't take the problem somewhere else...

- On Unity and reconciliation: When bad things happen to you, you either give up and lose hope, or you are hardened by it and find some sense of hope that helps you improve...

- Leadership matters because it addressed the problem at hand. The other part which relates to leadership is how do you introduce a new mindset that helps address the problem?

Asked about foreign aid, Kagame said: " Sometimes I ask leaders, "Do you imagine that this money is coming from other citizens? Do you want to keep happening forever? Is it something that connects with your dignity? We can't keep living on mercies of others."



Chibumagwa villagers at Sasajila ward in Manyoni district, Singida region working hard and being self-reliant to collect bricks for their surrounding infrastructures yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## CSOs urge health, education funding for industrialisation

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economy in the National Assembly, a sort of Budget preview, the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango said private sector growth increased from 0.8 per cent during the year ending April 2018 to 10.6 per

cent during the year ending April 2019, projecting a brighter future for the country's economic outlook, attributing the change to government initiatives.

Dr Mpango said economy's future remains bright after an increase in commercial bank credit to the

## 'Population growth, encroachment on national parks threaten wildlife'

FROM PAGE 1

challenges, including population pressure, suggesting comprehensive approaches to address the situation.

Experts put Tanzania's population is estimated at anywhere from 50 and 55 million and the country still has one of the fastest rates of population growth in the world.

"That's why it is important for us to come up with comprehensive approaches to scale up conservation against encroachments," the minister said.

As Tanzania's population rises, the situation that will increase pressure on the country's protected areas, he said, noting that this is a challenge as the size of the land remains the same while the population continues to increase.

"It is important that we protect our national parks and game reserves so that they continue to contribute to the country's economy by bringing in foreign exchange (forex). These protected areas are also an important source of clean air, water and energy," he pointed out.

"We need to put the national interest first when it comes to national parks conservation for the current and future generations," he emphasized.

Dr Kigwangalla said that the tourism sector at present contributes 17.6 percent to the country's GDP and accounts for 25 percent of foreign exchange earnings, and it employs more than 600,000 people directly and more than two million people indirectly.

He commended Tanapa for its community projects in areas close to natural resources as part of reducing pressures on exploitation of natural resources.

The Commissioner Conservator for Tanzania National Parks, Dr Allan Kijazi

described the meeting as key in scaling up dissemination of information on the tourism sector.

Dr Kijazi described the annual meeting with senior journalists and editors, the sixth consecutive annual gathering, as an important platform for Tanapa to get feedback from key tourism players.

He said the ministry was determined to improve the southern and western tourism corridors-by improving conservation efforts in these new areas of tourism.

"We're planning to invest heavily in scaling up promotion on potential tourist destinations in these areas," he said, noting that more people need to become aware of key tourist destinations in these areas as well.

He said that the media and tourism watchdogs go together to meet the government's target of making Tanzania an industrial and middle income economy by 2025.

For his part, Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella commended Tanapa for organizing this important event to improve the tourism sector.

"The media is a key player in promoting this important area," he said, underlining

the need for regions to take part in conservation efforts.



**We need to put the national interest first when it comes to national parks conservation for the current and future generations**







Sustainability manager of Tanzania Breweries Limited Irene Mutiganzi, speaks during the three-day training to nurses from Dar es Salaam hospitals on health education about nutrition for pregnant mothers and sickle cell disease conducted by Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in partnership with Tanzania Breweries Limited. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# GBV on rise in Dodoma with Mpwapwa now taking the lead

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

GENDER Based violence is on the rise in Dodoma region with police authority reporting 519 cases between January and June, 2019, being an increase of 343 cases up from the 174 reported in 2018.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, Regional Police Commander (RPC), Gilles Muroto said Mpwapwa district leads others with 220 reported cases, an increase of 220 from the ten cases reported in June 2018.

He said Dodoma district came second with 130 cases, an increase of 92 up from 108 recorded last year. Kondoa has 73 cases this year against the 24 recorded in the same period last year while Chamwino recorded 63 cases, an increase of 61 from eight cases recorded last year.

It is only Chemba district that recorded a slight decrease in gender-based violence recording eight cases this year against the nine cases last year while Bahi recorded an increase of three cases from seven recorded last year. Kongwa also recorded three more cases from seven in 2018.

"Incidences of gender-based violence are on the increase in the region despite having gender and children desks at the police stations" he said, calling on the public to refrain from such behaviours.

He outlined recent cases where on 28th June, 2019 at around 20:00 hours, Makame Wambura (28) a resident of Mlazo village in Chamwino district and her three months old son Fiderika

Warioba were injured after husband, Elias Warioba (30) poured petrol on the two, who later caught fire, causing injuries to them.

The RPC noted that the injured were admitted at the Dodoma regional hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

In another incident, he said the police have arrested one, Mazengo Chilatu (28), resident of Manchali village in Chamwino district for allegedly raping his mother.

The RPC added that at Nzuguni village within Dodoma a 95 years old woman who he declined to name was allegedly raped by one, Donald Justine (25), a resident of Nane Nane in the city.

Muloto also noted that one person whose age is estimated to be between 25 and 30 name not identified allegedly raped three people at different times in Maili Mbili village in the city.

He said after the reported cases, the public violently attacked him before the police came in rescue and was later pronounced dead at the regional hospital.

The deceased allegedly did the first raping incident on 23rd June, 2019 at around 07:00 hrs at Maili Mbili on a 80 years old woman who she attacked while she was in the toilet.

On the second incident, he reportedly molested a four years old child on 3rd July, 2019 at Maili Mbili area at 08:00 hrs while on the third case, also on 3rd July, 2019, at 10:00hrs, he molested another child, eight years old of standard two.

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

## Church train farmers on post-harvest management

FARMERS in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions have benefited with the capacity building training that aimed to reduce post-harvest losses.

They were also equipped with skills on processing of cereal crops, fruits and vegetables.

The training was conducted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) northern diocese in collaboration with the Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania (NCA).

Speaking with this paper in-line of the training, Coordinator of the ELCT and NCA projects, Rev Andrew Munisi

explained that, apart from providing agribusiness skills to the farmers, the two religious organisations also sponsors other crucial projects including micro financing to eradicate poverty.

Rev Munisi said they have also been conducting interfaith meetings that aim at maintaining peace and unity among the community.

He said the meetings christened "Different Religious-Peace and Love" have been successful in promoting peace which is crucial for socio-economic development.

"The interfaith meetings are crucial since they bring people together for sustainable peace regardless of our differences in religious beliefs," Rev Munisi explained.

An official from Veggie Biz project implemented by ELCT in the northern diocese in collaboration with NCA-Tanzania, Yusuph Hussein explained that apart from providing modern farming skills they also trained them with special skills on drip irrigation.

"To date, we have reached more than 800 small scale famers in Moshi, Hai, Karatu, Vunjo, Babati and Siha districts,

we expect to reach more than 1200 farmers with the new drip irrigation technologies by the end of this year," he explained.

Simon Gunda, Hai district agriculture officer, insisted on farmers to adhere to professional agricultural practices to ensure good harvests

He urged Tanzanian farmers to conduct soil tests to establish which kind of fertilizers are suitable for their land and crops before planting season. He said that soil testing and the use of right fertilizers would boost their yields.

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

## Saadani tourists increasing - warden

THE number of tourists visiting the Saadani National Park has increased by more than ten folds after receiving 22,942 tourists in the 2017/18 year compared to 3,758 tourists who visited the park in 2005.

Saadani National Park Chief Warden, Grace Lobora made the revelation when speaking here during a meeting to discuss strategies of enhancing security in the national park.

She noted that the park has been receiving a good number of tourists in recent years, most of them being local visitors.

Lobira was optimistic that Saadani National Park will continue to grow as well as attract more visitors from within and outside Tanzania. She said one the factors that contributed to the big number of tourists is its location.

"The park is located in the middle of a

triangle of big urban areas, Tanga, Zanzibar and Bagamoyo which are frequented by the tourists. We have to use every means to draw them to Saadani", she said. She also said that there has been an increase in the number of animals since Saadani was upgraded and a decrease in poaching and invasion of livestock in the park.

Lobora also spoke of good neighborliness with villages located around the park and so far a total of 1bn/- has been spent on community projects in 18 villages located in 14 wards since 2005.

She mentioned major challenges facing the park as persistence of poaching using locally made guns popularly known here as Magobore and boundary conflicts with some villages located around the park.

Chief of Security in the Park, Gabriel Genda, said the park also faces a problem of poaching using wire traps insisting they have managed to control poaching by 75 percent.

Genda said that grazing of livestock in the park has been reduced by almost 99 percent. Clarifying on poaching using locally made guns, he said the park management conducted an operation in April which netted 60 locally made guns and stopped operations of four factories that were making the local guns.

Earlier, Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela tasked the park authority to strictly control movement of small airplanes in park airstrips to control smuggling of national treasures.

"We must satisfy ourselves on where those

airplanes go or what they bring or take from our country", Shigela said.

He further emphasized that protection national conservation areas should not be left to the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) instead concerted efforts are required by stakeholders, community and government agencies.

Tanapa Commissioner for Eastern Zone, Steria Ndaga stressed the need for intensive education among communities to make them understand the importance of conserving and protecting the park. "Some community members still do not understand why they continue to be barred from getting forest products as poles and firewood and animals for consumption" she said.

Commissioner Ndaga said that Tanapa cannot protect Saadani alone without full cooperation of government security agencies and communities.

## Tanzania attains the EACO chairmanship

By Special Correspondent

TANZANIA has officially attained Chairmanship of the East African Communications Organisation (EACO) member states from Kenya.

Receiving the Chairmanship during EACO Assemblies in Mwanza on Wednesday, Tanzania appealed for efficiency in the regulatory role among EACO member states for improved living standards of the people in all EACO member countries.

"Regulations is not only policing but also ensures consumer protection and ensuring consumers fulfill their obligations as well as ensuring growth of the efficient operator. Regulator work is not just to punish but also to deliver correctional measures wherever necessary", said the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA's) Director of Licensing and Enforcement John Walles Daffa who received the chairmanship from a representative of EACO Chairman Matano Ndaro on behalf of the TCRA Director General Eng. James Kilaba.

Addressing the EACO Assemblies on behalf of the designate Chairman of EACO Eng. James Kilaba, Daffa said that operators have to play a leading role in ensuring that there is a level playing field among all service providers and promote innovations and creativity in the communication sector.

"Regulators have to play a central hub role in pioneering development and growth of the communication sector for the improved delivery of communication services that will directly benefit all the people in the EACO members states," said the TCRA DG representative.

Daffa pointed out that the Regulator has three main clients to serve. These are

being a technical advisor to the governments on policy, regulations and implementation of communications guidelines of member states.

He said the regulator is responsible to protect rights and promote consumer obligations, while enhancing the effective competition in the market by ensuring level playing field of all players.

Speaking shortly before handing over the EACO Chairmanship to Tanzania, a representative of EACO Chairman Matano Ndaro expressed deep appreciations to the people and the government of Tanzania, through TCRA for hosting the 26th edition of EACO meeting and Assemblies and the 23rd EACO Congress.

He also thanked Tanzania, the host government for its commitment and support to EACO's programmes. Matano commended EACO's task force groups and working groups and committees for what he termed as excellence in performance.

The working groups include ICTs policy & regulatory frameworks harmonization, ICT infrastructure development, connectivity, sharing and digital inclusion.

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# Tanzania to train fisheries experts from Somalia with assistance from JICA

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has selected Tanzania's Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) to train Somali experts on fish handling, processing and preservation.

The trained Somali experts will transfer knowledge to their counterparts back in Somalia so as to improve the fishing sector.

Head of Aquaculture Department at Fisheries Education and Training Agency in Bagamoyo, Emmanuel Nkukura said yesterday when speaking at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

The training will include marketing techniques of fish and fish products, management of fisheries organizations, capacity building on extension and training services in fisheries sector.

"We have so far trained a total of 78 youths from Somalia, we have received another batch of 20 youth who are currently undergoing the intensive training on the sector", said Nkukura adding the experts are expected to improve Somalia's fisheries sector.

He said the intensive training is conducted for five weeks from June 24th 2019.

Kurura noted that JICA has selected FETA to provide training for Somali youth after it was impressed with

fisheries education and training that FETA offer.

"FETA has been selected as best institution in sub-Saharan Africa that offers the best trainings in fisheries education", he noted.

He said FETA is a public institution under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development and it is a pioneer institution delivering various courses in different carries with a objective to provide competent range in delivering outputs in the fields of Marine engineering, fish processing, Aquaculture, Nautical science and boat building.

"Since inception, we have been achieving continuous and substantial growth, our resources both human and financial in technical knowhow have grown in parallel with what is needed in the real world market," he noted.

He said the agency has been attracting an increasing number of students from within and outside the country.

"We have decided to participate in this fair so that we can show Tanzanians and other foreign exhibitors on what we offer in fisheries education and aquaculture training", he noted

According to him, information on the courses offered each year is advertised in newspapers, agency website including televisions and radios in March and April.



Senior journalist and media consultant Kenneth Simbaya facilitates during the training on effective coverage of issues affecting health sector held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

JOURNALISTS from across the country are undergoing training in Dar es Salaam on how to identify and highlight key issues affecting service delivery in health sector.

Co-organised by Sikika, the Tanzania Communication and Development Centre (TCDC) and Advanced Family Planning (AFP), the two-day workshop which kicked off yesterday brought together 20 participants with interest in health reporting and seeks to enable them master solution-based reporting around areas of human resource and family planning.

Some of the challenges in public health provision highlighted yesterday include shortage of workforce, retention of those already employed, uneven distribution with most workers based in urban areas and budget allocation verses disbursement and utilisation.

Others issues discussed include infrastructure verses equipment and

## Scribes drilled on reporting key issues affecting health sector

skills, ethical issues especially how staff treat patients, working conditions for health workers as a factor for uneven distribution and flight as well as lack of enough incentive for workers.

Speaking to The Guardian during the training yesterday, Atuswege Mwangomale, a facilitator from Sikika, said the need for the training was informed by the fact that it is crucial for the media to be well informed with the content of the subject matter before making information available and accessible to the targeted audience to enable comprehensive coverage of news.

"Studies show that some stories reported by the media have inadequate investigative depths that provide solutions to the issues of concerns. Further, it is documented that media

in Sub Saharan Africa lack interest and motivation, skills and capacity to understand, interpret, and report research findings on health, including human resource in health and family planning," she said.

Shortage of Human resources for health is one of the key challenges in the health sector that requires public and policy attention. It affects quality of health services provision such as family planning and as result compromises quality of health in general and sexual and reproductive health services in particular. Despite of existence of media in the country less are being documented on these important issues.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Elderly And Children Ummu Mwalimu said recently that

Tanzania's health sector has 98,000 workforce while the need is 200,008 which is translates into 52 per cent gap.

Another facilitator Kenneth Simbaya said during the course of the two days, the trainers will strengthen the capacity of the journalists by equipping them with knowledge and skills that will enhance their ability to effectively report health with focus on human resources for health as well as sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

"The organisers envisage a community of Journalists equipped with knowledge and skills to report on sexual and reproductive health and family plaining issues with proposed solutions that are to be taken by different players including policy makers to improve the health services," Simbaya said.

## Zambia, Zimbabwe to start building Batoka power plant next year

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA and Zimbabwe will start building the 2,400 MW Batoka Gorge hydro power plant next year, a company jointly owned by the two governments said early this week.

The Batoka project involves construction of a dam, powerhouses, roads, transmission infrastructure and houses in Zambia and Zimbabwe, the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) said in a statement.

Feasibility studies are almost complete and a developer for the project is expected to be engaged by the end of this year, it said.

"Once engaged, the developer is expected to commence works in the last quarter of 2020," the statement

said.

In February, ZRA short-listed U.S. European and Chinese companies to build the Batoka Gorge hydro power plant, Zambia's ministry of finance said in statement.

Those short-listed are a consortium of General Electric and Power Construction Corporation of China, Salini Impregilo of Italy and a joint venture of Chinese firms Three Gorges Corporation, China International and Water Electric Corporation and China Gezhouba Group Company Ltd.

The project will use a Build-Operate-Transfer financing model and place no fiscal strain on either government as no sovereign guarantees will be required. (Reporting by Chris Mfula; editing by Jason Neely)



## Govt expresses readiness to support young innovators

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed readiness to work with young innovators in implementing its new policy which prioritises the use of technology in bolstering the agriculture sector.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mathew Mtigumwe (pictured), said in

Dodoma during the meeting convened by the ministry to exchange notes on e-kilimo Accelerator project.

The project has been designed to make the most of digital technology in finding solutions to various challenges in the agricultural sector in the country. It has been financed by the Danish Embassy and implemented by a local firm,

Sahara Consulting.

Speaking during the same occasion which brought together senior officials from the ministry's various departments, Director of Policy and Planning, Assery Obey, said that the government is interested in seeing the innovations from the project being used effectively by the innovators working closely with the ministry.

"We want to work closely with the young innovators in finding solutions to the sector's challenges and if possible to work with various departments to further develop the innovations and use them in implementing government policies," he said.

He said that he was impressed by the way the start-ups presented their innovations

before they were awarded seed funding and how they were able to analyse priority areas with which they can work with the state.

Obey also called on the involvement of the government in the formulation of such projects and management of the same to ensure optimal results and that the right challenges are indeed being addressed.

For his part, Sahara Consulting Director, Adama Mbyallu, thanked the government for recognizing the young innovators and for its readiness to work with them and ensure that their innovations are further developed.

"It is not necessary that all youth should engage in agriculture by becoming farmers, through their skills and expertise they can come up with innovative ideas that would be invaluable to agricultural value chain through digital technology," he said.

Representative from the Danish Embassy, Boniface Ihunyo, said during the meeting that the embassy financed the project as part of efforts to assist in various development activities in

the country, agriculture being an important one.

E-kilimo Accelerator project is the first of its kind to have been implemented in the country which was purposely designed to support the agricultural sector through technology.

Five out of nine innovations that were developed through the project have been able to present their innovations to the ministry.



**We want to work closely with the young innovators in finding solutions to the sector's challenges and if possible to work with various departments to further develop the innovations and use them in implementing government policies**

### Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

- Nusu Lita (500ml) – TSHS. 500/=
- Lita Moja na Nusu (1.5L) – TSHS. 1,000/=
- Bei Hizi Elekezi ni Kwa Nchi Nzima
- Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro ni Maji ya Kuaminika Kila Siku

Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayoijua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO  
DRINKING WATER



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku



# NIC outlines strategies to scale-up insurance services

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Insurance Corporation of Tanzania (NIC) has unveiled priorities and outlined strategies to scale up insurance services in the country.

The move is also meant to complement the government's efforts of transforming Tanzania as a middle income nation through industrialization by 2025.

In an interview with 'The Guardian' at the ongoing 43rd International Trade Fair (DITF) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, NIC Director of Marketing and Customer Services, Elisante Maleko said: "As a long serving company in the country's insurance industry, we're focusing more on our strengths in corporate, commercial and select retail markets, where we are very well positioned to capture business opportunities." He added: "Our strategy seeks to better capitalize on our ability as a national and composite insurer to meet customers' needs."

Maleko revealed that the state-owned insurance firm intends to expand its scope of operation from urban to rural setting, from big businesses to small businesses.

He said that NIC want to explore every opportunity at its disposal, so that at the end of the day the state-owned insurer do the best and give annual dividend to the government on time. "We've the reason to realize that as we have a great team with us, highly experienced and dedicated professionals whom I believe will be the core of our success."

The insurance firm is also determined to improve claims processing system and pay claimants within shortest period of time of reporting a claim.

According to Maleko, NIC is determined to provide competitive services across the country, though the priority will be in the newly established regions, which have many economic activities such as Njombe, Simiyu and Katavi regions.

"As NIC, we're heading to the industrial economy. We're struggling to ensure that insurance services are available in every industry, which is being established. We've enough skilled human resource in the insurance sub-sector," he noted.

He also said that NIC management is working around the clock to transform lives of farmers in the country by ensuring that they are covered with insurance package.

"We want to make sure farmers are covered with

insurance so that they can be free from disasters such as drought, floods and others."

"Farmers are a forgotten group in the society when it comes to insurance cover despite the fact that they contribute heavily to the country's socio-economic development. It is a key sector that employs more than 75 percent of the country's population.

He also noted that the state-run insurance company is planning to come up with micro-insurance for motorcyclist popularly known as 'bodaboda', petty-traders popularly known as 'Machingas'.

"We're also planning to ensure insurance services are available from village to the district level through insurance agents, who are almost in every corner of the country, said Maleko.

"We also intend to scale up education through different media platforms such as mobile phones and other social-media outlets on insurance so that people become aware of the service and remove their negative perception that insurance are for the well-to-do people."

It is estimated that 40 percent of Tanzanian population owns and use mobile phones, something which make our education reach as many people as possible, he said. "We want to see every Tanzanian in rural and urban area is covered with better insurance services."

He said NIC has managed to come up with different insurance products to customers. "This was only possible because of satisfying people's needs as well as paying on time."

On industrialization agenda, Maleko said that his firm has been offering insurance services to all giant projects such as Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric project, expansion of the Dar es Salaam Port and construction of roads and bridges across the country. Others include revamping of Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) and gas projects.

On the use of ICT, Maleko said that NIC has managed to install customers' information on its database and can be easily accessed through mobile phones.

Maleko advised Tanzanians to use insurance services offered by NIC—a public entity, determined to develop and deliver superior specialty insurance products that are correctly priced to meet clients' needs.



Director General of Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), Hoseah E. Kashimba (R) and Director General of National Social Security Fund (NSSF), William Erio exchange ideas at booth number 13 at Julius Nyerere grounds where the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair is taking place. The two Funds is under one roof (booth 13) to provide smooth service to the visiting members. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Seven doctors from Bangladesh to learn from Tanzania on how to develop leaders through the Kaizen approach

By Guardian Reporter

SEVEN doctors from Bangladesh will arrive in the country on Saturday to learn the system of sustainable implementation of the 5S-Kaizen-total quality management (TQM) in Tanzania.

Kaizen is a Japanese evidence-based problem-solving process that enables people to improve a particular situation with minimum resource inputs and maximum wisdom.

A statement issued yesterday by Japan International Coopera-

tion Agency (JICA) said there are many good practices and advanced cases of Kaizen existing in Tanzania while for the Bangladeshi counterparts stepping up from 5S to the Kaizen stage still remains a challenge.

The training to Bangladeshi participants is to help them step up from 5S to the Kaizen stage by learning on the concept, methods, process and by observing actual practices and cases of Kaizen at the model hospitals through Tanzania's experience and efforts made over the past 10 years.

In Bangladesh, JICA has been supporting the efforts of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to implement the 4th Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP).

The project is to improve the Non-Communicable Diseases services in Bangladesh, an activity component of quality improvement at hospitals and supports the implementation of 5S-Kaizen.

The 5S has been introduced in more than 100 hospitals in Bangladesh and has shown remarkable

changes in hospital management and staffs' positive attitudes.

In Tanzania, regional referral hospitals (RRHs) and national and zonal hospitals have made a lot of achievements so far with the support of the project for Strengthening Hospital Management of Regional Referral Hospitals (RRHMP) which is being implemented by JICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children through various activities including implementation of Kaizen approach.

### UNION OF TANZANIA PRESS CLUBS



#### INVITATION FOR TENDER

#### TENDER FOR AUDITING OF TWENTY (20) PRESS CLUBS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017 AND 31st DECEMBER 2018.

- The Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) is a Non Governmental Organization registered under the Societies Ordinance of 1954 and given a Certificate of Registration No SO 8976. It is operating its Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 under the financial assistance from Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).
- The Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) invites sealed tenders including costs and timeframe for the Audit of its Press Clubs for the financial year, which ends on 31st December, 2017/2018. It has 28-member press clubs that are geographically located all over Tanzania. Selection will be conducted through the "Competitive Tender Method".
- Interested eligible Auditing Firms must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to [utpctz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:utpctz@yahoo.co.uk) by **19th July 2019**, attn: Procurement Officer. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to the interested bidders by email. UTPC will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bidding documents.
- All tenders properly filled in **one original and one copy** enclosed in sealed plain envelopes marked "TENDER FOR AUDITING PRESS CLUBS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017/2018" must be delivered to the **Secretary of the Tender Board, Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) Office P.O.Box 314, Mwanza, Tanzania.**
- Deadline for submission will be on **2nd August 2019 at 1400 hours local time.** Quotations will be opened at 1430 hours thereafter in public and in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Board room, Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) Office-Mwanza.
- Electronic submission and late bids will be rejected, not evaluated.

215309401

THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR  
THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION  
ZFCC  
P.O. BOX 1066  
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA  
TEL NO: 255 - 242232013  
FAX NO: 255 - 24 - 2230605/223274  
E-MAIL: [zfcc2018@gmail.com](mailto:zfcc2018@gmail.com)

#### IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER NOTIFICATION BY NUNGWI LIMITED TO ACQUIRE ENTIRE SHARES IN RENCO (ZANZIBAR) LIMITED

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ZANZIBAR FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

(Made under Section 49 and 50 and Regulation 32 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018)

The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission (ZFCC) is an independent government institution established under the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, No.5 of 2018 to promote and protect fair and effective Competition in trade and to protect consumer from misleading market conduct.

Under the same Act, the ZFCC has powers to review, investigate and prohibits any proposed Merger and Acquisition Which is contrary to the requirement of section 49 and 50 and regulation 32 of the Zanzibar Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act No. 5 of 2018.

The ZFCC has received merger notifications to the effect that Nungwi limited (acquiring firm) a tourist sector company incorporated in Zanzibar intend to acquire 100% shares of Renco (Zanzibar) limited (Target Firm), owning and operating five star hotel establishment in the name of Diamond la Gemma Dell est. Based on the share Purchase Agreement signed by acquiring firm and target firm. The acquiring firm is proposing to acquire entire shares of target firm.

ZFCC is currently investigating the intended acquisitions in line with the provisions of the Fair Competition Act No. 5 of 2018 and the Fair Competition Regulations, 2019.

Pursuant to section 49 and 50 and Regulations 32 of the Fair Competition and Consumer Protection Act, parties (both legal and natural) who deem themselves as having sufficient interest in this merger, or, if the merger is not objected to, they will have or are likely to have material effect on their interests, are hereby NOTIFIED to

Register their interests and or objections (if any) or file any information that will assist the ZFCC in reaching just and reasonable decisions with regard to Acquiring Firm's

notification of the intended merger. All such parties shall file and register such interest(s) or information by way of written submissions to the ZFCC within

SEVEN (7) days effective from the first day of publication of this notice as per requirement of regulation 32(11). No submission filed after the said deadline will be accepted.

Registration of the said interests or objections or information should be accompanied by a duly filled Form ZFCC No. 1 of the Fair Competition Commission Regulations, 2019. Failure to fill in Form ZFCC No 1 will deny a party the right to make any oral submissions before the Commission and the presence of that party in the proceedings will be as an observer only. Form (ZFCC NO 1) can be collected at ZFCC office.

Submissions must be submitted to the ZFCC at the address below.

DIRECTOR GENERAL  
The Zanzibar Fair Competition Commission  
3rd Floor,  
Mpirani (BIMA BUILDING)  
P.O. Box 1066  
Telephone No: 0242232013  
E mail: [zfcc2018@gmail.com](mailto:zfcc2018@gmail.com)  
Zanzibar

MOHAMED J. JUMANNE,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL.

215309401



# Events at the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF)



Dar es Salaam residents take a break after visiting the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair held at the Julius Nyerere grounds along Kilwa Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Sunshine Industrial Ltd Managing Director Siddaraje Krishna attends a customer who visited his pavilion at the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan handing over a certificate and trophy to Caleb Majo, business manager and sales strategist for Dar es Salaam and Coast regions for Vodacom (T) Ltd, to acknowledge the company's sponsorship of the 2019 edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF). For many years Vodacom Tanzania has been sponsoring exhibitions and this year they prepared digital services for customers within exhibition grounds.



Airtel Tanzania official Mahonda Wambura verifying a simcard for customer Doris Reuben by biometric checks at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) along Kilwa Road yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



National Insurance Corporation (NIC) Director of Marketing and Customer Services, Elisante Maleko presents a dummy cheque of 10m/- to Husna Yussuf after her education assurance plan matured. The event took part at the NIC pavilion for the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at the Mwalimu Nyerere Grounds along Kilwa Road. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Arusha International Conference Centre Head of Communication Fred Maro (C) elaborates on how AICC operates to a visitor at his DITF pavilion yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Kilombero Sugar Company Commercial Director Fimbo Buttallah (R) explains sugar quality standard to a customer, Erasius Rweikiza (C) who visited the planter's pavilion at the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Abajuko Enterprises brand ambassador Agnes Mwayalute shows prawns to visitors at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development pavilion for the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala





Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development officers attend to customers at their pavilion at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair along Kilwa road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## National accreditation body in pipeline, Industry deputy minister declares

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

TANZANIA has started to implement initiatives for establishment of the national accreditation body that would ensure quality of locally made goods and services for wide recognition in the East African region and beyond.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, Stella Manyanya when officiating at the World Accreditation Day. The theme for 2019 World Accreditation Day is 'Accreditation: Adding Value to Supply Chains'.

The event was organised by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) as a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities.

Deputy Minister Manyanya said that Tanzania has already started to prepare quality policy with support from Trade Mark East Africa. She said all stakeholders would be involved in preparations of the long awaited policy before the accreditation body is established.

According to her, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has also formed a national accreditation task force that would counsel the government on various issues.

She further said the accreditation body and, with it, other quality infrastructure tools such as standards, metrology and conformity assessment, provide widely accepted tools that help deliver value to the supply chain.

Manyanya said the tools help with trust and assurance, enabling confidence in both final products and services and the manner in which they are placed on the market and used.

From the accreditation of laboratories which test for quality and safety of drugs and food, the inspection of manufacturing processes, to the accredited certification of

food manufacturers to food safety standards, accreditation adds value to supply chains by supporting the wide spectrum of needs of interested parties.

She noted that supply chains provide a vital role in delivering products and services for consumers, business and the public sector in a timely, cost-efficient and quality manner.

Supply chains are constantly evolving from complex systems crossing multiple borders to new and diverse supply chains aimed at ensuring all stakeholders' requirements are met, including the need for ensuring sustainability and responsible supply, she said.

TBS Director General, Dr Yussuf Ngenya said the event enables a wide audience of businesses, government, regulators and consumers to understand better the role of accreditation in adding value to supply chains.

He said accreditation plays a crucial role in economic development of a country.

Dr Ngenya said the organisation would continue to educate stakeholders on importance of accreditation.

"By having this global accreditation system in place, confidence is provided for each leg of supply chains, helping businesses deliver products and services which, most importantly, consumers can trust," he noted.

SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body. They are Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

South Africa and Mauritius have fully operational and internationally recognised national accreditation bodies, South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) and Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS).

## Mozambique says militants killed 11 in attack near Tanzania border

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ELEVEN people were killed in an attack last week by an Islamist militant armed group in northern Mozambique near its border with Tanzania, Mozambican police said on Wednesday.

Several of the attackers from the Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jama (ASWJ) group were later arrested, police added, referring to a militia operating in the gas-rich northern province of Cabo Delgado province since at least 2014.

Six people were wounded in the raid, said Orlando Mudumane, spokesman for Mozambique Police's General Command, adding that the arrested gunmen included both Mozambicans and foreigners.

"On 26 of June, 2019, a group of bandits perpetrated an attack in the village of Itole, in Palma District, killing 11 civilians; 9 Tanzanians and 2 Mozambicans," he said.

He dismissed reports that deaths were by beheading, a method of killing used by the group in some previous attacks.

"All of them died of gunshot wounds, no beheadings. The defence forces combed the area and have already detained some elements of the group, foreigners and nationals."

Information about the attack has been scarce, with conflicting accounts from local and international media on the number of deaths and nature of the attack in the Muslim-majority region of the southern African nation.

Last week's ambush was the latest in a spate of execution-style attacks in the area since 2017 that have so far killed more than 100 people, while forcing hundreds to flee into the interior.

Tanzanian security officials on Saturday also confirmed the attack and number of deaths, but were unsure of the identity of the suspects.

"The attack took place on June 26 in Mozambique where the Tanzanians had gone to work in paddy fields," Tanzania's police chief Simon Sirro said at a weekend briefing near the border.

"According to eyewitness accounts, unidentified gunmen raided the paddy farmers and carried out the attack."

Sirro said Tanzanian and Mozambique police had launched a joint investigation into the incident.

Impoverished Cabo Delgado, surrounded by dense forests and isolated villages, houses a growing clutch of multinational companies developing one of the biggest offshore gas finds in a decade - estimated to be worth at least \$30 billion.

Whilst the attacks have mostly targeted civilians and government buildings, in February U.S. energy giant Anadarko said one worker was killed and several others injured in two attacks near the construction site for its massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Cabo Delgado.

The attacks by the Ahlu Sunnah Wa-Jama, or "followers of the prophetic tradition", have drawn comparisons to Islamist groups in Tanzania, Somalia, Kenya and the Great Lakes region.

In common with Boko Haram in Nigeria, it touts a radical form of Islam as an antidote to what it regards as corrupt, elitist rule that has broadened gaping inequality.

## Govt supports growth of SMEs, calls on companies to take part in 4th industrial products exhibition

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government through the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities plans to make a countrywide visit to listen to challenges facing business people.

The visits are part of government's efforts to create a friendly business and investment climate in the country.

Speaking recently at the official opening of the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair at the Mwalimu Nyerere grounds along Kilwa road, Vice President, Samia Suluhu said apart from improving business environment, the government will continue to support the growth of small and medium scale enterprises so that they contribute to the national economy.

This year's trade fair is themed: "Agricultural Crop Processing for Continued Sustainable Development".

The VP insisted that the government will work to remove all trade barriers such as bureaucracy and reduction of production cost especially for

manufacturers to make Tanzanian manufactured products competitive in the East Africa region and other foreign markets.

She challenged small, medium and large sized manufacturers to take part in the coming 4th Tanzania industrial products exhibition scheduled for December this year.

Hassan noted that such exhibition promotes Tanzanian made products as well as helps traders to forge links with counterparts from across Africa. The show will take place at the Mwalimu Nyerere grounds in the country's commercial capital - Dar es Salaam.

The Vice President called on the Ministry of Industry and Trade to come up with comprehensive marketing strategy that will help market Tanzanian goods within and outside Africa.

She said if supported, Tanzania's small and medium scale entrepreneurs can grow similar to Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Canada, German and other countries around the globe.

She called upon the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE)

in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) to organise a trip for international exhibitors to visit tourists' attractions to see what Tanzania has to offer in tourism sector.

She urged them to use the ongoing trade fair to market the country's tourism potentials because Tanzania has a lot to offer in the tourism sector in terms of wildlife, culture and beach tourism.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TANTRADE), Dr Ngwaza Soko Kamata said a total of 580 international companies from 35 countries across the world are taking part at the 43rd DITF.

He said the number is big compared to 508 international companies from 33 countries that participated in 42nd DITF in 2018.

This year, a total of 3,250 local companies are participating in the trade fair compared to 2,956 companies that took part in similar exhibitions last year.



A food vendor negotiates her way to hunt for customers at Sinza Mugabe in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi



### INVITATION FOR TENDERS FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020

1. BancABC Part of Atlas Mara Tanzania is inviting the various suppliers to participate in the tendering process as per the below services.

1.1	Provision of fumigation Services		• Virtualization
1.2	Provision of services and maintenance of generators		• Unified Communications
1.3	Provision supply of Groceries		• Corporate Training
1.4	Request for prequalification of marketing services:	1.6	Provision for AC & Electricity service and maintenance
		1.7	Request for prequalification Printing of Stationery Services
		1.8	Provision for courier services
		1.9	Bureau Solution (i.e.) Credit bureau (CRB) etc.
		2.0	Human Capital recruitment and Consultation services
		2.1	Legal Services
		2.2	Travel Services
		2.3	Office cars services and maintenance
		2.4	Fire extinguisher Service & Maintenance
		2.5	Cleaning service
1.5	Request for prequalification of IT services	2.6	Security services
		2.7	Debt collectors
		2.8	Tax consultancy services
		2.9	Property and land valuation services

2. BancABC Part of Atlas Mara Tanzania now invites sealed Tenders from eligible service providers of the specified services as provided in the Tender Documents.

3. Tendering will be conducted according to BancABC Part of Atlas Mara Tanzania

4. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain tender documents by requesting through [ekweka@bancabc.com](mailto:ekweka@bancabc.com) and [aabubakar@bancabc.com](mailto:aabubakar@bancabc.com) and if any question please call Telephone No 2111990 for free of charge from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and inspect at on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays. The documents will be shared once per day at 9:00 am up to 4:30.

5. All Tender documents in one original plus one copy duly filled in and enclosed in envelopes must be delivered to the Tender Box at Uhuru Height 5th Floor, Bibi Titi Mohamed Road, and P.O. Box 31 Dar es salaam before or on **19th July 2019 at 11:00 AM**. All Tenders must be marked clearly with the appropriate Tender Name and Number should be addressed to the Tender Board, BancABC Part of Atlas Mara Tanzania, P.O. Box 31 Dar es salaam.

6. Bidders must be registered in Tanzania

7. Late tenders, a portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders will not be accepted.



# The Guardian

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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
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## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

## Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Manager Sales and Marketing: KAUTHAR DSOUZA  
0767223311  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## Advancing rainwater harvesting should be strategy to improve water access

**T**HE Sustainable Development Goals concept advocates affordable, safe and clean water supply. Rainwater harvesting is the accumulation and storage of rainwater for reuse on-site, rather than allowing it to run off. Rainwater can be collected from rivers or roofs, and in many places, the water collected is redirected to a deep pit well, shaft, or borehole, aquifer, a reservoir with percolation, or collected from dew or fog with nets or other tools. Its uses include water for gardens, livestock, irrigation, domestic use with proper treatment, indoor heating for houses. The harvested water can also be used as drinking water, longer-term storage, and for other purposes such as groundwater recharge.

Rainwater harvesting is one of the simplest and oldest methods of self-supply of water for households usually financed by the user.

The construction and use of cisterns to store rainwater can be traced back to the Neolithic Age, when waterproof lime plaster cisterns were built in the floors of houses in village locations of the Levant, a large area in Southwest Asia, south of the Taurus Mountains, bound by the Mediterranean Sea in the west, the Arabian Desert in the south, and Mesopotamia in the east. By the late 4000 BC, cisterns were essential elements of emerging water management techniques used in dry-land farming.

Many ancient cisterns have been discovered in some parts of Jerusalem and the entire Land of Israel. At the site believed by some to be that of the biblical city of Ai (Khirbet et-Tell), a large cistern dating back to around 2500 BC was discovered.

Around 300 BCE, farming communities in Balochistan now located in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran, and India, used rainwater

harvesting for agriculture and many other uses. Rainwater harvesting was also common in the Roman Empire. While Roman aqueducts are well-known, Roman cisterns were also commonly used and their construction expanded with the Empire. For example, in Pompeii, rooftop water storage was common before the construction of the aqueduct in the 1st century BC.

Though little-known, for centuries the town of Venice depended on rainwater harvesting. The lagoon which surrounds Venice is brackish water, which is not suitable for drinking. The ancient inhabitants of Venice established a system of rainwater collection which was based on man-made insulated collection wells.

Economic analysts have commended the 2019/2020 budget estimates tabled last June, but suggested the need for the government to heavily invest in rainwater harvesting technology to make farmers improve crop production through irrigation.

Indeed there is a need for the government to venture more on rainwater harvesting technology by providing tax incentives for people who are interested in importing the technology.

Our country needs enough water for farming, livestock keeping and environment cleanliness. But, this will only be possible if we provide tax relief for those who are importing goods that are used in installing rainwater facilities, which in turn will make people harvest water for their own use.

In agro-processing the government had made efforts in scaling up the agricultural sector through the Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase Two which brings in all the agro-inputs—fertilizer, improved seeds and modern farming tools such as tractors.



## Sudan finds itself in midst of regional rivalry

By Alsir Sidahmed

**D**ESPITE its geostrategic importance as a link between the Middle East and Africa, Sudan suffered the twin problems of an identity crisis as well as marginalization. The first contributed to its long running civil wars and instability, while the latter helped in pushing into the periphery.

When the popular uprising erupted back in December and continued for four months neither the regime nor the revolution forces received any regional or international support. Even the media coverage was scant, which shows how the country is marginalized and it has to go its way solo.

However, with the uprising succeeding in toppling former President Omar Al-Bashir things have changed. The geopolitical importance of the country has been highlighted and involuntary found itself in the midst of a regional rivalry and was taken to task by the African Union for not moving to transfer of power to a civilian administration.

In fact foreign intervention has a long history in Sudan for its failure to reach a deal to solve its nation building problems. The civil war that has been going on for 16 years in its first round, then was revived later to go on unabated for another 20 years. During the last one, Sudan was open to all sorts of foreign intervention and a number of countries with some interest in Sudan appointed special envoys that at one time reached nine envoys who started to meet to compare notes and plan their work.

But things are getting worse and started to slip out of hand. In the past there is a central government that regardless of its performance, but it has full control of power and was able to maneuver the way it likes.

The new intervention is something different that was intended basically to help the main parties conclude a deal that allows for setting and executive and legislative bodies and start up a 3-year interim period. In short helping Sudanese on how to rule themselves. It was the failure of the Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) after two months of removing Al-Bashir to make a breakthrough, then came the bloody break-up of the sit-in on June 3rd to take the showdown to a new phase characterized by a state of no direct talks between the two.

It was the African Union (AU), who took the lead in forcing the TMC to hand over power using the stick of suspending Sudan's membership at the AU. The move represents a base of others to follow suit, namely the United States, who started to change its initial



position of leaving the issue of Sudan to its regional friends in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, but the breakup of the sit-in led to kindling some enthusiasm fueled by the congress and house. As a result Ambassador Donald Booth was recalled from the cold to take the post of special envoy, a post he occupied during Obama's second term.

According to Tibor Nagy, assistant secretary for African affairs Sudan faces four choices: either to have a deal between TMC and FFC to start a civilian-led interim period, or the Ingaz reproduces itself under new look or TMC decides unilaterally to set up a civilian government, or it goes from the brink and falls into anarchy, which will be a nightmare to both Egypt, who does not need another Libya and Ethiopia, who does not want to have another Somalia.

Those high stakes may help the regional and international mediators to put a serious effort that can bull Sudan away from the cliff. The four options detailed by Nagy are in fact one choice of the need to succeed in enabling both the TMC and FFC to work hard towards a sustainable deal. The country has crossed a Rubicon following the break-up of the sit-in, which ironically took more lives than those lost during the four months of crackdown by Al-Bashir. With its geostrategic location, Sudan is expected to have its impact its neighbors.

This growing interest regionally and internationally, some out of good intentions, other not, needs to be matched by a similar domestic interest and determination to forge ahead, overcome difference and make use of this renewed interest to navigate through the difficult issues of the interim period.

Sudan or the Sudan officially the

Republic of the Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, Eritrea to the east, Ethiopia to the southeast, South Sudan to the south, the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west, and Libya to the northwest. It has a population of 39 million people (2016 estimate) and occupies a total area of 1,886,068 square kilometres (728,215 square miles), making it the third-largest country in Africa. Sudan's predominant religion is Islam, and its official languages are Arabic and English. The capital is Khartoum, located at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile. Since 2011, Sudan is the scene of ongoing military conflict in its regions South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Sudan's history goes back to the Pharaonic period, witnessing the kingdom of Kerma (c. 2500 BC-1500 BC), the subsequent rule of the Egyptian New Kingdom (c. 1500 BC-1070 BC) and the rise of the kingdom of Kush (c. 785 BC-350 AD), which would in turn control Egypt itself for nearly a century. After the fall of Kush the Nubians formed the three Christian kingdoms of Nobatia, Makuria and Alodia, with the latter two lasting until around 1500. Between the 14th and 15th centuries much of Sudan was settled by Arab nomads. From the 16th-19th centuries, central and eastern Sudan were dominated by the Funj sultanate, while Darfur ruled the west and the Ottomans the far north. This period saw extensive Islamisation and Arabisation.

From 1820 to 1874 the entirety of Sudan was conquered by the Muhammad Ali dynasty. Between 1881 and 1885 the harsh Egyptian reign was eventually met with a successful revolt led by the self-proclaimed Mahdi

Muhammad Ahmad, resulting in the establishment of the Caliphate of Omdurman. This state was eventually destroyed in 1898 by the British, who would then govern Sudan together with Egypt.

The 20th century saw the growth of Sudanese nationalism and in 1953 Britain granted Sudan self-government. Independence was proclaimed on 1 January 1956. Since independence, Sudan has been ruled by a series of unstable parliamentary governments and military regimes. Under Gaafar Nimeiry, Sudan instituted Islamic law in 1983. This exacerbated the rift between the Islamic north, the seat of the government and the Animists and Christians in the south. Differences in language, religion, and political power erupted in a civil war between government forces, strongly influenced by the National Islamic Front (NIF), and the southern rebels, whose most influential faction was the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), eventually concluding in the independence of South Sudan in 2011.

### Etymology

The country's name Sudan is a name given to a geographical region to the south of the Sahara, stretching from Western Africa to eastern Central Africa. The name derives from the Arabic bil d as-s-dn, or "the lands of the Blacks". The name is one of several toponyms sharing similar etymologies, ultimately meaning "land of the blacks" or similar meanings, in reference to the dark skin of the inhabitants. Initially, the term "Sudanese" had a negative connotation in Sudan due to its association with black African slaves. The idea of "Sudanese" nationalism goes back to the 1930s and 1940s, when it was popularised by young intellectuals.

## US, French independence days should rekindle values of freedom

**E**ACH country has its own national day, known by different names for instance in the United States as in Tanzania Mainland it is Independence Day, while in France as in China or Zanzibar it is Revolution Day. To be sure, most people take these events for granted, that at a certain point a country became independent or attained democracy via a revolution, despite that there is plenty in day to day events to show how difficult it is for a country to attain democracy. Revolutions don't always have happy endings.

The United States of America, by far the most powerful country in the world, whose social and political agenda lays the framework for activism both civic and political across the globe, marked its Independence Day on July 4, and France on July 14. The French have such a role in a large part of sub-Saharan Africa, where the cultural and political mix of French society and state fashion outlooks in Francophone Africa, since 1960. It was the year in which Gen. Charles de Gaulle, the liberation leader during Nazi occupation in World War II who returned to power in 1958 in the thick of army revolt against plans for Algerian independence, decided that Africa should be granted independence, and remain tied to France for the rest.

Those who are familiar with histories of independence of not just these countries but others realize that national days are events marked with solemnity often because of the tears and blood which flowed until fundamental change was attained. This was not our case and we have been largely at peace with ourselves for the entire post-independence period, but we did not create the values upon

which we have lived and thrived, or some would say, survived. We are an echo of the values of liberty; they were their founders.

The United States started off as a migrants' colony with European powers carving out spheres of influence, but economic dynamics set the disparate colonies on the way to spatial fusion as an integral entity. Its rise to nationhood was marked by the most profound and emphatic expression of democratic commitment that has not been equaled elsewhere, as for instance the French Revolution was less about liberty than it was a rejection of control by the church and feudal lords. It took a century to democratize.

In their paths to independence and democratic institutions and in their massive influence around the world along with the United Kingdom for the most part - apart from Russia, China and partially Japan, India and others over the past few decades - the world has learnt its liturgy of democracy and human rights. We in Africa are learning gradually, and often the hard way, what the cherished values of liberty are all about, as after independence we tended to think in nationalistic terms. We rejected multiparty democracy on an ethno-cultural basis, that these are institutions imposed by Europeans, and foreign to African culture, etc.

Few people would make that argument today, after 55 years of experience on what being African, especially being non-democratic, implies. The other side of the equation is responsible governance, where things are done genuinely for the public interest, though in Africa we tend to skip public interest in favor of things done in the interests of the poor, or the majority. Being free and competing is key to democracy.



# Nurturing accountability culture from the demand side

By Lawrence Kilimwiko

A 30 months civic empowerment project that sought to lower corruptive behavior in Tanzania's grass-root institutions of governance and advocate for a transparent and accountable political system is paying off.

Already excited key stakeholders both in government and development partners are calling for project extension and expansion of project activities countrywide.

At the very outset is that, in a number of project areas, timid, irresponsible, corrupt and unethical leaders are being shunted out of office or forced to payback stolen money.

A clear case is that of Ipinga village chairman in Lucheleva ward, Ruangwa district in Lindi region who returned Tsh 600,000 he had pocketed dubiously from the village fund.

This was after being pinned down by villagers.

The "United for Our Rights" project was conceived and implemented collectively by three Non-Governmental Organizations - Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Civics Education Teachers Association (CETA) and Actions for Democracy and Local Governance (ADLG) through a Tsh 2.5 billion (Euros 953,279) grant from the European Union with the objective of increasing citizen's awareness of their rights, responsibility and entitlements and thus contributing to lowering corruption and enhance accountability and transparency in the localities.

The project covered 1055 wards in 40 districts spread across seven regions - Mara, Kagera, Simiyu, Geita, Lindi, Ruvuma and Coast with a combined population of 11 million people, which is 25 percent of Tanzania's mainland total population.

Empowerment activities revolved around orientation of communities through civil society organisations, radio programmes aired through community based radio stations and training of local communities to monitor management of public money including their participation



Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Josephat Kandege receiving training manuals for leaders and local government staffs from the resident representative of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Daniel El Noshokaty

in decision-making processes and implementation of community development projects.

It is well involved planting of trees in all 1,065 project wards. Mario Kayombo is Project Manager. According to her, over 2,000 trees were planted in each of project wards to symbolize anti-corruption drive across the seven regions. As part of promoting transparency and accountability, local authorities are now being challenged to post income and expenditure in public notice boards, something unheard before.

"In the project area, citizen's awareness of the rights, responsibility and entitlements has increased as over 70 percent of the survey respondents have indicated that they had been oriented and made aware of their rights and responsibilities," says Theo Macha, a private consultant commissioned to assess the efficacy of the project after

30 months.

Citizens in the project areas, according to Macha, have learnt about their constitutional rights through public forums, mass gathering and radio programs aired through seven community based radio stations in the project areas. Equally important, the project has been instrumental in building capacities and advocating for good governance and on the war against corruption.

Examples are many. In Mara region's Makoko fishing area along Lake Victoria where fishermen have always been victims of corrupt policemen and unethical local leadership are now bold enough to use PCCB's hotline number-113 to raise alarm.

The same story applies in Geita region where reportage of incidents of corruption to PCCB through the hotline number of physical visit to the anti-corruption body's bureau offices

has increased three fold.

In Lindi region, several elected village leaders have been held accountable for abuse of power and embezzlement of public money as exemplified by the Ipinga village chairman who was forced to refund village cash.

Likewise, people are now willing to make follow up of expenditure of public money meant for community development projects- notably school building, health centres and village go-downs. Equally important, people now understand the importance of having public offices closer to their localities and are willing to undertake construction work including construction of living quarters for VEOs (Village Executive Officers).

It is from such achievements that the both EU and KAS have expressed their willingness in rendering more support to the project while the government would like to see the project rolled

throughout the country.

"The European Union is committed to joint efforts with Tanzanian Government and to make a difference in supporting its industrialisation process," says Simon Vanden Broeke, Head of Economics and Governance Section of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and the East African Community.

"The European Union and DFID will soon begin implementing a 15 million Euros programme called IMPACT, which stands for improving accountability through fighting corruption and increased access to justice", adds the EU leader.

On his part, Daniel El-Noshokaty, KAS Country Resident Director has the following plea: "We as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation want to continue this fight and we will do so".

The positive achievements in the project has also been acknowledged by the government with Josephat Kandege, Deputy Minister of State, President's Office in-charge of Regional Administration and Local Government calling for its extension and expansion to the rest of the country.

Given that there are 185 local government authorities, it is important to expand the project coverage from the current seven regions to another 14 and eventually to the rest of the country, says Kandege noting that effects of corruption to the country's political economy were massive.

"A water project, which should be built for Tsh 5 billion, through dubious deals ends up draining Tsh 10 billion! There is no value for money here", Kandege says, explaining that corruption was levying a cruel tax on the national economy and fuelling poverty to people.

On the political front, according to the deputy minister, corruption can lead the government losing its political legitimacy in the public eyes something, which endangers national cohesion. Interestingly, notwithstanding these achievements, concerns over six critical crises suffered by local governments in Tanzania raised by a Nordic team 24 years ago still persist.

In 1995 a Nordic team asserted that grassroots governance institutions

in Tanzania were suffering from six kinds of crises- financial, decision-making, legitimacy, accountability and manpower.

The same crises were raised again during a project reflection workshop in Dodoma recently. Representatives from the seven project regions, expressed concern over shortage or absence of offices and office facilities/working tools for most the grassroots local governance institutions in the project areas to the extent that many of these leaders were completely unmotivated; something that drives them to solicit and take bribe to make ends meet.

A number of local governance institutions at ward, village, hamlet or street level have no offices and means of transport. Equally important, there were cases in which a VEO is forced to cater for up to four villages without any means of transport, they observed.

The government has a duty to support these critical governance institutions by recruiting and deploying additional staff and addition to provision of working gear; especially means transport and working offices.

Another notable problem relates to lack of accountability on the part of elected local leaders to the electorates.

They cited, ward councillors who rarely takes their electorates' concerns and priorities to decision-making bodies suggesting that such elected leaders should be held accountable.

But overall the most notable project achievements include empowerment of local CSOs that are in turn nurturing accountability culture in the communities thus making the monitoring of management of public funds from the demand side possible.

With the looming local government elections, it is crucial for electorates in the local communities to utilise their newly acquired civic power to go for performing candidates instead of those who give empty promises in order to show the power of their votes.

Lawrence Kilimwiko is a veteran journalist, Media and Communication Consultant based in Dar es Salaam: "mailto:lkilimwiko@yahoo.com" "lkilimwiko@yahoo.com", +255-0754-321308

## Zimbabwe's déjà vu moment

BY HYPERLINK "HTTPS://ISSAFRICA.ORG/AUTHOR/DEREK-MATYSZAK" DEREK MATYSZAK

On 24 June, familiar feelings of despair accompanied the shock announcement by Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube that only Zimbabwe's quasi-currency, the RTGS dollar, would constitute 'legal tender'. This prelude to the resurrection of the dreaded Zimbabwe dollar added to the sense of déjà vu brought on by long queues for fuel, inflation over 100%, 18-hour load shedding and failed water reticulation.

The RTGS dollar (from the real-time gross settlement system used to transfer money electronically) exists only in electronic form. In theory, and government pronouncements, RTGS dollars were merely the electronic representation of United States dollars held in depositors' accounts.

However, after 2016 when government began paying its debts by entering billions of dollars of credit onto the books of banks - unsupported by anything - it became apparent that the RTGS dollar wasn't what it was held out to be. Its value steadily declined.

In February this year, government finally abandoned the fiction that RTGS dollars were US dollars. Real US dollars were ring-fenced in depositors' 'nostro' accounts and RTGS dollars held under a second, separate account.

This measure was accompanied by another, where government claimed that the exchange rate between US dollar and RTGS dollars would be allowed to float and be determined

by interbank trading. Another lie. In practice government tightly controlled the rate of exchange so that the interbank rate for US dollars was generally half that offered by the black market.

As a result, opportunities for arbitrage by the political and business elite abounded. They could procure US dollars from the central bank at the interbank rate and sell them on the black market for twice the amount, raking in millions. Business could also borrow RTGS money from banks, immediately exchanging it for US dollars on the black market, driving the demand for US dollars up and the value of RTGS dollars down.

Once the value of RTGS money had declined significantly, only a fraction of the US dollars acquired needed to be changed back to repay the RTGS debt to the bank, representing millions of dollars of profit. Nice work if you can get it.

Not, however, very nice for workers, civil servants and the lower ranks of the military being paid in RTGS dollars. The real value of their wages plummeted. When the RTGS dollar was set as 'sole legal tender' on 24 June, its value to the US dollar had fallen from about 1.4:1 in February to over 13.5:1, and was set to drop further in an accelerated fall.

Services and goods (particularly imported products) were being charged or priced in US dollars. The economy was re-dollarising and civil servants were demanding that they be paid in US dollars.

Ncube introduced Statutory Instrument 142, setting RTGS money as sole legal tender in the midst of negotiations around wages with civil serv-

ants. This was done to undermine the argument that, since goods and services were being charged in US dollars, civil servants should be paid in this currency.

It was also an attempt to stop the rapid depreciation of RTGS money. To strengthen the RTGS dollar, the Reserve Bank mopped up RTGS liquidity from banks, returning 1.2 billion of the faux currency to the ether from whence it came.

Hidden in the turmoil that has followed are two other replays of prior events. One is that just as government had tried to defy the market and legislate price controls in the days of record-breaking hyperinflation in 2008, it is now trying to legislate that the incoming tide of re-dollarisation stay out.

The second is more pernicious. It is the sight of Zimbabweans again rushing to the cliff edge like lemmings, on the basis of government fiat, as occurred with government's now-defunct indigenisation laws introduced in 2010.

Then, Robert Mugabe's government issued regulations that it said required all foreign-owned business in Zimbabwe to HYPERLINK "http://researchandadvocacyunit.org/system/files/Everything%20you%20ever%20wanted%20to%20know.pdf" "t \_blank" surrender 51% of their shares to 'indigenous' Zimbabweans. In fact, the law did not, and could not, provide anything of the sort. Companies do not own their shares, shareholders do.

The government's claim as to the meaning of its regulations was never challenged - not by the media, as it made a good 'blood-on-the-floor sto-



As the country faces economic meltdown, government has again imposed policy without any legislative underpinning. File photo

ry' - and not by affected businesses who knew that government could make life difficult by withholding licences required to do business in Zimbabwe.

Fast-forward to 2019. Government says Statutory Instrument 142 HYPERLINK "https://www.herald.co.zw/govt-to-enforce-si-142-compliance/" "t \_blank" criminalises transactions in US dollars. The police have been unleashed to prowl around petrol stations and retail outlets, ready to arrest any hapless person using US dollars. In fact SI 142 doesn't ban the use of US dollars for trade. It simply sets RTGS dollars as the sole legal tender.

If someone decides to dispose of

their car in exchange for 10 goats, there is no law preventing him or her from doing so, even though goats don't constitute legal tender. Substitute US dollars for goats, and the point is clear.

Countries that wish to ban transactions in anything other than the local currency enact laws providing that. So why didn't Zimbabwe's finance minister do that? Because he has no power under the Reserve Bank Act to prohibit US-dollar transactions.

However, as in the case of the indigenisation regulations, the media happily accepts his interpretation of his own regulations. Once again, government is imposing policy without

any legislative underpinning and using extra-legal means to do so.

Enforcing the whims of particular ministers on the threat of arrest, rather than applying statute, is the very antithesis of the rule of law. It reveals a government floundering in policy and governance uncertainty and inconsistency in the face of an economic meltdown.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa repeatedly says Zimbabwe's door is open to foreign investors. Any company stepping through this door in such a climate will have difficult questions to answer from shareholders.

Derek Matyszak, Senior Research Consultant, ISS Pretoria



## UNITED NATIONS

As the weather continues to change and land becomes degraded, the socio-economic security implications are vast. In an effort to tackle these issues, climate-smart agriculture is quickly gaining traction around the world.

According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 12 million hectares of productive land become barren every year due to desertification and drought alone representing a loss of production of 20 million tons of grain.

Not only is this an economic blow to almost 80 percent of the world's poor people who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, but hunger levels are also already rising globally. Such challenges will only be compounded as we must increase food production by 70 percent by 2050 in order to feed the entire world population.

The need for sustainable, climate-smart agriculture is thus clear.

One practice that is gaining momentum is the development of improved, resilient crop varieties which help ensure both food and economic security.

"In light of changing rainfall patterns where the old varieties which are drought-susceptible can no longer be produced under drought conditions, the new varieties which are developed for resilience have made a complete difference by bringing more beans on the table for food security as well as more beans for the market to bring income to the farmers," one of Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA)'s bean breeders Rowland Chirwa told IPS.

Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture's Senior Scientific Advisor Vivienne Anthony spoke of the importance of connecting science to the realities on the ground.

"The community of scientists need to connect with the entrepreneurs and people that are investing in the future here in Africa and to work together to improve crops, create jobs, create markets and not sit back as scientists. They need to engage with the business," she said.

**From Theory to Practice**

In collaboration with the University of Bern, the Syngenta Foundation has been working to improve *Eragrostis tef*, commonly known as tef—one of the most

# Food from thought



**Ndomi Magareth, sows bean seeds on her small piece of land in Njombe a small town in the coastal Littoral Region of Cameroon. Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance is a consortium of 30 bean-producing countries in Africa and its improved bean varieties has helped transition the legume from a subsistence crop to a modern commodity. File photo**

important cereals in Ethiopia where over 80 percent of the population live in rural areas. The seeds have high protein levels and are much better adapted to drought conditions which is an increasingly common experience in the East African nation. However, the tef plant produces low yields and harvests are not keeping pace with Ethiopia's increasing population.

With modern genetics and improved farming methods, the project aims to increase yields, putting money into farmers' pockets.

Demand and access to markets is also essential, Anthony noted.

"Designing a new variety is no different to designing anything somebody is going

to buy. It involves understanding the marketplace, and who wants to grow it, use it, eat it," she told IPS.

"The way to address some of the problems and challenges of agricultural sustainability in Africa is about encouraging markets to flourish that drive opportunity, innovation and entrepreneurship. We fundamentally believe in market-based approaches as a way of trying to meet the Sustainable Goals, finding a business rationale where everybody wins and it keeps going," Anthony added.

Similarly, PABRA is a consortium of 30 bean-producing countries in Africa and its improved bean varieties has helped transition the legume from a subsistence

crop to a modern commodity.

Beans are among the most consumed and widely grown legume in Africa, taking up over 6 million hectares of land. Eastern Africa sees the highest consumption of beans with people eating as much as 50-60 kilograms every year.

However, one study found that without any adaptation strategies, the yields and nutritional value of common beans will dramatically decline by 2050.

"We have been following more of a preemptive breeding approach where we know the climate is changing and at the same time the needs of the people we are trying to provide products with are also changing," bean breeder Clare Mugisha Mukankusi told IPS.

Chirwa echoed similar sentiments, stating: "We look at regionally in Africa and see which are the major market classes we can focus on and look at the capacity of our national partners...and develop varieties that are responsive to the environmental needs, human consumption needs, and market demand needs using a Demand Led Breeding (DLB) approach."

In Rwanda, improved bean varieties increased yields by 53 percent and household revenue by 50 dollars. Without the improved beans, 16 percent more households would have been food-insecure, PABRA found.

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), which coordinates PABRA, also helped develop drought-resistant beans which were provided to South Sudanese refugees in order to reduce their reliance on food aid and increase self-sufficiency.

**From Sustainable Farms to Table**

In addition to designing nutritional legumes that are heat-tolerant and disease-resistant, Mukankusi also highlighted the need to address the entire value chain to ensure there is productivity at the farm level.

This means promoting sustainable crop management practices such as intercropping, which involves growing two or more crops alongside each other, and crop rotation which can help increase soil fertility.

Anthony pointed to the importance of education in demand-led approaches and the business of plant breeding as the Syngenta Foundation in partnership with the Australian Centre for International Agriculture and the Crawford Fund work closely with African Centre for Crop Improvement in Ghana, South Africa, Kenya and Uganda so that local scientists can take the lead.

"Now we have a community of breeders who are trying to do this to really make an impact," she said.

In light of environmental challenges, the world has already started to see a shift in consumption patterns as plant-based foods gain popularity. Crop breeding may therefore be more essential than ever. "If we are going to sustain the supply, we cannot sit back but we have to keep pace with the changes. The breeding has to be there and responsive to current and future demands," Chirwa said.

IPS

# North Korea stands firm on sanctions relief

## SEOUL

A new public broadside by North Korean officials against U.S.-backed sanctions highlights the tough road ahead as negotiators prepare for talks in the wake of Sunday's meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Media reports out of Washington have suggested the Trump administration may be willing to seek a partial deal to dismantle at least part of North Korea's nuclear program.

But ahead of what would be the first significant talks since Trump and Kim failed to reach a deal at a summit in February in Hanoi, analysts say progress is unlikely unless Washington is prepared to ease some sanctions.

North Korea's exports to China, its main market, dropped nearly 90 percent last year, according data from Beijing, and a report this week by the Seoul-based Korea Development Institute said sanctions had put the country on a path for economic crisis.

"North Korea wants actions, not words," said Christopher Green, a Korea expert at the International Crisis Group. "I'm not sure the U.S. is mentally ready for it, even now."

After Trump met with Kim at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters a fresh round of negotiations with North Korean foreign ministry diplomats will likely happen "sometime in July".

Pompeo later made clear the United States believed sanctions put in place under U.N. Security Council resolutions needed to remain in place as talks moved forward.



**U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as they meet at the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in Panmunjom, South Korea, June 30, 2019. File Photo**

Ahead of February's failed summit in Hanoi, American officials had raised the possibility that while sanctions would remain, they might be willing to take interim steps such as boosting humanitarian aid or opening liaison offices.

U.S. officials, however, rejected North Korea's offer to dismantle its reactor complex at Yongbyon in exchange for wide-ranging sanctions relief.

Since then, North Korea has only doubled down on its calls for sanctions to be withdrawn, signaling that while lesser steps might be welcome, they would not be enough to persuade Pyongyang to give up nuclear assets.

"Our state is not a country that will surrender to the U.S. sanctions," a North Korean foreign ministry official said in a statement last week.

A New York Times report that

suggested American officials would settle for a nuclear freeze by North Korea was criticized by national security adviser John Bolton who said the idea had not been discussed at the National Security Council.

The disagreements between officials at the NSC and U.S. State Department over whether to maintain a hard line or take a step-by-step approach are "creating a discordant policy line,"

Green said.

North Korea's mission to the United Nations on Wednesday criticized the United States as "obsessed with sanctions and pressure campaign" and accused it of being "more and more hell-bent on hostile acts" against Pyongyang.

A report this week by the North Korea Risk Group concluded there is "significant motivation for both sides

to seek to reach an agreement," and that Trump and Kim may be more compelled than ever to seek an interim deal.

"This is because a third failure - which cannot be ruled out - would prove deeply problematic for both leaders at this stage," the report said.

But unless the U.S. decides sanctions are on the table, even a smaller deal may be hard to seal, analysts said.

"A freeze on fissile material, nuclear weapons, and missile production at Yongbyon and beyond - when North Korea does not even acknowledge enrichment facilities outside Yongbyon - without some sanctions relief, seems unlikely," said Vipin Narang, an associate professor of political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. If Washington sticks to its stance of no sanctions relief until North Korea gives up the proverbial keys to its nuclear kingdom, than Trump's latest meeting with Kim "may be remembered as the last gasp of a strategy that was predictably doomed," Narang said.

"The idea of a more flexible negotiating position that's comprehensive in scope but step by step in implementation is welcome, but the scope and sequence of each reciprocal step still has to be realistic," he said. On the other side, U.S. intelligence officials have said it is unlikely Kim intends to ever give up his entire nuclear arsenal.

To find a compromise, each side may have to drop the ongoing "good cop, bad cop" cycle of engagement and threats, Narang said.

"If we are hoping for a deal, the good cops on both sides will have to sideline their internal bad cops."

Agencies



## Uganda launches scale-up strategy for prevention, treatment of TB

By Guardian Correspondent

UGANDA has launched a 100-Day Accelerated Scale-up plan for Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT) targeting over 300 000 people living with HIV/Aids.

Minister of Health, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng said the government will also provide TPT to all children aged 12 months or more living with HIV as well as HIV-negative infants and children aged 5 years or below who are household contacts of patients with pulmonary Tuberculosis.

"As part of the scale-up plan, Government will provide TPT at 1 947 Antiretroviral therapy (ART) sites across the country", she said.

TPT is offered to individuals who are at risk of developing TB disease. Such individuals are infected with the bacteria that cause TB but show clinical signs or symptoms of TB.

Dr Aceng said that Uganda bears unequal burdens of HIV and Tuberculosis.

"For the HIV epidemic, the ministry of health and partners, have over time implemented HIV prevention and treatment interventions that have resulted in a significant epidemic contraction in the last five years," she said.

She added; "For instance, the number of new infections was estimated at 53 000 in 2018 compared to 130 000 in 2010. AIDS-related deaths also declined to 26 000 in 2018 down from 60,000 in 2010".

She, however, noted that TPT will play a key role in reducing the rates of TB infections among people leaving with HIV/Aids and under- 5 children TB contacts.

The number of new infections was estimated at 53 000 in 2018 compared to 130 000 in 2010

United States Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah Malac commended the country on raising awareness about TB among people leaving with HIV and investing resources to mitigate the challenge. She noted that TB remains a big burden among them, leading to death.

Deborah said the US government is committed to tackling TB in general and especially among people leaving with HIV.

"We will continue to invest resources to tackle the TB scourge in Uganda", she noted.

World Health Organization Representative in Uganda, Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam lauded Uganda for scaling up TB prevention treatment for PLHIV.

He said that TB is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, "in 2017, for example, TB was responsible for 32 percent of the 940,000 lives lost to HIV, globally.

Dr Yonas further said that later this month, the WHO will convene a Guideline Development Group (GDG) to update the existing guidelines on TPT that are needed for programmatic management of hidden tuberculosis infection.

Despite the adoption of global TPT guidelines, Uganda has only been able to reach 16 percent of the people leaving with HIV. Two-thirds of the people were reached after the country renewed its commitment to prioritize TB diagnosis, treatment and prevention during the UN High-Level Meeting held in New York in September 2018.

Uganda is still facing a dual epidemic of TB and HIV despite 13 years since the first TB/HIV collaborative policy was developed with 40 percent of the TB patients testing HIV positive, and 35 per 100 000 people dying with TB and HIV.

An estimated 14 000 TB-related deaths among HIV positive individuals occurred in Uganda in 2017.



## Veterans group summits Mount Kilimanjaro

By Special Correspondent

PUTTING their minds and bodies to the ultimate test, 10 military veterans of all ranks, deployments and geographical locations attended a brutal six-month training camp to climb up Mount Kilimanjaro on June 9 in Tanzania, Africa.

All of the training eventually paid off as the group achieved a 100 per cent success rate in climbing up one of the tallest mountains in the world.

Dedicated to helping veterans gain back their civilian lifestyles through outdoor activities, Warriors Keep, a nonprofit

organization began the expedition to provide mental and physical therapy for such veterans. Freedom Peak 1, the name of the expedition, was one of the largest U.S. veteran treks to date.

The Freedom Peak 1 journey included 10 veterans from

Texas, New York, California and Southern Carolina. The organization originally chose 13 veterans to climb the mountain, but because of injuries and other circumstances, only 10 were able to make the trip.

Marine veteran Sgt. John Hardin, the Warrior's Keep co-

founder and executive director, said the process of choosing people to climb up Kilimanjaro with was very selective. Starting in September, 2018, there were three phases of selection which included an interview section. People from all different ranks, ages, times served were chosen to participate in the training process for the climb.

During training, there were five phases throughout the weekends and weekdays to help prepare. Hardin described how since not everyone was able to come to training all the time because of work and family, social media proved to be a large connector among the veterans where they could communicate their personal preparations for the trek.

"With everyone being so dispersed from all sides of the country, it's hard to engage in physical communication all the time, so we put it on the trainees to push themselves for the challenge every day," Hardin said.

After the training was over, the Warriors Keep flew the veterans to Tanzania for what could be one of the most challenging missions of their lives.

"I knew it would be difficult to climb up the mountain," Hardin said, "but when I actually started climbing, I found it to be the hardest thing I had ever done in my entire life."

Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in Africa standing at 19,340 feet. Many of the team members' bodies and minds were put to the ultimate test on the trip, Hardin noted.

After the trek, Hardin mentioned the climb urged all the veterans to push themselves to their highest mental and physical potential. In the end, the team achieved literally what no other group that large has done before.

"One of the best parts about this was that none of us knew each other going into it. But I have made some good friends throughout this brutal, yet successful journey," Hardin said.

## Africa's small-scale fisheries critical to food security

PERTH, Australia

AFRICA'S small-scale fisheries play a critical role in global food security and must be supported with greater research and investment, say international and African experts.

Industry, NGO, government and academic representatives attended Murdoch University's second Blue Economy Symposium in Tunis last week as part of the Africa Blue Economy Forum (ABEF) 2019 and Murdoch University's Third Commission, a research investigation focusing on issues of public concern to Africa.

Fish accounts for more than one-fifth of the protein intake of African south of the Sahara and provides a livelihood to millions of people.

Murdoch University Adjunct Professor, Dr. Jeremy Prince, who attended the symposium and is contributing to the work the Third Commission in this area, said the



A vendor hunting for for customers at Kigogo Luhanga, Kinondoni in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam ignoring the risk from dust to protect public health. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

collective value of the small scale fisheries of Africa was too big to ignore.

"It is critical that we stabilise and rebuild these fisheries to ensure both food security and the future of the blue economy," Dr Prince said. "The time to act is now."

Discussions at the Tunis symposium provided useful insights and contributions to the fine-tuning of the focus and narrative of the Blue Economy chapter of the Third Commission's report. A strong emphasis was placed on the need to highlight clear and innovative actions to effect lasting transformation of the blue economy in Africa.

Participants in the symposium called on all nations and international institutions to recognise the value and economic impact of small-scale fisheries in Africa. Their recommendations included:

Increasing investment to allow fishing communities to be more involved in the co-management of fisheries; and Directly engaging with fishing communities to collect and share relevant data regarding the state and economic value of small-scale coastal fisheries.

About the Third Commission

In keeping with Murdoch University's commitment to quality research and teaching in public policy at both the national and international levels, Murdoch Commissions are exercises in applied public policy informed by rigorous scholarly research and analytical thinking.

They bring together senior practitioners, international experts and thought leaders from Australia and around the world to work on pressing problems and issues of public concern. The first Murdoch Commission, "Western Australia and the evolving regional order: challenges and opportunities" published

its final report in November 2013 and the second Murdoch Commission, "Food security, trade and partnerships: Towards resilient regional food systems in Asia" released its report in December 2015.

Murdoch's Third Commission commenced in June of 2018 and is focused on six themes firmly rooted in the agenda for action identified by the Africa Progress Panel (APP) as being in need of more significant research attention, bolder policy innovation, faster implementation on the ground, enhanced political leadership and the conceptualisation and roll out of innovative research solutions.

These themes are: Promoting Equity in the Extractive Industries; Managing the Extractives Industry in a more equitable, transformative and sustainable; Boosting the Blue Economy; Better Monitoring, Governing and Harnessing of the Blue Economy;

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production: Enhancing Sustainable Farming and Food Production and Nutritional Security;

Increasing Power and Light: Creating greater and more innovative access to Modern Energy (Electricity and Light) Fast; and Cross-cutting themes of Women & Youth and Climate Change.

An overarching focus of the Third Commission is identifying small scale policy interventions that have potential to make big impacts. Additionally, it seeks to enhance Murdoch University's links with Africa in areas of the university's comparative advantage, including research and innovation expertise, strategic interest and networking capabilities within Australia, in Africa and globally.

## SADC stakeholders root for strengthening the mainstreaming climate change into vulnerability assessments and analysis

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) programme's annual dissemination meeting has called for stakeholders to strengthen and prioritize the mainstreaming of climate change into vulnerability assessments and analysis.

The meeting taking place in Windhoek, Namibia from July 1 to 5 2019 has brought together over 60 representatives of National Vulnerability Assessment Committees (NVACs) of SADC member states, the SADC secretariat and development partners.

Speaking during the opening session, Anastasia Amunyele, Deputy Director for Policy, Disaster Risk Management Directorate of the Government of Namibia said the SADC region is experiencing frequent climate-related disasters, including

drought and flooding.

She said to address the impact of climate change, SADC Member States have put together various initiatives both at national and regional level.

"Currently, the government of Namibia is responding to drought by distributing food relief and agricultural inputs, as well as the provision of water to the affected population. The response followed the President of Namibia's declaration of drought emergency on 06 May 2019", she said. Dr Sithabiso Gandure, a climate change researcher and consultant, said the historical and current data generated by NVACs can be integrated into climate change impact and vulnerability assessments - a key component of the national climate change communications.

"Climate vulnerability assessments inform the development of climate change policies and strategies as well

their monitoring and evaluation", she said.

Dr Gandure also called upon the NVACs to participate and become part of the climate change coordination mechanisms, such as inter-ministerial steering committees or task forces.

The meeting noted that although NVACs are already contributing to the national global reporting system and processes within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) there are importance that the RVAA programme promotes a systematic approach in addressing the vulnerability issues in the region.

The 2018/19 agricultural season in Southern Africa started nearly a month late and was characterized by extended dry spells and drought.

Parts of western and central Southern Africa received their lowest seasonal rainfall totals since 1981.

Following heavy rainfall from Cyclone Idai and Kenneth, central Mozambique, southern Malawi, and eastern parts of Zimbabwe were affected by widespread flooding that destroyed lives, crops, and infrastructure.

Cumulatively, these factors have affected agricultural production and the livelihood of the population. In this regard, it is critical for SADC to strengthen and prioritize the mainstreaming of climate change into vulnerability assessments and analysis.

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss and consolidate the results of the 2019 vulnerability assessments and analysis of SADC member states into the SADC regional synthesis report on the state of food and nutrition security and vulnerability in Southern Africa, 2019. The Report provides a regional outlook on the state of food and nutrition security and vulnerability and contains

recommendations for short and long-term planning.

The dissemination meeting will also discuss and review the vulnerability assessment approaches of the SADC member states, including the best practices and experiences, the implementation and sustainability of the 2017-2021 phase of the RVAA Programme.

The 2017-2021 phase of the RVAA is prioritizing the integration of climate change approaches and methodologies into vulnerability assessments and analysis to inform policies, strategies, and programmes.

In 2013, the Programme conducted a pilot study on projected climate change and livelihoods in Botswana and Mozambique. The study demonstrated that livelihoods and climate data could be combined, depending on data availability, to project impact scenarios for the future.



# Chilean schools recycle water to combat drought

OVALLE, Chile.

Children from the neighboring municipalities of Ovalle and Río Hurtado in northern Chile are harvesting rain and recycling greywater in their schools to irrigate fruit trees and vegetable gardens, in an initiative aimed at combating the shortage of water in this semi-arid region.

And other youngsters who are completing their education at a local polytechnic high school built a filter that will optimise the reuse and harvesting of water.

"The care of water has to start with the children," Alejandra Rodríguez, who has a son who attends the school in Samo Alto, a rural village on the slopes of the Andes Mountains in Río Hurtado, a small municipality of about 4,000 inhabitants in the Coquimbo region, told IPS.

"My son brought me a tomato he harvested, to use the seeds. For them, the harvest is the prize. He planted his garden next to the house and it was very exciting," said Maritza Vega, a teacher at the school, which has 77 students ranging in age from four to 15.

The principal of the school, Omar Santander, told IPS during a tour of rural schools in the area involved in the project that "the Hurtado River (which gives the municipality its name) was traditionally generous, but today it only has enough water for us to alternate the crops that are irrigated, every few days. People fight over watering rights."

The Samo Alto school collects rainwater and recycles water after different uses. "The water is then sent to a double filter," he explained, pointing out that they have a pond that holds 5,000 liters.

The monthly water bill is much lower, but Santander believes that the most important thing "is the awareness it has generated in the children."

"There used to be water here, and the adults' habits come from back then. The students help raise awareness in their families. We want the en-



**Duan Urqueta, 17, a fourth-year electronics student at the Ovalle polytechnic high school, describes the award-winning grey-water filter he helped to build. Initially, units will be installed in eight rural schools in northern Chile. File photo**

vironmental dimension to be a tool for life," he said.

For Admalén Flores, a 13-year-old student, "the tomatoes you harvest are tastier and better," while Alexandra Honores, also 13, said "my grandfather now reuses water."

El Guindo primary school, located 10 kilometers from the city of Ovalle, the municipal seat, in a town known as a hotspot for drug sales, performed poorly in tests until three years ago.

At that time, the principal, Patricio Bórquez, and the science teacher, Gisela Jaime, launched a process of greywater recovery. They also planted trees and native species of plants to adapt to the dry environment of the municipality of 111,000 inhabitants, located about 400 kilometers north of Santiago.

"The project was born because there was no vegetation," said the teacher. Today they recover 8,000 litres of water a month. "Teaching care for the environment provides a life skill," said Bórquez.

"Our school had the stigma of being in a place rife with drug addiction. Today in Ovalle we are known as the school with the most programs. We placed third in science," she said.

Jaime described the experience as "gratifying" because it has offered "tools to grow and create awareness among children and the entire community about the importance of caring for water and other resources."

Geographer Nicolás Schneider, founder of the "Un Alto en el Desierto" Foundation, told IPS that his non-governmental organisation estimates that one million litres of greywater have been recovered after eight years of work with rural schools in Ovalle.

In this arid municipality with variable rainfall, "only 37.6 mm of rainwater fell in 2018 - well below the normal average for the 1981-2010 period of 105.9 mm," Catalina Cortés, an expert with Chile's meteorology institute, told IPS from Santiago.

Schneider describes the water situation as critical in the Coquimbo region, which is on the southern border

of the Atacama Desert and where 90 percent of the territory is eroded and degraded.

"Due to climate change, it is raining less and less and when it does, the rainfall is very concentrated. Both the lack of rain and the concentration of rainfall cause serious damage to the local population," she said.

Innovative recycling filter  
With guidance from their teachers, students at the Ovalle polytechnic high school built a filtration system devised by Eduardo Leiva, a professor of chemistry and pharmacy at the Catholic University. The filter seeks to raise the technical standard with which greywater is purified.

The prototype recycles the greywater from the bathrooms used by the 1,200 students at the polytechnic high school. This water is used to irrigate three areas with 48 different species of trees. Similar filters will be installed in eight rural schools in Ovalle.

The quality of the recovered water will improve due to the filter built

thanks to a project by the Innovation Fund for Competitiveness of the regional government of Coquimbo, with the participation of the Catholic University, the "Un Alto en el Desierto" Foundation, and the Ovalle polytechnic high school.

The prototype was built by 18 students and eight teachers of mechanics, industrial assembly, electronics, electricity and technical drawing, and includes two 1,000-litre ponds.

The primary pond holds water piped from the bathroom sinks by gravity which is then pumped to a filter consisting of three columns measuring 0.35 meters high and 0.40 meters in diameter.

"The filter material in each column... can be activated charcoal, sand or gravel," said Hernán Toro, the head teacher of industrial assembly.

Toro told IPS that "the prototype has a column with zeolite and two columns of activated charcoal. The columns are mounted on a metal structure 2.60 meters high."

The water is pumped from the pond to the filter's highest column, passes through the filter material and by gravity runs sequentially through the other columns. Finally, the water is piped into the secondary pond and by means of another electric pump it reaches the irrigation system.

Duan Urqueta, a 17-year-old electronics student, told IPS that they took soil and water samples in seven towns in Ovalle and "we used the worst water to test the filter that is made here at the high school with recyclable materials."

In 2018, "we won first place with the filter at the Science Fair in La Serena, the capital of the region of Coquimbo," he said proudly.

Pablo Cortés, a 17-year-old student of industrial assembly, said the project "changed me as a person."

Toro said the experience "has been enriching and has had a strong social impact. We are sowing the seeds of ecological awareness in the students."

"It's a programme that offers learning, service, and assistance to the community. Everyone learns. We have seen people moved to the point of tears in their local communities," the teacher said.

Now they are going to include solar panels in the project, which will cut energy costs, while they already have an automation system to discharge water, which legally can only be stored for a short time.

Eight schools, including the ones in Samo Alto and El Guindo, are waiting for the new filters, which cost 2,170 dollars per unit.

Schneider believes, however, that at the macro level "water recycling is insufficient" to combat the lack of water in this semi-arid zone. And he goes further, saying "there is an absence of instruments for territorial planning or management of watersheds."

"Under the current water regulatory framework, the export agribusiness, mainly of fruit, has taken over the valleys, concentrating water use...and the government turns a blind eye," he complained.

## Why environmental and humanitarian action must be linked

UNITED NATIONS

Environmental and humanitarian action is often understood as two different sectors. However, the lack of awareness regarding its intersections could lead to further long-term devastation.

With the growing number of crises around the world, humanitarian actors are essential. They are often the first responders during and after a crisis, providing urgent, life-saving assistance.

However, there is an increasing need for such actors to pay attention to long-term implications of operations, particularly with regards to the environment.

"[The environment] is not integrated into humanitarian programming...while we are very clear that the humanitarian focus is life-saving assistance, we also understand that this cannot be done if you are compromising of the lives of future generations or even the current generation in the long-term," head of the Joint Environment Unit (JEU) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Emilia Wahlstrom, told IPS.

"Environmental degradation is causing humanitarian crises, and humanitarian crises are exacerbating areas that are already under a lot of strain."

World Agroforestry Centre's head of programme development Cathy Watson echoed similar sentiments to IPS, stating: "There is a paradigm that in emergencies you are saving lives and you don't have time to think about these other things. The problem with that paradigm is pretty soon it settles down and then you really have to think about what sustains their lives and that is usually the natural environment. So if that's not taken care of, you can end up having an even worse situation."

"Environmental degradation is causing humanitarian crises, and humanitarian crises are exacerbating areas that are already under a lot of strain," she added.

According to a 2014 study by JEU, Sudan's humanitarian crisis was closely linked with deforestation and



**Smoking fish in kilns in Ggaba, Uganda. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimated that brick-making kilns were burning 52,000 trees every year. File photo**

desertification due to humanitarian operations.

Such deforestation was caused by the need for firewood for cooking and dry bricks for construction, and humanitarian operations exacerbated the problem as there was an unprecedented demand for construction.

The UNEP estimated that brick-making kilns were burning 52,000 trees every year.

Such activities reduce soil fertility, decrease water supplies, and destroy valuable agricultural land, impacting the already fragile livelihoods of millions affected and displaced by conflict.

Already, worsening land degradation caused by human activities as a whole is undermining

the well-being of two-fifths of the world's population.

According to the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 60 percent of all ecosystem services are degraded. Reduced ecosystem functions makes regions more prone to extreme weather events such as flood and landslides as well as further conflict and insecurity.

Approximately 40 percent of all intrastate conflicts in the past 60 years are linked to natural resources.

Most recently, the influx of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh has put a strain on environmental resources. According to the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), over 4,000 acres of hills and forests were cut down to make temporary

shelters, facilities, and cooking fuel in Ukha and Teknaf of Cox's Bazaar for the 1.5 million refugee population.

Such deforestation has increased the risk of landslides and tensions between host and refugee communities are escalating.

However, refugees shouldn't be to blame, Watson noted.

"Refugees are just doing what they have to do to get by but we can take a much more ecological approach and really think about how we're going to maintain the ecosystems that sustains these refugees, provide water, provide fertile soil, and wood to cook," she said.

Since the average time a refugee remains displaced can now be up

to 26 years, the need for a more ecological approach is necessary.

"There's plenty of time to really build up the environmental well being of the area so that people can also feel good, live well, have shade, have fruit, have clean water...you're not going to grow food for very long if you cut all the trees down," Watson told IPS.

Both Watson and Wahlstrom highlighted the importance for humanitarian actors to use available guidelines, tools, and resources ensure their operations aid populations in the long-term.

For instance, the Sphere Handbook, first piloted in 1998, provides minimum standards for humanitarian response including the need to integrate environmental

impact assessments in all shelter and settlement planning, restore the ecological value of settlements during and after use, and opt for sustainable materials and techniques that do not deplete natural resources.

"We know what to do, everyone knows what to do. But we are not doing it...the leaders and decision makers should change the way we do our business," Wahlstrom said.

Watson made similar comments, stating: "There are so many good guidelines, but there's not been a lot of enforcement or awareness of ecological thinking...if you really think about how to manage the landscape and map it out and work out where you're going to get fuel from, what areas must be protected because of water—you can build areas that are much more resilient and productive."

While some humanitarian agencies have already begun to address environmental concerns, Wahlstrom pointed to the need for both environmental and humanitarian actors to also work together.

"Because of the life-saving mandate and the very urgent elements of [the humanitarian sector's] work, environmental actors and development actors are a bit wary to get involved because they feel like it is not their place," she told IPS.

"The planet is burning, and environmental actors—we no longer have the privilege of sitting in our scientific community and working on our reports. We have to go out there and we have to spread the message," Wahlstrom added.

The Environmental and Humanitarian Action Network (EHA) hopes to do just that. Though it is an informal network, the EHA brings together humanitarian and environmental experts to share guidance, good practices, and policies to mitigate the environmental impacts of humanitarian operations.

"Time is running out. We really cannot afford to not collaborate...we are stronger together and together we can have a better response and be better prepared," Wahlstrom said.



By Francis Kajubi

## TRANSPORT MINISTRY TO BOOST CENTRAL LINE INFRASTRUCTURE TO FERRY UGANDAN CARGO

**U**GANDAN cargo transiting through Dar es Salaam Port to Mwanza through Central Railway and thereafter cross Lake Victoria into Uganda will by end next year arrive on schedule with consignees able to track the same via an electronic system.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Communication, Transport and Works, Dr Leonard Chamuriho said in Dar es Salaam last week that Tanzania Railways Corporation is currently undertaking a Tanzania Intermodal and Rail Project (TIRP) which involves upgrading the Central Railway Line.

"Under the this project, rehabilitation of the railway line from Dar es Salaam to Isaka Dry Port in Shinyanga is being undertaken, three new locomotives and 44 flatbed wagons will be purchased and two other locomotives reconditioned," Dr Chamuriho said.

Speaking to stakeholders of Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation meeting in Dar es Salaam, he pointed out that the TIRP will also involve installation of a cargo tracking system along the railway network from Dar Port to allow cargo owners track their goods.

"We want to improve efficiency along the Central Railway Line to enable Ugandan goods travel across Lake Victoria instead of going by road which is very far," he added noting that the distance between Dar Port and Mtukula Border post is 1,780 kilometres compared to Mwanza to Entebbe at over 1,300kms.

Due to poor infrastructure Dar es Salaam and Mwanza in the past ten years, the movement of cargo destined for



A passenger ship at Mwanza Port. File photo.

Kampala has been by road through Mtukula border post.

Dr Chamuriho said Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) which has only one ferry for wagons with capacity of 19 wagons or 760 tons and capable of doing a maximum of eight voyages per month, has plans of building one wagon ferry with capacity of 5,000 tons in this fiscal year.

In a report by Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency, it stated that the number of wagons operated by both TRC and Uganda Railway Corporation are below the demanded 375 wagons that can carry 15,000 tons per month.

However, the average cargo throughput for Mwanza Port is 7,000 tons per month as per its June to November last year with transit cargo contributing 35.4 percent of the total.

In a joint report released last week covering a period year ended December 2018 by CCTFA, Ports Authorities from the two countries, Revenue Authorities, Railways Corporations; MSCL, Ministry of Works and Transport of the two countries and the business community, highlights some shortfalls on the railway and Mwanza port's capacity to handle demand by Uganda business community.

To address the challenges, Ministry of Works officials from the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in July 2017, pledging to improve railway transport, ports and inland waterways across the corridor to facilitate trade.

## Tanzania Prisons Kimbiji palm oil plant already feeding domestic market

By Property Watch Reporter

IN supporting President John Magufuli's industrialization drive, Tanzania Prison has built state-of-the-art Kimbiji Palm oil processing plant worth 500m/- with capacity of producing 2,000 litres of edible oil and 1,000 litres of palm nut oil per day.

Tanzania Prison Sole, Marketing Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, Yunge Saganda said earlier this week at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair that construction work of the plant was completed in December last year.

"Construction of this plant is in response to the government's order to Tanzania Prisons to establish factories that will manufacture goods to be consumed locally but also export some of it," Saganda said.

She further noted that the factory will be managed by prisons officers while inmates will serve as casual workers as part of Tanzania Prisons skills development program to ensure that jailbirds get technical skills to survive once released from jail. The factory is located at Kimbiji Prison premises in Kigamboni municipality.

"To start with, we have already begun to produce 300 litres of palm oil at Kimbiji for the domestic market targeting soap

manufacturing small and medium size industries as well as to meet prison officers and their families use," she stated.

In addition, Tanzania Prisons has also allocated 200 acres of land at Kimbiji for palm tree farming which will provide raw materials for the factory throughout the

year. "This palm trees farm will enable us meet the growing demand for edible palm oil and palm nuts oil which is growing in the domestic market," she added.

Apart from that right now we are waiting for other production machines that will be used for palm oil nuts so that we

can supply it to entrepreneurs and industries for soap making while others use it for our own uses. Saganda also unveiled that feasibility studies for a similar plant at Kitwanga in Kigoma region is underway with plans to construct another factory already on the drawing board.



Tanzania Prisons Karanga Leather Factory in Moshi. A similar factory for oil palm has been opened in Kigamboni Municipality, Dar es Salaam. File photo.

## Kenyan court blocks major Chinese-backed coal plant in historic Lamu

NAIROBI

There was rejoicing in court yesterday when Kenya's environmental tribunal blocked a long-planned \$2bn coal-fired power plant in Lamu, which was to be majority financed and built by China.

Judge Mohammed Balala "set aside" an earlier decision granting a licence to the developer, Amu Power, which aimed to build East Africa's first coal station near the Lamu archipelago, an historic coastal area and tourism destination that includes a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Environmental and conservation campaigners have opposed the plant, saying it would pollute the air, destroy surface habitats, and hurt tourism and livelihoods in the region. Speaking in Kenya's National Environment Tribunal yesterday, Judge Balala ruled that Amu Power had submitted an incomplete environmental impact assessment, which ignored provisions of Kenya's Climate Change Act, and had failed to provide an engineering plan for the project, local media reported.

He also said Amu Power had failed adequately to consult the public about its plans, which have been in train for about six years. Balala ordered Amu Power to re-do the environmental assessment. He gave the company 30 days to appeal.

"We're now old, but we inherited a clean and healthy environment from our fathers, and it's our duty to give our children a clean and healthy environment as well," tweeted Mohammed Mbwana, vice chair of Save Lamu, a coalition of groups formed to oppose the plant.

"This is a big victory, this is a big day for Lamu people, it's a big day for Kenya, it's a big day for Africa and it's a big day for the world," Mohamed Athman, a Save Lamu member, told AFP.

Amu Power is a special-purpose entity 51% owned by Kenyan investment firm Centum Investments. Other partners include Gulf Energy and a group of Chinese power companies including the state-owned giant, Power Construction Corporation of China (Power China), which received the contract to build the plant in 2016.

The bulk of the financing, \$1.2bn, comes from a loan agreed in 2015 from the Industrial Commercial Bank of China. Earlier this month, a report by the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said the plant would be a costly mistake and should be cancelled.

It said the power purchase agreement with the government would lock taxpayers into paying more than \$9bn over 25 years even if the plant generated no power, and that the true cost of electricity from the 981-MW facility was 10 times higher than its proponents claimed. The report urged the Kenyan government to develop cheaper and plentiful renewable energy sources instead.

## GLENCORE, ANGLO MINES POLLUTE SA WATER – ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS

CAPE TOWN

South African coal mines operated by companies such as Glencore and Anglo American are polluting parts of Mpumalanga as they fail to comply with their water licenses, according to an environmental group.

The water use licenses, which also include mines run by South32 and Exxaro

Resources, were assessed in a report by the Centre for Environmental Rights. The study found "gross violations and water pollution by the operators," it said.

South Africa, the most industrialised nation on the continent, uses coal for more than 90% of its electricity generation. While environmental groups have raised awareness of premature

deaths caused by power plant pollution, the new study found "massive failures" by the Department of Water & Sanitation to effectively regulate water licenses.

"The pollution of South Africa's precious water resources occurs on a particularly egregious scale in areas with high levels of mining activity," according to the report. "The mining of coal

is particularly harmful, with acid mine drainage from coal mines polluting surface and groundwater with acid, salts and metals."

Glencore, Anglo American, Exxaro and South32 each said they would review the findings before responding in more detail. The Department of Water didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.





By Property Watch Reporter

**P**HASE two drilling at New Luika Gold Mine's Bauhinia Creek has established that there is high grade orebody which has prompted Shanta Gold Limited to continue exploring the area during this second half of the year.

In a statement, Shanta Gold CEO, Eric Zurrin said the drilling targeted areas on the western side of the ore body, below the existing reserves and mine plan. These results are over a strike length of 120 meters with holes spaced between 30 to 40 meter sections.

It is estimated that the true widths of the mineralized zones are over 90 percent of the intersected widths in the holes.

"These are some of the best exploration results yet at New Luika and it is of great encouragement to see such exceptional grades and widths as we go deeper into the orebody," said Zurrin who pointed out that the vertical level of the current mine plan is only 250m below the portal hence expect to further explore the high grade extensions in the second half of 2019.

"Mine life extension is the single biggest contributor to value for Shanta Gold shareholders given the quality of the orebody and we will be combining the phase one and two results into an updated resource estimate in July," said the Shanta Gold CEO.

Other highlights of the drilling include: Bauhinia Creek is one of three active sources of ore currently being mined at NLGM; Phase two drilling has intersected high grade mineralisation over significant widths, providing further evidence

## SHANTA GOLD CHIEF EXCITED BY RICH OREBODY AT NEW LUIKA GOLD MINE



New Luika Gold Mine in Chunya, Songwe region.

of the continuity of the orebody to the west of the mine where high grade results were intercepted in May 2019.

Results from the drilling were: The new high grade intersections

announced in Phase 1 (May 2019), Phase 2 (June 2019) and the previous drill hole CSD055 are outside the existing mineral reserves and will be incorporated into the mine plan; the new area is below the

existing mineral reserves exhibiting higher grades and widths at depth; and strike length of high-grade mineralisation below the existing reserves is estimated at 280 meters and remains open at depth.

The results of the first and second phases of the NLGM drilling campaigns will be combined and analysed, with an updated mineral resource estimate and life of mine extension expected in July 2019.

## London-based Luxury Developer expands into East Africa

NAIROBI

London based luxury property developer, One Point Six has entered into the East African market following two successful years of operation.

The business, whose residential London projects have all achieved record-breaking prices, has signed its first contract to design the corporate office of Victoria Commercial Bank, one of the most respected banks in Kenya.

One Point Six, which was set up by Yadav Jani and Bhavnish Chandaria in 2017, takes inspiration from the 'golden ratio', the perfectly symmetrical relationship between two proportions. The expansion into East Africa is being spearheaded by Directors Yadav and Bhavnish, both of whom have backgrounds within real estate and finance in Kenya.

Their contract to design the corporate offices of the Victoria Commercial Bank is the first of a number of projects planned in the region. The Victoria Commercial Bank's new commercial office is approximately 4,000 sq.ft. of space within the vicinity of the Two Rivers Shopping Mall, East Africa's largest mall. The office will function as a branch but will act mainly as a discrete area for the bank's VIP clients and high profile individuals.

The project, though in Kenya, will be designed from One Point Six's London office, whilst the materials will be sourced from UK and European suppliers. Yadav Jani, Director at One Point Six, comments: "Having completed a number of high end interior projects in the UK, we are now bringing our expertise to the local market in Kenya. We know what high end spaces should look like and will deliver this project in a way that lives up to the market."

The developer also has a number of other projects in the pipeline, including 4 residential developments. The Victoria Commercial Bank project is due for completion in late Autumn 2019.



An illustration of Ethiopian Airlines' new five star hotel in Addis Ababa.

## Ethiopia to construct US \$150m second five-star hotel

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopian Airline has announced plans to construct its second five star hotel in Addis Ababa at an investment cost of US \$150m.

Abraham Tesfaye, Ethiopian Airlines Group manager Infrastructure Planning and

Development announced the reports and said that the hotel is being built adjacent to the first hotel on a 22,000sqm of land. The hotel will feature 637 guest rooms, restaurants, bars, conference hall, swimming pool, fitness center and a basement parking which can accommodate 550 cars. Chi-

nese construction firm, AVIC has conducted the design work and will also undertake the construction of the second hotel.

The first Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, was built at a cost of US \$65m. It sits on a 20,000sqm plot of land in front of the Millennium Hall. The hotel has has eight floors with a total floor area of 42,000sqm and 373 guest rooms

Ethiopian Skylight Hotel features three restaurants - a Chinese restaurant, an Ethiopian restaurant and an European restaurant, a lobby, executive roof top and a jazz club. 27 of the guest rooms are spacious suites. The Hotel was designed and built by AVIC, while a local consulting firm, Sileshi Consult, carried out the supervision work. It also encompasses a grand ballroom designed to accommodate 2000 persons convenient for conference and wedding parties and also has

five meeting rooms which can accommodate 20-30 persons.

"Addis Ababa is the main gate way to Africa. The hotel will play a significant role in boosting the tourism sector and making Addis Ababa a conference hub," said Busera Awel, VP Strategic Planning and Alliances.

Busera however clarified that both hotels are catering for not only Ethiopian Airlines passengers but it is open for the public. "The hotel is hosting local, regional and international conferences. It is an ideal venue for company staff and management meetings, weddings and other events," he said. When the second hotel is completed Ethiopian Skylight Hotel would have 1,000 guest rooms.

Ethiopian government has an aim of making Ethiopia a top tourist destination in Africa and increase the number of tourists streaming into the country to 10 million.

## \$100m to boost Ghana's Industrial Parks

ACCRA

Ghana is due to receive \$75 million from World Bank and £20 million (USD \$25m) from UK Department for International Development to develop industrial parks.

According to Trade Minister Alan Kyeremanteng, the package is part of a new World Bank project known as Ghana Economic Transformation Project (GETP). The Minister said UK Department for International Development is also giving £20 million as part of efforts to create jobs through industrial parks.

Kyeremanteng disclosed the details to journalists after commissioning the Dawa Industrial Zone developed by LMI Holdings in the Ningo-Pramprom District. The newly commissioned 20,000-acre industrial park has a 330/34.5kV power substation, paved roads, water, internet connection and several other facilities, which makes it easy for both existing and new businesses to set up within that zone without any hustle.

Kyeremanteng is confident that industrial parks such as the Dawa Industrial Zone would attract the kind of investors that would open manufacturing plants and factories to create jobs for Ghanaians and value for the economy.

Energy Minister Peter Amewu, who represented President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo at the commissioning, said the Dawa Industrial Zone is a sterling example of how local entrepreneurs can take advantage of the enabling environment created by the government to establish significant business opportunities and create jobs.

He was particularly pleased with the 330/34.5kV electricity substation in the Dawa Industrial Zone, saying that it was a glowing example of the important role the private sector plays in providing the needed infrastructure to enable the country meet its energy needs.

Chief Executive Officer of LMI Holdings, Kojo Aduhene, was excited about the infrastructure the park provides for business to establish their factories, offices and plants without having to go through the hustle of connecting power, internet, water and other utilities for themselves.

He believes the Dawa Industrial Zone would go a long way to reduce the pressure on Tema, adding that the company dreams of turning Dawa into a complete industrial city like Tema to support national development. Meanwhile, some businesses have already started building offices within the Dawa Industrial Park.



The Dawa Industrial Zone in Ghana.



## CONSTRUCTION

## SOUTH AFRICAN LARGEST PROPERTY FUND BEGINS ITS ACQUISITION TRAIL INTO AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG

Growthpoint Investec African Properties (GIAP), the pan-African real estate investment business managed by Growthpoint Investec African Property Management, has begun executing on its strategy to aggregate a quality portfolio of prime income-producing commercial assets in select cities across Africa.

The news comes after South Africa's largest listed specialized shop-

ping centre real estate investment trust, Hyprop announced on Friday that AttAfrica Limited, in which it owns a 37.5 percent stake, had concluded an agreement to dispose of its interest in Achimota Retail Centre in Ghana.

GIAP, established as a joint venture between Growthpoint Properties, the largest real estate group in the South Africa, and Investec Asset Management, announced today that it has successfully concluded the acquisition of 97.5% of Achimo-

ta Retail Centre, a prime shopping centre in Accra, Ghana.

This transaction marks the first of a pipeline of assets currently being negotiated for acquisition by GIAP. Achimota Retail Centre in north-eastern Accra includes approximately 15,000sqm of retail space occupied by more than 50 retailers, including big names Game, Shoprite, Mr Price, Pizza Hut and KFC. GIAP also expects to announce a further acquisition of another key asset in the near term.

In 2018, GIAP secured capital commitments of more than US\$212 million from several large institutional and international investors. Given the current pipeline of assets under discussion, GIAP's capital is likely to be fully invested by the end of 2019, and its investments further diversified across the office, retail and industrial sectors.

Achimota Retail Centre has been acquired from AttAfrica, a joint venture of JSE-listed REITs Attacq Limited and Hyprop Investments

Limited, and certain minority shareholders.

Thomas Reilly, MD of Growthpoint Investec African Property Management, says, "GIAP has strategically timed its entry into the market to take advantage of a highly attractive entry-point into key cities which we view as offering strong growth prospects. We have adopted a very considered asset acquisition strategy with the result of being able to source quality yielding assets at very competitive prices.

The business is enjoying significant momentum at the moment, and we expect this to aid the delivery of sustainable long-term investor returns."

The second transaction is expected to be finalised within the next month, after which further details will be made available. GIAP is expected to aid the development of local African real estate markets and to contribute to the wide-ranging developmental impact which real estate can have in such markets.

## UAE MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS UP BY NEARLY 80 PER CENT

DUBAI

Mortgage applications in the UAE increased by 78 per cent over the year to April and enquiries rose by 59 per cent in the same period, a sign that end users are increasingly seeking long-term solutions for their housing needs, according to data from consultancy Mortgage Finder.

The average size of a home loan, however, decreased from Dh1.67 million in May 2018 to Dh1.31m in the same month this year, reflecting the relatively weak property market, said the consultancy, which is part of the real estate portal Property Finder Group.

"We have seen a shift from an investor-led market to an owner-occupied market, with more end users buying to live in the property," said Chris Schutrups, managing director of Mortgage Finder. "This is likely due to the downward shift in prices which has made home ownership more affordable and achievable." Real estate prices in the UAE have remained weak since 2015, according to a report last year from Property Finder.

Data from real estate consultancy ValuStrat finds Dubai residential capital sales values decreased by 12.4 per cent and rental values by 9 per cent for the first quarter of this year, when compared to last year. In Abu Dhabi, sales values were on average 12.2 per cent lower than the same quarter last year and rents were down by 6.9 per cent year-on-year. Analysts, however, see a recovery soon as investors continue to take advantage of lower pricing and the economy picks up on the back of stimulus measures by the government.

In more than 80 per cent of the enquiries analysed by Mortgage Finder, buyers opted for a fixed interest rate, an unchanging rate that



Newly built apartments for mortgaging in Dubai.

applies for the entire term of the loan or part of the term. However, with recent predictions from the US Federal Reserve that there may be rate cuts this year, Mr Schutrups said, "we are seeing a few more sophisticated buyers opt for lower margin variable rates."

With the US dollar tied to the dirham, US Fed rate cuts would result in lower mortgage interest rates in the UAE, making it more attractive for people to refinance existing home loans and take out a variable rate mortgage to pay

less interest.

The caveat is the 3 per cent early settlement fee introduced by the Central Bank of the UAE last year. Before the fee amendment in June last year, early settlement fees were capped at 1 per cent or Dh10,000, whichever was lower. Mortgage Finder estimates that refinancing transactions and mortgage transfers between banks have reduced considerably as a result.

"We estimate that there has been about a 75 per cent reduction in the number of refi-

ancing transactions and buy-outs that we do. However, it is worth noting that these only accounted for about 5 per cent of transactions in 2018," Mr Schutrups said.

Some banks differentiate between using cash to settle a mortgage early or refinancing, with a difference of as much as 2 per cent of the outstanding loan amount, according to Mortgage Finder. For example, banks commonly charge 1 per cent when the payment is made in cash upon selling a property versus 3 per cent

when settled by refinancing.

Banks may also charge a higher rate to non-residents or may force buyers to sell their property before leaving the country, said the consultancy, which previously operated as MIBME Mortgage Broker and was acquired by the Property Finder Group in 2014.

On the positive side, some banks allow for penalty-free overpayments of up to 10 to 20 per cent, allowing homeowners the option to pay off their mortgages early. The average length of a mortgage in

the UAE is seven years.

Mr Schutrups also recommends borrowers ask their lender to consider including the upfront fees required, such as the 4 per cent Dubai Land Department fee and the real estate agent fee, within the mortgage.

"Being able to include just 4.5 per cent of the upfront fees into the mortgage can increase buying power by around 18 per cent as more of your cash can be put towards deposit rather than covering the fees," Mr Schutrups said.

## China declares construction of massive \$13bn Daxing airport complete

BEIJING

Work has been completed on Beijing's Daxing International Airport over the weekend and it is expected to begin operations before the end of September, after a total of 787 tests are carried out involving 500 flights and some 52,000 simulated passenger trips.

The airport, which has a construction value of \$13bn, has been built 46km south of Beijing.

The terminal building is the world's second-largest terminal after Istanbul Airport, with an area of more than 1,000,000 sq m.

At present Daxing has four runways and 79 aircraft stands, which will be expanded to seven runways and an additional terminal to bring its capacity up to 100 million passengers a year, compared with Beijing Capital airport's 96 million. Although the airport



An aerial view of Daxing International Airport.

has the second largest single-building terminal after Istanbul, Bai Henghong, project director with the Beijing Construction Group, said it still boasted some world records. He said: "It is the world's largest integrated trans-

portation hub. The terminal building is also the world's largest built with a seamless steel structure, boasting the world's first design of double-deck departure and double-deck arrival platforms." The airport's sup-

porting infrastructure, including expressways and a high-speed rail line have been completed on schedule. Although the construction work proceeded smoothly, there has been a fight among China's three main state-

owned airlines for landing slots at the facility.

As the South China Morning Post reported in May, the three have been engaging in "intensive lobbying, high-level horse trading and political manoeuvring" which will "help define the future of the world's biggest airline market."

The contenders are Air China, China Eastern and China Southern Airlines, which together hold two-thirds of China's civil aviation market. The first plan was for China Eastern and China Southern Airlines to have 40% each of the available places with Air China remaining at Capital.

After a lobbying battle with the Chinese authorities, it was decided in April that China Eastern would keep its "golden goose" - the Beijing to Shanghai route at Capital - and give 10% of its Daxing slots to China Air.

Daxing's passenger throughput is forecast to reach 45 million by 2021, 72 million in 2025, and further increase to 100 million by 2040, by which time China is expected to have the world's largest civil aviation market.

## Brisbane's \$3.8bn Cross River Rail project achieves financial close

SYDNEY

The Pulse consortium has reached contractual close with the State of Queensland on the tunnels and stations package of Brisbane's US\$3.8bn Cross River Rail project.

The consortium is made up of Dutch contractor BAM, Italian tunnelling specialist Ghella, funder DIF and three Cimic Group companies: Pacific Partnerships, CPB Contractors and UGL.

The design and construction will be delivered by a joint venture of CPB Contractors, Ghella, BAM and UGL. This will include four underground stations at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street, as well as a residential development above Albert Street station. UGL will provide maintenance services over 24 years.

Cimic Group has led the development of the project's proposal, with lead sponsor Pacific Partnerships providing 49% of the equity finance, with the remaining 51% provided by DIF, BAM and Ghella Investments & Partnerships.

Michael Wright, Cimic Group chief executive, said: "Cimic Group's integrated approach to PPP projects is based

on our end-to-end capabilities across a project's life cycle. As Australia's premier rail infrastructure and services provider, we will finance, design, construct and maintain the new tunnels and rail stations, in partnership with the state government, to deliver world-class rail assets and services for South East Queensland."

Revenue for Cimic from the project is expected to be about \$1.6bn. Construction work will begin later this year.



Michael Wright, Cimic Group chief executive, said: "Cimic Group's integrated approach to PPP projects is based on our end-to-end capabilities across a project's life cycle."



## WORLD

# Even for a limited nuclear deal, North Korea may settle for nothing less than sanctions relief

SEOUL

A new public broadside by North Korean officials against U.S.-backed sanctions highlights the tough road ahead as negotiators prepare for talks in the wake of Sunday's meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Media reports out of Washington have suggested the Trump administration may be willing to seek a partial deal to dismantle at least part of North Korea's nuclear program.

But ahead of what would be the first significant talks since Trump and Kim failed to reach a deal at a summit in February in Hanoi, analysts say progress is unlikely unless Washington is prepared to ease some sanctions.

North Korea's exports to China, its main market, dropped nearly 90 percent last year, according to data from Beijing, and a report this week by the Seoul-based Korea Development Institute said sanctions had put the country on a path for economic crisis.

"North Korea wants actions, not

words," said Christopher Green, a Korea expert at the International Crisis Group. "I'm not sure the U.S. is mentally ready for it, even now."

After Trump met with Kim at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters a fresh round of negotiations with North Korean foreign ministry diplomats will likely happen "sometime in July".

Pompeo later made clear the United States believed sanctions put in place under U.N. Security Council resolutions needed to remain in place as talks moved forward.

Ahead of February's failed summit in Hanoi, American officials had raised the possibility that while sanctions would remain, they might be willing to take interim steps such as boosting humanitarian aid or opening liaison offices. U.S. officials, however, rejected North Korea's offer to dismantle its reactor complex at Yongbyon in exchange for wide-ranging sanctions relief.

Since then, North Korea has only



U.S. President Donald J. Trump takes a historic first step with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divides the two Koreas, in Panmunjom, South Korea, on June 30, 2019. REUTERS

doubled down on its calls for sanctions to be withdrawn, signaling that while lesser steps might be welcome, they would not be enough to persuade Pyongyang to give up nuclear assets.

"Our state is not a country that will surrender to the U.S. sanctions," a North Korean foreign ministry official said in a statement last week.

A New York Times report that suggested American officials would settle for a nuclear freeze by North Korea was criticized by national security adviser John Bolton who said the idea had not been discussed at the National Security Council.

The disagreements between officials at the NSC and U.S. State Department over whether to maintain a hard line or take a step-by-step approach are "creating a discordant policy line," Green said.

North Korea's mission to the United Nations on Wednesday criticized the United States as "obsessed with sanctions and pressure campaign" and accused it of being "more and more hell-bent on hostile acts" against Pyongyang.

A report this week by the North Korea Risk Group concluded there is "significant motivation for both sides to seek to reach an agreement," and that Trump and Kim may be more compelled than ever to seek an interim deal.

"This is because a third failure - which cannot be ruled out - would prove deeply problematic for both leaders at this stage," the report said.

But unless the U.S. decides sanctions are on the table, even a smaller deal may be hard to seal, analysts said.

"A freeze on fissile material, nuclear weapons, and missile production at Yongbyon and beyond - when North Korea does not even acknowledge enrichment facilities outside Yongbyon - without some sanctions relief, seems unlikely," said Vipin Narang, an associate professor of political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

If Washington sticks to its stance of no sanctions relief until North Korea gives up the proverbial keys to its nuclear kingdom, then Trump's latest meeting with Kim "may be remembered as the last gasp of a strategy that was predictably doomed," Narang said.

"The idea of a more flexible negotiating position that's comprehensive in scope but step by step in implementation is welcome, but the scope and sequence of each reciprocal step still has to be realistic," he said.

On the other side, U.S. intelligence officials have said it is unlikely Kim intends to ever give up his entire nuclear arsenal.

To find a compromise, each side may have to drop the ongoing "good cop, bad cop" cycle of engagement and threats, Narang said.

"If we are hoping for a deal, the good cops on both sides will have to sideline their internal bad cops."

Agencies

## Nuclear power unit on Russian fire-damaged submersible in working condition - top brass

MOSCOW

THE nuclear power unit of the submersible, whose 14 crew members died in fire, is operational while the vessel will be fully repaired, Defense Minister Sergei



Shoigu reported to Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday. "The nuclear power unit on this vessel has been isolated and no one is in that section," the Kremlin website quoted Shoigu as saying.

The crew took all the necessary measures "to protect the unit" and that is why "it is in a full working condition," the defense chief said.

All the measures that were taken give us hope that the submersible may be repaired in a short time, Shoigu said.

"Our first conclusion is that the submarine can be repaired. Moreover, this must be done, in this particular case. We are now assessing the timeframe," Shoigu said.

**Fire on the submersible**

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement released on Tuesday that 14 submariners died in fire on a submersible in Russian waters on July 1.

"On July 1, fourteen submariners - sailors died in Russian territorial waters as a result of inhaling combustion products aboard a research submersible designated for studying the seafloor and the bottom of the World Ocean in the interests of the Russian Navy after fire broke out during bathymetric measurements," the statement read.

The fire was extinguished "thanks to the self-sacrificing actions of the crew," the statement added.

The submersible is currently kept at Severomorsk, the main naval base of Russia's Northern Fleet. The causes of the incident are being investigated.

On Putin's instruction, Shoigu arrived in Severomorsk on Wednesday where he held a meeting on establishing the causes of the deadly fire. Shoigu noted that the crew had acted "heroically" and in the first place rescued a civilian aboard the submarine, after which they continued struggling with the fire.

The perished mariners will be recommended for state awards posthumously while their families will be rendered all the necessary assistance and support, the defense minister said. Russia's defense chief held a separate meeting with representatives of the research submersible's developing company and ordered that measures should be worked out and implemented within the shortest time possible to repair the submersible and bring it into service again. **Agencies**

## Chinese ambassador urges Britain to reflect on words and deeds on Hong Kong affairs

LONDON

CHINESE Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming urged the British side to seriously reflect on its wrongful remarks and actions on Hong Kong and stop at once any types of interference in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs.



During a press conference on Wednesday at the Chinese Embassy in Britain, Liu (pictured) expounded China's firm position over the recent violent act of storming the Legislative Council Complex in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, stressing that China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes Britain's gross interference in Hong Kong affairs and domestic affairs of China.

He told over 40 correspondents from 25 media outlets that the British government chose to stand on the wrong side. It has made inappropriate remarks not only to interfere in affairs of Hong Kong, but also to back up the violent law-breakers, the ambassador said.

"What's more, the British side has attempted to interfere in Hong Kong's rule of law and obstruct Hong Kong authorities from bringing the criminals to justice," Liu added. Liu stressed that Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China, not under the British colonial rule, and Hong Kong affairs are absolutely China's internal affairs, which by no means tolerate the interference by any countries, groups and individuals.

China has unwavering determination in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and interests in development and maintaining prosperity and stability in Hong Kong, Liu said, reiterating China's firm opposition to interference by external forces.

The incident in Hong Kong was covered by massive reports worldwide, especially by British media. However, some of the reports are extremely biased and some are even malicious, he added. **Xinhua**

## China to introduce new measures to promote innovative models in foreign trade

BEIJING

CHINA will support the pilot free trade zones in undertaking more experiments with reform and opening up, and refine policy incentives for cross-border e-commerce to facilitate more innovative models in foreign trade, a State Council executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang decided on Wednesday.

"These pilot free trade zones have accumulated much good experience in the past six years since their launch. In particular, they have set an example in deepening the reform of government functions and expanding opening up," Li (pictured) said. "There must be a stronger unity of purpose, supported by intensified efforts in this respect."

At the Wednesday meeting, attendees called for speedy launch of new measures to support the pilot zones in achieving wider opening up and innovation-driven development in line with high-standard international economic and trade rules.

Relevant provincial and municipal governments will be urged to delegate more provincial administrative authority to the pilot free trade zones, especially in investment approval and market access. The reform of decoupling business licenses and operation permits will be fully implemented in all pilot zones.

The meeting called for efforts

to support local governments and competent departments in proposing deeper reforms under their portfolio of responsibilities, trying the reforms out in the pilot zones, and working to see that all reforms and innovations be part of a systematic whole.

The 2019 edition of negative list for foreign investment applicable to the pilot free trade zones must be fully implemented, and related laws and regulations should be speedily adjusted accordingly.

Concrete measures were proposed at the meeting for innovation in trade facilitation. Pilot programs in competition policy will be launched in the zones as part of efforts to level the playing field. The government will step up exploration of measures in widening market access, especially in opening the services sector, in the zones, with a view to gaining experience for businesses to participate in-depth in global competition and for realizing opening up at a higher level.

At the same time, reform and innovation in pilot zones will be better leveraged to facilitate the development of their host cities and the surrounding regions.

"Nowadays, globalization, free trade and multilateralism have experienced some disruptions. Yet China's commitment to opening up as the general direction remains unchanged, and steps for wider opening will be better delivered," Li said. "We have made



arduous efforts to this end in the past 40 years, and going forward, we will be as steadfast in pursuing opening up. What has happened shows that China's opening up has benefited the world, and boosted its own development."

The Wednesday meeting also studied supportive measures for cross-border e-commerce. The past few years have seen robust growth of cross-border

e-commerce, which has become a prominent highlight in foreign trade.

"Cross-border e-commerce is an innovation responding to the new industrial revolution. As our economy transforms and upgrades, innovations in business model become an imperative. Cross-border e-commerce may take up a very small share in our overall foreign trade now, yet with

The report by DHS inspector general's office said the investigators visited five Border Patrol facilities and two ports of entry in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, describing standing room only cells for migrants, who were not fed hot meals or given showers. The Border Patrol was holding about 8,000 detainees at the time of the visit.

The investigators observed "serious overcrowding and prolonged detention" of migrant children, families and single adults that required immediate attention, said the report with images of migrants pressing notes to cell windows pleading for help.

its fast growth, it has catalyzed domestic industrial upgrading, spurred consumer spending, boosted domestic logistics such as express delivery, encouraged innovation and business startups, and created massive jobs."

It was decided Wednesday that on top of the 35 existing zones, such zones will be launched in more cities in light of local needs. Retail goods that exported from these pilot zones will see their value-added tax exempted in the absence of a valid purchase certificate. Simpler methods for verifying and collecting corporate income tax will be introduced.

The meeting urged on building more service platforms for developing cross-border e-commerce. The development of overseas warehouses in more places will be encouraged. Relevant e-commerce platforms will be guided in stepping up services for intellectual property protection.

Educational institutions will be supported in launching majors of cross-border e-commerce to promote both industrial and academic development, and produce more professionals for cross-border e-commerce.

The meeting also urged efforts to improve the prudent yet accommodative regulatory approach and boost international cooperation, including active participation in the making of international rules on cross-border e-commerce. **Xinhua**

## Trump stays tough on immigration, defending border patrol, detention facilities amid criticism

WASHINGTON

As recent polls show that U.S. voters see immigration as the most important issue facing the United States, U.S. President Donald Trump has been unwavering to stay tough on his handling of a migrant crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Our Border Patrol people are not hospital workers, doctors or nurses. The Democrats bad Immigration Laws, which could be easily fixed, are the problem. Great job by Border Patrol, above and beyond. Many of these illegals aliens are living far better now than where they came from, and in far safer conditions..." Trump tweeted on Wednesday

to fire back criticism from Democrats and activists over the border patrol and the dismal conditions in detention centers. "No matter how good things actually look, even if perfect, the Democrat visitors will act shocked & aghast at how terrible things are. Just Pols. If they really want to fix them, change the Immigration Laws and Loopholes. So easy to do!" the president argued.

"If illegal immigrants are unhappy with the conditions in the quickly built or refitted detentions centers, just tell them not to come. All problems solved!" he added.

The comments came after a ProPub-

lica report detailing disturbing posts made by Border Patrol agents in a private Facebook group, and an internal report from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) showing little progress in conditions at the detention centers run by Border Patrol and its parent agency Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan on Wednesday ordered a probe into "disturbing & inexcusable" social media posts about migrants and Democratic lawmakers that were allegedly made in a private Facebook group by current and former border patrol officers.

The report by DHS inspector general's office said the investigators visited five Border Patrol facilities and two ports of entry in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, describing standing room only cells for migrants, who were not fed hot meals or given showers. The Border Patrol was holding about 8,000 detainees at the time of the visit.

The investigators observed "serious overcrowding and prolonged detention" of migrant children, families and single adults that required immediate attention, said the report with images of migrants pressing notes to cell windows pleading for help.

The Democratic lawmakers who have visited the detention centers in Texas also said the asylum seekers were kept in cells without running water and slept on concrete. Though facing public backlash over the conditions in Border Patrol facilities, Trump appeared unwavering.

The president said on Monday that the delayed 10-city raids on illegal immigrants will begin after the July 4 holiday despite concerns about more family separations.

"After July 4, a lot of people are going to be brought back out," Trump told reporters in the White House.

The raids, planned by the Immigra-

tion and Customs Enforcement (ICE), was set to target up to 2,000 migrant families facing deportation orders in 10 cities including Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, Miami, New York and San Francisco, based on cases filed in 10 immigration court locations.

The Trump administration has also sent out a batch of notices across the country to targeted individuals ordering them to pay fines of up to nearly 500,000 U.S. dollars for "failing to depart the U.S. as previously agreed," among other factors, according to government documents obtained by NPR. **Xinhua**



# China-Africa cooperation in high-gear, powering global growth

NAIROBI

THE China-organized trade expo facilitates the flow of African products to a bigger market, said Gerard Sina, owner of a Rwanda-based food-processing company, after attending the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo last week in central China.

Having returned home from the expo, the entrepreneur said, "I have high hopes of tapping into the big Chinese market for my products."

China remains Africa's largest trading partner over the past decade with bilateral trade jumping by 20 percent year-on-year to 204.2 billion U.S. dollars in 2018.

The strong ties between the world's biggest developing country and the largest developing continent received another boost last week when several events, including the trade fair held in Changsha, capital of China's Hunan Province, yielded more tangible benefits and consolidated their consensus on win-win cooperation.

## PLATFORM FOR BIGGER MARKET

From June 27 to 29, Sina vended his company's fruit juice and chili pepper sauce as well as banana wine at the Changsha expo, which attracted more than 10,000 guests and traders, including those from 53 African countries.

According to the organizer, 84 deals worth 20.8 billion dollars were reached in trade, agriculture, tourism and other fields during the three-day event, an outcome of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Beijing Summit held last September.

Sina hailed the exhibition as "another opportunity to expand our networks," adding that the trade fair provided a platform for African entrepreneurs to learn more about international brands.

"Such trade fairs are important in supporting existing and startup businesses in Rwanda and Africa in general," he said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives for the 14th Group of 20 (G20) summit at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in Osaka, Japan, yesterday. (Xinhua)

"The expo was a success. The Chinese leadership is keen to provide the best business environment for exhibitors to showcase their products," he said.

A delegation from Zambia's North-Western Province said it used the expo to highlight the investment opportunities in the province's such sectors as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing.

During the expo, the delegation invited Chinese investors to attend a local expo scheduled for August in the province.

According to the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, the eastern African country reached a strategic cooperation agreement with Hunan Province as 14 Ugandan firms participated in the exhibition.

Over the past few days, African media has been awash with reports on the expo.

Kenya's national broadcaster KBC reported that the nation's agriculture and tourism sectors are set to benefit.

Nigeria's Daily Trust newspaper reported that the Jigawa state government signed a deal with Hunan Province to boost the state's capacity for rice production, while Namibia's New Era newspaper said the expo would provide new prospects of economic and trade cooperation between China and Namibia.

As China-Africa cooperation moves into high gear, airlines started to provide more demand-driven flight services.

In June, Rwanda's national carrier

RwandAir launched its first flight service to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, and China Southern Airlines also added another direct flight service between Kenyan capital Nairobi and Changsha, on top of its existing flight service that connects Guangzhou and Nairobi.

## CLOSE COORDINATION ON PROJECTS

Just days before the Changsha expo, over 80 ministerial-level officials gathered in Beijing for a coordinators' meeting on the implementation of the follow-up actions of the FOCAC Beijing summit.

At the FOCAC Beijing summit, China proposed eight major initiatives with African countries, covering fields such as industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, and green development.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the coordinators' gathering that China values its relations with Africa, saying it respects and supports the continent.

China never goes after selfish geopolitical gains in Africa, and never imposes its own will on others. China's approach to cooperation with Africa has been entirely different from that of traditional powers, Wang said.

During the coordinators' meeting, Chinese financing institutions and banks told African representatives that China follows internationally accepted rules in its investment and financing cooperation with Africa and attaches importance to debt risk control so that it helps Africa build its capacity for self-driven development.

Zeng Aiping, a researcher on developing countries at the China Institute of International Studies, said the coordinators' meeting ensures that China and African nations can timely follow up FOCAC outcomes and the identified projects are implemented so that they benefit the peoples.

## CONSENSUS ABOUT FUTURE CO-

## OPERATION

On the sidelines of the just-concluded Group of 20 summit in the Japanese city of Osaka, a China-Africa leaders' meeting was held, during which they reached a broad consensus on major issues such as deepening China-Africa cooperation, supporting the development of Africa and the work of the United Nations, and safeguarding multilateralism.

During the leaders' meeting, the Chinese side called on the countries to be pioneers for win-win development so that the fruits of cooperation will benefit more Chinese and African people.

China also called on the countries to lead the way in opening-up and cooperation and build stronger synergy to support Africa's development.

Liu Haifang, director of Center for African Studies at Peking University, said that China-Africa ties are "at its best in history" despite a trend of trade protectionism and anti-globalization facing the world.

The researcher said that against this background, it is necessary for China and Africa to demonstrate the strong will and determination of the two sides to strengthen unity and cooperation, adhere to multilateralism and build a closer community with a shared future.

Liu added that the economic and trade expo in Changsha further showed China's commitment to opening up its market to Africa and helping the continent realize sustainable development.

Kiram Tadesse, an Ethiopian communication consultant, said the Africa-China relations have been growing tremendously over the past couple of decades, and that the trade expo in Changsha would contribute immensely to bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

China has been a key partner of many African countries, offering a global, multilateral view of the future, Tadesse added.

Xinhua

# Africa needs manufacturing agenda - Nigerian president

LAGOS

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari on Wednesday said Africa needs not only a trade policy but also a continental manufacturing agenda.

The Nigerian leader made this known in Abuja, the nation's capital, after the presidency announced that the biggest economy in Africa will sign the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) at the coming African Union (AU) extraordinary summit.

"Our vision for intra-African trade is for the free movement of 'made in Africa goods'. That is, goods and services made locally with dominant African content in terms of raw materials and value addition," a statement reaching Xinhua quoted Buhari as saying.

He said the Nigerian government would be seeking to include terms that engender the development of policies that promote African production, among other benefits.

"If we allow unbridled imports to continue, it will dominate our trade. The implication of this is that coastal importing nations will prosper while landlocked nations will continue to suffer and depend on aid," he said.

Nigeria, the largest economy on the continent, is one of the countries that is yet to sign the regional trade agreement.

The AfCFTA aims to eliminate tariffs among member states, create a market of 1.2 billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than 22 trillion U.S. dollars.

According to earlier reports by local media, Nigeria had expressed concern the agreement could allow neighboring countries to inundate Nigeria with low-priced goods, and frustrate efforts to encourage moribund local manufacturing and expand farming.

Xinhua

# Africa urged to embrace tech to improve quality of census data collection, dissemination

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries should embrace new technological advancements if the continent is to improve the quality of census data collection and dissemination, experts said on Wednesday.

African experts and policy-makers, taking part in a five-day high-level meeting on supporting electronic data collection and dissemination in censuses which is underway from July 1 to 5 in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, emphasized that incorporating new technologies in during data collection and dissemination procedures of national census is crucial to draw accurate results.

"Population and housing censuses provide vital information for monitoring the Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063, in addition to a wide range of statistical areas allowing disaggregation by small geographic areas and small population groups," Oliver Chinganya, African Centre for Statistics (ACS) Director, told Xinhua on the sidelines of the meeting.

Chinganya, addressing the technology-themed continental meeting, also emphasizing the importance of technology-assisted census in Africa, saying that "censuses are a fundamental source for producing small area statistics."



Oliver Chinganya, director of African Centre for Statistics (ACS)

"Timely dissemination of good quality census data is crucial for national and international development goals," the ACS Director said, as he described population and housing censuses as "one of the most complex and costly statistical operations due to the involvement of a vast number of field workers."

He also urged African countries to exert "extensive preparation, delineating entire country enumeration areas and mapping all households, massive awareness campaign and post-enumeration activities" towards conducting "effective and quality" population and housing censuses.

"There is a critical need for a continuous effort of using alternative approaches and technologies to improve data quality, timeliness and dissemination of census results while considering increasing

costs of carrying out the census," Chinganya added.

The urgent call also came as several African countries embarked on preparations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses. Egypt, Lesotho and Malawi have already undertaken the census, while several others are currently at advanced stages in preparation, according to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The ECA also stressed that the "use of technology, particularly the use of mobile tablets, has become part of the 2020 round with the expansion in mobile connectivity on the continent and mobile devices with GPS capability providing new opportunities."

Amid continental wide efforts to embrace new technological advancements to improve the quality of census data collection

and dissemination, the Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency (CSA) finalized preparations to embrace Chinese technologies during the upcoming Fourth National Population and Housing Census, which was recently postponed for next year.

Biratu Yigezu, Director General of CSA, had recently told Xinhua the agency had already purchased close to 180,000 tablets from Chinese technology giants, Huawei and Lenovo, to effectively conduct the population and housing census, which is held about every 10 years.

The products, which had been tested and approved by the agency, will be circulated across Ethiopia as the East African country embarked on its first-ever digital population and housing census procedure, which includes the use of mobile tablets for data collection through five major local Ethiopian languages, according to Yigezu.

Yigezu, who noted that the previous censuses that Ethiopia had conducted some 11 years ago was "challenging" as the total procedure was carried out in a paper-based manner, said that the new technology is "crucial to report and register the actual data straight to the system without any loss of facts in the process and it reduces time."

Xinhua

# Russia favours relations with Organization of Islamic Cooperation, says speaker

MOSCOW

RUSSIA favours collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and is interested in developing relations with it, Russian Federation Council (upper house) Speaker Valentina Matviyenko said at a meeting with OIC Secretary-General Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen yesterday.

"The Organization of Islamic Cooperation plays an important role not just in the Islamic world, but in the system of international relations in general. It is no coincidence that it was named the Islamic United Nations."

We positively value cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that we have carried out for 14 years as an observer state. We want to continue to fully develop relations with your organization," Matviyenko (pictured) said.

The speaker highlighted that cooperation with the OIC is "of special interest" for multinational and multiconfessional Russia, in which more than 20 million Muslims live.

"Russia and the countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation are united through relations of friendship, mutual respect and comprehensive mutually beneficial cooperation."



We see the Islamic world as a partner in civilizational dialogue that rests, like us, on the principles of respect and equality of civilizations," the Federation Council speaker said.

Matviyenko noted that at Russia's initiative and with support from the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations, the Conference on Inter-Ethnic and Inter-Religious Dialogue involving heads of state, parliamentarians and leaders of major world confessions will be held in Russia in May 2022.

"I have to address you with the request to join in the preparations for this important conference. We expect you to provide new ideas, propos-

als and substantive content for this conference, possibly, some recommendations in the final document."

We would be grateful to you if the organization exploited its capacities when arranging for such an important conference," Matviyenko addressed the OIC secretary-general.

OIC Secretary-General Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen highlighted, for his part, that relations between the organization and Russia have long history. He stressed the importance of strategic relations between Russia and the Islamic world.

"We have common understanding and common views on the issue of terrorism - that it is unacceptable, just like extremism. Subterfuges are unimportant, as there can be no justification to violent actions targeting innocent people or governments."

If anyone wants changes, it is not the reason to apply violent methods," the OIC secretary-general said. He remarked that terrorism has no religion, citizenship, nationality or ethnicity.

"We denounce all violent actions, no matter whether Christians, Jews or Muslims [commit them.] We denounce such actions. And we should all share this view," Al-Othaimen noted. **Agencies**

# Iranian president says Iran to drop more of nuke commitments

TEHRAN

IRANIAN President Hassan Rouhani said here on Wednesday that the Islamic republic will abandon more of its nuclear commitments in the coming days if the parties to the Iranian 2015 international nuclear deal fail to observe their commitments.

Iran will increase the percentage of its enriched uranium to higher purity from July 7 on, Rouhani was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

"As of July 7, our uranium enrichment will not be limited to

3.67 percent of purity," he said. "We will increase it based on our needs."

After one year of U.S. unilateral exit from the Iranian landmark nuclear deal, Iran withdrew from implementing part of the nuclear deal on May 8 and threatened to take more actions in case Tehran's interests under the pact cannot be guaranteed. At that time, Iran set a 60-day deadline for the Europeans to help the Islamic republic reap the economic benefits of the deal.

Rouhani, who was talking in a cabinet meeting on Wednesday,

also said that Iran's Arak heavy water nuclear reactor, which was agreed to be redesigned under the 2015 nuclear agreement, will resume its previous activities after July 7 if the other signatories to the deal fail to uphold their end of the deal, according to Press TV.

Under the Iranian nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran agreed to redesign the 40-megawatt Arak research reactor to cut its potential output of plutonium.

Rouhani said Iran's imminent



move concerning the Arak reactor could only be reversed "if they (the other signatories)

act on all of their commitments concerning the facility."

Moreover, the Iranian president slammed the EU-designed payment channel as an "empty" mechanism.

"Empty Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) is of no use to us ... it is void and nothing is in it" to protect Iran's interests under the 2015 nuclear deal, he said.

However, if the INSTEX becomes operational and supplies Iran with petrodollars, it will be acceptable for Iran despite its shortcomings, he added.

The INSTEX, EU's special payment channel with Iran, was announced by the EU in January to secure trade with Iran and skirt U.S. anti-Iran sanctions after Washington pulled out of the 2015 landmark Iranian nuclear deal in May 2018.

Iran has been cynical to the EU's "seriousness" and feasibility of the mechanism and has threatened that it will no longer wait for the Europeans under the U.S. pressures.

On Monday, Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said that Iran's low-grade

enriched uranium stockpile has exceeded 300 kg for the first time since Iran reached an agreement with the world powers in 2015 to curtail its mass production.

Zarif also blamed the European signatories of the Iranian nuclear deal for their "insufficient" measures to ensure Iran's benefit from the accord after the U.S. exit in May 2018.

"European measures have not been enough and as Iran has announced, we will carry out the second phase of reducing commitments," Zarif noted.



## SPORT



Nicki Minaj

## Hip-hop star Nicki Minaj to perform in Saudi Arabia

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SAUDI Arabia said Wednesday that hip-hop star Nicki Minaj will perform in the ultraconservative kingdom as it sheds decades of restrictions on entertainment.

The female rapper is known for her outlandish, provocative style and hits like "Anaconda," where she raps about her "big fat" backside. Her lyrics are often laced with profanities and her skin-bearing music videos often include twerking. Christian groups criticized her 2012 Grammy Awards performance, which included dancing priests and an exorcism.

Saudi organizers announced she would be the headline act at the Jeddah World Fest on July 18. The concert, which in line with Saudi laws is alcohol and drug-free, is open to people 16 and older and will take place at the King Abdullah Sports Stadium in the Red Sea city.

Reactions on social media ranged from shock and joy to criticism and disappointment. In a profanity-laced video posted on Twitter and viewed more than 37,000 times, a Saudi woman wearing a loose headscarf accuses the Saudi government of hypocrisy for inviting Minaj to perform but requiring women who attend the concert to wear the modest full-length robe known as the abaya. Most Saudi women also veil their hair and faces.

"She's going to go and shake her ass and all her songs are indecent and about sex and shaking ass and then you tell me to wear the abaya," the Saudi woman says. "What the hell?"

Saudi organizers said the concert will be broadcast globally and covered by MTV. Other performers include British artist Liam Payne and American DJ Steve Aoki. The kingdom is also promising quick electronic visas for international visitors who want to attend.

Over the past several months, the kingdom has seen performances by Mariah Carey, Enrique Iglesias, the Black Eyed Peas, rapper Sean Paul, and DJs David Guetta and Tiesto. That's despite the widespread international backlash since October over the killing of Saudi critic and writer Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents close to the crown prince in the kingdom's consulate in Turkey.

Such concerts are a stark change from when Saudi morality police would raid establishments that played loud music.

Gender segregation between single men

and women is still enforced in many restaurants, coffee shops, public schools and universities, but other rules have loosened with women now allowed to drive and attend events in sports stadiums.

Meanwhile, British soul singer Joss Stone says she was deported from Iran after arriving in the Islamic Republic as part of a worldwide concert tour, even though she didn't plan to perform there.

Posting on Instagram, Stone appears in a video wearing a white headscarf saying: "Well, we got to Iran, we got detained and then we got deported." She said she knew solo performances by women were illegal, but she still wanted to see Iran.

She wrote that Iranian authorities placed her on a "black list" because they believed she might try to perform a public show. She described the authorities that met her on arrival at Iran's Kish Island as professional throughout their interaction.

"These people are genuinely nice kind people that felt bad that they couldn't override the system," she wrote in a caption.

Under Iranian law, women cannot perform solo concerts, though women do play in ensemble bands and orchestras. It's unclear what Stone planned to otherwise do in Iran, though her Instagram post described her desire to show "the positives of our globe."

Iranian newspapers reported Stone's Instagram comments on Thursday, though there was no immediate government comment on her claims.

Stone earlier posted images of herself boarding a flight to Iran's Kish Island in the Persian Gulf, which is an economic free zone that allows travel by all nationalities.

However, Kish also can be a dangerous place for Westerners. Robert Levinson, a former FBI agent on an unauthorized mission for the CIA, disappeared on Kish Island in March 2007. He has yet to be found. While Iran denies being involved in his disappearance, his family and the U.S. say Iran's government holds him.

Stone came to fame in 2003 as a small-town teenager with a big, soulful voice, showcased on her best-selling debut album "The Soul Sessions" and hit singles including "Fell In Love With A Boy." She also has taken acting roles and is a friend to England's Prince William and his wife, Kate.

AP

CAIRO

TROUBLED by chaos behind the scenes, played in baking heat against a backdrop of empty stadiums, the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) has still managed to serve up some entertainment and drama in its expanded 24-team group stage.

World class players such as Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah and Riyad Mahrez have shared the stage with the likes of Jean Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa, who plays in Madagascar's ramshackle league, and Selemani Ndikumana, who lived through the long civil war which ravaged Burundi until 2005.

The tournament began with what has become almost a traditional prelude – a team arguing over bonuses.

Cameroon initially refused to fly to Egypt and, even when they were eventually persuaded to travel, the players said they were still not satisfied with the offer. Pay disputes subsequently affected Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

Newcomers Madagascar provided romance as they beat Nigeria on the way to topping their group – a remarkable achievement for a motley collection of players from the lower leagues in France and clubs in Belgium, Bulgaria and the United States, and led by former French fourth-tier coach Nicolas Dupuis.

Uganda reached the knockout stage for the first time in 41 years and Benin, taking part at their fourth AFCON, made it past the group stage for the first time although they have still to win a match at the finals. They drew all their games.

The most impressive sides were the North African trio of Egypt, Morocco and Algeria who all topped their groups with a 100 percent record and without conceding any goals.

Algeria looked particularly strong although it was not pretty as they committed an average of 28 fouls a match, according to official statistics.

Other favourites were not so convincing.

Nigeria were plunged into a knockout tie against neighbours and bitter rivals Cameroon who also finished second in their group after two successive goalless draws. Tunisia were their usual dour selves, drawing all of their games, while Ghana's performance in topping their group with one win and two draws failed to silence the critics.

## Nations Cup offers entertainment despite heat, empty stadiums and chaos



Ahmad Ahmad

"I do the best I can to win all the matches but at the end you still have people who hate you or are jealous of you," said coach Kwesi Appiah.

The least memorable day was last Saturday when all three games ended goalless. In contrast, Kenya beat Tanzania 3-2 in an incredibly open game which both coaches described as "crazy" and said they were rednered "helpless" by the players' wild abandon.

### PROBLEMATIC BUILD-UP

To see any football at all was a relief given the problematic build-up.

Incredibly, the venue, timing and size of the tournament have all changed since the draw for the qualifying competition was made in January 2017.

Originally scheduled to be staged by Cameroon in January with 16 teams, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has since increased the tournament to 24 teams, moved it to June-July and stripped Cameroon of the hosting rights due to slow preparations and security concerns.

The problems peaked on the eve of the finals when, in an unprecedented move, soc-

cer's world governing body FIFA took over the running of CAF in the wake of corruption allegations and an ethics investigation was launched into its Malagasy president Ahmad Ahmad.

Ahmad has not responded to repeated requests by Reuters for comment on the allegations against him.

The decision to play in the brutal Egyptian summer also raised eyebrows although the players seemed to cope.

Yacine Zerguini, vice-president of CAF's medical committee, said the Wet Globe Bulb

Temperature (WGBT), used to measure the effect of temperature, humidity, wind and luminosity, had not surpassed the 32-Celsius limit considered safe for football.

"We have never reached the WGBT temperature during the competition," he said, adding that low humidity had helped.

Stadiums for many games were almost deserted, lending a strange backdrop.

A complex and unreliable ticketing system, modelled on last year's World Cup, requiring fans to register and buy tickets online has been partly blamed along with local indifference to matches not involving the host nation.

For some, the quirks were just part of the appeal.

"I am having a great time," said Cameroon's Clarence Seedorf, one of the highest-profile coaches at the tournament. "I think it is wonderful to live this tournament here and every day is an adventure."

REUTERS

## Pakistan's street cricketers bring game to life in Greece

ATHENS

IN a barren Athens parking lot, young Pakistanis get in position for a game of cricket. On one end of the dust-covered concrete is a trash can; on the other, a pile of rocks. That is their pitch, and those are its wickets.

In football-loving Greece, cricket is an alien concept. But for its migrants from Pakistan, one of the world's most cricket-crazy nations, it is a way of life.

On Sundays, a growing community of street cricketers travels across the capital to the unlikely locations, from car parks to abandoned industrial grounds, engaging in tape-ball cricket – an informal version of the game invented in Pakistan, played using a tennis ball wrapped in electrical tape.

With the Cricket World Cup under way, they compete in local tape-ball tournaments, and homes and restaurants are abuzz with fans.

"I love cricket. I'm crazy for cricket. I'm 30 years old and I'm playing for 20 years," said Awais Mughal, a delivery worker who arrived in Greece a decade ago.

Dressed in the green jersey of his Athens team, Mughal and more than a dozen of his countrymen gathered in his apartment on a sweltering Sunday morning to watch Pakistan defeat South Africa over bottles of



A Pakistani man living in Greece bowls a ball during a tape-ball cricket game in a park in the Agioi Anargyroi suburb Athens, Greece, June 23, 2019. REUTERS

chilled water and soft drinks.

"In my country, whenever I go, I play all day," Mughal said. "In Greece we play only on Sundays because we work six days a week."

About 50,000 Pakistanis live in Greece, the embassy estimates, many of them laborers in fields or factories. Others own shops or restaurants.

"Cricket is in the genes of the

people from the subcontinent," said Yawar Abbas, the embassy's charges d'affaires in Athens.

In Greece, the sole cricket ground is on Corfu, dating from the days when the Ionian islands were under British rule in the 19th century.

In Athens, where most migrants live, they resort to playing informally without proper gear.

"Many people play cricket here but we have no grounds in Athens," said Mehdi Khan Choudhry, a Pakistani former player in Greece's national cricket team who has been living in Greece since 1993.

His home is adorned with trophies won over the years. A photograph shows him posing with a large Pakistani flag during a cricket match at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Choudhry, a mechanical engineer and cricket coach, has long campaigned for a ground in Athens and wants to open a cricket academy.

Beyond the enjoyment the sport brings, he said, it helps forge camaraderie with migrants from other cricket-playing nations including Afghanistan, Bangladesh and even India, Pakistan's archrival on and off the pitch. "When we stay and play together, you know there is good relations."

REUTERS





# Africa Cup of Nations W2W4: Heavy hitters face early exits in round of 16

BY NICK AMES, ESPN.COM WRITER

**W**ITH the group stage now over, the Africa Cup of Nations moves on to the real drama of the tournament: the knockout rounds. Nick Ames assesses some of the biggest storylines facing nations as they enter the round of 16, kicking off on Friday.

Morocco and Senegal look to seal last-eight showdown

On early evidence, Morocco against Senegal would make a worthy final for this competition. But if they come through highly winnable last-16 ties, they will meet in the quarterfinals and all eyes will be on just how they are shaping up, with plenty of reasons to be both positive and cautious so far.

Senegal face Uganda on Friday, feeling buoyant after an ultimately comfortable 3-0 win over Kenya. The most important facet of that victory was Sadio Mane's explosion into form: He may have missed a penalty in the first half, but successfully converted another later on and finished another chance clinically from open play, too. Fit-again Ismaila Sarr was also on target and, after creaking against South Africa, they look good enough to glide past a decent Uganda side whose preparation has been overshadowed by a dispute over bonus payments.

As for Morocco, their win over Ivory Coast was arguably the slickest performance of the first round. But they left it late against both Namibia and South Africa: Herve Renard's side could do with a more comfortable time of things against Benin, who finished third in Group F after three draws, if they are to maintain their early billing as the team everyone else needs to beat this summer.

## Egypt need to step up a gear

You would be hard pressed to find a single Egyptian who is happy with their Africa Cup of Nations performances so far. Yes, they have won three times without conceding a goal, but they were fortunate -- especially in their

final group-stage game against Uganda -- to escape unscathed. Nobody is under any illusions that, without Mohamed Salah to dig them out of trouble and the occasional flash of brilliance from Trezeguet, this would be a serious contender for the crown.

"Their prayers are the only reason they are winning," said one Cairo taxi driver on Tuesday. It is actually not a million miles from the truth: the strength of support they take from the hostile, passionate home stands counts as an extra man sometimes and seems to have helped Egypt through a number of tricky moments so far.

They certainly stayed behind their side in the Uganda match despite the players' support for Amr Warda, who was originally cut from the squad amid sexual harassment allegations but will return for the round-of-16 meeting with South Africa on Saturday. Salah was influential in securing his return and, despite the team's success so far, the saga has overshadowed much of his and their work. Against an unremarkable Bafana Bafana, can they produce a display that really gets people talking?

## Heavy hitters battle to avoid early exit

Nigeria and Cameroon have contested three Africa Cup of Nations finals, but one of them will be going home soon. These powerhouses meet in Alexandria on Saturday and both have only themselves to blame for landing such a fiendish tie. Nigeria should have disposed of Madagascar, even with a raft of changes from Gernot Rohr, but were stunned by the outsiders and lost top spot in Group B. Cameroon laboured in a goalless draw with Benin on Tuesday, slipping from the summit of Group F, and it means whoever comes out on top here will have done it the hard way.

Nigeria's players held a special meeting on Monday to pull themselves together after that shock against Madagascar, with concerns that a few personal grievances were obstructing



Defending African Cup of Nations champions Cameroon could be headed for an early exit in this year's tournament. (Agencies)

the collective effort. Should their mentality be right then they should have too much for the holders, who boast a star managerial duo in Patrick Kluivert and Clarence Seedorf but sorely lack the quality Indomitable Lions teams have shown in previous years. Yet the one sure thing, for anyone who has followed the Super Eagles' fortunes, is that things rarely come easily. They have won seven of this special fixture's past 10 meetings, going back two decades, but it is not hard to see things going to the wire this time around.

## Zaha looks to make headlines with Ivory Coast

Back in England, Wilfried Zaha's name is leading the Premier League transfer-window narrative, with Arsenal angling Crystal Palace by tabling a £40 million bid and his brother claiming he wants away. A Cup of Nations campaign with Ivory Coast seems a million miles from that but, after making just one substitute appearance in the Elephants' first two games, he could be seen walking around with a face like thunder.

Things were very different in a

resounding 4-1 win over Namibia, which saw Zaha recalled to the starting lineup and scoring a crisply taken goal. More of the winger's best form would improve his side's chances against Mali, a lively young team who possess plenty of attacking thrust themselves. Monday's game in Suez has the ingredients to be a cracker and, for now, Zaha is adamant he wants to make headlines with the national team.

"The only thing that's on my mind now is trying to win this cup," he said after downing Namibia, looking altogether cheerier. "I'm fixated on how far we go in the tournament"

When Zaha is at his best, Ivory Coast are better, too. Whether it suits him or not, perhaps a stellar performance when it matters on this exalted stage might strengthen Palace's claim to an £80m fee for their talisman.

## Madagascar carry underdogs' hopes

Suddenly, those with an interest in this competition are charged with learning tongue-twisting names like Carolus Andriamatsinoro and Lalaina Nomenjanahary. They were Madagascar's scorers in the stunning 2-0 win over Nigeria and all eyes will now be on just how long Nicolas Dupuis' side can continue this remarkable success story.

They offered nothing of note in the first half of their opening match against Guinea but have been brilliant ever since, attacking with vigour and pressing intensely. It means they will feel confident of overcoming a DR Congo side who finally shook off their early cobwebs by thrashing Zimbabwe on Sunday. Florent Ibenge's team have performed well in previous editions of this competition but look vulnerable this time around, as their early defeat to Uganda proved.

If the Africa Cup of Nations debutantes do not get carried away then perhaps, in their first appearance at this level, Madagascar's players will continue their journey from virtual unknowns to the verge of stardom.

## Lampard returns to Chelsea as manager after impressive Derby audition

LONDON

CHELSEA appointed Frank Lampard as their new manager yesterday, as owner Roman Abramovich turned to a familiar face rather than an experienced hand to replace Maurizio Sarri and lead the club into a new era.

Lampard, adored by Chelsea fans as the heart and soul of the club's midfield during a trophy-laden 13 years at Stamford Bridge, was handed a three-year contract having left second tier Derby County.

"I am immensely proud to be returning to Chelsea as head coach," Lampard told the club website.

"Everyone knows my love for this club and the history we have shared, however, my sole focus is on the job in hand and preparing for the season ahead.

"I am here to work hard, bring further success to the club and I cannot wait to get started."

A relative rookie as a manager, the 41-year-old Lampard earned plaudits for taking Derby into the Championship playoff final in his first year in the dugout -- even if they just missed out on promotion to Aston Villa. He faces no small task in returning Chelsea to the status of Premier League title contenders following Sarri's departure to Juventus and Eden Hazard's move to Real Madrid.

His rebuilding efforts at Chelsea will also be hampered by a FIFA transfer



ban.

Sarri, who departed after one season at Stamford Bridge, guided Chelsea to the Europa League title and third place in the Premier League but was never loved by Chelsea fans.

"Lamps" will have no such problems. The former England midfielder played a key role in Chelsea's golden era, making 648 appearances and scoring a club record 211 goals between 2001-2014. In that time, he won three Premier League titles as well as the Champions League.

"After 13 years with us as a player, where he became a club legend and our record goalscorer, we believe this is the perfect time for him to return and are delighted he has done so," Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said.

"We will do everything we can to ensure he has all the support required to be a huge success."

Lampard's former Chelsea team mate Petr Cech joined the club as a technical and performance advisor last month, and the pair will play a key role in the overhaul of the playing squad.

Chelsea, however, have been handed a two-window transfer ban by world soccer's governing body FIFA for breaching rules regarding the international transfer and registration of players under 18.

The club appealed against the ruling at the Court of Arbitration for Sport last month.

REUTERS

## Peru promise improved display against Brazil in Copa final

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

PERU will produce a far better performance in the Copa America final against Brazil than their 5-0 defeat by the hosts earlier in the tournament, midfielder Yoshimar Yotun said after his side stunned holders Chile 3-0 in the semi-finals.

Ricardo Gareca's side had sneaked into the quarter-finals as one of the best third-placed teams from the group stage but they have come into their own in the knockout stages.

After eliminating highly-fancied Uruguay in a quarter-final penalty shootout Peru floored Chile with first-half goals from Edison Flores and Yotun before Paolo Guerrero's late strike completed the comprehensive win.

The victory over the double defending champions also avenged Peru's defeat to Chile in the 2015 semi-finals and booked their place in their first Copa America final since last winning the tournament in 1975.

"The defeat to Brazil was very tough but this game will be different," Yotun told reporters as he looked ahead to Sunday's showpiece at the Maracana.

## Afghan coach 'disgusted' by Infantino, wants FIFA head to go

LYON, FRANCE

THE coach of the Afghanistan women's soccer team is "disgusted" with Gianni Infantino over the handling of sexual abuse cases and calls on the FIFA president to resign.

FIFA banned Keramuudin Karim for life from soccer last month for repeated sexual abuse of female players while president of the Afghanistan Football Federation.

But Afghanistan coach Kelly Lindsey is angry that only Karim has been punished.

"They didn't investigate anyone but the president," Lindsey said. "They didn't go any deeper than the top layer."

For that, according to Lindsey, the blame goes up to Infantino.

"I'm disgusted with him as a human being, as a leader of our sport," she said. "He should not be

president of FIFA in my mind.

"I respect the Women's World Cup, I respect what FIFA does for football. But I do not respect the way they are governing right now. We gave them a clear and concise opportunity to do the right thing and show that they have integrity. We gave them the clear opportunity to dare to shine."

That was invoking the slogan of the Women's World Cup which ends on Sunday in Lyon.

Speaking at an emotional briefing in the French city, Lindsey said Infantino "is not what we need as a leader of FIFA."

"You're not respecting the women's game and not respecting the players, coaches, the management, the referee," she added to Infantino.

FIFA could not make Infantino available for comment to respond to the claims. (AGENCIES)

## Peru resurgent and ageing Chile have no answer

BY TIM VICKERY, ESPN SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

IN March, after Peru beat Paraguay and lost to El Salvador, coach Ricardo Gareca mused that his team "are capable of playing anyone on equal terms. But any other team can do the same to us and can beat us." The Copa America has provided plenty of evidence that he was correct.

In its first four games, Peru found the target in only one. Moreover, in its previous two matches, it did not remotely threaten to score a goal. Did such a team have any right to be taking part in a semifinal? Straight out of the blocks on Wednesday in Porto Alegre, Brazil -- against two-time champions Chile, no less -- Peru showed that it did.

This was not the Peru that folded so easily in the group game against Brazil, losing 5-0, nor was it the Peru that held on grimly against Uruguay in the quarterfinal, defending so deep that centre-forward Paolo Guerrero might as well have been on a different continent.

On a cold night in Porto Alegre, Peru wasted no time in showing its other face. It pressed high and aggressively, this time giving plenty of support to Guerrero. Within two minutes, he set up a chance that Cristian Cueva hit wide.

The opening goal, on 21 minutes, had everything to do with the proactive Peruvian approach. It might not have happened had Arturo Vidal not landed badly after jumping for a cross, but he was already outnumbered down Chile's left flank.

Key to the move were the numbers with which Peru attacked. Holding midfielder Renato Tapia competed with Vidal in the area, and the ball

broke to Cueva. His cross was nodded on by right-winger Andre Carrillo in the centre-forward position, and left-sided midfielder Edison Flores volleyed home at the far post.

Chile had to chase the game, at which point its age -- eight outfield starters were 29 or older -- became a problem. Back in October, when Reinaldo Rueda was trying to bring young players through, Chile lost 3-0 to Peru in a Miami friendly. Under pressure for results, the coach concluded that he had to recall the old guard, only four of whom played that day.

Rueda has marshaled the resources at his disposal with wisdom, but there is no definitive answer to the effects of time. Chile's style is dependent on throwing full-backs forward, and there were signs that potency remains in attack.

Chile nearly took the lead when left-back Jean Beausejour overlapped and pulled back for Charles Aranguiz to



For the first time since 1975, Peru will play in a Copa America final. (Agencies)

shoot just wide, and after Flores' goal, Chile went close to an equaliser when right-back Mauricio Isla put in a ball across the face of goal.

But how to defend the space left behind? The veterans no longer have the lung power to get up and back, and the buildup to Peru's second goal was symbolic. A long ball was played into space behind Beausejour. In Chile's glory days of winning back-to-back Copa America titles, keeper Claudio Bravo would have come out of his area and dealt with the problem. He is gone, though, and replacement Gabriel Arias is a safe keeper, but he lacks the same ability as a footballer.

He charged out of his area without competence or conviction, Carrillo drew him and crossed from the right, and Yoshimar Yotun chested down to score with a neat left-foot finish from the edge of the penalty area.

Could the reigning champions react? At halftime, Rueda brought on Arturo Sagal -- a mixture of right winger and centre-forward -- which allowed Alexis Sanchez to drop deeper and set up play. Eduardo Vargas glanced a header against the post, then later latched on to a defensive error, raced away and earned a penalty shot, but he saw his attempt blocked by goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





## Tanzania wins praise for involving children with disabilities in Umitashumta tourney

# SPORT

Africa Cup of Nations W2W4:  
Heavy hitters face early  
exits in round of 16

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Mbeya's Acting Regional Educational Officer Anderson Mwalongo (L) communicates with Japan soccer coach Jindo Morishita during the Umitashumta tournament that took place in Mtwara recently. Morishita has toured Tanzania to train children with disabilities that have participated in the event. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

given it has insisted on establishment of sports academies, whose players are expected to form stable national sports teams.

"I've spent nine months in Zambia training some soccer teams. I then advised them to set up academies and recruit children irrespective of their statuses, something Tanzania is delving in, it is my hope the latter will have strong teams in future," Morishita noted.

Morishita also pointed out he is ready to coach any of the country's soccer sides, as long as the squads meet his demands.

He noted his tour has focused on improving soccer in developing countries particularly East African countries.

He insisted that soccer coaches in Tanzania should embrace friendly approach in coaching children, given the youngsters need good communication if they are to make the most of their skills.

Mbeya's Acting Regional Education Official, Anderson Mwalongo, said the region has been seeing to it children with disabilities participate in sports.

"Mbeya organizes sports events for all groups with a view to uniting them," Mwalongo insisted.

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

**J**APANESE football coach, Jindo Morishita, has praised Tanzania for better organization of this year's inter-primary schools games (Umitashumta), which took place in Mtwara last month.

The games, which are held annually, have this year included sports that involve

youngsters with disabilities.

Morishita issued the praise at the final of girls' category of goalball pitting Morogoro against Tabora.

Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes with a vision impairment. Participants compete in teams of three, and try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponents' goal.

The ball is thrown by hand and never kicked. Using ear-hand coordination, originating as a rehabilitation exercise, the sport has no able-bodied equivalent.

It is played indoors, usually on a volleyball court, games consist of 12-minute halves (formerly 10-minute halves).

Morishita said he was amazed by the participating youngsters' fitness, noting he felt they have

played the sport for many years.

The coach disclosed some of the countries pay either little or no attention to youngsters with disabilities.

He expressed gratitude to Tanzania's government for fostering unity among the country's people irrespective of their social, economic or political statuses.

He noted the country has good plans for developing sports,

## Tomic fined for playing below standards at Wimbledon

LONDON

AUSTRALIA'S Bernard Tomic (pictured) was fined 45,000 pounds (\$57,000) for not playing to "required professional standards" after he put in minimal effort during a 58-minute, first-round thrashing by Jo-Wilfried Tsonga at Wimbledon, organisers said on Thursday.

Fans looked bemused as the 26-year-old world number 96 lost Tuesday's match 6-2 6-1 6-4, a performance described as "appalling" and "embarrassing" on social media.

"It is the opinion of the referee that the performance of Bernard Tomic in his first round match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga did not meet the required professional standards, and therefore he has been fined the maximum amount of 45,000 pounds which will be deducted from prize money," organisers said in a statement.

With first-round losers at Wimbledon receiving 45,000 pounds, Tomic exited the tournament empty-handed following his latest run-in with the All England Club's authorities.

The Australian was fined \$15,000 in 2017 after admitting faking an injury during a first-round loss to Mischa Zverev, saying later he was "bored" with Wimbledon.

When asked to sum up his performance on Tuesday, Tomic said: "I played pretty bad." Asked to elaborate, he said: "I just played terrible."

It is not the first time Tomic has been in trouble for not trying.

He was nicknamed "Tomic the Tank Engine" after accusations he "tanked" – or failed to try his best – in a loss to Andy Roddick at the 2012 U.S. Open.

The Australian also broke the record for the quickest loss at a Masters-level tournament on the ATP Tour after being crushed 6-0 6-1 in 28 minutes by Finn Jarkko Nieminen in Miami in 2014.

Tomic also faced match point holding his racket backwards in a defeat by Fabio Fognini at the 2016 Madrid Open.

Tomic, trailing 0-40 as Italian Fognini tried to serve out the match at 6-2 5-4, held his racket by the head with the handle pointing forwards and barely moved as his opponent fired an ace past him to seal victory.

Tomic, who was once hailed as being among the game's brightest emerging talents, has now lost in the first round of his last three Grand Slams, exiting the French Open in May with a straight-sets defeat in a match lasting 82 minutes. REUTERS



## Mane faces Onyango in showdown between Africa Cup of Nations stars

CAIRO

STAR forward Sadio Mane goes head-to-head with star goalkeeper Denis Onyango when Senegal meet Uganda on Friday in an Africa Cup of Nations last-16 match in Cairo.

Senegalese Mane and Ugandan Onyango were included in the 2018 African team of the year chosen by a Confederation of African Football (CAF) panel.

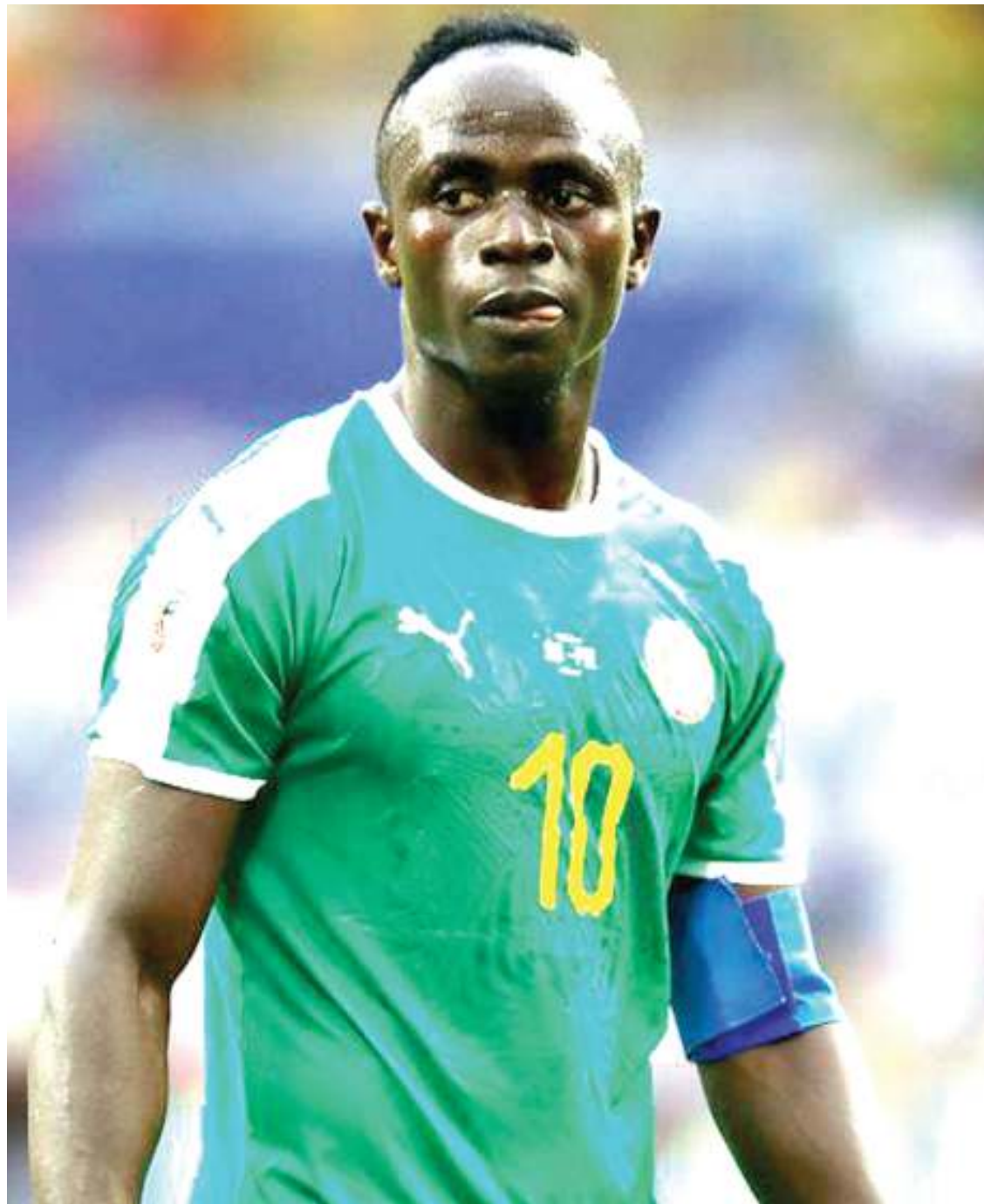
They are also Champions League winners -- Mane with Liverpool in Europe last season and Onyango with South African club Mamelodi Sundowns in Africa three years ago.

Mane (pictured) has scored twice and missed a penalty for Senegal in two group matches after being suspended for the opening match.

"I am even ready to trade my Champions League success to win the Africa Cup of Nations," he told France Football magazine in a pre-tournament interview.

Veteran Onyango has conceded three goals in three matches with another Liverpool star, Egyptian Mohamed Salah, among those who have scored against him.

Here, AFP Sport looks at the two last-16 matches this Friday with Senegal and Morocco expected to beat Uganda and Benin respectively.



- Senegal v Uganda -

Senegal may top the African rankings, 58 places above Uganda, but coach Aliou Cisse has warned his star-stacked side against over-confidence.

"No one should take Uganda for granted and eliminating them will not be easy," warned Cisse, one of the stars of the Teranga Lions team that reached the 2002 World Cup quarter-finals.

Mane echoed his coach, saying: "We saw the kind of football they played against Egypt. They are a good side and we will need to be at our best to beat them."

Uganda had Egypt on the rack for more than half an hour before Salah scored and were equally impressive in the second half without being able to convert chances into goals.

"We have reached the second round, which was the minimum target set for us by the national federation, and anything can happen in knockout matches," said coach Sebastien Desabre.

- Benin v Morocco -

Morocco have been clinical, determined and efficient so far in Egypt, mirroring the beliefs of Herve Renard, the only coach to win the Cup of Nations with two countries.

France-born Renard guided outsiders Zambia to the title in 2012 and repeated the feat with previous underachievers the Ivory Coast three years later.

"I did windows and carpets," said Renard, referring to his job as a cleaner in Paris before turning to football.

He took Morocco to the 2017 quarter-finals in his first Cup of Nations with the Atlas Lions, and they, Algeria and Egypt won all three group matches this time.

Benin also have a French coach, Michel Dussuyer, who was hugged by his players and technical staff after taking the Squirrels beyond the first round for the first time.

AFP

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

