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### National Pg 4



### National Pg 5



## US says seven countries set for inclusion in travel ban list

WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration is planning to add seven countries, listed as Belarus, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania to its travel ban list, U.S. media reports said on Tuesday.

Some countries will face bans only on some visa categories, the Wall Street Journal reported. The list of countries was not final and could yet change, the website Politico noted.

US President Donald Trump said in an interview with the journal that he was considering adding countries to the travel ban, but declined to state which ones. Politico said an announcement was expected as early as Monday.

The move is likely to sour ties between the United States and the countries affected under this expanded ban.

Nigeria is for example Africa's largest economy and most populous country, and is

**“The move is likely to sour ties between the United States and the countries affected under this expanded ban**

also a US anti-terrorism partner with a large Diaspora population residing in the United States.

A senior Trump administration official said that countries that failed to comply with security requirements, including biometrics, information-sharing and counter-terrorism measures, faced the risk of limitations on US immigration.

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The State Department declined to comment.

Under the current version of the ban, citizens of Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen as well as some Venezuelan officials and their relatives are blocked from obtaining a large range of US immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

Chad was previously covered under the ban but was removed in April 2018.

Citizens of these countries can apply for waivers to the ban, but they are exceedingly rare, the journal indicated.

# Minister: Govt has enough pesticides to tackle locusts



Ubungu interchange construction that is going on has now reached 65 per cent of the whole project as seen from above, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The interchange will reduce congestion at the Ubungu junction of Mandela and Sam Nujoma roads. Photo: State House

## Gold, coal fuel mining sector's rapid growth

By Guardian Reporter

The country's mining sector registered rapid growth of 13.7 percent during the first half of 2019 and held No 2 position in overall sector growth rates, a situation largely contributed by increases in gold and coal production.

Augustine Ollal, the director of policy and planning in the Ministry of Minerals, made this observation when presenting the ministry's performance report to the Parliamentary Committee on Mining.

He said up to December 31 2019 the Commission for Minerals had collected revenue totaling 242.5bn/- equivalent to 103 percent of the half year target of 51.5 percent

**“Other issues raised with committee members include extension of licenses for Liganga and Mchuchuma coal and iron ore projects**

of expected revenue for the whole year.

Speaking on sale of gold at minerals markets, he said for the period July to November 2019 the quantity of gold produced in Geita, Chunya, Kahama, Mwanza gold market area increased to reach 5,546.6 kgs.

The ministry has plans to establish minerals markets in all regions, and up to December last year a total of 28 markets and 25 other selling centres had been established,” he said.

The ministry conducted strategic inspection minerals trading licenses in Geita, Mara, Mwanza, Chunya, Kahama and Arusha upon which an increase of 306 licenses was registered, from 696 licenses before the inspection drive to 1,004, he said, crediting

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## Farmers' 4bn/- looted now recovered - PCCB

By Guardian Reporter

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has said it has recovered 4bn/- belonging to farmers which had been swindled by cooperatives.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, PCCB acting director general Brig Gen John Mbungu (pictured) said the money has been regained from various Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS), cooperative unions along with Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) in 28 regions.



The PCCB special investigation was a response to a request by Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga last year after an audit by the Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation (COASCO) revealed massive anomalies in the way cooperatives are run.

“The Minister for Agriculture handed me the audit report by COASCO mid November. So far we have investigated a total of 51bn/- and another probe on 72bn/- is ongoing,” he said.

Brig Gen Mbungu said a total of 4413 cooperatives have been audited including 38 cooperative unions, 2710 AMCOS, 1448 SACCOS and 217 other organizations and a total of 124bn/- cash transactions had indications of financial impropriety.

COASCO as of June 2019 before it was handed to PCCB said there were 11,410 registered cooperatives out of which about

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A team of experts was on standby to ensure that once any invasion takes place it is tackled directly, to prevent many people from food scarcity and loss of pastures

By Correspondent James Kandoya

SUFFICIENT stocks of pesticides exist for the government to make an effective response to an invasion of desert locusts in the country.

Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga said yesterday that the country can tackle a locust invasion should the pests that are currently wreaking havoc in neighbouring Kenya cross into the country.

This affirmation has come a few days after swarms of locusts invaded Turkana County, destroying hundreds of hectares of vegetation and crops, worsening the threat of acute hunger in a region that already suffers recurrent droughts.

A team of experts was on standby to ensure that once any invasion takes place it is tackled directly, to prevent many people from food scarcity and loss of pastures, he said.

Although the first priority will be given to border regions likely to be on high risk the response mechanism covers other regions as well, he said.

“Tanzania is a member of the International Red Locust Control Organization but as a country we have prepared enough in the case of such outbreak,” he the minister declared.

**“FAO said the current warm and wet weather is favourable for the crop-devouring pests to reproduce**

“Red locusts are dangerous for development since they can touch off acute hunger. Therefore, as a country, we have taken some measures to protect our people,” he stated.

He appealed to farmers and herders across the country to give information if they see groups of locusts migrating from one place to another.

The available stock of pesticides will be used to tackle any locust invasion while waiting for the UN agency to support the control effort by leased planes, he further noted.

Once a member country faces red locust invasion, FAO takes the responsibility of controlling swarms, using its own planes.

The minister had no direct affirmation on measures to combat pesticide resistance that has reportedly been noticed in the various swarms of locusts invading the north and eastern parts of Kenya from Somalia and Ethiopia.

He said it was first necessary to clear the issue of what pesticides had been used in the neighbouring country, and what problems might have occurred in that regard.

On Tuesday, FAO warned that the locust population in Kenya could multiply 500 times in the next five months if control efforts are not intensified.

The current warm and wet weather is favourable for the crop-devouring pests to reproduce, it stated.

The last time Kenya faced a locust invasion of this magnitude was before 1950, experts noted.

FAO director-general Qu Dongyu said something must be done quickly to prevent

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Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr. Angelina Mabula shows Uvinza district commissioner Mwanamvua poor records management procedure of land files stored during her visit in Kigoma region yesterday. Photo: Munir Shemweta

## Minister: Govt has enough pesticides to tackle locusts

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one of the worst food crises from enveloping the country.

FAO was seeking 7bn/- to fight the locusts and provide food to people already affected in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, the director stated. Ethiopia and Somalia are experiencing their worst locust invasion in 25 years.

The swarms could invade Uganda, South Sudan and Tanzania, if efforts to deal with the voracious pest are not scaled up across the region, he cautioned.

"Authorities in the region have already jump-started control activities, but in view of the scale and urgency of the threat, additional financial backing from the international donor community is needed so FAO can access the tools and resources required to get the job done," he emphasized.

Desert locusts are considered the most dangerous locust species. Swarms potentially containing hundreds of millions of individual desert locusts can move 150 kilometres a day with devastating effects on rural livelihoods.

FAO said that given the scale of the current swarms, aerial control is the only effective means to reduce the locust numbers.

The UN agency said it is assisting with forecasts, early warning and alerts on the timing, scale and location of invasions and breeding.

Dongyu warned that the response must include efforts to restore people's livelihoods.

On January 13 an Ethiopian airliner was diverted to Addis Ababa Airport after colliding with a swarm of locust midair.

The plane, Boeing 737-700 registration ET-ALN performing flight ET-363 was flying from Djibouti to Dire Dawa in Ethiopia.

As it was approaching Dire Dawa for landing, the aircraft initially flew through a small number of locusts, on the basis of affirmations by Aero-News, a multi-channel aviation digital hub.

The crew first decided to approach Dire Dawa with caution since the locusts were not enough to prevent them from approaching the airport, the site indicated.

## Farmers' 4bn/- looted now recovered - PCCB

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6463 were active, 2,844 were sluggish and 2,103 could not be traced.

Mbungo named the audited regions and amount of money saved as Ruvuma (9.9m/-), Kilimanjaro (38m/-), Manyara (9.8m/-), Katavi (49m/-), Coast (291.4m/-), Mbeya (50m/-), Iringa (133.8m/-), Simiyu (57.1m/-), Arusha (1.2m/-), Lindi (1bn/-) and Njombe (1bn/-).

Others are Mtwara (681.2m/-), Songwe (354.3m/-), Tabora (69.4m/-) Tanga (10.8m/-), Dar es Salaam (2.1m/-)

and Mara (242.9m/-).

Back in October, President John Magufuli said that leaders of AMCOS and SACCOS in the southern regions had unprocedurally withheld 1.2bn/- belonging to cashew farmers.

Speaking at the State House in Dar es Salaam after swearing in top officials, the president said he had learned of the theft during a tour in Mtwara and Lindi.

He was accompanied in the visit by the Brig Gen John Mbungu, among other officials.

## Gold, coal fuel mining sector's rapid growth

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the increase to efficiency improvement in the commission.

He also mentioned that the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) laboratory had received international certification from the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) for selection of gold samples through furnace separation.

Minerals minister Dotto Biteko, addressing committee members, said the ministry was in the process

of preparing a policy report on the establishment of the Geologists Regulatory Board to control the work of professionals, especially to curb the propagation of misleading information on minerals research countrywide.

He also used the opportunity to request minerals stakeholders to do their business by following laid down rules and procedures as the ministry wants to see them doing business

without visitations from state organs.

On his part, Permanent Secretary Prof Simon Msanjila told the committee that in efforts to enhance capacities of public servants, 12 officials have left for India for studies in gemology that includes minerals identification and evaluation.

Other issues raised with committee members include extension of licenses for Liganga and Mchuchuma coal and iron ore projects.

On its part the parliamentary committee praised the ministry for the various achievements gained in the minerals sector, including its rapid growth and how it bears on collection of revenue.

The committee notably hailed President John Magufuli as the sector was benefiting from his decision to split the old Ministry of Energy and Minerals and creating the Commission for Minerals.

## Government experts form team to investigate Alphakrust operations

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has formed a team of experts to investigate operations, production and sales at an integrated shrimp aquaculture project under Alphakrust Limited in Mafia Island, Coast region.

The move follows allegations that the government has been receiving an estimated 100m/- annually in terms of service levy while according to the shrimp exports data, it was supposed to get 300m/- each year.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina said: "It has come to my attention that authorities in Mafia Island are conspiring with the investor-Alphakrust to under pay the government by charging a service levy of 9m/- per month.

"There are lawful calculations formula used to get the exact amount of service levy to be paid by investors which is 3 per cent of investor's total revenue. Officials in Mafia have set their own rates of 9m/- per month", said the Minister.

Mpina who was accompanied by CCM chairman in Coast region, Ramadhani Maneno and Mafia District Commissioner, Shaib Nnunduma who visited the company's hatchery and a shrimp farm.

"Why are you not using the set calculations formula by considering the investors' annual exports of shrimp?, questioned Mpina noting concerned officials have legally committed an offence according to country laws.

The minister was also disappointed with Alphakrust's failure to engage people from surrounding villages by providing them aquaculture training. He said the move would have helped to reduce poverty amongst the villagers as well as boost shrimp exports.

"We have a number of professional graduates in the farming of ocean and freshwater plants but you are not using them. We would like to know as to why you have been conducting businesses in secrecy", Mpina noted.

He blamed Alphakrust Limited over failure to sign agreements with universities such as Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), University of Dodoma, University of Dar es Salaam

and Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) since the law requires investors to allow students to do practical training for such projects.

"There should be memorandum of understandings (MoU) to accommodate university students for practical learning. Students are entitled to a monthly minimum salary in accordance with the laws", he said adding such arrangements allow Tanzanians to benefit from foreign investments.

He said the government has received complaints concerning low payment from a number of university students working at the shrimp farm.

Mpina added: "Most of the graduates do not prefer working at your farm because you are paying them low salaries; I am told that you are doing all these to frustrate locals and create job opportunities for foreigners".

Manager, Alphakrust Limited, Ganeshan Vedagiri said the company has been paying multiple levies to a number of municipalities.

Vedagiri complained over lack of professional personnel.

He said the aquaculture project consists of 31 shrimp ponds producing 400 tonnes annually, of which 90 per cent are exported and 10 per cent sold locally.

Alphakrust Limited was formed in 2002.



**We have a number of professional graduates in the farming of ocean and freshwater plants but you are not using them. We would like to know as to why you have been conducting businesses in secrecy**



Clerk of the National Assembly Stephen Kagaigai (R) exchanges greetings with Energy Ministry Permanent Secretary from Zambia who is also board chairman of Tanzania-Zambia Mafuta pipeline Trevor Kaunda in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Parliament

## Mbarali rice farmers anticipate bumper harvest this year

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

RICE farmers in Mbarali district, Mbeya region have high hopes to get bumper harvests due to adequate rains this year.

Speaking with this paper at different times the farmers said this year they have been getting enough water from various rivers including rain water.

Samson Luvanda, a farmer and resident of Igawa Ward said this year there had been enough rains, rivers were overflowing with water for use in the farms.

He said also this year there haven't been any conflicts over water with officials managing the Ruaha River Valley Authority.

He said as of now they are appealing

to the government to boost electric power supply on claims that sometimes rice milling plants stop working due to frequent power outage.

Another farmer, Sosten Joseph working on Mnazi scheme farming community said in the last two years they had barred from their farms by the government on claims that their farming scheme lacked legality.

He said the scheme has 15 rice mills in Rujewa town and supply raw materials to the factories and that this year they expect to increase the crop harvests.

He said currently they were at peace and are abiding by all directives issued by the government on the proper use of the water from River Ruaha to avoid conflicts.





Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila talks to Iyunga primary school pupils at Lumbila Street yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

## Bus, van crash leave two dead and seven injured

TWO people have died on the spot and seven others injured following a road crash between a passenger van and an upcountry bus in Kahama district, Shinyanga Region.

Acting medical officer in charge of Kahama district hospital Dr Antar Fereji told reporters here yesterday that bodies of the deceased have been preserved at the facility and have already been identified by relatives.

The crash occurred on Monday night when Toyota Hiace with registration number T440 DHJ which was heading to Kakola centre skidded off the road hitting a passenger bus with registration number T 155 CKG which

was travelling from Sengerema district in Mwanza region to Kahama.

Dr Fereji named the dead, both women, as Dephina Muluno (30) and 34-year-old Fundi Saidi. He named the injured as Lucia Ndala (7), Kulwa Hamisi (20), Zainabu Ramadhani (42), Kalekwa Hangaiki (33), Abdul Saidi (15), Ramadhani Abas (20) and Juma Enos (38).

"Five of the seven patients are in critical condition; we are processing

their referral to a bigger hospital," he said.

He named patients who are to be transferred due to serious injuries as Kulwa Hamisi, Zainabu Ramadhani, Kalekwa Hangaiki, Ramadhani Hamisi na Juma Enos.

Speaking to this paper at the hospital yesterday, one of the injured Juma Enos who was the driver behind the wheels of the ill-fated van said the crash occurred at a hill in Nyambura village

as he was driving upland while the bus coming down.

"My vehicle had only one light on the left side so the driver of the bus apparently mistook it for a motorcycle, leading to the crash," he said.

Chairman of Kalagwa where the crash occurred said he witnessed the collision, adding that the van driver attempted to avoid the speeding bus whose driver appeared not to clearly have seen the other vehicle coming.

## 'School camping among major factors contributing for better performance'

By Getrude Mbago

HAKIELIMU, a non-profit based organisation dedicated to promoting education, has cited pupils school camping as among the major factors that contribute much for better performance in the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) thus arguing the government and stakeholders to invest heavily in the area.

In its new report released yesterday, the organisation said that if more emphasis could be put on school camping especially for the examinations classes of standard four and seven, performance could raise even more.

Dubbed "Exploration of factors that hinder and facilitate best performance in Primary School Leaving Examinations in Tanzania", the study also cited well organized administrations in districts, regions and schools, additional teaching techniques and incentives as factors contributing to the performance.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam, HakiElimu executive director Dr John Kallage urged the government to see how it can support sustainable school camping in primary schools across the country so as to enable the children perform better in examinations and thus attain their educational dreams.

According to him, the study found that regions with consistent better performance have been surrounded by good regional and district management and administration, commitments by parents and teachers in helping the children are the ones emerging upper in national examinations.

"Most of the officials, teachers and parents who were interviewed named school camping as the unique factor, for the examinations classes, they encourage more extra time. In this found that parents and heads of school using their monies to put the children in safe school camps to enable them have time to review lessons and conduct more tests and examinations," he said.

Dr Kallage urged regions with poor

academic performances to draw some practices from regions with constituent better performance in PSLE including setting well regional academic promotion strategy.

"Despite the fact that there were mixed findings to explain the association between schools, districts and regional consistent PSLE performance and availability of teaching-learning resources, infrastructures, we cannot underestimate their importance in promoting academic learning. This suggests a need of continuing efforts the government and stakeholders to resource the schools improve infrastructures especially those located in remote areas," he noted.

Dr Richard Shukia, researcher from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) said that the study picked 10 regions which involved three best performing regions (Geita, Dar es Salaam and Iringa), moderate performing regions (Mbeya, Mara and Coastal regions) as well as poor performing regions (Songwe, Dodoma, Singida and Mtwara).

Dr Shukia also listed other factors which attributed to better performance as parental engagement with schools monitoring their children's school development and regional and districts locally established strategies to improve performance.

He also named cheating in examinations as among factors associated with better PSLE performance in some regions.

"During interviews with participants, some of them revealed that there were some schools which engage in examinations "malpractices" cheating to ensure that pupils in those regions, districts and schools perform better... this however needs more research," he noted.

He further said that parents discouraging their children from passing examinations also stand as among major reasons attributing to poor performance in national examinations.

"The government should however improve teachers working conditions, pay teachers their dues and motivation to enhance their teaching effectiveness and efficiency," he asserted.



Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andrew Mollel (C) briefs journalists on two new courses Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Information Studies yesterday. Looking on are Dr. Peter Mutesigwa (R) and Dr. Getrude Ntulo. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Party agents urged to abide by ZEC orders in voters registration

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

ZANZIBAR Electoral Commission (ZEC) officials and agents from political in Wete District have been called upon to abide by the Commission's directives for smooth voters registration and verification in the Permanent Voters Register (PVR).

The call has been made yesterday in Wete, Pemba by the ZEC registration officer Omar Zubeir Mbwana when opening a one-day training seminar to the agents.

He called upon the agents to abide by the law and procedures issued by ZEC and help it in passing information to all wananchi who had attained the age for them to be registered as

voters. He also said the exercise will incorporate two groups, the first will be those who have not been registered in PVR and the second are for those who have already registered themselves to vote.

"For the new voters they must be in possession of a verified ID card as a Zanzibar citizen and for those who had already been registered they must have a verified Zanzibar citizen ID as well as their Voters Cards for verification," he said.

Earlier the ZEC official promised that every person who holds qualifications to be registered as voter will not be denied the right. He said the aim of the training was to assist ZEC officials and those of political parties to understand the

laws and procedures issued by ZEC as well as the need for cooperation between party agents and ZEC officials for the success of the exercise.

Mohammed Juma Ali who is a CCM member explained that he was much satisfied by the training and called on ZEC to work fairly and reasonably so that all the wananchi are given this basic right.

He also called on all wananchi who hold qualifications to be registered as voters to come out and register themselves. Khamis Abdallah (CUF) said to some extent the training was satisfactory despite small inadequacies here and there that he has observed, but also called on wananchi not to miss this basic right.

But he asked ZEC to list

all wananchi whose details have not been verified but have old ID cards so that their details are verified so that they are not denied their rights.

Voters' registration for Wete District in Pemba North Region expects to take place from January 25 to 29 this year.

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**LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO.0011692 HIJA ALLY MALAMLA**

Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policies, the originals having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.

Dated at Dar es Salaam, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

MIRENGA GWAO LIFE DEPARTMENT



Embassy of the United States of America

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position below.

Position Title: Administrative Clerk (Utilities)

Vacancy Number: DaresSalaam-2020-002

Position Title: Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic

Vacancy Number: DaresSalaam-2020-004

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the website:

Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

Previous applicants do not need to reapply.

Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted only via email.

CLOSING DATE: February 6, 2020



## Banned plastic carrier bags now abundant in Arusha, Kilimanjaro regions, says NEMC

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has embarked on a new campaign to remove banned plastic carrier bags from the market in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions where the items are being used illegally.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday during an impromptu inspection of factories, shops and markets in Moshi Municipality, Environmental Officer from NEMC Northern Zone Justin Kasoka said that although the government banned the production, distribution and use of plastic carrier bags since June last year, the items are available in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, explaining that some are being produced illegally in the regions while others are smuggled in from neighbouring country Kenya through illegal routes.

"During our impromptu inspection we learnt that although the majority are aware of the government ban, there are still some people who produces, distribute and use the banned items," he said.

Kasoka further explained that they made an impromptu inspection at some areas in Moshi Municipality including the Moshi Central Market, NARA Plastics Limited, and Mufaddal Plastics Industries Limited where they found some banned plastics bags in some areas that are claimed either to be produced illegally or imported illegally from Kenya through panya routes.

"Through our special intelligence taskforce, we learnt that, most of the banned illegal plastic bags are produced illegally by some 'awkward traders' in the country while some of them are imported illegally from Kenya through illegal routes in Tarakea, Holili, and Kitobo in Kilimanjaro region, and

Namanga in Arusha region..." Kasoka explained.

Speaking during the impromptu inspection at his shop, the Managing Director of NARA Plastics in Moshi Municipality, Joseph Massawe explained, the plastics bags that NEMC found at his business centre were there purposely for packaging goods for his shop and his customers.

"At my shop, NEMC found plastic bags that I sell and use purposely for packaging goods and not for carrying goods as I know the government has banned them since June last year, but they (NEMC Officials) collected all of them from my shop," Massawe claimed during an impromptu inspection.

For his part, the General Manager for Mufaddal Plastics Industries Limited, Bharat Vaja explained that, since the ban of plastic bags in June 2019, his company is not producing such bags, instead they are producing environmental friendly bags.

"We are now producing environmental friendly bags, but sometimes we are producing special plastic bags meant for packaging goods for our products and for our customers..." he explained.



**We are now producing environmental friendly bags, but sometimes we are producing special plastic bags meant for packaging goods for our products and for our customers...**



Social enterprise director for T-Marc, Flavian Ngole (R) hands over newly launched 'Smiley' diapers to one of the mothers Rebecca Nelson admitted at Mwananyamala hospital as part of its CSR initiative. Looking on from (L) are 'Smiley' brand ambassador Dina Marrios, patron for Mwananyamala hospital Dr Mussa Wambura and nurse Rosa Moses. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Hasunga directs TFRA to set fertilisers indicative prices

By Guardian Reporter, Songwe

MINISTER for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga has called upon the Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) to ensure it sets and administers indicative prices for fertiliser aimed to enable farmers to get the farm input at affordable prices.

Hasunga said the current fertiliser price is still not friendly to farmers hence TFRA has the responsibility to ensure it goes down further.

The minister was speaking on Tuesday at the opening of the

cooperative societies meeting that discussed the Bulk Purchase System (BPS) held at Mpendejirani Hall in Vwawa, Songwe Region.

He said regulations governing procurement of the fertiliser in bulk was formulated following researches by local and foreign researchers whose findings showed that BPS can reduce fertiliser cost for more than 50 percent.

He said despite the government insisting upon farmers to use cooperatives in finding solutions to various economic and social challenges they face still the cooperatives have

failed to put in place a robust system in bringing together farmers in the issue of fertiliser buying that would alleviate fertiliser cost to them.

He explained the meeting's participants that already his ministry through the Registrar of Cooperative Societies has issued directives to all cooperatives to submit their fertiliser requirement to TFRA so that the commodity is procured in bulk through BPS. He said if cooperatives will procure fertiliser through BPS using (bank guarantees) with small interest (1-4 percent) and transport it by rail the

cost of NPK fertiliser for example will go down considerably.

Also in the same meeting Hasunga directed Tropical Pesticide Research Institute (TPRI) to provide training to the wananchi on the proper use of the pesticides.

The Songwe District Commissioner John Palingo, who represented the Regional Commissioner at the meeting hailed the government for the creation and administration of cooperative societies as farmers have continued to benefit, including better prices for their crops.



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**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY FIRMS FOR PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN, CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF ONE STOP BORDER POST AT RUSIZI II IN RWANDA**

**TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190305**

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking Expressions of Interest for Consultancy firms for Provision of Consultancy Services for the Design, Contract Administration and Construction Supervision of One Stop Border Post at Rusizi II in Rwanda.

Terms of reference for this Expressions of Interest (EOI) and the EOI document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarka.com](mailto:procurement@trademarka.com). The closing date for submissions is **17th February 2020**.

You are further advised that only applications from firms/ consortiums shall be accepted.

Interested, qualified and registered firms/consortiums should submit their bids as detailed in the tender document.

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



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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES - FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR NAMUGONGO SHRINE ET LUMIERE**

**TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190617**

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) in liaison with Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) and Uganda Tourism Association (UTA) is seeking consultancy services to undertake a feasibility study to collect the baseline information and insights on total visitors and revenue and gather and analyse information on the general context and level of business activity, market demand, budgets, and scope of private sector involvement and key stakeholders at Namugongo Shrine et Lumiere.

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

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address [procurement@trademarka.com](mailto:procurement@trademarka.com).

**The closing date for submissions is 17 February 2020.**

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



215584001



## Hotel owners told to buy locally produced organic farm products

By Guardian Reporter

THE Agricultural Council of Tanzania has called upon the business community especially hotel owners to buy locally produced organic farm products for the sake of their customers' health and protection of local agricultural products market share.

Speaking at the climax of organic farmers exhibition held yesterday in Moshi municipality, chairperson of Agricultural Council of Tanzania, Jacqueline Mkindi, said that the business community should take a lead in buying organic produced agricultural food stuffs that can impact farmers' lives and the country's economy at large.

The exhibition brought together more 450 agricultural groups engaged in organic farming from Kilimanjaro region.

"We need to encourage farmers who are engaged in organic agriculture by purchasing their agro products so as to have their customers health guaranteed and boost the farmers' income. Organic farmers should be encouraged in all circumstances. I urge you to take part in this kind of farming to produce under the criteria of quality and safety," said Mkindi.

According to her, the demand of organic produced crops is growing around the globe.

"To fight cancer and other nutritional related diseases we need to embark on organic agriculture. We need to set criteria for all food stuff imports as it is to exports. We are importing food stuffs that are poisoned but all exports pass through thorough approval because buyers abroad cares first their health than we do," added Mkindi.

Mkindi who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) said the sector is growing at a rate of between 11 and 12 per cent a year.

"There are plenty of opportunities that needs to be grabbed in horticulture sector. Previously Tanzania used to earn US\$64million a year from exports of the products but now earns US\$700million a year. The global Tanzanian market share for horticultural stands at US\$6billion. More investments are needed to explore this opportunity," she asserted.

For his part, Richard Mhina, Director of Floresta, said that since its inception the environmental protection organisation has trained more than 500 farmers in Kilimanjaro region on organic agriculture and its benefit to resisting climate change effects.

"The only way to keep the nature of the world's creation is to practice organic farming. Conventional farming is against nature and we have all witnessed its impacts on climate change and endangering of consumers' health" said Mhina.

Jordan Gama, Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) President for Africa, called upon farmers in other regions of the country to switch to organic agriculture.

"I am very aware that Tanzania takes number two in production of organic produced farm products. All we need is to increase productivity so as to avoid dependence on conventional produced food. We don't want to consume poison anymore," said Gama.

The event went together with a graduation ceremony of more than 50 groups of organic farmers who went through Floresta training on ecological organic agriculture.

One of the participants who also serves as a leader for 17 farmers groups who took part in Floresta trainings on organic farming said that they have benefited from the training and are looking forward to be good ambassadors of organic agriculture.



Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo (L) exchanges ideas with CRDB Bank Plc Managing Director Abdumajid Nsekela who paid a courtesy call at the Tanzania People Defence Force headquarters in Dodoma on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt has no plans to let TRA collect land rent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MINISTER for Lands, Housing, and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi has said the government has no plans to use Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to collect land rent and instead the task will be done by officials of the Department of Lands.

Lukuvi issued the directive when opening a two-day training seminar on the new system of land rent collection held in Mbeya that was attended by lands and urban planning officials from all southern Highlands regions.

On the decision Lukuvi said from now on, the issue of land rent collection will be dealt with all stakeholders involved in land allocation - from urban planning officers, valuers and other land officials.

He said apart from other duties such

as urban planning, surveying. And issuance of title deeds, the main duty of the land officials will be the collection of government revenue, including land rent.

According to the minister, every district in the country will have to collect land rent in full.

"We want the contribution from the land department to be discerned in the country's GDP hence every district has the duty to collect this tax," he said.

He also warned land officers who will be found to under assess land rent, as it is an economic sabotage offense.

The Lands ministry has also decided to terminate all eight Zonal Lands Commissioners in the country and whose activities will be taken by Regional Lands Commissioners so as to bring its services nearer to the wananchi.

## RC warns over water source destruction in the Lyamba Lyamfipa Mountains Range

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has cautioned people living near Lyamba Lyamfipa Mountains to immediately stop human activities in the area as they cause environmental destruction including in water sources resulting in making lives hard for people residing in Lake Rukwa Valley.

He said water is an important basic need, but to continue having it for the next decades is more important and added that the mountain range is the main source of water for Lake Rukwa, the lake that carries the name of the region.

"Destroying the mountains'

environment is the same as killing people in the Lake Rukwa Valley because they will not get water, including water for their livestock and," he stressed.

Wangabo gave the caution during his visit to the village near the Lyamba Lyamfipa Mountain range in Nkasi and Sumbawanga Districts where he also educated the wananchi on the need to preserve the water and rain sources will not make agricultural activities in Rukwa and nearby regions beneficial.

Meanwhile the Regional Commissioner called upon wananchi to remain calm and must not be swayed by politicians who do not like stability especially in this period the country is in preparation for general elections that will elect councilors, members of parliament and President.



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## TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITIES



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) is a body corporate established on 1st July 2005, under the Universities Act, Cap. 346 of the Laws of Tanzania with mandate to recognize, approve, register and accredit Universities operating in Tanzania, and local or foreign university level programs being offered by registered higher education institutions. It also coordinates the proper functioning of all university institutions in Tanzania so as to foster a harmonized higher education system in the country.

Tanzania Commission for Universities invites applications from suitably qualified Senior Public Servants to be considered to fill the vacant position of Director of Corporate Services.

(a)	<b>Job Title</b>	:	<b>Director of Corporate Services</b>
	<b>Appointment</b>	:	<b>The Commission</b>
	<b>Report to</b>	:	<b>Executive Secretary</b>

## Job Summary

The Director of Corporate Services shall be responsible to the Commission for the effective management and efficient use of resources, human resources as well as fiscal and capital resources. He/she shall specifically be responsible for effective coordination of all matters pertaining finance and administration, project management and mobilization of funds.

The eligible candidate should have the following qualifications:

## (i) Background Knowledge

- Masters/PhD in Finance/ Accounting /Economics or equivalent qualification from recognized institution with an outstanding academic performance, Human Resource Management skills and administrative experience and capability; Good track record in higher education management and coordination; Extensive knowledge and experience of higher education systems at a Senior management level; Candidates with qualifications in Finance and Accountancy must possess CPA (T), ACCA, ACA or equivalent professional qualifications and must be registered by NBAA as professional Accountants;
- Proven ability to mobilize and generate funds from internal and external sources;
- Adequate skills in managing Management Information Systems (MIS);
- Effective liaison skills with Government, the private sector, other institutions and the international community;

## (ii) Skills and Abilities

- To develop a vision and direction for the Directorate of Corporate Services;
- To interpret and promote the Commission's key functions and in particular functions of the Grants Committee;
- To demonstrate skills in management of finances, human resources and projects including mobilization of various other resources;
- Knowledge and proven experience in ICT and data management.

## (iii) Performance Measures

- Number of sound and clear financial and human resources policies and procedures in place;
- Systems for management of various activities are in place and operational;
- Financial and human resources reports prepared in time;
- Provision of timely and up to date financial information to budget holders;
- Resources well managed and controlled.

## (iv) Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To spearhead the continuous development and review of policies and guidelines to reflect the mission and objectives of the TCU;
  - To establish and maintain workable financial systems for regular monitoring and evaluation of the performance, quality, relevance and efficiency of all finance programmes;
  - To oversee the implementation of systems designed to ensure sound management and fiscal control and the promotion of good order throughout the Commission;
  - To plan and control all the financial and accounting operations for the Commission;
  - To determine viable sources of funding and mobilize finances from a variety of sources;
  - To oversee the implementation of all TCU projects;
  - To monitor effectiveness and efficiency of Financial and Human Resource tools;
  - To prepare financial statements of income and expenditure for TCU at appropriate times, and ensure timely audit of the statements;
  - To participate in review and development of new physical, financial accounting programmes based on established needs of the Commission;
  - To make proposals for investing funds for the Commission and implement the approved investments;
  - To ensure compliance to the approved financial and administrative policies and procedures;
  - To maintain sound industrial relations and develop effective employee communication systems;
  - To prepare and communicate all statutory periodic reports to respective authorities; and
  - To perform any other duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.
- (o) **Tenure:** 4 years; can be reappointed subject to positive performance appraisal.  
 (p) **Age:** Be between 40 – 55 years of age.  
 (q) **Remuneration:** Successful candidate will be paid according to Tanzania Commission for Universities salary scale.

## MODE OF APPLICATION

1. Applicants who meet the stated requirements for the advertised post and would like to serve the Tanzanian Public Service through Tanzania Commission for Universities, should send their applications to:

The Chairperson of the Search Committee  
 Tanzania Commission for Universities  
 P.O. Box 6562  
 DAR ES SALAAM

2. All applicants should route their application letters through their respective employers.

3. Signed application letters must be accompanied by:

- Proof of Tanzanian citizenship (affidavits will not be accepted)
- Applicant's current CV and two passport size photographs in colour.
- Photocopies of transcripts, academic and professional certificates.
- Names and full contact addresses and daytime telephone numbers of three referees.

4. All applications must be posted or personally delivered.

5. Applications should reach the Tanzania Commission for Universities latest by the close of business on **Wednesday 29th January 2020.**

**Only candidates shortlisted for interview will be contacted.**

## Rotary club, US foundation donates three wheelchairs to physical impaired persons

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Rotary Club of Iringa in collaboration with US Wheelchair Foundation has donated three wheelchairs to people with disabilities to facilitate them to move from one place to another, using them as a means of transport.

The club delegation visited the disabled and gave them some wheelchairs where each wheelchair costs 2.5m/- which is met through Rotary grants and fundraising events.

Speaking to The Guardian yesterday the President of the Rotary Club of Iringa, Winston Mdegella said that the Rotary Club in collaboration with various stakeholders like wheelchair foundation has secured five wheelchairs worth millions of money.

According to President of the Rotary Club, the donation is part of the Rotary Club's continued partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation and that the donation is part of Rotary's programme of service to humanity.

He said that so far they have given three wheelchairs to various beneficiaries with different disabilities in Iringa Municipality, Iringa District Council and Kilolo District Council

respectively hence ensure that people with disabilities are not excluded from the community, hence assistance to people with disabilities in order to facilitate economic recovery.

Mdegella said that they have decided to give them to three beneficiaries who are the needy people but they still have two more wheel chairs to give to the persons with disabilities," Winston said.

He elaborated that three wheelchairs has been given to vulnerable people including Moses Andrew Mwaluvanda (34), a resident of Mwangata D Iringa Municipal Council, Chande Edward Kiyeyu (21) a resident of Msuluti Village in Msuluti Ward, Iringa District Council and Daniel Kihanza (13) a resident of Ng'uruhe Village at Ng'uruhe Ward of Pomerini area ni Kilolo District respectively.

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organisation leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship.

The foundation gives wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world that needs one, but cannot afford one and delivers hope, mobility and independence.

One of the beneficiaries Chande Kiyeyu (21), a resident of Msuluti Village in Iringa District, Iringa Region has expressed gratitude towards the Rotary Club Iringa for its generosity helping the needy.

He said yesterday that before having the wheelchair, he was walking using hands because he is physically disabled but with the help from the rotary club he will be able to move from one place to another without assistance.

Kiyeyu who is a peasant farmer at Msuluti Village in Msuluti Ward of Iringa District, Iringa Region, thanked God for answering his prayers because for a long time he was getting trouble going to the hospital, market and church, attending village meetings and visiting friends elsewhere due to his disability.

He says that the Rotary Club in collaboration with various stakeholders will ensure that people with disabilities are not excluded from the community.

He said he is now happy that the help of the wheelchair has come at the right when he needed such a chair for his mobility.

In developing countries, an estimated 90 per cent of children, teens, and adults who require a wheelchair are unable to acquire one.



Maasai livestock keepers in Longido district, Arusha region have been trained on traditional processing of hides into leather by Oikos East Africa experts yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

## UNESCO urges member states to teach environmental education in schools

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has called on all its member states, Tanzania included to incorporate environmental education into their curricula, from nursery school to university.

"We will share our expertise with States in order to reach this objective", Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO said this on his message about the International Day of Education to be held on Friday this week.

On this International Day, UNESCO celebrates education's powerful influence on action in support of the four Ps, actions for people, for prosperity, for the planet and for peace on which the future depends.

The Director said, education also provides key solutions for a planet threatened by a climate imbalance the consequences of which become more obvious with each passing day.

He said, "Only education has the power to sustainably change societies' behaviour, as necessitated by the challenge of global warming".

Azoulay explained, taking action for education also means taking action for prosperity because education is the best investment for the future.

"...Education is, in the medium and long term, the most effective means of reducing poverty and inequality and encouraging social inclusion.

"It is for this reason that UNESCO places particular emphasis on the promotion of girls' and women's education through its 'Her Education, Our Future initiative'".

The day provides an opportunity to remember that education is a valuable resource for humanity. However, it is also a resource which is all too scarce for millions of people around the world.

The global learning crisis, confirmed by data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, should be cause for major concern. Since education is the key to all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a learning crisis is also a crisis for prosperity, for the planet, for peace and for people.

UNESCO, charged with coordinating the international community's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development

Goal (SDG), No.4, quality education for all, has a particular responsibility in this context.

The Organisation takes action for people, by making education an instrument of inclusion and, therefore, of empowerment.

The major literacy campaigns on which UNESCO's history is built, and which continue today, have thus opened up a world of opportunities for millions of men and women.

Today, it is to unlock people's potential that UNESCO is working to foster student mobility by adopting, at the 40th session of the General Conference, the first global convention on the recognition of qualifications in higher education.

He said, everyone, in their own way, has a role to play in making the right to education a reality for all. "It is our responsibility to future generations".

The director concluded that, education is the cornerstone of peace, is an opening up to others, a path of intelligence which leads to intercultural understanding, to reconciliation, to fellowship.



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## Relocating some Serengeti lions is just a first step

**W**ILDLIFE authorities have decided to relocate a total of 36 lions from the Serengeti National Park which initial reports say they are a pride, but those familiar with wildlife scenes would doubt if lion prides are that big. Still they were numerous enough not to find wild food and pushed to feed on the margins of their preserves with repeated attacks on humans in nearby villages, while feeding on livestock.

Reports citing top officials of the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) did not say how many people had been killed or hurt in the last six months or less for instance, and how many heads of cattle may have been mauled in the process. Chances are that there would be one or two attacks and the siren is sounded far and wide, in which case the problem is repeated attacks rather than the casualties per se. Conservationists were awash with explanations for this situation, that the lions have been affected by encroaching human activity.

There is for that matter an oft repeated line that lions increasingly are seen as an endangered species, and the batch that is to be moved - most likely there is more than one pride as they don't live in herds - live on the edge of the safari hub of East Africa. TAWIRI officials said 11 of the lions had already been captured and 20 are set for relocation at the Burigi Chato national park, but the wildlife agency was still scratching the head for ideas on where to put the other 16. That admission doesn't square up with the idea of an endangered species, as in that context each national park would be phoning to get a few.

For once, other remarks by officials showed that the real concern in shifting the lions was elsewhere, not conservation as activists would rush to assert. They admit that usually when lions attack people the right step to take is to shoot them, as habits have a way of repeating over time but then the concerned group of lions was far too big for this kind for measure, so they mooted relocation to other parks around the country. As Burigi Chato is new it may do with some lions.

Beyond the act of relocation, the rest of the report at least as figured in some of the leading dailies was concerned with the narrowing of the lions' living space owing to 'human activities,' instead of simply taking note of economic activity or agro-sector expansion. It is a mental contention as to how far space will be shared out in future as the population is increasing, and conservationists are fed up with 'human activity' encroaching on wildlife space. Hard decisions will have to be taken, beyond the recent revocation of 700,000 hectares (1.8m acres) for settlements and farming, unless technology and industry removes large numbers of peasants from their villages.

There will be a certain amount of give and take, as not all extra rural people stand to be enabled to settle in what is now conservation land, and definitely not all conservation land will remain as it is. That is why activists will have to improve the mode of assessment of the situation, not looking at it entirely from a conservation perspective. Government too has a difficult task to bring about effective industrialization, to diminish rural population growth fast enough.

## Fishing environment scaled revamping is a tough climb

**O**NE of the more difficult sectors to manage and orient in the right direction is fishing, as the number of factors that militate against effective policy action are considerable. Fishing is an industry where it is impossible to predict that sort of results are likely out of a specific level of investment, for weather or chance factors impinge on each fisherman's efforts. The product is one of the most highly perishable especially for water fishing, limiting drying options too.

So it appears that the government has a different array of problems in trying to reorganize and set on proper footing the fisheries sector as a whole, one set of problems for freshwater fishing (where the decline in fish stocks is just being alleviated) and another set for seashore fishing. Here the problems appear to be slightly more complicated, but the ministry is doing all it can to solve problems.

It is in this regard that a section of observers are looking a newly unveiled grand plan to revive, build and refurbish fishing ports and markets. The plan which has started to be implemented by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries countrywide is meant to improve service delivery for domestic and foreign markets. While Tanzania has plenty of water bodies and good supply of fish, usually one hears of specific products for instance from Lake Victoria needed outside; other stakeholders prefer to fish in our economic zone, not to buy.

Planned improvement of fishing ports has reportedly started with the city fish market at Magooni in Dar es Salaam where the government has allocated 2bn/- for major refurbishment for its infrastructure and widening the scope for fish

trading. The ministry contracted Inter Consult Ltd for preparation of plans and estimates for the renovation of the market, within the framework of what the minister, Luhaga Mpina says is part of government intention to ensure that fishermen are not despised. It means there is a welfare element as well as economic investment in a strict sense of the term.

Looking at the layout given for the Magooni fish market, it must be said that it is a belated gesture of improving the environment in which the work is done. It isn't easy for the layout to change the 'economics' of fishing itself, and thus improving the condition of fishermen. Despite the minister's all out efforts, the give and take between the fishermen and the market is unlikely to change, owing to the number of fishermen wishing to sell, destructibility of the produce and the low purchasing power on the part of consumers.

Equally daunting is how far district councils have the means and will to follow suit in the minister's stead, for he announced that he had given three months for district councils to improve fishing ports and markets along with facilities such as toilets. Expressing sentiments that were at variance with wisdom among councilors and local government officials, he said he was dismayed by district councils which look upon these facilities as sources of income for them.

He said they were not complying with the Fishing Law (Act No 22 of 2003) and regulations thereof of 2009, about which they may indeed have problems they wish to sort out so as to smooth compliance. It is not easy for councils to abandon the 'source of revenue' mentality so the problems will not cease.



## The impact of social media and digital technology on promoting peace and security

By Willie Bee Tingbo

**T**HE social media shapes the mind of the mass followers. Majority of Liberian have capitalized on the image of bad governance, poverty, natural disasters and use digital technology and social media to send out hate messages at national government, and bullies each other in the name of party solidarity. Liberian news is horrible and they spread like wildfire through major media like Aljazeera, BBC Focus on Africa, Facebook and more which are mostly controlled by western industries.

European knowing how powerful social media and digital technology is, they have always kept a good media image. There are hundreds of homicides, robbery, corruptions, and disasters that take place in Europe, America, Asia that are uncounted for on their media. Instead of focusing on negativity, European, American, Asian technology innovator, entrepreneurs, and marketers have utilized social media and digital technology to promote their business ventures, innovates and campaigns through online marketing and branding.

Clearly, the internet penetration in Liberia, now, social media has increasingly become an indispensable tool in Liberia's political spaces. Its wide reach has rendered it an asset to political leaders who use it to spread information, and to mobilize supporters during election cycles. However, the use of social media has presented a dilemma for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It was used to incite hatred and violence during the 2011 and 2017 elections and also, the just-ended senatorial and representatives by-elections between top two candidates Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon and Madam CC Weh and also, Miss Talia Urey and representative-elect Mr. Abu Kamara where hateful and incendiary messages were circulated through popular social media platforms, leading to calls for regulation to stem the spread of hate messages. The same trend was recorded during the Grand Cape Mount County by-election. On the other hand, it is also used to provide counter-messaging and promote peace messages.

Social media and digital technologies as used by Liberian citizens and leaders, thus poses a threat to stability but also presents opportunities for peacebuilding. This article seeks to identify some of the opportunities and limitations of social media and other digital platforms on the political



Technologies can help make our world fairer, more peaceful, and more just. Digital advances can support and accelerate achievement of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - from ending extreme poverty to reducing maternal and infant mortality, promoting sustainable farming and decent work, and achieving universal literacy. But technologies can also threaten privacy, erode security and fuel inequality. They have implications for human rights and human agency. Like generations before, we - governments, businesses and individuals - have a choice to make in how we harness and manage new technologies.

landscape, especially how they are used to mobilize, monitor, respond to and prevent violence, as well as their usage in peacebuilding.

Undoubtedly, the just ended Monsterrado County senatorial and district #15 representatives' elections saw the dissemination of hateful and divisive language through the media. However, these elections were particularly unique from those before, owing to the use of new media forms in addition to the traditional media. This included the popular use of phone technology through SMS text messages sent en masse and the use of internet technology, especially Facebook, email, online newspapers, and other social networking platforms. Numerous reports indicated the role played by new media in inflaming and spreading hate speech leading up to the violence.

On the other hand, peace actors used the same platforms to call and campaign for peace, a feat that was replicated during the 2017 elections. Television broadcasters went on social media such as Twitter and Facebook to spread positive messages and encourage viewers to remain calm and patient as the election results were announced. It was during this election that social media also became a visible component of campaigning as candidates seized on its potential to mobilize supporters. In 2017, political actors across the spectrum have utilized social media platforms to mobilize supporters and even hired people to manage their social media accounts.

Social media and digital technology present an opportunity to report and document election-related violence. Online monitoring through crowd-

sourcing enables the identification of appropriate technologies and tools to track and analyze structural tensions, social divides and friction points. Using SMS, Facebook, Twitter, Messengers of Peace and other Liberian peace groups have been able to report, map and document violent incidents on a mass scale, providing information that journalists could not ordinarily access using traditional means. Facebook has allowed users to share experiences and witness accounts of elections, while other sites have permitted the uploading and sharing of videos showing violence and thus enabling the mapping of violence and generating public attention which would facilitate prevention efforts as well as responses by government and other actors.

After what I have said, it is important to note that social media or digital technology does not actually cause the violence but is simply a tool to inflame and exploit existing divisions. Digital technology and social media platforms are employed to not only provoke emotions but also spread false information or so-called 'fake news'. Another challenge has been the lack of necessary tools and skills to monitor and detect online activity which makes it difficult for government and non-state actors to respond to activity that may lead to or propel violence. This is especially problematic due to an abundance of platforms on which information is shared faster than before and to a wider audience. To politicians, these tools have nevertheless enabled them to reach audiences at a lower cost compared to that required for on-the-ground mobilization.

However, the online space remains a marketplace of ideas, which contributes to development and requires protection from unnecessary

interference and irresponsible users especially through self-regulation and moderation by site managers and users. This will guarantee users their rights to freedom of expression. The protection of these rights and freedoms, however, also requires the limitation of hate messages because hateful comments hijack legitimate public debate.

State and non-state actors need to enhance coordination and linkages in initiatives using technology and social media to curb electoral violence, including closely working with stakeholders' peace forums at the county and community levels;

Internet service providers, telephone companies and the state should carry out public information and education campaigns as part of interventions to curb online hatred. Education can increase the responsibility of individual users and thereby promoting a culture of intolerance towards online hate. When people are informed, they can report abuse and also name and shame violators and sustain peace;

Any efforts by the government to deal with online hate crimes should be guided by the Constitution and should not be used as a license to violate other individual rights and freedoms especially;

There is a need for the adaptation of Liberia's cybercrime act 2019, and the creation of Liberia's cybersecurity policy and strategy, this would help to protect and fear tech end-users from sending out hate messages in Liberia's cyberspace.

I put my pen down for now, before doing that, let me remind you that digital technology and social media are here to stay. They have changed the way we live and they will continue to do so for a long time. Let's sustain and enjoy peace while using it!



# Ending bullying and humiliation over menstruation

MBABANE

When 14-year-old Nomcebo Mkhali first noticed the blood discharged from her vagina, she was shocked. Confused, she turned to her older sisters for advice.

"My sisters told me that they were experiencing the same every month and that they used fabric, toilet paper and newspapers as sanitary wear," recalls the now 45-year-old Mkhali. She had to follow suit and use these materials because she had no money to buy sanitary pads.

Mkhali and her four siblings were single-handedly raised by their father in a poor household in rural Makhonza, south of Eswatini. Mkhali's parents had separated when she was nine, so conversations about menstruation were never had, both at home and school.

Recounting her experience with periods invokes sad emotions for Mkhali. She had three significant moments at school where her periods put her at the centre of gossip, bullying and humiliation.

At some point, she stained her tunic, followed by other incidents where a toilet paper and a newspaper she wore in the place of a sanitary pad fell to the ground after getting soaked, right in front of other learners.

"These incidents lowered my self-esteem because other students used my experience to bully me," says the mother of two boys and a girl.

Instead of dropping out



Nomcebo Mkhali posing with girls from the Kwaluseni Infirmary Primary School in Eswatini. FILE PHOTO

of school like other girls in a similar situation, Mkhali persevered until she completed her high school education. Today, she volunteers her time to teach young girls and boys at schools and communities about menstruation, particularly the stigma associated with periods. She includes boys so that they stop seeing periods as a laughing matter but a natural occurrence for their female peers.

"There's a lot of stigma associated with menstruation. When a woman is on her periods, she is said to be in 'cleansing' something that portrays her as dirty. That's why in other families a menstruating woman is not allowed to cook,

while in some churches they're not allowed to come closer to the pastor." Mkhali tells IPS, adding that some churches order women to sit at the back and not participate in the service.

What's worse, it's taboo to talk about menstruation because in the Swati culture it has always been portrayed as a secret. This small landlocked southern African nation is the continent's last monarchy, with a population of just under 1.4 million.

Through her talks, Mkhali is using her story to end the stigma associated with periods and building confidence among girls by giving them the right information about their sexual

reproductive health. She also gives talks to primary school children because, she says, it is important to talk to them while they are young.

"Girls open up to me about their own sad stories once they hear about my experience," she says.

One such girl is Nomthandazo\* (14) from a public school in Eswatini's industrial town, Matsapha, who said she used to abscond from school when on her period because one day the newspaper she was wearing fell off and she was became the target for ridicule at school for a long time.

With no money to buy pads, she pretended to be going to

school and would hide from her parents for about a week until her period was over.

"I now use rags. They take long to dry but they're better than newspapers," she tells IPS.

Some parents fail to have a conversation with their children about periods. For instance, Temphilo\* from rural Sihoye told her stepmother as soon as she saw blood, thinking that there was something wrong with her. Indeed, there was, according to her stepmother, who beat her up and accused her of having sex.

"I bled for almost a month

and she didn't even take me to hospital because she felt I brought it on myself," Temphilo tells IPS. After that first irregular period, her periods followed the regular course of lasting 4 to 5 days.

But it took Mkhali to assure her that menstruation is a natural thing that occurs to every woman and she should not be ashamed of herself because of it. So far, Mkhali has reached over 3,000 girls since she started this initiative after she was retrenched from her work as a legal secretary in 2016.

"I get invited to many places where teachers and community leaders ask me to speak to learners and the youth in communities," she says. "But it's difficult to reach out to everyone because of lack of financial resources."

Mkhali has taken the conversation to Twitter, @nomcebo.mkhali where she now raises awareness. Twitter has exposed her to individual donors who contribute pads and a bit of money to support the girls. Given the number of places to visit and girls from poor backgrounds, she needs more assistance.

"It's sad that most girls are still using unsafe materials which are not only inadequate for protection but can also lead to diseases," she says.

The 2017 Eswatini Annual Education Census recorded that 220 girls absconded from school at primary level although the education was free. Reasons were not given for the dropouts but Mkhali says it could partly be lack of sanitary wear.

"Building the girl's confidence is not good enough if they won't have access to the things that will preserve their dignity when

they're menstruating," says Mkhali.

Chairperson of the Ministry of Health Portfolio Committee in the House of Assembly, Mduzuzi Dlamini, concurs with Mkhali.

"It doesn't make sense that sanitary wear is not provided for free both at school and at community centres," says Dlamini.

A participant at the recent 25th International Conference on Population Development (ICPD25) in Nairobi, Kenya, he promised that the provision of free sanitary wear to girls was one of the issues that he would push for discussion in parliament.

"What I learnt from the conference is that when girls lack toiletries, like pads, they become vulnerable to sugar daddies who buy them these things," Dlamini tells IPS. "Some girls end up getting infected with HIV by sugar daddies all because they didn't have access to pads. Government needs to address this issue."

According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) "women are disproportionately affected by HIV" in Eswatini - 120,000 of the 190,000 adults living with HIV are women. In addition, "new HIV infections among young women aged 15-24 years were more than quadruple those among young men: 2400 new infections among young women, compared to fewer than 500 among young men".

So far, Kenya and Botswana are the only African governments on track to offer free sanitary wear by law.

\*Names withheld to protect their identity.

Agencies

# Iran will go beyond missile strikes to avenge Soleimani

By Sara Bazoobandi

After the assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani on January 3, many feared a major war would break out in the Middle East. Iran's retaliation came quickly but it did not provoke a conflict.

On January 8, two bases hosting US and coalition troops were hit by a barrage of missiles. Many perceived the attack as a sign of de-escalation as it did not result in human loss and the Iraqi authorities were warned about it in advance.

Since then, Tehran has been sending contradictory signals about the country's next move in this crisis. While Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced that the attacks "concluded proportionate measures in self-defence", Esmail Qaani, the new commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), declared that Iran will hit its "enemy in a manly fashion".

On January 17, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei outlined the way forward for Iran. In a rare speech during Friday prayers in Tehran, he called the Quds Force, "the fighters without border", declared that the European Union should not be trusted "because of their track record and their support for Saddam during the Iran-Iraq War", and called on Iranians to put their collective efforts



Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei delivered a sermon during Friday prayers at Imam Khomeini Grand Mosque in Tehran on January 17, 2020. File photo

into "strengthening themselves in every aspect".

Khamenei's speech signals that Iran will likely seek to avoid a full-scale war and adopt the following strategy: start advancing its nuclear capacity and seek to continue power projection abroad through the Quds Force and its regional allies.

In the aftermath of the assassination, Iran announced that it was abandoning nuclear deal limits. On January 15, European countries triggered a dispute mechanism that can lead to the return of the United Nations sanctions on Iran. The Iranian authorities could respond by quitting the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which will pose a set of serious risks for the West and the Middle East.

Apart from that, Iran could seek to escalate tensions in the region through its political and military

allies. In its campaign to resist US presence in the region, Tehran has invested heavily in various armed groups. Over the past decade, under the leadership of Soleimani, the IRGC has mobilised and equipped tens of thousands of fighters in the region (mainly in Iraq and Syria).

Groups such as Kata'ib Hezbollah, Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Badr, Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, Kata'ib al-Imam Ali, Liwa Zeinabiyoun, Liwa Fatemiyoun, Quwat Imam al-Baqir, Liwa al-Sayyida Ruqayya, and Quwat al-Ridha have been receiving Iranian material support and strategic guidance.

This is in addition to a strong alliance with Hezbollah in Lebanon and strategic engagement with the Houthis in Yemen.

On January 7, the supreme leader ordered the allocation of an addi-

tional \$220m budget for the Quds Force, part of which will probably be dedicated to strengthening these Iranian-backed armed groups.

In the aftermath of the assassination of Soleimani, the IRGC threatened to attack the city of Haifa in Israel and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, in the event of an attack on Iranian soil.

The risk of retaliatory attacks by Iranian proxies across the region will remain high. Iranian-backed militias are determined to fight US forces. Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah warned that US "military bases, soldiers, officers, and warships" will be targeted.

Iran's desire for revenge will also affect the region politically.

In Syria, where Iran has had an uncomfortable partnership with Russia, the IRGC will likely seek to further entrench its presence. Russian attempts to curb Iranian military presence in response to US and Israeli calls may not be successful. In Yemen, Iran will also seek to secure its gains as an "indispensable diplomatic stakeholder".

In Iraq, Iran will continue to exert influence over internal political affairs, which will lead to further destabilisation as the country tries to cope with major political unrest.

Already suffering from major divisions, Iraq will likely see cleavages between supporters and opponents of Iran deepen. On Janu-

ary 5, the Iraqi parliament passed a resolution obliging the government "to work towards ending the presence of all foreign troops on Iraqi soil". The Kurdish and some of the Sunni members of the parliament did not attend the parliamentary session that approved this decision.

Many Shia political and religious leaders are in favour of the departure of foreign forces, but the US military presence is an integral element of the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) security, especially in the aftermath of the 2017 independence referendum. Thus the push to expel US troops will become another point of contention between Baghdad and Erbil.

Soleimani's assassination also prompted calls for unity among Shia forces in Iraq which, until recently, were divided over the Iraqi protests. This means the demands by the protesters for political reform and desecration of the political system are unlikely to be met. This will likely complicate the government formation efforts in coming months and could further exacerbate tensions between the various ethno-religious components of the country.

In Lebanon, the fallout of Soleimani's killing is also likely to be felt. Hezbollah is the most important strategic asset of the Islamic republic in the region and therefore, it is likely to continue its financial support of the

group.

Like Iraq, Lebanon is experiencing social upheaval, with protesters demanding an overhaul of the political system. A stronger Hezbollah will likely be more assertive in its political negotiations with other forces within the country, especially as Saudi Arabia, the main backer of former Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri, has indicated it does not wish to escalate against Iran.

In the Gulf, the escalation in the US-Iran confrontation has caused much anxiety, especially as last year Saudi Arabia and the UAE witnessed Iran's military capabilities with the drone strikes on Aramco and the attacks on tankers near the Strait of Hormuz.

Fearing for their key oil sectors and economic stability, both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have made it clear that they want to avoid any further escalation with Iran.

After the assassination of Soleimani, Prince Khalid bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's deputy defence minister, travelled to Washington and London to meet with political and defence officials to express the need for de-escalation.

Saudi Arabia has reduced its airstrikes in Yemen and emphasised that the Houthis can assume a role in the future Yemeni government. Before his resignation in November, Iraq's Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi had taken the role of a mediator between Riyadh and Teh-

ran, actively facilitating negotiations for a de-escalation between the two. Although, this has not been confirmed by either Saudi Arabia or Iran, it seems to be the only expected approach for the Saudi leaders in the coming months.

The UAE also recently initiated negotiations with Tehran to re-establish diplomatic and possibly economic collaboration. The Emiratis have already started to scale back their military involvement in Yemen by pulling out their troops in the summer of 2019.

In October, reports surfaced that Emirati officials visited Tehran to spearhead talks for normalisation and de-escalation, and that Abu Dhabi had released \$700m in Iranian funds previously frozen due to the US sanctions.

By contrast, Qatar has maintained good relations with Iran, which supported it during the blockade initiated by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain. Doha has made long-standing efforts to act as a mediator and partner for its big neighbour. Just a day after Soleimani's assassination, Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani travelled to Tehran to seek to de-escalate tensions. A week later, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also visited the Iranian capital and called for a dialogue.

AGENCIES



# 'As we leave EU, we cannot abandon our compassion and humanity'

Samos, Greece

The youngest unaccompanied child on the Greek island of Samos, who hopes to join family in Europe, is not yet a teenager.

The child lives in a refugee camp on a hillside next to the island's capital, Samos Town, alongside 7,200 other refugees and asylum seekers, in a space designed for 640.

Tents litter any available space on the already densely packed hill.

Children chase each other along a muddy track winding above the main camp in the area known as the "jungle", which is acting as an overspill for the ever-growing camp.

Nearly 2,000 are children, 400 of whom are unaccompanied.

Of these 400, a handful hopes to join family in the United Kingdom.

But they now find their fate debated by politicians over 3,000 miles (4,800km) away.

On January 8, the House of Commons, where the ruling Conservatives hold a majority, voted to repeal an amendment to the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which would have protected the rights of unaccompanied child refugees to join a relative who is a resident in the UK.

After the vote, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's press secretary said the government would honour the provisions set out in the so-called "Dubs amendment" but there was no need to include it in the bill.

"Protecting vulnerable



Children do what they can to make food at a refugee camp known as the 'jungle' in Samos. File photo

children will remain our priority after Brexit," they said.

On Tuesday, the House of Lords, in which the ruling Conservatives do not hold a majority, will vote on whether to uphold the government's removal of this amendment, which for many children, may be the only opportunity they have to join their family.

Amir\* is 17 and slim, but looks younger than he is.

He looked confused when representatives from a legal charity on the island tried to explain his rights to him. Originally from Kuwait and a member of the Bidoon community, a stateless minority, Amir has

been living in Samos alone for two months since arriving from Turkey across the Mediterranean.

He is one of many unaccompanied minors who feel safer sleeping outside the official camp boundaries than in a designated "safe zone", which they say are overcrowded and prone to crime.

Amir's father, whom he hopes to join, is in the UK.

Beatrice Chioccioli, project coordinator for Lawyers Without Borders France at the Samos Legal Centre, told Al Jazeera: "We have been dealing with several cases of unaccompanied minors living in extremely bad conditions in the

local hotspot. The camp is overcrowded, the sanitary conditions are very poor, access to food is difficult and therefore, it is an extremely unsafe place for unaccompanied children.

"Our team has been working hard to make sure that their right to family reunification is guaranteed. The removal of this opportunity by the UK would be a clear violation of these children's rights as it would prevent them from having a normal life outside of a refugee camp, supported by their families."

Mahdi\*, 15, is also a member of the stateless Bidoon community

from Kuwait.

He arrived in Samos in December and is also living outside the designated safe zone. He hopes to join his elder sister who is living in the UK. Some of the unaccompanied children Al Jazeera interviewed had chronic scabies as a result of overcrowding and poor sanitation.

The resettlement scheme, which took the form of an amendment to immigration legislation, was introduced in 2016 by Lord Alf Dubs, a Labour peer. The architect

of the amendment, he arrived in the UK as an unaccompanied child refugee just before the outbreak of World War II.

He told Al Jazeera that unaccompanied child refugees should not become collateral damage of Brexit negotiations.

"The stories of these children in Samos only underline the importance of family reunion. Many unaccompanied refugee children are living in terrible conditions on the Greek islands. A small proportion of these, hope to

be reunited with their family in the UK because it is the only safe country where they have any family left.

"I can see no moral justification for the removal of my amendment from the withdrawal agreement bill. As we leave the EU, we cannot abandon our compassion and humanity."

In January, NGOs working on the island, including Still I Rise, which runs a youth centre for refugee children, won a case at the European Court of Human Rights.

This ruled that because of the poor living conditions in the camp in Samos, five unaccompanied minors should be transferred to a centre where they could be better provided for. So far, only one of these children has been transferred.

"We don't need to wonder what happens when lone refugee children are abandoned by governments. On Samos, we see it every day. Family reunion offers the chance for a small number of these children to escape hopelessness and destitution, and join family members in the UK.

"What politician could possibly hold their head up after leaving these children out in the cold?" Alex Green, a spokesperson for Help Refugees, told Al Jazeera.

Meanwhile, as politicians in Westminster discuss the merits of Lord Dubs' amendment, young children like Amir and Mahdi, are sleeping in thin summer tents in winter, waiting to hear whether they will be able to join their families or not.

Names marked with an asterisk have been changed to protect identities.

Agencies

BY LIESL LOUW-VAUDRAN

## Lesotho's future no clearer as Tom Thabane resigns

Just when it looked like things couldn't get worse in Lesotho, the country was again plunged into uncertainty last week with the announcement by Prime Minister Tom Thabane, 80, that he was resigning.

His decision followed renewed calls to impeach Thabane and the indefinite suspension of Parliament at the end of last year. The impeachment threat came from within his own party, the All Basotho Convention, which has been at loggerheads with Thabane for months.

The real reason for his resignation is however probably to be found in Thabane's personal life, which has taken a dramatic turn since his wife went on the run from police. A warrant for her arrest has been issued for the murder of Thabane's second wife in 2017.

It is still unclear what will happen now since Lesotho is governed by a coalition of parties in a very troubled political setting. For decades the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the South African government have tried to solve Lesotho's political problems. The politicisation of the security forces is one of the main issues that SADC and various South African mediators, including President Cyril Ramaphosa, have been trying to resolve, with little success.

Earlier this month South Africa's finance minister Tito Mboweni threw the cat among the pigeons by suggesting that Lesotho's borders be scrapped and the country be made part of a



Would scrapping its borders with South Africa really solve Lesotho's dire political problems?

confederal system with South Africa. Yet Mboweni isn't advocating for annexing Lesotho, as some in South Africa might have suggested.

The reaction against Mboweni was immediate. Some strongly criticised him for talking out of turn, but others supported him. Mboweni spent many years in exile in Lesotho and feels he has the right to weigh in on an issue which is an old bugbear of his. As far back as 2014 he raised the same suggestion of a confederation with South Africa, but keeping Lesotho's status as a sovereign country.

The defence force would be scrapped and some government departments merged, while creating a common border patrol. The confederation

would also, Mboweni says, include eSwatini, South Africa's other troubled neighbouring kingdom.

At the time though, Mboweni wasn't finance minister. One would have expected the issue to be dealt with by the international relations minister, but following Thabane's decision to resign, Ramaphosa sent former energy minister Jeff Radebe to Lesotho to discuss the situation with Thabane and others. It's unclear why Radebe was selected.

Meanwhile, if it isn't enough to have cabinet ministers commenting on Lesotho's internal problems, South Africa's left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) have also become involved, calling for a united Africa, and pan-African

solutions to the continent's problems. The EFF already has a branch in Namibia, which got two parliamentary seats in the November 2019 elections.

Mboweni and EFF head Julius Malema are not alone in thinking Lesotho should benefit from scrapping some unnecessary departments and greater integration with its only neighbour South Africa. Over the years, several Basotho have argued for scrapping borders altogether and noted the cost savings of being integrated into South Africa.

University of Pretoria political science professor Roland Henwood however told ISS Today that Mboweni's suggestion was unlikely to gain traction because it didn't favour elites in Lesotho, who would have to

agree to organise a referendum on the matter. "The problem in Lesotho is big man politics and you won't solve that by scrapping the border," he said.

Besides, the African Union has agreed to maintain colonial borders on the continent. The only two exceptions, since the period of decolonisation, have been the secession of South Sudan and Eritrea, with rather disastrous consequences in both cases, Henwood says.

In Southern Africa the issue of borders is as contentious as it is in the rest of Africa. Some say Lesotho should actually be much bigger, since half of South Africa's Free State province is actually Basotho territory. Similarly, claims by eSwatini that large swaths of KwaZulu-Natal province actually belong

to it have been around for decades, Henwood says.

The aim of scrapping borders would have to be to improve the lives of Basotho and, perhaps, eliminate the unnecessary cost of having an army that is constantly getting involved in politics. "It's difficult to see how this will solve Lesotho's problems," says Henwood.

Still, Lesotho's King Letsie III is often seen as a stable force in the country and many have argued that he should play a stronger role. If given extensive powers such as Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini has in South Africa, he might agree to such a change, says Henwood.

Elsewhere in Africa there are various political con-

figurations, ranging from federal states such as Nigeria and Ethiopia to the confederal arrangement between Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania. So redrawing the map of Southern Africa is not entirely far-fetched, but seems unlikely for now. The political problems in Lesotho, with only two million inhabitants, are dire and have been for a while. Making them South Africa's problems won't make them go away.

At this point the slow process of reforming the constitution, notably by placing restrictions on the military, seems the route to go. This has been the aim of South African mediators over many years, with former Constitutional Court deputy chief justice Dikgang Moseneke, as Ramaphosa's special envoy, steering the process. Several rounds of multi-stakeholder dialogues have been convened and a plan of action drawn up for political reforms.

Arguably, scrapping the military altogether and entering into a new constitutional arrangement with South Africa would have the same end goal - keeping the military out of politics, but with the added advantage of saving costs. With Thabane out of the equation, some of these reforms might be easier to implement, although he isn't the only political actor who has been involved in infighting and floor-crossing in a very fragile political environment.

Agencies



# Namibia looks to import cattle as drought decimates local herds

WINDHOEK

**N**AMIBIAN state-owned meat processing and marketing firm Meatco is in talks with neighbour Botswana to import cattle, as severe drought decimates local herds and threatens beef export deals with China and European countries.

The southern African desert nation moved closer to famine last month after dam levels fell below 20%, a drop officials blame on climate change and the worst drought in almost a century that also hit South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Meatco Acting Chairperson Ronald Kubas told Reuters on Tuesday that his company had recently visited Botswana and that buying cattle from there made sense because Botswana had the same animal health standards as Namibia.

Namibia became the second African country after South Africa to meet China's stringent import conditions for bone-in beef last year.

China's massive population has seen its appetite for beef grow after an outbreak of African swine fever wiped out hundreds of millions of pigs.

Namibia currently exports 10,000 metric tons of beef a year to the European Union.

A five-year drought in southern Africa has caused plunging dam levels in Zambia and Zimbabwe which have resulted in power cuts. In parts of South Africa, people have been drilling boreholes and trucking in water.



# EU sets up \$998 million budget for humanitarian aid

LONDON

THE European Union has set up a 900 million euro (\$998 million) budget to help countries hit by humanitarian crises, with Africa getting the largest share of the money.

The EU Commission,

the bloc's executive arm, said Monday that people in more than 80 countries will benefit from the money in 2020.

Some 400 million euros (\$444 million) will go to programs developed in Africa, while 345 million euros (\$383 million) have

been awarded to address crises in the Middle East.

A further 111 million euros (\$123 million) will be dedicated to programs in Asia and Latin America.

"Even though conflict remains the main cause of hunger and displacement, its impact has become

seriously worsened by climate change. Europe has a responsibility to show solidarity and support for those in need. Our assistance depends on full humanitarian access so aid organizations can do their lifesaving job," said Janez Lenarčič, the EU

commissioner for crisis management.

The EU said the bulk of the 2020 EU aid will support people suffering from the long-term conflict in Congo and malnutrition in the Sahel region, as well as those displaced by violence in South Sudan, Central

African Republic and the Lake Chad basin.

In the Middle East, the EU said the funding will "address the crisis in Syria and its refugees in neighboring countries, as well as the extremely critical situation in Yemen."

# Locust outbreak, most serious in 25 years, hits Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE most serious outbreak of locusts in 25 years is spreading across East Africa and posing an unprecedented threat to food security in some of the world's most vulnerable countries, authorities say. Unusual climate conditions are partly to blame.

The locust swarms hang like shimmering dark clouds on the horizon in some places. Roughly the length of a finger, the insects fly together by the millions and are devouring crops and forcing people in some areas to bodily wade through them. Near the Kenyan town of Isiolo on Thursday, one young camel herder swung a stick at them, with little effect. Others tried to shout them away.

An "extremely dangerous increase" in locust swarm activity has been reported in Kenya, the East African regional body reported this week. One swarm measured 60 kilometers (37 miles) long by 40 kilometers (25 miles) wide in the country's northeast, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development said in a statement.

"A typical desert locust swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer," it said. "Swarms migrate with the wind and can cover 100 to 150 kilometers in a day. An average swarm can destroy as much food crops in a day as is sufficient to feed 2,500 people."

The outbreak of desert locusts, considered the most dangerous locust species, also has affected parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea and IGAD warns that

parts of South Sudan and Uganda could be next.

The outbreak is making the region's bad food security situation worse, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization has warned. Hundreds of thousands of acres of crops have been destroyed.

Already millions of people cope with the constant risk of drought or flooding, as well as deadly unrest in Ethiopia, extremist attacks in Somalia and lingering fighting in South Sudan as it emerges from civil war.

The further increase in locust swarms could last until June as favorable breeding conditions continue, IGAD said, helped along by unusually heavy flooding in parts of the region in recent weeks.

Major locust outbreaks can be devastating. A major one between 2003 and 2005 cost more than \$500 million to control across 20 countries in northern Africa, the FAO has said, with more than \$2.5 billion in harvest losses.

To help prevent and control outbreaks, authorities analyze satellite images, stockpile pesticides and conduct aerial spraying. In Ethiopia, officials said they have deployed four small planes to help fight the invasion.

But one approach backfired in Kenya in recent days when the agriculture minister asked people to post photos on social media of suspected locusts, or "nzige" in Swahili.

A mocking series of images of warthogs, cats, lizards and other beasts followed, with pleas for help in identifying them, and the appeal was ended.



# Gender equality is a social responsibility for everyone

By Nikki Di Cunto

THIS past September, I packed my bags and left everything behind to live and work in Tanzania. Finally, an experience I have always dreamt of was becoming my reality. I was moving to Zanzibar to work as a Gender Equality Officer with EQWIP HUBs.

Some of you may be wondering what exactly is EQWIP HUBs? EQWIP HUBs is an innovative five-year project developed by two Canadian leaders in global development, Canada World Youth and Youth Challenge International supported by Canadian government. Specifically, EQWIP HUBs is a platform aiming to transform the economic trajectory of youth by reimagining how young women and men nurture tangible skills and resources needed to become valued economic players.

Over the course of the five years, EQWIP HUBs have developed 18 knowledge centres, referred to as HUBs, in six different countries including Bolivia, Ghana, Indonesia, Peru, Senegal, and Tanzania. Each HUB space offers entrepreneurship and employment training so that young people, especially women, are able to come together in order to gain market-relevant skills and have an opportunity to learn from mentors within their communities. By working to change the lives of 100,000 youth by 2020 the overall goal of EQWIP HUBs is to uplift the livelihoods of youth in order to create a better future for all.

As a nurse, I was asked time and time again, "Why gender equality? Are you not going to work in a hospital? What exactly are you doing?"

To be completely transparent, I had no idea what I was doing. All I knew was that as a feminist (or, what I like to consider to be a humanist) both men and women are equal. Period.

That men and women should respect one another, their bodies and their decisions by living in a way that protects their dignity and supports their overall human rights. It's about living in a way that celebrates and accepts the uniqueness of each gender.

It sounds so simple, right? But, historically women's rights and health have been compromised by the belief that men are superior to women.

That men are the better of the two, the head of the household the breadwinner, who women rely on not only for their own livelihoods and survival but their children's as well.

This belief is something that has negatively impacted our ancestors for centuries and one that continues to prevail making it a reality for an unspeakable number of women and girls worldwide.

As a result, gender inequality remains one of the biggest issues that continue to impact our world today. Gender equality has become a social responsibility for not only women but men as well. So ultimately, as a feminist and as a registered nurse, I became overcome by the need to truly grasp, understand and act on the hardships that women are continuing to endure. For me personally, the real question was how could I not work in gender equality? How could I not only real-

ize, but actively accept and utilize my privilege as a Canadian woman to help those women and communities that are continuing to suffer every second of every day.

So, what did I do as a Gender Equality Officer? As a Gender Equality Officer, it was important to ensure that the day to day activities at the HUB had gender equity at the forefront.

With the creation of Girls Clubs, we were successful in creating safe environments for young women and girls to gain knowledge, support, and empowerment throughout their educational and entrepreneurship journey. During my time working with EQWIP HUBs, I also supported the implementation and dissemination of a Gender Equality Strategy with one of Zanzibar's local educational partners. The strategy was used to implement gender-responsive mechanisms needed to alleviate the barriers and challenges faced by women when it comes to accessing training, resources, and services. Throughout the five-years, EQWIP HUBs successfully collaborated with the educational partner, through the use of the Gender Equality Strategy, in the creation and implementation of an innovative Gender Policy. With continued shortages of schools and high costs of continued education, sacrifices must be made in Tanzania's traditionally patriarchal society, which is usually made at the expense of young women and girls.

By implementing a gender strategy and policy within the education system, the hope is to continue to increase awareness of gender-based issues and to build capacity amongst educational stakeholders to be able to mainstream gender issues in order to increase enrolment in continued education amongst women.

How does increased enrolment positively affect Tanzanian society? Well, according to the Africa School Assistance Project (ASAP) girls with secondary education experience higher family incomes, marry later, have fewer children, have children at a later age, invest in their children's education and immunize their children 50% more than uneducated mothers.

So, not only does education for young women have undeniable economic and social benefits, but it also plays a critical role in uplifting the physical health of Tanzanians. With the spread of HIV continuing to be a public health concern in Tanzania education amongst women has been linked to a decreased rate of transmission.

As of 2018, there were 1.6 million people living with HIV in the Republic of Tanzania with less than 50% of young women and men being able to correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission.

It is said, that amongst the 1.6 million Tanzanians currently living with HIV women and girls over the age of 15 years make up almost half of that. In Tanzania, women tend to be infected at an earlier age than men.

**Nikki Di Cunto is a registered nurse, photographer and advocate for mental health as well as women's health from Toronto, Canada currently working as a Gender Equality officer in Stonetown, Zanzibar.**



# The sun will rise and you will try again

It's 3 am, your eyes are closed but your mind is working overdrive. Earlier in the day, you received a call from a lady with a trace of British accent inviting you for a job interview the next day. For a moment you thought she was a con but when you checked your email and saw an invitation for the same, you felt happier than you have ever being in a long time.

It's 3 years or maybe 4 since you cleared university and you haven't landed a job yet. Your unemployment status has not been due to lack of initiative because God knows you try.

You have applied for literally all jobs even those remotely related to what you pursued in college. Over hundred job applications sent yet only two firms invited you for an interview. The first job interview was a sham, from how the officials conducted themselves it was clear they had already picked their preferred candidates before the process began.

The second interview was full of drama and left your ego bruised as we you arrived at the recruitment center at 7 am only to find about eighty candidates at the gate. The officials arrived two hours later, gathered you all at the parking lot where a man in his mid-forties addressed the crowd eager to land a job. He went on about the qualities they desired in a candidate and how great it is working with

the NGO.

All this time, you stood there, reciting answers to questions frequently asked in job interviews, like where do you see yourself in five years? Seriously how do you answer that when you have no idea where you will be in a week? Suddenly, everyone except you bolts for the main entrance to the building. Young, old, men and women, in formal attire carrying brown envelopes with impressive CVs and academic papers turned to savages, tearing at each other trying to be the first into the building. Are we under a terrorist attack? If so why are people running into the building and not away from it?

You decided to run along with the crowd. On getting into the building you meet a bunch of people, shirts ripped off, elbows grazed and a few missing a shoe. After inquiring for a while about what's happening, a lady about your age fills you in. Apparently while you were engrossed deep in thought, the recruitment manager explained to the crowd the first test. The test involved racing up the stairs to 5th floor. The first twenty to get to the fifth floor would sail through to the second phase of the interview while the rest would go home. You went home a dejected man, unable to understand how running up the stairs could make one a better employee.

Still lying in bed, you open your eyes. A beam of light from a nearby street light pours into the tiny room



through a small window near the top. A huge dark cockroach crawls across the ceiling. Damn these roaches! I barely have enough food yet these roaches look healthier than I do. You jump out of bed grab a slipper from the floor and aim at the roach, only to miss it by far. The bug scampers to a dark corner. You sit on the edge of the bed and scan the room. Will I ever get out of the slum and move to the other side of the city? You live deep in the heart of an informal settlement in town. The area is overcrowded, no sewage

channels are available so raw effluents from toilets flow in open trenches, which characterize the area. When it rains, you are forced to wade through murky contaminated waters to get to the main road, it's a miracle there hasn't been a cholera outbreak otherwise you would all be dead. You stay on the ground floor of a one-storey mabati structure. Toilets and shower rooms are on the furthest. Tenants rarely use them at night when thugs are on the prowl so they relieve themselves just below the wooden staircase mak-



**THE CAREER MIRROR**  
With **SALMA HAMISI**  
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ing the whole building stink. Your single room is dark, damp and cold, so cold that it permeates through your heaviest blanket.

Compared to most of your neighbors you are wealthy since you own a laptop. An old piece technology you bought from a colleague back in campus. Watching movies on the laptop helps you escape your immediate surround for a moment and take you across to the other side of town where streets are paved and houses have well-manicured lawns. Your other possessions include a gas stove and the bed. The bed serves as a seat for your guests, a desk and underneath is a storage area. An old bed sheet hanging on a sisal rope acts as a partition of the living area and bedroom.

Where did I go wrong?, you question yourself. You did everything that your teachers guided you to: study hard, get good grades go to college, graduate top in your class and companies will come looking to hire you. You did your part and still job opportunities haven't been forthcoming. Surprisingly, most classmates who weren't serious with their studies landed plum jobs immediately after

campus. Their parents might have pulled some strings to make it happen but who in this city cares about how you get ahead? It is all about who you know. Judging from the pictures you've seen on Facebook you are the only one in misery. Former classmates, have bought new cars, live in expensive apartments, frequent fine dining joints, and travel across the world yet you have never seen the inside of a plane!

Your only powerful connection is a distant uncle who works at a government ministry. However, his wife hates your guts, actually, she hates everyone who is not wealthy. She believes the less fortunate are just lazy.

Your wrist watch reads fifteen minutes to five. You get out of bed to grab a soap and basin under the bed and head to the showers. The good thing about taking a bath this early is that there's a short queue to the bathroom and water is available. You bath in record time, get back into the room, apply petroleum jelly on your body, don your only suit and black shoes, grab a transparent document wallet with your certificates and make for the daladala stage. There is little traffic headed to the city center at that time.

It is crystal clear that the first thing you will do should you land that junior managerial post is to take your mother to a specialist for treatment since the medical personnel at the village dispensary don't seem to know what is ailing her, all they keep doing is prescribing to her more antibiotics. The second thing you would do is to take your sister to form one. She cleared her Necta exams a year ago but your family has not been able to raise the required school fees. You are afraid that if she continues to stay at home the boda boda riders will take advantage of her innocence.

You ride to the city for your job interview unfazed that only a 5000 shillings note is standing between you and starvation. Today you can feel it be your chance. You hope to land the job and move to the other side of the city where you won't have to share toilets, hop over trenches full of raw sewage to get home or have to deal with marauding criminal gangs in your neighborhood. After all, this big city is where dreams come true, they say.

The sun might rise today and your efforts will pay off.

# 'For generations, we have been nominating men just because they are men'

UNITED NATIONS

Marlene Schiappa, Minister of State for Gender Equality and the Fight against Discrimination in France, attended the 25th year Regional Review Meeting of the Beijing Platform for Action for the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Region last month. She highlighted why this meeting is key for advancing the gender equality agenda and the priorities for the Generation Equality Forum in 2020, a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN

Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico.

Why is the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting important for advancing the gender equality agenda?

We are here in Geneva in order to dedicate some time to working together, which is essential. France is pleased and proud to host the Generation Equality Forum in July 2020, which will mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. This will be an opportunity for us to strengthen the commitments that were made at the time [in 1995], but also to make new commitments with concrete gender equality goals through coalitions

of states.

For this meeting, what is your message to the governments and decision-makers here and also to the civil society activists, specifically the youth?

I would urge governments to engage in the Generation Equality Forum under the aegis of UN Women, because no country in the world has succeeded in achieving gender equality in all areas, whether it may be equal pay, gender-based violence, sharing of domestic tasks, or combating female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

You're co-chairing the Generation Equality Forum

in July 2020. What are your expectations for this forum, what would you like to achieve?

No country can achieve gender equality on its own, which is why I believe deeply in a collective commitment to women's rights in the form of multilateralism, which is the rationale of the feminist diplomacy led by France. I would urge all countries to engage in the coalitions of states of the Generation Equality Forum and also to engage in the Biarritz Partnership launched by President Emmanuel Macron as part of the French presidency of the G7.

It is a partnership that



the priority of the President's five-year term. Similarly, I think it is difficult to fight for equal pay if women fear physical harm in the street, when they travel, and even when they go home.

Women are victims of domestic violence and are beaten or demeaned by the person with whom they live. It is very difficult in these cases for women to have the necessary mindsets to develop their careers.

Therefore, this seems to me to be a top priority of the feminist struggle to fight for the integrity of women's bodies against sexual violence. And then I think it's important to fight for women's economic empowerment, and for their ability to start businesses all over the world.

We call on all states to ratify and implement the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence [also known as the Istanbul Convention] and its mechanisms to protect women, but also to enable women to become tomorrow's leaders and to create and manage companies, in particular through quotas, which is a proven system in France.

I know that we are sometimes told that women are not going to be nominated just because they are women. For generations, we have been nominating men just because they are men.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has calculated that if we do not have a coercive policy, we will achieve gender equality in the year 2234. With UN Women's support, we have the ambition to ensure that by 2020, we create the first generation that understands the importance of equality between women and men all over the world.

aims to review the best gender equality laws in the world. We propose that states commit to implementing Appendix I, which calls for an innovative new law for gender equality in each country. France has made this commitment and we will, therefore, work to promote the economic empowerment of women.

In your opinion, what are the gender equality and women's rights priorities for this region,

and in the broader sense for Generation Equality?

First of all, I would say that the right to control one's body is a right that must be reaffirmed. The issue of sexual and reproductive rights seems to me to be paramount. I think it's very complicated for a woman to be able to live her life freely if she doesn't have control over her own body.

Secondly, the fight against gender-based and sexual violence is

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =040=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letter word: VAN, SUM, NUN, WAR, ICE, ION, HOT, NOD  
4 letter word: OPEN, AGOA, BAIT, LEAD  
5 letter word: ARENA, YACHT, LOOTS, WANLY,  
6 letter word: LAD MAG, OPTION, NATIVE, VICTOR WANTED  
8 letter word: INUNDATE, LANGUAGE, SERVICES  
9 letter word: AMUSEMENT  
11 letter word: CLIMATOLOGY, CHALLENGING

Clues: Across  
1 Inventing and innovation (8)  
6 Large black bird (4)  
7 Perceptive (5, 3)  
10 Form I - IV in Tanzania (6)  
11 Wise (4)  
12 Film showing an event (7)  
14 Make someone angry (5)  
15 Salty water covers large part of surface  
17 Musicians (4)  
20 Happen (5)  
21 Light things covers a bird's body (7)  
23 Pleasant (4)  
24 Body part for hearing (3)  
25 Largest city in Saudi Arabia (6)

Down:  
1 God (7)  
2 Enclosing (6)  
3 Terrorism and political crime (7)  
4 Use vehicle (5)  
5 Extremely and uncomfortably hot (10)  
8 Meditations in Hindu religion (4)  
9 Attractiveness (8)  
13 Tolerate, bear (6)  
16 Place (5)  
17 spoil something by doing it badly (5)  
18 Continuous unpleasant pain (4)  
19 At or from a great distance (4)  
22 Help or support (3)

WORD FIT SOLUTIONS

SPACE M C N  
BANDIT ODE  
ABANDON AVOW  
C TEASER  
USE TRIP  
LUSHOTO R C  
TALLNERUDA  
L NEEDLES  
ONION D CEO  
H N SOAK R  
OMEGAB N E

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

CHILDREN T E  
H R O V REAM  
AWASH E G B  
R T A F R I C A R  
M P K I A I S O  
N Y S A I E  
G S E R T I Z  
D T R U J  
M O N O N R U S H  
S I N G G E N E  
P E T I T A L





Thursday 23 January 2020

## ETI offers 19.9 bn/- to capacitate Ecobank Tanzania operate smoothly

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) headquartered in Togo has offered 19.9bn/- to Ecobank Tanzania Limited to make the bank operate smoothly.

Ecobank Tanzania Limited, Finance Director Benedict Makoye told the reporter that the funds were released in December last year. He said the bank also received 33.6bn/- from ETI in 2018, which were intended for improvement of the bank operations and investment activities.

He said from 2010 to date, ETI has in total offered 168bn/- to Ecobank Tanzania Limited.

He added the bank is ready to offer loans to micro, small and medium enterprises at an interest of between 18 and 22 percent. He said loans are available to SMEs in various sector including agriculture, mining and transportation.

"We will this year introduce a number of new products as well as loans to our customers. The loans are meant to support them do their businesses effectively. Some of the loans will include customized personal loans for salaried employees which includes school fees loans, insurance premium loans, travel/holidays loans, rent loans, medical loans, asset financing such as vehicle, motorbikes, and mortgage/housing loans", he said.

Ecobank Tanzania that is 100 percent owned by ETI has five branches, three in Dar es Salaam, one in Arusha and another branch in Mwanza. ETI is the parent company of the leading independent Pan-African banking group—Ecobank.

ETI major shareholders are Nedbank 21.2 percent, Qatar National Bank 20.19 percent, Arise BV 14.1 percent, PIC (GEPI) 13.5 percent, SSNIT 3.9 percent and others 27.2 percent.

He said the bank is now present in 36 African countries and has employed over 20,000 people in 40 different countries in over 1200 branches and offices.

Ecobank is a full-service bank providing wholesale, retail, investment and transaction banking services and products to governments, financial institutions, multinationals, international organizations, medium, small and micro businesses and individuals.

Makoye said from 2010 to September 30th last year, the bank disbursed loans amounting to 106.9bn/- to micro, small and medium enterprises including corporate clients.

He explained that loan offered to micro enterprises are between 1m/- and 30m/- while loans issued to SMEs are between 100m/- and 1bn/-.

According to him, the bank leverages on regional collection solutions to support customers to collect funds instantly into their Ecobank accounts in Tanzania from other countries where Ecobank group operates.

"We have a world-class mobile app which enables customers to remit funds within 33 Ecobank African countries, transfer funds across local banks, transfer funds from their accounts to any Visa card globally, pay bills, open an account and move funds from account to mobile network operators without moving from where they are," he noted

## TADB assures Kigoma oil palm farmers to get loans

By The Banker Reporter

THE Tanzania Agricultural Bank (TADB) has assured farmers and palm oil processors in Kigoma Region that it will provide them with loans and equipment for the devolvement of the crop so as to increase palm oil production for their own economic benefits.

Speaking to Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) officials from Kigoma district, TDAB Director of Loans Agostino Chacha said the dispensation will help to remove the state burden in importing edible oil from foreign as well as increase local farmers' incomes.

Chacha said as of now TADB has already issued a total of 444m/- for the establishment of palm oil

processing plant in Kigoma Region, which will be a reliable market for farmers.

He said the step will also enable farmers repay the loans they may be given by the bank.

He said: "For farmers who will have satisfied the required conditions they will get loans through procedures TADB entered with some commercial banks, or get the loans direct from TADB."

According to him, the agro-bank has been in forefront in promoting oil palm production to increase production of cooking oil in the country.

Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust Manager for Western Zone Ayoub Mbezi said his institution is ready to give guarantees to farmers to enable them get loans as soon as the reliable market for the crop is estab-



lished.

He added: "We have already

given guarantees to some projects which have received loans espe-

cially coffee farmers from Man-yovu and now we plan to issue guarantees to oil palm farmers as we believe the step will help in the growth of the oil palm sector in Kigoma Region."

Kigoma is the leading region in palm oil cultivation, followed by Tanga and Mbeya. About 114,018 hectares of land are suitable for cultivation of the crop throughout Kigoma Region, but currently only 19,604.9 hectares (17.2 percent) of the land is being so used.

Current palm oil production stands at 78,563.600 tonnes, equivalent to 4.0 tonnes per hectare.

Over 30,000 smallholder farmers in Kigoma Region generate income from cultivating oil palm trees and extracting and selling palm oil.

## Swissport wins hub management contracts for Air Tanzania



By The Banker Reporter

AIR Tanzania has commissioned Swissport to handle their entire hub operation at the airports of Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro.

The new agreement includes a comprehensive service catalogue for airport ground services, air

cargo handling, and aviation security.

Starting this month at the airports of Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro, Swissport will provide check-in and gate services, baggage handling, moving of aircraft, cargo loading and aviation security services for 21 flights daily.

The new partnership further expands the company's growing presence on the African continent.

"We are delighted that Air Tanzania has chosen to rely on Swissport's high quality, reliable and efficient operational services at its hub airports in Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro," said Jeroen

de Clercq, head of Sub-Saharan Africa and Israel at Swissport International. "With their fast-growing fleet of modern aircraft, Air Tanzania is the undisputed leader in the Tanzanian aviation market and we are excited to support them."

Swissport staff will be servicing

B787 Dreamliners, A220s and Bombardier Q400 aircraft for Air Tanzania, which the carrier operates to ten Tanzanian and six international destinations.

At the end of September 2019, Swissport was active at 307 airports in 48 countries on six continents.

## UBA Tanzania trains young entrepreneurs to vie for \$5, Tony Elumelu Foundation grants

By The Banker Reporter

UBA Tanzania on Tuesday brought over 100 entrepreneurs together to a coaching event that sought to equip them with what it takes to effectively participate in an entrepreneurship development programme by the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF).

The entrepreneurs, who gathered in Dar es Salaam were greeted by inspirational talks by CEO of Clouds Media Group, Joseph Kusaga and one of the TEF alumni for the year 2017, Allen Kimambo.

The TEF is the private-sector-led philanthropy focused on empowering African entrepreneurs. The Programme targets small business owners, the foundation was established by Tony Elumelu who is also the Group Chairman of United Bank for Africa (UBA Plc) operating in twenty Af-

rican countries and three global financial service centres, namely: London, New York and Paris.

The Programme is a 10-year, \$100 million commitment to identify, train, mentor and fund 10,000 young African entrepreneurs. The goal is to create millions of jobs and the revenue required for the sustainable development of the continent, in line with the Foundation's philosophy of Africapitalism, which positions the private sector as the growth engine for Africa and emphasizes the importance of creating social and economic wealth.

The TEF Entrepreneurship Programme is open to entrepreneurs from across Africa, either with new startup business ideas or existing businesses of less than 3 years' existence, operating in any sector. Successful applicants will join the over 9,000 current



TEF alumni, Allen Kimambo speaks during a training session for young entrepreneurs organized by UBA Tanzania Limited in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Others in the photo are Clouds Media Group CEO, Joseph Kusaga (C) and UBA Tanzania CEO, Usman Isiaka. Photo courtesy of UBA Tanzania.

beneficiaries, from 54 African countries, and receive business training, mentoring, a non-refundable \$5,000 of seed capital with access to global business networking opportunities through the TEF Connect; a fully integrated online real-time application that connects several entrepreneurs, their prod-

ucts and services across the continent.

Last year, the Foundation received about 216,000 applications, with 42% coming from women entrepreneurs, from every country on the continent. Since commencement of the TEEP in 2015, 189 Tanzanian entrepreneurs have benefited

from the programme with a total funding support of \$1.89m (about TZS4.3billion) in the form of training, mentoring and seed capital of \$5,000 each to support the implementation of their start-up business ideas or grow their existing businesses.

UBA Tanzania as part of its initiative to ensure that more

Tanzanian entrepreneurs emerge as successful applicants for the program this year 2020, decided to organize a free coaching session for the interested members of the public.

A total of 100 potential applicants participated in an intensive business training organized by the bank. The application for TEF opened since 1st January 2020 and will end early in March.

Speaking at the event, Clouds Media Group's CEO, Kusaga told participants to take advantage of the positive gesture of UBA Tanzania to ensure that they diligently complete their applications to enable them emerge as winners of the seed fund. He also used the occasion to commend the Group chairman of UBA, Tony Elumelu for dedicating a huge amount of \$100 million for the development of young entrepreneurs. Encouraging young Tanzanian entrepreneurs to go for the application so as to reduce unemployment challenges, Kusaga advised them to be upfront grabbing such golden opportunities which are very rare to find in our country.

He emphasized that entrepreneurs must only get into a business which

they have a passion for. "You must focus, focus and focus but also, you need financial discipline," he noted.

One of the TEF alumni for the year 2017, Kimambo shared his experience by saying that the programme is transparent and everyone who applies and wins, gets the \$5,000 seed capital and enjoys free online training sessions via the TEFConnect.

"I encourage my fellow Tanzanians to grab this opportunity, all you have to do is apply online, submit your best business initiative and win free \$5000 as a seed capital to implement your start-up business idea or grow your existing business," Kimambo said.

UBA Tanzania's CEO, Usman Isiaka in his welcome address stated that The Tony Elumelu Foundation is the leading philanthropic institution in Africa with focus on entrepreneurship development. "The TEF has trained, mentored and granted seed capitals to over 9000 entrepreneurs across the 54 African countries with cumulative seed capital funding of over \$45m." Isiaka noted while advising the participants and media representatives to encourage other young Tanzanian entrepreneurs apply for the programme.



# Mining Indaba 2020 looks to the future

By Tasneem Bulbulia

**T**HE upcoming Investing in African Mining Indaba will focus on forging the future direction of the continent's mining industry.

Under the theme 'Optimising Growth and Investment in the Digitised Mining Economy', key topics to be discussed at the event include green and sustainable technology, investment opportunities in African mining, resource nationalism, climate change and youth challenges.

"Some of the new innovations for 2020 are really exciting, focusing on the digital revolution and evolution of technology in society and industry."

"We have extended the Mining 2050 programme to two days - looking at a broad scope of the way that technology is informing and changing the mining industry. We are welcoming more legal voices to the Mining Indaba, with a dedicated General Counsel Forum where general counsel from many of the major mining operations can



meet with local South African and pan-African law firms," says Mining Indaba content head Tom Quinn.

One of the main topics to be discussed will be driving investment decisions in Africa's mining sector. This will entail revisiting the fundamentals

of the mining industry, price volatility and the impact of mining investment for 2020 and beyond.

It will also explore increasing gold exploration activity in West Africa, looking at what makes junior gold projects an attractive investment.

The Indaba will also tackle issues that are prevalent in the mining industry. This will focus on the aim of zero harm; land rights issues; environmental and employment law; regulatory challenges; and political uncertainty.

Resource nationalism is another theme that will be explored. This will analyse and assess exposure in current African markets and strategies to mitigate risk. It will also look at rebalancing public and private relationships; and explore how governments can find compromises that engender growth while allowing business to make considerable profits.

The Indaba will seek to find innovative solutions to increase the sustainable supply of battery metals.

Another topic will look at the challenge presented by youth; such as how the mining sector could act as a development

engine across the continent. It will also look at President Cyril Ramaphosa's Youth Employment Services (YES) initiative and how it is working.

Moreover, the Indaba will discuss the Millennial generation and how mining companies should position themselves to attract this demographic of investors.

Another topic will endeavour to map Africa's mining industry towards a sustainable future. This will include innovation technology and data management solutions for sustainable mining; rethinking mine rehabilitation; and harmonising extraction and environment to change industry's social image and ecological footprint.

The role of technology in the industry will also be explored, in the vein of the future of work and digitally skilled miners; automation; and digitised and

supply chain and technology enablers. The issue of climate change will also be looked at, as will possible solutions. This will explore climate smart mining - African minerals for the low-carbon future; and will also look at the legal framework of liability, insurance and sustainability.

The Indaba will also host discussions with mining Ministers from across Africa and the globe. This will include discussions around the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and its implications for energy and mining; and the responsible sourcing of African minerals.

The Indaba will also look to the future, mainly, exploring the continent's mining sector as an engine for development; and reimagining mining by exploring what the future of work in the industry could entail.

## CDC Group to invest £2 billion in African businesses over the next two years

By Nixon Kanali

CDC Group is to commit a further £2bn into African businesses over the next two years, as it looks to double the size of its portfolio on the continent.

The UK's publicly owned impact investor which is also the world's largest bilateral development investor in Africa unveiled a string of new partnerships totalling nearly \$400m at the UK-Africa Investment Summit (AIS) in London. The bulk of funds will be to provide African banks with greater liquidity to support SMEs, entrepreneurs and micro-businesses in their regions.

These include a \$100m trade finance loan with ABSA, the South African bank, to support SMEs in southern Africa, an MoU to commit \$100m to CIB of Egypt to allow the bank to further support SMEs and micro-finance enterprises and a \$75m trade finance agreement with TDB to support bank lending to SMEs in 32 African countries.

It also included a \$10m debt agreement with Mettle Solar Africa to accelerate the

roll-out of solar energy in South Africa and Namibia, a \$27.5m investment in Mediterranean III Fund to support mid-cap businesses in North and West Africa, a \$20m investment in Adiwale I Fund to support SMEs in West Africa with growth capital and a \$20m investment in Verod Cap Growth III Fund to support SMEs active in high growth sectors in West Africa.

Others are a \$20m investment in Metier Sustainable Capital II Fund, a renewables fund focusing on sub-Saharan Africa and \$15m investment in the TCom TIDE Africa Fund, a sub-Saharan African VC fund that supports businesses that leverage technology and innovation.

Nick O'Donoghue, Chief Executive of CDC, said "Investors have a real opportunity to embrace the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - in partnership with African countries and businesses - to fight climate change, create jobs and skills and bring about positive social and environmental change."

"The commitments we have announced today will accelerate the roll-out of solar

power and other renewable technologies and support the growth of countless SMEs - the bedrock of any healthy economy - across the continent."

CDC is responsible for over 10 per cent of all capital invested through Africa-focused private equity funds.

Despite Africa being home to eight of the world's 15 fastest growing economies, the continent receives less than 4 per cent of global foreign direct investment.

Strive Masiyiwa, the founder of pan-African telecoms, media and technology company Econet and one of Africa's best-known entrepreneurs and philanthropists, said "The role of development finance institutions like CDC is vital in providing much needed long-term patient capital for African entrepreneurs and businesses. There is a significant opportunity for UK investors to work with African businesses to create a brighter, sustainable and more prosperous future for the continent."

Mr O'Donoghue added: "The UK is already

the investment partner of choice for many African nations. The investment community here now has a fantastic opportunity to strengthen that position by aiming to make a positive impact to bring about sustainable, long-term economic and social development. That aim does not diminish the financial opportunities that exist for all types of investors. In fact, it enhances them".

CDC already has investments in over 700 African companies. In 2018, its investee companies collectively employed about 370,000 people and supported millions more through supply chains.

Among its recent deals in Africa was a \$180m equity investment in Liquid Telecom to accelerate the rollout of its pan-African high-speed fibre optic network, including into underserved markets such as Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a \$92m capital injection to the Nubian Sands project in Egypt, part of the largest solar power installation in the world.

## JP Morgan creates \$100 billion funding arm to help UN

NEW YORK

JPMorgan has created a \$100 billion funding arm - the JPMorgan Development Finance Institution (DFI) - to expand investments in emerging markets and help the United Nations (U.N.) meet its Sustainable Development Goals, JPMorgan announced on Tuesday.

JPMorgan consulted with other development institutions to develop defining principles to ascertain the prospects most likely to produce both financial and developmental gains.

"By defining eligible transactions and anticipating their impact, we can help attract much-needed private investment to developing countries," said Daniel Pinto, co-president of JPMorgan Chase and CEO of the Corporate & Investment Bank. "Our aim is to increase engagement with clients and investors interested in financing critical projects and transactions in emerging markets."

The DFI will be headed by Faheen Allibhoy, a country manager responsible for JPMorgan's West African division. She brings nearly two decades of experience at the International Finance Corporation.

"It's an honor and privilege to join JPMorgan's DFI," said Allibhoy. "JPMorgan's global scale, expertise, and suite of financing capabilities provide an excellent platform to make a real difference in emerging markets."

The U.N. is striving to tackle a host of issues in developing countries - from infrastructure and food security to climate change and health - by 2030. The investment gap is roughly \$2.5 trillion of the estimated \$5-7 trillion that is needed annually to address these issues. The JPMorgan DFI intends to shrink that gap.

JPMorgan anticipates that the DFI will bring more backers to assist with funding emerging economies. Last year the firm served people in 82 of the 144 World Bank-eligible borrowing countries.

It estimates the firm can finance development projects valued at more than \$100 billion annually.

Earlier this month, JPMorgan Chase announced new security measures that would block FinTech apps from accessing customers' passwords. The lender will disburse tokens to third parties, embedded with limited data.

## Ride the wave of the AfCFTA, AfDB president Adesina urges UK investors

LONDON

AFRICA is on the cusp of unmatched economic transformation, and the UK must engage in a "partnership of change," African Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina said Tuesday in a keynote address at a UK Parliamentary Symposium.

"The Africa of the 21st century is very different. The Africa of the 21st century is new and more confident," he said.

The Symposium was co-organized by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa with the Royal African Society, Oxford Brookes University, and the Trade Justice Network under the theme UK-Africa Trade and Brexit.

The Bank's chief argued that Africa and the UK should be significant trading partners. "The reality, however, is that UK's trade with Africa is trending downwards. From a \$49 billion peak in 2012, trade decreased to \$30.6 billion in 2018," he noted.

The decline in UK trade and investment in Africa is against a backdrop of projected business-to-business and consumer-to-consumer expenditures of \$5.6 trillion by 2020, and a food and agriculture market worth \$1 trillion by 2030.

"The fact that we are having this conversation in the UK Parliament is a great start. The convening of this Summit by Prime Minister Boris Johnson is an even greater start," he acknowledged.

President Adesina urged his engagement at the House of Commons to share Africa's



investment opportunities, "which speak for themselves." Trading under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which represents a market of more than 1.3 billion people and a gross domestic product of \$2.5 trillion, and is the world's largest free trade area since establishment of the World Trade Organization, starts in July.

Speaking earlier in the morning at the UK-Africa Investment Summit Sustainable Infrastructure Forum, the Bank's chief said: "Investing in quality and sustainable infrastructure can spur Africa's economic transformation."

The Forum, organized by the Department of International

Development (DFID) and Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa, seeks to facilitate new investment and commercial opportunities for the UK and promote quality infrastructure to deliver better services to African citizens.

The Bank has been a forerunner in the race to rapidly close the continent's infrastructure gap, which Adesina suggested be renamed "Africa's infrastructure demand opportunity." Investors who tapped early into information and communications technology infrastructure in Africa have seen those investments become game changers for Africa, he noted. "Just under two decades ago,

Africa had fewer telephones than Manhattan in New York. Today, Africa has over 440 million cell phone subscribers. Returns on digital infrastructure are very high as the continent expands broadband infrastructure to boost connectivity and improve services," Adesina said.

The African Development Bank has been a major investor in infrastructure development in the electricity, transport, and water sectors across Africa. Cumulative Bank funding for infrastructure on the continent rose by 22% from \$66.9 billion in 2016 to \$81.6 billion in 2017. During the same period, the value of infrastructure projects with private sector participation has increased from \$3.6 billion

to \$5.2 billion.

To meet Africa's unmet infrastructure needs, project preparation is critical, the Forum heard.

The Bank has established several project preparation facilities to address the lack of bankable projects and ensure a robust pipeline of projects. These facilities collectively provide \$30-50 million annually in support for project preparation.

The African Development Bank and DFID are collaborating to explore how to better support fragile states, which are facing huge financing needs. DFID has been the Bank's key strategic partner since it joined the Bank group in 1983. And its "strong and consistent" support for the African Development Fund has helped the development of low-income states, especially the fragile states.

Instruments, such as the Private Sector Credit Enhancement Facility, a credit-risk participation vehicle from the African Development Fund, (ADF)'s concessional window to support Non-Sovereign Operations in low-income countries, are showing tremendous results.

With \$500 million in credit guarantees, provided through ADF, the Bank has leveraged \$2.5 billion of financing into fragile states, with a zero default rate.

"We are committed to quality infrastructure and ensuring that no one is left behind!" Adesina concluded. The Bank's chief is on a three-day visit to the UK. On Monday, he joined African Heads of States at a reception at Buckingham Palace after taking part in a presidential panel at the UK-Africa Investment Summit convened by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.



# Boeing 737 Max may stay grounded into summer

NEW YORK

BOEING'S troubled 737 Max airplane will now remain grounded from passenger service until at least June or July, which is months later than the company had previously suggested.

And that means airlines will likely cancel Max flights through the busy summer travel season.

The three U.S. airlines that fly the 737 Max, American, Southwest, and United, had already removed the planes from their flight schedules into early June.

In a statement, Boeing confirms that it has told its customer airlines and its manufacturing suppliers that "we are currently estimating that the ungrounding of the 737 MAX will begin during mid-2020." Industry sources tell NPR that means June or July at the earliest and ultimately, the FAA and other aviation regulators around the world will determine when the 737 Max is safe to fly passengers again, which could be months later.

Boeing Employees Mocked FAA In Internal Messages Before 737 Max Disasters

The 737 Max has been grounded by regulators since last March, after the second of two crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people. Investigators primarily blame a faulty automated flight control system on the Max for the crashes. The company has been working on software fixes for that and other problems ever since.

Until recently, Boeing had often sug-



Boeing says 737 Max jets not likely to fly until summer

gested the fixes were almost ready to be submitted to regulators and approval was imminent. But in December, FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson pushed back against Boeing's then-CEO Dennis Muilenburg for suggest-

ing repeatedly that the Max would be recertified before the end of the year, saying the regulatory agency would not be pressured into granting quick approval.

Dickson summoned Muilenburg to

Washington for a hastily called meeting, in which the FAA chief told the company's chief executive that "Boeing continues to pursue a return-to-service schedule that is not realistic." In a statement, the FAA said Dickson

was also concerned with "the perception that some of Boeing's public statements have been designed to force FAA into taking quicker action."

During the meeting, Dickson "made clear that FAA's certification require-

ments must be 100% complete before return to service." And "he reminded Mr. Muilenburg that FAA controls the review process" and will take all the time it needs to get the 737 Max review right.

# Oil slides as IEA surplus forecast overshadows Libya disruption

LONDON

OIL prices fell on Wednesday as an International Energy Agency (IEA) forecast of a market surplus in the first half of 2020 outweighed concerns about disruptions that have slashed Libya's crude output.

Brent crude was down 43 cents, or 0.7%, at \$64.16 a barrel at 0941 GMT. West Texas Intermediate also fell 43 cents to \$57.95 a barrel, having declined 0.3% the day before.

The head of the IEA, Fatih Birol, said he expects the market to be in surplus by one million barrels per day (bpd) in the first half of this year.

"I see an abundance of energy supply in terms of oil and gas," Birol told the Reuters Global Markets Forum on Tuesday, while attending the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos.

"It's the reason that recent incidents we have seen - with the Iranian general killed, Libya unrest - didn't boost international oil prices," Birol said, referring to the U.S. killing of an Iranian commander and retaliation by Tehran that boosted prices briefly earlier this month.

Libya's National Oil Corp on Monday declared force majeure on the loading of oil from two major oilfields after the latest development in a long-running military conflict.



Unless oil facilities quickly return to operation, Libya's oil output will be reduced about 72,000 barrels per day (bpd) from about 1.2 million bpd.

Financial markets are also watching the emergence from China of a new strain of a coronavirus and the possible impact which a pandemic might have on global economic growth.

Should the new virus develop dramatically and hit travel and growth, demand for oil could fall by 260,000 bpd, Goldman Sachs said in a note.

"Demand concerns over a potential epidemic will counter concerns around supply disruptions in Libya, Iran and Iraq, driving spot price volatility in coming weeks," Goldman said, although the "impact on oil fundamentals remains limited so far."

Supply is still likely to rise, with U.S. crude production in large shale deposits expected to rise to record highs in February, although the pace of increase is likely to be the lowest in about year, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said on Tuesday.

Inventories of crude oil in the U.S. are likely to have fallen for a second week last week, according to a Reuters poll, although gasoline stocks are forecast to have risen for an 11th week in a row.

# Botswana's Masisi talks African economy at Davos

DAVOS

LEADERS of Botswana and Netherlands were featured during a high-level panel on Africa at Davos on Tuesday, as the annual World Economic Forum continues in Switzerland.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi emphasized the power of African youth, its growing cities and economies, and the potential that a unified market under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement is poised to deliver.

"We have full confidence that when we increase the intra-African trade, it will be a means by which we grow and reach the world," Masisi said. "In the same way we also want the world to reach us."

Africa represents the most powerful workforce of a lifetime, he added. Yet he cautioned that Africa's economic growth will depend on connectivity and an end to corruption.

President Macky Sall of Senegal also was supposed to participate in the panel, but moderator Børge Brende, the president of the WEF, said he was stuck in traffic. Sall never made it to the event, so Masisi continued in dialogue with Queen Máxima of



**We have full confidence that when we increase the intra-African trade, it will be a means by which we grow and reach the world," Masisi said**

the Netherlands.

The queen, like Masisi, focused on Africa's demographic dividend and its young, educated populations, but also on fintech and digital access. She cited a study that found Ethiopia's GDP would grow by 10 percent and add three million jobs with digital financial inclusion.

"We have to create jobs, jobs, jobs," she said. "We will not be able to create those jobs if we do not have the infrastructure of an inclusive digital financial system."

Botswana, alongside Ghana, also will participate in the new Africa Growth Platform initiative to create jobs through entrepreneurship and small business support.

**BANKING & FINANCE**

# King of Morocco's vision to provide hydro-agricultural and drinking water in the Essaouira region materializes

RABAT

THE vision of King Mohammed VI for sustainable and integrated development of the rural world has, once again, materialized through his launch of a set of hydraulic, hydro-agricultural and drinking water projects on 14 January in the province of Essaouira.

Thus, the Moroccan Sovereign inaugurated a series of projects in the hydraulic sector. These include the "Moulay Abderrahmane" dam, built on oued Ksoub for a total cost of \$97 million, the hydro-agricultural development project of the "Ksoub" perimeter, which is located downstream of the new dam and mobilizes investments of about \$25 million, and a water treatment plant of the new dam in addition to the laying of water supply pipes (\$14.5 million) and a project to strengthen access to drinking water in rural areas (\$20 million).

These projects are in line with the objectives of the National Drinking Water Supply and Irrigation Program 2020-2027, aiming at consolidating and diversifying sources of drinking water supply, meeting the demand for this invaluable resource, ensuring water security and eradicating the effects of climate change.

All these infrastructures directed to improve water supply in the aforementioned region assure the Sovereign's determination to pursue the policy of dams initiated by his father, the late king Hassan II and his determination to make the agricultural sector a catalyst for balanced and sustainable economic growth in all the regions of Morocco as well as a decisive factor in the promotion of rural zones through the development of agricultural production systems and the mastery of the rural space management.

These projects will help improve the

supply of drinking water throughout the city of Essaouira and its neighboring regions, preserve the province's groundwater, protect the infrastructure of the area located downstream of the "Moulay Abderrahmane" dam against flooding, increase the agricultural production capacity, and open up job opportunities for the local population.

With a storage capacity of 65 million m<sup>3</sup>, "Moulay Abderrahmane" is an embankment dam with a concrete mask, 72 m high on foundation and 418 m long at the crest. This important hydraulic infrastructure, which would be more beneficial for such a region whose economy is mainly based on agriculture, livestock and handicrafts, taking into account that the Tensift watershed contains about six major dams, namely the Yaacoub Al Mansour, Lalla Takerkoust, Abou El Abbas Essebti, Sidi Mohamed Ben Soulaymane

El Jazouli and Ouagjdit dams.

On this occasion, minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, Abdelkader Amara, handed to the King Mohammed VI two medallions commemorating the inauguration of the "Moulay Abderrahmane" dam. In order to take full and sustainable advantage of the benefits provided by the new dam, a hydro-agricultural development project in the "Ksoub" perimeter has been implemented and benefits 1,207 farmers in the rural communes of Ida Ougerd, Sidi El Jazouli and Ounagha.

This project, which covers an area of 1,300 ha, aims at promoting the irrigation system regulated by the "Moulay Abderrahmane" dam, intensifying the agricultural production by nearly 125 pc, particularly for the cereal, arboriculture (olive, pomegranate, fig tree) and improving the added value of agricultural production from \$460 /ha/

year to \$2,630 /ha/year.

The hydro-agricultural development project of the "Ksoub" perimeter consists of the installation of a main supply canal (12 km), the development of the secondary and tertiary irrigation network (48 km), the construction of collective and individual water intake points and treatment plants, in addition to the provision of technical supports to farmers.

King Mohammed VI also launched the watering operation of the irrigated perimeter "Ksoub" from an irrigation intake on a 6 ha plot, before visiting a water filtration unit of the "Moulay Abderrahmane" dam, a water intake and a plot of land equipped with the drip irrigation system.

In parallel with these projects, a program to strengthen and secure the supply of drinking water to the urban and rural population of Essaouira province is being accomplished and

would benefit more than 258 000 people by 2030. So far, this program has made it possible to supply four rural communes adjacent to the "Moulay Abderrahmane" dam, thanks to the construction of a dam water treatment plant with a capacity of 250 l/s and the laying of water pipelines, all this for a total cost of \$14.2 million.

In this respect, some projects are in progress within the same framework to supply 12 communes from the Meskala groundwater (\$20.2 million), while others projects to supply 8 communes are under study.

With high added value, these various hydraulic, hydro-agricultural and drinking water projects will undoubtedly contribute to improving the incomes of thousands of farmers, bettering their living conditions, developing high-performance and solidarity-based agriculture and preserving the region's water resources.



## WORLD

## Senate approves President Trump impeachment trial plan, rejects Democrats on documents, witnesses

WASHINGTON

The Republican-controlled U.S. Senate voted early on Wednesday on party lines to approve the rules for President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, rejecting Democratic efforts to obtain evidence and ensure witnesses are heard.

As the third presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history began in earnest, Trump's chief legal defender argued the Democratic case was a baseless effort to overturn the 2016 election but a top Democratic lawmaker said there was "overwhelming" evidence of wrongdoing.

Trump was impeached last month by the House of Representatives on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress for pressuring Ukraine to investigate former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, a political rival, and impeding the inquiry into the matter. The president denies any wrongdoing.

After U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts convened the proceedings, the two sides began more than 12 hours of squabbling that lasted into Wednesday morning over Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's proposed rules for the trial.

Senators voted along party lines, 53-47, to block four separate motions from Democratic leader Chuck Schumer to subpoena records and documents from the White House, the State Department, the Defense Department and the Office of Management and Budget related to Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

By the same tally, senators also rejected requests for subpoenas seeking the testimony of acting White House Chief

of Staff Mick Mulvaney, former national security adviser John Bolton, White House aide Robert Blair and White House budget official Michael Duffey.

Under McConnell's hastily revised set of procedures for the trial, there will be 48 hours of opening arguments - 24 hours for each side - over six days, easing off an earlier plan to keep them to two days each. It also allows the House's record of the probe to be admitted as evidence.

The arguments will begin when the trial resumes at 1 p.m. (1800 GMT) on Wednesday.

Republican senators have not ruled out the possibility of further testimony and evidence at some point after opening arguments and 16 hours of senators' questions, but they held firm with Trump's lawyers to block Tuesday's Democratic requests for witnesses and evidence - a potentially good sign for the White House.

White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who is leading Trump's defense, attacked the foundation of the charges against the Republican president and said Democrats had not come close to meeting the U.S. Constitution's standard for impeachment.

"The only conclusion will be that the president has done absolutely nothing wrong," Cipollone said, arguing in favor of McConnell's proposal to wait until later in the trial to decide whether to allow further witnesses or documents.

"There is absolutely no case," he said.

After a particularly heated exchange over whether Bolton should testify, Roberts admonished both parties to remember they were addressing the

world's greatest deliberative body. "I do think those addressing the Senate should remember where they are," he said.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., with Secretary for the Majority Laura Dove, left, returns to the chamber at the Capitol in Washington, on Tuesday. (AP)

world's greatest deliberative body. "I do think those addressing the Senate should remember where they are," he said.

**'NO ANSWERS'**

Democratic Representative Adam Schiff, who helped spearhead the House impeachment inquiry, said the president had committed "constitutional misconduct justifying impeachment."

While the evidence against Trump was "already overwhelming," further witness testimony was necessary to show the full scope of the misconduct by the president and those around him, he said.

Republican senators have not ruled out the possibility of further testimony and evidence at some point after opening arguments and senators' questions.

But Democrats said they forced repeated votes on evidence and witnesses, which extended late into the night, to get Republicans on the record immediately.

"This may be our only chance, tonight, to make this a fair trial. And it's just increasingly clear that the White House has no answers for why these documents and these witnesses shouldn't be produced," U.S. Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut told reporters.

Under McConnell's plan, lawyers for Trump could move early in the proceedings to ask senators to dismiss all charges, according to a senior Republican leadership aide, a motion that would likely fall short of the support needed to succeed.

Even if such a motion fails, Trump is almost certain to be acquitted by the 100-member chamber, where a two-thirds majority is needed to remove him from office.

But the impact of the trial on his re-election bid

in November is far from clear.

**PARTY LINES**

Democrats accuse Trump of pressuring Ukraine, a vulnerable ally, to interfere in U.S. elections at the expense of American national security and say he is a danger to American democracy.

Trump and his legal team say there was no pressure and that the Democrats' case is based on hearsay. Cipollone described the Ukraine investigation as an illegal attempt to remove a democratically elected president and avert his re-election.

"They're not here to steal one election, they're here to steal two elections," Cipollone said.

The White House defense team also repeated some false charges. Cipollone said Republicans were excluded from the secure facility where the initial depositions for the House impeachment hearings took place, when Republican members of the House Intelligence Committee were not only present but questioned witnesses.

Trump lawyer Jay Sekulow said the White House was not allowed to have a lawyer present during the impeachment hearings, when in fact it declined to participate.

The Senate trial is expected to continue six days a week, Monday through Saturday, until at least the end of January.

Televised congressional testimony from a parade of current and former officials who spoke of a coordinated effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate Biden and his son, Hunter, has done little to change support for and against Trump's impeachment. Reuters/Ipsos polling since the inquiry began shows Democrats and Republicans responding largely along party lines.

Agencies

## China, US ought to 'enhance strategic communication'

WASHINGTON

CHINA and the United States should strengthen strategic communication and look at each other rationally, Cui Tiankai, the Chinese ambassador to the United States, said here on Tuesday.

Speaking at a Spring Festival reception hosted by the Chinese embassy, Cui (pictured) said China-US relations have achieved historic development since the establishment of their diplomatic

ties, which has not only brought about great benefits to the two peoples but also helped promote world stability and prosperity.

The Chinese ambassador also dismissed claims of "decoupling" or "New Cold War" between China and the United States, saying that they are against the trend of history and unpopular.

"There is no difficulty that cannot be overcome as long



as the two sides respect each other's dignity, sovereignty, and core interests," he said.

Talking about the phase-one economic and trade agreement that China and the United States have recently inked, Cui said the deal, which was aimed at addressing concerns of both sides, showed a spirit of mutual respect and came to fruition through consultation on an equal footing.

Signing the deal "serves the interests of China, the United States, and the world as a whole," the ambassador stressed.

China and the United States, he suggested, should take it as an opportunity to earnestly implement the strategic consensus reached by their leaders, reduce misunderstandings and miscalculations and properly manage their differences so as to build a relationship based on coordination, cooperation and stability.

The reception was attended by some 700 guests, according to the Washington DC-based Chinese embassy. *Xinhua*

Agencies

## Top Russian scholars warn about main global threats for this year

MOSCOW

IN their annual analytical report focusing on threats facing the globe in 2020, experts from Russia's MGIMO University listed the main global challenges, highlighting a possible flare-up of armed conflicts and the start of a large-scale economic crisis.

"We are witnessing the reduction of the power potential of US global hegemony, we see a trend towards the strengthening of sovereignties among leading powers, a crisis of

solidarity inside NATO and a crisis of the ultra-liberal political project, as well as a growing military might of countries outside the West," Director of the MGIMO's Institute for International Studies, Andrey Sushentsov, told a news conference at TASS on Monday.

"Taken together, these trends on the international front meet Russia's interests," he said. "But at the same time we see that the possibility of the use of force by the leading powers is growing, though the cata-

strophic consequences from this are decreasing" he added.

The report emphasized that armed conflicts around North Korea and Iran could worsen, and it highlighted the activity of global terrorist networks. "The Ukrainian crisis is still an obstacle for a dialogue between Russia and the European Union. In the mid-term, observers expect the start of a large-scale economic crisis. An economic and social vacuum in Central Eurasia, south of Russia's Siberia and the Far

East, would prevent the active development of that region," Sushentsov noted.

Among the factors obstructing Russia's interests, he mentioned the "warfare against memory" initiated in Eastern Europe, explaining that this implies "the politicization of history for the sake of achieving often fleeting political interests, undermining the fundamental foundations of history, the memory of and attitude towards WWII," he said.

"We see that international relations are increasingly often guided by individual and sovereign factors, countries begin to act not out of collective interests, and not out of interests of solidarity," the analyst noted.

A trajectory will continue this year, in which Russia will not be establishing friendly relations with the West on any terms, Senior Researcher from MGIMO's Center for Euro-Atlantic Security Sergey Markedonov said. *Agencies*

## Secretary of the Democratic Party of Myanmar shares her story with China, says she feels attached with the country

SECRETARY of the Democratic Party of Myanmar Mya Than Than Nu recently shared her story with China before Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to her country.

Mya Than Than Nu lives by an alley of Yangon, Myanmar. Not far from her home, lies a museum built in memory of her father U Nu, the first Prime Minister of independent Burma that collects a series of photos recording the precious moments of China-Myanmar friendship.

Under U Nu's efforts, Myanmar became the first of countries with a different social system to recognize and establish diplomatic ties with new China 70 years ago. The former Prime Minister paid many visits to China, as a result of which he and his family established a special bond with the country.

"My father never took the family with him on overseas visits except when visiting China, which is why I feel attached to the country," said Mya Than Than Nu.

When she visited China with her father, she met many Chinese leaders of the elder generation and joined get-togethers held for Chinese and Myanmar children.

"My father always told me that he had formed a close friendship with the Chinese leaders based on honesty and sincerity," Mya Than Than Nu noted.

The China-Myanmar "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship remains unchanged as time goes by.

In 2014, when Mya Than Than Nu visited China, she was warmly welcomed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

She believes Myanmar and China have promoted close cultural exchanges and maintained momentum in economic cooperation.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has received wide supports in Myanmar, and major cooperation projects, including the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) are under construction. Mya Than Than Nu has a firm faith that under the strategic policies of the leaders from both countries, China and Myanmar will sign new agreements and roll out new measures for more win-win results.

Former Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, together with U Nu and former Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru issued a joint declaration to advocate for the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in international diplomacy.

Sixty years later, to mark the 60th anniversary of the proposal of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Chinese President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages with the leaders of Myanmar and India.

The "five principles" is a major initiative in the history of international relations in the 20th century, Mya Than Than Nu said, adding that it is still vital and applicable today, playing a crucial role in alleviating regional conflicts and promoting world peace. As a frequent visitor of China, Mya Than Than Nu said she could notice the huge changes happening to the country every time she went there. She believes the happiness of the Chinese people is a hard-won success as China is a broad country with a huge population.

She said the supports of the Chinese people for the Communist Party of China (CPC) come from the latter's priority over the interests of the people, and the happiness of the people well explains the governance capability of the CPC.

The Secretary of the Democratic Party of Myanmar said she hopes President Xi's visit can build on past achievements and open up a new future for China-Myanmar relationship.

People's Daily

## Bolivian Congress accepts Morales' resignation

LA PAZ

BOLIVIA'S Legislative Assembly on Tuesday formally accepted the resignation of Evo Morales, two months after he resigned the presidency and left the country.

There was some debate among lawmakers before they made the decision, as some members of Morales' leftist Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party, also the majority in the bicameral body, wanted to reject his letter of resignation.

Henry Cabrera, senior member of the MAS and vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, announced the final decision, saying "the majority of the assembly has accepted the resignations" of Morales and his vice president Alvaro Garcia. *Xinhua*

Xinhua

## DPRK abandons nuclear freeze pledge, blames 'brutal' US sanctions

GENEVA

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said on Tuesday it was no longer bound by commitments to halt nuclear and missile testing, blaming the United States' failure to meet a year-end deadline for nuclear talks and "brutal and inhumane" US sanctions.

DPRK top leader Kim Jong-un set an end-December deadline for denuclearization talks with the United States and White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien said at the time the United States had opened channels of communication.

O'Brien said then he hoped Kim would follow through on denuclearization commitments he made at summits with US President Donald Trump.

Ju Yong Chol, a counsellor at DPRK's

mission to the UN in Geneva, said that over the past two years, his country had halted nuclear tests and test firing of inter-continental ballistic missiles "in order to build confidence with the United States".

But the United States had responded by conducting dozens of joint military exercises with the Republic of Korea (ROK) on the divided peninsula and by imposing sanctions, he said.

"As it became clear now that the US remains unchanged in its ambition to block the development of the DPRK and stifle its political system, we found no reason to be unilaterally bound any longer by the commitment that the other party fails to honour," Ju told the UN-backed Conference on Disarmament.

Speaking as the envoy from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



(DPRK). Ju accused the United States of applying "the most brutal and inhumane sanctions".

"If the US persists in such hostile policy towards the DPRK there will never be the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," he said.

"If the United States tries to enforce unilateral demands and persists in imposing sanctions, North Korea may be compelled to seek a new path."

US military commanders said any new path could include the testing of a long-range missile, which the DPRK has

suspended since 2017, along with nuclear warhead tests.

**US: DO THE RIGHT THING'**

US disarmament ambassador Robert Wood voiced concern at Pyongyang's remarks and said Washington hoped the DPRK would return to the negotiating table.

"What we hope is that they will do the right thing and come back to the table and try to work out an arrangement where by we can fulfil that pledge that was made by President Trump and Chairman Kim to denuclearise," he said. ROK Ambassador Jang-keun Lee said there must be substantial progress in denuclearization to "maintain and build upon the hard-won momentum for dialogue".

"Therefore, early resumption of ne-

gotiations between the United States and the DPRK is critical," he said.

Anne Kemppainen, head of the European Union's disarmament section, also called on the DPRK to stick to the talks.

Pyongyang, slapped with multiple Security Council resolutions and sanctions, has rejected unilateral disarmament and given no indication that it is willing to go beyond statements of broad support for the concept of universal denuclearization.

The DPRK has said in previous, failed talks that it could consider giving up its arsenal if the United States provided security guarantees by removing its troops from the ROK and withdrew its so-called nuclear umbrella of deterrence from the ROK and Japan. *Agencies*

Agencies



## Chinese vice premier calls for joint efforts to bolster economic globalization

DAVOS, Switzerland

CHINESE Vice Premier Han Zheng has called on the international community to build an inclusive and open world economy and uphold multilateralism in support of economic globalization.

Han, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on Tuesday delivered a speech titled "Work Together for an Open World Economy and Sustainable Global Development" at the 50th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

At the 2017 WEF annual meeting in Davos, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a historic speech and expressed firm support for economic globalization, a message that resonated far and wide, Han said.

Han noted that economic globalization is "a trend of history, an essential condition for productivity growth, and a natural result of the advance in science and technology," adding that it is also "a strong driving force behind

economic growth across the globe."

To resolve the difficulties and problems in economic globalization, the fundamental solution lies in building an inclusive and open world economy together, and the key lies in upholding multilateralism, Han said.

"Unilateral and protectionist practices, which run counter to the global trend, will lead to nowhere ... and end up hurting everyone's interests," the vice premier said.

Han called on all countries to demonstrate greater courage, stay committed to equal-footed consultation and tide over difficulties together. "We should make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all" so that "people of all countries will be able to share in the benefits of economic globalization and global growth," he said.

He said the global community should "keep to the goal of safeguarding peace, promoting development, upholding equity and justice, and pursuing mutual benefit and win-win outcomes," calling for joint efforts "to tackle global challenges such as pov-



Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng

erty reduction, climate change and environmental protection." "We should abide by the international law and widely recognized norms of international relations ... and advance the improvement and transformation of the global governance system," he said.

China has embraced economic globalization, pursued development with its door open, and succeeded in transforming a closed and semi-closed

economy into a fully open economy, Han noted, adding that "openness has become a trademark of today's China."

China has developed itself through opening-up and participation in economic globalization, and the world has also benefited from this process, he said. The vice premier pledged that his country will open its door still wider to the world.

"Despite the protectionist and unilateral moves by some countries, China will not stop pursuing higher-quality opening-up, and will not follow their footsteps to move in the opposite direction of globalization," he said.

Han stressed that China will further widen market access for foreign investors and cut negative list for foreign investment, import more goods and services to promote balanced trade, and further improve China's business environment to let all types of businesses registered in China be treated equally.

China will also foster new drivers of opening-up, allowing free trade zones to initiate more reforms and speeding

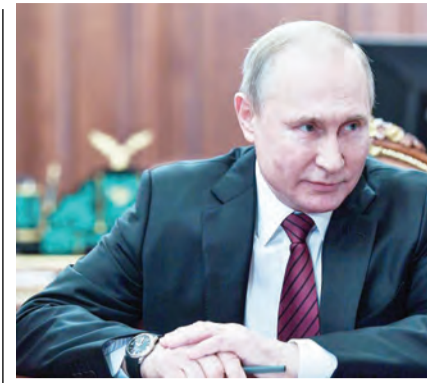
up the building of the Hainan Free Trade Port, he said, adding that China will further deepen multilateral and bilateral cooperation and work with other countries to build an open world economy.

Standing at a new historical starting point, China will, as always, actively shoulder its due international responsibilities and obligations, Han noted.

He pledged that China "will maintain stability and pursue development while contributing to peace and prosperity in the world," and "work with people of all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity" so as to make greater contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

During his stay in Davos, Han also attended a luncheon hosted by WEF Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab, and exchanged views with business leaders including Apple CEO Tim Cook and Siemens AG President Joe Kaeser.

Xinhua



## Main task of new cabinet of ministers is to improve well-being of citizens – Putin

MOSCOW

THE most important task for Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's government is to improve the well-being of Russian citizens, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with the newly-appointed cabinet of ministers.

"Here, of course, the main task is to improve the well-being of our citizens and to strengthen the statehood and positions of our country in the world," Putin said.

The Russian leader noted that "these aims are absolutely attainable." Putin also wished success to the new ministers and expressed confidence that they will do everything in their powers to fulfill the assigned tasks.

On January 15, the Russian government resigned after Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed making amendments to the Russian Constitution in his Address to the Federal Assembly.

On the next day, the Russian State Duma put forward the candidacy of the Federal Tax Service head Mikhail Mishustin for the position of the prime minister. On Tuesday, Putin has appointed the new cabinet of ministers.

Agencies

## UN agency urges concerted efforts to boost access to land for African women, youth

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has urged African policymakers to exert concerted efforts in augmenting access to land for the continent's women, youth and other marginalized groups.

The ECA, which is set to organize a high-level policy dialogue on land policy reform and socio-economic transformation from Jan. 23 to 24, on Tuesday stressed that "the question of access to

land by women, youth and other marginalized groups, will be one of the key discussion points during the dialogue."

The high-level land policy reform-themed meeting will bring together representatives of ministries of African countries responsible for lands and agriculture, parliamentarians, public and private sector organizations, academia and research, CSOs, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank (AfDB),

African Union (AU) Commission, as well as various United Nations agencies such as the UN-ECA, FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, the ECA said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

Noting the crucial need to augment land ownership status among Africa's marginalized groups, the ECA also stressed that the high-level policy dialogue would highlight key reflective issues on the elements of land policies and regulatory frameworks need to be harmonized to create a uniform operating

environment, as well as on making land governance systems including the land administration machinery and institutions more efficient. "The policy dialogue is expected to come up with recommendations on land reform and the modernization of rural agriculture for socio-economic transformation, inclusive growth, poverty alleviation, food security and employment in Southern Africa being cognizant of the issues of identity, and issue a report of the proceedings as a basis for the

foundation for robust and sustainable land reforms," an ECA statement read.

According to the ECA, the high-level gathering "will provide a platform for stakeholders to share experiences on land reform and development in Southern Africa through discussions on land access, ownership and utilization, land productivity and markets, policy harmonization, large scale investments in land and identity." It is also expected to "contribute substantively to the discussion

on how the region and its citizens can benefit from the reallocation of land resources through accelerated socio-economic growth and development," it was noted.

The Policy Dialogue will build on the findings and recommendations of a recent study on Land, Identity and Socio-economic Transformation as well as the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Experts Group Meeting on the same organized in Livingstone, Zambia in November last year, it was noted.

Xinhua

## BRI a great opportunity for Myanmar - Myanmar official

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping is a great opportunity for the entire Southeast Asian countries including Myanmar, said Myanmar's Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing during an interview with People's Daily.

The Myanmar government and industries attach high importance on the joint construction of the BRI between Myanmar and China, U Win Khaing added.

The Myanmar government formed a steering committee for the implementation of tasks relating to the BRI in Dec. 2018, aiming to better implement the affairs related to the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) under the BRI framework, coordinate the union government and state and region governments, and better guide relevant policy making.

The 27-member committee is chaired by State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. Vice-President U Myint Swe serves as vice chairman and other ministers and regional chief ministers are the members.

As a member of the committee, U Win Khaing attended the first meeting of the committee on Feb. 18, 2019. According to him, the meeting was on tight-

schedule and covered broad topics.

Each government departments briefed the China-Myanmar Border Economic Cooperation Zone, CMEC and China-Myanmar power cooperation, and members of the committee also exchanged views on detailed cooperation projects.

Power cooperation is the sector that the minister attaches the most importance on.

Myanmar has a weak foundation of power infrastructure, and the increasing power consumption in recent years further burdened the electricity supply of the country.

Chinese enterprises have assisted Myanmar in building many power generation and transmission projects, such as the Kyaukse, Myanmar 145MW Gas Fired Power Plant, as well as the Thaketa gas-fired combined cycle power plant in Yangon.

These projects have largely improved the power supply and power quality across the country.

U Win Khaing told People's Daily that by Dec. 2019, 50 percent of the regions in country have had access to electricity, and the figure is expected to reach 100 percent by 2030.

U Win Khaing believes that as an important part of the BRI,



Myanmar's Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing inaugurates the 230KV Naba-Shwebo-Ohntaw Power Transmission Line and Substation Project undertaken by the State Grid Corporation of China at the completion ceremony of the project. Photo by People's Daily

the cooperation on power infrastructure has injected sufficient energy into Myanmar's economic development and livelihood.

The east line of the CMEC, or places in the Mandalay-Yangon region, are the most economically developed places in Myanmar. The CMEC, by connecting the poorest and the most developed region of the country, will largely drive Myanmar's economic growth.

"The joint construction of the

BRI is bringing development opportunities for Myanmar, and I hope the two sides will conduct cooperation in a wider range," U Win Khaing noted.

He believes that President Xi's visit will open up new space for cooperation for the two countries to jointly build the BRI, adding that Myanmar will actively learn from other BRI countries so as to bring more tangible benefits to its people.

People's Daily

## Let more Myanmar readers learn President Xi's thoughts on governance

U Ko Ko Hlaing is translating the second volume of the book Xi Jinping, The Governance of China into Burmese, and expects its publication as soon as possible to let more Myanmar readers learn President Xi's thoughts on governance.

Glorified with many titles such as chairman of Myanmar's Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former presidential political advisor, he values the title as a translator of Xi Jinping, The Governance of China most.

"China is like a book that you can re-read again and again. The more you have a thorough knowledge of it, the more you can understand the profound truth unveiled in the book," said U Ko Ko Hlaing (pictured).

During his visit to China in 2016, he was presented with an English edition of Xi Jinping, The Governance of China. Brilliant ideas in the book had him deeply captivated when he read it on the plane back to Myanmar for the whole journey.

Since then, the idea of translating the book into Burmese to let more Myanmar readers understand the contemporary China was engraved on his mind.

In April of that year, a transla-



tion team with scholars from both China and Myanmar was officially established, and U Ko Ko Hlaing became the head of the Myanmar team. In July 2018, a release ceremony for the Burmese edition of the first volume of Xi Jinping, The Governance of China was held in Naypyidaw.

President Xi's governance philosophy, which is full of wisdom, holds the key to China's steady and sustained development, U Ko Ko Hlaing said, adding that the translation of the book is a process to comprehend Xi's thoughts on governance.

"It takes much more brain power to translate quotations from classics and many vivid metaphors in Xi's book, but I

am benefiting from the process of thinking over the wisdom reflected in those quotations," he noted.

He gave an example of "Governing a big country is as delicate as frying a small fish" when Xi quoted ancient Chinese philosopher Laozi to explain how to govern a country during his interview with BRICS media in 2013. The metaphor full of ancient Chinese wisdom has impressed many readers, U Ko Ko Hlaing added.

The Burmese version of the first volume of Xi Jinping, The Governance of China was well received in Myanmar and was collected by the Library of Congress.

China has enjoyed all-round and rapid development with greater international influence in recent years. What impresses U Ko Ko Hlaing most is the country's achievements in poverty reduction. According to him, China's success in lifting so many poor people out of poverty in a short period of time and contributions to the development of humanity cannot be separated from the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China and President Xi's extraordinary leadership.

People's Daily

## Giuliani told US his client deserves leniency for financing Venezuela's opposition - Parnas

WASHINGTON

AT a lavish August gathering at a private estate in Spain, a wealthy Venezuelan businessman under criminal investigation in the United States introduced Rudy Giuliani, President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, to the father of Venezuela's opposition leader, Juan Guaido.

The affair was part of a campaign for leniency for the businessman, Alejandro Betancourt, who sought to demonstrate his close ties to opposition figures looking to oust Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro - a key objective of the Trump administration.

Betancourt told Giuliani he secretly helped bankroll Guaido's efforts to take over the leadership of Venezuela, according to four people familiar with the

situation, two of whom provided details about the meeting in Spain. Betancourt hoped those bona fides would enable Giuliani, his lawyer, to persuade Trump's Justice Department to drop its probe of Betancourt in connection with a Florida money laundering and bribery case, the people said.

A month later, at a meeting in Washington, D.C., Giuliani urged Justice Department prosecutors to go easy on Betancourt, according to a person with direct knowledge of the meeting, and Lev Parnas, a former Giuliani associate, who said Giuliani told him about it soon afterward. Parnas and the other person said Giuliani told prosecutors that Betancourt had provided assistance for Guaido's political efforts, and was therefore doing good work for the United States.

This is the first time Parnas detailed his story about Betancourt, Giuliani and Venezuela.

Giuliani declined to confirm meeting with U.S. prosecutors on Betancourt's behalf and wouldn't say whether the Venezuelan businessman is a client. "Lev Parnas has no right to be talking about that meeting," Giuliani told Reuters in a brief phone interview. "It was a confidential meeting - if it did happen."

"Lev Parnas's credibility is worth nothing," Giuliani said. The Justice Department declined to comment. Betancourt and his attorney Frank Wohl did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Reuters couldn't determine whether Betancourt did provide financing to the U.S.-backed opposition or if he was just claim-



ing he did.

Guaido and the main opposition political party, Popular Will, both denied receiving funding from Betancourt. Guaido was a member of Popular Will until he stepped back from it earlier this month.

"I do not know Mr. Betancourt, there is no relationship," Guaido told Reuters. "As such, that is not possible."

Wilmer Guaido, Guaido's fa-

ther, denied meeting Betancourt in Spain. "I only support my son like the whole family against that criminal dictatorship but I have not met anyone," he said.

Giuliani's meeting with Betancourt at the Spanish estate, and his efforts to lobby the Justice Department on the businessman's behalf, were previously reported by the Washington Post. Reuters is the first to report that Betancourt told Giuliani that he provided financial support for Venezuela's opposition, and that Giuliani touted that alleged assistance to U.S. prosecutors as a reason to remove the legal cloud dogging his client.

The episode speaks to the complex roles that Giuliani, the former New York City mayor, has played in Washington since Trump took office in 2017.

Giuliani frequently proclaims himself a business consultant and lawyer working on behalf of private clients. Yet he also enjoys extraordinary access to the halls of power as the president's unpaid personal attorney - work that has landed him at the center of Trump's impeachment trial.

Any attempt by a Giuliani client to avoid possible prosecution by claiming to have been backing an American foreign policy objective - the toppling of Maduro in this case - could prove embarrassing to the administration.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Parnas played a key role in Giuliani's effort to dig up dirt on Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in Ukraine for

Trump. Now under indictment for campaign finance violations, Parnas has been sharing information with Capitol Hill impeachment investigators, as well as the media, about the extent of the work he did for Giuliani.

Betancourt said "he was backing Guaido financially," Parnas told Reuters, and "was helping America with his cause."

Since January 2019, the United States and dozens of other countries have recognized Guaido as Venezuela's rightful president. But Maduro has remained firmly in power, much to the frustration of the Trump administration.

Maduro's government cut off paychecks for opposition lawmakers in 2016 after the opposition took control of the National Assembly.

Agencies





In this April 14, 2019 file photo, Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Ga. Woods' victory at the Masters might not have been the most important sports story of 2019. It was certainly one of the most uplifting. Voters chose Woods' dramatic comeback at Augusta National as The Associated Press sports story of the year. (AP Photo)

## Expectations getting higher as Tiger Woods gets older

SAN DIEGO

THE expectations seem to get higher even as Tiger Woods gets older.

Isn't it supposed to be the other way around?

Of course, it doesn't quell expectations when Woods is the Masters champion. Just the image of that red shirt under a green jacket was enough to believe he could win at least three more majors to catch Jack Nicklaus.

And then there's Japan. That's where Woods returned from a two-month break following maintenance surgery on his left knee and went wire-to-wire in the Zozo Championship. It was his 82nd victory on the PGA Tour, tying the record that Sam Snead had to himself for the previous 69 years.

Need more? Look no further than Royal Melbourne, where Woods split time as Presidents Cup captain and player, and he won all three matches he played. He was particularly crisp on a course that demanded precision.

And now he returns at Torrey Pines, where he has won eight times in his pro career, including the 2008 U.S. Open.

Woods showed up Tuesday morning in the drizzle of a gray sky. GolfTV, with which he has an endorsement deal, was there to document Woods tying his shoes at his car and walking through the parking lot.

The next victory is for the record, if not now then soon.

"Just trying to get to 83... I really don't think about it because I have to think about all the things I need to do to win the tournaments," Woods said. "There's so many different shots I have to play, and strategy, and thinking my way around the golf course, that I'm more consumed in that."

Good health is tantamount to good play, particularly for a guy who turned 44 last month and has had more back surgeries (4) than victories (3) in the last five years.

And as much resiliency as Woods has shown in returning from so many dark times brought on by so much uncertainty, there is a practical side to him. It's never easy to win, no matter how often he once made it look that way.

One of the more telling moments was at this tournament in 2008. Woods made birdie on the 18th hole of the tougher South Course at Torrey to open with a 67. John Wood, at the time caddying for Hunter Mahan in the group ahead, stayed behind to watch and said, "He just won two tournaments with one round." Woods won by eight shots that week, and the U.S. Open that summer.

He was 32, still five months away from surgery to rebuild his left knee.

Winning is harder than ever, mainly because of his age. The competition is younger

and deeper than ever. Woods plays Thursday alongside Collin Morikawa, who wasn't born until Woods already had three PGA Tour victories.

"When I was younger, I had more good days than bad, feeling-wise," Woods said. "Now at 44, I feel more bad days than I do good days. I think all of you at my age or older can relate to that. I think that's the hardest part about being an older athlete. You see it all the time at the Masters."

He mentioned Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer, who were in the mix at Augusta National well beyond 50, but faded at some point on the weekend.

"It's hard to put it together for all four days as you get older," Woods said. "It's just harder."

Woods wasn't that old when he won his fifth Masters in April, but given his health ordeals, he might feel that way. He didn't fade - he's Tiger Woods, and they're not - though he needed help for the first time in his 15 major wins.

"I've been able to have won a few tournaments since I've made my comeback, and hopefully, I win some more," he said.

Woods spoke on the day Nicklaus turned 80. Of Nicklaus' record 18 majors, what stands out is the last one in 1986 at the Masters. One tale from that week was a story by Tom McCollister in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, who assessed his chances by writing that "Nicklaus is gone, done. He just doesn't have the game anymore."

Only two players older than 46 had ever won a major, none since then. So it was a surprise.

Would anyone be surprised if Woods repeated at Augusta National? Probably not. Winning anywhere again to set a new standard of winning on the PGA Tour? That's practically a given, isn't it?

Woods isn't willing to look that far ahead. Even when his biggest challenge is time, there is no urgency about him. He chose not to look back at time lost when he was putting his personal life back together after his notorious divorce, and then putting his body back together from leg and back injuries.

In the decade after Woods won his 14th major at Torrey Pines, he didn't even play in 14 majors. And there was a time not long ago he wasn't sure he would play again.

"Yes, there were a number of years where I didn't compete and didn't play, so those were some missed opportunities," he said. "But granted, I'm playing again now so these are blessed opportunities. I didn't think I would have these."

With opportunities come expectations.

Young or old, that doesn't change.

AP

## Samatta signing for Aston Villa uplifts their chances of avoiding relegation

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

EXCITEMENT gripped the city of Dar es Salaam and other centers at the weekend on expected signing of a transfer to English Premier League side Aston Villa of Mbwana Samatta from KRC Genk of Belgium. Enthusiasts stayed far into midnight expecting the signing to be on air in selected sports channels and social media, and some pundits said the inking was finally done at 1am East African time on Sunday, with so many viewers still keeping the vigil.

The waiting and excitement created room for new jokes and teasing targeting the way things go by a consensual rule book, with jokers saying Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) should intervene as the waiting was proving rather exhausting for the fans, watching the first local player to sign in EPL.

While at the price of 10m pounds the player is a routine finding during the small window signing period, the shift is historic for the itinerary of the player. In his late teens he was spotted by Simba SC and became a regular player before Congolese giants TP Mazembe sought for his signature.

After making a name for himself as the Lubumbashi-based side grabbed headlines in African football, a Belgian top club decided he could help them and they featured in the UEFA Champions League in what may not have been habitual for the club side. We usually hear of Standard Liege or Club Brugge, and much less KRC Genk.

There is no question that Mbwana has been an excellent player for KRC Genk; even quick



Mbwana Samatta

statistics show it all, in that it is likely they scarcely reached high levels of European soccer before he signed, or actually grew with his presence. He has been with the club several years but he played at the UEFA Champions League only this season, and in the past season the club reached Europa League competition.

In both tournaments they exited rather early but definitely Samatta was their best player. Within the Belgian professional league he played 20 matches and scored seven goals, in the UEFA Champions League he appeared in six matches and scored three goals, while in the Europa League he played in 12 matches and scored nine goals. In Belgian first division Europa league playoffs he scored one goal in the single match.

On the continental theatre the player has won all there is to be won, including being voted African Player of the Year based in Africa, and appeared on a select side of Africa's best first eleven, - and all this before clocking 27 years of age, despite that it would take most talented play-

ers a whole career to achieve this.

That is why local groans about the player not contributing as much to the national side as in club soccer is all too familiar, as there is no back up in the national side to attain such achievements. Even then it is also true that as with KRC Genk, it is only during his playing days with Taifa Stars that we reached AFCON finals, the first time since 1980; some will credit the coach but outstanding players make the difference.

Signing for four and half years at Aston Villa is remarkable for one thing, that he is ready to commit his future to the club, and actually expects to help it shrug off relegation fears, in the remaining part of the season where he will appear for the club. And just as he made the difference for KRC Genk when they reached play offs for Europe League early 2018 and they made it, so is it likely he could rewrite the books at Aston Villa. For a player who scored nine goals in 12 Europa League appearances with the Belgian

side, notching nearly a goal per match in what remains of EPL ought not to be a disturbing prospect there.

Signing four and half years implies that he is not setting his sights on either the major EPL sides or a galactic transfer in the future, as at that age scarcely any major club will stake a fortune just to get the player on board, as usually it is under 25 years and especially those hovering around 20 years of age where small fortunes are deployed. But when a major club is filling a crucial gap anything is possible, for instance Manchester United coughing up 80m pounds to obtain Harry Maguire from Leicester City, and 56m pounds to pick Paul Pogba from Juventus.

With a 10m pounds transfer fee, a major shift benefits his new club all the same, but he didn't set his sights on such a transfer, leaving it to the four winds what happens later, to concentrate on helping the club remain in the English Premier League, not descend into the Championship.

## Leonard scores 36 to lead Clippers past Mavericks 110-107

DALLAS



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) dunks the ball over Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) in during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020 in Dallas. (AP Photo)

THE Dallas Mavericks brought back one big man but lost another Tuesday night, and in the end, they couldn't rein in the reigning Finals MVP.

Kawhi Leonard scored 36 points, Landry Shamet hit two clutch 3-pointers late and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Dallas Mavericks 110-107 Tuesday night for their fourth straight win.

Dallas ended a four-game winning streak, and more importantly, lost a key piece in center Dwight Powell just as they welcomed back Kristaps Porzingis.

Powell went down to a non-contact, right Achilles tendon injury in the first quarter, and though he will have an MRI on Wednesday, the team is fearing a worst-case scenario.

"Guys like him define the culture we want here," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "It doesn't get much tougher than this, if it ends up being what we fear it might."

Luka Doncic had 36 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for Dallas. He scored 24 points in the second half to help rally the Mavericks after they trailed by double digits from late in the second quarter through most of the third.

Shamet helped the Clippers seize the game late in the fourth quarter. His 3 from the left wing to give Los Angeles a 100-98 lead with 2:48 to play. Montrezl Harrell added two free throws, then Shamet sank another 3 from straight-on to put the Clippers up by seven. He finished with 18 points.

"We just kind of found a way to win," Shamet said. "We'd loved to keep that lead the whole game, but that's not how it's going to be. It's a long season. We got to find different ways how to win like we did tonight."

Leonard added 11 in the fourth quarter, including his only 3 of the game with 1:15 left, which put the Clippers up 108-100.

But Dallas rallied, as Doncic hit a 3 and Maxi Kleber a dunk. After a Clippers turnover, Tim Hardaway Jr.'s potential tying 3 spun around and out. JaMychal Green missed two free throws for LA, but then Doncic missed two - the second intentionally - and Leonard sealed it with two free throws.

Powell went down when he started to drive toward the basket but his right leg gave out. He fell to the ground and immediately slapped the floor in pain. He was helped to the locker room putting no weight on his right leg.

Powell's teammate JJ Barea - who tore his right Achilles tendon last season - was distraught as Powell was taken off the court.

Powell was averaging nearly 10 points a game in 39 games prior to the injury. With Porzingis out, Powell averaged 13 points over 10 games on 71% shooting.

With Powell out, Dallas got 16 valuable minutes from former Clipper Boban Marjanovic, who had 12 points and seven rebounds. His turnaround hook with 6:23 to play tied it at 90, capping a rally from a 14-point, second-half deficit.

Porzingis scored 10 points on 4-for-17 shooting in his return after missing 10 games with right knee soreness. He added nine rebounds, but after the game, he blamed himself for the Mavericks' loss.



## Gunnar Solskjaer hits back after criticism over Rashford injury

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

MANCHESTER United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has strongly defended himself against claims he put himself first with his ill-fated decision to play Marcus Rashford against Wolves in the FA Cup.

The United and England striker could be out for three months after suffering a back injury in last week's third-round match, which United won 1-0.

Former England and Arsenal striker Ian Wright said this week that Solskjaer, under intense pressure to improve the club's fortunes, prioritised his own needs over those of his player.

United are in fifth place in the Premier League, five points behind fourth-placed Chelsea in the race for the Champions League qualification spots.

But the Norwegian boss insisted that Rashford was fit enough to play in the 1-0 win for United, in which the 22-year-old substitute lasted just 16 minutes.

"I never put myself before the team," Solskjaer said on Tuesday. "I always put the team and the club before anything else."

"Marcus has had minor discomfort in his back since the Burnley game, two weeks before this game (Wolves)."

"We've had scans, we've monitored him, there was no injury there, just complaints."

Solskjaer, whose team host Burnley in the Premier League on Wednesday, said he had spoken

to Rashford in the build-up to the match.

"I had a conversation with him two days before and told him I was going to rest him," he said. "He felt fine and was very adamant that if needed, he could do at least half an hour as we wanted to go through in the cup."

"That shows you Marcus's attitude."

Solskjaer said he did not regret throwing his star striker into the fray.

"That is part of what you do for Man Utd," he said. "Every time you play, you put your body on the line."

"I've suffered some injuries for the club and that is what you are proud to do when you are a Man Utd player."

Solskjaer's biggest headache now is how to cope without his leading scorer and talisman as he battles to finish in the Premier League's top four.

United's attack looked weak without him in the 2-0 defeat against Liverpool on Sunday and Anthony Martial and Mason Greenwood are the only striking options for the Burnley game.

"That is the million-dollar question for us because Marcus has been fantastic," Solskjaer said.

"Someone has got to step up. If we find something in the transfer market, that might be one solution."

"But the best solution is the players stepping up and making sure they are ready and taking the chance."

AFP

## Barca target Aubameyang, Rodrigo in Jan. - sources

LONDON

BARCELONA are monitoring Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Rodrigo Moreno, sources have told ESPN, but they are also considering other attacking options because they are aware both Arsenal and Valencia will be unwilling to sell during the January transfer window.

Barca's management met on Monday after the 1-0 victory over Granada and they decided to look into the market to find a replacement for Luis Suarez who will be out of action for four months following surgery on his right knee.

Club sources have told ESPN they are not looking for a quick fix after Kevin-Prince Boateng failed to impress after arriving in last year's January window. Barca want to sign an established striker but know prices this month are exaggerated.

With this in mind, they are interested in Rodrigo and Aubameyang but the first attempts to start negotiations have not gone to plan.

"Valencia are not going to make it easy," a source told ESPN. "He's a very important player for them and it's the not the first time Barca have

shown an interest in him."

Barca are also keeping an eye on Aubameyang, 30, who has a contract with Arsenal until 2021. Sources have told ESPN the player would like a change and test himself in La Liga.

"They really like him at the Camp Nou, he's possibly one of the most admired strikers at the club but they know it'll be tough to get him from the Emirates," the source said.

In Rodrigo's case, Barca could make a loan offer to Valencia which will include an obligation to buy the player next summer.

The club are not too optimistic about getting both deals done and sources told ESPN that Barca are working to sign another "top level" forward although they have not revealed a name.

Barca intend to sign a forward next summer and sources have told ESPN their two main targets are PSG's Neymar and Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez.

If Barca manage to bring in a striker in this window, it will be a signing with the future in the mind given that there could be important news on the attacking front next summer.

## Mbappe: Liverpool 'like a machine' right now

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe has likened runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool to "a machine" and expressed his awe at their ability to keep winning under pressure.

Speaking with BBC Sport after launching his charity Inspired by Kylian Mbappe, the 21-year-old marvelled at the Reds' run of form that has put them 16 points clear of second-placed Manchester City with a game in hand.

"What Liverpool do in this moment is amazing," Mbappe said. "They are like a machine, they have found a rhythm and are like 'we play again, we play again.'"

"They have lost zero games. When you watch you think everything is easy but that is not easy. The guys are focused -- they play games every three days and they win, win, win."

Despite opponents being able to identify ways to cause Liverpool problems, Mbappe is impressed with the way Klopp's men find the

strength to keep pushing on.

"Now the problem is that everybody watches Liverpool, and everybody watches what we can do against them, so now they have to show they are strong again," the France international said. "It is a very good team with a very good manager, though."

Mbappe has been regularly linked with a move to Real Madrid but when asked about a potential future switch, he said it was not the time to discuss his future.

"Everyone talks about it," he said. "When I was young, I talked about it too, but now I am a player and I know it is not the moment."

"We are in January. It is the money time of the season. Imagine I answer your question and say something. Everybody will talk about it and it is not good for PSG."

"Now I am with PSG and I am 100% with the club. I want to help the club grow this season, to win a lot of titles, so for me it is not good to talk about [my future]."

(Agencies)

# Ten-man Arsenal hold Chelsea in torrent of late Premier League goals

LONDON

TEN-MAN Arsenal slowed Chelsea's charge for a Champions League place on Tuesday as Manchester City kept up their distant pursuit of Liverpool with victory at Sheffield United on a dramatic evening of Premier League football.

Newcastle improbably came back from 2-0 down to draw against Everton, with substitute Florian Lejeune netting twice in stoppage time, and Aston Villa found a last-gasp winner against in-form Watford.

Elsewhere, Southampton climbed to ninth in the table with victory against Crystal Palace while Bournemouth gave themselves hope with a 3-1 win over fellow-strugglers Brighton.

Fourth-placed Chelsea twice took the lead against Arsenal, who were reduced to 10 men after former Blues defender David Luiz took out Tammy Abraham when he was through on goal.

Jorginho put Chelsea 1-0 ahead from the penalty spot in the 28th minute but Gabriel Martinelli equalised for Arsenal in the second half.

Cesar Azpilicueta put Chelsea 2-1 up with just six minutes remaining but Arsenal levelled only three minutes later through Hector Bellerin.

The 2-2 draw leaves Chelsea six points ahead of fifth-placed Manchester United having played a game extra while Arsenal are in 10th spot, seemingly out of the running for a place in the top four.

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard was frustrated that his team had not been more clinical in front of goal.

"We could have had three or four goals today," he told the BBC. "Having shots, crosses and lots of 'ooh' moments. We have to be clinical."

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta hailed



Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli, right, celebrates with Arsenal's Bukayo Saka after scoring his side's opening goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London, Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. (AP Photo)

his side's reaction.

"To do that against this kind of opponent in this stadium, I really value," he said. "The way they have done it, with the spirit they have done it, that's great."

- Agiero spares City blushes -

Pep Guardiola's City, with defender Aymeric Laporte back in the side, looked as though they might rue Gabriel Jesus's squandered first-half penalty but their Argentine hitman Sergio Agiero came to the rescue.

Despite the 1-0 win, second-placed City remain 13 points behind runaway leaders Liverpool, having played two games more, and their bid to defend their title appears hopeless.

City's French central defender La-

porte has been out of action since suffering a knee injury at the end of August and he was a surprise inclusion at Bramall Lane.

Sheffield United goalkeeper Dean Henderson denied Jesus from the penalty spot about 10 minutes from half-time after a foul on Riyad Mahrez.

But City made amends when substitute Sergio Agiero, on for Jesus, tapped in from Kevin De Bruyne's cross in the 73rd minute.

"We knew it would be a difficult place to come," Guardiola said. "We concede one or two clear chances, nothing more than that."

"In the first half the 'keeper was excellent with the penalty and two

incredible saves. It was an incredibly good victory for us to take a step towards securing Champions League football next season."

Southampton's 2-0 victory against Crystal Palace, thanks to goals from Nathan Redmond and Stuart Armstrong, continued a remarkable turnaround for the club, who hit rock bottom earlier this season in a 9-0 defeat by Leicester.

"Throughout the team -- the behaviour, belief -- everyone is absolutely committed," said Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuetl.

"They know what they have to do and the atmosphere is fantastic. Everyone enjoys to play."

Watford took the lead against Villa when Troy Deeney headed in Gerard Deulofeu's cross but the home side hit back in the second half through Douglas Luiz.

Tyrone Mings scored a dramatic late winner for Villa deep into stoppage time to end Watford's recent revival under Nigel Pearson.

Moise Kean scored his first goal for Everton since his arrival from Juventus in the 30th minute of their match against Newcastle and Dominic Calvert-Lewin doubled the lead in the second half.

Everton were cruising deep into stoppage time but threw away the three points, with Lejeune striking twice.

Bournemouth, who had lost their previous four matches, all against relegation rivals, beat Brighton 3-1 thanks to goals from Harry Wilson, an own goal from Pascal Gross and a second-half Callum Wilson effort.

Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool are in action on Thursday at Wolves after Manchester United take on Burnley without Marcus Rashford, who could be out for three months with a back injury, on Wednesday.

AFP

## Arsenal showed long-dormant character at Chelsea

LONDON

ON the face of it, Mikel Arteta has made an unimpressive start to life as Arsenal manager. Tuesday's 2-2 draw at Chelsea left him with just one win in six Premier League games since taking charge last month, and the club he described as the "biggest in England" lie in 10th position in the Premier League. Arsenal are 10 points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea, and their hopes of qualifying for the Champions League are hanging by a thread.

Yet statistics don't tell the full story where Arteta is concerned, especially after this London derby at Stamford Bridge when Arsenal emerged unbeaten, despite being reduced to 10 men after just 26 minutes following David Luiz's red card against his former club for a reckless foul on Tammy Abraham.

Progress, measured by the black and white of the league table or won-and-lost column, is hard to find, but this was a night when Arsenal showed they are displaying the green shoots of recovery that have been conspicuous by their absence for longer than anyone at the Emirates cares to remember. Young players, such as goal scorer Gabriel Martinelli and full-back Bukayo Saka (both 18), showed tenacity and ambition beyond their years, while right-back Hector Bellerin grew with the responsibility of the captaincy.

Chelsea, with an extra man and home advantage, twice took the lead, but Arsenal somehow emerged from Stamford Bridge with a point.

"I am so proud of the courage, the fight and the leadership," Arteta said. "I am very pleased."

"We are playing with a lot of young kids and what we showed tonight means we can be very proud of them. They stepped up; if a teammate makes a mistake, they have to have their back."

Arsenal are clearly at base camp in their rebuilding job under Arteta. Unai Emery was unable to bring stability and progress following Arsene Wenger's exit in May 2018, so Arteta has inherited a mess at the Emirates. His squad lacks quality in key areas, and there are too many players, such



Mikel Arteta

as Luiz and Mesut Ozil (who was substituted after 56 ineffectual minutes), who drag the team down due to their deficiencies.

But while Arteta has struggled to improve results since relinquishing

his role as Pep Guardiola's assistant at Manchester City, he has found a way to get his players to do the basics.

That should be the first objective of any manager, but Emery was unable to get his Arsenal team to fight as a collective and stick to a coherent tactical plan, so Arteta is already doing a better job than his predecessor on that score. The fact that Arsenal were a better team without Luiz and Ozil, despite being down to 10 men, says everything about the improved mentality Arteta has already instilled.

"After this game nobody will have to speak about us," Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka said. "We showed big character. A lot of people say we have no character in the team, so after this game we showed we have."

Battling and scrapping and chasing lost causes will get a team only so far, however. Arteta will have to reshape his squad in the summer to ensure that his side make greater progress in terms of results. But the stunning goals scored by Martinelli and Bellerin to secure a point will at least give Arteta the belief that he has some players who can help Arsenal get back to where they want to be as quickly as possible.

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard is attempting a similar rebuild at Stamford Bridge, and he is not much further up the mountain than Arteta, having been in the job since only July. Chelsea have a better squad -- a reality borne out by their position in the

top four -- but they are beginning to lose momentum after winning just four of their past 12 league games.

Lampard's challenge is different to Arteta's because he has better players, but he now needs to help his young stars by adding experience to the squad. Failing to beat an opponent that has been forced to play with 10 men for more than an hour is an example of the lack of game-changing quality in Lampard's squad, and he will be concerned about slipping out of the top four if the poor run continues.

"We could have had three or four goals today," Lampard said. "Having shots, crosses and lots of 'ooh' moments. But we have to be clinical. When game day comes you have to have the killer instinct. We've not got that at the moment."

"We might be a bit young and in a bit of transition about us, but we have to have that quality."

While Lampard was frustrated, Arteta was realistic.

"Time will tell if this is a stepping-stone, but at least I saw a reaction," he said. "I demand from the players that they never give up -- we have to keep playing with the spirit we showed in every game."

Arsenal's problem in recent years has been their inability to build on good performances. If Arteta can change that, Arsenal can look forward to better days ahead.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Ten-man Arsenal hold Chelsea in torrent of late Premier League goals

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga

## Yanga bounce back in VPL

By Guardian Reporter

YANGA have brought their losing run in this year's Vodacom Premier League to an end, clobbering Singida United 3-1 in a match which took place at the latter's venue, Liti Stadium, yesterday.

Yanga had in the past two league clashes lost to Kagera Sugar and Azam FC.

David Molinga notched the opener for Yanga on the 12th minute of the yesterday clash, beating Singida United keeper Owen Chaima with a left foot shot from close range.

The muscular forward had been released by midfielder Mapinduzi Balama from outside the area, ran onto the pass and coolly lifted the ball over the Singida keeper.

Singida United went close two minutes later when Yanga keeper, Metacha Mnata, saved an effort by midfielder Elinywesya Sumbi as the latter had connected a well taken corner kick.

They had won the corner after Yanga's defender Lamine Moro had cleared a low cross whipped in by Sumbi.

Molinga forced a good save from Chaima on the 24th minute off the striker's dangerous free kick from outside Singida United's box.

The visitors kept on putting the hosts under pressure and went close after an effort by newly recruited winger Bernard Morrison, off a free kick by Molinga, was saved by Chaima.

Molinga wasted a glorious opportunity on the 40th minute when he raced to a pass by team mate within Singida's area.

He then opted to dribble past Chaima that made quick reaction to frustrate the former.

Chaima went for good save during the period's added on time, punching Molinga's dangerous flick for a corner kick which was wasted.

The lone goal separated the outfits at the end of the opening period.

Midfielder Haruna Niyonzima made it 2-0 for Yanga on the 57th minute as he coolly drilled in from close range, making the most of a good cross by Morrison from the left.

Morrison who on several occasions troubled the hosts' defenders made a skilful step over, dribbled past the latter's defender Erick Mambo before whipping in the cross.

Second half substitute, Ivorian forward Yikpe Gislain, that had replaced Molinga netted the third for the visitors on the 77th minute, in which he drilled in a rebound from close range.

Singida defenders had failed to clear Morrison's dangerous corner kick, Gislain made the most of the weakness.

Forward Sixtus Mwasekaga netted for the hosts on 83rd minute, heading in a pinpoint cross from the right side.

The visitors kept the hosts in check for the rest of the clash and in the end collected the crucial three points.

Yanga were eager to claim three points in the yesterday match, as they suffered two defeats in their previous league assignments.

## Yanga coach given formal warning for racism claim

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans Sports Club (Yanga) head coach Luc Eymael has been given a formal warning by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) over his racism claims.

On Saturday, Eymael accused Hans Mabena, the centre referee in Yanga's Vodacom Premier League match against Azam FC, of racism after the

latter had declined to shake the former's hands moments after the official had sent off Yanga defender Ally Mtoni 'Sonso'.

The visibly upset Belgian tactician told the press that Mabena shouted at him and turned down his handshake gesture immediately after he had been cautioned for protesting Sonso's dismissal.

Sonso was dismissed for a retaliation foul on Azam FC's right fullback, Nicholas Wadada.

The decision angered Eymael and prompted him to claim his team has been a victim of poor decisions by match officials in his team's two opening matches which they lost.

"I want to complain again about the officiating. Yes, my player reacted but first of all there was an attack on him just in front of the linesman who sees nothing. My player reacted, red card. Then the referee comes to me and shows a yellow card," the coach disclosed.

"I want to give him the hand, he says I don't want your hand. So what are you here for? Because am white? You have a problem with white people?" he said.

"It is very bad, so when I go back to Belgium, I will say in Tanzania, they are racists. I want to shake hands, they don't want. I am very upset."

On Monday, through a statement, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) reiterated that racism has no place in Tanzania's football at the same time saying that there is neither historical nor systemic racism in the country and ordered the TPLB secretariat to probe the matter.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the TPLB secretariat meeting on Monday decided to issue a stern warning to Eymael.

"Yanga coach has been given a warning for his actions and inappropriate comments and the club is directed to educate their coach and also maintain discipline," said part of the statement.

In another incident, Yanga have been fined 500,000/- after the squad's fans had thrown drinking water bottles at match officials during halftime break in a game against rivals, Simba SC, on January 4.

Yanga were also subjected to a fine of 200,000/- as their players stayed away from using the dressing room when they played Prisons in a league match played at Samora Stadium.

It was also announced that Coastal Union executive member, Salum Perembo, has been referred to the TFF Disciplinary Committee for allegedly attempting to invade the pitch to assault a match official and also using abusive language in January 12 when Biashara United got a last minute equalizer.



Yanga's head coach, Luc Eymael.

**5 EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

**Friday Night Live** The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Wells, Siddle take Strikers closer to playoffs

ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE Strikers' bowling firepower stymied league leaders Melbourne Stars at the Adelaide Oval to help the team inch closer to an invaluable double chance in the playoffs.

Chasing a seemingly modest 163, the Stars struggled against a HYPERLINK "<http://www.espnricinfo.com/australia/content/player/7898.html>" Peter Siddle-led bowling attack until a late flurry from acting captain HYPERLINK "<http://www.espnricinfo.com/australia/content/player/334337.html>" Peter Handscomb (65 from 39 balls) provided some hope before falling short.

The Stars had appeared in control with the ball with their spinners menacing after Handscomb won the toss and elected to bowl. Only a late flourish from HYPERLINK "<http://www.espnricinfo.com/australia/content/player/233680.html>" Jonathan Wells ensured the Strikers mustered a competitive total.

The Stars (10-3) have already secured the minor premiership, while the Strikers (7-4) are equal on points with second-placed Sydney Sixers.

Spinners shackle Strikers

The pitch looked a batting paradise, but the Strikers got off to a slow start scoring just seven off the first two overs with Jake Weatherald notably struggling. Knowing they could ill-afford to waste more overs in the Powerplay, Phillip Salt switched gears and hit four consecutive fours in the third over off Dan Worrall with sweet blows around the wicket.

Glenn Maxwell, who relinquished the captaincy for the game due to the bereavement of a friend, bowled Salt in the fifth over and promptly kissed his black arm band before pointing to the sky in an emotional tribute.

Handscomb successfully rotated the bowlers in the Powerplay, including using Adam Zampa who continued his strong form after bowling well in India. The Strikers crawled to just 1 for 38 after six overs with Weatherald making a painstaking six off 17 balls.

The Strikers looked to Travis Head for a push, but the spinners continued to menace with Clint Hinchliffe bowling the left-hander then dismissing an out of sorts Weatherald, who only mustered 15 off 27.

Sandeep Lamichhane became the fourth spinner used inside 10 overs with the home side limping to 3 for 57 at the midpoint.

Wells counterattacks at the death

The Strikers could ill afford to meander in the middle overs and fortunately Alex Carey, making his BBL re-emergence, was in an aggressive mood. He clubbed the first six of the innings in the 11th over off Zampa and added two more shortly after to quickly transform the game.

AGENCIES

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT MADE YOU THINK...  
... I AM BEAUTIFUL?

