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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 23 MARCH, 2019

WILDLIFE



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Thousands of small scale farmers benefit from AccessBank's 5bn/- loan bill

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Fixing of Lake Victoria shipping to cost 150bn/-

Private forecasting out as TMA gains status

By Henry Mwangonde

PRIVATE companies and individuals will henceforth have to consult and get permission from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) before purchasing any climatological equipment.

This is what is provided in the new law promoting the previous agency into an authority and has recently been assented into law. It restricts private companies and individuals from purchasing weather measuring equipment and conducting meteorological services except by permission from TMA.

The Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Isack Kamw-



The government will continue to empower such agencies due to their sensitivity by ensuring that they are well equipped and adopt new...

elwe has appealed to the authority to help with quick formulation of regulations to facilitate implementation of the newly assented law.

He said President John Magufuli has already signed the bill into law as there is need for the agency to sit down with the ministry on the formulation of regulations to enable the law to be effected properly.

The minister was speaking yesterday during a meeting for the TMA advisory board in Dar es Salaam, where he said the new law will among other things give autonomous powers to the agency to effectively carry out its duties and increase efficiency.

"The government will continue to empower such agencies due to their sensitivity by ensuring that they are well equipped and adopt new tech-

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Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (L, gesturing) speaks at a meeting with Tanga city residents on Thursday, as they narrated their ordeals in connection with land-related disputes. It was part of an 'Open Up with the Minister' campaign, and the particular session lasted until well into the night. Photo: Correspondent Hassan Mabuye

Prostitution: LHRC hints at rights breaches

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

AUTHORITIES in Singida region have arrested more than 30 women suspected to engage in prostitution as leaders here say it is part of a continuous operation to make the central town free of ladies of the night.

Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi told a Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) here yesterday that 38 ladies suspected to engage in commercial sex work were nabbed by law enforcement authorities Thursday night and the hunt continues.

Dr Nchimbi who chairs the

regional peace and security committee told the RCC that an increasing number of twilight ladies in the region jeopardized some of its development endeavours.

Tanzania cannot achieve its industrialisation and middle income status aspirations if its women hawk themselves for sex, she declared.

"Lord Mayor, I know you want our town to achieve city status. We cannot achieve that with prostitutes loitering around. We arrested 38 last night and we will arrest more. They have to leave Singida," she said.

But reacting to the matter yesterday, executive director of the Tanzania Human

Rights Centre (LHRC) Anna Henga said past experiences show that such operations come with a lot of violations of basic rights.

She said although Tanzanian laws proscribe earning a living out of prostitution, law enforcers normally arrest suspects accused of loitering and that's where the problem comes because wrong people get caught in the mix.

Her argument was that during police swoops at night, innocent ladies coming from work late, including bar maids and those who work night duties get arrested and labeled as prostitutes. "I advise that human rights

be observed during this and other such operations to avoid castigating innocent people, putting them in bad light," the director emphasized. RC Nchimbi first announced the resolve to flash out all prostitutes from the region a fortnight ago during the commemoration of the International Women's Day. She gave green light to the police to arrest and prosecute all those suspected to engage in sex transactions.

In 2016, the government voiced concern over an increase in prostitution among teenage girls, ordering police to start arresting men who pay for sex. Police said then that men who buy sex

contributed to a flourishing sex trade.

And last year, the government said that tough law to fight against prostitution was underway as the current one was a bit lenient.

Deputy Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni told Parliament in September last year that the current laws were too light to discourage the malpractice hence needing to be replaced with tougher ones.

For example, he said when an owner of brothel was arrested by police for the first and second time, he or she is required to pay only 5,000/- and 1,000/- as fines, respectively.

Uhuru deactivates social media accounts

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta's social media accounts were deactivated yesterday over sensitive contents that kicked off a storm for the better part of the day.

It was impossible to follow, like or comment on President Kenyatta's social media accounts, at least for the day.

This is after the Head of

State suspended all his social media handles in the morning over hacking by some staff in his office.

The first to go was his Twitter account, @UKenyatta, with its 3.62 million followers and 12,300 tweets.

Moments later, his verified Facebook account, #UhuruKenyatta, was blacked out.

This sparked off speculation that one of Africa's Twit-

ter presidents had been suspended by the microblog.

But Kenyatta had not violated any of the rules and Twitter was not giving that explanation for the missing account.

SUSPENSION "Sorry, that page doesn't exist!" is the response Twitter was giving.

Rumours of Twitter taking action against the president

were fanned by the fact that hours before the suspension, he had tweeted a stern warning on corruption.

"If you are corrupt we will fight you. You can be my brother or my sister or my closest political ally, but if you are corrupt we will fight you," Kenyatta tweeted from Windhoek, the Namibian capital, where he is on a state visit.

Analysis of comments by

Kenya's on Twitter (KOT) shows that many believed an administrator with ill intentions had fired the tweet to put Kenyatta at loggerheads with his deputy William Ruto.

Ruto, Kenyatta's close ally and election partner in the ruling Jubilee Party, has made it clear that the ongoing war on grand corruption and brazen theft of public resources

The ship is being built in accordance with a promise by former President Benjamin Mkapa given 23 years ago after the tragedy of Mv. Bukoba in May 1996, now being implemented by President John Magufuli.

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

WORK has begun here for four major projects to boost marine transport in Lake Victoria at a cost of 150bn/- including building of a new ship and slipway as well as major repairs on MV Victoria and MV Butiama.

Speaking at the meeting of Mwanza Regional Road Board yesterday, Chief Executive Officer of the state-owned Marine Services Co. Ltd (MSCL), Eric Hamissi said that the projects are being financed 100 per cent by the govern-



The ship will operate between Mwanza and Bukoba and also Port Bell and Jinja

ment. The building of a new ship with capacity for 1200 passengers and 400 tons of cargo including 20 cars has already started and upon completion it will cost around 89bn/-, he said.

The ship will be the biggest so far to ply Lake Victoria, at 92 metres long with a width of 19 metres and the contractor is Gasentec Co. Ltd of South Korea that has been contracted to design and build the vessel.

The designing of the ship is complete, having been done in South Korea and its sketches have already been approved by organizations responsible for marine transport. Just soon steel cutting as well as bending of different materials of the ship will be done so that they can be transported to the country by September for assembling, the meeting was told.

The ship will operate between Mwanza and Bukoba and also Port Bell and Jinja in Uganda, plus Kisumu in Kenya depending on demand, he stated.

The ship is being built in accordance

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Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Augustine Mahiga (3rd-L) officiates at Thursday's launch in Singida municipality of the nationwide decentralised birth registration system for under-fives in Dodoma and Singida regions. In the next two months, more than 650,000 under-fives in the two regions are expected to be presented with birth certificates under a programme the government has been implementing since 2013 in partnership with UNICEF and Tigo with funding from the Canadian government. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lake Victoria ships renewing to cost 150bn/-

FROM PAGE 1

with a promise by former President Benjamin Mkapa given 23 years ago after the tragedy of Mv. Bukoba in May 1996, now being implemented by President John Magufuli.

Building a slipway at Mwanza South port at the cost of 34.5bn/- has also started being implemented by South Korean firm STX Engineering Co. Ltd in collaboration with Saekyung Construction Co. Ltd, a consortium contracted to design and build the facility, he said.

The slipway is meant for enabling building the new ship and by November the works will be complete. The slipway can also be used to build and rehabilitate vessels from Kenya and Uganda if there is need, he said.

Major rehabilitation on MV. Victoria, which stopped to operate in 2014 due to a defective engines is also going on at Mwanza South port. Before that the ship was plying between Mwanza and Bukoba. The rehabilitation that started in 2017 is scheduled

for completion in a few months, with the ship scheduled to maintain the same route thereafter. Rehabilitation involves fitting of two new engines, three big generators, the replacement of its electrical system, painting and change of seats to make it nearly as good as brand new, he pointed out.

MV. Butiama rehabilitation started in February being conducted by South Korean firm KTMI C. Ltd at Mwanza South port at the cost of 5bn/- and is likely to be complete within 11

months, involving a change of engines.

It is slated for operating between Mwanza and Nansio, Ukerewe, with the four projects having so far elicited disbursements of 24.2bn/- from the government to contractors without assistance from donors.

These efforts are taken by the government to ease transport by reducing fares as well as transportation costs compared to using road haulage thus enabling savings and stimulating development.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) in talks with Bank of Tanzania Governor Prof Florens Luoga (C), who visited him in Dodoma yesterday. With them is the central bank's Dodoma Branch acting director, Harry Mwansembo. Photo: National Assembly

Uhuru deactivates social media accounts

FROM PAGE 1

is targeting him and his 2022 presidential ambitions.

But after hours of speculation, State House chief of staff Nzioka Waita tweeted that the accounts had been deactivated.

"On account of unauthorised access to the official social media handles of H.E the President of the Republic of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta all official social media handles for the

President have been temporarily suspended to allow for the necessary remedial measures to be undertaken," he said.

It is not the first time social media accounts associated with the president, State House and his office are being hacked and misused. In July 2018, two Twitter accounts; @PresidentKE and @PSCU_Digital, being used for disseminating information to the public on

behalf of the president, were pulled down.

"In this regard and with immediate effect the only official digital media channels that will convey information for and on behalf of the President, Her Excellency the First Lady and State House are as detailed below: Twitter: @StateHouseKenya, @UKenyatta, @FirstLadyKenya @KanzeDena; Facebook: State House Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, @Office

of the First Lady Kenya," Mr Waita specified at the time.

President Kenyatta is the most followed leader in Sub-Saharan Africa on Twitter with more than three million followers.

This is according to a study released last year and dubbed Twiplomacy by Burson Cohn & Wolfe (BCW), an international communications agency.

Private weather forecasting out as TMA gains new status

FROM PAGE 1

nologies to suit current situations," he specified.

In his remarks, TMA Director General Dr Agnes Kijazi said the advisory board is a crucial organ as it is responsible for passing and advising on the authority's budget.

In Its recent forecast (TMA) said that the low pressure phenomenon in eastern Madagascar, combined with the Savannah and Idai cyclones, have negatively impacted weather conditions and seasonal rain patterns in Tanzania.

In that event, the more impacted areas are northern parts of Morogoro Region, along with Coast, Tanga, Manara and Kilimanjaro regions.

According to TMA, Cyclone Idai which wreaked havoc in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe) has adversely impacted rainfall patterns in the northern regions in this period of otherwise heavy rains in most parts of the country.

Dr Shein sees need for links tying Zambia and Tanzania together to be even stronger

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, has underscored the importance of cementing mutual historic relationship between Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Dr Shein, made the statement at Zanzibar State House in the Isles, where the Tanzania High Commissioner to Zambia Hassan Simba Yahya paid a courtesy call.

During the talks, Dr Shein said the history of Zambia and Tanzania is an important factor to be maintained and this can be achieved through economic and diplomatic links between Dar-es-Salaam and Lusaka.

Both Zambia and Tanzania share a common territorial border as well as the common South African Development Community (SADC) trading platform and the two countries enjoying the passenger and cargo services of the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) dating way back to the days of their respective founding leaders; Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

"At the moment, Tanzania chairs SADC and thus in better position to push for further goals towards cementing Dar-Lusaka relationship and ensuring that both old and



Both Zambia and Tanzania share a common territorial border as well as the common South African Development Community (SADC) trading platform and the two countries enjoying the passenger and cargo services of the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) dating way back to the days of their respective founding leaders; Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Dr Kenneth Kaunda. "At the moment, Tanzania chairs SADC and thus in better position to push for ...

new targets were maintained, said Dr Shein.

The Zanzibar President also pointed out the fact that the new revived state carrier, Air-Tanzania (ATCL) is already operating direct flights between Zambia and Tanzania and this is another catalyst towards strengthening the ties between the two states, including creating a common tourism platform.

He added that even higher learning institutions of Zambia and Tanzania can be assisted to form a common union to enable the two exchange programmes of scholars and tutors.

For his part, the high commissioner assured the Isles President of his commitment to fulfill his mandate as well as to help build even stronger relationship between Tanzania and Zambia, especially through the latest country's policy of industrialization drive and economic development policies of the fifth phase government.

Tanzania set to adopt new aerial photographing, data technology

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT, ARUSHA

Tanzania is set to adopt aerial photographing technology to count wildlife which is expected to reduce the time taken for release of results yearly.

According to a researcher from Tanzania Research Institute (TAWIRI) Dr Edward Mtarima Kohi, the new technology uses a special programme which counts the animals through pictures that are taken in the sky.

He said currently they are using a common way of conducting census which

uses drones to take pictures which he said takes time to get the results.

Dr Kohi who is also the coordinator for research at the institute said trials for the new technology in collaboration with Glasgow University of the United Kingdom will be held next month at Tarangire National Park located at Babati District in Manyara Region.

"Tarangire is a park with the largest number of elephants estimated to be 3,500 on 2,850 square kilometers of land, we see this at the best destination for trials of the technology," he

said.

According to Dr Kohi Serous Game Reserve which is the largest has about 50,000 square kilometers has about 15 elephants followed by the Serengeti National Park which has 6,000 elephants on a 14,750 square kilometers area. He said the trials will take place on three different occasions before being officially adopted.

The technology had already been tried on wildebeest in Serengeti national park and showed successes of about 90 per cent.

He said during the trial, after gathering the photos

they managed to count the animals and got the results within 24 hours.

Explaining further, Dr Kohi said the technology takes photos by separating elephants from other animals automatically.

He said the last elephant census was conducted in 2015 and it showed that they have decreased in numbers by 50 per cent where they were 50,894 from about 109 which was discovered in the previous census of 2009.

The decrease was attributed to poaching activities in various areas of the country during the period.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umy Mwalimu (R) and Comprehensive Community-based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) CEO Brenda Msangi unveil a plaque to launch a CCBRT private clinic building in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is the Director of Curatives Services in the Health ministry, Dr Grace Maghembe. Photo: John Badi

Minister reviews water access, mordenised toilets situation

BY CORRESPONDENT JAMES KANDOYA

MINISTER for Water and Irrigation Prof Makame Mbarawa has said 60 per cent of Tanzanians have access to clean and safe water while 46.24 per cent have managed to construct better toilets.

Prof Mbarawa said the number of people accessing clean and safe water services have been increasing every day.

He was speaking in Dodoma at the official closing of water week that was commemorated concurrently with the World Water Day.

This year's world celebration goes under the theme "Leaving no one behind".

The minister asserted that demand for water has increased in the extractive and agriculture sector following the country's rapid economic growth.

He underscored the need for water bodies to ensure that people enjoy free access to clean water as a way of protecting themselves from epidemic diseases.

Meanwhile the United Nations Secretary General said an estimated 700 million people worldwide could be displaced by intense water scarcity by 2030.

In his statement yesterday, the Secretary General António Guterres said that climate change was adding dramatically to the pressure.

He said there were 2.1 billion people living without safe water due to factors such as economic status, gender, ethnicity, religion and age. He said the growing demand for water coupled with poor management, have increased water stress in many parts of the world.

"We must encourage cooperation to tackle the global water crisis and strengthen our resilience to the effects of climate change

to ensure access to water for all, especially for the most vulnerable", said the SG in a statement.

"These are vital steps towards a more peaceful and prosperous future. As we strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must value water resources and ensure their inclusive management," he said.

The SG insisted the need to protect and proper use of the vital resource for its sustainability for the benefit of all peoples. He noted that water is vital for survival and alongside sanitation, helps protect public and environmental health.

US provides water monitoring equipment to Rufiji, Wami/Ruvu water basin boards

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE US government has handed over water monitoring equipment to the Rufiji and Wami/Ruvu water basin board to help it collect and analyse data on the quality and quantity of

water.

A press statement issued yesterday by the US embassy in Dar es Salaam said the improved water monitoring will aid the districts in making informed decisions on water allocation to sustainably manage and protect wa-

ter resources for future generations. The water boards also received boats, computers, radios, rangefinders, and modems for field and office operations. Staff will be trained to use advanced hydrological monitoring software and hardware.

The equipment and services, worth 2.3bn/- (US \$ 980,000), were provided by the Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI), supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

EXPANDING RICE PRODUCTION PROJECT (ERPP)
REF. No. TZ-MOANR-102658-CW-RFB

INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR
REHABILITATION OF SEVEN (7) IRRIGATION SCHEMES - LOT 1: KIBONDEMZUNGU AND KOANI IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN UNGUJA USING PIPED SUPPLY SYSTEM, LOT 2: OLE, DOBI AND MACHIGINI IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN PEMBA USING PIPED SUPPLY SYSTEM AND LOT 3: BANDAMAJI AND MCHANGANI IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN UNGUJA USING PIPED SUPPLY SYSTEM

GRANT NO. TF018462

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received a grant from International Development Association (IDA) and Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) towards the cost of the Expanding Rice Production Project, and it intends that part of the proceeds of these funds will be applied to cover eligible payments under the contract for Rehabilitation and Expansion of Seven (7) Irrigation Schemes located at Kibondemzungu, Koani, Mchangani and Bandamaji in Unguja Island and Ole, Dobi and Machigini in Pemba Island using Piped Supply System.
- The Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, Zanzibar (MANRLF) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Rehabilitation of Seven (7) Irrigation Schemes - Lot 1: Kibondemzungu and Koani Irrigation Schemes in Unguja using Piped Supply System, Lot 2: Ole, Dobi and Machigini Irrigation Scheme in Pemba using Piped Supply System and Lot 3: Mchangani and Bandamaji Irrigation Schemes in Unguja using Piped Supply System.
- Bidders have the option to Bid for any one or more lots. Bids will be evaluated lot-wise, taking into account discounts offered, if any, for combined lots. The contract(s) will be awarded to the Bidder or Bidders offering the lowest evaluated cost to the Employer for combined lots, subject to the selected Bidder(s) meeting the required qualification criteria for lot or combination of lots as the case may be.
- The estimated quantities for major Works items are:

Lot-1 (Kibondemzungu & Koani Irrigation Schemes) - Unguja

S/N	Description	Unit	Quantity
1	Supply HDPE PN 6 Pipes, excavate, install and backfill pipes with all necessary fittings.	M	10,635
2	Construction of drains and overhaul the excavated materials	cu.m	6,380
3	Supply materials for hydrants with all associated fittings, excavate, install and backfill. Also cast in-situ reinforced concrete round the hydrants.	No.	134
4	Based on the pump characteristics, the Contractor shall design, supply, install and test the Pressure Vessel for operation of borehole pump system with all associated fittings and equipments. The Pressure Vessel shall be installed in a suitable fenced building for protection of equipment with all necessary associated works.	No.	2
5	Plot Levelling; this includes earth work cutting, hauling within the plot size, hauling, compacting and levelling.	Ha	36

Lot-3 (Bandamaji & Mchangani Irrigation Schemes)-Unguja

S/N	Description	Unit	Quantity
1	Supply HDPE PN 6 Pipes, excavate, install and backfill pipes with all necessary fittings.	m	8,937
2	Construction of drains and overhaul the excavated materials	cu.m	4,889
3	Supply materials for hydrants with all associated fittings, excavate, install and backfill. Also cast in-situ reinforced concrete round the hydrants.	No.	121
4	Based on the pump characteristics, the Contractor shall design, supply, install and test the Pressure Vessel for operation of borehole pump system with all associated fittings and equipments. The Pressure Vessel shall be installed in a suitable fenced building for protection of equipment with all necessary associated works.	No.	2
5	Plot Levelling; this includes earth work cutting, hauling within the plot size, hauling, compacting and levelling.	Ha	32

5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines, Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD loans and IDA credits & grants by World Bank borrowers, edition of January 2011 (revised April 2014) ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6. Bidders should note that to qualify for award of the contract they are required to meet certain minimum qualifying criteria as provided in Section III (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria) of the Bidding Document, which includes the following:

Lot-2 (Dobi, Ole & Machigini Irrigation Schemes)-Pemba

S/N	Description	Unit	Quantity
1	Supply HDPE PN 6 Pipes, excavate, install and backfill pipes with all necessary fittings.	M	16,486
2	Construction of drains and overhaul the excavated materials	cu.m	9,074
3	Supply materials for hydrants with all associated fittings, excavate, install and backfill. Also cast in-situ reinforced concrete round the hydrants.	No.	306
4	Based on the pump characteristics, the Contractor shall design, supply, install and test the Pressure Vessel for operation of borehole pump system with all associated fittings and equipments. The Pressure Vessel shall be installed in a suitable fenced building for protection of equipment with all necessary associated works.	No.	3
5	Plot Levelling; this includes earth work cutting, hauling within the plot size, hauling, compacting and levelling.	Ha	18

S/No	CRITERIA	MINIMUM QUALIFICATION			
		Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3	For Multiple Lots
1	Average Annual Turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last five (5) years	US\$ 650,000	US\$ 800,000	US\$ 550,000	Requirement will be aggregated
2	Access to, or availability of, financial resources such as liquid assets, unencumbered real assets, lines of credit, and other financial means, other than any contractual advance payments to meet: (i)	US\$ 400,000	US\$ 500,000	US\$ 350,000	Requirement will be aggregated.

Further details and complete qualification requirements are provided in the Bidding Document.

- The completion period for the works is six (6) months including one month mobilization period whether awarded all lots or separately.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address (12a) given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m local time from Monday to Friday, except on Public Holidays.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Tanzanian Shillings Two Hundred Thousand (TZS. 200,000/=)** or its equivalent in any a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by Banker's Cheque, Banker's Draft or cash payable to the Principal Secretary, **Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries**.
- The Bidding Documents will be available for pick up at the address (12a) below. Please note that the bidding document is being provided in the hard copy. However, only for the convenience of the bidders, in filling the various forms and the Bill of Quantities, a soft copy in CD is also being given along with the hard copy. The bidders should note that in case of any difference in the hard and the soft copy, the one in hard copy only will prevail.
- Bids must be delivered to the address (12a) below on or before **14.00 local hours** on or before **2nd May, 2019**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened at the address (12b) below in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend immediately thereafter submission deadline.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Tanzanian Shillings 10,000,000.00 for each lot or its equivalents in any freely convertible currency in the form of Bank Guarantee. The Bid Security shall be clearly addressed to the: Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, Zanzibar. Bid Security shall be valid for twenty-eight days beyond the bid validity period (i.e. 148 days) after the bids submission deadline.

12. The address referred to above is:

- For Bid Submission:** The Secretary of Tender Board, Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, Maruhubi Veterinary, P.O. Box 159, Zanzibar; Nyanguni House, Ground Floor; and
- For Bid Opening:** Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, Maruhubi Veterinary; Nyanguni House, 1st Floor, Conference Room, Zanzibar.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES,
P.O. BOX 159, ZANZIBAR

World Vision donates roofing sheets to hailstorm victims

By Guardian Reporter, Same

WORLD Vision Tanzania has donated a total of 928 corrugated iron sheets worth over 20m/- to the hailstorm victims in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region.

The recent Hail storm had affected 93 households in three villages of

Kadando, Mpirani and Kalimawe in the district.

The disaster destroyed properties, and many people were rendered homeless.

During the disaster five classrooms at Kadando Primary School were also destroyed.

Handing over the donation, project manager of World Vision Tanzania, Frida Chilimo said that the

contribution was aimed at making the children from the affected families resume their normal lives.

She said that the corrugated iron sheets are for the affected households and five classrooms in the district.

Same District Commissioner is Rosemary Sitaki commended the charity organisation for assisting the affected households in the district,

calling other organisations to emulate the spirit.

She described World Vision Tanzania as a true partner in the district, who had been in forefront to assist the needy people in the area.

DC Sitaki called on local government leaders to ensure that the donation was handed over to the affected victims.

World Vision Tanzania has grown

to one of the largest humanitarian and development organisations in Tanzania, covering 13 out of 33 regions across 40 districts, with 48 area programmes (APs) and 7 cluster offices.

The Christian, relief, development and advocacy non-governmental organisation (NGO) was established in 1981. World Vision Tanzania strategy 2016-2020 has the following

priority areas: Livelihood; health, nutrition and water sanitation & hygiene; education and advocacy & justice for children with livelihood are being the primary sector. Spiritual development and protection of children are cross-cutting functions.

In 2017 World Vision Tanzania spent \$30,398,821 to directly improve the lives of 13.3 million Tanzanian children.

AfDB pledges more assistance to agriculture and industrialisation in East African Community bloc

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has pledged to support agriculture and industrialisation in the East African Community (EAC) bloc since the two are crucial for the development of the region.

AfDB director general for Eastern Africa Region, Gabriel Negatu made the statement yesterday when he paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Addressing the media soon after meeting the Secretary General, Negatu said it is a fact that the East African Community (EAC) economies are dominated by agriculture which is the core economic sector employing 75-90 per cent of their respective populations.

He said in order to exploit regional and international markets, the opportunity for industrial growth exists in locally producing inputs for use in the agricultural sector.

According to Negatu, agricultural performance is critically important to pro-poor growth since it employs over 75 per cent of partner states population, where the majority of them live in rural settings.

"The sector provides a basis for improvement of livelihoods in both rural and urban populations", added Negatu.

Speaking on integration process, Negatu said EAC is still the fastest growing region partly due to solving bottleneck of communication by investing heavily in infrastructure.

"I would like to request all partner states to focus on the challenge of doing business in order to realise value integration process in the region," he noted.

EAC Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko thanked the AfDB through the director general for the continued support to EAC integration and reiterated the EAC commitment to strengthen this partnership and move it to greater height.

Amb Mfumukeko disclosed to the media that for the last 5 years, the Bank has financed a number of infrastructure projects including feasibility studies and detailed designs for multinational road projects for which implementation is ongoing.

They are the Nyakanazi -Kasulu /Rumonge Bujumbura and the Lusahunga -Rusumo / Kayonza, Masaka-Mutukula-Kyaka-Bugen

He added that the Bank also supports soft infrastructure/policy projects towards achieving the EAC integration agenda.

The projects include the East Africa Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (which closed

in August 2018); the EAC-Payments and Settlement System, and the 50 Million African Women Speak Networking Platform Projects, which are ongoing.

Reporting on the US \$ 2.5 billion which were considered by the AfDB Bank through the approved Regional Integration Strategy for East Africa (RISP 2018-2022), the Secretary General said funds will go towards enhancing regional transport connectivity, regional energy infrastructure, regional ICT connectivity, and management of trans-boundary water resources.

In addition, he said the funds will also support projects aimed at accelerating implementation of the EAC single market, trade development including tackling of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and putting in place policy frameworks for industrialization and promotion of EAC as a single investment destination.

The Secretary General also thanked the AfDB for accepting to support agriculture and industry in the region as well as some Heads of State approved infrastructure and health projects.

The meeting was also attended by the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure Eng. Steven Mlote and other EAC senior officials.



Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) board chairman Prof Jamidu Katima speaks at a water stakeholders meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Right is the authority's acting Director General, Nzinyangwa Mchany. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Make good use of funds from development partners - call

By Guardian Correspondent

LOCAL organisations have been advised to work out on number of challenges facing communities by spending well funds which had been donated by development partners.

Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) capacity development manager, Edna Chilimo said yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a workshop training attended by 12 local organisations which received grants from the French embassy in Dar es Salaam.

Chilimo said that Tanzania's local organisations are required to

implement their projects which focus on minimising or ending several challenges facing the communities such as female genital mutilation, early pregnancy and marriage.

She said the organisations should act in accordance with agreements reached during the signing of the contracts.

He said funds must bring impacts to the communities.

"Every donor who provides grants to either an individual or organisation wants to see impacts.

These organisations must ensure they implement their projects with

impacts," said Chilimo.

Clubs coordinator for Msichana initiative organisation, Lightness Njau said they have managed to use their grants in coordinating 10 clubs at primary education level and 32 clubs at secondary education level in two Dodoma region districts namely: Kongwa and Chamwino.

"In these clubs we have managed to offer education awareness to youths especially young girls on how to avoid early pregnancy and marriage which is a key obstacle to them from accessing their basic rights like education.

Now young girls are able speak on violence facing them," said Njau.

Legal officer for Tanzania Women Lawyers (TAWLA), Barnabas Kaniki said they have successful managed to launch various campaigns with the aims of raising awareness to the public on the availability and accessibility of legal aid services in the three districts of Dodoma Region namely: Kongwa, Mpwapwa and Bahi.

"TAWLA promotes and advocates for provision of legal aid and paralegal services.

It works towards legal empowerment of the poor

community, to strive to increase access to justice for all, in particular women.

"Through various campaign organised by TAWLA in three districts, about 472 individuals have been assisted to ensure that their rights are observed, grievances redressed, disputes resolved and that fundamental human rights are promoted and protected," said Kaniki.

Executive Director for Children Dignity Forum (CDF), Koshuma Mtengeti said that their funds were utilized in a project that enabled

them to find out policy makers and parliamentarians to discuss the way Marriage Act of 1971 denies the rights women and children especially a girl child from accessing her basic rights including education.

"In our project, we had a meeting several times with parliamentarians, social development parliament committee, women parliamentarians with the Bunge leader, Job Ndugai to discuss on how the Parliament and other stakeholders can work together to protect women and children in one way or another," said Mtengeti.



NMB Bank Central Zone Government Relations manager Nsolo Mlozi (L) pictured yesterday symbolically handing over to Mulua Primary School headmistress Eveta Ngawaia desks and chairs worth 10m/-. It was a donation by the bank to the Kondoa District school. The bank has supported schools and health centres across Tanzania with equipment and supplies worth over 65m/- this month alone as part of its corporate social responsibility. Looking on (C) is Kondoa district commissioner Sezaria Makota. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ways to bridge water supply gap in Tanzania through ICT

By Guardian Reporter

AVAILABILITY of clean water is still a challenge in many developing countries. According to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Tanzania, only 64 per cent of rural people have access to clean water compared to nearly 80 percent of urban residents.

Challenges such as access to clean water sources, poor management of the water sources and incomplete water projects still impede the public and private partner's strides in achieving availability of sustainable water supply and management of water sources.

Various initiatives are underway to close the water supply gap and technology is playing a significant role to expedite the bridging process.

Every March 22, the world commemorates the International Water Day, to commend the global efforts, partners and initiatives that ensure sustainable supply of water.

Revolutionising Remittance Recovery in Water (R3W), is a project funded by Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), to empower communities in Tanzania by

building their capacity to reduce water wastage and improve revenue collection.

R3W launched a first in the country, electronic water machine called AQtab that is housed in a local kiosk and uses a smart card to monitor and utilize water more efficiently.

The project partnered with local water vendors such as Community Owned Water Supply Organisations (COWSOs), the Karatu Village Water Supply (KAVIWASU) and Endamarariiek/Endabash Water Supply (ENDAWASU) and significantly ensured reliable and sustainable water supply in the communities.

"Until mid-2018, 1,400 smart cards were disbursed to the community members and made a tremendous impact to the communities especially women whom prior to the invention, spent up to three hours waling to fetch water," said Eng Ephraim Tonya, the Project manager.

Gongali Nanofilter is another organization that provides safe and clean water to communities across Arusha.

With an objective of redirecting the amount of time spent fetching water to productive economic activities,

Dr. Askwar Hilonga, the founder of Nanofilter, innovated the tech and assembled 30 Nanofilter stations to provide sustainable supply of water in the communities outside Arusha town.

Also funded by Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF), the project currently has 100 stations that have significantly bridge the water supply gap across Arusha and enabled the community members to invest their time in more productive economic activities such as small scale agricultural, and livestock keeping.

Given the population growth and increase in water consumption, the government is accelerating its partner's efforts by implementing the Water Supply Development Plan (WSDP) which is on its second phase from 2014 to 2019 and also through implementing the right policies to enable successful water projects in Tanzania.

WSDP constitutes of programmes intended to strengthen institutions in integrated water resources management and improve access to water supply and sanitation services across Tanzania.

Permanent Secretary of in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Prof Kitila Mkumbo recently affirmed scientists and innovators of the government's support, assuring them that they will enact the right policies towards achieving the mutual objective of sustainable water supply in Tanzania.

HIV/AIDS: Stakeholders raise reservations over continued discrimination and stigma

By Aisia Rweyemamu

STAKEHOLDERS have raised concerns over continued discrimination and stigma to people living with HIV/AIDS calling for efforts to abolish it.

They are concerned that stigma is still a problem in the entire society at different levels, suggesting for more education to create awareness because some religion leaders are not willing to openly discuss about HIV/AIDS, thinking that a person with HIV need to be considered as a sinner in the community.

They were speaking in Dar es Salaam recently during commemoration of zero discrimination day which was organised by the Tanzania Commission for Aids (Tacaids) in collaboration with National Council for People

Living with HIV (NACOPHA), UNAIDS, FHI360, Pact, JSI, PASADA and several

Pastor Emmanuel Msinga, chairman of Ilala PLHIV Cluster, said the situation can contribute to slow down efforts to fight against the disease.

"How can someone be inspired to go for testing and later called a sinner in the community," he questioned.

Tacaids Youth ambassador and SAUTI YETU- Ilala Youth representative, Zawadi Bahenge said she has experienced high level of stigma at family level because her two children and husband are not HIV positive.

Bahenge said that it reached a stage whereby her mother-in-law took her children after realizing that they were not HIV positive. She said her husband was

also was discriminated by his blood relatives because she was living with HIV positive wife.

"I knew that I am HIV positive even before meeting my partner who was also aware of my health status. I have never experienced stigma from my husband," said Zawadi.

Mariam Magafu, Secretary of Ilala PLHIV cluster, said there should be efforts to make people disclose their health status regardless of their incomes.

She said it was important to every infected individual to be open on their HIV status to help end stigma.

"I have worked with HIV positive people for years but I have never seen a minister or other high ranking government officials declaring that he or she is HIV positive. Here, I can see

some elements of stigma," she elaborates.

Zena Adam, a youth representative from Temeke District said: "Nowadays stigma is not so much big in some levels, but more education is needed at family levels where the problem still exists at large."

NACOPHA programme manager, Agnes Nyoni, insisted on the need for awareness education on HIV in order to reach the 90-90-90 national goals.

"As NACOPHA we have settled aside proper infrastructures that would allow a good flow of information aimed to educate the entire community. We have established 167 PLHIV village and district clusters in Tanzania mainland", said Nyoni.

Dr Arodia Mulokozi from Tacaids said that people living

with HIV are facing stress and refraining from exposing their status because of stigma and discrimination in their respective society.

He said stigma can cause inferiority complex leading a person to defining himself or herself useless in family or community. He said the situation can also affect production at the national level.

"Stigmas and discrimination are hindering the provision of services and implementation of HIV/AIDS programs. Some people cannot timely access HIV services or key information", said Dr Mulokozi noting that most parents are not open to their children regarding HIV/AIDS, a situation that contributes to delays in achieving the national 90-90-90 goals.

She urged stakeholders to use the right channels of educating the society on HIV, citing an example of clusters formulated by NACOPHA.

Zero discrimination day is a global event which takes place on 1st March annually. It has been observed every year since 2014.

It is among global campaigns spearheaded by the joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) to remind people everywhere in the world to promote and celebrate tolerance and inclusion.

It also brings together all partners, stakeholders and victims to end up discrimination in line with the principles agreed on United Nations Charter and Human Right Conventions.

UNAIDS representative, Kate

Spring promised to work closely with stakeholders to ensure achievement of all targeted goals, including elimination of stigma and discrimination.

"Ending stigma and discrimination needs to be championed by all and not individual," she insists.

Earlier, Tacaids director of communication, Jumanne Issango, said, the aim of the discussion was to have deep interaction from different corner on how to abolish stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV in Tanzania.

Issango said that his organization is planning to collect opinions from different people that will support the formulation of strategy that will help to fighting against stigma and discrimination movements.



Shinyanga district commissioner Jasinta Mboneko inspects a guard of honour mounted yesterday by a contingent of police officers during celebrations to mark the force's Family Day in the region. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Police in Songwe region impound three vehicles

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduma

AUTHORITIES in Songwe Region have impounded three vehicles loaded with various goods worth 7m/- at the Tunduma border in Momba District.

The goods were seized during a normal police patrol which is conducted in search of smuggled goods.

Tunduma is a busy business township due to various mixture of people from Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with criminals reportedly taking advantage of the loophole to smuggle goods to other countries.

Songwe Regional Commissioner, George Kyando said the vehicles were seized after successfully crossing the border on the Zambian side. He said the various products were to be destined at different markets across the country.

"Some of the impounded goods are substandard and have been banned from being circulated in the markets by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)", said the RC.

He said police are also holding the three vehicles including a Toyota Crestar which was being driven by

Zacharia Boniface. He said the vehicle is among the three impounded which were used to smuggle goods into the country.

The RC asserted that a total of six people have been arrested in connection with the incident. He said police will continue conducting patrols to control smuggling of goods which is being done by unscrupulous business people.

Kyando called upon residents near the Tunduma border to cooperate with the police by sharing information on such illegal incidences which deny revenues to the government.

A Tunduma resident, Mahomud Hamza commended police for the exercise saying the tendency by some unscrupulous business people to import products from neighbouring countries denies the government a lot of revenues.

Some of the impounded goods are substandard and have been banned

'Government implementing national workplan on ending violence'

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government is implementing the national work plan on ending violence against women and children to safeguard their rights and ensure their full access to education, health and employment opportunities.

The work plan is in line with the Tanzania Development Vision, 2025.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa made the statement on Thursday in Dar es Salaam during a national conference organised by Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) in collaboration with the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) and C-Sema organisation aimed at reflecting the country's status on gender based violence.

The Premier said that violence against women and children is the contemporary issue which needs joint efforts between government and other social community development stakeholders to tackle.

He noted that violence against women and children are a key obstacle to social welfare of women and children rights in the country.

The Premier also said Tanzania is among the countries which uphold human rights including women and children rights, thus the government has intended to end all forms of violence which face women and children in their daily life through implementation of national work plan on ending violence against women and children in the country.

"We put in place coordination, managing

and monitoring guidelines which could facilitate quick implementation of the national work plan on ending violence against women and children", he said.

"It is important that we implement the work plan which gears at attaining achieving gender equality, one among the many goals of the Tanzania Development Vision by 2025," said the Premier.

Majaliwa added that the government has been collaborating with a lot of community development stakeholders to initiate various campaigns which focus on ending violence against women and children such as end early marriage and pregnancy campaign which was organized by CDF and the Ministry of Health, community development, Elders, Gender and

Children respectively.

"The fight against this violence on women and children cannot be done only by the government. We need other stakeholders to join this battle so as end this violence completely. Now, we as a government, we are encouraged to see local organizations like CDF and higher learning institutions like DUCE are taking part in the fight against this violence," he added.

CDF executive director, Koshuma Mtengeti said that there are a huge number of women and children facing every kind of violence in daily life in the country such as sexual, physical, economical and psychological violence.

Mtengeti explained that Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) of 2015/2016

show that, there are 44 per cent of women between an age of 15 and 49 have already experienced sexual or physical violence.

He noted that 27 per cent of women face physical violence in their communities while four per cent face sexual violence and 13 per cent face both physical and sexual violence at the same time.

Girls are key victim of all violence, as they are the ones facing female genital mutilation (FGM), early pregnancies and early marriage.

He said the Tanzania Demographic Survey 2015/16 shows that 36 percent of women in the country get into marriage before an age of 18 years old and 10 percent of the women with an age of 15 and 49 have experienced female genital mutilation.

'Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda to experience rainfall deficits'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA, Kenya, Uganda and other countries in the Horn of Africa will continue to experience rainfall deficits in April as drought is expected to worsen due to persisting dry conditions and unusually high temperatures.

A press statement issued in Nairobi yesterday by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) said there is a higher chance of drier than usual conditions in the coast regions of Tanzania, western Kenya, southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, central and north-eastern Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.

The above mentioned countries will experience drought and higher than usual temperatures which are affecting forage and water availability for people, livestock and wildlife.

"Poor October to December rains,

followed by abnormally high temperatures since January 2019 are leading to rapid deterioration of pastoral resources and have started affecting livelihoods", the statement said.

According to ICPAC the dry conditions will persist throughout March 2019. The drought conditions have been contributed by the tropical cyclone observed across the coast of Mozambique during the first and second week of March.

Areas of concern due to rainfall deficits include southern and eastern Ethiopia (Borana including southern Rift Valley lakes and surrounding regions), semi-arid areas in Kenya and Karamoja (Uganda), northern and eastern Somalia.

The tropical cyclone has affected Uganda by delaying the start of rains to end of March. The dry conditions have a high likelihood of affecting maize, bananas and sorghum production in the country.

ICPAC said the highest concern

countries in terms of food security include Karamoja in Uganda, northern and central Somalia and most of South Sudan.

In Kenya, according to the National Drought Management Authority, poor short rains in October to December have increased the food-insecure population.

Countries are advised to ensure provision of water and fodder to areas affected by the drought to reduce the impacts on lives and livelihoods.

Close monitoring of the long rains during the last ten days of March, April and May will also be crucial as prepositioning and preparedness for response is undergoing.

Water harvesting from the expected rains is recommended in the next two months. Authorities in the health sector should strengthen surveillance, monitor basic supplies for diagnosis and treatment and improve alert system to ministries of health and local health facilities.



Offals, presumably from a cow and bought at a nearby butchery, on retail sale in conditions far from hygienic near Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti abattoir yesterday. Photo: John Badi

UNESCO: Many girls appear to be losing interest in STEM subjects in adolescence

By Special Correspondent

IN an era marked by a significant shift in the traditional concept of womanhood and an increasing presence of women in medicine, law and business, a growing concern that there are few women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), should attract the attention of authorities in any jurisdictions.

In this regard, as the issue of gender parity aimed at reducing gender imbalance in development, increasingly occupies the front burner, the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) alarm that at present, less than 30 per cent of researchers worldwide are women and only around 30 per cent of female students select STEM-related fields in higher education should not be ignored by leaders, especially in the developing world.

Specifically, the multilateral agency has lamented that despite an increase in the enrolment of female pupils in schools, girls are still significantly under-represented in STEM subjects - that define the colour of development at this time.

Tracing the stage where females lose interest in STEM, UNESCO states that many girls appear to be losing interest in STEM subjects at adolescence.

So, what is responsible for this situation? A 2010 research report by American Association of University Women (AAUW) (equality advocacy organisation) can help to explain why there are so few females in STEM.

The research findings of

AAUW point to environmental and social barriers including stereotypes, gender bias and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities as factors that continue to block women's progress in STEM.

Buttressing the findings of AAUW, the United Nations (UN) says that long-standing biases are steering girls and women away from science-related fields. These biases are located in gender stereotype, which is a widely held belief or generalisation about the behaviours, characteristics and roles performed by females and males. These socially accepted and often unconscious ideas start to form from infancy.

So, individuals learn what constitutes female and male behaviour from their family and friends, the media, and institutions including schools and religious bodies from infancy.

Essentially, gender stereotypes originate from local culture and traditions. The prevalence of gender stereotypes in our culture impacts on both girls and boys, who are constantly bombarded with messages about how they should look, behave and play according to their gender.

This context often limits girls from maximising their potential. So, the conscious or unconscious assumptions we make about boys and girls impact differently on them and can result in the different treatment of one group compared to another.

Ipsa facto, gender stereotypes shape self-perception, affect wellbeing, attitudes to relationships and influence participation in the world of education

and work. This means that gender stereotypes influence classrooms, schools and educational policy.

In a school environment they affect a young person's classroom experience, academic performance or subject choice. Hence, in education, stereotype threat has been linked to academic performance.

As such, stubborn beliefs cultivated from an early age such as "girls are bad at mathematics," "girls are better at cooking," or "boys don't cry," pave the way to sobering statistics about the number of female leaders in business, politics and STEM-related fields.

So, from a career perspective, boys and girls have been socialised with the 'nimble finger argument'. This in turn leads to the gendering of jobs and accounts for the gendered differentiation of hybrid jobs and could therefore be one reason for women's segregation in STEM employment and the attendant gender pay gap.

So, despite gains in gender equality, ingrained biases about males and females in education, particularly in STEM-related fields still exist; and can have grave consequences.

The implication of having less females in STEM-related fields is that females have less than two-thirds of the economic opportunity that men have as the fourth industrial revolution starts, because the job of the future will be driven by technology and innovation, which STEM subjects shape. So, if the gender divide in STEM is not bridged soon, the overall gap in gender-balance of employees is likely to widen.

Therefore, as we "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change" and #BalanceforBetter, in line with the 2019 International Women's Day (IWD) celebration, Nigeria should adopt the balance-for-better ideology in STEM for gender-balance of employees.

Furthermore, educating girls is one sure way of empowering them to make genuine choices over the kinds of lives they wish to lead. When she is educated, she realises the full potential in her; she discovers to be whoever and whatever she wants to be. With education, she would break the shell of ignorance and open that of self-discovery.

So, investing in girl child education is also a social protection and a holistic approach to so many socio-cultural challenges women and girls face.

Similarly, it is a holistic empowerment for improved maternal and child health. Besides, it reduces early marriage/delayed marriage, hence, will help reduce the incidence of girl child giving birth to a child.

Anyway, beyond the realisation of the importance of children to education, especially the girl child in a gendered environment, achieving gender-balance of employees and increasing the chances of women in the fourth industrial revolution requires that parents, teachers, gender advocates and the Nigerian state turn their searchlights to addressing the imbalance in females studying STEM-related courses.

Specifically on increasing females in STEM-related fields, the entire society should debunk the myth and other gen-

der stereotypes that girls dislike STEM or boys are better in STEM; because STEM has nothing to do with sex.

Also, parents and teachers should make it clear to girls that they can and should be leaders - in the classroom, in clubs and sports, and in their careers; talk to girls about what worries or scares them about STEM.

Teachers and counsellors should also discuss strategies for dealing with the worries, familiarise girls with female leaders in politics, business and STEM fields. In the main, school authorities should support girls' involvement in activities that can build their confidence - in any fields.

Again, the education of every child starts from the family as charity begins at home. So, to prevent gender bias in STEM, parents/caregivers and teachers should work to counter stereotyping and discrimination starting from early childhood.

By talking about gender biases early, parents can blaze a trail toward equity long before girls and boys engage in romantic relationships, choose subjects and courses or enter the workforce.

Similarly, to deconstruct gender stereotypes and prevent bias, parents should check their own biases by being mindful of the language they use, the way they treat people of different genders and even the perspectives they hold on their own abilities and traits.

Besides, they should provide children of both genders with books and movies that feature non-traditional gender roles; talk about female politicians,

athletes, and scientists versus male teachers, dancers and homemakers. They also have a responsibility to encourage children to try all types of extracurricular activities and talk about why they may feel more comfortable in some pastimes than in others. They should also help them distinguish whether they enjoy an activity because they are surrounded by people like them or because of the activity itself.

Also, parents should have open discussions at home about the way chores are divided up and set expectations that both children and adults are expected to have a turn at everything: cooking, cleaning, yardwork, and taking out the trash. They should also ask children for their feedback about these family practices and finding out if they think boys and girls are being held to the same expectations or are parents dividing work up equally - and if not, do children understand why?

Furthermore, parents and teachers should teach children about gender bias by showing children how biases and gender expectations have changed over time; sharing times when the parent/teacher felt treated unfairly; arrange for the children to interview a grandparent or older person of a different generation and ask the children to think if our country changed its expectations of men and women.

Request the children to outline the challenges women still face. It is also important to talk to children about the stereotypes they encounter at school, on television, or while shop-

ping. When parents/teachers and children see or hear something degrading, ask children to interpret it with a view to finding out if the children find it harmful or unsurprising. Then, explain to the children how stereotypes can be so ingrained in our society that we do not always notice them.

Again, parents and teachers should explain to children the importance of listening to and appreciating both genders as matter of basic decency and find from children what might be challenging about being a person of another gender.

Based on children's responses to, parents and teachers should work on developing empathy, because nothing more commonly erodes children's capacity to care and to lead efforts to promote equality and justice than the biases they hold and confront in others.

In addition government at all levels should invest in teacher training and gender-responsive technology and innovation to reverse the trend, particularly in the hinterlands because that is where the biases are felt more. Laboratories, especially those in the rural areas should adopt local technology and be made more gender-friendly.

Media contents and female events should use successful female scientists as role models to challenge adolescent girls to pursue STEM related disciplines.

Let's invest in and promote girls involvement in STEM-related fields for inclusive growth and gender-balance of employees.

Importers appeal for test results of samples to be released on time

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

IMPORTERS have suggested for the test results of samples sent to the government laboratories be released on time in order to avoid unnecessary costs at ports.

Speaking at a seminar for importers and freight forwarders which was organised by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) the importers decried the highest cost of keeping goods at the various ports across the country.

An importer, Shaban Shekimwari from Tanga Region said timely release of the test results will help reduce storage costs at ports. He said that at times the cargo stays at the port for some weeks thus resulting into increased charges.

Gladness Kaseka, TBS senior marketing officer, urged participants to forward their complaints to the customer desk via a toll free mobile number.

She said it was worth it to file their complaints through phone calls instead of waiting to air them during workshops.

"We can work on the complaints

as we receive them. You do not need to wait for seminars to present your complains", said Kaseka.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Tanga District Commissioner, Tobias Mwilapwa, urged importers to adhere to the country procedures whenever importing goods.

The DC noted that adhering to country laws will reduce the storage and other unnecessary costs.

"This seminar is an important opportunity for you to understand importation regulations and avoid bringing into the country substandard products which might cost our economy and incomes of individuals", he said.

The one day seminar brought together various good importers and TBS officials from the Horohoro border and Tanga port. It aimed to equip importers and freight forwarders on Pre-shipment verification to conforming (PVoC) and destination inspection.

TBS conducted similar seminars to its stakeholders in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam regions. The seminar will be held in Arusha Region in due course.



Water and Irrigation deputy minister Jumaa Aweso briefs journalists during the climax of the commemoration of Water Week - 2019 in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'Domestic investment into health systems and services is crucial'

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu has insisted the need for domestic investment into health systems and services to avoid depending on external actors to take care of Tanzanians' health.

Mwalimu (pictured) was speaking at the launch of CCBRT hospital's new private clinic building which is expected to improve access to health care since everyone citizen deserves quality care, regardless of their financial situation.

She commended CCBRT and

its partners for the initiative and a job well done, emphasising that health is crucial for citizens to be able to participate in society and community life.

"We all know, for many years, CCBRT, with the support of its partners and the government has been providing free and subsidised services to vulnerable Tanzanians. In recent years, the world economy has shifted, leading to a decline of aid from abroad. Construction of this clinic will contribute the deficit, and is something others can learn from", said the minister.

Mwalimu noted that with innovative efforts, Tanzania will soon no longer have to send

people abroad to access quality healthcare. Already, the number of people seeking treatment abroad has gone down, due to the improvement in Tanzania's health systems.

"The government, in collaboration with partners such as CCBRT, has continued to implement various development projects aiming to improve the Tanzanian health sector", she said.

CCBRT aims to re-invest revenue from the private services into the provision of free and subsidised services to low-income vulnerable Tanzanians.

The four core areas of subsidised services for those in need are ophthalmology, orthope-



dics and physical rehabilitation, plastics and reconstruction, and maternal, newborn and child health (including Fistula).

CCBRT Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Msangi, commended the government and CCBRT partners for their continuous support.

She said that since its inception in 1994, CCBRT has continued to be committed to providing equitable access to affordable, quality medical care, as well as preventing disability and promoting inclusion in Tanzania.

She said the inception of CCBRT's private clinic in 2004 - with a capacity of 15,000 patients annually, was the first step in reducing financial dependency on donor funds ensuring self-generated financial sustain-

ability.

The private clinic provides an option for Tanzania's growing middle class and those with the ability to pay for the same high quality of services, but at a higher price, an option for Tanzania's growing middle class who are able to pay services and for amenities such as air-conditioning and Wi-Fi.

CCBRT is committed to providing equitable access to affordable, quality medical care, as well as preventing disability and promoting inclusion in Tanzania.

The private clinic will impact not only people in Dar es Salaam, but communities across

the country.

Msangi thanked partners such as Bank of Africa, CBM Canada, TCF, Rotary, Bank of Africa, and TCF for enabling the facility to have greater space and updated infrastructure, which enable CCBRT to now have a private clinic with the capacity to treat a good number of patients as well as increase contributions to the charitable work of CCBRT providing both CCBRT's free and subsidised services.

The private clinic is predicted to serve 50,000 patients annually. It will generate additional revenue to subsidize services for patients in need.

Forum highlights need to track payments in cross-border trade

By Special Correspondent in Nairobi

THE just-ended ACT East Africa Treasury Forum 2019 highlighted the challenges faced by corporate treasurers when operating across borders.

Speaking at the event, Michael Thomas, Head of Corporate Business, Middle East, Turkey & Africa at SWIFT, set out some of the solutions available for treasurers to increase visibility and traceability of cash for cross-border payments.

A global Eurofinance survey of corporate treasurers, entitled "The future of payments: a corporate treasury perspective", showed that treasurers value real-time tracking, consistency between bank payment processes and better visibility on banking fees.

Most of the surveyed corporate treasury professionals place real-time tracking at the top of their list of enhancements, followed by more consistency between bank payment processes and better visibility on banking fees.

To address these require-

ments, SWIFT's global payments innovation (gpi) service was launched in early 2017. The service already has over 3,500 banks signed up, accounting for 85 per cent of the firm's cross-border payments traffic.

More than \$300 billion USD in SWIFT gpi messages is sent every day, enabling payments to be credited to end-beneficiaries within minutes - many within seconds.

Over \$40 trillion was transferred over the service last year, across more than 1,100 country corridors and in 148 currencies. In major corridors, such as US-China, gpi already accounts for nearly 50 per cent of payment traffic.

Many African banks have already gone live with gpi and are able to deliver a better customer payment experience.

SWIFT's Thomas said: "Corporates expect greater transparency when it comes to cross-border payments and, until recently, this has not been the case. SWIFT gpi addresses these key pain points and is already delivering a better service to corporates across the world."

Corporates with many banking relationships can only reap full benefits if they are able to integrate tracker information into their ERP system directly.

Accordingly, the firm is currently tailoring the gpi experience for multi-bank requirements. It recently launched SWIFT gpi for Corporates, an enhanced multi-bank standard that enables corporates to initiate and track gpi payments, to and from multiple banks, directly from their ERP and treasury management systems.

The firm's global gpi is the largest change in cross-border payments over the last 30 years and is the new standard. SWIFT gpi dramatically improves the customer experience in cross-border payments by increasing their speed, transparency and end-to-end tracking. Hundreds of thousands of cross-border payments, totalling over \$300bn, are sent every day using the new gpi standard. Payments are made quickly, typically within minutes, even seconds.

With the gpi, the correspondent banking community, together with fintechs, corporates, and

others, is collectively removing frictions and reducing the costs associated with cross-border payments.

Since its launch in January 2017, gpi has dramatically improved the cross-border payments experience for corporates in over 1,100 country corridors.

Key features of SWIFT gpi include enhanced business rules and a secure tracking database in the cloud accessible via APIs. New gpi services are routinely developed with the gpi member community and rolled out to the growing network of banks.

The gpi enables corporates to grow their international business, improve supplier relationships, and achieve greater treasury efficiencies.

On average, 40 per cent of the firm's gpi payments are credited to end beneficiaries within five minutes, while 50 per cent are credited within 30 minutes, 75 per cent within six hours, and almost 100 per cent within 24 hours.

Already, 3,500 banks accounting for 85 per cent of the firm's total payments traffic have committed to adopting gpi and more

than 55 payment market infrastructures are already exchanging gpi payments, enabling domestic exchange and tracking.

Payment market infrastructure have a critical role to play in facilitating the end-to-end tracking of cross-border payments because as soon as international payments hit the destination country, they are typically cleared through local payment infrastructure.

Corporate treasurers are affected by a range of growing challenges - not least, tighter bank capital regulations which are making funding more expensive and liquidity increasingly precious. They are also increasingly focused on the security of their financial operations.

The firm provides an attractive, cost effective, standardised, bank and vendor-agnostic capability to help drive down costs; its SWIFT for corporates solution gives treasurers global visibility on their cash and liquidity, and increases corporate control and security, whilst streamlining day-to-day treasury and trade operations.

The firm has been helping

corporates simplify their multi-bank relationships since 1997, and in December 2018 reached the major milestone of 2,000 corporate groups connected to the network.

SWIFT is a global member owned cooperative and the world's leading provider of secure financial messaging services. We provide our community with a platform for messaging and standards for communicating, and we offer products and services to facilitate access and integration, identification, analysis and regulatory compliance.

Its messaging platform, products and services connect more than 11,000 banking and securities organisations, market infrastructures and corporate customers in more than 200 countries and territories.

While the firm does not hold funds or manage accounts on behalf of customers, it enables its global community of users to communicate securely, exchanging standardised financial messages in a reliable way, thereby supporting global and local financial flows, as well as trade and commerce around the

world. The firm supports its community in addressing cyber threats and seeks ways to lower costs, reduce risks and eliminate operational inefficiencies. Its products and services support its community's access and integration, business intelligence, reference data and financial crime compliance needs.

It also brings the financial community together - at global, regional and local levels - to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest or concern.

The firm's strategic five-year plan challenges the firm to continue investing in the security, reliability and growth of its core messaging platform, while making additional investments in existing services and delivering new and innovative solutions.

SWIFT is based in Belgium, but its international governance and oversight reinforces the neutral, global character of its cooperative structure and its global office network ensures an active presence in all major financial centres.

USAID raises alarm over severe drought

NEW YORK

THE United States Development Agency USAID has raised an alarm over an impending severe drought in Somalia.

A statement from the organization read in part "Worsening dry conditions in Somalia have reduced pasture and water availability across Somalia's northern regions, exacerbating food, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs".

The agency added that more than 1.5 million people will likely face Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity through June as a result of below-average October-to-December deyr rainfall, higher than normal temperatures during the ongoing jilal dry season, protracted conflict, and residual effects from the 2016/2017 drought.

On January 21, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) and the UN launched the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Somalia, requesting nearly \$1.1 billion to deliver humanitarian assistance to 3.4 million people.

The population in need of humanitarian assistance represents an approximately 30 percent decrease from 2018.

Bureaucratic impediments and insecurity continue to constrain humanitarian access and disrupt relief operations in Somalia. The UN recorded more than 120 violent incidents affecting 65 humanitarian personnel in Somalia in 2018.

Somalia officially the Federal Republic of Somalia is a sovereign state with its territory located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the

Guardafui Channel and Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. It is separated from Socotra by the Guardafui Channel in the northeast. Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland, and its terrain consists mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands. Climatically, hot conditions prevail year-round, with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall.

In terms of culture, religion, ethnicity and linguistics, it has been described as the "only" and the "most" homogeneous country in Africa. Somalia has an estimated population of around 14.3 million. Around 85 per cent of its residents are ethnic Somalis, who have historically inhabited the northern part of the country. Ethnic minorities are largely concentrated in the southern regions. The official languages of Somalia are Somali and Arabic, both of which belong to the Afroasiatic family. Most people in the country are Muslim, with the majority being Sunni.

In antiquity, Somalia was an important commercial centre. It is among the most probable locations of the fabled ancient Land of Punt. During the Middle Ages, several powerful Somali empires dominated the regional trade, including the Ajuran Empire, the Adal Sultanate, the Warsangali Sultanate, and the Sultanate of the Geledi.

In the late 19th century, through a succession of treaties with these kingdoms, the British and Italian empires gained control of parts of the coast and established the colonies of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. In the interior, Mohammed Abdullah Hassan's movement repelled the British Empire four times and forced it to retreat to the coastal region, before succumbing to defeat in 1920 by Brit-



Garissa cattle market, Kenya, October 2010

ish airpower. The toponym Somalia was coined by the Italian explorer Luigi Robecchi Bricchetti (1855-1926). Italy acquired full control of the northeastern, central and southern parts of the area after successfully waging the so-called Campaign of the Sultanates against the ruling Majeerteen Sultanate and Sultanate of Hobyo. Italian occupation lasted until 1941, yielding to British military administration. British Somaliland would remain a protectorate, while Italian Somaliland in 1949 became a United Nations Trust Territory under Italian administration, the Trust Territory of Somaliland. In 1960, the two regions united to form the independent Somali Republic under a civilian government.

The Supreme Revolutionary Council seized power in 1969 and established the Somali Democratic Repub-

lic. Led by Mohamed Siad Barre, this government later collapsed in 1991 as the Somali Civil War broke out.

Various armed factions began competing for influence in the power vacuum, particularly in the south. During this period, due to the absence of a central government, Somalia was a "failed state", and residents returned to customary and religious law in most regions. A few autonomous regions, including the Somaliland and Puntland administrations, emerged in the north. The early 2000s saw the creation of fledgling interim federal administrations. The Transitional National Government (TNG) was established in 2000, followed by the formation of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in 2004, which re-established national institutions such as the military.[5][5][29] In 2006, the

TFG, assisted by Ethiopian troops, assumed control of most of the nation's southern conflict zones from the newly formed Islamic Courts Union (ICU). The ICU subsequently splintered into more radical groups such as Al-Shabaab, which battled the TFG and its AMISOM allies for control of the region.

By mid-2012, the insurgents had lost most of the territory that they had seized. In 2011-2012, a political process providing benchmarks for the establishment of permanent democratic institutions was launched. Within this administrative framework a new provisional constitution was passed in August 2012, which reformed Somalia as a federation. Following the end of the TFG's interim mandate the same month, the Federal Government of Somalia, the first permanent central

government in the country since the start of the civil war, was formed and a period of reconstruction began in Mogadishu. Somalia has maintained an informal economy, mainly based on livestock, remittances from Somalis working abroad, and telecommunications.

Somalia has been inhabited since at least the Paleolithic. During the Stone Age, the Doian and Hargeisan cultures flourished here. The oldest evidence of burial customs in the Horn of Africa comes from cemeteries in Somalia dating back to the 4th millennium BCE. The stone implements from the Jalelo site in the north were also characterized in 1909 as important artefacts demonstrating the archaeological universality during the Paleolithic between the East and the West.

AGENCIES

Constructing a greener world can't happen without women

By Cristina Gamboa

THE empowerment of women and girls goes hand in hand with saving the planet. The campaign theme for International Women's Day this year is #BalanceforBetter - and it is a theme that resonates on so many levels for women who are leading the drive towards sustainability.

For us, better outcomes for women mean a better future for our planet. Balance for Better recognises that diversity and equality are inextricably linked to our mission to create green buildings for everyone, everywhere.

Despite construction still being a traditionally male-dominated industry, more than 50 per cent of the CEOs running established Green Building Councils are women.

To prevent further devastating climate change, we need these passionate and dynamic women to inspire people around the world to take action.

They are the catalysts for change we need to cut greenhouse gases and limit the planet's rising temperature to 1.5 de-

grees Celsius.

Some of the most dynamic women in our network are working in developing countries - which have significant challenges: the pace of urbanisation; political instability; poverty and pressure on natural resources including water.

I consider these women climate champions, and I believe they offer real hope for the future.

Maria Fernanda Aguirre Busto, CEO, Chile Green Building Council (Chile GBC)

I think women are good leaders. Often our work is very structured; we are good at planning and organisation; we foster good relationships; we multi-task and we can take a holistic approach to problem-solving. This is essential in fighting climate change.

As a mother of two boys and the oldest of five siblings, I have a lot of experience in negotiation, diplomacy and problem-solving!

But where I do struggle is with the unequal society we have in Chile. The pay gap is very bad and in construction, women are left in admin positions and

not seen as decision makers.

Women are constantly having to prove themselves; society asks more of you. When I first started working, I felt I had to be a perfect mum as well as a perfect employee. I was not just fighting for equal pay but also challenging the culture that held women back including long hours or inflexible working.

I always felt judged for being too bossy, too hard, too critical - qualities I think would be celebrated in men.

But working for Chile GBC, the possibilities are huge, the schedules are flexible and women are able to influence decision-making.

I have discovered that sustainability is not only a business, but a way of living.

Chile - and the rest of Latin America - is urbanising at a very fast pace and as the construction industry grows, I want to ensure its profile is green.

Chile is a very interesting place to work - we feel far from the rest of the world, you have to cross hills to get to us and that isolation has been good for us, it has protected us.

But we are changing - and this is a great moment for innovation. We can make the construction industry one that is more productive, doesn't contaminate and doesn't use a lot of resources.

We all need to take responsibility for caring for our planet - and we all need to play a part in making society more equal.

Dorah Modise, CEO, Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA)

I was offered the chance to run the Green Building Council of South Africa when I was on maternity leave. I knew it wasn't going to be easy - especially with a small baby in tow - but I knew I had the passion and commitment to environmental protection to drive me.

The challenge is not just being a mother - it's being a woman. I feel like women start on a deficit. There's a lot of work to do even before you do your job. You are working harder just to prove yourself.

There is still an old boys club when it comes to networking and I haven't really managed to overcome that. I just have to do my best and be truthful to who I am.

I can't do a business deal over a round

of golf or over drinks so I have to find my own ways of networking. The business code needs to change; we need to break boundaries and create a business culture that is inclusive.

My work is not confined to South Africa: I also support those working in sustainable development in other African nations. Across the continent, millions of people are living in poverty - many do not have the security of decent housing or easy access to clean water. But I am trying to ensure that protecting the environment is part of the solution.

We need collective action if there is going to be a win for the entire continent. It's a tall order but I'm not going to give up. I have increased the number of buildings which have been certified as "green" in South Africa and I am working with the public sector to develop and implement policy that would ensure net-zero carbon, waste, water and ecology for all new builds.

There does need to be a more conscious move to include women as decision-makers. Discrimination is an enemy

of progress and can never yield positive results. If we don't have a balanced approach to finding a solution then we are bound to fail.

Climate change affects us all. It's not just our environment but also our economy, our society, our communities. It can't be left to half of the people to make decisions; it needs to be all of the people.

Ala'a Abdulla, Executive Director, Jordan Green Building Council (Jordan GBC)

I started my role two years ago when I was 34. It does make me one of the youngest leaders of a green building council but that suits Jordan. We have a very dynamic culture where new start-ups are booming and innovation is invigorating the nation.

Women are becoming more empowered to overcome traditional restraints and become more visible in leadership roles. My role within Jordan GBC is very strategic: planning and fundraising. But I am always working to create more green leaders and inspiring them to make a difference in the world.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We ought to observe human right to water and sanitation

WORLD Water Day is an annual UN observance day (always on 22 March) that highlights the importance of freshwater. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. World Water Day is celebrated around the world with a variety of events. These can be educational, theatrical, musical or lobbying in nature. The day can also include campaigns to raise money for water projects. The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was commemorated in 1993. Each year many countries celebrate World Water Day.

UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day and selects a theme for each year in consultation with UN organisations that share an interest in that year's focus. The theme for 2019 is "Leaving no one behind" and encourages people to consider marginalised groups as these are often overlooked and discriminated against when they try to access safe water. Previous themes for the years 2014 to 2018 were "Water and energy", "Water and Sustainable Development", "Water and Jobs", "Why waste water?" and "Nature for Water".

The focus on universal access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is in line with the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.

The intention is to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference.

Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate change (which is set to be the theme of World Water Day 2020). The day brings to light the inequality of access to WASH services and the need to assure the human right to water and sanitation.

In 2018, stories are about "Nature and water from around the world" in keeping with the theme of "Nature for water".

UN-Water coordinates activities with UN member organisations who share an interest in that year's theme. In 2016 the "Water and Jobs" theme led to a collaboration with the International Labour Organization. UN-Water mobilises organisations of all kinds to action, whether globally or locally.

Non-governmental organisations active in the WASH sector, such as UNICEF, WaterAid and Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), use the day to raise public awareness, get media attention for water issues and inspire action. Activities have included releasing publications and films, as well as organising round tables, seminars and expositions.

End Water Poverty, a global civil society coalition with 250 partner organisations, sponsors Water Action Month each year and offers an event-planning guidebook.

The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year on World Water Day. Information related to the annual theme gives decision-makers tools to implement sustainable use of water resources.^[15]

More and more initiatives in schools and universities are educating people about the importance of conserving and managing water resources. For example, Michigan State University held a contest for "best World Water Day poster" in 2017. Primary school children in the Philippines participated in a "My School Toilet" contest in 2010.

This day was first formally proposed in Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. In December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water.

WMO highlights the safety and well-being of society

THE date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation in 23 March 1950 has been named World Meteorological Day. This organisation announces a slogan for World Meteorology Day every year, and this day is celebrated in all member countries. World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on 23 March to commemorate the entry into force in 1950 of the convention that created the World Meteorological Organisation. The day also highlights the contribution that national meteorological and hydrological services make to the safety and well-being of society. Many different activities and events are organised for this occasion.

World Meteorological Day often features various events such as conferences, symposia and exhibitions for meteorological professionals, community leaders and the general public. Some events aim to attract media attention to raise meteorology's profile. Many prizes for meteorological research are presented or announced on or close to World Meteorological Day.

Many countries issue postage stamps or special postage stamp cancellation marks to celebrate World Meteorological Day. These stamps often reflect the event's theme or mark a country's meteorology achievements.

We have many global meteorological agencies and Tanzania is no exception. The Meteorological Agency (TMA) is the government organisation that has been given the mandate as the National Meteorological Authority which is entrusted with the task of provision

of weather and climate and regulations of weather and climate services in Tanzania. Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) was established in 1999 by the Parliamentary Executive Agencies Act No 30 of 1997, (Cap.245 R.E. 2002). Its predecessor the Directorate of Meteorology (DoM) was established by the Parliamentary Act No. 6 of 1978, as a specialised department for provision of meteorological services in Tanzania. Before then, meteorological services were provided in Eastern African countries (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) by the East African Meteorological Department (EAMD) under the former East African Community. Observations of meteorological data in Tanzania first began along the coast. The first weather observations were made at the Zanzibar stone town in October 1886 and later extended to the mainland with the rainfall observing stations being Bagamoyo, Tanga, Amani and Bukoba. By 1929 meteorological services had become fully operational in Tanzania under the British Meteorological Services. Today observed meteorological parameters are rainfall, maximum, minimum, dry bulb, dew point, wet bulb temperatures, cistern level pressure, relative humidity, vapor pressure, cloud cover, evaporation, radiation, sunshine hours, wind run, wind speed, wind direction, fog, thunder, hail, mean sea level, visibility and evaporation. A network of more than 2000 rainfall stations exists in Tanzania where large percentage of its historical climate data are still in paper form and at greater risk of being lost as the paper is deteriorating very fast.

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After 2019 Nigeria's presidential elections: What hope for us?

By Chiedu Okoye

DURING the political leadership of Goodluck Jonathan, a climate of despair pervaded our body-politic owing to his abysmal and lackluster leadership of Nigeria. So, Nigerians from diverse ethnic origins cast protest votes against him in the 2015 Presidential election. His major challenger in that election was Muhammadu Buhari. Buhari, who was riding on the crest of his touted integrity, cashed in on the people's disenchantment with the then incumbent President of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, to win the 2015 Presidential poll.

Then, Muhammadu Buhari was believed to possess integrity; and Nigerians felt that he was the political messiah and emancipator, who would transform Nigeria, positively. They thought that he would right the wrongs in our political polity. But with the passage of time, unfolding events had proved that he's destitute of integrity. The Buhari school certificate saga called into question his claim to being a man of probity. Can he, now, claim the moral high ground to pontificate on the need to eradicate corruption from Nigeria? Again, his leadership of Nigeria has shown that he does not possess the Midas touch that can take Nigeria to great economic and technological heights.

So, in the run-up to the 2019 Presidential election, political pundits forecasted that President Buhari would kiss the dust regarding the 2019 Presidential election owing to many factors. He couldn't record landmark achievements during his first term in office. And, he is a divisive figure, who is activated and driven by ethnic and religious sentiments and impulses. A man with nepotistic and clannish disposition, he appointed mostly northern Muslims into our top security architecture. His nepotistic deeds alienated him from millions of Nigerians, who possess fealty.

But, against all expectations, and political permutations, INEC, the body charged with conducting elections in Nigeria, declared him the winner of the 2019 Presidential election amidst allegations of electoral



malfeasance perpetrated by the ruling APC. In fact, a great number of Igbo folk residing in some parts of Lagos were prevented from casting their ballots on the day the Presidential election took place. And, there were reported cases of ballot box snatching in many places across Nigeria. Worse still, some people paid the supreme price during the election. The 2019 Presidential election ranks among the most badly conducted Presidential elections in our political annals.

So, not surprisingly, Atiku Abubakar, who was tipped to win that election, has vowed to challenge the victory of Muhammadu Buhari in court. But can he get redress and succor from the judiciary. The judiciary ought to be the bastion of justice and the last hope of the common man. But the reverse is the case here. Now, in Nigeria, it is customary for the executive arm of the government to brow-beat the judiciary to do its bidding. In fact, our justice system is troubled with the manner in which Justice Walter Onnoghen was removed from office.

President Buhari is known for his penchant for circumventing constitutional provisions in his bid to achieve his goals. His unilateral suspension and removal of Justice Onnoghen from office without recourse to the appropriate body epitomized his disdain and contempt for separation of power. The selfsame sanctimonious President Buhari has ignored and disobeyed court

rulings on Dasuki and Elzaky. His misdeeds and infractions of the constitution are portents of doom for our fragile democracy.

Is he not aware that Presidentialism is anchored or based on the practice of the theory of separation of power as espoused by Montesquieu? The three arms of government ought to be independent of one another and act as check on one another, too, in order to prevent the President from becoming autocratic. But, now, incipient autocracy is creeping in on our body-politic. And it will not augur well for our country considering the fact that there are millions of discontents in Nigeria, who are ready to revolt against the government when galvanized and roused to action.

Instead of transforming to a civilian dictatorship, the federal government should invigorate and re-jig our battered and struggling economy to better the living conditions of millions of hapless Nigerians. Today, millions of Nigerians are living in dire circumstances. These Nigerians, who are trampled underfoot, have been reduced to subhuman beings by poverty. So, this government ought to urgently implement economic policies and measures to lift them out of abject and biting poverty.

It is a known fact that deprived people are susceptible to being either coerced or coaxed into joining terrorist groups like Boko Haram and others. Boko Haram has been

threatening the political stability of Nigeria for a long while now. The Federal government should up the ante in its fight against the Boko Haram insurgency given the damage it has caused in the northeast of Nigeria. Thousands of human lives have been lost since Boko Haram started its fight against Nigerians in the northern part of Nigeria. More so, the homicidal activities of the group have hindered the practice of agriculture in the area, too.

Again, President Buhari should change the people's perception that he is lenient on the murderous Fulani herdsmen because he himself is a full-blooded Fulani man through his actions. The Fulani herders and farmers' incessant clashes undermine and imperil our national unity. Anybody who murders another person under the guise of defending his livestock should face the law of the land.

But when a national leader applies double standard in dealing with the people(s) of Nigeria based on their ethnic origins and religions, his action or inaction will stoke up tension in the country. For example, the resurgence of pro-Biafra separatist sentiments among the Igbo people is not unconnected to the alleged injustice that is being meted out to the Igbo people of the South-East geographical zone. Is the Southeast not a neglected area? Federal establishments should be located in the South-East to prove to the people of the area that they are not second class unwanted citizens of Nigeria.

A national leader ought to be a rallying point for national unity and integration, and not a force for polarizing Nigeria along ethnic and religious lines. Nigeria belongs to us all. And we should know that the greatness of Nigeria lies in its diversities.

Water security in South Africa forgotten, maybe, but not gone

By Zachary Donnenfeld

“Whoever you are, wherever you are, water is your human right” reads the slogan of the 2019 United Nations World Water Day. After the 2018 crisis in Cape Town, South Africans know that although water may be a human right, it is not necessarily guaranteed. Despite receding from the headlines, water security remains a concern for millions of South Africans.

The National Integrated Water Information System (NIWIS) from the Department of Water and Sanitation monitors the country’s river and dam levels by major catchment. The NIWIS ranks rivers on a six-tiered scale from ‘very low’ to ‘high’ (see Figure 1). As of 12 March, water storage levels in South Africa were at approximately 64%, or rated ‘low’ for this time of year.

Although South Africa’s surface water storage levels are typically at their lowest during the summer months, and the country has recovered a bit since the drought of 2014 and 2015, this new normal is significantly less resilient than the previous one. On 3 March 2014, national dam levels were at nearly 90%. In March 2015, they were nearly 80%.

South Africa’s national surface water storage hasn’t been rated even ‘moderately high’ in over four years. Figure 1 shows South Africa’s dam levels over time and sheds light on the level of water stress in South Africa at the height of the drought, and the gradual and fragile nature of the recovery.

Even Cape Town’s recovery may rest on shaky foundations. Its major catchment, the Berg Olifants, is currently rated moderately high for this

“**From July to October 2014, the dams in the Berg Olifants catchment were at or near 100%. In 2019, that period lasted...**”

time of year. In fact, in September 2018 dam levels were as high in the catchment as they had been in four years – a welcome development.

However that period of abundance was both late to materialise and relatively short lived. From July to October 2014, the dams in the Berg Olifants catchment were at or near 100%. In 2019, that period lasted less than a month and dams never reached full capacity.

But the problem isn’t restricted to Cape Town. Across the country, dam levels in nine of South Africa’s 11 catchments are rated below normal, with Lesotho and the Breede Gouritz catchments the most severely affected.

Just as the problem is not limited to a specific region of South Africa, there are several aspects of South Africa’s water system that are vulnerable. Along with humble dam levels, river flows are also abnormally low. As of 12 March, about 56% of South Africa’s rivers were flowing below normal and more than 25% rated ‘very low’.

In the Pongola-Mtamvuna catchment, which services Durban (along with much of the rest of KwaZulu-Natal), about two-thirds of rivers are flowing below normal. In Lesotho,

where much of South Africa’s surface water comes from, three of the four major rivers are flowing below normal. Even in the Vaal, a relatively healthy catchment, only about half (55%) of the rivers are rated normal or higher.

Although many of the doomsday predictions about Cape Town running dry turned out to be false, the basic premise of those warnings remains sound. Right now, South Africa uses more water than it can reliably expect to harvest in any given year. Over time, that ‘over-exploitation’ leaves the system increasingly vulnerable.

If water levels continue to decrease, the ecological health of the river system itself can be put in jeopardy. Adding more particulates to less water makes it more difficult for rivers and streams to regenerate themselves and risks creating a vicious cycle.

As if this were not enough, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) expects that droughts will become more frequent and more severe over the coming decades due to climate change. When the next drought hits, it could be significantly more difficult for the country to respond.

But this trajectory isn’t destiny. As the Institute for Security Studies has written before, there are reasonable policies available to address the problem. South Africa treats only about 60% of its wastewater, and a significant amount of its existing facilities are in disrepair – so the actual figure could be much lower. Other water scarce countries, like Israel, treat around 80%. Wastewater treatment is available technology that is also significantly cheaper than other



Rains have washed away memories of Cape Town’s crisis, but the country’s water future is still precarious

alternatives like desalination.

For a water scarce country, South Africa also experiences relatively high volumes of non-revenue water. Though the country’s 36% is about on par with the global average, it is significantly higher than other water scarce countries like Australia (10%). Fixing leaky pipes to address non-revenue water is an affordable fix compared to other solutions, and would also create employment.

There are also policies available to reduce water consumption. More municipalities – even ones not experiencing immediate water stress – should consider implementing more aggressive tiered pricing structures. Tiered pricing is when water for basic human needs is essentially free, but additional water to maintain a luxurious landscape or swimming pool, for example, becomes extremely expensive.

Both Israel and the United States have had enormous success with this policy and, given South Africa’s inequality, it seems a sensible first step. At the national level, South Africa must move away from coal-fired power plants to less water-intensive forms of renewable energy.

If these policies are implemented swiftly and deliberately, it is possible to close the gap between supply and demand by the mid-2020s. But the country cannot afford delays or political finger pointing.

What the 2018 crisis in Cape Town showed was that anything less than a coordinated, intentional response – drawing on national, provincial and municipal government along with the private sector and civil society – will be insufficient. South Africa must wake up and realise that its natural resources are not infinite. **ISS**

Note to humanitarians in South Sudan: Strengthen the group, not just the individual

By Janardhan Rao

South Sudan’s five-year civil war has killed 400,000 people and displaced more than four million others, creating the largest refugee crisis in Africa. About half the population of 12 million face severe hunger. But despite continued clashes, a peace deal between warring parties to form a transitional government later this year is cause for optimism.

If the humanitarian community is to contribute to the healing and reconciliation the world’s youngest nation so urgently needs, it must recognise the social connections that exist within South Sudanese society and strengthen them to underpin any recovery.

Social connections are an economic safety net in South Sudan; people’s family and non-kin relationships are their primary ‘go to’ in normal times as well as during times of distress. This local social protection predates the current crisis and has been in place well before the arrival of external humanitarian aid.

“Before the crisis, I could have gone to the local authorities to seek help because my cattle were raided, but now there is no system in place at all.”

Humanitarian programmes are primarily in the economic sphere – whether in the provision of food, cash to meet basic needs, or support for livelihoods or income generation. New research from Mercy Corps and Tufts University’s Feinstein International Centre explores how these interventions impact these underlying social connections, both positively and negatively.

While the informal connections and services may not be very visible, aid actors should seek them out. They could include the sharing of food or aid for social capital, as well as the redistribution of wealth amongst more vulnerable community members in what are known as “famine courts”. These informal connections may

also have adapted to the changing context; for example with the move to more of a cash-based economy, people’s ‘wealth’ may be less visible than before.

Shared humanitarian aid Men and women in Panyijar, in southern Liech state, explained that they belonged to various informal support groups, which earn their income from fishing, herding cattle, collecting firewood, and other activities.

Their interviews revealed that households rely on each other for food, shelter, and work and many share humanitarian aid with others to reinforce or build new connections – just as they would share crops they raise or fish they’ve caught back home.

In Panyijar, which hosts tens of thousands who fled some of the most intense fighting of the civil war, the social safety net is exemplified by cattle herders. Here, cows, not cash, are king, and cattle-keeping is a centuries-old tradition. Cattle farmers long ago formed their own groups organically, mobilising for protection, to share information on grazing and watering their herds and to offer financial support, including loans and goods on credit.

“We share whatever we have. You do not eat alone in our group,” explained Gatkouth, 56, a leader of a group of cattle herders (called a Kwar Wich) for more than three decades in Nyal Payam, near the White Nile River.

During an interview, he described how the cows of one member of the group were not lactating, severely reducing the herder’s food supply. “We cannot let him leave the group because he doesn’t have lactating cows,” he said. “Instead, we eat with him and wait until his cows produce calves and he is able to get enough milk.”

Another risk the group faces are raids by cattle thieves. “Before the crisis, I could have gone to the local

“**Before the crisis, I could have gone to the local authorities to seek help because my cattle were raided, but now there is no system in place at all**”

authorities to seek help because my cattle were raided, but now there is no system in place at all,” Gatkouth said.

Instead, the group supports community members who are victims of theft by contributing their own cows to his herd.

These kinds of connections are inherently broad in scope, going well beyond market activity and trade to touch on rites of passage, gender and youth dynamics, and other facets of life.

Aid in context Social connections are essential in both the crisis and the recovery period in South Sudan, and the lessons we are learning will be crucial as humanitarians consider longer-term recovery issues, such as market-oriented private-sector investment.

What this means in the practical sense for humanitarians is that aid needs to be based on the context, rather than where it is from.

South Sudan is a collective society, but currently the way much aid is delivered mirrors how Western donors think and is often modelled on their own societies. Organisations tend to work with individuals or households, but in the South Sudan context, everything is communal. Aid actors need to shift our Western notions of individual and household vulnerability to consider our response from a collective perspective.

Donors too have an important



Social connections are an economic safety net in South Sudan

role to play. They should provide aid actors with the flexibility to determine when and how to pivot from short-term emergency assistance to livelihoods support, as ending emergency relief before households are equipped to pursue sustainable livelihoods can undermine these local support systems.

Before the conflict, in Nyal Payam, cattle herders moved freely, interacting beyond their clans, but now sometimes there is fighting, Gatkouth said. It is up to him to keep the peace.

“If you violate any rules, I call you and others involved for a meeting. My members and I look into the case and resolve it,” he

said. “I do not allow arguments in my cattle camps that might lead to fighting either between my group members or with other groups of different Kwar Wich.”

Gatkouth’s guidance will continue to play a pivotal role in helping his community build peace, as will his relationships of trust and social connections.

How we, as the humanitarian community, honour and maintain such vital relationships of trust will be crucial to building peace and stability and helping South Sudan recover.

Firms can play a more active role in corporate social responsibility projects

By Muharram Macatta

Tanzania has a historic opportunity to modernize its economy and ensure inclusive and sustainable development for all. The country has made significant progress in many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), now Sustainable Development Goals such as reducing poverty and child mortality.

Nevertheless, more remains to be done to achieve sustainable progress in health and education - two vitally important dimensions of human development. Furthermore, overall development progress has an important equity dimension.

Recent economic growth and social progress has disproportionately benefited the bigger cities, while people in rural areas continue to have fewer economic opportunities and only partial access to essential services such as health, education, water and sanitation at best.

Tanzania needs a truly transformational change if it is to overcome these challenges. Such a change cannot be achieved by one actor.

However, the role of the private sector is essential in driving development; this feature argues that the private sector's contribution to economic growth, technological change and general welfare has yet to be fully harnessed in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The private sector can have a transformative impact not only on the economic sector but also on social dynamics and on the quality of people's lives. This aspiration for sustainable and transformative development impacts has become part of the modus operandi of many visionary companies worldwide.

In fact, for many of these companies it has become tantamount to what a resilient business model itself looks like. The current government is working with these businesses to ensure that development occurs through



Wakonta Kapunda, who has been rendered wheelchair-bound since being injured in a road accident years ago, in jovial mood as she expresses her thanks to IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi (R) in Dar es Salaam last year for the assistance extended to her by the Dr Reginald Mengi Persons with Disabilities Foundation. File Photo

inclusive and equitable economic growth and income generation, respecting rights and ensuring environmental protection, in line with the global compact principles.

The role of the private sector in generating human development transcends that of a tax-payer and a creator of jobs, important though these contributions are.

We hereby present a thoroughly documented review of global and national experience to demonstrate how the private sector can play the role of catalyst for change by promoting new approaches, technologies, services and policy proposals.

We trust these examples will inspire all of our many actors who have a part to play in this and help to drive further the efforts of the Tanzania business community to advance the modernization of the country.

The sustainable and inclusive development of Tanzania in a way which benefits all people will occur

only if the benevolent government, the private sector and society at large join efforts to achieve this goal.

We seek to identify what can drive the private sector's contributions to economic and social progress, what the obstacles are, and how an ecosystem conducive for stronger private-public development engagement can be attained.

This critique provides a set of well-defined policy recommendations for all national actors, including central government and private companies, which we hope will continue the discussions to be started in the process of learning the actual relative factors or facts. Finally, we trust that this specific presentation will inspire people across all sectors and help us all to achieve the future the United Republic of Tanzania guided by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) wants; currently under the supervision of the 5th phase government administered by the gifted Hon. Dr. J.P.J. Magufuli, the President of the

United Republic of Tanzania.

The objectives of country modernization and human development cannot be reached without a functional market economy that is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The private sector is a crucial element of the economy.

Therefore, the private sector development and the synergy with human development is one of national top priorities. Hence, according to the government development Program for 2018-2025 -

Sizeable economic welfare for every citizen and stronger competitiveness will be ensured by: liberalizing the economic activity; establishing a friendly business environment; attracting investments in sectors with high potential; promoting pro-active industrial policies.

Additionally, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises with high value added production and export competitiveness; modernizing the infrastructure; developing the skilled and productive labour force.

The main role of the government is to create favourable and conducive conditions for every citizen to achieve their aspirations. A fundamental element in this respect is to empower companies to become genuine corporate citizens by motivating them to take on far-reaching objectives, rather than just maximization of profits.

Moreover, community development, solving certain social and environmental issues, conservation of ecosystems - these objectives is hard or even impossible to manage without the participation of firms/companies.

In terms of this account, it particularly means to incentivize companies to create decent jobs, pay properly their taxes, and contribute to the modernization of health and education services.

Facilitate technological transfer and innovations; implement corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship projects, as well as

to participate actively in the public-private dialogue.

Anchoring the private interest in the public one and mobilization of public resources in order to ensure their synergy are defining elements of a modern economy and of a wealthy and inclusive state.

In order to support the private initiatives, the individual prosperity depends on the prosperity of the others. The government currently has to adopt a strategy for reforming the entrepreneurship regulatory framework for 2019-2020 that involves a very clear roadmap aimed at eliminating the constraints on entrepreneurial activities.

The first results are already visible: according to the "Doing Business" testimony, Tanzania is advancing faster compared to the previous year in East Africa as well as SADC countries.

This amazing leap is thanks to the simplified procedure for setting up a business (e.g. the requirement to own a minimal capital upon business registration could be removed) and fiscal reporting procedures.

Also, in order to develop a proper framework for a dynamic, consistent and transparent public-private dialogue, the National Business Council has been launched, under the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

It convenes periodically the competent public authorities, representatives of the most important economic sectors and development partners. The efforts initiated during the previous years will continue in the near future.

With this in mind, we welcome the policy priorities that may be proposed by any other enthusiastic player; aimed at unleashing the private sector and strengthening its connections to the human development objectives.

Thus, the current government will continue to modernize the tax policies by enhancing transparency, strengthening equity and ensuring predictability.

'Make like the dinosaurs, and disappear!'

BY PETER FABRICIUS

Two weeks ago Algerian journalist El kadi Ihsane tweeted a video of a tsunami of humanity flowing through the Algiers street. 'I wish that every person of goodwill could experience once in his life this cosmic moment where the revolution of his dreams passes below the window of his office!' he enthused.

His words evoked much of the euphoria of William Wordsworth's lines written of the still-romantic start of the French Revolution: 'Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, But to be young was very heaven!'

A genuine and inspiring people's revolution, powerful yet so far remarkably peaceful, perhaps a second Arab Spring, has been unfolding in Algeria over the past month. It has already upset the disabled octogenarian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's plans to extend his 20 years in office by running for a fifth term next month.

Bouteflika - or more likely the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party or the military or whoever really runs the country since his stroke in 2013 - decided last week to withdraw his candidacy and postpone the elections. A national conference, to include leaders of the protest movement, is meant to negotiate constitutional and political changes under which elections will be held before the end of 2019.

The government has brought in a former Algerian foreign minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, to oversee this transition. Algerian diplomats insist that this expresses Bouteflika's desire to respond to the demands of his people and help him leave



a respectable legacy - a legitimate, democratic and prosperous Algeria. But Algerian protesters seem unimpressed. Last Friday they held their biggest demonstrations to date, continuing to press their demands that Bouteflika resign immediately. Dr Dalia Ghanem, resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, isn't surprised. 'It seems indeed that this is a stratagem to gain time to prepare for their next move but clearly there is nothing genuine in their moves,' she told ISS Today.

Dr Yahia H Zoubir, senior international studies and management

“Dr Dalia Ghanem, resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, isn't surprised. 'It seems indeed that this is a stratagem to gain time to prepare...'

professor and director of research in geopolitics at the Kedge Business School in Marseille, agrees. He recalls that after the bloody 1988

riots, the regime partly liberalised politics, including by moving from a one-party (FLN) to a multi-party system. But the underlying power structure remained. 'So they are concocting a new formula today with the hope that they will be successful once again and preserve their power and interests,' he told ISS Today.

Zoubir suggests that the Algerian constitution doesn't need amending - just implementing. 'The regime doesn't respect the constitutions it enacts,' he says, describing how Bouteflika changed the document to remove the two-term pres-

Protests in Algiers captures how most Algerians feel about their geriatric leader Bouteflika.

idential limit and was now violating it to extend his fourth term.

Zoubir says far from lending credence to the transition, Brahimi has instead become 'highly discredited in the eyes of the population', which now views him as an appendage of the system, which he is trying to save.

Many credit Bouteflika with resolving the Islamist civil war that engulfed the country through most of the 1990s. But the powers of patronage he used then to buy off his opponents are waning as the oil price has plunged.

The Algerian people have anyway

grown weary of being patronised by a gerontocracy or an anonymous 'deep state' oligarchy comprising the military and FLN elders, which has ruled since it liberated the country from France in 1962. The FLN's liberation credentials are clearly fraying.

The mostly young protesters are also tired of being blackmailed by the glib old regime argument that stability is necessary to avoid a return to the bloody 1990s. One of the mysteries of the current crisis has been why these shadowy forces that seem to be pulling the strings of power didn't dump Bouteflika long

US sanctions 3 top Congolese election officials

Washington, DC

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned three senior Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) officials.

OFAC designated three senior Congolese election commission (CENI) officials: Corneille Yobeluo Nangaa, CENI President; Norbert Basengezi Katintima, CENI Vice-President; and Katintima's son, Marcellin Basengezi Mukolo, a high-level CENI advisor. This action follows the outcome of the December 2018 elections that is widely seen as undemocratic, and

the result of an allegedly corrupt deal made behind the scenes. The sanctions also come amidst new reports of corruption in the Senate elections in the DRC, in which parliamentarians were allegedly paid bribes to vote for certain senators. Sarah Gardiner, Investigative Analyst at The Sentry, said: "The U.S. Department of Treasury's announcement of sanctions toward three electoral commission officials from the Democratic Republic of the Congo is an important step in ensuring accountability for electoral fraud during Congo's December 2018 presidential election. Today's designations are also the first to be taken under the U.S. Congo sanctions program since Febru-

ary 2018. The new U.S. sanctions are a step in the right direction, but if the U.S. is going to have an impact on systemic corruption in Congo, much more extensive financial pressure on corrupt actors is needed." Sasha Lezhnev, Deputy Director of Policy at the Enough Project, said: "Former President Kabila has formally left office, but it is clear that he and his inner circle still hold the keys to power in the Congolese government. Targeted sanctions, anti-money laundering measures, and prosecutions against Kabila's inner network, financial facilitators, and their networks of companies will be critical to create the political space needed for much-needed anti-cor-

ruption reforms that Congolese civil society is rightly pushing for."

The sanctions require blocking of the designated persons' assets within U.S. jurisdiction, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.

ABOUT THE SENTRY

Co-founded by George Clooney and John Prendergast, The Sentry is an investigative team composed of policy analysts, international human rights lawyers, financial forensic investigators, and regional experts, along with former law enforcement agents, intelligence officers, investigative journalists, policymakers, and banking professionals, that follows the

dirty money and builds investigative cases focusing on the corrupt transnational networks most responsible for Africa's deadliest conflicts. By creating a significant financial cost to these kleptocrats through network sanctions, anti-money laundering measures, prosecutions, and other tools, The Sentry aims to disrupt the profit incentives for mass atrocities and oppression, and creates new leverage in support of peace efforts and African frontline human rights defenders. The Sentry's partner, the Enough Project, undertakes high-level advocacy with policymakers around the world as well as wide-reaching education campaigns by mobilizing students, faith-based

groups, celebrities, and others. The Sentry currently focuses its work in South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic.

Since its launch in 2016, The Sentry has created hard-hitting reports and converted extensive research into a large volume of dossiers on individuals and entities connected to grand corruption, violence, or serious human rights abuses. The investigative team has turned those dossiers over to government regulatory and law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and around the world, as well as to compliance officers at the world's largest banks.

Agencies



A local shoes vendor looks at his merchandise along Narung'ombe Street at Kariakoo in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

How China's eight major initiatives will positively impact African development

BY GEORGE MUNTU

Chinese president Xi Jinping announced Chinese eight major initiatives as strategies to collaborate with Africa. These strategies include; industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, green development, capacity building, healthcare, people-to-people exchange, and peace and security. These define the blueprint for China-Africa relations in the new era and opens up a new ambitious chapter of China-Africa cooperation.

The eight major initiatives, guided by Xi Jinping are based on the Chinese drive to be socially connected to not only African countries but also the world, with different and specific objectives. They are also based on cantering around building a new type of international relations and a community of shared future for mankind. The motive is to engineer and display good relations based on the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, of pursuing the greater good and shared interests and based on the opinions and suggestions collected in breadth and depth from all quarters in China and Africa. They also, reflect the theme of the Beijing Summit: "China and Africa: Toward an Even Stronger Community with a Shared Future through Win-Win Cooperation".

In as much as these initiatives will increase Chinese influence, they will also greatly help African countries meet their development goals of UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, AU Agenda 2063, and the development strategies of individual African countries. They also place emphasis on fostering indigenous growth capacity for Africa, create new ideas and ways of cooperation that will bring China-Africa cooperation to new heights.

The first initiative on industrial promotion is meant to speed up the establishment of industries and modernized agriculture will help to accelerate economic change in African countries, and completely eradicate poverty and build a very strong base for self-reliance of each

and every African. To achieve this initiative, African nations must partner with China, the only nation with open policies and real plans of bringing about development and economic reform in Africa. This Chinese initiative will help bring industrial revolution, modern agriculture and it will increase productivity as well as alleviate hunger and food shortage in the African continent. In this program, China has promised to provide professional and technology-based training in practical, administrative training as well as providing workshop materials.

Through this program, African companies will benefit directly and will be able to sell their products to Chinese markets. This program will help increase employment in many African countries; it will also increase income for many Africans and will help alleviate poverty at family level. In addition to that, it will help African nations generate more revenue from tax collection. China has also promised to provide material support for building business areas (Economic Zones) that will help Chinese and African owned companies find a place to sell their products. From 2019 to 2021, China has promised to implement 50 agricultural assistance programs that will help Africa increase the output of corn, rice, wheat, cassava, and cotton.

For a modern agricultural plan to be successful, China promised to send 500 senior agriculture experts to Africa to train and provide technical knowledge to locals in respective countries. This program will enhance the skills and expertise of many young Africans and will enable them to develop modern agriculture in their countries. It should also be noted that, this is one of Chinese Government's strategic plans to transfer its professionals and technologies to assist African countries to achieve their development goals and to build economic dependence. China has also promised to participate fully in the development of social programs such as water supply, road construction, education and sanitation, community service, and humanitarian

assistance. This will help improve local livelihood and social development.

In the Second initiative of infrastructure connectivity, China has promised to expand more cooperation with African states in the management of alternatives ways to increase construction of infrastructure projects to ensure African countries are well connected through road networks, rail and functional trains. China has also promised to encourage its aviation businesses and financial institutions to participate in building a single African Air Transport Market to support to enhance connectivity among African countries. At the same time, China supports aviation businesses from both sides in opening more direct flights as per market principles, to facilitate two-way trade flow and strengthen the bond between China and Africa.

Tanzania has revived its national airline Air Tanzania Limited (ATCL). Tanzania will be therefore among African countries that will benefit directly from this opportunity. This is therefore a call for Tanzania and African countries to cooperate with China to benefit from these opportunities. Africans should also be grateful and accept China's contribution made to the development of our countries; this is because China is the only saviour of African problems.

China has also made commitments to invest in telecommunication businesses in Africa with the aim of helping Africa access easy telecommunication infrastructure especially mobile and internet connectivity. This will benefit both China and Africa with new jobs for Chinese and Africans at different income levels and financial profitability and infrastructure connectivity respectively.

China has promised to increase the exportation of Chinese products to Africa, and encourage African companies to import and sell their products in Chinese markets and participate in Chinese trade expo. This is a Trade facilitation initiative to help African countries access Chinese markets. This will entail the

fact that all African companies that will participate in the exhibition will not be charged with product fees and or participation free. China has also promised to implement 50 trade facilitation programs for Africa, as a way to deepen cooperation with Africa. Some of these trade facilitation programs include standard promotion, market access and personnel training just to mention a few. These plans are aimed at empowering African companies to access Chinese markets and local markets and will also enable African companies to have a definite part of selling their products that will result in maximizing profits. The co-operation between China and Africa is crucial and beneficial to promoting economic growth in the continent.

Green development initiative is the third initiative which will implement 50 green developments, ecological and environmental protection assistance projects. These projects will focus on reinforcing joint research, technical exchanges and project cooperation. Also, China has promised to establish a China-Africa Bamboo Centre in Ethiopia to conduct research on planting and growing bamboo to better tap the values of bamboo in food, furniture, architecture, textile, paper-making and pharmaceuticals. Through Green development, it will increase agricultural productivity and climate resilience of the rural population. The initiative will also increase added-value product exports including organic food. This will also increase the potential to many Africans farmers and out growers to grow any crops and agricultural operations on a large scale. It will help grow the industry in Africa, create more jobs and promote diversified economic growth.

China has promised to provide fifty thousand (50,000) training opportunities and Fifty thousand (50,000) scholarships to African countries through capacity building initiative. China has also promised to invite 2,000 young Africans to go to China for discussions and information exchange.

Agencies

Kenyan-born Ethiopia crash captain did not train on airline's MAX simulator

NAIROBI

Yared Getachew, 29, was due for refresher training at the end of March, his colleague told Reuters, two months after Ethiopian Airlines had received one of the first such simulators being distributed.

The March 10 disaster, following another MAX 8 crash in Indonesia in October, has set off one of the biggest inquiries in aviation history, focused on the safety of a new automated system and whether crews understood it properly.

In both cases, the pilots lost control soon after take-off and fought a losing battle to stop their jets plunging down.

The MAX, which came into service two years ago, has a new automated system called MCAS (Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System). It is meant to prevent loss of lift which can cause an aerodynamic stall sending the plane downwards in an uncontrolled way.

"Boeing did not send manuals on MCAS," the Ethiopian Airlines pilot told Reuters in a hotel lobby, declining to give his name as staff have been told not to speak in public.

"Actually we know more about the MCAS system

from the media than from Boeing."

Under unprecedented scrutiny and with its MAX fleet grounded worldwide, the world's largest planemaker has said airlines were given guidance on how to respond to the activation of MCAS software. It is also promising a swift update to the system.

Globally, most commercial airline pilots refresh training in simulators every six months. In the Ethiopian crash, it was not clear if Yared's colleague - First Officer Ahmednur Mohammed, 25, who also died in the crash - had practised on the new MAX simulator. It was also not clear if Yared or Ahmednur would have been trained on that simulator or an older one for 737s that their airline also owned.

Ethiopian Airlines declined to comment on the remarks of its pilot to Reuters.

"I think that the differences between the 737 NG and the MAX were underplayed by Boeing," said John Cox, an aviation safety consultant, former U.S. Airways pilot and former air safety chairman of the U.S. Airline Pilots Association.

"Consequently the simulator manufacturers were not pushing it either. The

operators didn't realize the magnitude of the differences," he told Reuters in a communication over the Ethiopian pilot's remarks.

The 737 MAX 8 was introduced into commercial service in 2017, but pilots of older 737s were only required to have computer-based training to switch, according to Boeing, airlines, unions and regulators.

By December, two months after the Lion Air crash that killed 189 people off Jakarta, the main simulator producer CAE Inc of Canada said it had delivered just four MAX simulators to airlines.

At that time, CAE had orders from airlines globally for 30 MAX simulators, which cost between \$6 million and \$15 million each depending on customisation.

Now CAE has orders for 40 MAX simulators, a spokesman for the Canadian manufacturer told Reuters this week.

The world's largest 737 operator, Southwest Airlines Co., will not have its first MAX simulator ready for use until October, its pilot union said on Wednesday.

"It is still very disturbing to us that Boeing did not disclose MCAS to the operators and pilots," the association told members in a memo seen by Reuters. **AGENCIES**



Kenyan-born Ethiopia crash captain did not train on airline's MAX simulator

Working class and the power of capital - Part 1



BOOK REVIEW

Title: Working class and the power of capital
Author: Michael D. Yates

BY FAROOQUE CHOWDHURY

Can the Working Class Change the World? It's a fundamental political question in every economy and society, relevant to all concerned with and aware of class interests tangled in exploitative production relations. Politics in countries has centered around this question of class power. At times, the question has shaped geopolitics on the world stage. Michael D. Yates re-examines the question in his recently released book *Can the Working Class Change the World?* (Monthly Review Press, New York, October 2018)

The question is not limited to a single country or region; neither is it concerned with a few branches of economy. The question, rather, covers all countries and societies, encompassing the entire economy and all of politics. Sometimes, the question stays invisible to ordinary political minds, and at times and in countries, it stands bold in the center stage of politics. The issue is rooted in the arena of class struggle, and is concerned with the destiny of world humanity, because, capital in its constant contradiction with labor is unceasingly pushing the world to a sphere named destruction. Thus, the question raised by Professor Michael Yates is universal, and is concerned with the universe.

Michael Yates, director of Monthly Review Press and former Associate Editor of Monthly Review magazine, re-examines the question analyzed and discussed by Marx and his comrades; he like they understands that this question concerns the life of the overwhelming majority of the world's population - the exploited, the working classes. The professor of economics had to embark on the question, given that the world working class is still marching through the path of history, has experienced many developments since its victories of historical significance in the short-lived Paris Commune and in the Great October Revolution in Russia, which shook the foundations of bourgeois civilization. The world working class has gained experiences from China in the east to Cuba in the west, from Indonesia in the south to Sweden in the north, in Venezuela, Bolivia, Nepal. There are experiences of victory, of setbacks, of compelling capital to come to compromises, and of defeating Fascism, the worst part of decaying capitalism. The achievements and advancements the working class has made have been unprecedented on the world scale. These strides on the march of humanity toward liberation have improved life and brought relief, positively impacting all the exploited and broader sections of people in countries. These are, as Michael Yates writes in the preface of the book, "a great deal in nearly every country in the world."

Also there are experiences of the working class that include capital's brutal assault on rights and life under the streamer of neo-liberalism, sectarianism, supremacist politics, austerity, and dismantling of welfare measures in many countries. Michael Yates, a labor educator for more than 30 years, writes in the book:

"Capitalism [...] and those who control its operations are relentless in their efforts [...] to beat back whatever gains [...] working class political organizations have won. With rare exceptions, the power of capital has remained intact. Gains made have soon enough been taken back. Victorious revolutions have, in time, been reversed." ("Preface")

No doubt, the reversals, the losses, are sources of lessons for organizing the next assault on the world capitalist system. To learn from the lessons, the question should be asked: How have the gains made so far have been taken back?

This reality of reversals and setbacks demands careful assessment of capital's present position and power, its politics and propaganda, and the tools of its politics, propaganda, and ideological war. With this backdrop, Michael Yates, a regular participant in the labor's struggle against capital, proposes a strategic move: "[F]undamental, radical change, [...] will not happen unless the working class and its allies attack capitalism and its multiple oppressions head-on, on every front, all the time." (ibid.) It is a political plan that concerns strategic and tactical questions, areas of organization, allies, political moves, and theoretical discourse.

It is a renewed call for class war by labor against capital. It takes into account the class war that capital carries on relentlessly against all around it, against all it dominates and tries to dominate, against labor and nature, against all lives on the earth. Capital carries on this war in the areas of economy and politics, and in all the areas dependent on these two - ideology, education and culture, environment and ecology.

Michael Yates sets the tone of the book by narrating, in brief, incident of selling of his labor and organizing the labor, both are related to survival:

"I joined the labor force at twelve and have been in it ever since, delivering newspapers, serving as a night watchman at a state park, doing clerical work in a factory, grading papers for a professor, selling life insurance, teaching in colleges and universities, arbitrating labor disputes, consulting for attorneys, desk clerking at a hotel, editing a magazine and books. I have spearheaded union organizing campaigns and helped in others. For more than thirty years, I have taught workers in several labor studies programs, people in every imaginable occupation, from plumbers, bricklayers, postal employ-

ees, chemical workers, garment workers, and elevator operators to librarians, nurses, air line pilots, firefighters, and teachers. I once worked for the United Farm Workers Union, meeting campesinos and campesinas and helping them in legal disputes and collective bargaining." (ibid.)

His class origin is also told, in brief, in the preface of the book:

"By any imaginable definition of the working class, I was born into it. Almost every member of my extended family - parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins - were wage laborers. They mined coal, hauled steel, made plate glass, labored on construction sites and as office secretaries, served the wealthy as domestic workers, clerked in company stores, cleaned offices and homes, took in laundry, cooked on tugboats, even unloaded trucks laden with dynamite."

More than hundred years ago, Lenin wrote:

"There is nothing more important to class-conscious workers than to have an understanding of the significance of their movement and a thorough knowledge of it. The only source of strength of the working-class movement - and an invincible one at that - is the class-consciousness of the workers and the broad scope of their struggle, that is, the participation in it of the masses of the wage-workers." ("The working class and its press", *Collected Works*, vol. 20, Progress Publishers, Moscow, erstwhile USSR, 1972, emphasis in the original)

Can the Working Class Change the World? takes a role in having class-consciousness of the working class, understanding of the significance of movement of the working class, and knowledge of the working class movement.

Rich with information, data, analysis, and arguments the book unfolds issues facing the working class today. Brutal austerity programs were imposed on the working people in countries following the Great Financial Crisis. The dominating capital successfully transferred the burden of its sin - financialization, banking/housing/credit crisis - on the working class; and the working class organized resistance to that hostile move by capital. However, those were sporadic, isolated, sudden outbursts, and of short duration.

In the area of politics in a few countries, hardcore bank capital representatives were isolated away in elections following the crises. Greece jolted the European Union with its election result. But, those were of very short duration. Ultimately, the bankers prevailed.

Nevertheless, the crisis of capitalism persists.

But, the working class is yet to organize effective barricades with a working-class leadership - a leadership equipped with a radical program for crushing the citadel of capital - although

imperialism is in continuous problem within itself, that is, it is subject to severe contradictions. In areas, imperialism is making temporary retreats, while it is organizing assaults in some other areas.

Capital, craftily, has organized/is organizing its extreme right wing - xenophobes, neo-Nazis, regressive elements, armed forces with a Middle-Age ideology - to hoodwink the working population in countries irrespective of the level of economy, advanced or backward. It is a new challenge to the working class.

Capital is fuelling sectarian politics, another extreme rightist move. A part of left/progressive political forces is sticking to sectarian slogans in the name of standing by the marginalized as this brand of the "progressives" is trying to make one sect or other its political base. Unions, shamefully, based on color are being run - a theoretical bankruptcy of a part in the rank of the working class. Even, the practice goes on without any debate.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), political organizations with an apolitical appearance, are trying to mobilize the working class to carry on capital's factional fight, are trying to take leadership in political fight of the working class.

A section of NGOs is organizing "fight" for environmental-ecological-climate rights while many working class organizations have not yet included the issue into their agenda although environmental-ecological-climate crises are going to hurt the working class most.

Many people's organizations are yet to discuss imperialist intervention in countries. A few of them, even, extend support to or prepare ground for imperialist support under the guise of defending/restoring bourgeois democracy.

The same with the concept of democracy - many working class organizations do not discuss the issue of democracy from a class point of view, which makes them easy prey of imperialism-designed propaganda carried out for the marketing of bourgeois democracy.

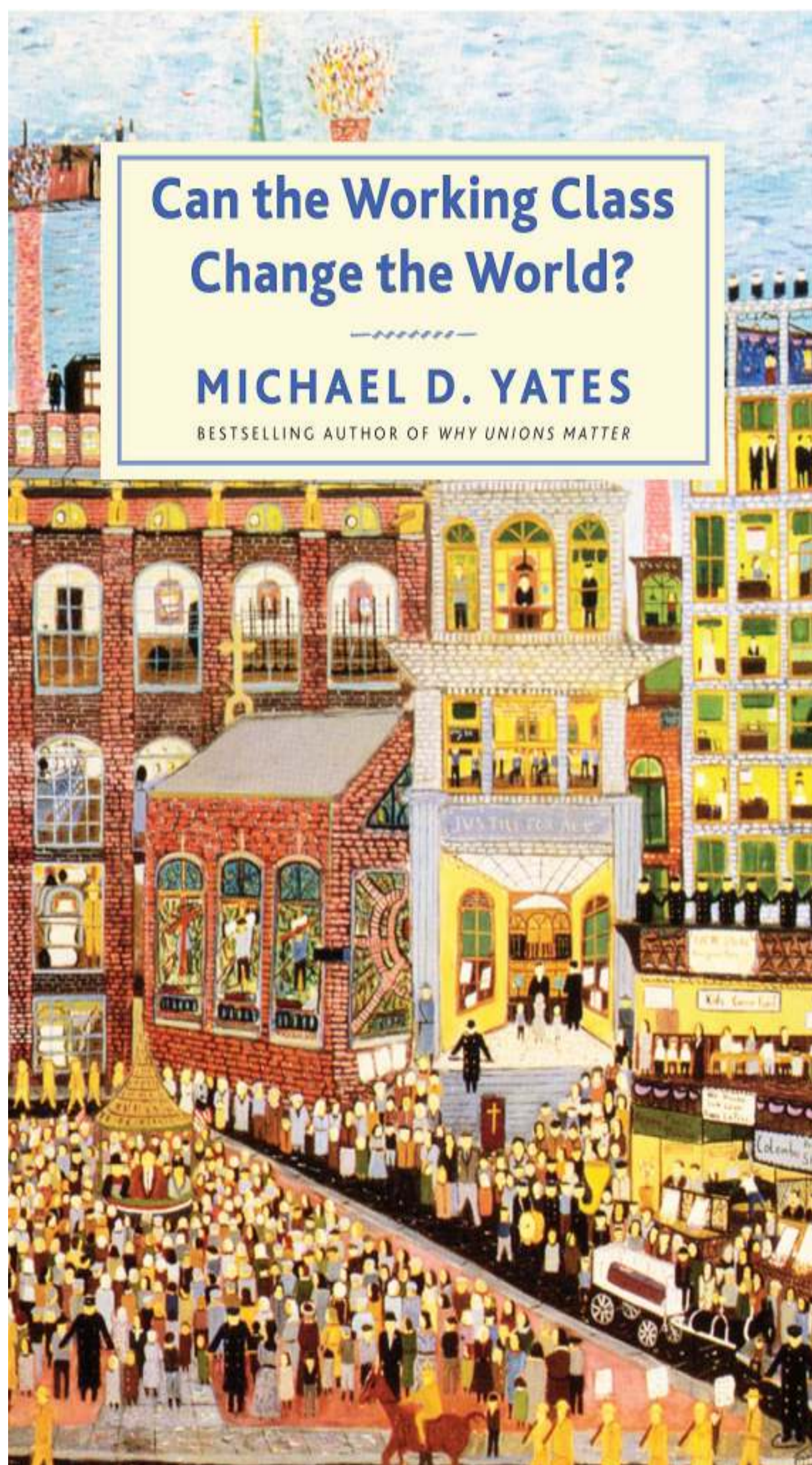
In this reality, a reality filled with confusing currents of bourgeois ideas, *Can the Working Class Change the World?* presents a worldview of the working class related to the task of changing the world.

Michael Yates, whose academic fields were labor economics and the relationship between capital and labor, deals issues concerning changing of the world by the working class in his 216-page book with six chapters. The chapters are: "The working class", "Some theoretical considerations", "Nothing to lose but their chains", "What hath the working class wrought?", "The power of capital is still intact", and "Can the working class radically change the world?".

Opinions

Robin D. G. Kelley, author, *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination* writes:

Michael Yates not only answers his question with a resounding "Yes," but in-



sists that the working class must change the world. Our very survival as a people and a planet depend on it. What makes this book invaluable, however, is [...] Yates's clear-eyed, global analysis of capitalism (historically and in its latest form), the social and environmental consequences of exploitation, the composition of a working class structured by other modalities of difference, class struggle, power, and a brilliant delineation of what exactly needs to change in order to radically remake the world. Insightful, inspiring, indispensable.

Paul Le Blanc, Professor of History, La Roche College; author, *A Short History of the U.S. Working Class* and *October Song: Bolshevik Tri-*

umph, *Communist Tragedy, 1917-1924* writes:

Readers of Michael Yates's classic *Why Unions Matter* might expect a down-to-earth discussion of the working class that most of us are part of - and this book doesn't disappoint. Revolutionary theory is used in a way that doesn't obscure our world's complex realities, but instead helps us make sense of them. *Can the Working Class Change the World?* matter-of-factly blends economics, sociology, and political science with an inspiring call to action. Those who want to understand our world and help change it for the better should read this book - and share it with friends.

Sam Gindin, former chief

economist, Canadian Auto Workers Union; Packer Visitor in Social Justice, Political Science Dept., York University, Toronto writes:

Michael Yates's passion and respect for the class he came out of delivers a book that is especially accessible without retreating from the complexities and internal contradictions of working class life and organization - a book committed not only to defending workers, but also to building on their potentials to transform society.

Working class study circles, it is hoped, will include the book in their study program as the book focuses on issues essential to the working class.

To be continued

UNIQUE

Traversing Africa on the 'most luxurious train journey' in the world

JOHANNESBURG

SIR Winston Churchill spent a short time in South Africa as a "klein koerant skrywer", or "a little bit of a newspaperman", reporting on the Anglo-Boer War. He later said: "My tastes are simple. I am satisfied with the very best." One imagines, then, that he would have loved "the most luxurious train journey in the world", Rovos Rail's Pride of Africa. As most do; even at well over \$1,000 a day, excluding flights.

The train travels opulently and exclusively between Cape Town in South Africa and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, covering 5,742 kilometres in 15 days and passing up the spine of Africa, through Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia. It takes in Pretoria, the Kimberley diamond mine, the highly rated Tau Game Lodge in the Madikwe Game Reserve on the Botswana border, Victoria Falls and its 1904 hotel, Lusaka, the Selous Game Reserve and the Great Rift Valley.

Like Churchill, fellow Englishman Michael Merten is addicted to luxury. He was one of 46 passengers recently on board. "I like to pose elegantly and dress for dinner. The train deserves it. I like being pampered," he says. "In the hands of Mr Vos, I can park my brain, such as it is, and relax. In Rovos, I am in heaven."

The romance of rail travel

Rohan Vos, who made his money through automotive parts, started Rovos Rail in 1989, buying up abandoned engines and carriages from scrapyards. The historic trains have all been lovingly done up, and the bygone glories and romance of rail travel have been reinstated. Many of the salubrious train's jungle-green and ivory coaches and cabins were restored in Witbank, where soldier-hack Churchill hid after escaping jail in Pretoria.

"The train is an institution," says Nicholas Schofield, Pride of Africa's resident historian, tour guide and lecturer. "And a great social leveller. Friendships are formed in the dining saloon, bar, lounges, wingback chairs and on the observation deck." In 25 years, Schofield has clocked up "450,000km of clackety-clack."

"I tell guests not to book me in Zambia. It's a bit wobbly. And switchbacks can play havoc with your fringe."

The train also has an on-board doctor and a hair stylist, Craig Geater. "I tell guests not to book me in Zambia. It's a bit wobbly. And switchbacks can play havoc with your fringe. And ears," he says. In addition, the Pride offers 24/7 laundry, maid service, air conditioning and en-suite showers. And its 12 square metre royal suites even boast expansive clawfoot bathtubs.

Tasmanian Christine Bell travels on her own, she tells me. "I've done The



A deluxe cabin on the Pride of Africa.

Ghan, Indian Pacific and Machu Picchu. The Beijing-Moscow Tsar's Gold Train was special. The Pride is up there. I loved the under-bridge walk at Victoria Falls. It's worth every buck of hard earned. It's an experience, or perhaps series of experiences - social, historical, geographical and culinary."

Setting off

After canapes and chamber music, Vos personally waves our 31 coaches off from Platform 23 of Cape Town's Mother City station. The collective age on board is upwards of 3,000, with 16 nationalities represented.

The guest list includes a South African nougat mogul, a honeymooning Japanese professor of accountancy and his new bride, an Argentinian doctor, a Swiss Air Ambulance nurse, a Titanic heiress and two Russian lawyers who are personal friends of the mayor of Moscow. As well as a British lord and lady now resident in Switzerland.

The quarter-of-a-mile long train stops at Pretoria for a tour of the city, where we all pose under a giant Nelson Mandela statue in front of government buildings. There is a quick tour of the Rovos workshops and a sit-down lunch on the platform.

Next stop is two nights and four

game drives at the malaria-free Tau Game Lodge & Spa. From the breakfast terrace, we watch an elephant bathing; the crocodiles, meanwhile, watch the human buffet breakfast. On our dawn and dusk drives, we learn that you can make a 28-egg omelette from one ostrich egg and that a group of zebras is called a dazzle.

On board, "the big five" are often sighted in the shape of dozing Swedes, snoring Austrians, cat-napping Italians, power-napping Americans and languid Brits.

Once we pass through the vineyards and Hex Valley, we reach the far horizons of the great Karoo desert, the "land of thirst". We get off at the former tuberculosis sanatorium town of Matjiesfontein, where we have an eight-minute tour in a 1968 London double-decker bus and the opportunity to admire the location of South Africa's first flushing toilet.

Whiling the day away

Everyone does their own thing on board - reading, snoozing or watching the track roll away. The landscape varies little. There's scrub then more scrub, so you begin to look forward to a bridge, or inselbergs, lone hills in the middle of flat nothing. You are supplied with goggles if you want to

stick your head out of the window. Children wave at the train all along the line. It is an occasion when the Pride of Africa passes.

The most dramatic topography is encountered on the last few days, when we join the scenic Chinese-built Tazara line. Between Makamba ("place of the bulls") and Mimba ("place of the elephants"), the train drops more than 1,000 metres through matted jungle. And suddenly, Tanzania's Udzungwa Mountains appear.

One night is spent at the famed Victoria Falls Hotel. Guests can go on a sunset Zambezi river cruise (in our case, in the pouring rain) and have the option of walking the length of the Falls, bungee-jumping off the bridge (111 metres in three seconds) or passing over in a helicopter.

"Elegant and inelegant conversation is encouraged"

We are served three meals a day featuring the very best South African food, presented by liveried waiters in the refurbished cherry-panelled, teakwood pillared Belle Époque-style restaurant, with cut crystal glasses, starched linen napery, solid silver cutlery and tassel-tied curtains. Menus include traditional South African bobotie; spiced beef mince oven-baked

with a layer of savoury egg custard served with peppadew; kiwi fruit and banana chutney; melktert - a sweet pastry crust with a dusting of cinnamon served with fruit coulis; and a small syrup-coated South African doughnut known as a koeksister. For the more experimental, there is also ostrich, crocodile tails and springbok. For dinner, tie and jackets are compulsory for gentlemen, tiaras and national costume optional for the ladies. The Japanese bride arrives one night in a kimono. She receives a standing ovation. As does the dessert.

Allan Richards runs a timber business in Eden, New South Wales, Australia, with his Kiwi wife, Jan. "We like train journeys because we can become part of the furniture. You meet a diverse mix of fellow passengers and staff and create some linkage. Usually humorously. Elegant and inelegant conversation is encouraged. There's no radio, TV or Wi-Fi. You make your own entertainment, seeing parts of Africa you'd never see in any other way in such comfort."

The Pride of Africa should be on everyone's bucket list. At least three passengers on board had been on it before. Luxury is addictive. And Churchill knew you shouldn't ever settle for anything less than the best.

PROGRESS

Thousands of small scale farmers benefit from AccessBank's 5bn/- loan bill

By Beatrice Philemon

AN estimated 6,000 small scale farmers have received loans of between 500,000/- and 1bn/- to invest in agriculture production and grow their businesses.

The loans which are charged between 3.9 and 6 percent are the cheapest in the market so far where average interest rates range between 10 and 16 percent.

AccessBank Tanzania Limited's Chief Business Officer, Prosper William said in Dar es Salaam last

week during an Eastern Africa Grain Council, (EAGC) organized meeting to discuss agribusiness development in the country that the loan size given was dependent on individual farmers' needs.

"But the loans were also given depending on the size of the business a farmer has and the ability to repay on time," William said while also unveiled that repayment is usually done during the harvest season annually.

He noted that the bank has since 2013 been working with the agri-



AccessBank Tanzania Limited's CEO, Armando Massimiliano speaks at a past event. File photo.

culture sector to help speed up growth and modernization as part of backing government efforts to commercialize the backbone of the economy.

"Most of the farmers that we have been working with mainly come from Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Shinyanga and Tabora regions," said the AccessBank CBO noting that the bank has since extended its services to more regions of the country.

In order to ensure that the loans are well utilized, the bank also

gives the farmers and agro-business dealers training on how best to invest the loans and grow their businesses.

"We want to see them grow with our bank which is what we have seen since 2013, many of the subsistence farmers have since become commercial," he bragged.

AccessBank currently has nine branches spread across the country in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Shinyanga, Iringa and Mbeya with four branches in the commercial capital.

RECALLED

Zambia bans energy drink SX 'spiked' with Viagra

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA banned an energy drink on Wednesday after it was shown to have been adulterated with the male sex booster Viagra, according to authorities in Ndola, the city of manufacture.

The prohibition followed a complaint from Zambia's medicine regulator in December suggesting that the Power Natural High Energy Drink SX had been spiked with Viagra. The manufacturer, Revin Zambia Ltd, could not immediately be reached for comment on the ban.

The drink is also exported to African countries such as Uganda, Malawi and Zimbabwe, the manufacturer said last year. The Uganda National Drug Authority said in a letter dated Dec. 28, 2018 that it made similar findings after a customer complained of constant sweating and a nearly six-hour erection.

Zambia had ordered the manufacturer to withdraw the drink after tests

showed it contained Sildenafil Citrate whose brand name is Viagra, a Ndola local authority statement said. Sildenafil is an active ingredient in oral therapy in erectile dysfunction in men and should only be available on prescription, the statement said.

"Results from both Zimbabwe and South Africa correlated with those obtained from the Foods and Drugs Laboratory that indicated a positive presence of Sildenafil Citrate," it said. Zambia has also suspended the production of the drink until remedial measures are put in place to ensure that it is not adulterated, the statement said.

In January, Malawi banned the drink following tests conducted at its drug quality control laboratory after safety concerns were raised in Zambia and Uganda.

Natural Power Energy Drink SX is very popular among Zambian men and is sold in 500 ml plastic cans, mostly in supermarkets and bars.



Men brandishing the controversial Natural Power Energy Drink SX.

NEW PRODUCT

New AI mobile handset hits domestic market running

By Francis Kajubi

A NEW mobile handset incorporating artificial intelligence ingredients has entered the market with favourable reception from consumers.

The Infinix ZERO 6 is being offered in the market jointly by InfinixMobility and Vodacom Tanzania Plc, has attracted many tech gadgets zealots who are charmed by its AI technology.

InfinixMobility's Public Relations Officer, Aisha Karupa said in Dar es Salaam during the week that the handset is being sold at Voda Shops throughout the country. "The good reception by the public may be driven by the fact that this phone has been built with an AI technology which seems to attract many buyers across the country," Karupa said.

Infinix is a global brand recognized by its latest technology which inspires the new generation and shapes the future with the modern innovation. She said the company understands the need for the fastest data access speed hence its decision to partner with Vodacom.

"Infinix believes in sustaining intelligent, bold

and stylish lifestyles for its consumers. The ZERO 6 has been designed for professional photography for the photo savvy generation. It's a fact that not everyone who desires professional pictures can afford to lug around heavy and bulky equipment," the PRO added.

Vodacom's Head of Brand and Communications, Nandi Mwiombella also urged customers to try out the new phone saying it's an affordable smartphone currently available in the market.

"It is our priority that customers are equipped with quality smartphones that give them access to the internet and information efficiently," Mwiombella said. She pointed out that the new phone has unlimited offer for data access and voice at affordable prices.

Launched in 2013 and targeting the young generations, Infinix Mobile is a premium online-driven smartphone manufacturer which aims to allow consumers have communications with the best technology in the market. Infinix Mobile has a presence in more than 30 countries around the world including Africa.

TECHNOLOGY

Sensors aid coverage of health and environmental issues in cities across Africa

By Irene Wangui

A PROJECT that uses low-cost air quality sensors to monitor air pollution in six major African cities is providing data that journalists are using for the first time to enhance coverage of related health and environmental concerns.

Launched in 2017 in response to a lack of data on air quality in African cities, sensors.

AFRICA uses locally assembled sensors to measure and record air pollutants. In turn, local news outlets have used the collected data to report on pollution levels, and community activists have used it to advocate for cleaner air.

sensors.AFRICA is a project of Code for Africa, the continent's largest data journalism and civic technology initiative, established in collaboration with the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ).

Code for Africa's team of technologists

have assembled and deployed the sensors in various locations, including Dar es Salaam, Durban, Johannesburg, Kampala and Nairobi.

In Durban and Johannesburg, Code for Africa partnered with Open Data Durban to deploy air quality sensors at local schools where students are trained on how to use and interpret the data to better inform and benefit their communities.

The team also conducts training for journalists and local communities on how to build their own sensors from kits provided by the project, and they maintain a public dashboard where citizens, journalists, researchers and regulators can freely access and download data from every sensor in the network.

In Nairobi, where the project began, 42 sensors deployed across the city and its outskirts are hosted by neighbourhood volunteers and community groups. A few are also set up at local media organisations and primary

schools, as well as at one university.

In Mukuru Kwa Reuben, an informal settlement east of Nairobi, two sensors are hosted at the community radio station, Ruben FM. According to the station manager, Thomas Odhiambo, residents have long been concerned about air quality in the area because of several industries that operate nearby.

"We've had several cases of respiratory diseases reported at the local health facility and have always suspected that they are brought about by inhaling toxic air," he said.

"Our radio team has taken an initiative of doing an investigative story on this using the data provided by Code for Africa, and also reaching out to the management of the said industries," he added.

The project has led to positive results. In Syokimau, a residential neighbourhood 20 kilometers from Nairobi's central business district, four sensors were deployed after home-

owners complained of thick plumes of smoke emanating from a nearby steel manufacturing plant.

According to Syokimau Residents Association officials, residents made multiple air pollution complaints to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) in 2016 and 2018, but with little success. Faced with this, they contacted the sensors.AFRICA team, and had sensors installed in early 2019 to help monitor the air quality.

When the sensors showed that pollution levels in the neighbourhood were consistently higher than daily average levels recommended by the World Health Organisation, the residents partnered with a popular local blogger to launch an intensive campaign to demand that the manufacturing plant reduce its pollution levels.

They also initiated a social media campaign under the hashtag #StopEndmorPollution to compel further action by NEMA.

"Residents have been incredibly proactive in using data from the sensors," said David Lemayian, an ICFJ Knight Fellow who serves as Code for Africa's chief technology officer. "They constantly monitor pollution levels from our air quality map, and when the sensors turn red to indicate high levels of particulate matter, they alert each other via a neighbourhood WhatsApp group," he explained.

"In such instances, some even take pictures and videos of the thick clouds of smoke coming from the steel plant,

keeping records of the date and time when the pollution levels are particularly high, to be used as evidence."

The Syokimau Residents Association was ultimately able to secure a meeting with NEMA after a blog that published data from the sensors caught the environmental authority's attention.

In mid-February, the plant announced in an interview with Kenya Television Network that it had installed an additional dry cyclone to clean its emissions and that the plant was operating in accordance with regulations.

"It's encouraging to see citizens in Syokimau and elsewhere using data from the sensors.AFRICA's air quality network, to advocate a healthier environment," said Code for Africa technologist and sensors.AFRICA lead Chege James.

The sensors.AFRICA team hopes to scale the project this year by deploying more air quality sensors in major cities and towns across Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Nigeria, thanks in part to a grant awarded by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.

A report published courtesy of IJNet (International Journalists' Network). Irene Wangui is an Africa programme consultant at the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists, which runs IJNet as a project.

RECOVERY

Richest women in Kenya and their net worth

NAIROBI

RICHEST women in Kenya: Although men are comparatively richer than women in Kenya, there are few women who are extremely rich.

Looking at the list, there are women whose net worth is in excess of Ksh 50 billion. Their wealth was either inherited or acquired through setting up business ventures.

Mama Ngina Kenyatta

Ngina Kenyatta, popularly known as "Mama Ngina", is former First Lady of Kenya. She is the widow of the country's first president, Jomo Kenyatta, and also the mother of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Her Source of wealth include imports and exports, banking, real estates. She holds a vast collection of prime real estate her husband acquired in the 1960s and the 1970s during a British colonial government and world-bank sponsored settlement transfer scheme, which allowed government officials and rich Kenyans to acquire land from British colonialists at cheap prices.

Mama Ngina Kenyatta and her family owns stakes in Kenya's largest dairy company Brookside Dairies, media company Mediamax, Heritage Hotels, Commercial Bank of Africa and hun-



Tabitha Karanja is the founder and CEO of Keroche Industries Ltd.

dreds of thousands of prime Kenyan land. (Forbes)

Tabitha Karanja

The award winning entrepreneur took a whopping Sh 1 billion from their hardware in Naivasha and pumped it into her wines and spirits business.

When she started the company in 1997, the liquor industry was heavily

dominated by East African Breweries Limited. It took her 5 good years to penetrate the industry.

Today, the business is an empire, making annual profits in the tune of billions. She was crowned as the Business Woman of the Year at the CNBC Africa All Africa Business Leaders Awards (AABLA) in 2014.

Margaret Saitoti

Former Security Minister George Saitoti lived until 2012 when he was killed on a tragic plane crash in Ngong.

Until his death, Saitoti was among the richest men in Kenya and by extension East and Central Africa. Saitoti's death meant that all his assets were to be transferred to his wife, Margaret Saitoti and his adopted child Zachary Saitoti.

In 2012, the Mathematics Professor and the longest serving vice president in the history of Kenya, was estimated to be worth a good amount of money.

Josephine Michuki

Josephine Watiri Michuki was the wife of former powerful minister, John Michuki. Although she passed away shortly after the death of her husband, Mrs. Michuki had become one of the wealthiest women in Kenya. Sources indicate that the elderly lady had inherited a considerable wealth.



Air quality sensor installed in Nairobi, Kenya.

ANXIETY

Residents of Mozambique's capital tortured by silence of loved ones

MAPUTO

WORKERS at Maputo's bustling central market began Thursday like any other day, preparing their stalls and joining in a communal opening howl across the covered concourse.

The Mercado Central, like the rest of Mozambique's capital, is operating as normal but times are troubling for many of its stallholders and customers. A second day of mourning was under way in Mozambique on Thursday after Cyclone Idai crashed into the country's central provinces last week.

In the capital, a post-colonial Indian Ocean city far from the worst-affected areas, residents fear for the well-being of distant family and friends. More than 1,000 kilometres north in the central coastal city of Beira, thousands have been marooned, made homeless or killed by the tropical storm - the deadliest for two decades.

For many of Maputo's residents, grief is being compounded by a torturous radio silence from loved ones and uncertainty over their fates after more than 242 were confirmed dead in a toll that is certain to rise.

Emily Dmande, 46, a stallholder who sells cashews and tropical fruit, agonises over her missing uncle and his four children. "I have not spoken to him because the phone is not working," Ms Dmande says. "Maybe the phone has gone into the water. I'm very, very worried. People there are dying."

Most of Beira's 500,000 residents have no communications after the Category 2 storm tore a path of ruin through the port city, destroying or damaging telephone lines, 90 per cent of its infra-

structure, 15,000 houses, 30 hospitals and 616 classrooms.

"I don't have contact with him now," Ms Dmande says. "Maybe he has died there. I don't know." Salomao Junior, 51, has been selling eggs, potatoes and onions at his stall to Maputo's shoppers since 1985. The Christian considers a pastor he knows who is trapped in Beira as family, and expresses his fears for him and his congregation of 275 worshippers.

"There's no way to ring for them because there is no power," Mr Junior says. "We are watching the television every day. People under the house, people under the trees. These are things that make us cry because we are fearing for their lives."

The cyclone also left a path of destruction across neighbouring Zimbabwe and Malawi, and across the region the hurricane-force winds and rain have killed more than 350 people, it was estimated on Thursday.

About 15,000 people remain stranded in Mozambique and another 65,000 are languishing in emergency centres after being rescued. The scale of the cyclone is only gradually becoming clear. World Food Programme spokesman Herve Verhoosel said on Thursday that about 600,000 people were affected by Idai, and he estimated that 1.7 million would eventually need assistance.

In Buzi, a coastal district of about 200,000 south of Beira, the principal town is still submerged, with evacuations continuing, says Guiomar Pau Sole, spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Ten thousand people remain there, Mr Sole told The National, despite a



A stall worker selling fruit, vegetables and nuts at Mercado Central in Maputo, Mozambique, March 21, 2019.

slight decrease in flood levels. But as rain subsides, tales of lost relatives emerge. Estefania King, 34, an embassy worker in Maputo, has been luckier than others.

She had not heard from her two sisters and seven nieces and nephews in Beira for five days after the cyclone struck because of the lack of power. One family member sent images of their home on Thursday, showing destroyed roofs and a flooded courtyard.

"Before the communication was open it was a sense of desperation, not hearing from them," Ms King says. "But now that they have managed to contact, I am mostly sad that I cannot do much to

help."

With the help of 120 specialists and helicopters, planes and ships, the government has rescued about 40,000 people from immediate danger, says Paulo Tomas, spokesman for Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster Management.

The international community is now racing against the clock to deliver aid and prevent further disease and death. Rescue workers continue to pull survivors from rooftops, trees and stadiums above the clay-brown water that has engulfed Beira.

Britain and the EU have already re-

leased funds, while the US military is standing ready to help the rescue effort, the US Agency for International Development says. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, UAE Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, on Wednesday offered his private B747 plane to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The UAE has already sent a 97-tonne shipment of aid and the Emirati Red Crescent has pledged \$4.9 million (Dh18m) in relief funds for Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Rescue services have struggled for days to deliver aid to those in most desperate need, thwarted by an inland sea of flooding.

Nelson Sengo, 34, a money transfer agent, says residents of the capital have responded to the government's call for solidarity by donating food such as rice, sugar and oil to agencies, which take them to Beira by sea or air.

But Mr Sengo, a father of three, wants to do more for his disaster-struck compatriots. He just has to know how. "Me and my wife have decided to do something but I don't know where I can go," he says. "I went to search. Where can I go to do something?"

Mr Junior also wants to assist, but has little idea how, apart from offering his eggs, onions and potatoes. The people of Maputo, he said, want to help their fellow country men and women who live so far away because they are "not in a very good condition" and, even if they survive, they will have to live without their homes, farmland, or livestock. "They have to start from the first things. It's not easy," he said.

The reality is that there is little that Maputo residents can do above offer food supplies. Mozambique's small \$13 billion economy requires the assistance of international donors, stretching from the Gulf to the Atlantic.

Humanitarian workers from across the world are now flying into Beira airport, which has reopened, and what the country needs now is money for mosquito nets, tents and water purification equipment to stave off the threat of malaria and cholera, according to Mr Tomas.

For Mr Junior, he just hopes, like Ms Dmande, that he will receive the call that he has been waiting on for days. "I am praying," he said, "every day, all hours, I think about them."

TOURISM

Hidden gems: Discovering five of Asia's lesser-known attractions

TOKYO

A HUGELY popular tourist destination, Asia boasts several of the world's most-visited cities, including Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo. Yet this continent still holds many secrets. From a Thai city frozen in time to a Filipino volcano you can climb on horseback and a 1,000-year-old Chinese village where traditional customs still rule, here are some of Asia's lesser-known treasures.

Kurashiki, Japan

So futuristic are the skyscraper-strewn cities of Japan that it can be hard to picture what this country looked like before technology took root. That is why the historic canal town of Bikan is so valuable. Dating back about 400 years to Japan's Edo period, Bikan is the definition of quaint.

Lining the canal that pierces the heart of this town are dozens of beautifully preserved historic structures. These range from traditional Japanese Edo-period storehouses, with their whitewashed walls, black-tiled roofs and ornate eaves, to European-style mansions from the late 1800s, when Japan opened itself up to outside influences.

I could not have chosen a better time to visit Bikan, which is located about 200 kilometres west of Osaka. This town is attractive throughout the year, but in November, an autumnal bloom decorates it with a palette of bright colours, from green through to gold, orange and pink. It is as picturesque as any town I've visited in Asia.

Then, from around the corner of the canal, a row boat emerges piloted by a Japanese man wearing a Kimono gown and a conical hat. The postcard image is immediately complete.

Taal Volcano, Philippines

Smoke is rising out of the ground next to me and a powerful smell of sulfur hangs in the air. It has taken me half an hour to hike up to this lofty location and, now that I'm here, I'm feeling a bit anxious. That's because I'm standing on the rim of one of the most deadly active volcanoes in Asia. Granted, Taal Volcano has not erupted since 1977. But it has erupted more than 30 times in recorded history, killing at least 5,000 people.

In recent years, the volcano has become an increasingly popular destination among Filipinos, particularly residents of Manila, which is 65km north of here. Its appeal is twofold. The adventure of scaling an active volcano was a common lure for the Filipinos I talked to during my visit. The overwhelming beauty of this place, meanwhile, spoke for itself.

Taal Volcano is located on an island within a lake, which is itself inside an island, all of which is part of a gigantic volcanic crater called the Taal Caldera. It is a rugged and spectacular spot to visit.

Once I reached the rim of the volcano, I stood or sat for almost two hours at different vantage points, absorbing the views down into the lake that occupies the crater, and beyond that to the rest of the caldera.

To reach this viewpoint, tourists need to take a 15-minute outrigger boat ride from the town of Tagaytay across to the volcano island, and then hire a horse or walk up the volcano, which is 311 metres high.

Yangmei, China

I feel like a celebrity. Never before have I left such a strong impression on so many people. Judging by the shocked reaction every time someone lays eyes on me, it's clear they don't get many foreign tourists in the tiny old town of Yangmei. Tucked away in the deep south of China, in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, this beautiful historic settlement is a long way off the well-trodden tourist trail. The closest city that attracts a significant number of visitors is Guangzhou, about 600km to the east.

After a 90-minute ride on a local bus from Nanning, the capital city of Guangxi, I arrive in what feels like the setting for a Chinese period drama. Stone bridges arch over lily-decorated ponds. Incense smoke wafts out of Ming Dynasty temples. Weathered shophouses sell spices, tea leaves, and herbal medicine. A cobblestone town square hosts an assortment of characters who would not look out of place in a bygone era.

Pausing her match of Mahjong, the traditional Chinese board game, an elderly woman peers at me from beneath the rim of her straw hat. Then she averts her gaze to greet a man carrying two wicker baskets of vegetables, one strung up on either end of a piece of timber balanced across his shoulders.

Yangmei is more than 1,000 years old. Of this fact, visitors are never in doubt. The appearance of this town and the simple lifestyles it fosters seem not to have changed in a very long time. That makes it a rare spot in a country that is modernising at a dizzying pace. If you've ever wondered what ancient China looked like, just hop on the bus to Yangmei.

Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand

The country's capital, Bangkok, was the most visited city on the planet last year. Yet it was 400km north of Bangkok that the Kingdom of Thailand was actually born in the 1200s, in the city of Sukhothai, which is widely considered to be the country's first capital. Very few tourists visit Sukhothai, overlooking it in favour of cities such as Phuket and Chiang Mai. Fewer people still travel to Kamphaeng Phet, once a key military outpost that protected Sukhothai and now a sleepy town with a wealth of ancient ruins.

Strewn through forest on the edge of this town are the remains of dozens of historic stone structures from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, including military towers, majestic stupas, sprawling monasteries, magnificent Buddhist temples and commanding royal residences.

Some exist now only as a scattering of stones, their glory all but erased by time. Others remain in reasonable condition, offering imaginative visitors an architectural framework within which to conjure mental images of a once grand community.

A crucial line of defence, protecting Sukhothai and the Kingdom's trading routes, Kamphaeng Phet in its pomp was also home to several gorgeous temples.

Among the finest are Wat Singh, Wat Chang Rob, Wat Phra Si Ariyabot and Wat Phra Kao. The latter temple, a huge 16th-century complex, hosted elaborate royal festivities in its heyday.

Kumortuli, India

An unfinished statue of Hindu deity Ganesha has ended my search. For the past 20 minutes I've been wandering through backstreets in Kolkata's northern suburbs looking for a small neighbourhood in which gods are created.

There are no English signs pointing to Kumortuli and I've been given several sets of vague directions from friendly but ultimately unhelpful locals. Now this clay-caked figure of Ganesha has confirmed my arrival in this relatively unknown but fascinating corner of the city.

For more than 200 years, Kumortuli has been Kolkata's hub for the creation of Hindu idols. While many products that were once made by hand in India are now mass-produced in factories, these statues continue to be crafted by the more than 200 artisans of Kumortuli.

The statues are used as focal points of worship in temples, homes and also during Hindu festivals in Kolkata



The historic canal town of Bikan in Japan.

known as "pujas."

Called "kumor", which means potter in the local Bengali language, these highly skilled men make their living by building the often huge and colourful idols from scratch.

Some can measure up to three metres in height, with the largest and most intricate versions selling for as much as Dh2,000.

Fiercely proud of their ancient craft, the kumors are

friendly to visitors. As I walk through this neighbourhood, I am constantly invited into their workshops.

They explain that the most popular idols are of Hindu warrior goddess Durga and of the goddess of learning and arts, Saraswati. Up to five craftsmen are involved in creating each statue.

First they construct a bamboo frame of the deity and cover it in straw.

Then they carefully mould clay to this frame and leave it to dry. Finally, they paint it with a wide range of colours, attach its hair and clothe it. Just like that, a god is born.



ISIDÍNGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM **ITV**

SATURDAY 23 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:00 Jungu kuu rpt
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 12:00 Shamba Shape up
- 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki
- 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
- 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
- 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Riziki
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Sherehe za tuzo za I can
- 00:00 Isidíngo rpt
- 02:15 CNN International

SUNDAY 24 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidíngo
- 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
- 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Hard price 2
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Mjue zaidi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:00 Bongo Movie: Illegal sister
- 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

MONDAY 25 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo

- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Igizo: Hatua
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Kimya Milele
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Huduma ya kwanza
- 18:30 Kesho Leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 26 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:15 Igizo: Mtego
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TFDA
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Huduma ya kwanza
- 14:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu

- 18:15 Korean drama rpt: The Great Queen Seonduk
- 19:00 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Kipindi maalum
- 22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 27 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Shamba shape up
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Korean: The Great Queen Seonduk
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Dakika 45
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino):
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Ijue Sheria
- 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
- 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 21:40 Documentary
- 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu mzuka
- 22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 28 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa

- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Igizo: Elininyo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Igizo: Elininyo
- 11:15 Usafiri wako
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii rpt
- 13:30 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Igizo: Riziki
- 9:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidíngo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 29 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidíngo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:20 Usafiri wako
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 13:45 Kipindi Maalum: Kesho leo rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kesho leo rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 18:30 Shamba shape up
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidíngo

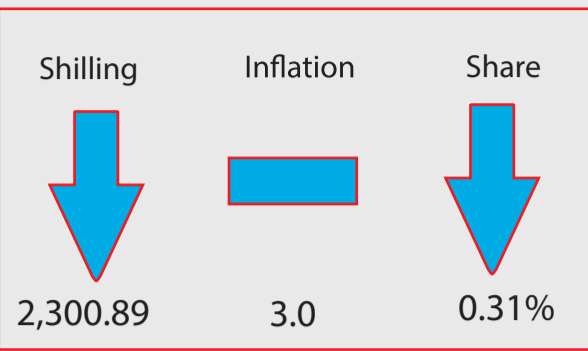
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

SATURDAY 30 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:00 Jungu kuu rpt
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 12:00 Shamba Shape up
- 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
- 14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki
- 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
- 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
- 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Riziki
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
- 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:30 Isidíngo rpt
- 01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 31 March

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidíngo
- 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
- 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Illegal sisters
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Mjue zaidi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:00 Bongo Movie: Illegal sisters 2
- 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)



Total Market Capitalization

TZS 19,911.50 bln (USD 8,735.36 mln)

Indices March 20, 2019

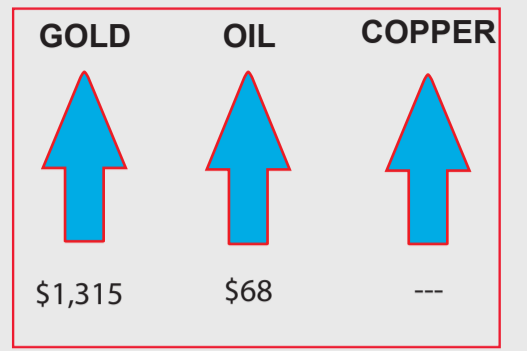
TSI	3,481.50	-0.13
DSEI	2,065.75	+4.99

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Maize	52200.00	Finger Millet	141100.00
Rice	184166.67	Wheat	128666.67
Sorghum	78761.90	Beans	175208.33
Bulrush Millet	80333.33	Round potatoes	73583.33

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,591.28	2,617.65
USD	2,268.07	2,290.76
KES	22.38	22.56
GBP	2,947.82	2,977.52



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: Mar 20, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	6,000.00	6,100.00	-1.64
CRDB	125	125.00	0
DCB	340	340	0
DSE	1,300	1,300	0
EABL	4,660.00	4,540.00	2.64
JHL	9,250.00	9,300.00	-0.54
KA	115.00	115.00	0
KCB	1,020.00	1,020.00	0
MBP	490.00	490.00	0
MCB	500.00	500.00	0
MKCB	800.00	800.00	0
MUCOB	400.00	400.00	0
NICO	165.00	170.00	-2.94
NMB	2,340.00	2,340.00	0
NMG	1,400.00	1,400.00	0
PAL	400.00	400.00	0
SWALA	490.00	490.00	0
SWIS	2,000.00	2,000.00	0
TBL	11,400.00	11,400.00	0
TCC	17,000	17,000.00	0
TCCL	600.00	600.00	0
TICL	385	385.00	0
TOL	660.00	660.00	0
TPCC	2,020.00	2,020.00	0
TTP	120.00	120.00	0
USL	10.00	15.00	-33.33
VODA	800.00	800.00	0
YETU	600.00	600.00	0

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI	3,481.50	-0.13
DSEI	2,065.75	+4.99

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	19,911.50
Equity Turnover	84,632,700.00
Total Volume	625,309
Total Deals	19

TOP MOVERS

CRDB	125	604,800
NICO	165	15,000
DSE	1,300	3,760

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
ACA	6,000	-1.64%
JHL	9,250	-0.54%
NICO	165	-2.94%
USL	10	-33.33%
EABL	4,660	+2.64%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
20/Mar/2019	3.50	2,316.00	2,298.75	2,300.89
19/Mar/2019	4.00	2,315.00	2,298.80	2,300.87
18/Mar/2019	3.67	2,315.00	2,298.90	2,300.34
15/Mar/2019	4.50	2,310.00	2,298.90	2,300.09
14/Mar/2019	4.30	2,310.00	2,298.92	2,300.09
13/Mar/2019	4.60	2,312.65	2,298.94	2,300.14
12/Mar/2019	3.15	2,315.00	2,298.93	2,300.16

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
20/Mar/2019	66,450	6.50	5.00	5.68
19/Mar/2019	15,650	6.50	4.00	5.70
19/Mar/2019	15,650	6.50	4.00	5.70
15/Mar/2019	41,250	6.50	4.50	5.49
14/Mar/2019	31,700	6.50	5.20	5.41

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDTZS decreased 4.0000 or 0.17% to 2,336.0000 on Thursday March 21 from 2,340.0000 in the previous trading session. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 2360 in March of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Gold hits 3-week high as Fed stalls 2019 rate hikes

- * Gold on track for fifth session of gains
- * Palladium hit all-time high of \$1,620.53/oz
- * Platinum jumps to a three-week high

LONDON, March 21 (Reuters) - Gold prices rose to a three-week high on Thursday, after the U.S. Federal Reserve abandoned plans to raise interest rates for the year, while a cut in its U.S. growth forecast exacerbated worries of a global economic slowdown.

Palladium rose to a fresh record high of \$1,620.53 an ounce on sustained supply deficit amid increased demand for the auto-catalyst metal.

Spot gold gained 0.2 percent to \$1,314.87 per ounce as of 1112 GMT, having earlier touched a peak since Feb. 28 at \$1,320.22. U.S. gold futures rose 1 percent to \$1,314.60.

In addition to bringing its three-year drive to tighten monetary policy to an abrupt end, the Fed also downgraded the U.S. growth, unemployment and inflation forecasts, fuelling concerns about an economic slowdown.

"Markets had been expecting the Fed to be dovish but not to this extent," said Hussein Sayed, chief market strategist at FXTM.

"We also had economic projections being downgraded, which also contributed to more gold buying. We expect gold will be above \$1,400 an ounce by the year end."

The dollar index fell sharply, while the benchmark 10-year yield fell to a 14-month low after Fed's decision on Wednesday.

Lower U.S. interest rates tend to pressure the dollar and bond yields, making greenback-denominated gold less expensive for holders of other currencies and increasing

the appeal of non-yielding assets such as bullion.

Gold prices have gained over 13 percent since touching more than 1-1/2 year lows in August last year, mainly driven by a dovish Fed, global growth concerns and geopolitical worries.

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday appealed to lawmakers to support her after the European Union said it could only grant her request to delay Brexit for three months if parliament next week backed her plans for leaving.

Among other precious metals, spot palladium rose 0.1 percent to \$1,604.30 per ounce, after touching an all-time high of \$1,620.53 earlier in the session.

"Concerns related to supply risks have ratcheted up a little bit more and that is giving a lift to (palladium) prices," said Cameron Alexander, an analyst with Refinitiv-owned metals consultancy GFMS.

The risk of a ban on exports of precious metals scrap and tailings from major producer Russia added to concerns in an already tight market and pushed prices to record levels, analysts said.

The potential ban also helped platinum hit its highest level since March 1 at \$871.66 per ounce. The metal was on track for a fifth straight session of gains, rising 0.7 percent to \$865.10.

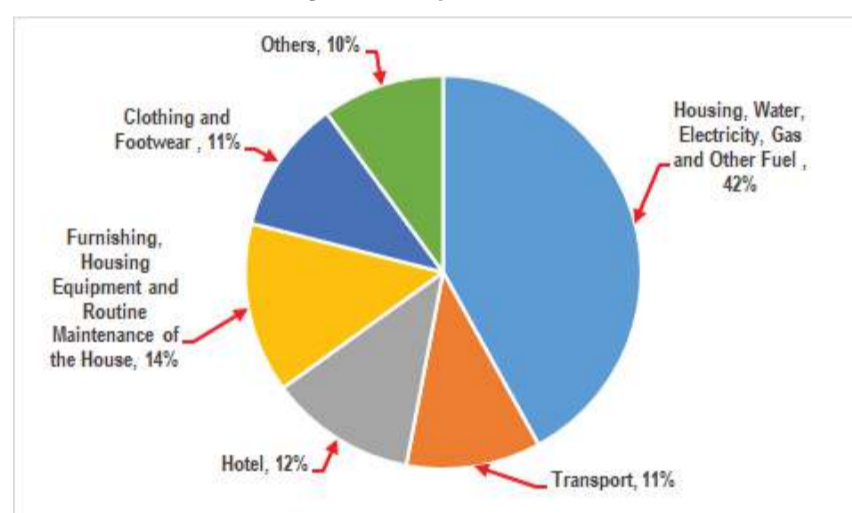
Silver, meanwhile, gained about 0.7 percent to \$15.56 an ounce.

All Share Index :19 March 2019

Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	30,924	117	-0.38%	-1.39%	-5.05%	-25.72%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	49,828	647.55	-1.28%	0.49%	1.26%	-1.37%
JALSH-All Share	56,146	704.00	-1.24%	0.57%	1.19%	-1.89%
Egypt EGX 30	14,724	78.87	0.54%	-2.65%	-2.79%	-13.71%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,155	42.40	0.38%	0.36%	-2.00%	-14.33%
NSE All Share	160	1.33	0.84%	3.76%	3.44%	-15.85%
Nairobi 20	2,872	20.49	-0.71%	-0.14%	-4.43%	-25.64%
DSEI	2,066	4.99	0.24%	-0.59%	-4.94%	-12.10%
TUN	6,788	43.06	-0.63%	-2.73%	-5.22%	-3.06%
GSSECI	2,401	19.50	-0.81%	-0.71%	-1.09%	-26.72%
Gaborone	7,878	0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.06%	-8.87%
NSX Overall	1,313	14.67	-1.10%	-0.66%	-3.08%	-6.65%
SEMDEX	2,183	4.42	-0.20%	-0.35%	-1.16%	-4.96%
Zimbabwe Industrial Index424	8.93	-2.06%	-4.38%	-16.99%	46.17%	

DSEI decreased 21 points or 1.00% to 2061 on Tuesday March 19 from 2082 in the previous trading session. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.

Inflation 3.0% - February 2019: Top Movers



Fluctuation of a Shilling



Oil slips but holds near 2019 peak as supplies tighten

SINGAPORE 21 (Reuters) - Oil edged lower on Thursday but held near 2019 highs, supported by a sharp tightening of global stocks, OPEC production cuts and U.S. sanctions on key producers Iran and Venezuela.

International Brent crude oil futures were down 30 cents at \$68.30 a barrel by 1102 GMT, having hit their highest since Nov. 13 at \$68.69 earlier in the session.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$59.95 per barrel, down 28 cents. WTI reached its highest since Nov. 12 earlier in the day, at \$60.33 per barrel.

Crude prices have been pushed up by almost a third since the start of 2019 by supply cuts led by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, as well as sanctions against Iran and Venezuela by the United States.

The drop in production has led to a tightening in global inventories. Vienna-based consultancy IBC Energy estimated stocks had run down by a "solid" 40 million barrels since mid-January.

That followed a 10-million-barrel fall in U.S. crude stocks last week, the largest drop since July, due to strong export and refining demand, according to the U.S. government's Energy Information Administration.

The rapid decline in inventories comes despite many refineries undergoing seasonal maintenance work ahead of peak summer demand.

However, global trade tensions remain a worry.

"Why are oil prices not rallying through the roof? We suspect

the sword of Damocles hanging over the market is currently called U.S.-Chinese trade talks," Tamas Varga, analyst at brokerage PVM, said in a note.

"Cautious bulls will become unreservedly bullish if or when an agreement is struck."

TIGHTER STOCKS

OPEC's crude output fell from a mid-2018 peak of 32.8 million barrels per day (bpd) to 30.7 million bpd in February. (GRAPHIC: OPEC oil production png link: tmsrnt.rs2FIS2y3).

U.S. sanctions are disrupting supply.

"Venezuelan exports to the U.S. have finally dried up, after the sanctions were placed on them by the U.S. administration earlier this year," ANZ bank said.

Iranian oil shipments have slumped. The United States aims to cut Iran's crude exports by about 20 percent to below 1 million bpd from May by requiring importing countries to reduce purchases to avoid U.S. sanctions.

The OPEC cuts and sanctions have also tightened supply within the United States.

Part of the drawdown in U.S. inventories was due to surging exports, which stood at a four-week average of 3 million bpd, double the amount this time a year ago, the EIA said.

U.S. crude oil production returned to its record of 12.1 million bpd last week, making America the world's biggest producer ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 6th Mar 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,098	2,131	2,096
Arusha	2,191	2,195	2,286
Pwani	2,102	2,135	2,101
Dodoma	2,157	2,189	2,155
Geita	2,263	2,296	2,262
Iringa	2,162	2,195	2,161
Kagera (Bukoba)	2,313	2,346	2,312
Katavi (Mpanda)	2,306	2,339	2,304
Kigoma	2,329	2,362	2,328
Moshi	2,181	2,185	2,276
Lindi	2,141	2,236	2,155
Manyara	2,225	2,229	2,320
Mara	2,276	2,309	2,275
Mbeya	2,205	2,238	2,204
Morogoro	2,123	2,156	2,121
Mtwara	2,127	2,222	2,169
Mwanza	2,248	2,281	2,247
Njombe	2,190	2,223	2,189
Rukwa (S'wanga)	2,271	2,304	2,269
Ruvuma (Songea)	2,213	2,308	2,220
Shinyanga	2,227	2,260	2,225
Singida	2,188	2,221	2,187
Songwe (Vwawa)	2,214	2,247	2,213
Tabora	2,252	2,285	2,251

Foreign Exchange- Mar 21

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.13908	0.00202	-0.18%
GBPUSD	1.31394	0.00566	-0.43%
AUDUSD	0.71272	0.00122	0.17%
NZDUSD	0.68968	0.00148	0.22%
USDJPY	110.52	0.17	-0.15%
USDCNY	6.92823	0.00683	0.10%
USDCHF	0.99293	0.00043	0.04%
USDCAD	1.33426	0.00386	0.29%
USDMXN	18.818	0.0102	-0.05%
USDINR	68.554	0.225	-0.33%
USDBRL	3.775	0.0006	-0.02%
USDRUB	63.666	0.148	-0.23%
US Dollar	96.19	0.43	0.45%
BTCUSD	4,033.43	2	0.05%

Exchange Rates for 21 / March /2019

Currency in 100 Units	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
EAST AFRICAN CURRENCIES		
Kenya SHS	2,256.67	2,274.73
Uganda SHS	57.83	61.97
Rwandan Franc	252.52	255.36
Burundi Franc	218.12	219.76
OTHER SELECTED CURRENCIES		
USD	227,810.89	230,089.00
Pound STG	299,708.01	302,797.12
EURO	258,679.27	261,312.08
Canadian \$	170,977.85	172,635.80
Switz. Franc	228,153.12	230,365.44
Japanese YEN	2,043.70	2,063.95
Swedish Kronor	24,806.81	25,043.97
Norweg. Kronor	26,700.45	26,951.66
Danish Kronor	34,671.25	35,012.63
Australian \$	161,631.83	163,340.18
Indian RPS	3,311.25	3,343.30
Pakistan RPS	1,553.96	1,631.84
Zambian Kwacha	18,810.07	19,110.38
Malawian Kwacha	291.65	310.84
Mozambique-MET	3,621.79	3,652.21
Zimbabwe \$	42.63	43.49
SDR	317,598.00	320,773.98
Gold (T/O)	297,996,670.12	301,034,159.07
S. African Rand	15,798.26	15,934.14
UAE Dirham	62,026.49	62,634.82
Singapore \$	168,711.32	170,335.36
Hong Kong \$	29,021.60	29,310.33
Saud Arabian Rial	60,746.33	61,350.52
Kuwait Dinar	750,488.85	757,719.16
Botswana Pula	21,186.41	21,582.35
Chinese Yuan	34,031.09	34,364.21
Malaysia Ringgit	56,042.04	56,546.82
South Korea Won	201.95	203.61
Newzealand	156,096.02	157,749.02

World Commodities (\$) 19 March 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly
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WORLD

EU sets May 22 as new Brexit day if British MPs approve withdrawal deal

BRUSSELS

THE European Union's (EU) 27 members unanimously agreed to offer a Brexit extension until May 22 if Britain's House of Commons approves the withdrawal agreement next week, President of the European Council Donald Tusk said on Twitter on Thursday.

If the withdrawal agreement that Britain reached with the EU is not approved next week, then the extension will go to April 12, said Tusk.

The EU 27 members (EU27) also ap-

proved the Strasbourg Agreement on Thursday and will continue no-deal preparations, said Tusk. The EU and Britain last week reached an agreement in Strasbourg, France, on legal assurances about the functioning of the backstop.

"April 12 is date for UK to decide to participate in the European election. If it hasn't done so by then, long extension is impossible," said Tusk during a following press conference.

Tusk said that the conditional extension could be approved by "written procedure" at the end of next week, so it

Washington likely culprit behind Kosovo independence ultimatum, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE United States is bound to have encouraged Kosovo to issue an ultimatum-like demand, at the beginning of March, to recognize its independence, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with NTV channel for a documentary entitled Primakov's Loop.

"A few days ago, in early March, Pristina published its negotiation platform, which is nothing more than an ultimatum and says that Kosovo's independence must be recognized without any conditions, and the Serbs do not and cannot have the right to influence this decision.

Washington "swallowed" it," Lavrov (pictured) pointed out. "I even believe that Washington encouraged Pristina to take this reckless step."

According to the Russian diplomatic chief, European countries haven't voiced their opinions on this demand so far, however, they are unlikely to have any effect on Kosovo. Lavrov stressed that Pristina blatantly ignores the EU's efforts to mend relations between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo.

On March 7, the parliament of Kosovo passed a bill laying the foundation for the negotiating platform with Belgrade to resolve the Kosovo conflict.

The bill stipulates that the Kosovo authorities reject any exchange of territories with Serbia, and that Belgrade must unconditionally recognize Kosovo's independence, in addition it proposes establishing a tribunal to deal with alleged Serbian crimes against Albanians.

Kosovo independence

Russia's top diplomat recalled that back in



2008 Western countries unilaterally recognized Kosovo's independence to justify NATO aggression against Yugoslavia, although there were no objective reasons to suspend the talks between Belgrade and Pristina under the UN auspices.

"Nobody was attacking anyone. However, the West's statements that they were forced to unilaterally recognize Kosovo as an independent state because Serbs were threatening Albanians in Kosovo were absolutely farfetched and unfounded.

The course to undermine international law continued in 2011, when NATO members unleashed aggression against Libya brutally distorting UN resolutions," he added. "In this case, the country was left in ruins just like Iraq, but it is still impossible to "reassemble" it, there are too many problems here."

Lavrov pointed out that the actions that had been taken by the Western coalition fostered and prompted terrorism, global crime, drug trafficking and illegal migration.

"This policy to pursue these escapades that started back then is still alive today. It is clear that international law is being further and further substituted with rules, cooked up exclusively for the US and their allies," the top diplomat concluded.

Agencies



British Prime Minister Theresa May

would not require a reconvening of the summit.

Asked about the duration of a "long extension", Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission co-chairing the conference with Tusk, told reporters that a "long extension would mean until the very end."

British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Brussels Thursday afternoon to officially ask an extension for Brexit, which was due on March 29.

After a longer-than expected word trading with May,

leaders of the EU 27 members stuck in a marathon discussion on whether or not to grant the extension as Britain required.

In an official conclusion published after the conference, the European Council reiterates that any unilateral commitment, statement or other act should be compatible with the spirit of the withdrawal agreement.

"The European Council calls for work to be continued on preparedness and contingency at all levels for the

consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal, taking into account all possible outcomes," said the document.

In his invitation letter prior to Thursday's conference, Tusk said: "Prime Minister May's proposal, of the 30th of June, which has its merits, creates a series of questions of a legal and political nature."

"EU Leaders will need a concrete plan from the UK in order to be able to make an informed decision," he noted in a statement published on the European Commission's website.

British MPs last Thursday voted overwhelmingly to ask the EU for a Brexit extension in the troubled Brexit process.

Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, further questioned the motives of any extension Tuesday in a statement: "Does an extension increase the chances for the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement? Will the UK request an extension because it wants a bit more time to rework the Political Declaration?"

If the answer is "no", he was concerned about the purpose and outcome of the British request for an extension.

"And how can we ensure that, at the end of a possible extension, we are not back in the same situation as today?" he said in the statement.

"Extending the uncertainty without a clear plan would add to the economic cost for our businesses but could also incur a political cost for the EU," said the chief negotiator, adding that the ball is now in London's yard.

Commenting on EU27's decisions, May said at a press conference that she welcomed "the Council's approval to the Northern Ireland Backstop which I agreed last week," adding that she is still planning to bring the vote back next week.

French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters Thursday that Britain faced a "true political and democratic crisis ... and there's no way we must be blocked in this situation," he was quoted as saying by media network Politico.

He said France was willing to "answer and set deadline," insisting that he "absolutely didn't want to hold a crisis summit in bad conditions," according to Politico.

Agencies

China, Italia to promote greater development of partnership

ROME

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his Italian counterpart, Sergio Mattarella, held talks in Rome yesterday and agreed to jointly push for greater development of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership.

President Xi arrived in the Italian capital on Thursday for a state visit to Italy. It is the first visit by a Chinese head of state to the European nation in 10 years.

Two Italian fighter jets escorted Xi's plane as it entered the country's airspace.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, were greeted by senior Italian government officials at the airport.

While delivering a written speech upon arrival, Xi said that the China-Italy relations have withstood the test of time and international vicissitudes since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 49 years ago.

Upholding the principle of mutual respect, trust and benefit, China and Italy have constantly promoted their friendship and cooperation, setting an



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) and his wife Peng Liyuan disembark from the airplane upon their arrival in Rome, Italy, on Thursday. (XINHUA)

example of developing bilateral ties between two countries of different social systems, cultural backgrounds and development stages, Xi said.

The practical cooperation between the two countries has yielded fruitful results, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples, said Xi, adding that the

bilateral cultural and people-to-people exchanges are rich and colorful, and have enhanced mutual understanding and friendship.

The Chinese president noted that he is looking forward to meeting the Italian leaders to jointly draw the blueprint for the future development of bilateral

relations.

"I believe with the concerted efforts of both sides, the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership will enjoy a better tomorrow," Xi said.

Italy is the first stop of Xi's three-nation Europe tour, which will also take him to Monaco and France. **Xinhua**

Trump's statement on Golan Heights may destabilise Middle East, warns Kremlin

MOSCOW

US President Donald Trump's statement Washington should recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights may destabilise the situation in the Middle East, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"Such calls may considerably destabilise the already strained



situation in the Middle East," he said. "In any case the idea as

such by no means works for the tasks and goals of the Middle East settlement. It's the other way round."

"At the moment it's just a call. May it remain so," Peskov added.

Earlier, Trump tweeted that the US should recognize Israel's full sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

This plateau, which belonged

to Syria since 1944 were seized by Israel during the six-day war in 1967.

In 1981, the Israeli parliament passed a law to unilaterally declare sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The UN Security Council declared the annexation null and void in its Resolution 497 of December 17, 1981.

Agencies

Death toll from cyclone surpasses 500 in southern Africa

BEIRA, Mozambique

A WEEK after Cyclone Idai lashed southern Africa, flooding still raged as torrential rains caused a dam to overflow in Zimbabwe, threatening riverside populations.

The confirmed death toll in Zimbabwe, neighboring Mozambique and Malawi surpassed 500 on Thursday, with hundreds more feared dead in towns and villages that were completely submerged.

Aid agencies and several governments continued to step up their deployments, with helicopters in short supply for hundreds

of thousands of people displaced by the cyclone.

Spokesman Herve Verhoosel of the World Food Program told reporters in Geneva of the "alarming news" that the Marowanyati dam in Zimbabwe was hit by heavy rains overnight, putting populations in the region at risk.

Zimbabwe's defense minister said more than 120 bodies had been washed into neighboring Mozambique, where residents there buried them, and more bodies were still being recovered in rivers, raising the official death toll in the country to at least 259.

"Most of the bodies were washed into Mozambique and

because they were in a really bad state, they could not keep the bodies," Defense Minister Oppah Muchinguri said, speaking in the eastern city of Mutare. "So they ended up burying them."

Mozambique's environment minister, Celso Correia, who is heading up the government response team, said in Beira Thursday evening that the confirmed death toll in his country was 242, with at least 142 injured and an untold number still missing.

"Don't create panic," Correia urged other government officials as more updates on the devastation trickled in. He said some 65,000 people had been saved

by rescue workers who plucked them from rooftops and trees, and 182,000 had been affected by the flooding.

"Obviously all numbers are preliminary... They are changing every day, every moment," Correia said, adding that the most worrying issue now was health, with cholera a major concern. He said a much bigger rescue and recovery mission must be launched in the region of some 350,000 people, where many remain marooned on islands created by the floodwaters.

It will be days before Mozambique's inundated plains drain toward the Indian Ocean and even

longer before the full scale of the disaster is known. Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi has said as many as 1,000 people could have died in his country alone, but even that huge number is likely to pale in comparison to reality, aid workers said.

"Now that the water is receding, we fear that we will see even more," than 1,000, as far more bodies are discovered, the secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Elhadj As Sy, told The Associated Press.

Homes, villages and entire towns were submerged across central Mozambique, where

flooding created a muddy inland ocean 50 kilometers wide. The UN food aid agency said 400,000 people were displaced and "in urgent need of life-saving assistance" in Mozambique's coastal city of Beira and flooded areas along the Pungue and Buzi rivers.

The persistent rains lifted in some areas on Thursday, and floodwaters began to recede in Beira, the worst-hit city, and in the countryside, according to a Mozambican government report.

"Yesterday, 910 people were rescued by the humanitarian community," said Caroline Haga of the International Federation of the Red Cross in Beira. She said

210 were rescued by five helicopters and 700 were saved by boats.

Aid groups were continuing to work non-stop to rescue families desperately clinging to tree branches and rooftops for safety from the surging waters.

"A family saw their brick house swept away from them. When they went to another house for safety, the roof collapsed," Machiel Pouw, Save the Children's response team leader in Mozambique, said in a statement. "Another family fled for safety in a tree. There are tens of thousands of heartbreaking stories like this, lives shattered over the past days." **Agencies**

The
Guardian

SPORT



Caster Semenya

Athletics: CAS delays decision on Semenya testosterone case

LONDON

THE Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said on Thursday it would postpone its decision on Caster Semenya's appeal hearing against the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) until the end of April.

South African 800-metres double Olympic champion Semenya is seeking to overturn a new set of IAAF regulations that are aimed at lowering the testosterone levels of hyperandrogenic athletes.

The IAAF contend that Semenya and other female athletes that are classed as having differences in sexual development (DSDs) gain an unfair advantage due to their higher testosterone levels, but only in races between 400 and 1,000-metres.

Under its new rules, athletes classed as having DSDs must reduce their blood testosterone level to below five (5) nmol/L for a continuous period of six months before they can compete. They must then maintain it below that level continuously.

CAS have called the hearing "one of the

most pivotal CAS cases" that could have a wide reaching consequence not just for the future of athletics, but sport in general.

The body had been expected to announce its decision on March 26, six months prior to the World Championships in Doha.

It said on Thursday that since the Feb. 18-22 hearing, the parties have filed additional submissions and materials. No specific date for the decision has been set.

The IAAF said that, given the delay, it would alter the six-month rule for the world championships in Qatar in September and introduce a "special transitional period" so that affected athletes could still compete.

"The IAAF has decided that the delay should not prejudice the affected athletes," it said in a statement.

It added that, assuming its new regulations were upheld, affected athletes who comply with the new limit from one week after the final CAS decision until the start of the world championships in September would be allowed to take part.

REUTERS

'Full House' to big house in college scheme? Experts differ

BOSTON

COULD Aunt Becky be headed to prison? It could go either way, experts say.

Some of the wealthy parents accused of paying bribes to get their kids into top universities may get short stints behind bars, if convicted, to send a message that the privileged are not above the law, some lawyers say. But others predict that most, if not all, will end up with probation and a fine, particularly if they quickly agree to accept responsibility and cooperate, which observers anticipate many will do.

"If the parents are well represented, it is reasonable to expect that possibly none will go to jail," said former federal prosecutor Jacob Frenkel. "These are not the type of offenses for which judges exercising their discretion would normally put people in jail," he said.

The parents ensnared in what prosecutors have called the biggest college admissions scam ever prosecuted by the U.S. Justice Department include Hollywood stars Lori Loughlin, who played Aunt Becky on the sitcom "Full House," and Felicity Huffman of "Desperate Housewives." Other parents are prominent figures in law, finance, fashion, the food and beverage industry, and other fields.

Prosecutors have said, though, that they believe other parents were involved and that the investigation – dubbed Operation Varsity Blues – continues.

The parents are charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud, a count that carries up to 20 years in prison, although defendants, especially first-time offenders, typically get far less than that.

Attorneys for at least some of the parents are likely already negotiating deals with prosecutors, experts say. And authorities have lots of leverage to push parents to plead guilty by promising to bring more charges, like tax evasion or money laundering, if they don't.

Frenkel, now a white-collar defense attorney at Dickinson Wright in Washington, said he suspects many parents could wind up pleading guilty to a tax charge, for deducting the bribes from their income taxes, and get

probation.

Most parents could get merely a fine and community service, agreed Jeffrey Cramer, who was an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago.

But those who went to great lengths to participate in the scam or enlisted their children help them carry it out may spend a few months behind bars, because judges may not see a financial penalty as sufficient punishment, he said.

"If you told (the parents) at the beginning of this that in addition to the bribe, you'd have to pay a \$200,000 penalty and have to work at the Beverly Hills food bank, they'd probably take that deal," said Cramer, now managing director of Berkeley Research Group consulting firm.

"You cannot have a criminal justice system where at the end of the day," he said, "the crime was worth doing."

The parents are accused of paying admissions consultant Rick Singer to rig standardized test scores and bribe college coaches and other insiders to get their children into selective schools. Coaches at schools including Yale University and the University of Southern California are also charged with accepting bribes.

Singer secretly recorded his conversations with the parents after agreeing to work with investigators in the hopes of getting a lesser sentence. He pleaded guilty last week to racketeering conspiracy and other charges.

Loughlin's lawyers declined on Wednesday to comment. An email was sent to a communications firm hired by Huffman.

If any parents decide to fight the charges, they could argue they believed the services they were paying for were legitimate and didn't realize what Singer was doing, lawyers say. They could also try to paint Singer as a liar who is trying to take them down in order to save himself, experts say.

"A high-on-the-food-chain cooperator is now reaching down below, and that gives an opportunity for the defense to exploit that the cooperator is facing a lot of time and therefore he is fabricating things," said Boston criminal defense attorney Brad Bailey. **AP**



Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, sings a song along with Fountain Gate Academy students for supporting senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Taifa Stars will host Uganda's Cranes in Group L match of the AFCON Qualifiers at the venue tomorrow. The song was prepared by Fountain Gate House of Talent Treasure. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT



Tanzanian professional boxer Hassan Mwakyimo (R) attend training under his coach, Briton Tony Bellew, former world Middleweight champion, to shape up for the international Welterweight fight against Argentinian, Eduardo Gonzalez to be held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi, Kenya today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

R Kelly defense emerges, including saying accusers are lying



R. Kelly

CHICAGO

R. Kelly yelled through tears in a recent TV interview before an audience numbering in the millions, saying he's in a fight for his life to disprove sexual abuse charges. That fight will ultimately be waged in court, with an audience numbering just 12 jurors.

While the day lawyers deliver opening statements to jurors inside a Cook County courtroom is still many months or even years away, court filings and comments by his lead attorney after the R&B star was charged in February provide clues about an emerging legal strategy.

Based on comments by Kelly and his attorney, they intend to question the veracity of his accusers and argue that, if he had sex with them, it was consensual and he thought they were of age. His attorney has also signaled he may push to have some counts tossed on grounds statutes of limitation ran out or because

some are too closely related to crimes for which Kelly was acquitted at his 2008 child pornography trial.

Kelly, 52, was right in more ways than one when he cursed during the interview with Gayle King of "CBS This Morning," saying: "I'm fighting for my ... life." If convicted on all ten counts of aggravated sexual abuse of three underage girls and one adult, the Grammy winner faces an effective life sentence of up to 70 years in prison. The process of vetting evidence from prosecutors hasn't begun, and after wading through it all, the defense is expected to fine tune their argument that Kelly's accusers are misrepresenting the facts. For now, there's not much finesse.

"All of them are lying," Kelly told King in his only full interview since being charged. "I have been assassinated," he said. Kelly's lead attorney, Steve Greenberg, also told reporters the day of Kelly's arrest, "I think all the women are lying, yes."

Greenberg is best known for

representing the accused in several high-profile murder cases, including of former suburban Chicago police officer Drew Peterson. He was convicted in 2012 of killing his third wife in a case reopened after his fourth wife disappeared.

Greenberg is regarded as a savvy lawyer prone to quips that sometimes raise eyebrows. In arguing that any sex was consensual, Greenberg told reporters last month about Kelly: "He's a rock star. He doesn't need to have nonconsensual sex."

Greenberg and attorney Michael Avenatti have regularly clashed via Twitter, both questioning the lawyerly skills of the other. Avenatti, who represented porn star Stormy Daniels in a civil case against President Donald Trump, gave video evidence to prosecutors that he says helped them charge Kelly.

Prosecutors say they won't have to depend on the word of the accusers.

The video Avenatti turned over purportedly shows Kelly having sex with an underage girl 20 years ago while Kelly and the girl say aloud more than 10 times that she's 14, which could prove he knew she was under aged.

And another accuser, a hairdresser, says Kelly forced her to perform oral sex on him in 2003 when she was 24. Prosecutors say a police lab found Kelly's DNA in semen on a shirt she was wearing that day.

In a defense filing Wednesday, Greenberg questioned the motives of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, accusing her of bringing a flimsy criminal case based on old allegations "to thrust herself into the spotlight" of the #MeToo movement, which aims to highlight sexual abuse against women.

A Foxx spokeswoman declined comment. Greenberg has also criticized Foxx for public statements in January calling allegations against Kelly in a Lifetime documentary "sickening." He said characterizing the allegations before charges were even brought illustrated bias and may have tainted the pool of potential jurors, rendering a fair

trial impossible. He could revive those arguments in motions to dismiss or in appeals if Kelly is convicted.

The contention that Kelly never knowingly had sex with a minor will rely on Kelly's own believability.

The girl in the video is the same girl in a similar video at the heart of the 2008 trial, Avenatti said. Greenberg said that means charges related to her are a violation of constitutional prohibitions against trying someone for the same crime for which they've been acquitted.

"Double jeopardy," Greenberg said last month, "should bar that case." Kelly appeared to be making a similar point when he told King, "When you beat your case, you beat your case."

But legal experts say it's not that simple. Double jeopardy doesn't apply if it's not the same incident being charged, explained Monu Bedi, a professor at DePaul University College of Law. He said it also doesn't apply if it's the same incident but a different charge. All the 14 counts Kelly faced in 2008 were child pornography, while all 10 this time are sexual abuse, so double jeopardy doesn't come into play, Bedi said.

Greenberg has said the legal window on bringing at least some of the charges filed against Kelly shut years ago, though he hasn't fully explained how. Calculating when statutes of limitations run out can be complex, relying on variables that can be open to interpretation.

Illinois legislators in 2017 did erase all time limits for charging sexual assault of children and it unambiguously applies to such crimes that happened anytime since 2017. It can't apply retroactively to older crimes.

But that doesn't mean any sex abuse by Kelly in the late 1990s can't be charged now, Bedi said. That's because older sexual assaults are governed by the statute of limitations as it existed before 2017, when prosecutors had 20 years to charge abuse of children. So, if Kelly sexually assaulted a minor as far back as the late 1990s, prosecutors should still be within the 20-year charging window.

AP

Inspired by the NBA, Pogba and Griezmann deliver World Cup rings to France

CLAIREFONTAINE, France

THEY had been waiting for so long, almost eight months since their day of glory in Moscow. They had been impatient, excited and curious, almost like children waiting for Christmas morning.

Since France's World Cup final victory vs. Croatia, Antoine Griezmann and Paul Pogba have been going on and on about those rings. The best friends love American sports, especially the NBA, and since the beginning of les Bleus' World Cup adventure, had in their minds that if they won the tournament, they would make sure dreams of a diamond ring to celebrate became a reality.

Griezmann had done it after winning the Europa League with Atletico Madrid against Marseille earlier in 2018, but he only made one for himself. This time, he and Pogba wanted everyone involved.

On Tuesday evening, they finally made it happen and in some style. The rings arrived at the Clairefontaine training base, 45 minutes south of Paris, after the French federation agreed to pay for transportation from Los Angeles, where the rings were made by Jason of Beverly Hills.

Now it was down to Pogba and Griezmann to deliver the much-anticipated jewels, and they gathered their teammates in a meeting room to make the presentation. Well, 17 of them: Adil Rami, Corentin Tolisso, Lucas Hernandez, Benjamin Mendy, Steven Nzonzi and Ousmane Dembele were not present, given they have not been called into the latest squad by Didier Deschamps.

They will get their rings eventually and nevertheless were present in spirit, receiving photos and videos throughout the evening via the team's group chat, as the other players who took France to the top of the world during Russia 2018 received their gifts.

Intriguingly, none of the France staff were invited. Deschamps would only learn the following morning, on Wednesday, that the ceremony had even taken place. It was a moment that belonged to the players only.

In a short speech, Pogba referred to his teammates as brothers. "We are a family," he said many times as he prepared to thank them with a gift for winning a World Cup together.

"Their reaction has been good," Pogba said Wednesday. "It was a little something after winning the World Cup with some wonderful players. I consider them as my family. It is a little present from me. I don't want to brag but when I was at Juventus, we won the league and I left but I also got a little present to the players there. It was to thank them for the trophies because we never win alone."

"You can't win the World Cup by yourself. The players were there, behind me. They supported me. There were some critics but we were all together, united, like a family."

With a bit of help from Griezmann, Pogba paid for all 23 rings. The price was not disclosed but would have easily cost him several hundred thousand euros; one 2018 Golden State Warriors championship ring, also

made by Jason of Beverly Hills, was valued at \$13,500.

Griezmann had a word for the France squad as well. He does not like the small, unassuming trophy given to the World Cup winners. For him, the rings mean more.

There was a lot of emotion in the room during the presentation, as well as a lot of laughter and a lot of love for the rings. Not a single player was unhappy or disappointed by the shape, design or colours. Every ring came in a navy and red box featuring the player's name on a golden plaque at the front.

Each ring also has the player's name engraved on the side with the words "World Champions" and "Russia 2018." The jewels – white diamonds, rubies and sapphires – combine to represent the colours of the French flag, while the emblem itself is a map of France with a World Cup trophy in it.

Griezmann and Pogba chose the elements to be included on the rings and Jason of Beverly Hills did the rest.

"One of the main things they really wanted to make sure that the ring wasn't oversized like some of the NBA rings," said Jason Arasheben, the store's owner. "They wanted to make sure it was a bit more subtle, a little less ostentatious."

Arasheben noted that this was not the first soccer rings he has made: "Didier Drogba came to us after Chelsea won the Champions League [in 2012] and we did rings for them a lot as well. A lot of these Europeans tend to be fans of American sports, and the championship ring is an American tradition that they wanted to bring to their sport."

It was far from an easy project to complete. After asking for a design and manufacture in the same style as that made for the Warriors following their NBA titles, Pogba and Griezmann faced doubts about the idea from some of their teammates, which prompted Pogba to offer to pay for everything.

Then the French federation got involved and, in a gesture of goodwill, volunteered to oversee and cover the cost of transportation, which was approximately €10,000. Finally, it was not until the players were reunited that a ceremony could take place.

Initially, the federation was keen not to make too much out of the presentation because they did not want player security to be at risk. In the background, Deschamps was happy, though not because he was excluded from the party. Instead, he was content because he knows how important the ceremony would be for the unity and the chemistry of his squad.

From his perspective, the rings will bring those who were there in Russia and still form the strong core of the squad even closer. As for the ones who were not there, seeing the rings will make the likes of Kingsley Coman, Kurt Zouma, Moussa Sissoko hungrier for success so they can get their own hardware.

As Blaise Matuidi put it after receiving his ring, it was "an unforgettable present for an unforgettable memory."

(AGENCIES)

Belgium overcome Courtois howler to sink Russia

BRUSSELS

CAPTAIN Eden Hazard scored twice for Belgium to spare the blushes of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and secure a 3-1 victory over Russia in their Euro 2020 Group I qualifier at the King Baudouin Stadium on Thursday.

Courtois allowed Russia a soft equaliser after his error gifted a goal to Denis Cheryshev, but Belgium claimed a deserved victory when Youri Tielemans opened the scoring with his first international goal and Hazard added two more, one from the penalty spot.

Striker Michy Batshuayi was asked to lead the line in the absence of the injured Romelu Lukaku, while the Hazard brothers, Eden and Thorgan, played together for the third time in a national team shirt.

Belgium led on 15 minutes when Timothy Castagne's pass fed Tielemans on the edge of the box and as Russia's defensive line opened up, the midfielder fired a low shot past goalkeeper Guilherme Marinato.

But the lead lasted barely a minute as a horror error from Courtois gifted Cheryshev the equaliser.

The keeper dallied in possession following a back-pass and when pressed into action, passed the ball straight to Cheryshev on the edge of the box who finished into an empty net.

Batshuayi came close to restoring the lead when the Hazard brothers led a breakaway from a Russian corner and when the ball fell to the striker in the box, his shot beat Marinato but not defender Georgiy Dzhihiya on the goal line.

Belgium, World Cup semi-finalists last year, scored their second just before the break when Eden Hazard was fouled in the box by Yuri Zhirkov and stepped up to convert the spot-kick and give his side a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Batshuayi should have added a third for the home side when he was left unmarked



Belgium's Eden Hazard scores their third goal during their Euro 2020 Qualifier – Group I match against Russia at King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, Belgium on Thursday. (Agencies)

and turned a low cross on to the post from eight yards out.

Skipper Hazard netted the third when he picked up the loose ball in the box after Batshuayi's shot was blocked and the visitors finished the game with 10 following a late red card for Aleksandr Golovin.

Earlier, Cyprus stormed to the top of the Group I standings with a 5-0 victory over San Marino in Nicosia.

Striker Pieros Sotiriou converted two penalties to go with goals from Ioannis Kousoulos, Georgios Efrem and Konstantinos Laifis.

In Zagreb, Croatia were forced to dig deep as they came from behind to beat unfancied Azerbaijan 2-1 at home in their opening Euro 2020 Group E qualifier after forward Andrej Kramaric scored a 79th winner on Thursday.

In the group's other fixture, Slovakia

ceased to a 2-0 home win against Hungary thanks to midfielder Ondrej Duda's first-half opener and Albert Rusnak's 85th-minute goal in Trnava.

The Croatians dominated from the start at Maksimir stadium but the Azeris stunned the vocal home crowd when forward Ramil Sheydaev gave them a 19th-minute lead with a superb goal.

Sheydaev, who came close to scoring two minutes earlier, beat central defender Duje Caleta-Car with some neat footwork before drilling the ball past keeper Lovre Kalinic.

Croatia piled on the pressure and captain Luka Modric glanced a header just wide from a cross by Borna Barisic shortly before the left back levelled with his first international goal.

Caleta-Car saw his header from a corner cleared off the line by Dmitri Nazarov but

Barisic was well placed to scramble home the equaliser from close range in the 44th.

It looked set to be a frustrating night for Croatia as Azeri keeper Salahat Agayev made a string of fine saves in the second half to deny Modric, Bruno Petkovic and Josip Brekalo.

Agayev also dealt with a flurry of crosses from either flank as the packed visiting defence came under relentless pressure but he could do nothing about Kramaric's sumptuous strike.

A ricochet off a defender fell kindly for the striker, who side-stepped his marker before unleashing an unstoppable shot into the far corner from 15 metres to delight the home fans.

On Sunday, Wales open their Group E campaign at home to Slovakia while Croatia visit Hungary.

REUTERS

Depay double leads Netherlands to easy win over Belarus

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands

MEMPHIS Depay scored two goals and set up two more as the Netherlands eased to a 4-0 victory over Belarus in their opening Euro 2020 Group C qualifier on Thursday.

Georginio Wijnaldum and Virgil van Dijk were also on target as the home side were rarely threatened and might have won by a greater margin, providing a welcome present for manager Ronald Koeman on his 56th birthday.

Depay, enduring a lean spell at club level, was at the heart of the Dutch attacking effort, taking his tally of goals to 10 in his last 14 internationals and cementing his place as the key attacker in the Netherlands' revival under Koeman.

The home side were ahead inside 50 seconds as Igor Shitov's risky back-pass was latched on to by Depay and his shot trickled into the net off the post.

Netherlands doubled their advantage in the 21st minute when Depay turned provider, flicking the ball into the path of Wijnaldum, who had the simplest of finishes from seven yards.

The hosts added to their tally on 55 minutes when Mikhail Sivakov clattered into Wijnaldum in the box for a clear penalty that was confidently converted by Depay.

The Dutch played the final 20 minutes down to 10 men after replacement right back Kenny Tete, their third substitute, pulled up with a hamstring injury after his first sprint about 20 seconds after coming on.

But even with the player short the home side managed a fourth in the final four minutes as Van Dijk finished after Depay's set-up.

Netherlands can expect a much tougher assignment on Sunday when they host Germany in their next qualifier, another chance for Koeman's side to underline their revival after failing to qualify for last year's World Cup in Russia.

In the other Group C game, Niall McGinn and Steven Davis (penalty) scored second-half goals as Northern Ireland ended a run of four-game winless run with a 2-0 victory over Estonia at Windsor Park.

Meanwhile, Poland forward Krzysztof Piatek continued his prolific season by scoring 10 minutes after coming off the bench to secure a 1-0 win away to Austria in their opening Euro 2020 qualifier in Vienna.

Israel were held 1-1 at home by Slovenia, while Macedonia beat Latvia 3-1 in the group's other two games.

Piatek's goal, the 23-year-old's second for his country, gave Poland coach



Poland's Krzysztof Piatek scores their first goal during their Euro 2020 Qualifier – Group G match against Austria at Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna, Austria on Thursday. REUTERS

Jerzy Brzeczek his first win at the seventh attempt since taking over following last year's World Cup. Piatek, Serie A's second highest scorer this season with 19 goals for Genoa and then AC Milan, headed in after 69 minutes as the hosts paid for their poor finishing in the Group G game.

Poland had a huge let off near the end when they allowed Austria substitute Marc Janko a free header from Maximilian Wober's cross but the veteran forward incredibly sent his effort wide from three metres.

The hosts had made a bright start as Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny parried

Marcel Sabitzer's shot after eight minutes and Marco Arnautovic scuffed his shot when Stefan Lainer's low cross found him free in the penalty area.

Austria goalkeeper Heinz Lindner made one first-half save, turning Kamil Grosicki's low drive past the post.

The home side's Valentino Lazaro shot wide and Arnautovic was centimetres away with a free kick as Austria continue to press forward but it was Poland who went ahead.

Austria failed to properly clear a corner and the ball fell to Tomasz Kedziora whose strike was parried by Lindner but fell to Pi-

atek who headed home.

Piatek should have added another goal minutes later when he was sent clear by Robert Lewandowski but he fired wide. After Janko's extraordinary miss, Szczesny also came to the rescue with an excellent save from David Alaba.

Slovenia's Andraz Sporar beat two defenders to poke the ball home and give his side the lead three minutes after halftime in Haifa but Ervan Zahavi levelled from a corner in the 55th to extend the visitors' winless run to nine competitive games.

REUTERS



Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Belgium overcome Courtois

howler to sink Russia

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dar sailors excel in Uganda Laser Open tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TWELVE years old Tanzanian sailor, Vedastus Alphonse, made history at this year's Uganda Laser Open competition as he laid his hands on the trophy at the event which attracted many sailors.

Chairman of Tanzania Sailing Association (TSAA), Philemon Nassari, said the young sailor had a few hours of weekly training but he put in an excellent series of races, staying with his smaller radial sail on the water ahead of many larger standard sails.

He said Alphonse ended up with 15 points out of seven races, just one point clear of Daniel Francis from Kenya, who like last year, got the second place.

The third place was won by another Tanzanian, Hamisi Muhidini, who is aged 17. He got the maximum out of his smaller 4.7 sail but lost out in the two races with light winds.

Nassari said Alphonse started sailing an optimist boat for young sailors below 15 years in 2010 and was trained to race by Tarick Nielsen.

In 2012, the chairman said, Alphonse had participated in the African Optimist Championships in Dar es Salaam and Morocco and he later on moved into a Laser class boat.

"In 2016, Veda received a scholarship to attend the Regional Performance Clinic by the World Sailing Emerging Nations Program in Durban, South Africa and now he is a good sailor," Nassari said.

He thanked the Dar es Salaam Yacht Club (DYC) for the support which saw the two sailors compete at the Uganda Laser Open 2019.

He said Tanzania has excellent coaches and performance sailors but noted there is still no training school for them to facilitate further training.

Nassari urged the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports to help TSAA access a location in Dar es Salaam, so that the association can start producing sailors that can perform well in Olympics.

France ready to complete women's game development

PARIS

WITH Olympique Lyonnais leading the way at club level, France is ready to complete its women's football development when it hosts the 2019 World Cup, the French federation's vice-president has said.

Lyon have won a record five Champions League titles, claiming the last three editions, while France now lie third in the FIFA rankings and they rely heavily on their youth training to reach the top.

FFF vice-president Brigitte Henriques, a former France international, dates the revolution back to 2011.

"It all started with OL's victory in the Champions League. That year we also had the first players coming out of the 'Pole France', a youth training programme in which the girls would have training every day for five years," Henriques told Reuters in an interview.

Between 2011 and 2018, the number of registered female football players rose from 53,000 to more than 140,000 with 180,000 women holding a licence to play or be employed by a club.

In 2017, France had around 105,000 players registered, similar to England, with Germany leading the way in Europe with 209,000, according to a UEFA report.

Spain (32,000) and Italy (26,000) were lagging far behind.

"When Noel Le Graet was elected president (in 2011), his first mission was to boost women's football and he put financial and human means into it," said Henriques.

"Women now have a bigger place in the landscape as 38,000 of them holding an executive role - compared to 25,000 in 2011."

The FFF also changed its approach of international matches.

"The game have been advertised the same way the men games are advertised and we have developed a ticketing system, not just relying on invitations like before," she explained.

"There has been a cultural shift and becoming a candidate to host the World Cup was a natural thing to do."

REUTERS



Hassan Mwakinyo (L) and Sergio 'El Tigre' Gonzalez attend weigh in Nairobi, Kenya yesterday. The boxers will face off in an international Welterweight bout in the city today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA TANZANIA

Mwakinyo set to face Gonzalez in Nairobi today

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S professional boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo, will face Argentinian, Sergio 'El Tigre' Gonzalez, in an international non-title Welterweight fight at the Kenyatta International Conference Center in Nairobi, Kenya today.

Mwakinyo, who is backed by leading online sports betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, yesterday attended weigh in exercise under supervision of Kenya Professional Boxing Commission (KPBC).

The boxer said shortly thereafter he is sure of winning the fight thanks to better preparations he embarked on under sponsorship by SportPesa Tanzania.

Mwakinyo said SportPesa Tanzania helped him train under British coach, Tony Bellew, in the UK, and the boxer as well attended training outside Tanzania for the first time.

The Tanga-based boxer was adamant he will not let Tanzanians and East Africa citizens down in the bough, promising to register a knock-out victory over his opponent.

"My sponsors, SportPesa, have prepared me well, I was under the tutelage of a very good coach and I trained in a good camp so that I can excel in the fight. I must win this fight," Mwakinyo disclosed.

The boxer added he has no reason to fear Gonzalez in the bout, which will be a supporting bout for the World Boxing Council World Female Super Bantamweight title bout between Kenyan, Fatuma Zarika, against Catherine Phiri of Zambia. Zarika is also under the tutelage of Bellew.

Zarika will be defending the World Boxing Council World Female Super Bantamweight title.

SportPesa Tanzania's Senior Marketing Officer, Kelvin Twissa, disclosed the company expects entertaining fights in the day, dubbed Nairobi Fight Night.

"This is an opportunity for us to prove Africans can match Americans when it comes to excelling in boxing," Twissa disclosed.

The day will also see Tanzania's other boxers, Iddi Mkwera and Paschal Bruno, take the ring to trade blows with Kenya's boxers.

Mkwera will fight Nichola Mwangi in a Super Lightweight bout. Bruno will face Raymond Okwiri in a Middleweight bout.

There will as well be a fight between female boxers Sarah Achieng and Joyce Awino in the Super Lightweight division.



Taifa Stars' players attend training in Dar es Salaam yesterday to prepare for the Group L match of the AFCON Qualifiers against Uganda, which will be played in the city tomorrow. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Stars in clutch qualifying battle

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TAIFA Stars will tomorrow host Uganda's Cranes at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam in a decisive Group L match of the AFCON Qualifiers.

The clash will define the destiny of Tanzania's qualification for this year's AFCON finals slated for Egypt from June 21 to July 19.

All preparations for the must win encounter are ready as Taifa Stars' head coach Emmanuel Amunike and his backroom members have said all is set for the game and are in mood to fight to the last drop of their blood for the sake of the country's pride.

Morale boosting committees formed by the government and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) as well as fans are all also prepared to cheer the team at the stadium where Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to be the guest of honour in the match, which is expected to write history for the country's football.

The last time Taifa Stars qualified for AFCON finals was more than 30 years ago.

Tomorrow encounter will not be easy for Taifa Stars as the visitors have already sealed their qualification for the finals but their head coach Sebastian Desabre recently informed the media that his aim is to see his side finish the qualifying stage without tasting a defeat.

Taifa Stars, who will play the Sunday duel with a motivation hashtag of 'Ni zamu yetu sasa' (it's our time now), should though draw courage and inspiration from such

small African football nations like Madagascar and Mauritania that already qualified.

Amunike said his charges are ready for the encounter and he is confident of taking Taifa Stars to AFCON finals this year.

He said Taifa Stars have a big chance of stunning the Cranes as most of the visiting teams struggle at the National Stadium.

"In our first match away in Uganda we drew with them, this time around I am very sure that we will beat them and qualify for the AFCON finals in Egypt," he said.

Knowing well the power of supporters, Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda, sports and arts personalities and many others have all asked Tanzanians to flock the stadium to create an intimidating atmosphere for the visitors while cheering Taifa Stars.

The Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner said people should come and support the squad at the stadium, saying success of Taifa Stars is for the whole nation regardless of a local club one supports.

Makonda, who also heads a committee known as 'Saidia Taifa Stars Ishinde', said he will buy 1000 tickets for less privileged children from orphanage centers in the city to watch the game live.

He also promised that should Taifa Stars beat Uganda and qualify for the finals, the city will become an arena for celebration.

He said some roads in the city will be closed to give room for celebrations and

beverages will be sold at half price among others.

"Ni zamu yetu sasa (it's our time now), we are all ready for this must win game on Sunday (tomorrow). If we win and qualify, the city of Dar es salaam will be in full celebration mood, some roads will be closed so people can enjoy," he said.

Another prominent football lover, Joseph Kusaga of Clouds Media Group, also promised to buy 100 tickets for fans to watch the game.

However, Taifa Stars must better the results of Lesotho, popularly known as Likuena, as all three teams in Group L have a chance of qualifying for the finals.

Both Lesotho and Taifa Stars have seven points while Cape Verde have four points. Taifa Stars have been placed third in Group L due to an inferior head-to-head record with Lesotho.

Cape Verde, who are languishing at the bottom of the group with four points, must defeat Lesotho at home and pray Taifa Stars hold Uganda, if they are to make it to the AFCON finals.

If both games end in draw, Cranes and Likuena will advance to the finals.

Starting from this year's edition of AFCON finals, teams will be increased to 24, as opposed to 16 teams in the previous editions.

Fourteen teams, including the hosts Egypt, have already sealed their spot for this year's finals while 10 places are up for grabs in what promises to be intense final round.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

