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Seven killed by jumbos in Longido



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NGOs cautioned not to engage in politics



National Pg 7

Simiyu faces acute shortage of blood



EAC ministers now ink cotton, textile apparel strategy

By Guardian Reporter

THE 39th Meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers has approved the Final Draft Cotton, Textiles and Apparels (CTA) Strategy and its Implementation Roadmap.

The strategy whose vision is to have "an integrated and globally competitive cotton, textiles and apparels industry" makes a critical analysis of the CTA sector along key levels of the value chain.

The latter was enumerated as involving cotton seed (production), seed cotton (ginning), cotton lint (spinning), yarn (weaving and knitting along with printing, dyeing and finishing). Finally there is the fabrics level, which involves garments, apparels fabrication or manufacturing level.

The 39th ministerial council which was chaired by Rwanda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and East African Community Affairs, Amb. Olivier Nduhugirehe (pictured), was attended by line ministers from EAC Partner States and EAC executives.

The ministers further approved the final draft for leather and leather products sector strategy and its implementation roadmap, directing the EAC Partner States

Govt reaffirms rights of Burundi refugees



Home Affairs minister Kangi Lugola (C), UNHCR deputy commissioner George Okoth Obbo (L) and Burundi Home Affairs minister Pascal Barandagiye exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday relating to an agreement on the repatriation of Burundi refugees in Tanzania willing to return to their home country voluntarily. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

"We are assuring that as a country we are able to receive 2,000 Burundians each week and we shall ensure all Burundians return home. We shall follow them everywhere to ask them to return so that we build our nation"

By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs Minister Kangi Lugola has vehemently refuted claims that the government has been expelling Burundian refugees living in various settlements and camps in Kigoma, Tabora and Katavi regions.

Lugola made the remarks when speaking at a tripartite meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday with the Burundi government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). A special agreement signed by all the three sides will enable the return of refugees who had asked to go back to their country as peace continues to improve in that country.

Lugola said that the government ought to put it clear so that the international community and various parties understand that when Tanzania says it is expatriating Burundian refugees "what we and the Burundi government do is merely to mobilise, to encourage those who are ready to return on their own accord, to go back."

"Hence, while we do that others wrongly translate that we are expelling them. That is not right."

...what we and the Burundi government do is merely to mobilise, to encourage those who are ready to return on their own accord, to go back

Speaking at the meeting, the Burundi Minister for Home Affairs Pascal Barandagiye said Burundi is now peaceful and beseeched citizens of that country to return home to build their nation.

"We are assuring that as a country we are able to receive 2,000 Burundians each week and we shall ensure all Burundians return home. We shall follow them everywhere to ask them to return so that we build our nation."

On his part the Assistant UNHCR Commissioner George Okoth Obbo said they have cooperated with the two countries of Burundi and Tanzania to ensure there is a safe and humanitarian environment in the conduct of the exercise, thanking Tanzanians for kind hospitality in welcoming and keeping the refugees.

One month has passed since President John Magufuli, during his visit in Katavi region, directed all sides concerned with refugees to meet and discuss the issue of Burundian refugees who register themselves to go back home as it was high time they did so. He warned all those who engage themselves in criminal activities to stop.

'Tanzania, Namibia investment opportunities not fully utilised'

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi has said Tanzanian and Namibian entrepreneurs have not fully utilized existing investment and trade potentials in various sectors.

"Trade and investment potentials that exist between our two countries have not been fully utilized. The trade volume between us is low compared to trade potentials that exist," said Prof Kabudi at the closing session of the 2nd Joint Commission of Cooperation (JCC) between the two countries in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said official records from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) show that between 2010

We want to make our business and investment environment more predicable to assure investors of sustainability of their investments

and 2018 the volume of trade grew from just over 2.5bn/- to more than 21.8bn/-.

The balance of trade for the recorded nine years has remained in favour of Namibia, he stated.

Prof Kabudi said records from the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) show that there are only two registered investments from Namibia—Agano Safi (T) Ltd and East Africa Trophy Hunters Ltd, whose assets reach \$13.96 million, and have employed 128 persons locally.

"With this data, we are given a wakeup call for us to do more to attract trade and investment between our two countries and people. We welcome you to trade and invest in Tanzania."

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Minister hints at builders' exit from agro-sector land

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government intends to come up with policies and laws to protect agricultural lands from encroachment to enhance food security.

Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga (pictured) made this announcement yesterday at a meeting with Venezuela Deputy Minister for Land and Agriculture, Jose Aguilera Contreras.

The two engaged in discussions on the 'Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems



Development in Sub-Saharan Africa' project being implemented in Mvomero, Kilosa and Kilombero districts approaches completion.

Sub Saharan countries that implemented the rice project are Tanzania, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda

The minister said the number of people engaging in commercial agriculture is increasing, but there is also speedy encroachment of

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The countries in East Africa must work together as opposed to trying to do all these things individually because gas to liquid projects are incredibly expensive

to give priority to the implementation of the CTA and the leather products sector strategy.

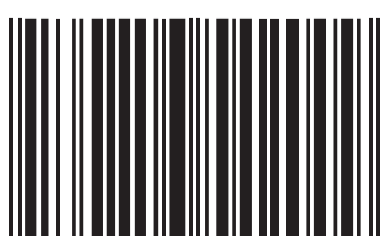
In an effort to promote the textiles and apparels sector in East Africa, the ministers directed Partner States to encourage sustainable procurement of institutional uniforms, beddings, draperies by state institutions from textiles and fabric industries the region.

The ministers directed the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security to develop a strategy to boost the production of cotton in the region.

In their deliberations, the ministers observed that the seed cotton sector was constrained by low and declining production, low productivity, low quality and fluctuating farm gate prices. Textile mills were further constrained by outdated technology, low spinning capacity, inadequate availability of cotton lint, high cost of energy and low skills level.

The ministers were informed that inadequate supply of cotton lint was

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'Tanzania, Namibia investment opportunities not fully utilised'

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We have widely opened up investment opportunities in innumerable sectors such as oil and gas, agro-industries, construction sector, pharmaceutical and tourist industries," the minister declared.

The government is working to improve the trade and investment environment whereas from July 2019 it has embarked on implementing the "Blueprint on Regulatory Reforms to Improve the Business Environment," he elaborated.

Its full implementation will improve the legal and institutional framework of trade and investment and in turn attract more trade and investment in the country, he emphasized.

"We want to make our business and investment environment more predictable to assure investors of the sustainability of their investments," he said.

Ongoing reforms have made Tanzania be ranked 7th place out of 52 countries as the most attractive country to invest in Africa by the Rand Merchant Bank of South Africa in 'Where to Invest in Africa Report 2019,' he pointed out.

Tanzania has also been ranked 13 out of 54 countries for giving market opportunities and investment incentives by 'The Africa Investment Index (All) 2018.'

During the JCC meeting three

memorandums of understanding were signed in the fields of culture, arts and sports, cooperation on youth development and one on tourism cooperation, he stated.

Prof Kabudi said successful implementation of the areas of cooperation will contribute to socio-economic development of the two countries because the sectors touched are crucial and will bring considerable change to the people.

"Tourism is the leading economic sector. Over 44 percent of our land is set aside for national parks and game reserves. The sector has attracted a total of 1.5 million tourists in 2018 as compared to 1.3 million in 2017. Revenue from this sector has increased to \$2.43 billion in 2018 compared to \$2.19 billion in 2017," the minister underlined.

He said Tanzania and Namibia have a shared history and unshakable solidarity since liberation struggle days. Tanzania's support for liberation movements went well beyond the rhetoric of encouraging African unity and solidarity, he told the gathering.

Namibian President Dr Hage Geingob and President John Magufuli back in May underscored the need to further deepen cooperation in areas like agriculture, trade and investment, livestock and fisheries, mining, education, arts and culture, the minister added.



Dr Adam Akyoo (C), a lecturer at the Morogoro-based Sokoine University of Agriculture, has a word with crop seed dealers Lilian Mmbando (L) of Nita Food Project and Mary Mushi of Halisi Organic Farm on the sidelines of an East African Business Council meeting organised in Arusha at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

FROM PAGE 1

agricultural land for construction of residential structures. He said intrusion of the land for cultivation poses a threat to food security in the country.

"We plan to engage in a process to prepare policies and laws that will protect agricultural lands. This will ensure food security since the country's demand for food is also high," he said.

Venezuela Ambassador for Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, Jesus Manzanilla

Minister hints at builders' exit from agro-sector land

commended existing bilateral relations between Tanzania and Venezuela, vowing to continue cooperating with the government in various sectors, including agriculture.

Commenting on the Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in Sub-Saharan Africa, Manzanilla said Venezuela is proud to have sponsored the project, which aimed to boost rice production and

enhance food security.

Diomedes Kalisa, the project coordinator for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said the project has supported 2600 rice farmers who are now practicing modern rice farming. He said the project also provided training to 150 youth.

Kalisa said the project which started in 2016 will be completed later this

month. He said in Tanzania the project was managed by the ministry and FAO whereas each of the participating countries was provided with US \$ 500,000 from the funding country, Venezuela.

In its implementation in the four districts the project targeted rice farmers in irrigation schemes of Mvumi, Ilonga, (Kilosa) Ujamaa, Njage (Kilombero) along with Kigugu and

Mbogo Kwa Mtonga.

"We targeted at educating framers on the importance of using improved rice seeds, provide them with agricultural inputs and milling machines," he said, noting that farmers now package their rice according to grades.

FAO country representative, Fred Kafeero said rice is the main food in most African countries including

Tanzania. He said Tanzania ranks second in rice production in Africa after Madagascar. The project has also attracted more youth to engage in agriculture, he pointed out.

One of the project beneficiaries, Godfrey Pascal from Kilosa district said he can now harvest up to 52 sacks of rice per acre while before introduction of the project he was harvesting between 8 and 20 sacks.



Residents of Tandala village in Chemba District, Dodoma Region, register their complaints with Chemba district commissioner Simon Odunga (R) during a visit by the DC yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

NAIROBI

Heavy rains slow down activities in Kenya's capital

AS they left their homes on Monday morning for work, most Kenyans hoped that it does not rain again in the course of the day.

The east African nation is experiencing heavy rains due to climate change, which had caused loss of lives and destruction of property.

The country is witnessing rains of up to 50-100 mm in a day in some areas, according to the Kenya Meteorological Department.

Kenya's capital Nairobi is among areas that have been worst affected, with the city's weak drainage system, exposing residents to floods and destruction.

A number of residential areas and business premises have been flooded, roads rendered impassable and commuters are spending up to four hours in traffic jams for a journey that normally takes less than an hour.

Small business people who sell their wares in open-air markets are counting heavy losses as rains disrupt business activities.

"If it continues like this for the next two weeks, I may not be able to pay rent and cater for my other needs," Beatrice Katusia, who sells secondhand clothes in Kitengela, a suburb on the south of Nairobi, said on Monday.

In the last three days, when the city has experienced very heavy rains, Katusia has barely sold her wares comprising of women attires.

"The rain is causing a lot of misery. You wake up early morning, it is raining. It then stops for a little while and as soon as you display your wares at the stall, it begins," she recounted.

Her pain is being felt by millions of other traders across the capital Nairobi.

The other group that the rains have

thrown in the cold include maize roasters, vegetable and grain sellers, food vendors, masons and hawkers.

On normal days, most of such traders make sales of between 1,000 Kenyan shillings (about 10 U.S. dollars) and 2,000 Kenyan shillings.

Away from the traders, city commuters and motorists have to endure heavy traffic jams, some that last the entire day due to floods.

On Monday morning, most roads across the capital were flooded with rainwater as commuters and motorists spend hours in traffic jams before reaching their destinations.

"It took me two hours from Imara Daima south of Nairobi to Upper Hill where I work. The gridlock was one of a kind," said motorist Mercy Nelima, who works with a bank.

Commuters who rely on public

transport vehicles commonly known as matatus have to contend with high fares, besides the traffic jams.

When it rains, matatu operators normally raise their charges to compensate for extra time they spend in traffic jams.

The Kenya Meteorological Department has asked residents in Nairobi and other parts of the country that include central, western and Rift Valley to be cautious of flash floods.

At least 60 people have been killed due to the floods and mudslides and thousands of others were displaced since the downpour began in Kenya last month.

Ernest Manuyo, a business lecturer at Pioneer Institute in Nairobi, noted that the unusually heavy rains in Nairobi and other parts of the country lead to a slowdown in economic activities.

EAC ministers now ink cotton, textile apparel strategy

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compelling millers to either buy or hold stock covering a one-year production cycle, or shut down during off-seasons when they lack funds for bulk purchases.

"The apparels sector on the other hand suffers mainly from low skills, low local market penetration by local producers and unfavourable trade practices particularly contraband and used clothes," the council recommendations underlined.

The EAC Strategy and Implementation Roadmap for Leather, Leather Products and Footwear Sector is a response to a directive by the 19th Summit of EAC last year which examined the promotion of the cotton, textile, apparel and leather industries in the region, with a view to making the region more competitive and creating jobs along the value chain.

The summit further directed the ministerial council to implement the directive and put in place a mechanism that supports textile and leather manufacturing in EAC.

The strategy whose vision is to have "an integrated and globally competitive leather and leather products industry" makes a critical analysis of the sector along the various levels of leather and leather products value chain.

The council referred the request for admission to the EAC from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the 21st Summit of the EAC Heads of State for consideration.

The session had been informed that the council chairperson had written to the EAC Secretariat on the request of the DRC to join the EAC. The council noted that Article 3 of the Treaty provides that the matters to be

taken into account by partner states in examining the application by another country to join.

On investment promotion within the region, the council approved the Draft EAC Export Promotion Strategy 2020 - 2025 for implementation. The EPS 2020-2025 contains strategic interventions like stimulating exports through acquired market intelligence for enterprises and improved visibility on international markets.

Others include the need to improve market access and conditions for EAC exports, strengthening export competitiveness through interventions like improved access to finance and technology for enterprises and in particular SMEs, and strengthening trade support institutions and partnerships.

The council was informed that 60 students from five partner states had been awarded postgraduate scholarships under a KfW programme tenable at various institutions of higher learning within the EAC from September.

The scholarship programme, an initiative of a tripartite financing agreement between the KfW for the German government, the EAC Secretariat and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) for a non-repayable grant of five million euros, was signed in April 2018 with IUCEA as the project executing agency.

The key objective is to enable gifted but disadvantaged students pursue graduate studies in the EAC as part of a 'change agents' perspective to foster regional integration. The scholarship programme supports postgraduate students in mathematics, engineering, informatics, science, technology and business science pursuits.



Boma Raballa (C), CRDB Bank Plc's director of retail banking, holds the 'Bank of the Year Tanzania - 2019' award presented at a recent ceremony in London by the UK's Financial Times publication 'The Banker magazine'. He is flanked by John Everington (R) and Michael Buerk, both editors with the publication. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NHIF dispels instability fears

By Guardian Reporter

THE Director General of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Dr Bernard Konga, yesterday allayed fears over its stability, saying the fund is stable and can be able to provide services for the next five years even without members' contributions.

Dr Konga's assurance came after a question asked by one of the media practitioners, who attended media briefing yesterday in Dar es Salaam on newly launched health insurance packages. The journalist wanted to know the financial stability of NHIF at the moment.

In his response, the NHIF boss said: "The fund is stable as we've enough assets."

"The latest actuarial valuation of the fund shows that the fund is very sustainable and can be able to provide services for the next five years without any problem," he said, assuring people to use the newly launched packages for their own health benefits.

He said that the idea of coming up with the health insurance packages is meant to provide a wide range of choices and enable Tanzanians to contribute depending on their financial ability.

"So, this new packages are in line with the government's move to extend the health insurance cover to the majority

of Tanzanians, who are missing out in the health insurance scheme," he said, adding that the move has nothing to do with fund's instability as some people think.

He further said that 32 percent of Tanzanians have health insurance cover, 8 per cent are members of NHIF, 23 percent are members of Community Health Fund (CHF), while only 1 percent are members of private health insurance companies.

"Our aim is to reach 20 percent of Tanzanians in the next few years and with the introduction of these new packages we believe we'll reach that number," he said.

The new packages' breakdown shows that the package for individual persons between the age group of 18 to 35 years-old will cost a fee ranging from 192,000/- to 516,000/-, while people falling in the 36-59 age category cough up 240,000/- to 612,000/-, and as for 60 years and above the packages will range from 360,000/- to 984,000/-.

The list shows that couples with more than one child will contribute between 612,000/- and 1,644,000/-.

The newly launched packages include Najali Afya Premium package comprising of services such as up to 30 days admission for in-patients in each year, laboratory services and radiology, while antenatal care will be issued after

two years of enrollment under this scheme.

As for Wekeza Afya Premium, beneficiaries will be eligible for in-patient services and admission of up to 45 days, antenatal care after the first year of enrolment and specialist surgeries.

Other services on offer are laboratory, radiology, ultrasound and CT Scans, which can be acquired after the first year of membership.

Timiza Afya package comprises of up to 60 days of inpatient services, antenatal services after the first year, specialised surgeries and other basic services applicable in other packages.

All the beneficiaries will be eligible to acquire services at the level of the dispensary to regional referral hospitals.

The official said that the fees are in line with stakeholders' views and actual medical expenses in the health facilities, "so we believed that the fees are fair and will enable beneficiaries to access quality health services to more than 7000 health centres and hospitals across the country."

According to Dr Konga, with the new packages, all beneficiaries will be able to access health services form dispensary to national level.

NHIF is set to increase public awareness and increase health insurance coverage in the country.

Arusha Immigration office issues 36,000 passports between Jan and Nov

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A TOTAL of 36,000 travel documents were issued by the Immigration Department in Arusha between January and November, this year at the rate of 3000 passports per month.

Deputy Commissioner for Immigration, Abdallah Towo, described the issuance as 6231 new electronic East African passports and 29,472 temporary traveling documents (paper passports) given to travelers in the last eleven months.

"We have also granted 1402 Visas and Passes to foreigners who arrived into the country for various reasons but mostly for tourism purposes," said the Commissioner.

Visitors, who entered into the country through the Namanga border, were 124,106. Those that travelled out of Tanzania and had their documents stamped at the same border were listed as 125,681.

According to Commissioner Towo, the department has also issued 2236 business visas; 517 resident permits, mostly investors in Mining, Industry and Traders as well as 193 student Visas.

In another development, nearly 145 Tanzanians who were illegally living in Kenya have been dispatched back into the country in the space of eleven months of this year.

According to the Deputy Commissioner Towo, that is the case of 142 stowaways

who happened to be Tanzanians that were nabbed by Kenyan officials for living in the neighbouring country illegally and sent back into the country in the series of operations conducted between January and November 2019.

The Deputy Commissioner for Immigration was speaking here during the joint meeting of Immigration Department Officials and stakeholders, clients as well as recipients of immigration services in Arusha Region, held at the Mount Meru Hotel on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner Towo however did not disclose if there were other Tanzanians stowing away in other East African Countries such as Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, but

explained that the immigration department have managed to arrest 425 illegal immigrants in Arusha in the period between January and November this year.

"Out of those, 69 illegal immigrants found in Arusha have so far been apprehended in court, while 66 others have been deported back to their countries of origin; the rest 17 have been sent to jail," said the commissioner for immigration.

In another development, 23 former prisoners that were jailed for illegal stay in the country have been released from jail, while the number of aliens that were refused entry to Tanzania is 57 within the eleven months period.

Arusha shares a common border with

Kenya, a boundary stretching some 500 kilometres from Loliondo, via Namanga down to the West Kilimanjaro precinct.

The Guest of Honor during the meeting was the Karatu District Commissioner, Theresia Mahongo who represented the Regional Commissioner, stated that if Passports and Visas applications become transparent, there will be fewer cases of illegal immigrants or stowaways in East Africa.

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By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

Elephants kill seven residents of 3 Longido District villages

SEVEN people have died at different times in Kimokoa, Sinya and Ngalehani villages following clash between wild animals and villagers while both sides

Longido District Commissioner Frank Mwaishumbe revealed this yesterday when talking to this paper over the phone from Longido.

He said the deaths occurred this year at different times whenever villagers went to fetch water, collect firewood or grazing their livestock when elephants would appear and cause havoc and fear among the villagers.

He said: "Human beings look for water while elephants also come to the villages for same purpose or even visit sites where their 'grand parents' were killed or even when looking fodder for their offspring, such as protein and minerals, hence when they meet elephants start attacking and chasing away and villagers, and that is how some of them were killed."

He said elephants have unique history - if their parents had passed at one place or obtained their needs at the place, this is inherited downwards, even after 200 years they will pass by the area even if it is an urban area.

"We have heard just recently elephants in the city of Tanga and caused havoc, and such situation is the one I am talking about even if there is one tribe or a family that was responsible in killing of elephants, and when they later pass and smell, or hear or recall a dialect of that tribe that was involved, they must retaliate... elephants have

great sense of smell and memory," he said.

He said concerning defense and security of Longido district the government has taken the first step of educating villagers living near the wildlife in collaboration with TANAPA that they should go in large groups in

company of dogs who will tip them in cased elephants are in vicinity.

He said the government shuns building structures for social services in these areas to avoid such clashes with elephants.

Mwaishumbe said the reasons followed increase of the war against poachers

hence elephants increased in large numbers, which was good for tourists.

He said TANAPA maps show the wildlife areas have been infringed by humans by 15 percent and up to now only five percent remain following human activities and increase in population.

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

INVITATION TO BID: No. ITB/2019/SUP/056
FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS

- 1. Background:**
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified suppliers to submit firm offers for the Supply and Delivery of Desktop computers.
- 2. Eligibility:**
Suppliers duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street P.O Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	UNHCR Field Office Kigoma Kheri Avenue, Off Bangwe Road P.O. Box 1213, Kigoma
UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo Kabigwa (Near TANESCO) P.O. Box 49 Kibondo	UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza Mwanza Airport P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS INVITATION TO BID

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Monday 09 December 2019 at 16.00 hours EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Monday 16 December 2019 at 16.00 hours EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.

UONGOZI Institute

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
PROCUREMENT & SUPPLIES OFFICER

UONGOZI Institute seeks to **inspire leaders** and promote the recognition of the important role of **leadership in sustainable development** within Africa. Located in the President's Office, United Republic of Tanzania, UONGOZI Institute provides training to leaders from Tanzania and beyond, organises high-level policy forums and dialogues, and carries out research on leadership and sustainable development.

UONGOZI Institute is currently seeking to recruit a Procurement and Supplies Officer.

The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in ensuring integrity, fairness, and openness in procurement processes as well as adherence to policies, procedures, and controls. He/She will report directly to the Procurement Specialist and contribute to the Procurement Management Unit (PMU) activities in order to realise UONGOZI Institute's strategic goals.

Key Requirements of the Position

This role includes:

- o Prepare procurement and disposal plan as per the Public Procurement Acts and Guidelines;
- o Prepare and issue contract documents;
- o Register contracts awarded;
- o Prepare monthly procurement reports for the tender board;
- o Evaluate suppliers, contractors, consultants and service providers;
- o Assist in the process of procurement and tenders including advertisement, technical specifications, terms of reference, selection criteria, etc. and guiding the evaluation of bids and proposals;
- o Monitor and track procurement activities and delivery status of goods/services;
- o Manage the Institute's inventory through cost-effective inventory control techniques and systems;
- o Maintaining proper records for goods received and inspection reports, as well as updating the contract and assets registers; and
- o Prepare other reports as may be required from time to time.

Key Outputs

- o Timely supply of goods and services;
- o Compliance with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority procedures.

Skills and Competencies Required

- o Excellent communications and personnel management skills and ability to relate to people at all levels of an organisation and of different multi-cultural backgrounds;
- o Possess business acumen, with an analytical mind;
- o Ability to carry out detailed work under demanding deadlines, and to manage and prioritise multiple concurrent bids
- o Excellent negotiation skills;
- o Cost-efficient oriented person;
- o Knowledge of the latest Public Procurement Act(s) and related Regulations together with other Development Partners' procurement procedures;

Qualifications and Experience

At the minimum, the Procurement and Supplies Officer should have:

- o A Degree from a reputable Institution in Procurement and Supply Management or related fields;
- o Consistent and relevant working experience of not less than four (4) years in public procurement;
- o Registered with the Procurement and Supplies Professional and Technician Board (PSPPTB);
- o Proficiency in computerised procurement systems, spreadsheets, database management;
- o Fluency in English and Swahili languages is required.

Remuneration

An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit their application, comprising of application letter, a detailed Curriculum Vitae, contact details for three referees and copies of certificates to the following address:

Chief Executive Officer

UONGOZI Institute
62 Mwasani Road, Oyster Bay
P.O. Box 105753, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone: +255 (0) 22 260 2917
OR through Email (recruitment@uongozi.or.tz), with subject line "PROCUREMENT & SUPPLIES OFFICER".

Deadline for Receiving Applications: **27th December, 2019.**

UONGOZI Institute is an equal opportunity employer. We regret that we will not be able to contact unsuccessful applicants.

SADC calls for collective efforts to fight HIV/AIDS

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has called for collective efforts and inclusivity of key and vulnerable populations to achieve the HIV fast track targets of 90-90-90 by the year 2020.

In her message during the 2019 World Aids Day, SADC Executive Secretary, Stergomena Tax said countries also need to scale-up interventions aimed at attaining the targets as spelt out in the United Nations Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development and the Universal Health Care (UHC) 2030 targets.

Under the 90-90-90 targets, countries commitment to have, by 2020, 90 per cent of all people living with HIV know their HIV status; 90 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; and 90 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression.

Dr Tax said that in line with the Maseru Declaration on the Fight Against HIV and AIDS, SADC has continued to make progress and re-iterates its commitment to work with all stakeholders, including the civil society, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, international institutions, cooperating partners and the media, to deliver key interventions.

The interventions, she said, includes HIV prevention, treatment, care and

support, as well as to generate evidence-based interventions through HIV research. "There should be innovative means to mobilise domestic resources aimed at bridging the widening funding gaps in the HIV and AIDS prevention and response programmes," she said.

She called upon SADC member states and the international community to continue making sustained efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in order to reverse the negative impacts of the disease on the wellbeing and livelihoods of the people.

Every December 1st, SADC joins the international community in commemorating the World Aids Day.

The day was founded in 1988 to provide an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

This year's theme 'Communities make the difference' is intended to recognize the critical role that communities have played and continue to play in helping to deliver HIV services, raising awareness and, more importantly, in the advocacy to ensure an enabling environment for a robust and inclusive HIV/AIDS response.

Almost four decades ago, the International Community joined efforts to fight HIV/AIDS. Since then, important milestones have been achieved, and HIV has become more manageable.



Nabaki Afrika Ltd deputy marketing manager Mukiza Mushumba (R) is interviewed in Dar es Salaam at the weekend by East Africa Television (EATV) presenter Nasser Kingu in a business promotion programme dubbed 'Kibiashara Zaidi' aired by twin stations EATV and East Africa Radio. Photo: EATV

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Water ministry ditching water project contractors

THE Ministry of Water has started implementing water projects using 'Force Account' system instead of contractors so as to do away with high implementation costs and delays on the projects.

This was revealed yesterday by the Water Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa during his visit to Chamwino District where he inspected various water projects.

Prof Marawa said there are currently 40 projects being implemented using the new system and that the government has saved a lot of money and work on the projects took less time compared to contractors.

"As of now the ministry has abolished the procedure of advertising tenders to get contractors because the procedure delays projects' implementation and

are of high cost as opposed to when the ministry uses its own experts," he said.

He added: "The work of digging trenches, erecting 2 million-litre water tanks and borehole drilling we have capacity to do - more than those contractors, I ask you engineers to understand that if you bring to me permits to sign for engaging contractors for the water projects I will

never sign them."

He gave the example of the water projects at Kirando Nkasi District which would have cost 4.6bn/- if contractors had been engaged, but it was later implemented for only 3.2bn/-

Prof Mbarawa added: If the Drilling and Dam Construction Agency (DDCA) submit high construction cost I will also not consent, we also don't want

them to charge highly, there are water projects of which the ministry's own experts are capable of doing."

He said the Chamwino water project, costing 574m/- is being implemented by the government by 100 percent, and added that so far three boreholes have been drilled and work on water pipe network that will take three months was going on and that the contractor

would have taken nine months to complete.

Earlier, reading Chamwino water projects implementation report, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (RuWasa) acting manager for Chamwino, Christina Msengi said up to October this year 254,000 residents will get clean and safe water, equivalent to 65 percent of all residents.

HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



TANGAZO LA UUZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa zoezi la upimaji wa viwanja limekamili na kuanzia TAREHE 3/12/2019 viwanja vitaanza kuuzwa kila siku za Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa katika eneo la wazi la Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 2 Asubuhi hadi saa 9.30 Alasiri.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni katika maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
NALA (Karibu na Chuo cha IFM na Kituo cha kupaki Malori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 4,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=
CHAHWA (Karibu na Ikulu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=
Mahoma Makulu (Nyuma ya Mji wa Serikali)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=
KIKOMBO (Karibu na Bandari kavu na Makao Makuu ya Ulinzi ya Taifa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 2,000/= Makazi na Biashara 3,500/=
MTUMBA (Karibu na Mji wa Serikali na Ikulu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZONE I Makazi 8,000/= Makazi na Biashara 8,500/= ZONE II Makazi 6,000/= Makazi na Biashara 7,500/= ZONE III Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,500/=

NB: Malipo yote yafanyike ndani ya Siku 90 baada ya kupata hati ya madai.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga simu namba 0714 785513.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,
DODOMA

215540801

Conduct research to reduce rural income poverty, Kijaji tells IRDP

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning Deputy Minister, Dr Ashatu Kijaji yesterday challenged the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) in Dodoma to conduct researches that will suggest ways to reduce rural

income poverty among Tanzanians.

Dr Kijaji urged the college to also come up with suggestions on how government funded development projects can be properly implemented by ensuring value for money.

She made the remarks when speaking at the institute's 33rd convocation ceremony in Dodoma where 3,182 graduates were conferred with different Degree and awarded Diploma.

"The government will appreciate getting

suggestions on how best it can implement development projects contrary to the current situation where there is no value for money in some projects. We also want you to come up with research finding that will help us reduce rural poverty as well as fast track development", said Dr Kijaji. Assistant Budget Commissioner, Pius Mponzi assured the Deputy Minister that the rural development institute will conduct such researches and make sure the findings reaches wananchi at all levels. He said the findings will be put in a simple language and disseminated widely.

The Institute's Principal, Prof Hozen Mayaya said that it has been 40 years since the institute was established, and that it had been producing qualified graduates in accordance with the internal and external market demands. Mayaya informed that the Institute of Rural Development Planning has increased the number of offered courses to 25 from just only one course when it was established in 1980. He said the number of registered students have also increased to more than 11,000 this year compared to only 13 students in 1980.



The government will appreciate getting suggestions on how best it can implement development projects contrary to the current situation where there is no value for money in some projects

215540801

BONITE BOTTLERS LIMITED

Advertisements of Employment

1. Area Sales Supervisor

Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing / Business Administration or any other related field from recognized Institution.

Key skills & Abilities:

- Ability to manage and monitor staff performance to ensure the preset targets are met
- Ability to actively pursue opportunities to improve Route to Market and leveraging best practices.
- Ability to drive horizontal expansion through outlet creation incentive programs
- Ability to identify Commercial and Market development improvement initiatives to drive incremental volume, and profit share.
- Ability to track performance against objectives and initiate corrective measures.
- Ability to supervise people and meet sales target assigned.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision
- Self motivated, flexible person and a good team player

✓ **Experience: Any experience in related field will be added advantage.**

2. Salesman

Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of form IV/VI with Diploma in Sales and Marketing / Business Administration or any related field from recognized Institution.

Key skills & Abilities:

- Skills and knowledge of customer care and customer services.
- Ability and skills of route sales.
- Ability to forecast sales/load to be taken for each day to the location assigned.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Self motivated, flexible person and a good team player.
- Ability to seek out and develop news business and maximize all possible opportunities to increase Sales

✓ **Experience: Any experience in the same field will be added advantage**

Mode of Application:
All applications accompanied with cover letter, photocopies of certificates and CVs to be sent to undersigned address, reach him not later than 11/12/2019.

The Managing Director,
Bonite Bottlers Ltd,
P. O. Box 1352, MOSHI.
E-mail hr@bbl.co.tz



Angelica Pesha, Tigo's acting chief officer for mobile financial services, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the launch of a Tigo Pesa promotion campaign dubbed 'Wakala Kinara' that will see lucky outstanding Tigo-Pesa agents in Tanzania win 20m/- . Left is Tigo-Pesa pricing and segmentation manager Abdallah Mashashi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Pregnancies cut short education for over 700 Rukwa school girls

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

A total of 722 girl students have failed to continue with their primary and secondary education in Rukwa Region due to pregnancy.

This was revealed yesterday by the Rukwa Regional Medical Officer Boniface Kasululu when giving report on the strategic plan to control child pregnancies.

He said the plan was the result of a meeting called by stakeholders in partnership with the government, Plan International, Africare and Jhpiego, NGOs implementing Safe Birth Project in the region.

He said statistics on child pregnancies in the region show that in the three years period (2017/2019) 722 girl students had pregnancies, adding that 171 of them were from primary schools

and 551 from secondary schools.

However, he said since the region did not have a robust plan in acquiring reports on child pregnancies, it was likely the figures were too low.

Child pregnancies is among big challenges facing Rukwa region whereas demographic research statistics for 2015/16 showed that 29 percent of women of 15 to 19 year age group were either pregnant or had children already.

He said various researches show there are several reasons that contribute to this situation - including abject poverty, poor education, local customs and oppressive beliefs on girls.

Poor family upkeep and general social decay, unaccountability and poor guardianship from parents are mentioned as other regions.

Others are gender based violence (GBV), adolescence pressures and inadequate dormitories in schools

He said the region has in place strategies to ensure every village has a primary school and a secondary school for every ward to reduce long distances students walk for their lessons as some adults and youths use the opportunity to deceive girl students.

Rukwa Region has 59 villages without primary schools and 25 wards without secondary schools - the situation that compels students to walk very long distances for their lessons.

The Nkansi district commissioner saidi Mtanda called on government functionaries at district level to stop the habit of concealing statistics on school girls pregnancies as by so doing the strategies will never be fully implemented.

He said if they are forthright, they will greatly assist Africare, Plan International and Jhpiego - NGOs implementing Safe Birth Project in the region - in the eradication of the problem.

Uphold professionalism, put patients first, doctors urged

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

MEDICAL doctors have been urged to put the citizens and country's interests ahead of their own and to uphold professional ethics, if the health sector is to meet the expectations of the masses.

Vice chancellor of Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) Prof Charles Mgone made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking during the 17th graduation ceremony for HKMU.

He called upon the medics to consider rules, regulations and best ethical practices in the provision of health services which they are going to execute in their working place.

"As a university, we're expecting that every graduate will be a good ambassador by providing health services to people in and outside the country," he said.

According to him, the university has produced 509 graduates compared to last year where there were 290.

"This increase in number of graduates reflects the wide demand of health staffs in the country," he added.

Mgone explained that health services are one of major aspects in people's lives that needs a person who is well trained and ethical enough to render

the service effectively.

"This is why we are working hard to increase the number of students in health sector in order to support the government's initiatives of making sure every health centre is having enough health staffs," he explained.

He said that out of 509 graduates, 32 graduated with Certificates in Nursing, 210 graduated with Diploma in Nursing, 56 graduated with degree in Nursing. About 201 graduated with bachelor degree in physician, eight graduated with masters in physician, one graduated with Masters in social work and one graduated with Masters in public health science.

Mgone further said that the university has set aside a plot at Bunju area in Dar es Salaam to build the state-of-the-art university by using own resources that will be able to accommodate large number of scholars both within and outside the country.

"This is because HKMU has been accredited as one of best university to produce competent health experts the record that attract foreigners to come and study in the university," Mgone added.

Acting chancellor of the university John Ulanga said the university is once again providing its contribution to the country health sector by releasing

more than 500 health experts who are able to influence changes in their community.

"The graduates are ought to provide exemplary services to the public as taught in the class," Ulanga said.

He added that in this year, females have scored high in the medical field than men, the situation increases competition among them to get more professionals.

According to Ulanga, the plan to extend the campus is in the pipeline as structural design and recruitment of experts for construction is already done.

He urged the graduates to make good use of expertise and knowledge they get from the university to help the society effectively.

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) was established in 1997, being among the first private universities to be accredited in Tanzania in the year 2000, it has since then received local, regional and international recognition.

It was the idea of Prof Hubert C.M Kairuki and his wife Kokushubira Kairuki to establish the university, moved by the situation in Tanzania after independence in 1961 whereby diseases, poverty and ignorance were declared the country's key enemies.

Young Tanzanian receives award in remembrance of Princess Diana

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A young Tanzanian pharmacist, Erick Venant, has received the prestigious 'Legacy Award' in memory of Princess Diana of Wales for his work on combating antimicrobial resistance, committed to raise the awareness about this emerging global health threat.

Venant (25) started his efforts while still a pharmacy student where he led a nationwide campaign to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance, his work successful brought the attention about resistance of microorganisms to life saving drugs.

As part of sustained efforts he founded a non-governmental organization (RBA-INITIATIVE) which has special focus to curb antimicrobial resistance.

His work has inspired many people to take steps in combating antimicrobial resistance both at national and international level. It's mentioned that his efforts are important for improving global health.

Earlier, Erick along with the twenty other recipients met with HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge at Royal residence-Kensington Palace where he congratulated the winners and spoke to them about their work that led them to receive the award.

Erick had a short discussion with HRH Prince William about antimicrobial resistance. The Prince even broke into Swahili to talk with Erick, and congratulated him for his work to contain antimicrobial

resistance.

The organizers said, all the Legacy Award recipients - who come from across the UK, Canada, Malaysia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Nepal, and India - have had a monumental impact on society.

"Many of them only know Princess Diana as a historical figure but they carry the honor of the award with pride and admiration for whose memory it was set up in. This year marks the 20th Anniversary year of the charity, The Diana Award," read the statement

"This is a landmark event for The Diana Award as we celebrate our 20th anniversary year. This ceremony is about celebrating young people for their selfless contribution to society, their courage and bravery, and demonstrating to young people that we value them. We believe that valuing young people means investing in them so we are delighted that our Legacy Award recipients will have access to our unique development programme ensuring they continue to be positive trailblazers for their generation."

"It's an honor, I thank God. It



We have more work to be done together, I am glad to receive the Legacy award just few months after awarded with the Diana award

is not only my achievement but also recognition of young people contribution to the society which often goes unrecognized.

"I believe antimicrobial resistance requires urgent, collective and sustained efforts. We have more work to be done together. I am glad to receive the Legacy award just few months after awarded with the Diana award," said Erick.

The winners were selected from a poll of nominations by an independent judging panel which includes Baroness Lawrence OBE, Holly Branson, British Airways CEO and Chairman Alex Cruz and Elizabeth Namayaro a senior advisor to United Nations under Secretary General.

The Legacy Award and development programme, which included a three-day residential experience, is sponsored by Gilead Sciences, Alex Kalomparis, Gilead Sciences, Vice President, Public Affairs, EMEA, said:

"Gilead are incredibly proud to be supporting 'The Diana Award' and we congratulate the well deserving recipients of The Legacy Award.

At Gilead, we understand the need to look to the future and drive progress through social and humanitarian work, and we have been impressed by the inspiring contribution these young change makers are already making to society.

It has been a privilege to partner with The Diana Award and support these future leaders who will continue to make a positive impact on people's lives."



DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCE

Management and Development for Health (MDH) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose primary aim is to contribute to address public health priorities of the people of Tanzania. MDH seeks to recruit a qualified individual to fill the above position, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and shall be based in Dar es Salaam.

JOB SUMMARY: The role of the HR Director is to build, lead and maintain the HR function to contribute to the vision and mission of the MDH. She/he will be responsible for developing and implementing human resources policies, supporting strategic objectives, hiring staff and negotiating employment agreements, and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations HR Director will plan, direct and control the human resources activities of the organization including training and staff development, compensation, rewards and benefits, safety and health, welfare and industrial relations.

Key Duties and responsibilities

- Develop and implement human resources strategies in relation to personnel policies, procedures and practices to support the strategic MDH purpose
- Recommend the development of employee terms and conditions of service.
- Develop, implement and control the personnel file information system.
- Advise heads of units on the administration and interpretation of Human Resources Policies and Procedures.
- Lead, manage, develop and supervise the human resources department team, services and functions.
- Establish automated Human Resources Information Systems Software
- Develop and monitor the implementation of the organization Performance Management Systems (PMS), including identification of training needs and implementation of training and staff development.
- Develop and implement policies for incentive schemes, staff motivation, talent acquisitions/development, and staff retentions.
- Oversee and administer Succession Plans for all organization departments.
- Develop, implement and control the conflict, grievances and labor cases management
- Lead and implement recruitment and selection of senior staff in the organization
- Oversee employee relations to provide a constructive and harmonious working environment for staff safety and well being
- Obtain professional legal guidance and support in the application and administration of labour laws/regulations and other related legal matters.
- Participate in preparation of organization budget and workplan
- Review and authorize staff payments and payroll within approved limit.
- Conduct regular training on human resources management and general management.
- Network with other human resources professionals and maintain up to date information of developments and best practice in the human resources field.
- Establishes the MDH wage and salary structure, pay policies, and oversees the variable pay systems within the MDH including bonuses and raises.
- Leads competitive market research to establish pay practices and pay bands and leads participation in at least one salary survey per year
- Attend senior management meetings and contribute to the overall management and development of the organization as a member of senior management team.
- Interface with external services providers, auditors and regulators as appropriate.
- Work with the CEO on HR governance issues to be reported to the board and members
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer.

Education requirements

A Master of Human Resource Management OR
A Master of Business Administration degree on Human Resource Management

Experience, knowledge and skills requirements

- More than 7 years working experience in human resource management
- A member of senior management team with ability to oversee over 200 staff
- Must be familiar with Tanzania Labour Laws and Regulations and other relevant laws
- Experience in reporting to the board of directors on governance issues on HR functions
- Experience in automating human resource functions and integrated information system
- High level of energy, decisive, dependable and reliable.
- High degree of integrity and un-doubtful character.
- Ability to motivate staff, manage and utilize human resources and facilitate teamwork.
- Excellent communication skills and highly organized.
- Superior interpersonal skills, and detail oriented.
- Good problem-solving skills, and strong people skills
- 7 years' experience in budgeting, HR policies, HR audit, performance management, compensation, timesheets, payroll, conflict resolution,

TO APPLY:

Interested candidates for this position should submit an application letter, a detailed CV, names and contact information of three work related referees by December 15, 2019, to the Human Resource Director, through e-mail hr@mdh-tz.org or dropped by hand at the MDH Head Office in Mikocheni, Mwai Kibaki Road, Plot No. 802.

Kindly note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Mbeya to involve religious leaders in fight against new HIV infections

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

MBEYA Region authorities in collaboration with various stakeholders have embarked on a special project in the fight against new HIV infections by incorporating regions institutions and traditional elders in mobilising people to examine their HIV status.

This was revealed on Sunday by the Tanzania Commission for AIDS official in Mbeya Region Emmanuel Petro during World's AIDS Day celebrations held at regional level in Bukinga Village, Muungano Ward in Kyela District.

Petro said according to research done between 2012 and 2019 HIV infections in the region has increased from 9.0 percent to 98.2 percent making it cling to number three position nationally behind Njombe and Iringa.

He said the situation has compelled the regional authority in partnership with various stakeholders to take deliberate

steps in arresting the situation to attain the government's three 90 target.

He elaborated that three 90 is 90 percent of people living with HIV should examine to know their health statuses, 90 percent with HIV should be incorporated in ARV treatment, and the last 90 percent is for all those using ARVs to have neutralized the viruses.

He said at present research shows that new infections confront young people of 15-24 age group and that this group takes 40 percent of all infections hence more efforts should be directed to this group.

He said girls are the ones who are more infected because out of all young people who get new infections 80 percent are girls.

Meanwhile, project manager from 'Pepfar FBO Initiative' implemented by World Vision, Frida Chilimo, said the project aims to incorporate religious leaders because they have many followers who hold their trust therefore its

easy to win them over.

She said the project aims to mobilize wananchi to have their health checked and for those found with HIV should be incorporated into ARV treatment programme.

Chilimo said the project is being implemented in three districts of Mbeya and Songwe regions. For Mbeya it is Rungwe District and in Songwe they are Ileje and Mbozi districts.

"In Rungwe we are partnering with Igogwe Mission Hospital but for Songwe we are cooperating with Caritas Organisation," she added.

The Kyela District Development Director (DED) Ezekiel Magehema urged wananchi to take care of new HIV infections as AIDS is more hazardous to people's health.

On December 1 of every year the world celebrates World AIDS Day and for this year the event was held at national level in Mwanza and for Mbeya Region it was held in Kyela District.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Fabiano Matawa (R), security manager at Dar es Salaam's Ramada Resort, leads a first aid team in "rescuing an injured person" - but all as part of a fire drill held at the weekend to test fire-fighting equipment and keep staff up to speed in the event of a fire outbreak. The operation was implemented in many other hotels in the city. Photo: John Badi

Conduct regular training on fire-fighting, owners of hotels in Dar advised

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE fire and rescue force has called upon hotel owners to conduct regular training to their staffs on how they can save their life during fire incidences.

"Building workers capacity in fighting fire outbreaks helps save their lives and properties. It is crucial to ensure that they are aware of what to do in case of fire", said the force's assistant inspector in Kinondoni District, Isack Njombe.

He was speaking over the weekend shortly after fire fighters arrived at Ramada Resort Dar es Salaam when the hotel conducted a fire drill that aimed at testing its fire system and showing seriousness on safety.

Njombe said the fire drill has proved to have positive results in case of fire accident.

"Our response shows how well we are prepared to save lives as well as properties during fire accidents", he noted.

Ramada Resort Dar es Salaam Security Manager, Fabiano Matawa insisted that it is the responsibility of every staff to take precaution during fire accidents, hence the need for regular drills.

Security Manager explained that the hotel conducts safety trainings to the staffs twice a year.

"In doing business, we also prioritize safety of our employees. We are investing a lot of monies in capacity building for our hotel staff", Matawa explained adding fire drills helps staffs not only at work places but also at their home.

Narrating, he said the fire drill started by an alarm sound that alerted an emergency before the all hotel guests and staffs get out of the building and assembled at the special point.

Matawa said the management had not notified any of the staff and guest on the exercise since the aim was to see how they will respond to the situation. He said although they were not told of the fire drill earlier, both staffs and hotel guest responded well by gathering at the assembly point.

"They all remained safe even after the exercise, previously they knew it was really fire accident", he said.

Cleophace Ixiyao, fire officer from SGA Security Tanzania Limited said he learned many things during the exercise. He hailed the hotel for investing in rescue equipment and being considerate on the safety on its employees and guest.

NGOs cautioned not to engage in politics

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE country's Non Governmental Organisations Coordination Board (NGOs Board) has cautioned Non Governmental Organisations not to involve themselves in politics, and instead should direct their efforts in helping Tanzanians.

The Board's chairman Dr Richard Faustine Sambaiga said this in Mwanza when he met with NGOs stakeholders soon after visiting some of the NGOs to inspect their development activities in Mwanza Region.

DR Sambaiga said during the civic elections period many NGOs shift from their responsibilities and start flying other peoples' banners.

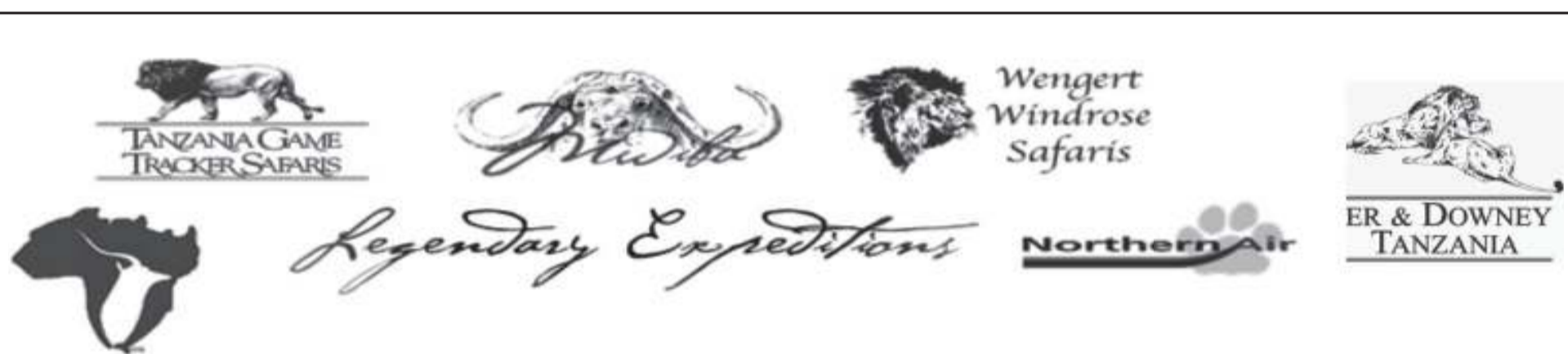
He also called on stakeholders who engage in education to voters to use the opportunity in the coming General Elections, but even then they should not engage themselves in political campaigns.

He said if anyone wants to engage in politics, they should abandon NGOs work and do politics, but not to use NGOs to engage in politics.

Dr Sambaiga also called on the NGOs to operate as institutions and not for the interest of one person, or a small group of people and their work should adhere to the NGOs constitutions.

He said: "We have visited an NGO whose office is in the home of its director, and when we asked for financial agreements he did not have one. How does this NGO operate while it has more than ten members?"

Meanwhile, the NGOs registrar Vickness Mayao said her office has decided to visit Mwanza based NGOs to monitor their activities.



PRESS RELEASE

THE FRIEDKIN TANZANIAN COMPANIES - OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Friedkin Tanzanian Companies have been operating in the hospitality and conservation industries in Tanzania for over 35 years during which we have formed a strong relationship with the government as well as within the communities where we operate.

Our activities in Tanzania are motivated by our deep commitment to conservation and philanthropy. Consistent with our mission, we have never taken any money out of Tanzania. We have paid billions of shillings in taxes and invested billions of shillings in local communities to help grow the economy and support this incredible country that we love so much. Across our group of companies, we employ over 500 Tanzanians.

The Friedkin Tanzanian Companies object to the recent false and misleading news articles that are designed to spread misinformation about our companies' operations in Tanzania.

The Friedkin Tanzanian Companies acknowledge a current inquiry into its companies' affairs. The group is highly committed to this task and continues to co-operate and assist government in all its endeavors.

We look forward to working with the appropriate authorities to bring these matters to a conclusion.

**This statement is officially endorsed and approved by:
Directors - The Friedkin Tanzanian Companies**

Simiyu Region faces acute shortage of blood

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

SIMIYU Region is facing acute shortage of blood for transfusion requiring some 10,000 units in its hospitals and health facilities.

The situation has compelled them to solicit blood from neighbouring Mwanza region to save lives of those in need, particularly women and children.

This was said yesterday by Simiyu Region Coordinator of Blood transfusion, Shem Nyambaro, during celebration to mark the World AIDS Day held in the region's Itilima district.

Nyambaro said the region's blood need is 18,000 units but up to now they have collected 6,000 units only, hardly sufficient to cover actual need at its hospitals.

He said the challenges they face in realising their blood collection target is low response from wananchi to donate blood.

Meanwhile, the region's Maswa district has been cited as the leader in HIV infections in 2019, overtaking Busega district that was leading for new HIV infection for two consecutive years, 2017 and 2018.

Simiyu Region has five districts - Maswa, Itilima, Busega, Bariadi and Meatu, the region has seen the increase in HIV infections from 3.6 percent in 2012 to 3.9 percent in 2019, though less than the national average of 4.7 percent.

Elaborating on the HIV infections situation, Simiyu Region HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Dr kulemba said Busega district holds number 2 spot at 2.8 percent followed by Bariadi Municipality (2.1 percent), while Itilima and Meatu districts are both at 1.8 percent and Bariadi Rural 1.7 percent.

He said: "There are many reasons for the increase of HIV infections including

unsafe sex as research has shown that this, including sex with more than one partner contribute to 80 percent of all new infections."

He said the region has embarked on improving service to people living with HIV and centers for counseling have been increased from 124 in 2015 to 194 by November 2019.

He said the region has also increased treatment centers (CTC) from 53 in 2017 to 103 in 2019, an increase of 47 percent.

Simiyu Regional Medical Officer, Dr Festo Dugange said the wananchi need more education to make them aware on the hazards of casual sex, including excessive drinking and use of illicit drugs.

The Itilima District Commissioner Benson Kilangi called on men to go for HIV testing and directed district councils to put emphasis on HIV/AIDS education.



Group Six International Ltd chairman Janson Huang speaks at the inauguration of Palm Village Shopping Mall in Dar es Salaam's posh Mikocheni area at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Environmental stakeholders embark on tree planting project in Dodoma

ENVIRONMENTAL stakeholders have teamed up in a tree planting project aimed at making Dodoma a green city, it has been revealed.

This follows a campaign launched by the Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan (pictured) in 2017, calling on residents and other stakeholders to help plant trees in efforts to give the capital city a new look.

Last weekend, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in collaboration with the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation embarked on the exercise and planted over 3400 trees.

Speaking at the event that brought together residents under the leadership of Dodoma district commissioner, Petrobas Katambi and the City Council director, Edwin Kunambi, WWF Country Director, Amani Ngusaro said his organisation is pleased to be part of the campaign, working together with other partners to achieve the target.

"For over 20 years we have been working on environment in Tanzania but not in Dodoma now we want to continue this working relations to help change the capital city," he said.

He noted that Tanzania is one of the countries affected by climate change and Dodoma as a region is also hardly hit by the misfortune, adding that there is need for other stakeholders to join in this noble course to make the city green.

Vodacom Tanzania Foundation's Grants and Communication Manager, Sandra Oswald termed the event as a good beginning of cooperation between Dodoma city and her organization.

"Vodacom Tanzania Foundation has responded to the government's call to support tree planting in

the nation's capital," she said, adding that the Green Dodoma initiative is in line with her foundation's three-year plan to deal with climate change.

She said her organisation has spent Sh 300 million on tree planting on Dodoma whereby some 10,000 trees were planted in the past two months.

TFS's Zonal Manager, Yohana Sanga said to ensure the Green Dodoma is achieved, TFS signed a contract with the city

authority on the matter whereby up to November this year some 1.6 million trees have been planted by private sector players.

"TFS has plans to build a green house that will be able to produce two million trees per year," he said, adding that with combined efforts, the target can be achieved soon.

Meanwhile, the city councilor director, Kunambi urged residents to support efforts of such partners by planting trees at their

residential places.

He said the authority is working on formulation of by-laws that will make it mandatory to plant trees at residential areas, and before getting building permit, one must show the plan to plant three on the site.

He said those living in high density plots will be required to plant at least five trees while those with medium plots plant at least ten trees as those with low density ones plant up to twenty trees.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION DAR ES SALAAM

PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of the United States of America & British High Commission. We shall sell Household furniture's, Vehicles & Generator by public auction on Saturday December 7, 2019 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am; Sofa set, China base, Hutch, Chest drawer, Dressers, Credenza, Coffee table, Dining table, Book case, Conference table, Office desk, Chairs, Carpets, Bed, Mattress, Fridge double door, Freezer, Washer, Dryer, gas & electric cooker, A/c split units, Photocopy m/c, TV Sets, Video Camera set, Computer set, Air Compressor, Water Pumps and etc

Vehicles & Generator Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Mercedes Benz Station Wagon	ML 270 Diesel Engine	2007	Not paid
1	Hyster Electric Fork lift 2 Tons	E50XM2-27	2012	Not paid
4	Generator 40 & 50 KVA	Perkins Diesel Engine	2007/2009	Not Paid
12	Digital Voltage Stabilizer 80 KVA	3 Phase 415 volts	-	Not Paid
2	JLG Electric Ladder (175kg, Capacity)	25 EL (Lifting height 25fts)	2003	Not Paid
1	Mercedes Benz Saloon	WDB20 Diesel Engine	2002	Paid
1	Toyota RAV4 Station Wagon	SXA11 Petrol Engine	1997	Paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from December 4th to 6, 2019 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle & Generator winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by December 13th 2019 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle or generator will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.

For further information contact:
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA) DAR ES SALAAM
CELL NO: 0754 284 926, 0759 284 926 E-mail: universalauktion@hotmail.com
Insta: universalauktioncentre

Afya Plus

Vacancy Announcement

Afya Plus is a local Non-Governmental Organization registered under NGOs Act no.24 of 2002 in Tanzania. Afya Plus is an affiliate of IntraHealth International Inc, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, with more than 40 years of experience in over 100 countries in health systems strengthening and service delivery. As a local affiliate, Afya Plus brings a deep understanding of the country context and offers a route towards local self-reliance, working to be a key partner of the Government of Tanzania (GoT). Afya Plus envisions a community with quality health care services for everyone, achieved by strengthening the quality and accessibility of Tanzania's health care system, working in partnership with the GoT, civil society organizations, for-profit firms and other key stakeholders to support improved service delivery outcomes in the country. Afya Plus is in the Tohara Plus project consortium led by IntraHealth International that supports the GoT to strengthen and accelerate the scale-up of Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) for HIV prevention for maximum public health impact with funding support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Afya Plus is soliciting applications from excellent candidates to fill the following two Management Positions based in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.

1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMARY OF ROLE: The Executive Director has ultimate responsibility for Afya Plus's strategy, performance, growth, and reputation. S/he oversees all aspects of the business to ensure technical and operational excellence, strategic organizational visibility, risk mitigation, quality deliverables, and client/funder and donor satisfaction, consistent with technical, programmatic and contractual standards and requirements. In partnership with the Board of Directors (BoD), s/he oversees the design, development and implementation of the organizational strategic and business plans and activities in support of growth, diversification and impact. S/he provides technical assistance and advice in her/his areas of technical expertise. The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of Afya Plus, ensuring compliance with all applicable policies, standards, rules, regulations and legal requirements of clients, funders and the Government of Tanzania (GoT). S/he will represent Afya Plus and its interests to donors, GoT officials, other collaborating agencies, organizations, and stakeholders in Tanzania. S/he builds and maintains active relationships with key stakeholders from the government, donor, private and non-governmental sectors. S/he models Afya Plus core values. S/he will lead, manage and supervise staff and teams. The Executive Director is supervised by the Chairperson of the Board and provides quarterly performance and financial reports to the Board (e.g. progress of strategic and business plans, spending against revenue projections, audit).

Key Responsibilities

- Lead the development of strategies for achieving organizational excellence, in collaboration with the BoD and staff.
- Be responsible for communicating effectively with the Board and providing in a timely and accurate manner all information necessary for the Board to function properly and to make informed decisions.
- Oversee the Afya Plus portfolio and technical and operational program implementation to achieve expected results in a timely manner, identifying related obstacles and risks and implement strategies to overcome them. Provide direct technical assistance and support for selected HIV/health programming, health workforce/health systems strengthening, data quality and use, and related technical interventions and activities.
- Oversee the finance, contracts, administration and human resource functions, ensuring sound fiscal, administrative, human resource and procurement policies, procedures and practices are in place and in compliance with client/funder/donor rules and regulations and Tanzania legal and regulatory requirements.
- Ensure fiscal integrity of Afya Plus, which will include but not be limited to submission to the Board of a proposed annual budget and monthly financial statements, which accurately reflect the financial condition of the organization.
- Lead strategic planning and business development activities to generate revenue, growth and impact through existing and new products and services, in collaboration with the BoD and staff.
- Contribute to revenue growth of Afya Plus by leading/supporting business development efforts through capture activities, gathering market intelligence, negotiating teaming/pre-teaming arrangements, and writing (or providing inputs for) draft bids/proposals, among others.
- Cultivate and nurture relationships with existing and new stakeholders, donors, partners and clients, in line with the strategic plan.
- Ensure strategic visibility of Afya Plus to donors and clients, highlighting technical and programmatic innovations, strengths and successes.

Minimum Qualifications

- An advanced degree in public health, business, international development or related field; clinical health experience preferred. A qualification in Business Management will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of 12 years of experience managing and implementing public health projects with a focus on HIV and/or health workforce/ health systems/health services development and strengthening. VMMC program experience will be viewed favorably.
- Successful candidates will have demonstrated success in managing and growing a business portfolio with primary focus on diversification of stakeholders and donor agencies to include private organizations.
- Demonstrated experience in working collaboratively with public and private sectors, and civil society organizations.
- Excellent program management skills including strong analytical skills, use of data to drive programmatic decisions, and experience in strategic, operational and program planning and budgeting.
- Excellent skills in leading and fostering high performing and motivated teams able to deliver results on time and on budget, meeting or exceeding funder/client expectations.
- Enthusiasm for fostering relationships with a broad network of external stakeholders.
- Proven experience in developing and securing new business opportunities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including expert presentation skills, experience in writing technical proposals and professional articles and abstracts for international, regional and national audiences.
- Tanzanian citizenship is required.

2. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

SUMMARY OF ROLE: The Finance, Administrative and Operations Manager (FAOM) will provide leadership, oversight and responsibility for the effective management of the Financial, Human Resource, Administrative, Procurement and Logistical functions of Afya Plus activities. S/he will provide overall Financial, HR and Operations direction ensuring that Afya Plus operates effectively and efficiently in accordance with its mission, strategic objectives and program approaches as well as in compliance with the Government of Tanzania's (GoT's) legal and regulatory requirements and organization's donors' rules and regulations. The FAOM will provide timely financial analysis and reports for regular monitoring, strategic processes and presentations to the Afya Plus Board of Directors (BoD) and donors/funders. The FAOM reports to the Executive Director.

Key Responsibilities

- Establish and maintain the proper control environment as outlined in Afya Plus's policies and procedures.
- Developing effective policies to guide processes and implementation in line with donor and organizational regulation and ensure that these are effective and operational at all times and adhered to.
- Contribute towards ensuring that HR, Operational and Finance policies/manuals are up to date with legislative requirements.
- Ensure accurate financial forecasts and secure adequate and timely financing for activities and procurements.
- Ensure that financial management systems provide accurate, current and complete disclosure of financial transactions, aligned with Afya Plus's policies and procedures.
- Monitor proper management of cash flow and review monthly financial statements and bank reconciliation statements for Afya Plus bank accounts.
- Design and implement sound internal control systems to safeguard assets, financial records and documents of the organization.
- Lead development of budgets, spending projections, cost analysis, and pricing as needed by current procurements and new business requirements ensuring completeness, accuracy and consistency of the budget with the workplan.
- Monitor projects' spending against budgets and projections, ensure compliance with donor agreements.
- Ensure effective development of monthly projections and cash advance forecasts.
- Oversee preparation of high quality monthly, quarterly, biannual and annual financial reports and expenditure analysis reporting.
- Oversee and support HR and administration systems to ensure accurate, current and complete policies and procedures pertaining to human resource management.
- Provide oversight for timely, quality, and compliant execution of administrative, procurement and logistical functions to ensure alignment with donor/funder and Afya Plus procurement procedures and guidelines.
- Oversee both routine and non-routine procurement, which includes but is not limited to reviewing the solicitation and analysis of bids and approval of the selected vendor and the requisite purchasing instruments.
- Oversee implementation of IT policies and procedures; ensure that necessary IT services, systems and tools are in place to support day to day program operations, and that staff have the capacity to benefit from these.
- Keep abreast of relevant GoT and donor/funder changes and developments in FAO/HR areas and ensure these are disseminated to all relevant Afya Plus staff.

Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Accounting, Purchasing and Supplies, or other relevant field.
- Professional qualification in CPA or ACCA is required.
- Demonstrated experience in Human Resources management.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in financial, accounting management of international projects, preferably with experience in the fiscal management of CDC, USAID or PEPFAR-funded projects.
- Proven experience and knowledge of accounting procedures, generally accepted accounting practices and financial reporting.
- Extensive knowledge of accounting & finance, as well as applicable laws, regulations and general instructions.
- Familiarity with CDC and USAID compliance regulations.
- Strong experience and skills in developing and managing large budgets.
- Integrated knowledge and understanding of human resources, finance and contractual related concepts, practices, systems, and procedures.
- Extensive knowledge of relevant Tanzanian and US government financial regulations and labor laws.
- Demonstrated ability to set up and maintain accounting and financial management systems and ability to build and review budgets.
- Demonstrated skills in efficiently and effectively developing and managing subgrants to local recipients, including financial and technical oversight, and capacity building in financial and administrative areas.
- Excellent organizational, analytical, oral and written communications skills in English and Swahili.
- Ability to manage teams, initiate and organize work, establish priorities in a time-sensitive environment, and meet deadlines with attention to detail and quality.
- In-depth knowledge in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel and accounting software. Experience with QuickBooks Pro multi-currency preferred.
- Tanzanian citizenship is required.

Application letter with detailed CV, indicating daytime contact telephone numbers and email address, as well as names and contact information of three referees should be submitted to the following email address: employment.afyaplus@gmail.com indicating the job you are applying for in the Subject line.

The closing date for receiving applications is December 18th, 2019. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Afya Plus seeks to fill these two positions with the right persons as soon as possible. Successful candidates will be required to report one month after receiving an employment offer.

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Add an element of grain subsidy in districts threatened by famine

RECENT reports say that the government is lining itself up to tackle food shortage in 16 districts identified as facing grain deficits, the main component in regular preparation of meals, in the wake of a food security evaluation conducted by the Agriculture ministry. The Disaster Management Department in the Prime Minister's Office said at the weekend that a survey was conducted in 46 districts showing signs of food shortage, but just 16 were left on the list following the recent rains as still facing serious grain shortage.

Senior PMO officials said the yardstick used in evaluating the various districts took into account availability of grain, markets and existing stocks.

The PMO study has also been examining why the specific districts were facing grain shortage so as to find ways to end the situation. Rains are likely the main factor but in some areas fake seeds lead to poor yields, or fake crop inputs fail to contain pests, and thus smallholder farmers take the burden of supervision failure.

The study says, among other things, that famines have been rare since the early 1980s but isolated spots or wider zones to a limited extent have faced grain shortages so acute as to assume famine proportions.

There is little qualifying as a clear impression that such a situation exists in the grain-starved districts, and hopefully no district will have approached any such situation by the turn of the year.

One thing that is of concern at various levels is if the country's disaster management is only about logistics of getting relief supplies in place or if it is also about ensuring that famine-stricken people find the grain affordable.

The term takes on a different meaning in a famine situation, as affordability in the normal sense assumes that people are conducting ordinary economic activities and are earning some form of income.

Grain shortages arising from famine always reduce most other activities, so chances that people have enough cash to buy grain for months aren't that high or clear. That is why an element of subsidy is needed for the districts.

The situation was explained at a recent food security evaluation seminar with the participation of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. The UN agency more directly linked with food relief is the World Food Programme, but it doesn't appear to be adequately involved.

Similarly, at the national level, the agency that conducts its work in a relief-based way is the Social Action Trust Fund (TASAF) and it wasn't that closely involved either. It is likely that its expertise is needed so that an element of subsidy in the grain supply is added in the preparations that the PMO is making, not just coordinating logistics.

Thus far, there is no emergency situation declared anywhere, in which case there is still an open question as to whether the issue is to find the grain to put in shops as is being intimated or it is to solve a clear situation of food insecurity.

It is evident that if such insecurity has arisen from drought, it would also affect other income-generating sources such that residents of the 16 districts may not be able to purchase usable or sustainable amounts of grain at ordinary price levels. That is why an element of food relief is relevant, should the drought last longer and bite harder.

Establishing a DNA database to fight crime is giant step forward

CHANGE is in the air in the manner in which criminals can hide from the public view on account of plans to establish a nationwide DNA database, which simply means a situation where each fingerprint can be accounted for when put to forensic examination.

It is not a step that criminals are likely to relish but all law-abiding citizens, once they hear of it or learn of the marvels it is doing in court, should be saluting the innovation. It doubles as good policy and opportune technology.

This, in sum, is the view of things as lately espoused by the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) as it hinted on its plan of establishing a national human DNA database to fast-track the analysis of samples in forensic investigations.

The agency enthused about facilitating timely delivery of justice and thus boosting the speed and accuracy with which the rule of law is observed in practice. Though by no means a magic wand, it still will stand as a big step forward.

Chief Government Chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko told the media that whatever remnant of a person's presence on the scene is found would largely suffice in explaining that event. Issues of sample handling and correct reporting of events aside, the database should help in producing matches between the suspected individual and crime scene bio-markers - thus, providing ample evidence to support criminal investigations.

According to the CGC, the method helps in identifying potential suspects in criminal investigations, thus reducing the time taken to determine who the criminal or criminals could be - effectively making parading and identification things of the past.

This should also help in reducing

the time courts take to clear murder cases when witnesses are too scared to confront those in the dock - known or potential killers who can actually take on those testifying against them.

Put it this way: If it is biomarkers and DNA which will speak, why still take years?

Criminals will now obviously start wearing gloves and, if they are clean-shaven and drop no hairs extremely, sharp instruments will be needed to catch up with them. Some of this is starting to come ashore like 5G equipment or, say, plasma-based wave tracking where the presence of an individual on a scene could have DNA imprint in the surrounding atmosphere if images are taken soon thereafter. This is what is called ether and, to be sure, it borders on the spirit.

It isn't hard to visualise that scenario, as a washroom is 'hot' or 'heavy' when a person leaves the scene and the sort of material which would be imprinted include things like sweat and breath, where definitely DNA material would be identified.

The GCLA isn't there yet but it already shows how far science is moving into everyday life and some of those things making crime difficult to detect start being eased, with society thus gradually becoming a safer place.

It is potentially so at the technological level, but it requires political and social engineering to make it part of reality, including honesty at all levels of public administration.

The CGC says the National Identification Authority (NIDA), the E-Government Agency (EGA) and the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) are involved in the project. Therefore, it is evident that genetic mainstreaming is appreciated all over as vital. This is a laudable gesture.



By Katarina Zimmer

IN 1997, clouds of smoke hung over the rainforests of Indonesia as an area roughly the size of Pennsylvania was burned to make way for agriculture. The fires exacerbated by drought.

Smothered in haze, the trees couldn't produce fruit, leaving resident fruit bats with no option but to fly elsewhere in search of food, carrying with them a deadly disease.

Not long after the bats settled on trees in Malaysian orchards, pigs around them started to fall sick - presumably after eating fallen fruit the bats had nibbled on - as did local pig farmers.

By 1999, a total of 265 people had developed a severe brain inflammation - and 105 had died. It was the first known emergence in people of the Nipah virus, which has since caused a string of recurrent outbreaks across Southeast Asia.

This is one of many infectious diseases usually confined to wildlife that have spilled over to people in areas undergoing rapid forest clearing.

Over the past two decades, a growing body of scientific evidence suggests that, by triggering a complex cascade of events, deforestation creates the conditions for the spreading to people of a range of deadly pathogens such as Nipah and Lassa viruses as well as the parasites that cause malaria and Lyme disease.

As widespread burning continues today in tropical forests in the Amazon and some parts of Africa and Southeast Asia, experts have expressed concern about the health of people living at the frontiers of deforestation. They fear that the next serious pandemic could emerge from the world's forests.

"It's pretty well established that deforestation can be a strong driver of infectious disease transmission," says Andy MacDonald, a disease ecologist at the Earth Research Institute of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"It's a numbers game: The more we degrade and clear forest habitats, the more likely it is that we're going to find ourselves in these situations where epidemics of infectious diseases occur," he adds.

Malaria, which kills over a million annually due to infection by Plasmodium parasites transmitted by mosquitoes, has long been suspected of going hand in hand with deforestation.

In Brazil, while control efforts have dramatically reduced malaria transmission in the past - bringing 6 million cases a year in the 1940s down to just 50,000 by the 1960s - cases have since been steadily rising again in parallel with rapid forest clearing and expansion of agriculture. At the turn of the century, there were over 600,000 cases a year in the Amazon basin.

Work in the late 1990s by experts including Amy Vittor, an epidemiologist at the University of Florida's Emerging

Deforestation leading to more infectious diseases in humans

Pathogens Institute, suggested a reason.

Clearing patches of forest appears to create ideal habitats along forest edges for the mosquito *Anopheles darlingi* - the most important transmitter of malaria in the Amazon - to breed.

Through careful surveys in the Peruvian Amazon, Vittor found higher numbers of larvae in warm, partially shaded pools, the kind that form beside roads cut into forests and puddles behind debris where water is no longer taken up by trees.

"Those were the places where *Anopheles darlingi* really enjoyed being," Vittor recalls.

In a complex analysis of satellite and health data published recently in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, MacDonald and Stanford University's Erin Mordecai reported a significant impact of deforestation across the Amazon basin on malaria transmission, in line with some previous research.

Between 2003 and 2015, on average, they estimated that a 10 per cent yearly increase in forest loss led to a 3 per cent rise in malaria cases. For example, in one year of the study, an additional 1,600-square-kilometre patch of cleared forest - the equivalent of nearly 300,000 football fields - was linked to an additional 10,000 cases of malaria.

This effect was most pronounced in the interior of the forest, where some patches of forest are still intact, providing the moist edge habitat that the mosquitoes like.

With the ongoing burning of the Amazon, these results don't bode well. The latest data, issued recently, reveals that an area 12 times the size of New York City has been destroyed so far this year.

"I am concerned about what's going to happen with transmission following the end of the fires," MacDonald says.

It's hard to generalise about mosquito ecology, which varies depending on species and region, Vittor stresses.

In Africa, studies have found little association between malaria and deforestation - perhaps because the mosquito species there like to breed in sun-lit bodies of water and favour open farmland over shady forest areas.

But in Sabah, a part of Malaysian Borneo, malaria outbreaks also occur in tandem with bursts of forest clearing for oil palm and other plantations.

Mosquitoes aren't the only animals or insects that can transmit deadly scourges to people. In fact, 60 per cent of new infectious diseases that emerge in people - including HIV, Ebola and Nipah, all of which originated in forest-dwelling animals - are transmitted by a range of other animals, the vast

majority of them wildlife.

In a 2015 study, researchers at Ecohealth Alliance, a New York-based non-profit that tracks infectious diseases globally, and others found that nearly one in three outbreaks of new and emerging diseases are linked to land-use change like deforestation. This is according to a tweet earlier by the organisation's president, Peter Daszak.

Many viruses exist harmlessly with their host animals in forests, because the animals have co-evolved with them. But humans can become unsuspecting hosts for pathogens when they venture into or change forest habitat.

"We are completely changing the structure of the forest," notes Carlos Zambrana-Torrel, a disease ecologist at Ecohealth Alliance.

Diseases can also occur when new habitats draw disease-carrying species out of the forest. For instance, in Liberia, forest clearings for oil palm plantations attract hordes of typically forest-dwelling mice lured there by the abundance of palm fruit around plantations and settlements.

Humans can contract Lassa virus when they come into contact with food or objects contaminated with the faeces or urine of virus-carrying rodents or bodily fluids of infected people. In humans, the virus causes haemorrhagic fever - the same kind of illness triggered by Ebola virus - and in Liberia killed 36 per cent of infected people.

Virus-carrying rodents have also been spotted in deforested areas in Panama, Bolivia and Brazil. Alfonso Rodriguez-Morales, a medical researcher and tropical disease expert at Colombia's Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira, fears that the rodents' ranges will increase following the resurgence of fires in the Amazon this year.

Such processes aren't limited to tropical diseases. Some of MacDonald's research has revealed a curious association between deforestation and Lyme disease in the Northeastern United States.

Borrelia burgdorferi, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, is transmitted by ticks that rely on forest-dwelling deer to breed and obtain enough blood to survive. However, MacDonald says it is also found in the white-footed mouse, which happens to thrive in forests fragmented by human settlements.

He adds that spillovers of infectious diseases to people are more likely to occur in the tropics because overall wildlife and pathogen diversity is higher.

There, a number of diseases transmitted by a wide range of animals

- from blood-sucking bugs to snails - have been linked to deforestation. On top of known diseases, scientists fear that a number of yet-unknown deadly diseases are lurking in forests that could be exposed as people encroach further.

Zambrana-Torrel meanwhile notes that the likelihood of spillovers to people may increase as the climate warms, pushing animals and the viruses they carry into regions where they've never existed before.

Vittor says whether such diseases stay confined to forest fringes or if they gain their own foothold in people, unleashing a potential pandemic, depends on their transmission. Some viruses, like Ebola or Nipah, can be transmitted directly between people, theoretically becoming able to travel around the world as long as there are humans.

Zika virus, which was discovered in Ugandan forests in the 20th century, could only cruise the world and infect millions because it found a host in *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito that thrives in urban areas.

"I'd hate to think that another or several other pathogens could do such a thing, but it would be foolish not to think of that as a possibility to prepare for," says Vittor.

Ecohealth Alliance researchers have proposed that containing diseases could be considered a new ecosystem service - that is, a benefit that humans freely gain from natural ecosystems, just like carbon storage and pollination.

To make that case, their team has been working in Malaysian Borneo to itemise the exact cost of malaria, down to each hospital bed and syringe that doctors use.

Zambrana-Torrel says that, on average, they found that the Malaysian government spends around US\$5,000 to treat each new malaria patient in the region - in some areas much more than they spend on malaria control.

Daszak says that adds up over time, outweighing the profits that could be gained by cutting forests down and making a compelling financial argument to leave some forests standing.

He and his colleagues are beginning work with the Malaysian government to incorporate this into land use planning, and are undertaking a similar project with Liberian officials to calculate the cost of Lassa fever outbreaks there.

MacDonald sees value in this idea: "If we can conserve the environment, then perhaps we can also protect health," he says, adding: "That I think is the silver lining that we should keep in mind."

1994 Cairo Agenda matters to women and girls

FROM 12-14 November, this year, the governments of Kenya and Denmark and United Nations Population Fund co-organized the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)25, dubbed: Nairobi Summit on ICPD25—a high-level conference to mobilize the political will and financial commitments we urgently need to finally and fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA). Our Correspondent KENNETH SIMBAYA interviewed EngenderHealth President and Chief Executive Officer TRACI BAIRD (pictured), who attended the conference with the intent of getting her reflection of the summit and some key takeaways from the summit. Read on...

QUESTION: What have you learnt from ICPD25 Conference?

ANSWER: I always like to celebrate the progress that we make in the hard work that we do, and there were nice moments of celebration at the Nairobi Summit - for example, in the release of FP2020's video about the history and progress in family planning in the past 25 years.

However, despite progress in improving SRHR, we have a long way to go in order ensure that everyone, everywhere, benefits from policies, services, community support, and their own ability to make their choices and achieve their health and life goals.

Fortunately, at the Nairobi Summit I saw great examples of country leadership, ownership, and accountability; the critical engagement of civil society; and the voices of feminist movements, youth movements, and groups of indigenous and disabled women, among others, ensuring that they are involved and part of the global solutions as we make good on the commitments of the Summit.

My final takeaway is that we cannot disconnect SRHR and gender equality; we must advance on each to achieve the other.

Q: Is it possible to end unnecessary maternal deaths in pregnancy and childbirth by 2030 without access to safe abortion?

A: No. The 25 million unsafe abortions that occur in the world every year

contribute to about 8% of maternal deaths, as well as to significant levels of disability. We will not be able to fully address maternal health - or ensure that people can exercise their human rights to health and bodily autonomy - without safe abortion. We know that no contraceptive method is 100% effective, not all girls and women have access to contraception (although of course that is one of the goals of the Nairobi Summit), and not all sex is planned or consensual. We also know that limiting access to safe abortion does not reduce abortions - it just forces people to resort to unsafe abortion. Safe abortion must be available -- we cannot end preventable maternal deaths without access to safe abortion. Even beyond that goal, as a matter of basic human rights, women need to be able to choose whether, with whom, and when to have children; safe abortion is part of that choice.

In advance of the Nairobi Summit, EngenderHealth endorsed the Global Declaration on Abortion, joining dozens of organizations around the globe in a call for a comprehensive, rights-based approach to comprehensive abortion access.

Q: Which is better, providing safe abortion services or treating serious morbidities resulting from complications of unsafe abortion?

A: It is important to note here that EngenderHealth always operates within the confines of the laws and regulations in every country and community in which we work, and we are highly aware that legal frameworks around abortion vary from country to country. That said, I would respectfully argue that the question is framed around a false dichotomy. Those who are shaping health systems and approaches to health service delivery should not be thinking in an "either/or" framework. Instead, we should strive to provide every single individual with the best medical care. We should strive to ensure that all people can benefit from scientific progress, including access to safe abortion technology and a range of modern contraceptive methods. We also need to ensure that this access is equitable, and that all people, irrespective of their education, economic status, or geography can benefit from health information and comprehensive



sexual and reproductive health care. With that approach, we can eliminate serious morbidities resulting from unsafe medical procedures, and end preventable maternal deaths.

Q: What has been EngenderHealth's support to Tanzania? And to what extent has that support helped the country move closer to ICPD PoA, specifically on maternal deaths and gender equality?

A: Our support has focused on working with the government as per the allowable policies and guidelines in the country. Our support has enabled millions of Tanzanian women the ability to choose whether, when, and how many children to bear over their lifetimes.

Our work has supported the government to update policies, guidelines, and training curricula;

training of master trainers; and the establishment of quality improvement and quality assurance processes throughout the country. In collaboration with the government, we have established programs for family planning special days and family planning outreach services that have enabled millions of Tanzanian women to access family planning services, making services available, accessible, and affordable (free), and of high quality. We have also supported the government to integrate FP services into other government services, including HIV and Immunization. Finally, we have also worked with the government to demonstrate that assistant medical officers are equally capable of providing tubal ligations through mini-laparoscopy in Tanzania, leading to a change in the national guidelines.

Under our Men as Partners work and our current work on gender, through the government, we continue to engage men and women in dialogue, and support women and men to establish positive relationships so men are engaged in decisions (where warranted).

In the work we do to address gender-based violence, we have worked with individuals and communities to address the fundamental gender dynamics that are at the heart of why gender-based violence occurs in the first place. We have worked hand-in-hand with the government of Tanzania to establish a national response to GBV, ensuring that women are screened and that health facilities, police, and justice provide one-stop services to reduce the burden survivors of violence.

Finally, more recently, we have worked with the government to revise guidelines for the provision of post-abortion care services for all women. We have also worked with the government to train master trainers and provide training for hundreds of health care providers throughout the country to ensure that women who seek post abortion care services receive immediate and effective support. As is the case in all our programs, we have integrated FP in the PAC services we provide, so women and girls who are treated for abortion complications also receive counseling on effective contraception methods and their method of choice from the same PAC provider.

We are committed to bringing high quality services closer to women wherever they are. Our collaboration with the Tanzanian government has enabled us to do just that. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the government and to ensure that there is zero unmet need, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

Q: What will it take to achieve

zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, zero gender based violence and harmful practices against women and girls?

A: The "zero goals" - zero unmet need for contraceptive counseling, information, and services; zero preventable maternal deaths and morbidities; zero sexual or gender-based violence or harmful practices against women and girls; and zero gender discrimination - are ambitious goals that are acting as a call to action for organizations and government agencies around the world. Making progress on these goals will take coordinated action, information sharing, and multi-sector partnerships. Many governments - including Tanzania - have already clearly stated their commitments to these goals, and connected those commitments to national development plans.

To achieve those commitments, governments will need to work closely with partners, including nongovernmental organizations, international nongovernmental organizations, foundations, and private sector actors. Citizens will need track their government's actions and progress toward the commitments made on behalf of the populations they represent.

EngenderHealth envisions a gender-equal world where all people achieve their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and we believe that progress on the zero goals will be accelerated by the engagement of all stakeholders, and all communities, in this effort.

We must especially listen to and fully engage with the important voices and work of groups that have not equally benefitted in the progress that has been made in SRHR since Cairo. Young people, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities are among those who have not equally benefited, and they must so the Summit goals can be achieved by and for everyone.

Trade tensions with China cast gloom over US holiday shopping season

WASHINGTON

THE holiday shopping season is traditionally considered a time full of joy and cheer for both US retailers and consumers. But as this year's holiday shopping season kicked off on Thanksgiving, the mood is a bit mixed.

Retailers, especially small ones, have been struggling to deal with the additional US tariffs on Chinese imports, while consumers, who crave a bargain, are worried about potential price increases in the future.

Reluctance to raise prices Holiday shopping season usually refers to the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and some define it as the whole months of November and December. The National Retail Federation said holiday sales represent about 20 percent of annual retail sales each year, but the figure can be as high as 30 percent for some retailers, such as hobby, toy and game stores.

Retailers reported higher costs from tariffs and firms generally expected higher prices going forward, but their ability to raise prices to cover higher costs "remained limited," according to the US Federal Reserve's latest survey on economic conditions, known as the Beige Book, released earlier this week.

In the Cleveland Fed district, a clothing retailer reduced the use of price discounting to offset higher costs resulting from tariffs. A food retailer said that even though tariffs had increased costs, the company "cannot raise prices on a whim" because of fierce competition.

Retailers' reluctance to raise prices is evident to consumers such as Kelsey Burhan and Sloane Smith, who told Xinhua at the Leesburg Premium Outlets in Virginia Thursday night that they haven't noticed any price change for the same stores they usually shop.

"I think it's a good discount. I feel

like it's about the same with last year," said Burhan, who planned to purchase some purses at Kate Spade and clothes at American Eagle.

For Kumar Kincun, who has been coming to the outlets on Thanksgiving for the past nine years, this year is certainly different. Despite generally stable prices at this moment, Kincun said he is "definitely" concerned about the additional tariffs resulting from the US-China trade tensions.

"The tariffs would impact the price, it will. It goes gradually up, I think that's what it's happening," Kincun told Xinhua. He said he would purchase more products, including Christmas gifts, early in the holiday season to avoid higher prices later on.

Small players hit harder Despite strong opposition, the US government imposed 15-percent additional tariffs on some \$110 billion worth of Chinese imports, effective on Sept 1, covering a wide range of consumer goods including clothing, footwear, food and books. The United States also threatened to levy additional tariffs on other Chinese products including toys and electronics.

"Retailers are highly competitive, but the ability to compete has been challenging this year because of the uncertainty of the trade war and continued tariff escalation," said Jonathan Gold, Vice President of Supply Chain and Customs Policy at the National Retail Federation, in a statement earlier this month.

While big retailers such as Walmart and Target are able to stock up on months of inventory ahead of tariff increase, press suppliers to share the added cost, and diversify their global supply chain, hands are tied for some small retailers.

"Independent bookstores just don't have the space and the money to buy stock well in advance and warehouse



Holiday shoppers take part in early Black Friday shopping deals at the Gap store on the Thanksgiving holiday in Times Square in New York, US, November 28, 2019. [Photo/Agencies]

it. So we are more likely to go with just-in-time inventory," said Jamie Fiocco, president of the American Booksellers Association, which represents some 2,000 independent brick-and-mortar booksellers nationwide.

Fiocco, who owns 15-person Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, told Xinhua recently that she is "worried" about the holiday season because additional tariffs on books imported from China could discourage publishers from reprinting and many books would run out of stock. "We will reorder, but at this point we reorder at the mercy of the publisher stock," she said.

The tariff impact also goes beyond the holiday season.

Brett Portaro, co-founder of Powercharge Corporation, a six-person startup, said the company's negotiations with a major US retailer on a potential large order are overshadowed by the latest round of tariffs on Chinese imports.

"We are still negotiating with them and the tariffs and the uncertainty have kept that deal in limbo," Portaro told Xinhua in a phone interview early this month. The North Carolina-based lithium ion cell phone accessory company mainly sells power banks manufactured by a

partner in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

"It has made our margins much slimmer," Portaro said, noting that moving forward, the additional tariffs would prevent his company from doing business. "The only ones that would be able to compete if the tariffs continue would be large providers because they're able to absorb the hit," he said.

Hoping for trade deal According to the Fed survey, companies affected by the tariffs were more inclined to pass on cost increases. Business contacts in the Chicago Fed district reported that retail prices "in-

creased modestly" and they expected prices to "rise at a somewhat faster pace" over the next 12 months.

"One contact said that food, home goods, and apparel retailers were struggling to pass on higher costs; in contrast, another contact noted that retailers continued to raise prices to reflect higher potential and realized tariffs," the survey said.

In September alone, American businesses and consumers paid 7.1 billion dollars in tariffs, up 59 percent year-on-year, said US anti-tariff advocacy group Tariffs Hurt the Heartland, which noted that the "significant increase" was primarily driven by tariffs implemented by the current US administration.

Kincun, the consumer, voiced hope that the United States and China can work out a trade deal in the near future. "It does not only impacts China and US, it impacts everyone else as well, because both of them are pretty big countries with big economy," he said.

On the ongoing US-China trade negotiations, Portaro said he is cautiously optimistic. "We are very encouraged that the tariffs have come to a standstill and hopeful that this will soon come to an end," said the startup co-founder.

A potential phase-one deal would have a positive effect on his business and on the industry as well, according to Portaro.

"We anxiously hope that both sides can come to an agreement," he said.

Africa's CSOs call for action as COP25 kicks off in Madrid

MADRID

DURING the 25th round of climate change negotiations starting today in Madrid, Spain, African civil society organisations will call on governments from both developing and developed nations to play their promised roles in combating climate change.

"We're fatigued by COP [Conference of Parties] jamborees which have become a ritual every year," said Dr Mithika Mwenda of the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) - an umbrella organisation that brings together over 1,000 African climate and environment civil society organisations.

"We know the science is clear about the level [in which] we need to act, yet we procrastinate and prevaricate while maintaining our profligate lifestyles," he told IPS in an interview.

The 25th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP 25) comes a week after the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) released a report warning that unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 percent each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will miss the opportunity to get on track towards the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement is an agreement reached at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris, France, where the world's nations undertook a determined course to reduce climate change. Among the commitments was to reduce the increase in global temperatures.

The annual Emissions Gap Report, which was released on Nov. 26 warns that even if all current unconditional commitments under the Paris Agreement are implemented, temperatures are expected to rise by 3.2°C, bringing even wider-ranging and more destructive climate impacts.

"Any slight change in global temper-

atures can have a devastating effect on millions of livelihoods, and could expose people to life-threatening heat waves, water shortages and coastal flooding," said Dr Mohammed Said, a climate change research scientist based in Kenya.

According to his research in Kenya's Arid and Semi Arid regions, people in counties that experienced increased temperatures in the past 50 years have suffered significant loss of livelihoods with some having to change their lifestyles altogether.

"In Turkana County for example, the temperatures increased by 1.8°C, and as a result, the cattle population declined by 60 percent, and now residents have been forced to turn to more resilient camels, goats and sheep," he told IPS.

It is the same situation all over the world. A study published in Nature Climate Change points out that if global warming causes a rise of 1.5°C or 2°C, then there will be extremely hot summers across Australia, more frequent drought conditions and more frequent heat leading to bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

Another study by the United Kingdom's Met Office reveals that the changing climate will make heat waves a common phenomena worldwide and even intense in the U.K.

In Africa, climate change has caused flooding, drought, change in the distribution of rainfall, and the drying up of rivers. It has affected agriculture, food security and human health. And it has also led to conflicts over resources, impacting national security in various countries.

In Kenya, residents of West Pokot County are currently grappling with the deaths of 50 people who were last week buried alive by landslides following heavy rainfall that continues to pound the East African region.

According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, the above-normal rainfall has been caused by sea surface temperature anomalies in



In Africa, climate change has caused drought, change in distribution of rainfall, the drying-up of rivers. Intense flooding causes landslides and in Kenya, residents of West Pokot County are currently grappling with the deaths of 50 people who were last week buried alive by landslides following heavy rainfall that continues to pound the East African region. File photo

the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans caused by global warming. Floods in the region, which have already displaced hundreds of households and have swept away bridges, roads and property, are expected to continue for the next three weeks, according to the meteorological focus.

However, Mwenda believes that all is not lost. He notes that though the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) are inadequate to lead to emission levels required by science and justice, there is still

hope that momentum building on their implementation won't be compromised. "We will not be tired of telling our leaders that the future generations will judge them harshly as they have failed to rise to the occasion even when science is very clear that we have exceeded planetary boundaries," he said.

In order to address climate change adequately, civil society is also calling for a dedicated financial mechanism to be established in Madrid to support Loss and

Damage with a clear agreement on new sources of finance.

During the 19th round of negotiations in Poland, the COP established the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism), to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate

change.

"As we head to Madrid, we expect that all countries will endeavour to deliver on ambitious commitments in climate finance, especially in regard to loss and damage, strong national targets, and clear rules on trading emissions between countries," said Robert Bakiika, the Executive Director of EMLI Bwaise Facility, a Ugandan NGO and one of the admitted observer organisations at the UNFCCC.

IPS

Justice and commissions of inquiry: A tenuous relation

BY THEMBA MASUKU

WITHIN nine months of becoming president of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa established three commissions of inquiry. These have come on the back of several other inquiries into high-profile problems facing the country, few of which have led to arrests and prosecutions.

Public scepticism about this approach is growing, and the obvious question is why does South Africa need so many commissions of inquiry and what purpose do they serve? In the absence of accountability for those found to have committed wrongdoing, are these inquiries little more than expensive efforts for the president to buy time?

Ramaphosa set up the Nugent inquiry into tax administration and governance to investigate why the South African Revenue Service's ability to collect revenue had deteriorated. The PIC Commission of Inquiry is examining allegations of impropriety at the Public Investment Corporation after its chief executive officer Dan Matjila was accused of making a series of questionable investments.

And the Mokgoro Commission of Inquiry was established after a series of damning court findings raised doubts about whether senior National Prosecuting Authority officials Nomgcobo Jiba and Lawrence Mrwebi were fit to hold their positions.

Former president Jacob Zuma reluctantly established the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture tasked with investigating high-level abuse of power, corruption and fraud in the public sector allegedly involving himself and members of his executive. Although the true cost of state capture is unknown, estimates range from R500 billion to more than R1.5 trillion.

Ideally, commissions should be established to produce an official and factual account of a matter of profound public interest and concern. Typically, they can be tasked to investigate highly complex failings or allegations of such, and develop recommendations to prevent a rec-

urrence. Where commissions uncover misconduct, criminal or otherwise, this can be used to hold people accountable for their actions.

Contrary to public expectations, commissions don't necessarily result in criminal or civil action against those found to have committed a crime or some other wrong doing. If sufficient evidence exists, such findings should trigger appropriate interventions or sanctions. For example, soon after receiving an interim report from the Nugent commission, Ramaphosa fired former South Africa Revenue Service boss Tom Moyane.

Similarly, negative findings by the Mokgoro inquiry resulted in the president firing the NPAs Jiba and Mrwebi. When inquiries unearth evidence of potential criminal conduct, these matters need to be independently investigated by the police and can take years before they are finalised in the courts.

Another reason that inquiries are viewed with suspicion is that some have been misused or their findings ignored by the relevant authorities. The Farlam Commission for example found that as many as 278 people were shot and 34 miners killed on 16 August 2012 in Marikana. But no police officers have been directly held accountable four years since the final report was handed to Zuma.

The Seriti Commission of Inquiry established by Zuma to investigate allegations of corruption related to the 1999 arms deal is another example of a commission that was discredited. Despite mountains of hard evidence being available, Judge Willie Seriti found no corruption whatsoever.

Civil society organisation Right2Know had to go to court to ensure legal recognition that this commission 'had failed to carry out the task assigned to it under the constitution and within the framework of the principles of legality.' It is now clear in fact and law that Zuma established this commission not to find the truth but to conceal it.

The most recent inquiries were established to deal with allegations of wrongdoing involving complex governance,

legal and financial issues. Existing institutions, criminal justice and otherwise, were seemingly unable to process these allegations satisfactorily.

In the case of the state capture inquiry, despite years of publicly available evidence that key politicians, government officials and business people had broken numerous laws to steal billions of rands of public funds, no one to date has been prosecuted. An Institute for Security Studies report submitted to the state capture commission detailed the extent to which the criminal justice system had been deliberately weakened to enable grand corruption.

Under these circumstances, the need for an inquiry to establish the truth becomes more understandable. It is also in Ramaphosa's interests to have the matters dealt with independently, providing political cover within his own political party for the difficult decisions he might need to make based on their findings.

Given the exorbitant price tag that accompanies these commissions, it is crucial that their recommendations are carefully considered and acted on. The Seriti Commission cost the taxpayer nearly R140 million. The state capture commission is reported to have already cost over R356 million and still has a year before it concludes its work.

Ramaphosa has argued that these inquiries are a necessary cost that the country has to pay to get to the truth. He has also publicly stated that he will act on the recommendations of his inquiries even though he is not legally obligated to implement them.

For their part, the police cannot make arrests based purely on the evidence presented before an inquiry. But they can, and should, conduct criminal investigations as a result of these revelations.

Both the head of the police's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks) Godfrey Lebeza and National Director of Public Prosecutions Shamila Batohi have stated that evidence emerging from various commissions is being followed. Batohi has also made it clear that prosecutions will only be instituted when cases are watertight.



ZANTEL

MONTHLY MUG

07TH

DECEMBER

2019



Teeing off Time

1200HRS - 1400HRS

Venue

Lugalo Golf Club

RSVP

Name : Japhet Masai (Capt)

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Biofortified food a business boost for smallholder farmers

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

A START-UP in Zimbabwe is producing high nutrition foods using biofortified crops in a bid to fight micronutrient deficiency.

Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) leads to night blindness, illness and death from childhood infections. In Zimbabwe, 36 percent of children under five years of age suffer from Vitamin A deficiency, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Identifying a business opportunity in agriculture, two youths, Clive Takudzwa Gahadza (28) and Tinashé Mbiriri (26), founded Sky Brands, specializing in the processing and distribution of biofortified products bought from smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe. The company sub-contracts farmers to grow Vitamin A orange maize and high iron and zinc beans, which they buy for processing and repackaging and resale. The company received a ZW\$300 000 (USD1385) funding from the local youth bank, Empower Bank, to purchase harvest from farmers who are paid on delivery.

"After learning about biofortification from my friend, we together saw an opportunity to become pioneers of processing biofortified maize and beans into value-added products, not only in Zimbabwe but in the whole world," Gahadza says. "We have improved on our production and increased the quantities we buy from the farmers and are now concentrating on the high iron zinc orange maize samp and mealie meal, rapoko (finger millet) and maputi (popcorn)."

In December 2019 the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition will host the 10th International Forum on Food and Nutrition. In the spotlight the transformation towards sustainable agri-food systems and eating patterns, to benefit human health, economic growth, social well-being and the environment, of which biofortification is one potential solution. However, not everybody agrees that it is the panacea needed to address nutrition.

Biofortification is best

In 2015 Harvest Plus - a research partnership funded by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) - introduced nutritionally enhanced maize seeds, iron, and zinc enriched beans to address micronutrient deficiency in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe has embraced the natural and cheaper technology of biofortification - a process of growing crops with increased content of micronutrients essential for development - in the hands of farmers to boost food security while beating malnutrition.

Vitamin A maize and iron beans which are high yielding, pest and disease resistant as well as drought-tolerant, making them ideal crops for farmers facing poor weather conditions.

Harvest plus says Vitamin A maize provides up to 50 percent of daily vitamin A needs while iron beans provide up to 80 percent of iron needs through consuming the high micronutrient food.

However, GRAIN, an international non-profit organization supporting small farmers and social movements in community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems disagrees with that biofortified crops are the answer to solving micronutrient deficiency.

"In Africa, which is always portrayed as a hungry continent, biofortified crops are marketed as a magic bullet for addressing nutrient deficiencies... However, Africa has rich local food cultures informed by locally-specific social relations in which women often play a central role. The push for biofortification on the continent is therefore met with scepticism in many circles, said GRAIN in a 2019 report, Biofortified crops or biodiversity? The fight for genuine solutions to malnutrition looked at the current status of biofortification in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Arguing that by emphasizing dependence on just a few market-based crops, GRAIN says biofortification promotes a poor diet with little nutritional diversity.

"Biofortification in Africa also overlooks the nutritious crops farmers are already growing," GRAIN said. "For example in Malawi, as in other countries, there has been a push to market biofortified maize high in provitamin A. But these efforts have overlooked the existence of a popular local variety called mthikinya that is high not only in provitamin A but also in protein and lipids, requires little fertilizer, is early-maturing and stores well."

Bob Phelps, the Executive Director of Gene Ethics, an Australian action group advocating for a Genetic Modification-free Society, says biofortification technology is not effective in tackling hidden hunger.



Biofortification only addresses single treatment nutrient deficiencies, but malnutrition is a complex biological condition with many causes," Phelps told IPS via electronic mail. "It can only be ameliorated with diverse, nutritious diets that are minimally refined. Hidden hunger is also a problem for malnourished and obese people eating highly refined, industrial junk food diets also based on a few nutrient-poor ingredients such as hamburgers and fries."

Phelps said biofortification cannot fix the 'hidden hunger' brought to communities by colonialism, land dispossession, urbanization, industrialization and social change.

"People had a balanced diet dependent on what seasonal food the environment provided where people were such as nuts, seeds, fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, eggs and seafood from many other species around."

Making farming profitable

Gahadza said his company is currently subcontracting four farmer group enterprises representing 150 farmers in Bindura, Mount Darwin and Rusape who this year aggregated 50 MT of grain this season, a fivefold in-

crease from the 10 MT sourced in the 2017/2018 season.

"Next year we are looking at buying about 200 MT if all conditions are the same and this means working with 400 farmers," Gahadza told IPS. "Empowering farmers means a lot to us as entrepreneurs because our business model is impacting the lives of about 500 families and our products have reached close to 11,000 households and we are making a contribution to nutritional security through the products."

Adriel Karima, a farmer in Chegutu in central Zimbabwe, supplies Sky Brands with fortified sugar beans NUA 45 variety which he describes as a crop which also cooks faster than other beans.

"I grew one hectare at first and harvested about two tons and sold most of the harvest to Sky Brands and kept seed for an increased area of four (4) ha," said Karima adding that, it was easy to switch to growing the iron rich bean variety because we were already into sugar bean production.

"It is always easy to switch to producing a crop with a ready market which is Sky Brands

who require clean whole beans. It is our target to grow 10 ha of these beans and supply them with between 20 and 40 metric tons," said Karima, who is one of 250,000 farmers growing and consuming vitamin A orange maize and iron rich beans in Zimbabwe currently."

Beating malnutrition

Malnutrition, a result of lacking essential micronutrients such as iodine, iron, zinc and vitamin A in the diet, is a growing health threat in Sub-Saharan Africa. The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that 200 million Africans or 33 percent of the continent's population are chronically malnourished.

The lack of vitamins and minerals which the World Health Organisation (WHO) describes as 'hidden hunger' occurs when the quality of food people eat does not meet their nutritional requirements for them to grow and develop. This leads to impaired growth, risk of stunting, blindness, anaemia and even death especially among children and women.

A 2017 UNICEF, World Bank and WHO report says, in Zimbabwe, the prevalence of stunting

in children under five years of age was 26 per cent in 2018, an improvement from 34 per cent 8 years ago. It warned that this progress had been blunted by marked disparities among rural and urban areas and among rich and poor households.

"It remains, nonetheless, encouraging to note that Zimbabwe is one of the 60 countries that are leading a global movement to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2025," said UNICEF.

Zimbabwe has been ranked 67.30 on food loss and waste and sustainable agriculture under the Barilla Food Sustainability Index but scored poorly on tackling nutritional challenges.

Harvest Plus Zimbabwe have been a technical partner for Sky Brands providing the biofortification technology. It has enabled the company in the standardization of the grain it buys from the farmers as well as identifying farmers growing the orange maize and iron beans, Gahadza said.

Harvest Plus Zimbabwe says it has supported the Department of Research and Specialist Services under the Ministry of Agriculture to breed, test, and release varieties of vitamin A maize and iron beans developed through its partnership with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

The Zimbabwe government launched a fortification strategy in November to respond to the growing micronutrient malnutrition rates in the country. Biofortification was incorporated as a food-based solution, and to date, more than 250,000 households have been reached with biofortified maize and bean seeds both directly and through market-led interventions, according to Harvest Plus Zimbabwe.

Gahadza said the company is planning to expand in the long run to partner with smallholder farmers and setting up agro-processing centers in Zimbabwe's rural areas. This involves giving farmers technical and financial support to process raw materials in their areas then share on royalties. **IPS**

Nuclear false warnings and the risk of catastrophe

WASHINGTON DC

FORTY years ago, on Nov. 9, the U.S. Defense Department detected an imminent nuclear attack against the United States through the early-warning system of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). U.S. bomber and missile forces went on full alert, and the emergency command post, known as the "doomsday plane," took to the air.

At 3 a.m., National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski was awakened by a call from his military assistant. He was told that NORAD computers were reporting that 2,200 Soviet missiles had been launched against the United States.

According to Brzezinski, just one minute before he planned to call President Jimmy Carter to recommend an immediate U.S. nuclear retaliatory response, word came through that the NORAD message was a false alarm caused by software simulating a Soviet missile attack that was inexplicably transferred into the live warning system at the command's headquarters.

The 1979 incident was one of the most dangerous false alarms of the nuclear age, but it was not the first or the last. Within months, three more U.S. system malfunctions set off the U.S. early-warning systems.

The Soviet Union also experienced false alarms. On Sept. 26, 1983, a newly installed early-warning system erroneously signaled that the United States had launched a small salvo of missiles toward the Soviet Union. Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov, the officer in charge that night, would later report that he

defied standard military protocol and refused to pass the alert to Moscow because "when people start a war, they don't start it with only five missiles."

On Jan. 25, 1995, a large weather rocket launched off the coast of Norway created the appearance on Russian radars of an initial phase of a U.S. nuclear attack. Russian President Boris Yeltsin reported that the launch prompted him to activate Russia's mobile nuclear command system.

Although the Cold War standoff that gave rise to massive U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals ended decades ago, the nuclear strategies that could lead to the firing of hundreds of nuclear weapons remain susceptible to false alarms.

Today, each side deploys some 1,400 strategic nuclear warheads on hundreds of sea- and land-based missiles and long-range bombers—far greater than is necessary to deter an attack and more than enough to produce catastrophic devastation.

Each side maintains hundreds of warheads that can be fired within minutes of a launch order from the president, and both leaders retain the option to retaliate before they confirm that nuclear weapons have been detonated on their territory.

These dangerous launch-under-attack postures perpetuate the risk that false alarms could trigger a massive nuclear exchange.

Complicating matters, Washington and Moscow each reserve the option to employ nuclear weapons first in a crisis or conventional conflict. Each possesses hundreds of so-called tactical nuclear bombs, which produce relatively smaller explosive yields,



Former Titan II Missile in its silo, Sahuarita, Arizona. Photo: The Titan Missile Museum

for use on the battlefield. Both sides regularly conduct drills and exercises involving their respective nuclear forces.

Today, U.S. and Russian leaders have a responsibility to pursue immediate and decisive actions to reduce these grave risks. To start, they should invite all nuclear-armed states

to affirm the 1985 pledge made by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."

Given the risks of escalation, no plausible circumstance could justify legally, morally, or militarily the use of nuclear

weapons to deal with a non-nuclear threat. All nuclear-armed states should announce policies that rule out the first use of nuclear weapons and the use of nuclear weapons before nuclear use on their soil has been confirmed.

In fact, the dangerous launch-under-attack policies of

the United States and Russia are unnecessary because a large portion of their nuclear forces could withstand even a massive attack. Given the size, accuracy, and diversity of their forces, the remaining nuclear force would be more than sufficient to deliver a devastating blow to any nuclear aggressor.

Another key line of defense against nuclear catastrophe is dialogue. Washington and Moscow can and should resume a regular military and political dialogue on strategic stability.

Such talks can avoid miscalculation over issues such as the use or non-use of cyberattacks against nuclear command-and-control systems, missile defense capabilities and doctrine, nuclear launch exercises, and more. Similar talks with China should also be pursued.

Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin also should promptly agree to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) by five years, as allowed by the treaty, and begin talks on a follow-on deal to set lower limits on all types of nuclear weaponry.

Without the treaty, which expires in 2021, there would be no legally binding, verifiable limits on the world's largest nuclear arsenals for the first time since 1972; and the likelihood of a dangerous, all-out nuclear arms race would grow.

We were lucky the false alarms of the Cold War did not trigger nuclear war. Because we may not be so lucky in the future, our leaders must act now to take the steps necessary to reduce and eliminate the nuclear danger.

IPS



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CRDB bags 'Bank of the Year in Tanzania' award in London

By Smart Money Reporter

THE London-based Financial Times has named CRDB Bank Plc 'Bank of the Year in Tanzania' for 2019, thanks to the lender's excellence in the banking industry.

Through its flagship banking resource publication, The Banker magazine, CRDB was given the prestigious award in recognition of the substantial strides that the bank has taken to improve growth and performance.

The organizers said in a statement this week that CRDB was also awarded for delivering excellent customer service and embracing digital disruption to drive financial inclusion. "The awards' judging panel, which is composed of The Banker's editors, has specifically selected CRDB Bank due to its continued success across all key business metrics over the past year," the statement added.

In welcoming news of the lender's success in London last week, CRDB Group's managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said they were humbled but felt proud for getting the award. "This is a recogni-



CRDB Group managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela. File photo.

tion that we are on the right path to providing our customers with a differentiat-

ed experience and creating value for our shareholders," said Nsekela.

"We have revamped our service delivery processes and procedure to provide

our customers with exciting experience both on our retail and wholesale business fronts, expanded our product base and strengthened our footprint by expanding our 'CRDB Wakala' to better serve our customers," he added.

Over the years, the country largest bank has invested in digital transformation drive which is widely recognized as one of the most comprehensive in the market and continues to reap impressive results.

The Dar es Salaam based bank recorded a net profit of 92.16bn/- for the year ending September 2019, which was an increase of 76 percent compared to 52.25bn/- recorded in a corresponding period in 2018.

"This well-earned global recognition presents a timely boost to our employees, who have worked tirelessly to get us ahead of the curve by ensuring they give the best customer experience in all fronts of our businesses across Tanzania and Burundi," the youthful banker who took over the Tier 1 bank in October last year, noted.

The award presentation ceremony was attended by around 300 CEOs and C-Suite executives from the banking industry around the globe.

SGR fully booked as air fares increase weeks to Christmas

NAIROBI

THE standard gauge railway (SGR) passenger train service between Nairobi and Mombasa is fully booked ahead of Christmas forcing holiday makers to seek expensive alternatives like road and air travel.

The bookings register shows that trains are fully booked between December 21 to 23 with the few seats available on December 24 set to be snapped up in coming days. This is set to boost bus owners and airlines like Jambojet and Silverstone as families look to enjoy the holiday in Mombasa and the South Coast.

Airlines have also increased fares from Nairobi to Mombasa ahead of Christmas on early bookings and the ticker prices are expected to rise further in coming days. As a result, the Chinese operator running the SGR service is planning to add additional coaches to meet the rising demand.

"We are fully booked over the weekend heading to December 25. The bookings have come early after we changed the early reservation pe-

riod to 60 days from the initial 30," said an official at Africa Star Railway Operations Company (Afristar), the operator of Madaraka Express.

Increased bookings have also been witnessed in the next two weeks, an indicator that more people will travel to the Coast way before Christmas. For instance, in the next two weeks, the SGR train has a few seats available, mainly in the economy section as the first class section is almost fully booked. Fares on the economy class section are Sh1,000 with first class tickets going for Sh3,000.

A spot check on the Kenya Railways website indicates that train tickets for most days up to December 24 are booked with spaces remaining on a few weekday dates. However, the traffic on bookings eases from December 25 with availability on economy class and a few seats on first class.

Ticket prices for early plane bookings between December 20 and 23 have nearly doubled on some routes compared to reservations made a month ago while some flights are close to full bookings for the Christ-

mas period. This means that Kenyans intending to fly during the festive season will pay more, promising to boost revenues of the carriers that have received a lift from increased tourist arrivals. Those booking early to fly to Mombasa in the week to Christmas on Fly540 are paying up to Sh15,500, up from less than Sh10,000. The carriers' main challenge has been convincing Kenyans to book early, which is vital to the low-cost model, a signal that those seeking flights close to Christmas day will pay more. Kenya Railways has previously been increasing coaches on the Nairobi-Mombasa line, since the SGR's launch in June 2017, to match rising demand that has denied bus operators new customers.

A train has capacity for 1,260 passengers with 15 economy class and three first class coaches. It also comes with a luggage carrier with a total capacity of 70 tonnes. The rising number of travellers to the Coast is a boon for hoteliers who expect visitor numbers to increase their revenue during this festive season.



Passengers board the Madaraka Express train at the Nairobi terminus.

Alibaba shares up 7 per cent in Hong Kong market debut

HONG KONG

ALIBABA Group's Hong Kong shares closed their first trading session up 6.6 per cent from the issue price after this year's largest stock sale.

Shares worth Hong Kong \$13.99 billion were traded, according to Refinitiv data, making it the third biggest debut on record for the Hong Kong market. Alibaba is already the fifth most-traded company in New York this year, averaging \$2.6bn a day, the data showed.

The Chinese e-commerce giant has raised at least \$11.3 billion from the secondary listing, which has been seen as a vote of confidence in Hong Kong amid six months of sometimes violent anti-government protests.

That amount could climb to as much as

\$12.9bn if Alibaba chooses to exercise an overallotment option within 30 days of the start of trade. Alibaba shares closed at HK\$187.60 which was 6.6 per cent higher than the issue price of HK\$176 per share.

The Hong Kong and New York stocks are fungible, which means investors can buy and sell the same shares on either exchange and that pricing on the exchanges are unlikely to diverge too far from each other. On Monday its US American Depository Shares (ADS) closed at \$190.45. With eight Hong Kong shares per ADS, that implied a price of HK\$186.30 per share.

UOB Kay Hian sales director Steven Leung said the premium to New York reflected the willingness of investors in the city and Asia to take on the stock of a company they know well but added that the positive momentum could be tough to maintain.

"The ADS is already considered quite high and now the Hong Kong price is showing a premium, so the near term upside in Hong Kong could be limited," he said. Alibaba's Hong Kong listing surpassed other large stock sales this year, ranking before Uber Technologies \$8.1 billion IPO and \$5.7 billion IPO for Anheuser-Busch InBev's Asian brewing business in Hong Kong.

At Tuesday's listing ceremony, CEO Daniel Zhang noted the Hong Kong debut had been a long time coming. Alibaba had hoped to initially list in Hong Kong, but eventually chose New York for its record-breaking \$25 billion initial public offering in 2014 after its unusual governance structure failed to win acceptance from Hong Kong regulators.

The loss of the listing triggered years of argument and consultations that resulted

in rule changes last year. "Thank you Hong Kong and thank you HKEX. Your reform and innovation of the capital markets in the past few years has made it possible for us to realise what we missed five years ago," Zhang said at the listing ceremony.

Alibaba is the fifth most-traded company in New York this year, averaging \$2.6 billion a day, according to Refinitiv. In its prospectus, Alibaba said it would use the funds raised to increase its investment in online delivery and local services platform Ele.me and in online travel group Fliggy.

Alibaba also plans to spend more on developing Youku, one of the leading online video platforms in China. Small retail investors were enthusiastic buyers of the deal, subscribing for 40 times the shares they were originally allotted and eventually taking 10 per cent of the deal.



Executive chairman of Alibaba Group Jack Ma

Organic cotton farmers living big in Simiyu due to reliable market



An organic cotton farmer attending his crop in Simiyu region recently.

By Francis Kajubi

A RELIABLE market offering premium prices is allowing organic cotton farmers in Simiyu region to live big with modern houses, keeping livestock and affording a decent life which their peers have failed to exercise.

Simiyu region has over 2,000 organic cotton farmers who sell their commodity to a private company, BioRe Tanzania Limited which offers them between 1,250/- and 1,350/- per kilogram compared to 1,200/- which their peers who cultivate conventional cotton earn.

Speaking to Smart Money on the sidelines of a National Ecological Organic Agriculture conference held in Dodoma last week, Donald Jilyabilu said since 2004 when he joined organic cotton farming, his life has changed for the better.

"While some conventional cotton farmers in Shinyanga and Simiyu regions complain against delayed payments for their commodity of the season, I am happy because my money was deposited in my account the day I sold the cotton," said Jilyabilu.

"I used to harvest 70 to 80 kilograms of conventional cotton per acre but since 2004 when I switched to organic farming am harvesting on average of 145kgs per acre," the 49 year old farmer bragged saying switching to organic cotton was the best decision that he ever made.

Apart from increasing his acreage due to attractive prices, Jilyabilu has also witnessed his income increase on an annual basis thanks to appreciating prices. "When I joined organic farming, premium for a kilo was 50/-, then it jumped to 65/-, 80/- and this year will even be higher. The premium is calculated once every five years," he added. BioRe Tanzania Limited's CEO, Marco Paul said since its inception in 1994, the company has been buying organic cotton from farmers whose numbers have increased from a few hundreds then to over 2,300 in Simiyu region alone.

"The buying price for organic cotton in this year's sea-

son was 1,253/- compared to 1,200/- and below that conventional farmers sold their cotton per kilogram. The good thing with organic farmers is market security, they are sure of the market for their commodity," Paul said.

He said during this year's season that ended in September, his company purchased 5.3 million kilograms of organic cotton from farmers who were paid immediately upon delivery of the commodity to the company.

The BioRe CEO further pointed out that after processing the raw cotton, his company exports the commodity to Portugal, India, Japan while smaller amounts are sold to local textile manufacturers including Sunflag Tanzania Limited based in Arusha.

According to Textile Exchange, a global non for profit organization's Organic Cotton Market Report 2018, Tanzania produces four per cent of the global volumes. The report stated that in 2016/17, global organic cotton production reached 117,525 metric tons of fiber, representing a ten percent growth.

"This stems, for the most part, from China, fuelled by growing demand both from the organic dairy industry and the domestic textile sector. Other countries that contributed significantly to the growth include Tanzania, Uganda, Benin, Turkey, and the USA," read the report.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, in 2017, the sector provided employment to 65.5 percent, contributing

approximately 28.7 percent of gross domestic product while the crop sub-sector contributed 16.58 percent.

In the first quarter of 2018, the growth of the sector was 7.1 percent and was fueled by the government's efforts to ensure availability and use of better inputs, better rainfall and improved infrastructure.

According to Bariadi District Commissioner, Festo Kiswaga his district earned on average 50bn/- every season from cotton sales. Bariadi produces 45 million kilograms of cotton per annum.

"Organic farming is very important in achieving the industrialization agenda especially in cash crops such as cotton, tea and coffee. In Bariadi there are ten wards that practice organic farming effectively," Kiswaga said noting that production of organic cotton earned his district 60bn/- this year.

According to Minister of Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga said his ministry is looking forward to submit a proposal for the amendment of the National Agriculture Policy of 2013 to, among other things, recognize organic agriculture.

"I call upon stakeholders to highlight priorities concerning organic agriculture to be included in the new policy. The policy draft will be presented in the national assembly next February," Hasunga said.

In 2019/20, Cotton Board of Tanzania plans to increase cotton production from 222,000 metric tons to 700,000 tons with production per acre increasing from 300 to 600 tons.

Retailers decry rise in food prices

KIGALI

FOOD retailers have decried an increase in food prices due to rains that have characterized weather patterns over the last few months.

The New Times talked to various food retailers in markets of Gikondo, Nyabugogo and Huye, Southern province, expressed concerns on rising food prices. Prices for foodstuff like beans and peas have doubled to over Rwf1000 a kilo from Rwf600-800 in a period of five months.

Fifty-year-old Immaculee, a retailer at Gikondo market, said that she has been selling foodstuff for over 25 years. According to her, agricultural produce has in recent weeks gone up in regards to cost. "The rain is too much and inconsistent. I am now selling 1 kg of beans at Rwf1100 and I remember it costing Rwf500 early this year," she said.

Among other reasons, she blames "excessive" rains that have destroyed crops and left farmers barehanded and thus the markets. Alphonsine Yandereye, a grocer in Huye mar-

ket, told The New Times that she now barely sells groceries in kilograms as clients prefer smaller more affordable quantities.

"We used to sell a kilo of onions at Rwf800 and two pieces of bell pepper at Rwf100, but not anymore."

A kilo of onions is now Rwf1400 and a piece of bell pepper at Rwf100. Clients chose to buy pieces because they are more affordable," she said.

Unexpected raise

For some products, sellers

claim that the prices are supposed to fall by the end of year to ease consumption in festive seasons. A potatoes' shop owner in Nyabugogo market, who chose to remain anonymous told The New Times that potatoes are supposed to hit their lowest prices in October and November. But instead of costing between Rwf150-270, they now cost Rwf300 and above. Consumers say that they have also taken to substituting consumables to accommodate the price hikes.

"I have children who just joined

the family from school and I realised that I need to readjust the quantities of vegetables or meat (meat price rose from Rwf1800 to Rwf2800) to take into account new prices. We now eat more rice and bananas that are relatively cheap," said one of Gikondo market goer.

Rwanda has been experiencing heavy rains over the last couple of months. The New Times reached out to concerned authorities about what are the plans for affected farmers, but they had not replied by press time.



Food retailers from across the country have decried an increase in food prices due to frequent rains that have characterized weather patterns over the last few months.

Wind power capacity to double by next decade, thanks to China

LONDON

WIND power capacity is expected to nearly double over the next decade, fuelled mainly by China as the world's biggest energy consumer seeks to invest in renewable sources, according to Fitch Solutions.

Installed wind power capacity will reach about 1,100 gigawatts globally by 2028, up from 562GW at the end of 2018, according to the industry forecast report. "China will make up 44 of net capacity growth over this timeframe, highlighting the importance of the market to global renewables investment," the report said.

Renewable energy capacity addition grew 14.5 per cent last year, nearing the record-breaking increase seen in 2017, but still accounted for only a third of the increase in power generation, BP said in its annual statistical review, an important bellwether for the global energy industry. BP chief executive Bob Dudley said installing renewables is key to "decarbonising the power sector", which is the biggest challenge facing the global energy system over the next two decades.

Wind power's share of the total non-hydro renewables capacity will drop to 44 per cent by 2028, down from 47 per cent in 2018, mainly due to the rapid growth in solar power capacity, Fitch Solutions said. In a separate note, the firm said solar power capacity growth is set to increase by 742GW over the period, whereas wind power will grow by 536GW. Total non-hydro renewable energy will reach more than 2,500GW by 2028, more than doubling from 1,200GW at the end of last year.

However, the wind power sector will maintain a "steady share" in power generation, which will only decline by 1 per cent, to 49 per cent, over the same period. This is "indicative of the generally higher capacity factors of wind power projects vis-a-vis solar power projects", the report said.

China will become the biggest market globally for wind power capacity addition over the next decade, even despite plans to cut renewable power subsidies by 30 per cent in 2020. "China's wind sector growth momentum will remain robust despite the imminent phase-out of subsidies for the country's renewables sector," Fitch Solutions said.

The research firm's optimistic outlook is driven by the "rising scope" for wind power projects to compete with coal-fired power in the market, the report said. The total installed wind power capacity in Asia will overtake the combined total of North America and Western Europe by 2023, driven by rapid capacity growth in China, according to the forecast. China is projected to add a total of 237GW of wind power capacity between the end of last year and 2028.

The US will add 71GW of wind capacity over the coming decade, making it the second fastest expanding wind power market globally, supported by corporate procurement deals. In Western Europe, wind power will play a major role in boosting the region's plans to rise the share of renewable energy in power generation and phase-out coal over the next 10 years. "The rising cost-competitiveness and attractiveness of offshore wind power will be a key factor for continued wind power generation growth over our forecast period," Fitch Solutions said.

Western European markets make up four of Fitch's 10 fastest growing wind power markets globally, with Germany positioned in fourth, adding more than 32GW, the United Kingdom fifth with 20GW, France sixth adding 13GW and Spain ninth, with 9GW.



Wind power's turbines at a wind farm in China.

African Development Bank approves \$210m for Nigeria's power grid

ABIDJAN

TRANSMISSION of Nigeria has secured \$210 million funding from the African Development Bank to upgrade the nation's dilapidated power lines and distribution infrastructure, the Abidjan-based bank said in a statement.

The project, which is aimed at improving the reliability of Nigeria transmission grid in seven states – Kano, Kaduna, Delta, Edo, Anambra, Imo, and Abia – is part of a \$1.6 billion programme, the AfDB said.

After the project is implemented, Nigeria is expected to reduce the amount of stranded power and increase evacuation capacity from the south of the country toward the north where power supply is limited, AfDB's acting vice president for power and energy, Wale Shonibare said. The financing will assist in boosting power exports to the West African pool "especially through Niger and Benin interconnections," he said.

Africa's most populous nation is only able to send about a quarter of its total power capacity to homes and businesses due to its outdated infrastructure, much of which was installed in the 1980s. The country's transmission lines can "theoretically" carry about 7 500 megawatts, according to the country's electricity regulatory authority.

Electricity demand in Nigeria is more than double the current supply of about 5 000 megawatts offered by power companies, even though the count



Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

SBL's drink responsibly campaign taken to students at MoCU, KCMC



SBL corporate relations director John Wanyancha (2nd L) addresses students at Moshi Co-operative University last week. Photo courtesy of SBL.

By Smart Money Reporter

A CAMPAIGN by Serengeti Breweries Limited to sensitize members of the public to avoid alcohol abuse was taken to students of Moshi Co-operative University and Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre last week.

John Wanyancha, SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said at the event that the beer-manufacturer's campaign on responsible drinking among students seeks to raise awareness against alcohol abuse among students at various institutions of higher learning in the country.

"Responsible drinking means more than just limiting yourself to a certain number of drinks; it also means not getting drunk and not letting alcohol control your life or your relationships," Wanyancha told a group of students gathered at their respective campuses at MoCU and KCMC during the launch of the campaign in Kilimanjaro region.

He warned the students of the consequences of irresponsible drinking behaviour while suggesting ways to stem tragic alcoholism trajectory including, keeping alcohol in check by knowing one's limits, making sure of own safety, drinking and not driving, avoiding mixing alcohol with other drugs, recruiting colleagues and friends with the same positive outlook towards responsible drinking and doing the right thing at

the right time.

Observing that alcoholism was a complex issue that could only be addressed through a united effort, on a common objective, the SBL corporate affairs director called on both institutions' teaching staff and other stakeholders to unanimously join hands to combat irresponsible drinking at the colleges and the neighbouring community.

"Understanding all the risks and staying aware of the risks associated with excessive alcohol consumption and the long-term repercussions thereof, are the hallmarks of a responsible drinker," Wanyancha added.

SBL's noble campaign needs support from all stakeholders because alcohol abuse among students is a serious threat to their future. To buttress the seriousness of alcohol abuse among students, various studies have shown that, especially those suffering from depression and anxiety, they can suffer from life-threatening effects due to excessive alcohol consumption.

It can significantly alter a person's mind, which can make him/her act irrationally, a fact that's confirmed by Alcohol Rehab Guide that observes that 'students who face extreme mental instabilities are most at risk of attempting to commit suicide or other acts of self-harm due to alcoholism.'

SBL's strategic mission of targeting higher learning institutions is significant because more than ever before, students, especially those in such institutions are engaging in excessive alcohol consumption oblivious of the inherent repercussions to their academic destiny, health and even the physical, psychological, social and financial burdens they pose to those around them.

According to Alcohol Rehab Guide (working under the auspices of Delphi Behavioral Health Group)-whose mission is to 'offer in-depth

information on alcoholism and the various treatment options available,' every year, nearly 150,000 students put their health and others at risk globally due to excessive alcohol consumption.

Additionally, roughly 20 percent of college students 'meet the criteria of having an alcohol use disorder'-a chronic disease characterized by uncontrolled drinking and preoccupation with alcohol. Perhaps the most poignant revelation from the Guide is that, annually, a little less than 2,000 college students aged between 18 and 24 years die from unintended alcohol-related injuries each year.

These are young and brilliant students who would otherwise have enjoyed a promising future but their destinies have been curtailed by unchecked intake of alcohol.

While it's known that various organizations (especially non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other like-minded actors have been making efforts at fighting alcoholism among the general public and especially among students, it's quite interesting, refreshing even, to note that beer-making companies are also now taking the cue and educating the people against irresponsible drinking habits.

SBL, Tanzania's second largest brewer, is among those companies that have, over the years been engaging in robust campaigns to sensitize the public on responsible drinking and also the drivers and other road users on the importance of sobriety when using the roads.

Now the brewer has taken its crusade further, spreading its tentacles into the institutions of higher learning-places where a flurry of studies have shown that irresponsible drinking among students is leading to increased chances of developing AUD-which can cause serious physical and emotional damages.

World Aids Day 2019

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah,

FOUNDED in 1988, World Aids Day takes place on 1st December every year for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS related illness.

Since World Aids Day was first observed more than 30 years ago, progress to prevent and treat HIV has been extraordinary.

HIV medicines - Antiretroviral therapy is available to help people with HIV live long, healthy lives and prevent HIV transmission.

In addition HIV prevention methods, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) are available.

AIDS - Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome is a term that applies to the most advanced stages of HIV infection. It is defined by the occurrence of opportunistic infections because they take advantage of a weakened immune system.

Now, as more and more people access ART, most people living with HIV do not progress to AIDS.

However, it is more likely to occur in people with HIV who have not been tested, in people who are diagnosed at a late stage of infection, and in people who are not taking ART.

For people living with HIV who are not diagnosed or taking ART, signs of HIV related illness may develop within 5-10 years or sooner. Testing for HIV is the only way to know if a person has HIV or not. Knowledge of HIV positive status has two benefits:

- People who test positive, can take steps to get treatment, care and support, which can prolong life and prevent health complications for many years
- People who are aware of their status can take precautions

to prevent the transmission of HIV to other.

There is currently no cure for HIV, but with good and continued adherence to ART, HIV infection can be contained and managed as a chronic condition. In all parts of the world, people living with HIV are now surviving and thriving into old age.

ART allows people with HIV to long and healthy lives by ensuring their immune system stays healthy. In certain settings however, many people living with HIV remain undiagnosed, not on treatment, or not taking consistent treatment, and as a result their disease progresses.

TB is the number one cause of death among people living with HIV. As people with HIV live longer and age, non-communicable diseases - heart disease, diabetes, cancers are becoming more common.

While ART helps the immune system stay strong, people living with HIV can benefit from counseling and psychosocial support to ensure that they are truly living well with HIV.

HIV is manageable, but is life-long chronic illness, and people may need support with their mental health and with lifestyle changes to support good health through life.

Access to good nutrition, safe water and basic hygiene can help people living with HIV to maintain a good quality of life.

As with the general community, people living with HIV may experience a broad range of other health conditions that may need treatment and care.

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

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

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

African forest on the front-line in fighting climate change

JOHANNESBURG

WHEN Lee White first visited the central African nation of Gabon, he believed he'd found paradise.

White, 53, wasn't new to Africa, having moved with his parents from Manchester, England, to Uganda at the age of three. But in Gabon, as a doctoral candidate in 1989, he'd come to the second-most forested nation on earth.

"Gabon is teeming with wildlife and beautiful rain forests," he said in an interview in Johannesburg. "I fell in love, did my PhD there and never left."

He became a Gabonese citizen in 2008, head of the national parks agency a year later, and in June this year took over as the nation's environment minister. Today White is on the cutting edge of a drive backed by the United Nations to enlist preservation of forests in the fight against climate change.

His first victory came in September when Norway initialled an accord to pay the government \$150 million if it can prove it's increasing its carbon stock - the amount of atmosphere carbon stored within the forest ecosystem - and cutting emissions over the next five years. It was the first such agreement in Africa.



Jumbos in one of Gabon's thick forests, which are also important in reducing carbon emissions.

Norway also agreed to pay double the usual carbon storage price, \$10 a ton, which compares with the about \$25 a coal-fired power plant in Europe would pay for allowances that cover its carbon emissions.

Cost-effective

"Preserving forests is the most cost-effective way of reducing carbon emissions and therefore fighting climate change, and because it's cheaper to do it, people give it a lower value," White said. "The fact that they doubled the price gives hope to other countries. It shows we are making headway

in our discussions about the role of forests."

The international recognition for Gabon's conservation policies may encourage neighbouring countries to follow suit, including the Republic of Congo, according to White. Like Gabon, the Republic of Congo's forests are part of the Congo Basin, the world's second-biggest rain forest after the Amazon, and the country has experienced relatively low deforestation.

While the forest in the Congo Basin covers a third of the area of the Amazon, its trees are taller and bigger, meaning that it has half the biomass of

that forest. That's key in determining how much carbon it absorbs, said White.

White's appointment as minister and the Norway deal breakthrough came on the heels of a corruption scandal that prompted President Ali Bongo to fire his vice president and forestry minister. In February, customs officials seized large quantities of a protected rosewood species in the port of Owendo. The wood, locally known as Kevazingo, is in high demand by Chinese furniture makers.

More than 300 containers subsequently disappeared from the port, and authorities only recovered about 200 of them days later. The Washington-based Environmental Investigation Agency also accused a major Chinese logging company of bribing officials to obtain vast concessions in the Congo Basin, over-harvesting those concessions and evading taxes. After its report was published, the government stripped the company - Dejia Group - of its logging license.

Conservation shift

Loggers have reason to be attracted to Gabon. Larger than the UK, it's almost entirely covered by tropical rain forest, has no highways and a population of two million people, the majority of whom live in poverty. Its shift toward conservation began under the president's father,

Omar Bongo, who died in office after 42 years in power. Ali Bongo, who took office after violently disputed elections in 2009, has made forest and wildlife preservation a personal priority.

A year after taking office, he banned the export of unprocessed timber and then four years later, he halted commercial fishing in almost a quarter of Gabon's territorial waters. About a fifth of the country's landmass is currently set aside for conservation, a measure that's proved crucial to protecting its abundant wildlife - Gabon has 55% of the world's remaining forest elephants, and as many as 25 000 lowland gorillas.

That sets Gabon apart on a continent where illegal logging and slash-and-burn farming is devastating forests and lack of rainfall is driving the Sahara desert toward the West African coast. A recent surge in Chinese demand for tropical rosewood is wreaking further havoc across Africa. Gabon has already cut its carbon emissions by 350 million tons over the past 15 years, White said.

"Gabon is certainly toward the front of the pack," said Tony Knowles, director of Cape Town-based The Cirrus Group and a specialist on land-use aspects of climate change in Africa. "Over the last 10 years, especially since the Paris conference, there's been a huge shift toward countries leading implementation themselves."

WORLD

White House says not to attend Trump impeachment hearing

WASHINGTON

THE White House told Democratic lawmakers on Sunday that US President Donald Trump and his lawyers would not participate in a congressional impeachment hearing this week, citing a lack of "fundamental fairness."

Trump's aides responded defiantly to the first of two crucial deadlines he faces in Congress this week as Democrats prepare to shift the focus of their impeachment inquiry from fact-finding to the consideration of possible charges of misconduct over his dealings with Ukraine.

The Democratic-led House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, tasked with considering charges known as articles of impeachment, had given Trump until 6 pm on Sunday to say whether he would dispatch a lawyer to take part in the judiciary panel's proceedings on Wednesday.

"We cannot fairly be expected to participate in a hearing while the witnesses are yet to be named and while it remains unclear whether the Judiciary Committee will afford the President a fair process through additional hearings," White House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, according to a copy of a letter seen by Reuters.

Cipollone - while citing a "complete lack of due process and fundamental

fairness afforded the president" in the impeachment process - did not rule out participation in further proceedings. But he signaled that Democrats would first have to make major procedural concessions. Nadler has given the White House a Friday deadline to say whether Trump will mount a defense in broader impeachment proceedings.

The Judiciary Committee's Democratic staff did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the White House's refusal to participate in the hearing, which would have been the first direct involvement by the Trump camp in a process he has condemned as a partisan "witch hunt."

Democratic US Representative Don Beyer said on Twitter in response to the White House letter: "Not one process complaint made by the President and his Republican allies in Congress so far has turned out to be genuine."

Congressional investigators have been looking into whether Trump abused his power by pressuring Ukraine to launch investigations of former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, who is running to unseat him in the 2020 presidential election, and a discredited conspiracy theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 US presidential election.

PANEL OF LEGAL EXPERTS

The first in a series of expected Ju-



President Donald Trump

diary proceedings will hear testimony on the impeachment process established under the US Constitution from a panel of legal experts that has yet to be named. Hearings before the committee, which has responsibility for crafting any formal charges against Trump, are a major step toward possible charges.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who will make the final decision, has not yet said whether the Republican president should be impeached. But in a letter to supporters last week, she called for him to be held accountable for his actions.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing, calling the impeachment inquiry a sham. Nadler also set a second deadline of 5 pm on Friday for Trump to say whether he or his legal counsel would participate in further proceedings expected next week to examine evidence against him.

"We may consider participating in future Judiciary Committee proceedings if you afford the administration the ability to do so meaningfully," Cipollone wrote, laying out a list of demands, including allowing Trump's Republicans to call additional witnesses.

Cipollone also complained that Democrats had scheduled Wednesday's hearing - "no doubt purposely" - to overlap with Trump's absence from the United States to attend a NATO summit in London.

Three investigating panels, led by the House Intelligence Committee, are due to release a formal

report this week when lawmakers return on Tuesday from a Thanksgiving recess. The report will outline evidence gathered by the Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight committees.

Members of the intelligence panel will review the report in a classified setting on Monday evening, and the full committee will consider and vote on it on Tuesday before forwarding it to the Judiciary Committee, according to an Intelligence Committee official and a person familiar with the matter.

The president and his Republican allies in Congress say the inquiry has been rushed and unfair to Trump by not allowing the White House to have legal counsel present or call witnesses during weeks of closed-door testimony and open hearings before the House Intelligence Committee.

Republican lawmakers were able to question witnesses during the closed hearings, however, and called three witnesses during public hearings that wrapped up last week.

The House Judiciary Committee could vote on whether to recommend articles of impeachment within the next two weeks, setting the stage for a possible impeachment vote by the full House before Christmas, according to Democratic aides.

If the House impeaches Trump, the Republican-controlled Senate would hold a trial to determine whether he should be removed from office. Senate Republicans have shown little appetite for removing Trump.

Agencies

S. African deputy president starts peace mission to South Sudan

CAPE TOWN

DEPUTY President David Mabuza, in his capacity as special envoy to South Sudan, has embarked on a peace mission to the war-torn country, the Presidency said yesterday.

Mabuza's mission is to chair a consultative meeting of parties to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), signed last year, the Presidency said.

The meeting, scheduled for Dec. 2-3 in Juba, is preceded by the 13th Ordinary Summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on

Development (IGAD), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Nov. 29 as part of efforts to mediate a resolution to the conflict in South Sudan.

While in Juba, Mabuza (pictured) is expected to join IGAD heads of state in urging the parties to the R-ARCSS to accomplish the pre-transitional tasks within the current extended window of 100 days, and for the signatories to form the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity by the end of the extended period.

"We are hopeful that this consultative meeting will result in consensus on the remaining is-



sues that led to the extension of the pre-transitional period," Mabuza said before leaving for Juba.

He voiced belief that all the signatories to the agreement want what is best for South Sudan and its people.

"Because of that concern for the people and the prosperity of South Sudan, these parties must reach a conclusion on the number of states and their boundaries to pave a way for the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Gov-

ernment of National Unity and ultimately bring lasting peace and stability in South Sudan," said Mabuza.

Shortly after its independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan plunged into civil war. At least 300,000 people are estimated to have died since late 2013, some 1.8 million people are displaced internally and 2.5 million others have fled to neighboring countries.

Last year, all parties involved in the conflict signed the R-ARCSS, seen as a milestone toward a peaceful resolution.

Xinhua

China feted for global leadership in tackling climate crisis

NAIROBI

CHINA has become an important global partner in addressing the current climate crisis as the country demonstrates concrete ways to achieve a low-carbon future, chief of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has said.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the UNEP, said China "has had a tremendous success in demonstrating climate leadership in recent years" through large investments in clean energy and technologies, electric mobility, and wide-scale land restoration.

Andersen (pictured) told Xinhua in a recent interview in Nairobi, where the UNEP headquarters is based, that the UNEP is proud of its longstanding collaboration with the Chinese govern-

ment, one that dates back to the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in 1972 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The UNEP opened an office in China in 2003, she said, adding "we have been extremely proud to have established a number of strategic partnerships with the (Chinese) government, think-tanks, civil society and businesses in support of sustainable development in the country."

Initially, cooperation between the UNEP and China focused on capacity building and awareness-raising on environmental protection, but the focus has now shifted to green development and finance, sustainable consumption, low carbon development, as well as environmental law and circularity, Andersen said.



Andersen observed that the world needs more multilateralism to tackle the current climate crisis. "The problems we face today - especially environmental ones - are no longer confined to individual countries or regions. They are global in scope and scale.

And an effective response will also be global. For that, we need a staunch multilateralism, and I am pleased to see China taking an active role in promoting this approach," she said.

"We need China to not only be at the table, but to help bring the world together to tackle these problems common to all humanity," she added.

Andersen said the UNEP supports nations as they come to agreements around issues that require coordinated global action. "We host many multilateral agreements, from biodiversity and ecosystems to regional

seas, from chemical waste management to protect(ing) the ozone layer," she said.

She pointed out that the importance of environmental issues and the importance that countries place on environmental conventions were evident. For example, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which she attended in August in Geneva, the parties made some 300 decisions aimed at conserving and ensuring sustainable use of wildlife across the world. Xinhua

Prevention remains challenge despite progress in fighting HIV, says Global Fund chief

NAIROBI



GREAT progress has been made in the fight against HIV in the last decade, but preventing new infections is a significant challenge, Peter Sands, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) said.

Overall HIV incidence rates are declining, but the total number of infections is still unacceptably high, with 1.7 million new infections in 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) data showed.

"This number is not dropping fast enough to meet the UNAIDS target of fewer than 500,000 people infected per year by 2020," said Sands (pictured). "We are at a crucial stage in the fight against HIV. We are making extra efforts to address the needs of adolescent girls and young women in eastern and southern Africa, who are disproportionately affected by HIV, twice as likely to be infected with HIV than their male peers," he said.

Working together with other organizations, the Global Fund has increased investments in programs for adolescent girls and young women fivefold in the 2017-2019 period, to some 200 million U.S. dollars, supporting programs that aim to reduce new HIV infections, reduce violence, and unintended pregnancies among 1 million adolescent girls and young women in 13 hardest-hit countries in Africa, according to him.

Sands said, Africa's population will continue to grow in the coming decades.

"Both international and domestic investments in health are vital to ensuring that we end the high infections among young women and girls, which is pivotal to ending the epidemic." He said, prevention is key to ending the HIV epidemic. "We will only beat HIV if we tackle the stark structural gender inequalities that make adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa disproportionately affected by the virus."

Significant progress has been made as HIV new infections decline and more people living with HIV gain access to treatment, according to a new report released recently by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

New HIV infections declined by 28 percent from 2010 to 2018 in eastern and southern Africa, said the UNAIDS report. "We have come a long way since in the fight against HIV in the last decade. Xinhua

Russia starts deliveries of gas to China via Power of Siberia pipeline

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has started gas supplies to China via the Power of Siberia pipeline on Monday. The official opening ceremony was held yesterday and was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping via a TV link-up.

Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller welcomed the two leaders from the Atamanskaya compressor station on the border with China. "Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich, allow me to give a command to open the pipeline valve," Miller said addressing to President Putin.

On receiving Putin's permission, the head of Gazprom said: "Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich, dear Xi Jinping, the valve has been open. Gas is flowing to the gas transmission system of the People's Republic of China."

Initially, the opening of the pipeline was planned for December 20 but the construction was completed ahead of schedule.

Power of Siberia

The gas pipeline's total length is about 3,000 km. Its capacity is 61 billion cubic meters of gas per year, including 38 billion cubic meters for export. The route of the gas transmission system is along the operating East Siberia - Pacific Ocean main oil pipeline, making possible to optimize infrastructure and power supply costs.

Chayanda and Kovykta gas fields with reserves of 1.2 trillion and 2.7 trillion cubic meters of gas respectively are the resource base for the Power of Siberia gas pipeline. Development of the Chayanda's gas pool started in 2015.

The design production on the field is planned as 25 billion cubic meters of gas annually. Production on the Kovykta field will start after 2022. Its production will also be 25 billion cubic meters of gas per year.

The 'eastern route' agreement (from Blagoveshchensk to China) was signed with CNPC on May 21, 2014. The total price of the contract on annual supplies of 38 billion cubic meters of gas to China amounted to \$400 billion. Agencies

Immigration policies reveal hypocrisy and callousness of American

THE poor human rights record of the U.S. caused by the immigration policy has been strongly criticized by the international community in recent years.

A series of data released recently have revealed how severe the situation is. In the fiscal year 2019, the U.S. government held nearly 70,000 unaccompanied migrant children in custody, up 42 percent year on year, according to statistics.

Meanwhile, court documents of the U.S. record a large number of new cases about inhumane treatment of migrant children that happened even after relevant immigration policies were halted.

A doctor who had visited a migrant

child detention facility called the place a "torture facility". As the doctor described, the children were held in cold rooms where the lights were on 24 hours a day. They had no access to toothpaste or soap. Some children fell ill and began to lose weight. To make things worse, some children died or were sexually abused while in custody.

"This is unprecedented in American history or international practice." The Economist wrote.

"We are living in a historic moment that future generations of Americans will look back on with shame," said Newsweek magazine.

Branding itself as a defender of human rights and "a city upon a hill", Washington is really obsessed with in-

terfering in the internal affairs of other countries and accusing their domestic policies under the guise of defending human rights and protecting those countries.

Today, in the 21st century, the primitive and brutal immigration policies of the U.S. have shocked and angered the world as they deprived innocent children the happiness of being beside their parents and caused irreparable damage to their physical and mental health.

The trauma the immigration policies inflicted on migrant children by separating them from their parents is a risk caused by the state, said a U.S. federal judge.

Why is such practice, which runs

counter to common sense and civilization, enjoys support in the U.S.? This has something to do with the American politics.

Family separation was rolled out under the "zero tolerance" policy. As it worked well as a deterrent to immigration, it consolidated the immigration policies, helping the policies win political favors from anti-immigration voters.

Meanwhile, children suffering from family separation could be taken as "hostages" and the mounting human rights disasters as political leverage, to serve the political interests of U.S. politicians.

Under this political logic, immigrants have been deliberately cast as culprits

for the chronic problems of American economy and society, becoming a punching bag for many frustrated voters. In recent years, immigration has become increasingly politicized in the U.S.

When the mid-term elections or general elections approach, certain American politicians invariably express concerns over the immigration issues, and raised proposals such as family separation and sending the U.S. military to the border to assist immigration law enforcement, to solve the issues.

Their goal, however, is to divert American people's focus from domestic issues.

The U.S. immigration policies, after all, are about politics. The truth does

not count at all; what's important is that the political narrative could excite voters. The outcome does not matter; even it is human rights disasters. The point is that it is the political opponents who pay the price.

Obviously, it is hypocrisy and callousness of American politics that bears unshakable responsibility for such human rights disasters.

The human rights disasters in the U.S. reveal that Washington is not qualified to play the role model of human rights on the international stage, and confirm the fact that the hypocrisy and callousness of American politics is an important source of many human rights problems in the current era.

People's Daily



Photo shows the border wall of Clint, a town in Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border

Immigrants test the conscience of US

THE United States has taken tougher policies and measures to enforce the law on migrants in the past two years, triggering bouts of international criticism.

I have recently revisited El Paso, a major border city in the southern U.S., to write an article on the status quo of illegal immigrant children. This was the third time that I had visited the U.S.-Mexico border in about one year.

I first came to the U.S.-Mexico border in June 2018, when the U.S. government reached its peak in cracking down on illegal immigration and carrying out the "zero tolerance" policy.

The infamous child detention center is located in the Tornillo Port near El Paso, Texas and the temperature there could reach as high as over 40 degrees Celsius in summer.

Undocumented immigrant minors, from several-month-old babies to teenagers, had just been separated from their parents by the U.S. officers and sent to the tents in the center to wait and find out their fate while suffering from the high heat.

The U.S. prides itself on freedom of the press, but no sooner had my partner and I taken a few pictures outside the camp's barbed wire than the U.S. officers stopped us, checked our IDs and escorted us out of the camp.

In February of this year, the U.S. government declared a national emergency along the southern border in an attempt to circumvent the House of Representatives and secure enough funding to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

When I interviewed the local people in McAllen, a city along the U.S.-Mexico border, I found that most people think that it was nonsense to say that the southern border was faced with a security crisis.

People who live in the peaceful city couldn't understand why the government tried to demonize illegal migrants.

The U.S. is a nation of immigrants and more than two-thirds of the residents in McAllen are first- or second-generation immigrants, said an immigration lawyer in McAllen, adding that the evidence of the government has against illegal immigrants is by no means valid and is merely an excuse for political purposes.

Recent data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services suggest that an unprecedented amount of 69,550 unaccompanied migrant children were held in U.S. government custody between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019. So I once again came back to El Paso to dig more about the tragedy.

Americans are said to care for their own children, yet how come they treat the illegal migrant children as prisoners? Not to mention that during the

period, seven immigrant children died when held in U.S. government custody.

The U.S. has always claimed itself to be a defender of human rights, but what it has done doesn't quite agree with what it has said.

Many advocates for immigrant rights in McAllen criticized the government's heavy-handed approach by saying that the data has put a moral stain on America, shamed the country and showed the world a U.S. with no values.

The historical museum of El Paso, a frontier city that has thrived because of immigrants, has recorded the landmarks in its development since it became part of the U.S. in 1850.

In the second half of the 19th century, thousands of Mexican farmers would cross the border every day to toil on the American side of the border, promoting the prosperity of local agriculture. Later around the early 20th century, the completion of the railroad in the south of America started to make El Paso a boomtown along the border.

Today El Paso becomes a symbol of immigrant culture, with 83 percent of the city's 680,000 people are from Latin America. Every year, about 10 million people cross through El Paso into the U.S. from Mexico.

Immigration is a profound reflection of America's current political predicament, according to Martha Menchaca, professor from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin.

The U.S. faces a series of challenges concerning governance, such as drugs, public security, the gap between the rich and the poor, said Menchaca.

She thinks that every time the U.S. politicians couldn't solve these problems once and for all, they would play the card of illegal immigrants and turn their guns on the most vulnerable migrants.

As is seen already, the U.S. has repeatedly withdrawn from international conventions and the current American political climate is clouded by isolationism, racism and extremism.

The U.S. is marching towards a path far different from the one that it wanted to tread when it was founded, as pointed out by many insightful people.

Is the U.S. still the same as it was? That's a question many Americans should be asking themselves. For many people, openness, diversity and inclusiveness were once the name cards of America.

Today, however, the mass incarceration of illegal immigrants, the inhumane treatment of migrant children, the arbitrary adoption or abandonment of international rules seem to have become the new labels of America.

People's Daily

Russian diplomat comments on Kiev's readiness to 'accept a couple of Russian regions'

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has commented on Kiev's statement on its readiness to "accept a couple of Russian regions."

"One 'Russian region' already was part of Ukraine once and it didn't like it being there," she said in an interview with the National News Service internet portal commenting on Ukrainian European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Minister Dmitry



Kuleba's pronouncements.

Speaker of the Russian State Duma on Ukrainian European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Minister Dmitry Volodin said earlier that "national-

ism and oppression of small peoples may drive a number of regions out of Ukraine."

He said this after the Ukrainian delegation had tried not to let speak Ruslan Balbek, a member of the Russian State Duma from Crimea, at the 12th session of the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva.

After that, Kuleba said that not a single region would ever quit Ukraine and expressed readiness to accept Russian regions as part of Ukraine.

Agencies



President Hage Geingob

Namibian election done in accordance with local, international standards, says AU

ADDIS ABABA

NAMIBIA'S general elections were conducted in compliance with the national laws of the country and in accordance with international standards, the African Union (AU) Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) has disclosed.

"The AUEOM congratulates the government and people of Namibia for the conduct of a peaceful General Election," the AUEOM said in a preliminary statement after the southern African nation held general elections on Nov. 27, which saw incumbent Namibian President Hage Geingob win a second five-year term with 56.3 percent of the votes.

"Based on its observations and the findings, the AUEOM concludes that the November 27 General Elections were conducted in compliance with the national laws of the country and in accordance with international standards.

The elections afforded Namibians the opportunity to freely express their will," the statement read.

The AUEOM also commended the Namibian government for ratifying the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance as recommended by the 55-member pan African bloc following the 2014 general elections.

The observers mission had visited a total of 107 polling stations where they observed opening, voting, closing and counting procedures, of which 75 percent of stations visited were in urban areas while the remaining were in rural areas.

"The AUEOM observed that the polling environment was peaceful and calm throughout the day. Security agents were present throughout the day and their conduct was described as professional and discreet," the statement read. It also noted that "results were released according to procedures.

Party agents were provided with the results form to sign and copies of the results were posted at the polling station."

Xinhua

Algeria hopes on election to avert looming economic downturn

ALGIERS

THE upcoming presidential election on Dec. 12 in Algeria is seen as a safe way out to end the political crisis hitting the North African nation, amid growing fears of deterioration of the economic situation, as forex reserves and oil revenues, backbone of the economy, continue to drop sharply.

Algerian Finance Minister Mohammad Loukal warned the Council of the Nation (upper house of parliament) of the worsening situation of forex reserves and budget deficit, which has become the government's major trouble since 2014, following sharp decline in oil prices globally.

Loukal (pictured) further recalled that the government was forced to resort to the forex reserves, from around 200 billion U.S. dollars in 2014 to less than 70 billion dollars this year, to cover the fiscal deficit.

The minister noted that the figure may drop to less than 51.6 billion dollars by the end of 2020, and if Algeria does not bridge the situation, it would be hit by a financial crisis by 2022.

Such fears have been confirmed in a report issued in November by the Customs Department which showed decline in the value of Algeria's oil and gas exports during the first nine months of 2019 by 12.52 percent to 25.28 billion dollars from 28.89 billion dollars a year ago.

Hydrocarbons exports constitute 95 percent of Algeria's revenues in hard currency.

This situation has forced the government to draft a new energy law that includes tax cut, with the aim of attracting more foreign investors in order to increase productivity.

However, the government barred foreign stakes from exceeding 49 percent in all energy projects, but it has decided to cancel this rule in other "non-strategic" sectors in an attempt to attract more investments.

The deficit in the trade balance, which



started to increase in 2014, hit 5.22 billion dollars during the first nine months of 2019 comparing with 3.16 billion dollars a year ago, showed figures of the Customs' Studies and Prospective Office.

The source added that the value of exports is at low level compared with those before 2014.

The Algerian economy suffers a structural crisis because of the dependence on oil industry, the backbone of the economy for decades, despite the efforts of successive governments to overcome this situation and attempts to shift to a diversified economy.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Nouredine Bedoui held a meeting with Sami Akli, head of the Employers Forum, the largest economic institution in Algeria, and the two discussed the economic situation in the country.

Akli told a press conference that Algeria has lost more than half a million jobs since the outbreak of the political crisis on Feb. 22, saying that the already lagging economy has been affected additionally.

He revealed that the construction and public works sector, for example, has been among the most affected sectors, as more than 70 percent of businesses are under the threat of being shut down due to financial difficulties.

Akli further urged the government

Towards more productive China-EU relations

BRUSSELS

URSULA von der Leyen officially assumes on Sunday the presidency of the European Commission at a promising moment for China-European Union (EU) relations that have kept making positive development this year.

While Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and other senior Chinese leaders made multiple visits to Europe this year, leaders of major EU countries such as French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel also traveled to China.



Such frequent high-level exchanges between the two sides have helped deepen their mutual understanding and grow their political mutual trust.

During April's 21st China-EU Summit, Beijing and Brussels set out clear goals for future bilateral cooperation in various areas, including achieving decisive progress for the conclusion of an ambitious China-EU Comprehensive Investment Agreement in 2020.

During Macron's visit to China in early November, the Chinese government announced it has successfully issued 4 billion euro-denominated sovereign bonds in Paris. The two countries have also completed negotiations on an agreement of geographical indications between China and Europe, which is hailed

by Beijing as a pact that bears milestone significance in deepening China-EU economic and trade cooperation.

These substantive progress not only brings real benefits to both parties, but also helps strengthen the confidence in a brighter future of their relations.

Looking ahead, as China and the EU is going to mark the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties next year, they need to come even closer to deepen their practical and mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly in economic and trade areas.

Xinhua

To stop violence and chaos in Hong Kong is the popular will

THE US Congress passed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 recently in an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of China, regardless of the solemn representations from China and the strong opposition of the Hong Kong society.

Driven by the political conspiracy to disrupt Hong Kong and curb China's development, some US officials have openly supported the Hong Kong rioters and fueled the already messed-up situation in the region.

As a serious breach of morality and nature justice, they choose to secure personal interests at others' expense, and will certainly pay the price in the

end.

At present, the most pressing task for Hong Kong is to bring violence and chaos to an end and restore order. One thing we've learnt from the turbulent regions of the world is that social disorder always results in human rights and democracy being damaged badly.

Hong Kong has been put into chaos for quite a while. Radical protesters have recklessly committed many heinous and violent crimes, and even caused innocent citizens to die.

They smashed and burned shops, greatly disabled the traffic, blocked universities and caused classes to be suspended, threatening and endangering the basic rights and freedom of

Hong Kong citizens.

None of the countries in the world that feature civil society and rule of law could tolerate such violent acts and wanton destruction.

To stop violence and end chaos is a requirement of civil society, rule of law and the popular will. Only by punishing and stopping the violent rioters in accordance with the law can we maintain the well-being of the local people as well as the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Anyone with conscience and a sense of justice is well aware that Hong Kong can't continue to be chaotic anymore.

As reported by Lianhe Zaobao, the largest Singapore-based

Chinese-language newspaper, Hong Kong's signature neon light billboards are turning off because of the turmoil, symbolizing the dimming future of the region.

As one of the world's most important trading and financial centers, Hong Kong needs to climb out of the current situation, if not, the chaos will bring disaster on both Hong Kong residents and foreign companies there. In fact, many American enterprises in Hong Kong have already become worried about the chaos.

Statistics from the US suggest that the country has witnessed a larger trade surplus with Hong Kong compared with its other global trading partners in the

past 10 years, with the number exceeding \$33 billion in 2018 alone.

Among the 1,344 American companies stationed in Hong Kong, 278 are regional headquarters. In addition, about 85,000 Americans live in Hong Kong.

Tara Joseph, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, has kept a clear mind and said repeatedly that it is crucial to see an end to violence in Hong Kong.

Some US politicians, however, challenged the world justice and seek personal gains out of the chaos, which has invited criticism from the international community.

It should be noticed that the

US has stirred up trouble in Hong Kong in its own interests, said Tariq Senuti, an Egyptian journalist, adding that the Hong Kong issue is not as simple as it seems and the political interests hidden behind are the major forces that have continued to escalate it.

The Hong Kong-related bill passed by the US has blatantly interfered in China's internal affairs, distorted the truth, supported the anti-China radicals and seriously violated the international law and basic norms of international relations.

The dark clouds could never hide the sun forever and one day it will be clear again. More and more Hong Kong citizens have stepped up efforts to clear

the roadblocks and support the police to resist the violent protesters and false democracy.

Facts have repeatedly proven that to achieve development and prosperity requires order and rule of law.

Recently, 20 companies in Hong Kong jointly issued an open letter with the five major chambers of commerce in Hong Kong, calling on people who love Hong Kong to make efforts in order to finally stop the violence and chaos and protect their homeland.

There is no doubt that to stop the violence and chaos is what the majority want and any kind of hegemonic interference by the US is destined to fail.

People's Daily



Stanbic Tanzania's Marketing and Communications Department' Head, Desideria Mwegelo (R), hands over kits to Tanzania Sports Writers Association (TASWA) FC's manager, Hussein Omari, in a brief function that took place at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Stanbic Tanzania soccer team will take on TASWA FC in a friendly match slated for January next year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

A year in showbiz: Court drama, box office records and a young billionaire

LONDON

FROM the world's youngest self-made billionaire to celebrities in court, the world of entertainment produced a wide array of headlines this year. Below are some of the biggest showbiz stories of 2019.

* The year began with rap making history at the Grammys as Childish Gambino's "This is America" became the first hip hop track to win the ceremony's top record and song of the year accolade. At the Oscars, "Green Book" took best film while Briton Olivia Colman beat presumed favorite Glenn Close for the best actress honor.

* The case surrounding "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, who is gay and black, lit up social media after he told Chicago police two men had attacked him by throwing a noose around his neck, pouring bleach on him and shouting abuse.

Smollett was later charged with making up the attack and taken off the "Empire" TV show, although prosecutors dropped the criminal case against him.

* Criminal cases during the #MeToo era saw Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's trial, in which he is accused of rape and predatory sexual assault, set for January 2020. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr pleaded not guilty to charges of groping three women.

* Singer R. Kelly was arrested and charged with recruiting underage girls and women to have sex with him. He has denied abuse accusations for decades.

* Prosecutors dropped a sex assault case against Oscar winner Kevin Spacey after the alleged victim refused to testify.

* Documentary "Leaving Neverland", in which two men said they had been abused as children by Michael Jackson, renewed scrutiny of the late singer's legacy. Jackson's estate called it a "rehash of dated and discredited allegations".

* The U.S. college admissions cheating scandal saw actress Felicity Huffman briefly go to prison. Rapper ASAP Rocky got a suspended sentence following a brawl in

Sweden.

* The Rolling Stones temporarily postponed their North American tour after singer Mick Jagger underwent heart surgery. The Spice Girls reunited for a tour, though without fifth member Victoria Beckham.

* Reality star Kim Kardashian revealed she is studying to become a lawyer and her half-sister Kylie Jenner became the youngest self-made billionaire thanks to her makeup business.

* Dwayne Johnson was named the world's highest-paid actor in an annual Forbes list while married couple Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra took People magazine's best dressed accolade. People named singer John Legend "sexiest man alive".

* The ending of medieval drama "Game of Thrones" divided fans, some petitioning for a re-write.

* Superhero film "Avengers: Endgame" broke "Avatar"'s 10-year record as the biggest box-office movie of all time. Comic book standalone "Joker" became the first R-rated Hollywood production to take more than \$1 billion in ticket sales worldwide.

* Actress Sophie Turner and singer Joe Jonas tied the knot and Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence married art gallery director Cooke Maroney. Chart topper Justin Bieber and model Hailey Baldwin married a second time while singer Katy Perry and actor Orlando Bloom got engaged. Actor Liam Hemsworth and singer Miley Cyrus separated after seven months of marriage.

* Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan welcomed son Archie while Kardashian and her rapper husband Kanye West announced the arrival, via surrogate, of their fourth child, Psalm.

* The world said goodbye to several big names including fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld, actors Doris Day, Peter Fonda, Albert Finney, Carol Channing and Luke Perry, composer Andre Previn, Prodigy frontman Keith Flint and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison.

REUTERS



R. Kelly

Mwakinyo's latest fight demonstrates that the fighter is nearing the apex of his career

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SUPER welterweight boxer Hassan Mwakinyo has added an undisputed points' victory over Philippine opponent Arnel Tinampay that is likely to have been among his more difficult fights, despite being on home territory. The contest went the full length of ten rounds and two judges gave the fight to Mwakinyo while the third judge held that it was a drawn affair, in which case the win wasn't actually disputed. The boxer is gradually becoming a household name like others in the past, and as it is the case usually, it takes time and many wins to reach that level of fame.

It is hard to say that the Philippine slugger was the Tanzanian professional's most taxing opponent so far, as Mwakinyo has several times won by knockout, once against a British boxer who is unlikely to have failed to obtain good coaching or training facilities. Pundits said it was a shocking defeat as Sam Eggington fell in two rounds in the fight staged in Birmingham, England and that means he was actually fighting on home turf. One needs to be a really good fighter to win by second round knockout, as fighters climb into the ring when they know they are prepared.

That was slightly over a year ago and the boxer, who now rides 25 years and in sports that is fairly close to the apex of one's career, appears to be gaining in technique and strength, or at least not losing any bit of it. His career professional fights



Hassan Mwakinyo

where he is now in his fourth year have characterized by a whole series of wins (at one count lately it was 17 wins at that time to four losses and no drawn fights. Still it isn't always the case that he manages a knockout at an early stage of the fight, which means he must have been at his best on that day, top of career.

There are two ways of interpreting the latest fight in terms of what it means for Mwakinyo's career, where the key issue is the choice of assumption. If one assumes that boxers come at random and since they are of the same weight category with fairly minor differences, and they all put up intense trainings as well as technical inputs from handlers that is one thing. It would make his Birmingham fight the height of his career and the weekend fight a low key and difficult win.

The other assumption would be that opponents don't come at random and each fight is a sort of scale as to where a fighter has reached, and in that sense fights tend to be more difficult as at each state one wins, he more or less qualifies to fight a higher rated opponent. The reason is that fighters tend to think of opponents they can manage while avoiding those they can't manage, and as they have to scale up the ladder, or defend titles where they hold them, fighters of a higher rank thus becomes the next opponent. One can't sit idly for six months without risk of penalty.

If this selective model is correct, it follows that the Dares Salaam fight was with a stronger opponent than the Birmingham fight, and it is entirely likely that the Philippine fighter was giving precisely this impression. He vowed time and

again that he came to win, and he must have seized up his rival.

It also means that Mwakinyo will have tougher fights in due course, and if those who come next will be somewhat stronger than Tinampay, it may seem that the Tanzanian Super Welterweight kingpin would rapidly approach his twilight. The reason is that he is rated as number one in Africa and 19th in the world in that weight category, which may have improved somewhat with the latest fight, and thus he could even rank higher at the moment. It means the higher he climbs up the weight category ranking, the more formidable the opponents he is likely to have to face.

It means that he either continues in this pugilistic climb until he is ranked world number one and then opts to retire if his training - or fight outcomes - don't show he can continue achieving, but he isn't there yet. They say in a routine expression in different languages that a bright day is seen in the morning, in which case the Dares Salaam fight or rather Uhuru Stadium event would make any fan of Mwakinyo either worried or realistic.

Worried because he could scarcely accommodate a fighter ranked higher than Tinampay, and realistic because every fighter reaches his best, or top of his ability and then can't do more. That can include a world championship in a particular weight category, but if Mwakinyo doesn't get a world title in that weight, applaud all the same.

Brazil's president accuses actor DiCaprio of paying to burn the Amazon

SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro claimed on Friday that Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio financed fires being set in the Amazon rainforest, without presenting any evidence, the right-wing leader's latest broadside in casting blame over forest fires that have generated international concern.

Bolsonaro appeared to be commenting on social media postings claiming that the environmental organization the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) had paid for images taken by volunteer firefighters that it then used to solicit donations, including a \$500,000 contribution from DiCaprio.

The WWF has denied receiving a donation from DiCaprio or obtaining photos from the

firefighters.

"This Leonardo DiCaprio is a cool guy, right? Giving money to torch the Amazon," Bolsonaro said during a brief remarks in front of the presidential residence.

A representative for DiCaprio did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

DiCaprio has been an outspoken advocate on behalf of combating climate change, posting frequently on Twitter about environmental issues, including the Amazon forest fires. His Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, which is focused on projects that "protect vulnerable wildlife from extinction," is part of the Earth Alliance.

Four members of the nongovernmental organization Alter do Chão Fire Brigade were arrested on Tuesday with police accusing them of purposefully setting fires in order to document

them and drum up more donations. They were released on Thursday on a judge's order.

Politicians and other NGOs fiercely criticized the arrest, saying it was part of a concerted attempt by Bolsonaro's government to harass environmental groups.

Bolsonaro has repeatedly lashed out at various factions in casting blame for the forest fires.

In a Facebook live post on Aug. 21, he said, "Everything indicates" that NGOs were going to the Amazon to "set fire" to the forest. When asked then if he had evidence to back up his claims, Bolsonaro said he had "no written plan," adding "that's not how it's done."

One day later he admitted that farmers could be illegally setting the rainforest ablaze, but roughly a month later he attacked the "lying media" for saying that the

rainforest was being devastated by the fires.

The Amazon rainforest is considered a bulwark against global climate change.

Bolsonaro had talked about DiCaprio on Thursday during a live webcast. The president said the WWF paid the firefighting NGO to take pictures of forest fires in the Amazon.

"So what did the NGO do? What is the easiest thing? Set fire to the forest. Take pictures, make a video," the president said. "(WWF) makes a campaign against Brazil, it contacts Leonardo DiCaprio, he donates \$500,000."

"A part of that went to the people that were setting fires. Leonardo DiCaprio, you are contributing to the fire in the Amazon, that won't do," Bolsonaro said.

REUTERS

Luka gets 27, Mavs snap Lakers' 10-game win streak 114-100

LOS ANGELES

LUKA Doncic dribbled up to LeBron James, stepped back and coolly drained a 3-pointer from well behind the line. The Dallas Mavericks' driving force then threw a telling stare toward Dirk Nowitzki at courtside before he headed off to wrap up a major win.

When the Mavs visited Staples Center a year ago, Doncic was nervous before he faced his boyhood idol, and he sought an autographed jersey afterward.

Although the Slovenian youngster still admires the veteran star, Doncic is showing he belongs in the same galaxy.

Doncic scored 21 of his 27 points in a dynamic second half, and the Mavericks snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' 10-game winning streak with a 114-100 victory Sunday.

Doncic also had 10 assists and nine rebounds in Dallas' seventh victory in eight games. The Mavs erased a halftime deficit with a 28-5 run in an excellent third quarter led by Doncic, who had 16 points and five assists in the third after going 2 for 9 in a self-described "awful" first half.

"It's a great win that means a lot to us," Doncic said. "It shows that we can play against big teams, too. We just need to keep it rolling."

The Mavs comfortably maintained their big lead in the fourth, and Doncic provided some late showmanship by hitting that fourth 3-pointer over James and staring toward Nowitzki, who had center court seats.

"He hit a couple of hellacious shots," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "There's just a small handful of guys in the whole world that can hit them. LeBron James is one of them. He's one of them. Those step-back 30-footers, it's hard to describe how difficult the shot is, and how easy he makes it look."

Delon Wright had 17 points and nine assists, and Kristaps Porzingis added 15 points as Dallas underlined its status as a likely title contender with an inspired second half on the road against the NBA-leading Lakers, who had lost only once in 18 games since their season opener.

"It means that we had a good day and did a lot of good things, but we need to stay humble," Carlisle said. "Every time we have a game like this, people are more than ever



Dar es Salaam junior tennis player, Wazaino Mutale, battles it out in the BQ Open competition which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

throwing their best game at us. There's a certain responsibility you have when you get on a roll like this. We need to understand it and keep our eye on the ball."

James had 25 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers, who dropped to 17-3 by losing this matchup between two of the NBA's highest-scoring teams. The Lakers' longest winning streak in 10 years ended with their largest defeat of the young season.

"It's one game," said Anthony Davis, who had 27 points and 10 rebounds. "We're not going to get down over this loss. We know what type of team we are, we know now. We played well. And they beat us, but we beat ourselves with the rebounding, so we know what we've got to do better."

Los Angeles had won six straight over Dallas, but neither team much resembles the rosters that played the last few seasons in

these jerseys. After a year of impressive moves by both franchises, the Mavs and Lakers are positioned to be back among the NBA's best.

Exactly one month after the Lakers earned an overtime victory in Dallas, the Mavs responded with an impressive all-around effort at Staples Center. The Lakers had their worst day of the young season - or at least their worst quarter while Dallas outscored them 35-17.

"They scored a few buckets, and we had a couple calls that went against us," said Lakers coach Frank Vogel, who got a technical foul along with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope for arguing in the third. "I think our guys got consumed with that a little bit. But we didn't really have an offensive pop the whole quarter, coming out of halftime. We've been really sharp and really consistent, but during that stretch we weren't, and it cost us the game."

AP

Arsenal can still finish top four in Premier League - Ljungberg

LONDON

ARSENAL'S interim manager Freddie Ljungberg said Arsenal can still finish in the Premier League top four despite a 2-2 draw at Norwich City on Sunday that extended the club's winless streak in the league to six games. Former Gunners' midfielder Ljungberg was in charge for the first time after Unai Emery's sacking on Friday and watched skipper Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang twice level for his side.

There were plenty of positives for 42-year-old Ljungberg but Arsenal's defensive frailties would not have escaped him as struggling Norwich punished the visitors with goals by Teemu Pukki and Todd Cantwell in the first half.

Arsenal are enduring their longest winless league run in a single season since 1994 and are seven points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea in eighth spot. They have not won in all competitions for eight games but Ljungberg remained upbeat.

"100 percent," the Swede said when asked if Arsenal could still mount a top-four challenge. "People drop points here and there and we drop points, it's a crazy league at the moment. I hope and think Arsenal can finish in the top four."

Ljungberg said ideally he would have "five or six weeks" to get his ideas across to the players but with a home match against Brighton & Hove Albion on Thursday before a trip to West Ham United the following Monday he does not have that luxury.

After Aubameyang's second equal-

iser early in the second half it was actually Norwich who looked the more likely winners as the game finished wide open. Ljungberg said tightening up all over the pitch was an area that his side needed to work on.

"We have problems in transitions, and that's what I will try to fix," he said, adding that he wanted Arsenal to have more possession and deny their opponents as many chances to shoot.

"I will just try to do small building blocks and try to change things in a slow tempo, so hopefully we can understand it and practice it. But right now we have players who need to recover and we probably only get one and a half [training sessions] again before the next game."

"That's football, for me I just try to make it as simple as possible for the players and hopefully we can get better."

While Norwich remain second from bottom, they played with a verve that suggests they can survive in the top flight.

"A draw wasn't a fair result," manager Daniel Farke said. "I'm pretty proud of the performance. It was a great day and my players left their hearts on the pitch."

The Canaries face a huge game away at third-bottom Southampton on Wednesday.

"It will be tough for us and we have to be at our best again," City's German coach added. "We have to deliver on a weekly or daily basis in this festive period, that's what we're trying to do."

(Agencies)

Man United concerned with performances, not league table, says Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

MANCHESTER, England

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer says the league table is "not the biggest concern" even after he watched his Manchester United team draw 2-2 with Aston Villa to slip closer to the relegation places than the top four.

United are ninth in the Premier League, six points off 18th and eight points adrift of Chelsea in fourth, after managing only a point against Villa at Old Trafford on Sunday.

"I wouldn't have sat here and talked about us being fifth if we had got that one goal extra, so the league table at this point is not the biggest concern because it is so tight," Solskjaer told a news conference.

"I just need to make sure that we get performances and get three or four performances after each other - and results."

"What I can say is so far we have had the lead in so many games and we haven't been able to win those games, six or seven times we've been 1-0 up, or 2-1 or 3-2 like last week [against Sheffield United]."

"We should be better at seeing those games into wins."

United came back from 1-0 down to lead Villa 2-1 before Tyrone Mings scored an equaliser for the visitors, who

had arrived at Old Trafford with the worst away record in the league.

It was the third time in eight days Solskjaer's team had squandered winning positions after the draw at Sheffield United and defeat against Astana.

"I think there's loads of evidence these boys are closer to winning games than losing games and we have to tip those margins in our favour," said Solskjaer.

"The first half wasn't good enough. We're disappointed in that because all the boys stayed here while the young boys and us went over to Kazakhstan, so we should have been coming out of the traps quicker. First half wasn't good enough, second half was what we want to see."

After the disappointing draw with Villa, United face former boss Jose Mourinho and Tottenham on Wednesday before heading to the Etihad Stadium to play Manchester City on Saturday.

Scott McTominay and Paul Pogba were both absent against Villa, but Solskjaer is not ruling out the pair featuring against Spurs.

"We've still got two days," he said. "We need to look at everyone here as well. Let's see. Hopefully we can see one of them on the pitch, but they're working hard behind the scenes."

(Agencies)

Bayern Munich were interested in Liverpool's Mane - Rummenigge

BERLIN

LIVERPOOL superstar Sadio Mane could have been a Bayern Munich player, but slipped through the German team's fingers, according to CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

The Senegal winger, whose performances this season have drawn rave reviews, ended up at Red Bull Salzburg instead, before a move to Southampton and eventually a big money switch to Anfield.

It was after he made the move to Austria from French side Metz that he drew the attentions of the Bavarian giants.

"We had an interest in Mane, but somehow it didn't work out," Rummenigge told Bild. "He then went to Southampton and later Liverpool. A shame."

The attacker's electric pace and goalscoring prowess would be particularly valuable to a Bayern side shorn of legends Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben this year.

Mane has scored eight goals and laid on four others in the Premier

League this year as the Anfield side have opened up an eight-point lead that some see as unassailable despite there being two-thirds of the season remaining.

The Bundesliga champions have turned their attentions to another left-sided attacker plying his trade in the upper reaches of England's top-flight.

They were linked with a move for Manchester City speedster Leroy Sane this summer, but no deal could be reached before the Germany international suffered a serious knee injury.

Rummenigge would not be drawn on whether the club would be back in for Sane, stating it would be bad practice to comment on another team's player.

"If I said something about Sane there would be trouble," the 64-year-old said. "And, above all, the price would not go down. Both are not good." Bayern have had an uneven start to the season and have already made a change in the dugout.

(Agencies)

Nigerian challengers Enugu, Enyimba lose CAF Cup group openers

JOHANNESBURG

NIGERIAN contenders Enugu Rangers and Enyimba were both beaten by north African clubs on Sunday as the CAF Confederation Cup group phase kicked off.

Enugu coach Salisu Yusuf lost his first match in charge, with the sending off of defender Temitope Olusesi not helping as they crashed 3-1 at home against Egyptian opponents Pyramids.

Two-time African champions Enyimba conceded twice within 19 minutes of the kick-off to lose 2-0 away to Moroccan outfit Hassania Agadir, who reached the quarter-finals last season.

Nigeria assistant coach Yusuf was seconded to Enugu after Benedict Ugwu lost his job for winning just once in the first five rounds of the domestic league.

Ibrahim Olawoyin put Rangers ahead on 29 minutes, but they battled after Olusesi was dismissed following a second yellow card just before half-time.

Mohamed Farouk equalised with a penalty nine minutes into the second half and Tunisian Amor Layouni and Islam Attia, from another spot-kick, scored in the closing stages for Pyramids.

The Cairo club, formerly called Al Assiouty Sport, was bought by Saudi Turki al Sheikh and he poured money into it, hiring foreign coaches and numerous Egyptian stars.

When ownership switched to Emirati Salem Al Shamsi, he spared no expense to strengthen the team with the aim of challenging traditional Egyptian giants Al Ahly and Zamalek, and seeking CAF titles.

French coach Sebastien Desabre says his targets are competing with Ahly and Zamalek for the league title and winning the Confederation Cup, the African equivalent of the Europa League.

- Perfect away record -

Winning in Nigeria maintained a perfect away record in the CAF competition this season by Pyramids following victories in Congo Brazzaville, Algeria and Tanzania. The other Group A match also delivered an Egyptian victory with Karim el Eraky scoring in stop-



A file photo of French coach Sebastien Desabre, whose Egyptian club Pyramids won their opening CAF Confederation Cup group match (AFP Photo)

page time to snatch a 3-2 win for Al Masry over Nouadhibou of Mauritania in Nouakchott.

A thrilling tussle saw Nigerian Austin Amutu of Masry score the only goal of the first half, then equalise after Boubacar Bagili and Yassin el Welly netted for Nouadhibou. Pyramids and Masry have three points each, and both will enjoy home advantage in matchday two next Sunday, giving them a chance to exert an early stranglehold in the group.

In Group D, Hassania wasted no time taking control against 2003 and 2004 CAF Champions League winners Enyimba with Karim el Berkouki and Senegalese Malick Cisse scoring.

Enyimba substitute Martins Usule blazed over when given a second-half chance during a goalmouth scramble in the southern Moroccan coastal city of Agadir.

Meanwhile, a brilliant last-minute reflex save from Moussa Camara from a Gift Motupa volley gave Horoya of Guinea a 0-0

Group C draw with Bidvest Wits of South Africa in Soweto.

In Kinshasa, Zanaco of Zambia did well to force a 1-1 draw against Daring Club Motema Pembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo after having Kelvin Kapumbu red-carded on 66 minutes.

Cameroonian Moussa Souleymanou gave the Lusaka club a 25th-minute lead that Nigerian Peter Kolawole cancelled with 12 minutes remaining.

AFP

Messi goal extends Atlético winless run against Barcelona

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid's ordeal against Barcelona continues in the Spanish league.

Lionel Messi made up for a lackluster performance by scoring in the 86th minute on Sunday, giving Barcelona a 1-0 win at Atlético and extending the Catalan team's unbeaten run against the Madrid rival to 19 league matches.

"It's always a big advantage to have Messi in even games like these," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

Messi struck with a low left-footed shot from outside the area after being set up by Luis Suárez to keep Barcelona unbeaten against Atlético for nine years.

"We played a great match, but when Leo shows up he can make a difference," Atlético forward Saúl Ñíguez said. "It's incredibly easy for him to do these things, that's why he is the best."

It was Messi's 30th career goal against Atlético, which hadn't lost at home in 17 matches in all competitions.

"Messi appeared out of the match for a long time, but when he had a chance he broke free and scored a great goal," Atlético coach Diego Simeone said.

The victory put Barcelona back at the top of the league above Real Madrid - which won at Alavés on Saturday - on goal difference.

Atlético dropped to sixth place, six points behind Barcelona and Real Madrid which have a game in hand after their October clásico was postponed until Dec. 18 because of a separatist rally in the Catalan capital.

Sevilla stayed third after beating last-place Leganés 1-0 earlier Sunday, while Real Sociedad is in fourth place after routing Eibar 4-1 on Saturday.

"The league is very long, we have to keep working to stay close to the leaders," Simeone said.

The match marked Antoine Griezmann's return to the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium after being transferred to Barcelona at the end of last season. He was loudly jeered by most Atlético fans nearly every time he touched the ball. The France striker had a quiet performance and never posed a significant threat.

Atlético had most of the chances at the Metropolitano, but both teams squandered good opportunities throughout the match.

Each side hit the woodwork in the first half, and both goalkeepers - Atlético's Jan Oblak and Barcelona's Marc-André ter Stegen - made some good saves to keep the game scoreless.

Messi broke the deadlock after an exchange with Suárez, whose perfect touch just outside the box set up the playmaker's well-placed low shot.

Atlético's last league win over Barcelona was in February 2010, a 2-1 victory at the now demolished Vicente Calderón Stadium. It hadn't lost at the Metropolitano since a game against Real Madrid in February.

Barcelona has won 14 matches against Atlético since that loss in 2010, with five draws. Atlético's last win against Barcelona in all competitions was a 2-1 result in the quarter-finals of the 2015-16 Champions League. Atlético's worst streak against a single club is a 23-match winless run against Real Madrid from 2000 to 2013.

SEVILLA STAYS CLOSE

Sevilla beat Leganés to keep pace with the leaders. Brazilian defender Diego Carlos scored in the 63rd to give the team its fifth straight win in all competitions.

Julen Lopetegui's squad hasn't lost in 10 matches in all competitions, since a 4-0 rout at Barcelona in



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi kicks the ball to score his opening goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and FC Barcelona at Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019. (AP Photo)

the league. Leganés is at the bottom of the 20-team standings with six points from 15 matches. It hasn't won in five consecutive league games, with four losses and a draw. Three of the losses came against Real Madrid, Barcelona and Sevilla.

ATHLETIC WINS AGAIN

Athletic Bilbao beat Granada 2-0 at home for its fourth straight victory.

Raúl García scored from a penalty kick in

the 41st and Yuri Berchiche sealed the win in the 83rd at the San Mamés Stadium, putting Athletic in fifth place with 26 points, five behind Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Granada dropped to 10th place, with 21 points.

HOME STRUGGLES

Espanyol remained winless in eight home matches in the league this season after a 4-2 loss to 10-man Osasuna, which played with-

out defender Facundo Roncaglia from the 52nd because of a second yellow card for dangerous play.

Espanyol, which has lost four of its last five league games, stayed second to last with nine points. Osasuna, which had one win in its last four league games, jumped to ninth place.

Also, seventh-place Getafe routed 11th-place Levante 4-0 will all goals coming in the second half.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Nigerian challengers Enugu, Enyimba lose CAF Cup group openers

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mbwana Samatta

Tanzania finishes third in Africa Zone Three swimming championships

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's national swimming team has finished third in the Africa Zone Three Championships held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The squad, popularly known as The Tanzanite, fielded 25 swimmers and managed to collect 2,044.50 points in the championships, which featured nine countries.

Kenya won the title for the first time after collecting 2,447.50 points and Uganda finished second after garnering 2,392 points respectively.

The event also saw three Tanzania swimmers, Sydney Hardeman, Romeo Mihaly and Sylvia Caloiaro, emerge as overall winners in their respective age groups. Sydney scored 130 points for female swimmers aged 11-12. In men's event, Romeo scored 118 points in the same age category. Sylvia Caloiaro scored 126 points to win the trophy.

The Tanzanite's female swimmers were ranked second scoring 1,083 points. Kenya's female swimmers emerged at the top after collecting 1,180 points and Uganda were placed third with 851 points.

In men's category, Tanzania collected 865.5 points to finish third. Uganda topped the category with 1,421 points and Kenya took the second place with 1,435.50 points.

The results show that Republic of South Africa finished fourth with 1,540 points while Zambia were placed fifth after collecting 1,386 and Burundi settled for the sixth spot with 866 points.

Sudan, who were the defending champions, finished seventh with 812 points and were followed by Djibouti in the eighth spot 105 points and Malawi ended in the last position with 88 points.

Tanzania was represented by 25 swimmers namely Maria Bachmann, Sylvia Caloiaro, Kayla Temba, Sydney Hardeman, Linnet Laiser, Sophia Latiff, Sarah Shariff, Avalon Fischer, Nawal Shebe, Roos Nevelsteen, Eunike Mathayo and Lissa Stanley.

Also in the list were Mischa Ngoashani, Augustine Lucas, Romeo Mihaly, Delhem Rashid, Terry Tarimo, Aaron Akwenda, Singko Steiner, Ethan Alimanya, Sil Kleinveld, Ezra Miller, Ashraf Moez, Nathan Kago-ro, and Peter Itatiro.

The team's manager, Hadija Shebe, commended the swimmers for the best show in the competition which fielded many prominent swimmers in the continent.

Hadija said they planned to have 27 swimmers in the championships, but Collins Saliboko who studies in England and Hilal Hilal who is in Dubai, failed to join the team due to unavoidable reasons.

"As you know some of the prominent swimmers did not compete in the competition due to various reasons. However, we fielded swimmers who were just competing for the first time internationally and good enough, they have done the best," Hadija said.



Wallace Karia

TFF boss eyes CECAFA president seat

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, has confirmed his intention to vie for the presidency of the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) in a poll to be held on December 18 during the body's executive assembly in Kampala, Uganda.

Karia said that he has been advised by the CECAFA executive and CAF president, Ahmad Ahmad, to run for the ailing regional body's presidency.

"I have been urged by my fellow CECAFA executives to go for the top seat. When I met CAF president, Ahmad earlier this year he urged me to vie for such posts. It is upon the advice and faith of my colleagues that I will vie for the CECAFA presidency in elections slated for December 18 in Kampala," he was quoted saying.

The TFF boss also confirmed Kenya's Nicholas Musonye is standing down as

secretary-general of CECAFA after two decades at the helm. Reports already indicate Musonye will be replaced by a fellow Kenyan.

Musonye, who leads the operations of the secretariat based in Nairobi which receives from FIFA one million and half US dollars each to organize youth and women tournaments, had earlier confirmed he will quit his position.

The injection of FIFA grants has seen CECAFA organize various tournaments as it seeks to improve its fortunes. Despite being the oldest sub-regional football organization on the continent, CECAFA member states' teams remain the worst ranked globally.

Teams from CECAFA members have often been found wanting in terms of qualifying for big tournaments such as the FIFA World Cup and the African Cup of Nations.

With the expanded tournaments, though, three teams, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, qualified for the 2019 AFCON

nals in Egypt.

The election will be held a day before the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup final. The tournament kicks off in Kampala on December 7.

It remains to be seen if the incumbent CECAFA president Sudan's Mutasim Jaffar will forward his name for re-election.

Jaffar, who has served a four-year term, was elected in a poll held in Ethiopia on November 20, 2015.

So far nobody else is interested and Kenya wants to keep the secretariat which gives Karia a big chance of becoming the next CECAFA president unopposed.

If he succeeds in his bid, Karia will become the second Tanzanian to lead CECAFA after Leodger Tenga had served as president between 2007 when he was first elected and later stepped down in 2015.

The regional body is composed of 12 member nations, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Burundi, Zanzibar and Djibouti.

Samatta switches to Mo Salah's agency as he targets English Premier League move

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's national soccer team skipper, Mbwana Samatta, has dumped his agent, Margareth Byrne, after she had failed to facilitate a deal for him to move to his coveted destination, English Premier League.

Byrne, an ex-Sunderland CEO, signed Samatta under her First For Players Agency which also has Democratic Republic of Congo international, Yannick Bolassie, and Dutch and Norwich FC goalkeeper, Tim Krul, among its clients.

The agency's first transfer was for Bolassie, moving him from Crystal Palace to Everton FC for a record fee said to be in the region of £28m.

Samatta had hoped to secure a switch to England in the August transfer window following his stellar campaign. He could hardly have enjoyed a better 2019 year.

He fired KRC Genk to the Jupiler League title and won the Ebony Shoe for his efforts, an award given to the best African or player of African origin in Belgium.

He also helped Tanzania qualify for AFCON for the first time in 39 years.

He has scored 20 goals and grabbed six assists across all competitions for club and country so far in 2019 to earn a nomination in the 2019 CAF African Player of the Year award.

After being linked with several top five European sides, Samatta was hoping he could join English Premier League club ahead of the transfer deadline in August.

However nothing materialized and he has been made to remain at KRC Genk at least until January.

The 26-year-old KRC Genk striker has already found a new representative as he hopes to secure a transfer in the coming January transfer window.

He has signed with Spocs Consulting which represents reigning African player of the year, Mohamed Salah, and former Chelsea fullback, Baba Rahman, among other clients.

The transition has been made formal through a social media announcement on Spoc account that read 'Best regards from Genk and welcome Mbwana Samatta to SPOCS'.

This is the third agency for the forward, who previously turned out for Tanzania's Simba SC and Democratic Republic of Congo's TP Mazembe.

He signed with Sportback Football agency which is managed and operated by Nicolas Onissé who facilitated his move to KRC Genk.

Samatta then ended his relationship with Sportback Football and joined First For Players agency late last year in a bid to inch closer to his dream of playing in the English Premier League.

TONIGHT @21:00

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUSA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hits

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09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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Flexibles by David Chikoko



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