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Build property tax database, Finance ministry orders TRA

Dr Kijaji also directed TRA to design a special strategy that would assist in widening the tax base- from the slightly over 2.7 million taxpayers registered at present

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji has directed the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to prepare a list of all houses in the country, showing the owners, on the basis of which a database will be prepared to simplify tax collection. Dr Kijaji said this yesterday during an inspection visit at the TRA Kinondoni Tax Region offices in Dar es Salaam. She said in order to control losses of revenue in property tax collection TRA must work day and night to ensure that the database is completed. It would then be used to remind taxpayers through sms messages on the need for timely payment of the tax dues, which will help in the collection of property tax. Dr Kijaji also directed TRA to design a special strategy that would assist in widening the tax base - from the slightly over 2.7 million



MAY PEACE & HARMONY PREVAIL... Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi (kneeling) leads peace prayers before the start of a meeting at Matagata village in Manyoni District aimed to show residents of the area the official border between Singida and Tabora regions as gazetted in 1961. Left is her Tabora counterpart, Aggrey Mwanri. Photo: Correspondent Tiganya Vincent.



South Africa, Nigeria mull attacks early warning units

PRETORIA

Nigerian and South African leaders have pledged to stop xenophobic attacks, as a high point in the visit by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to South Africa. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has met his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa, weeks after xenophobic attacks in Johannesburg triggered tensions between Africa's leading economies. Nigerians were among those targeted during the wave of violence which resulted

It is Buhari's first visit to South Africa since Ramaphosa's new administration was established earlier this year. The three-day visit is also the first to the country by a Nigerian leader since 2013

in the death of 12 people and led to an extraordinary airlift of hundreds of people last month.

Yesterday, amid warm smiles and a joint commitment to strengthen bilateral relations, Buhari said the attacks were "unacceptable" and called for preventive measures.

"We call for the strengthening and implementation of all the necessary measures to

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Dormitories torched after teachers confiscate phones

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Chunya District, Mbeya Region are holding five students in connection with fire which gutted two dormitories at Kiwanja secondary school on Sunday night.

Hours before the fire, the school leadership conducted an abrupt search in the dormitories and found 26 cell phones which were confiscated as holding such phones contravenes school regulations.

The school's headmaster Elly Mnyarape said yesterday that the search and confiscation irritated students, who then retali-

ated by torching the dormitories, apparently. "We didn't punish them. All we did was confiscating the phones. But we were surprised to see dormitories in flames hours later," he said. Authorities zeroed in on the five after they were named by their fellow students through secret ballot in an exercise presided over by the head of the Criminal Investigation Department in Chunya District. Police had earlier arrested 19 students in connection to the arson but 14 were removed from the list and released after lengthy interrogation sessions by CID officers.

But the drama took a new twist yesterday when Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila went to the school and ordered the bell rang to assemble the students.

Police had earlier arrested 19 students in connection to the arson but 14 were removed from the list and released after lengthy interrogation sessions by CID officers.

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Govt outlines plans for district emergency healthcare facilities

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has unveiled plans to invest heavily in an emergency care system, including training more specialists to stem the tide of deaths arising from paucity of emergency care specialists.

Dr Elias Kwesi, the director of Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Ministry of Health, said this yesterday at the third annual conference on emergency medicine (TACEM), noting that emergency medicine departments are in the process of being set up in district hospitals across the country.

"We will commence the services from next month, which entails having special ambulances equipped for travel at short notice to provide services anywhere," he said

The ministry's vision is to have emergency

medicine specialist doctors and nurses in regional and district hospitals so as to ensure that more lives are saved.

With the theme "increasing access to emergency care in Tanzania," the conference, organized by the Emergency Medicine Association of Tanzania (EMAT) and the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), brought together over 180 participants to equip participants with updates in life saving skills, thus improve emergency service delivery.

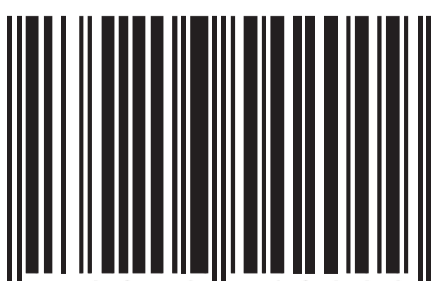
He said the government recognizes the importance of an established emergency care system, thus it has continued to invest and

encourage development partners to support expansion of emergency medicine.

In realization of the plans, the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) is training Masters level students (doctors and nurses to manage all forms of medical emergencies), he stated.

They are being prepared to be leaders in disseminating emergency care across the country..So far at least 45 specialists for emergency departments have been trained in the programme, he elaborated.

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Build property tax database, Finance ministry orders TRA

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around the country.

"The aim in issuing the IDs was to increase the taxpayer base, hence it is vital to know how many new taxpayers we have from the IDs exercise," she emphasized.

Earlier, welcoming the Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, the TRA Manager for the Kinondoni Tax Region, Massawe Masatu, said that in spite of the challenges they face, the region collected more than 713bn/- in FY 2018/19 against the 794bn/- target set earlier, for which the deputy minister expressed her appreciation.

The public must cooperate with TRA officials who do their work professionally and TRA needs to take steps against any persons seen to be hindering tax collections, she added.

Govt outlines plans for district emergency healthcare facilities

FROM PAGE 1

At least seven emergency medical care facilities are being built along the highway from Dar es Salaam to Ruaha in Iringa to treat people who sustain injuries in road crashes. They will also help other patients who need emergency care before reaching major hospitals, he pointed out.

Dr Kyesi said that the government plans to launch out of hospital emergency care so as to provide immediate services during accidents and other health problems that require emergency care.

"We will commence the services from next month, which entails having special ambulances equipped for travel at short notice to provide services anywhere," he said.

For his part, the head of the Emergency Medicine Department (EMD) at MNH,

Dr Juma Mfinanga stated that investing heavily in emergency services will reduce by over 45 per cent deaths that occur due to failure to deliver emergency medical services near the scene of accidents.

Evidence from Muhimbili National Hospital has shown that with well established emergency care systems, there is a decrease in mortality where rapid mobility of equipped medical staff is assured in the case of an emergency.

"MNH will continue working closely with regional hospitals improve emergency care and revolutionize emergency care as a whole," he said.

Professionals in the health care system need to be prepared at all times to be able to provide appropriate measures during emergencies, he added.



Finance and Planning deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji (L) listens to taxpayers who were waiting to be attended to at the Tanzania Revenue Office located at Millennium Tower in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Benny Mwaipaja

Dormitories torched after teachers confiscate phones

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But the drama took a new twist yesterday when Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila went to the school and ordered the bell rung to assemble the stu-

dents.

Addressing the students, the angry RC said the students misbehaved by bringing cell phones to school against the rules and some of them went ahead and torched the dormitories, putting in danger the lives of more than

150 students.

"Because of this indiscipline, you deserve punishment and I'm going to be the first to punish you," he said.

Chalamila then ordered sticks and began whipping the students, an act that was captured in video

clip which has since gone viral on social media.

He directed that the five suspects be taken to court and dealt with in accordance with the laws.

The RC also ordered the school's board to meet and summon parents of the 26 students

found with cell phones and fine them 1m/- each and the money be used in repairing affected buildings.

"Students whose parents fail to pay the amount be subjected to disciplinary and legal measures," he emphasized.



Sonia Sillas (2nd-L), a student at Dar es Salaam-based St Joseph's University, receives a bouquet on Tuesday from her brother, Godfrey Nelson, upon jetting into Julius Nyerere International Airport from India where she and colleagues Modester Ndelwa (3rd-R) and Penina Angolo were pursuing specialised engineering studies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

South Africa, Nigeria mull attacks early warning units

FROM PAGE 1

prevent the reoccurrence of such actions," he said.

Ramaphosa condemned the violence, saying: "Early warning mechanisms will be set up so that when we see there is restiveness in both of our people... we will be able to inform one another."

He added: "We are equally committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that all those involved in criminal activities, regardless of their nationality, are prosecuted."

It is Buhari's first visit to South Africa since Ramaphosa's new administration was established earlier this year. The three-day visit is also the first to the country by a Nigerian leader since 2013.

Buhari and his ministers were welcomed with cannon salute and a guard of honour under a bright spring sun. At the welcome ceremony in Pretoria's Union Buildings, Ramaphosa and Buhari referred to each other as "brothers".

Buhari and Ramaphosa, accompanied by key ministers, discussed various issues, including strengthening economic relations.

The Nigerian leader's visit marks the 20th anniversary of a Bi-National Commission (BNC) established between the two countries in 1999. Since then, dozens of trade agreements have been signed between them.

In 2018, the total value of trade between them amounted to \$3.35bn, making Nigeria South Africa's largest trading partner in West Africa.

A joint business forum between South Africa and Nigeria was held on Thursday afternoon.

"We want to create an enabling environment for doing business in our respective countries," said Ramaphosa, pointing out mining and infrastructure as key areas.

The South African leader also acknowledged Nigeria's support in the struggle against apartheid.

Buhari said his government is committed to fighting unemployment and poverty in his country. He also promised more opportunities for investors in Nigeria.

Formal relations between the two countries were established after the first democratic elections after majority rule was inaugurated in South Africa in 1994.

Hundreds of Burundian refugees return home from Tanzania

BUJUMBURA

Nearly 600 Burundian refugees have left Tanzania to return to their home country, the United Nations has said, the first batch in the mass repatriation of hundreds of thousands of people who fled political violence in Burundi four years ago.

A Tanzanian government official and the UN said all returns had been voluntary.

More than 400,000 Burundians left the country following a surge of political violence in 2015 when President Pierre Nkurunziza ran for a third disputed term in office

and opponents accused him of breaching the constitution. Hundreds of people were killed in the ensuing unrest.

Nkurunziza won re-election and, the following year, Burundi suspended all cooperation with the UN Human Rights office in the country when a UN-commissioned report accused the Bujumbura government and its supporters of being responsible for crimes against humanity.

Currently, some 182,000 Burundians are living in three camps Tanzania, according to the UN.

"All refugees who had registered

to return home voluntarily from all camps gathered at Nduta camp and departed from there," said Athuman Igwe, a coordinating officer for refugees affairs in Kigoma, western Tanzania.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said it had organised 590 Burundian refugees' journey home in coordination with the UN's International Organization of Migration.

It said it had not promoted the repatriation programme but was ready to help anyone who wanted to go back.

"We urge the governments of Tanzania and Burundi to respect their commitments to uphold

international obligations and ensure that any refugee returns remain voluntary and that no refugee or asylum seeker is returned to Burundi against their will," it added in a statement.

A UN Commission on Burundi reported last month that there was risk of a fresh wave of atrocities as the landlocked state approached a 2020 election with its political crisis unresolved.

But Burundi and Tanzania agreed in August to start repatriating the refugees, saying that conditions in Burundi had improved.

Some refugees have expressed fears that they might be forcibly

returned to Burundi, but government spokesman Hassan Abbas said on Thursday that "nobody will be forced to go back".

Nevertheless, he insisted "Burundi is peaceful and they are busy preparing for elections next year".

"Tanzania respects the international agreements on refugees and will ensure the refugees relocation process is handled carefully," he told reporters.

Thursday's returnees arrived on eight buses in Gisuru in eastern Burundi, where there is a transit centre for returning refugees, witnesses told AFP news agency.

EAC launches programme to support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) yesterday launched the intra-Global Climate Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme on supporting Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Actions in the region.

The European Union (EU) is providing funding to the tune of 1.6 million Euros for the four-year

project which commenced in July 2019 and runs up to June 2023.

The project which was launched by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the EU will, among other things: support EAC Partner States in addressing different climate change challenges; reviewing and updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the effective implementation, and;

developing community based climate change initiatives that will have tangible impacts on local communities.

In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the Meeting, Eng. John B. Kizito, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rwanda thanked the EU for its support in enhancing the capacity of the EAC region on climate

change, strengthening the implementation of climate change actions, the Paris Agreement and regional capacity to access climate change funding.

Eng. Kizito cited some of the challenges posed by climate change in the region and echoed the need to take concerted measures in strengthening resilience while adopting low carbon and sustainable development pathways.

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, who represented the Secretary General, reiterated the EAC's commitment to mitigate the impacts of climate change, adding that the Community had developed EAC Climate Change Master Plan (2011-2031), which is due for review.

Massimo Bonannini, the Programme Manager at the EU Delegation Office in Dar es Salaam, expressed concern that financial resources allocated to climate change actions were not enough and the NDCs which are the core of the Paris Agreement, altogether do not meet the expected targets.

Bonannini said that the EU would give more emphasis to climate

change, adding that in the period 2021-2027, some 25% of the budget will be linked to climate change actions. He said that the EU was ready to increase its future engagement in order to support developing countries in their actions to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

He disclosed that the EU considers technical and political dialogues at national and regional

levels as crucial to pursue relevant adaptation and mitigation strategies.

He said that the GCCA+ was one of the instruments that the EU was implementing to help climate change mitigation actions in developing countries, adding that since 2008, GCCA+ had supported some 80 projects with a total allocation of more than 800 million Euros.



Merina Mwakipesile (R), a Standard VI pupil at Mpalanga Primary school in Bahi District, takes a delegation led by Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Mukunda through the human urinary system at an event held at the school yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mihayo: Tanzania to receive batch of 1000 tourists from Israel this October

By Beatrice Philemon

A DELEGATION of 1000 tourists from Israel will visit Tanzania this month and are expected to go to the Serengeti Tarangire, National Parks and Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), all located in northern part of the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Chairman, retired High Court Judge Thomas Mihayo said the tourists will also visit Zanzibar.

Judge Mihayo noted the number of Israel tourists coming to Tanzania is increasing mainly after they discovered that Tanzania is a peaceful nation with political stability.

He said the tourists are also aware of the many tourist attractions available in the country.

"Tanzania provides an excellent travel experience for tourists from different countries across the world. We are thankful to the Tanzanian embassy in Israel for marketing our destinations in Israel that has resulted into many Israelis visiting Tanzania", said Judge Mihayo.

The TTB Chairman highlighted that through their visit, Tanzania will be well-known for what it has to offer in the tourism sector as well as attract more tourists from Israel and other parts of the world.

He challenged business community to grab opportunities from the visits calling upon tax drivers, hotel owners and the national parks to be ready to receive the delegation. Tourism industry is one of the most popular businesses in the world and it is among the highly contributing sectors to the economic advancement of many countries worldwide.

In Tanzania, the tourism sector is one of the biggest employers and the number one foreign exchange contributor to the economy accounting for about 17.5 percent of the GDP and nearly 25 percent of the total exports engine.

"With a new wave of tourism development and promotion, Tanzania expects to assume a higher rank in the list of African tourist destinations", he noted.

Currently, Tanzania is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa and one of the most successful wildlife conservation countries in the world and also is the largest country in East Africa with 28 percent of its land set aside for conservation purposes.

The government has recently upgraded 15 National Parks and 31 game reserves as part of efforts to improve the tourism sector.

Over 7bn/- to boost rice farming in East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

RICE farmers in East Africa are set to benefit from a USD3.1 million (over 7bn/-) grant to a rice sector promotion project which will be implemented over a period of three years.

The Competitive African Rice Initiative in East Africa (CARI-EA), which is being implemented jointly by the East African Community (EAC) and Kilimo Trust (KT) seeks to improve the rice sub-sector in the region. The project was approved for funding by Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in April 2019 and is now at the initial stage of implementation.

A statement released yesterday by the East African Community (EAC) secretariat said the project targets to reach 660,000 farming households (220,000 directly and 440,000 indirectly impacted). It aims to contribute to inclusive transformation of the rice sector in East Africa for sustainable increase in incomes of women, men and young people employed in the value chain of locally produced rice.

"The 13th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security held in Arusha was informed that the project will be implemented over a period of 36 months (April 15th, 2019 - April 14th, 2022)," reads the statement.

The project funding is worth USD3,133,378 courtesy of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) through the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), whereby EAC will receive a grant of USD 322,600.

CARI-EA will support the EAC Secretariat to address the most critical bottlenecks in creating an enabling environment for structured trade in rice at both national and regional levels.

Key activities will include supporting EAC Partner States governments to develop clear rice development plans and mobilize private sector investments in rice mills as well as public sector investments in irrigated rice schemes.

CARI-EA will also support private sector millers to utilize opportunities at the national, regional and extra-regional levels through strengthened market linkages to ensure sustainable rice supply. The project will also carry out assessment of supply chain and logistical constraints and opportunities that hinder processors from attaining desired quality and quantity of paddy from smallholder farmers.

To ensure that farmers sustainably increase productivity to supply the contracted volumes of paddy agreed with SMEs and large traders, CARI-EA will promote the use of irrigation technologies and use of residual moisture during the dry season for a second crop e.g. vegetables or beans so as to enable income continuity for farmers over the year while increasing household food security and reduction in vulnerability.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arumeru

MARIJANI Paulo Mmari, a poultry farmer, of Kilala Village in Makumira Ward of Meru District is the 2019 recipient of the CITI Bank's Award of Excellence Certificate.

He is one of the 6000 local entrepreneurs who were awarded with similar accolades in more than 50 countries worldwide, for their outstanding industrial outputs.

The recipient Mmari said he started slowly with 200 chicks but now keeps 800 chickens supplying a daily consignment of 50 trays to hotels, restaurants and grocery shops in Arusha and Moshi towns. He is however targeting to double this to over 100 in few months' time.

Last year the award was presented to Zabron Mbwaga also from Arusha Region and the year before the Citi Micro Entrepreneurship accolade went to Lucy Kiongosi from Dodoma who is so far the only female winner in Tanzania.

Meanwhile also it was revealed that at least 90 percent out of nearly 200,000 beneficiaries of community development loans issued under the BRAC Finance schemes happen to be women involved in small scale enterprises.

In the past ten months, the microfinance arrangement, targeting mostly rural residents has disbursed over US \$ 73 million, translating into 168bn/-. This is according to the BRAC's Communication Manager, Emma Mbaga.

"We have also managed to reach out to nearly 4 million Tanzanians Mbaga dur-

Arusha poultry farmer scoops micro-entrepreneurship award

ing the occasion to visit one of the beneficiaries, Mmari who won the Citi Award.

Mary Richard is the Credit Officer for BRAC Finance at the Usa-River branch of Arumeru, who serviced Mmari with loans since 2015 saying he was among the potential clients ever. She revealed the scheme has 93 clients in her precinct so far, most being livestock keepers, retail shop owners, hardware store operators and local pharmacists. The Arusha Branch Manager for BRAC, Given Mrema said the financial scheme targeting to support peasants and low-income people has 1213 clients at the moment, a remarkable in-

crease from just 980 recorded by the end of last year.

"We have managed to disburse loans amounting to 2.5bn/- through arrangements that offers credits starting from 1.5mn/- and peaking at 25 million/- per individual or groups," stated Mrema.

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited is a leading micro finance organisation supporting over 195,000 people with small to medium size loans through 151 branches located across 26 regions of the country.

Its client portfolio consists of 55 per cent rural population and over 90 per cent women, with its pro-

grammatic interventions covering micro-finance, education, early childhood development, and empowerment and livelihood for adolescents.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, on 3rd June 2019, LARA INDUSTRIES COMPANY LIMITED with Incorporation No 71240 passed a resolution of voluntarily winding up the company and all its operations.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT, this notice is THE LAST NOTICE of the company's intention to wind up, anyone with claims should come up within 30 days from the date of publishing this notice.

.....
ZHU JIN FENG.
 DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY

115442101

Agriculture ministry to study severity of post-harvest loss

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

MINISTRY of Agriculture is set to conduct new research to determine the current level of post harvest loss for cereals, horticultural produce to guide the government in planning and decision making.

has said directed experts in the Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders to conduct new research to determine the current statistics of post harvest loss for cereal crops, horticulture (Vegetables) and fruits to get new statistics that will help the government in planning and decision making processes.

Opening the High Level Dissemination Event for the National Post Harvest Management Strategy in Dar es Salaam recently, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture Omary Mumba (pictured) said that the current statistics have been in the books since 1990s and the government cannot longer rely on the same for planning and decision making.

The National Post Harvest Management Strategy aimed at reduction of the crop losses after harvest and increasing food security, farmers' income and the nation's economy.

According to the Deputy Minister, the current statistics for post harvest loss says the post harvest loss for cereal crops is between 30-40 percent while for horticulture (Vegetables) and Fruits the loss stands at more than 50 percent.

"The government has taken several measures to address the problem



of post harvest loss by constructing ware houses and other high tech storage facilities in different districts and regions but statistics still remains the same as it was in the past. I direct experts to come up with new statistics that reflects the current real situation on the ground to help the government in the planning process," he stressed.

He urged experts and other stakeholders to dedicate their efforts and to be committed in the implementation of the strategy to achieve the main objectives of the national, regional and international targets which aims at alleviating poverty, industrial economic growth and eventually attain sustainable development. He said global food security is one of the well known challeng-

es and different research show that by 2050 there shall be Nine billion people. Therefore, food requirement is expected to be 60 percent more than it is today.

To address this challenge, the UN is determined to fight hunger by ensuring food security, nutrition, address post harvest loss and enhance sustainable agriculture by 2030.

"Tackling post harvest loss is very important issue which need to be given priority by every stakeholder in the value chain. The government aims at reducing post harvest loss by 50 percent by 2025, he said.

Making his remarks from Private Sector and the farmers, Executive Director for Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) Audax Rukongwe said that in order for successful implementation of the National Post Harvest Management Strategy, there is a need for allocation of adequate financial resources, keen coordination and management, and availability of innovative and cheap technologies affordable for the farmers.

Technical Advisor to the African Union on the Post harvest management and food losses reduction international consultant, Cephas Taruvunga said that the implementation of the strategy is in line with the AU requirements to reduce the post harvest loss.

The National Post Harvest Management Strategy was launched in August this year at the Nananane exhibitions held at Nyakabindi, Bariadi, in Simiyu region by the Vice President Samia Suluhu.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority technicians remove a 24-inch pipe at Kibamba-Darajani on Wednesday to pave the way for the expansion of Morogoro Road. It was not immediately established whether this was behind the erratic nature of the supply of water parts of the city have been experiencing in recent days. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Over 30000 children set for vaccination in Nachingwea

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

At least 37,120 children are expected to receive measles, rubella and polio vaccines in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region during the five-day vaccination campaign set to start next week.

Nachingwea District Chief Medical Officer, Dr Joseph Mtabho said yesterday at a special meeting to introduce members of the campaign to the district commissioner, Rukia Muwango.

"This campaign will take place over five days from October 15 to 19 this year and we expect 22,957 children aged five to 59 months to

receive measles-rubella vaccines," Dr. Matabho said.

Dr. Mtabho pointed out that the other 14,168 children aged 18 to 42 months, are expected to be vaccinated from polio, noting that parents should not be worried as the vaccination has no side effects.

"There are minor side effects, which have no serious effects and last for 24 hours and if they continue, the person will report to the health center for further medical assistance," he said.

Speaking at the meeting after being welcomed, DC Muwango called on members of the committees to encourage citizens to

send children to vaccination centers.

"The Ministry of Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in collaboration with development partners, has organized a national campaign, so citizens should be well informed by the vaccination," said Kiwango. The campaign, he said, is aimed at providing measles-rubella vaccines for children aged nine to 59 months and for polio for all children between one and a half to five years old.

The vaccine, he said, prevents and fights vaccine-preventable diseases, and that vaccination to children

is a common procedure even if they have received, they should be sent back to the service centers.

"So all the religious leaders, despite their beliefs, customs and practices, but this vaccine is not based on faith, the vaccine is safe, the experts have sufficient expertise in distributing the vaccine," he said.

The district commissioner also called on members from the health committees to encourage citizens to join the upgraded Community Health Insurance Fund (CHF), as the service for six people requires only 30,000 and can be serviced at any center within the region.



PRESS RELEASE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Dr. Edwin P. Mhede Ph.D
COMMISSIONER GENERAL

21544807

Two Manyara schoolgirls honoured after victory in International Science Fair

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TWO girls from Chief Dodo Secondary School in Manyara Region have been awarded gold medals during the International Science Fair (ISF) after they emerged overall winners in the category of agriculture science.

The students, Nasra Mpochi and Editha Barde participated in the ISF-Eskom Expo for young scientists held in South Africa. The girls were selected to participate in the competition after they emerged overall winners in the Annual Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) Science and Technology Exhibition which took place in August this year.

YST is a platform that provides a room for Tanzanian secondary school students from across the country and Zanzibar to come and showcase their scientific research with support from Shell Exploration and Production Tanzania Limited and the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF).

Speaking to journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam shortly after landing from South Africa, Nasra Mpochi said they have beaten twenty schools in their category of agriculture science.

She said that apart from a gold medal, they have also been awarded SA Rand 750 each.

Mpochi said: "Our project got the attention of judges who wanted to know where we got the idea and how we went through to establish the technology that can attract bees".

She said the judges were impressed that the designed project would support the country industrialisation drive that seeks to transform Tanzania into a middle income nation.

The students' trip to South Africa was sponsored by Siemens Tanzania Limited, one of the gold sponsors of Young Scientists Tanzania.

Editha Barde said they have learned a lot from their fellow students, organisers and judges who show them the importance of investing in practical science to address the existing challenge in the society.

"We designed a technology that attracts bees in a short period by using flowers from a Kivumbasi plant, which is found in all the regions. The plant produces good smell during day and night especially when it is in the flowery stage", she said.

Jackson Warae, a science teacher at Chief Dodo secondary school said the project got attention as it is directly linked with local entrepreneurs who trade on honey.

Warae noted that with the project bee keepers will be able to double their production thus improve their livelihood.

EU-EAC market access upgrade programme website is inaugurated

By Guardian Reporter

THE website of the European Union and East African Community Market Access Upgrade Programme (EU-EAC MARKUP) was recently launched in Nairobi for purposes of ensuring visibility, sharing experiences and showcasing interventions, results and impact.

The launch which took place during a festive event during the EAC High Level Trade Integration Conference was graced by Kenya's Principal Secretary in the Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development, Dr Margret Mwakima Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of EAC Affairs and Ambassador Jean Rigi from Burundi.

Speaking at the event, Kenneth Bagamuhunda, the EAC Director General for Customs and Trade, underscored the importance of supporting regional value chains in the agriculture sector and improving product quality and competitiveness.

Dr Kirsten Focken, Programme Manager at GIZ said the website was important for purposes of visibility, sharing experiences and showcasing interventions, results and impact.

Jocelin Cornet, Team Leader, Regional Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania hailed all players for the achievements recorded so and thanked the EAC Secretariat for steering and guiding the implementation of the project.

"EU EAC MARKUP is part of the EU's efforts towards integration in Africa and this new website is of great importance for the exchange of information and coordination of MARKUP, said Cornet.

EU-EAC MARKUP aims at eliminating trade barriers for East African small and medium companies and expanding their markets for coffee, tea, cocoa, selected spices and horticultural products in East Africa as well as in European markets.

This will be achieved through supporting the private sector, business support institutions and policy makers in the Partner States and at the EAC Secretariat.

Zanzibar to host food festival coming week

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ZANZIBAR is next week expected to host the fourth Stone Town Food Festival which is aimed at wooing more tourists in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in collaboration with Isles government and other players, the one-week event is scheduled for October 11th and 19th this year in Zanzibar.

The chairman of the festival organising committee, Yasser Yussuf Badrudin said the festival will bring together some of the town's finest restaurateurs in honour of the World Food Day.

He said this year's festival is expected to draw more flavors and fusion cuisine of stone town, as traditional and high end establishments mingle with street vendors, and everything in between, reflecting the variety of stone town food offerings.

"We have kick started the planning for this year's festival and we also anticipate more participants based on last year's turnout. This has actually led us to having the week long festivals to allow us enough time to celebrate stone town's diverse gastronomy," he said.

He said stone town was a truly heartbeat of Zanzibar that has literally drawn people from all corners of the world for centuries creating the tantalizing Swahili cuisine.

Due to the tourism boom in the last decade, Stone Town especially has seen a rise in restaurants and cafes serving worldwide cuisines, adding more international influence to Zanzibar.

The chairman added that this year's event will also introduce "food tour" for those who could like to explore the town more and its hidden food gems.

A Cuisine and Marketing, from Emerson Zanzibar, Katia Wellving said the festival will be held

across stone town, represented by various participating restaurants and cafes.

She said Zanzibar's communities will have chance to taste varieties of food prepared from local ingredients where it begins with 33-day street food's venue at Forodhani Gardens, already known for its evening street food vendors.

"During the festival, we will be showcasing food prepared by international chefs from local ingredients and sold at affordable prices so that every one can enjoy it," she said when responding to the reports in Dar es Salaam.

She said the purpose of showcasing food is also to show an alternative way of how to prepare food from local ingredients to prevent them from Non Communicable Diseases (NCD)

According to her, more people tend to use unhealthy food which on the other hand contributes to NCD which are reported to be on the rise in Zanzibar.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Paul Makonda (R) has a word yesterday with one of the parents of 20 children expected to undergo cardiac surgery at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute with support amounting to 40m/- from Puma Energy Tanzania. Left is Puma managing director Dominic Dhanah. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Supply of basic needs helps over 1,000 Maasai children benefit from basic education

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MORE than 1,000 children from the Maasai pastoralists in the Oldonyowas and Engikaret wards in Arusha District have benefited in their elementary education following construction of classrooms including provision of food and uniforms, all for free from German donors.

The Director of Help for Maasai Children Tanzania (HMC) Joseph Kivuyo said this when speaking at a workshop on education exhibition that took place at Lesino Juu village in Oldonyowas Ward that brought together 367 children from eight elementary schools in Arusha District Council.

Kivuyo said they have been conducting such workshops every year at different schools all aimed at increasing the level of education for the children of the Maasai nomadic community and to act as an encouragement for other Maasai parents to send their children to schools.

He said Help for Maasai Children from Germany has assisted children from nine elementary schools and the response has been satisfactory.

He elaborated by saying that there are six students who scored high marks and who are now in secondary schools and continue to get assistance from HMC.

The schools that participated in the workshop are Losinon Juu, NamelockBetsaida, Sura, Engikareti, Mlimani, Engutukoiti A, and B.

Some of the wananchi who attended the workshop said the presence of these schools in their areas has helped in pushing up education awareness in the community as there are virtually no children who stay at home.

Kimani Lukumay and Sirona Memeri asked for more schools in areas where there are no schools.

A donor from HMC Harald Pfeiffer said ten years ago he had a dream to help children of the Maasai community in education, health and provision of water; and with the assistance from his friends and other people he has been able to realize that dream.

He said they will continue to build more schools to assist more children and ensure the get education from the time they attain school going age.

'Women benefit most from development-oriented BRAC loans'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arumeru

AT least 90 percent out of nearly 200,000 beneficiaries of community development loans issued under the BRAC Finance schemes happen to be women involved in small scale enterprises.

In the past ten months, the micro-finance arrangement, targeting mostly rural residents has disbursed over US \$ 73 million, translating into 168 billion/- . This is according to the BRAC's Communication Manager, Emma

Mbaga.

"We have also managed to reach out to nearly 4 million Tanzanians ever since BRAC was established in the country back in 2006," stated Mbaga during the occasion to visit one of the beneficiaries, Marijani Paulo Mmari, a poultry farmer, at Kilala Village of Makumira Ward in Meru District.

Mmari is the 2019 recipient of the CITI Bank's Award of Excellence Certificate.

It was the Third Citi Micro Entre-

preneurship Award to be issued in the country. The recipient said he started slowly with 200 chicks but now keeps 800 chickens supplying a daily consignment of 50 trays of eggs targeting to double this to over 100 in few months' time.

Mary Richard is the Credit Officer for BRAC Finance at the Usa-River branch of Arumeru, who serviced Mmari with loans since 2015 saying he was among the potential clients ever. She revealed the scheme has 93 clients in her precinct so far, most being

livestock keepers, retail shop owners, hardware store operators and local pharmacists.

The Arusha Branch Manager for BRAC, Given Mrema said the financial scheme targeting to support peasants and low-income people has 1213 clients at the moment, a remarkable increase from just 980 recorded by the end of last year.

"We have managed to disburse loans amounting to 2.5 billion/- through arrangements that offers credits starting from 1.5 million/- and

peaking at 25 million/- per individual or groups," stated Mrema.

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited is a leading micro finance organisation supporting over 195,000 people with small to medium size loans through 151 branches located across 26 regions of the country. Its client portfolio consists of 55 per cent rural population and over 90 per cent women, with its programmatic interventions covering micro-finance, education, early childhood development, and empowerment and livelihood for adolescents.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

At the heart of Pact is the promise of a better tomorrow. The promise of a healthy life. Of a decent livelihood. Of sustainable natural resources that benefit communities. Now more than ever in its 42-year history, Pact is helping millions of people who are poor and marginalized discover and build their own solutions and take ownership over their future.

Pact enables systemic solutions that allow those who are poor and marginalized to earn a dignified living, be healthy, and take part in the benefits that nature provides. Pact accomplishes this by strengthening local capacity, forging effective governance systems, and transforming markets into a force for development.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant positions:

Job Title : Gender and Youth Officer (1 position)

Location : Dar es Salaam
Reporting To : Gender and Youth Integration Advisor

Position Purpose:

The Gender and Youth Officer serves as an active member of the program team for the implementation of Pact's Kizazi Kipya project. The officer will ensure the technical cohesion of project integration, strengthening age-appropriate HIV/AIDS-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, live hoods and psychosocial well-being. This position will supervise the implementations of all DREAMS activities and any other youth HIV prevention interventions in all clusters under the USAID Kizazi Kipya project in targeted councils. The officer will be positioned in Pact Dar es Salaam Office so as to oversee all DREAMS related activities in all 8 DREAMS councils and support Gender and Youth Integration Advisor with following up on other gender and youth based intervention in all Kizazi Kipya targeted councils.

Job Title : Gender and Youth Coordinator (6 position)

Location : Kyela DC, MBeya CC, Muleba DC, Shinyanga, MC, Kahama TC and Ushetu DC
Reporting To : Cluster Technical Manager/CSO Program Manager

Position Purpose:

The Gender and Youth Coordinator serves as an active member of the program team for the implementation of Pact's Kizazi Kipya project. The coordinator will ensure the technical cohesion of project integration, strengthening age and gender appropriate HIV/AIDS-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, live hoods and psychosocial well-being. This position will lead the implementation of DREAMS activities and any other youth HIV prevention activities in respective clusters under the USAID Kizazi Kipya project in targeted councils.

The six (6) coordinators will be seconded at the CSO offices in the councils implementing DREAMS interventions so as to closely monitor all gender and youth related intervention with most focus on monitoring the DREAMS activities i.e. in-school intervention for 9-14 girls, HIV prevention- SRH interventions for 9-17 girls and boys, vocational scholarships for 15-17 girls, Furaha parenting program for adolescents and their caregivers, gender related sessions for caregivers etc.

Job Title : Logistic Assistant/ Driver (1 position)

Location : Dar es Salaam
Reporting To : Administration Officer

Position Purpose:

To safely operate Pact Tanzania vehicles efficiently and to provide administrative assistance to the Pact office as needed

Detailed Job Description and How to Apply:

If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, please submit your application describing why you are the right candidate for this position and a curriculum vitae detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from previous and current place of employment. Please send the application through our website by visiting: <https://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania/careers>

Only the applications sent through the above link will be reviewed.

The closing date for applications will be Sunday 13th October 2019 (only shortlisted candidates will be contacted)

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

To learn more about Pact Tanzania visit: <http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>

Pact provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, age, national origin, marital status, disability status, political ideology, military or protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.



USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI)

Request for Proposal

For Construction of 4 Pumping Water Supply Schemes in Morogoro.

Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech the prime implementing partner for the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with USAID Contract No AID-OAA-I-14-00068/AID-621-TO-16-00003.

WARIDI is a USAID funded five-year activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services

Through this Request For Proposal (RFP), USAID/WARIDI requests for quotations from qualified locally registered contractors (Registration by Contractors Registration Board is a must) to bid for the Construction of any of the following Pumping Water Supply Schemes;

WARIDI-0048-2019 – Chakwale Madege (Gairo District, Morogoro Region)

WARIDI-0049-2019 – Duthumi (Morogoro District, Morogoro Region)

WARIDI-0050-2019 – Kitete (Kilosa District, Morogoro Region)

WARIDI-0051-2019 – Mfulu (Kilosa District, Morogoro Region)

A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained via email from Procurement and Contracts Manager, Winrock International, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania, email: waridi.procurement@winrock.org no later than Friday October 11, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Any questions should be sent by Friday October 11, 2019 at 5:00pm East Africa Time; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email on Monday October 14, 2019.

Proposals must be received no later than 12:00 Noon East African Time on Friday, October 25, 2019. Late submissions will not be accepted. All quotations are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in the bidding documents. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Bids shall be opened in public, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend, at Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania, at 2.00 pm, on Friday, October 25, 2019.

Winrock International

Kirenga: Sagcot concern now is the market for smallholder

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER establishing successfully three - out of six projected agricultural clusters, the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot) says its preoccupation now is to ensure small holder farmers in the corridor get reliable local and foreign markets.

Responding to reporters' questions on Sagcot's performance in past nine months, the Chief Executive Officer, Geoffrey Kirenga, said the institution's priority now is to ensure crops produced by farmers in the corridor have reliable markets and also ensure farmers are depended upon by Tanzanian agro-processors for quality raw materials.

"Agricultural transformation has never been easy anywhere in the world. We struggled creatively without losing bearing. Now our three clusters are on firm footing. Our preoccupation now is to ensure our farmers access reliable local and foreign markets," said a relaxed agronomist in charge of Tanzania's prestigious institution that seeks to bring 350,000 hectares of good land into profitable production, push 100,000 small farmers into commercial farming and create 420,000 new job opportunities in the southern regions of Tanzania in the next 11 years.

The three clusters are Ithemi, Mbarali and Kilombero and are the strategic agricultural production tracts being used by the Sagcot to transform farming in Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe and Morogoro regions. Clusters that are yet to be developed are Ludewa, Sumbawanga and Ruffiji.

A cluster is defined as a geographic concentration of interconnected companies, specialised suppliers, service providers and associated institutions.

Further, the Sagcot and its partners aspire to transform the corridor into an illuminating region that generates 1.2 US

dollar billions of farmer revenue and contributes steadily to Tanzania's industrialization drive. Using an agro-industrialization approach, Tanzania wants to become a middle-income industrial nation in next six years.

Giving as an illustrative example, Kirenga said five of Sagcot's most important value chains relating to tea, potatoes, dairy, tomatoes, and animal feed/soya had been a great success in, particularly Ithemi cluster. In the last four years the institution, he explained, identified the opportunities on those value chains and attendant challenges.

Without giving statistics, the CEO said on the whole production in the three clusters doubled, attributing that success to increased use of farm inputs, better agricultural education, introduction of new technologies, use of insecticides and linking of farmers to reliable local and foreign markets.

"We still have a long way to go," the agronomist admitted, but said "the farmers now trust us, are confident and have confidence in their lone trade. We are grateful to farmers and our partners to whom we owe this big success," he said

The Head of Clusters and Partnership Development, Maria Ijumba, attributed increased quality crop production in the southern regions to use of cluster strategy. Sagcot, she explained, had to conceive the cluster strategy in order to unite and enable small farmers access services and products that would facilitate productive farming.

"The cluster strategy has rewarded our nation handsomely. It has helped us. We have been able to add value to strategic crops. We now have reliable local and foreign markets for these crops," she explained. Sagcot is a public-private partnership that seeks to develop Tanzania's agricultural sector by fostering responsible agri-business investments in the southern corridor.



Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot) CEO Geoffrey Kirenga fields questions from journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the interview on the agency's plans to add value chain to the country's priority crops. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Provide public servants with training guidelines, Mwanjelwa tells employers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

EMPLOYERS and employment authorities have been called to give freshly appointed public servants training guidelines to ensure they understand the laws,

regulations and procedures as well as their responsibilities.

Deputy Minister of State, President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) Dr Mary Mwanjelwa made the call in Mwanza Region on Wednesday when

speaking during the meeting with officials from public service in the region aimed at learning and exchange ideas and work experience in the management of human resources in the public service.

She said some of officials

in the public service institutions do not adhere to the procedure in employing new staff such as giving of training guidelines as well as not filling the Open Performance Review and Appraisal System (OPRAS) forms.

She added: "Inspection reports of supervision and management of human resources for 2017/2018 up to 2019 show the area that is poorly managed is the issue training to public officials."

Mwanjelwa called on employers to submit in time various data on appeals and complaints of public servants as and when they are required to avoid any dissatisfaction arising from delay, and added that this may of-

ten lead to pay staff salaries which they did not work for.

On his part the Commissioner from Public Service Commission Amb. John haule called on employers and public officials to abide by the existing laws and ethics for the benefit of the country.

The meeting was also attended by District Commissioners, directors from various government departments, officials from the Central Government, Government agencies and sectoral heads from the region.

The participants were also educated on the Public Service Act Cap 298 that deals with issues of employment, discipline and appeals.

Implement directive on transfer to Mafia, says deputy minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mafia

DEPUTY Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlement Development Dr Angeline Mabula has insisted civil servants relocated to Mafia Island in Coast Region to report to their work stations as the area faces shortage of land officers.

She however requested authorities in Mafia to provide her with a list of all the civil servants who are supposed to work in Mafia, but have yet reported to their new work station.

Dr Mabula made the remarks here yesterday during her two-day official visit in the Island to sensitise collection of various taxes, levies and fees through government e-Payment Gateway (GePG).

The GePG adopted in 2016 envisaged to provide payment gateway to government institutions, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the government's efforts to improve revenue collections.

Earlier, Mafia District Commissioner, Shaib Nnunduma told the Deputy Minister that the district faces shortage of land officers the thing that affects performance of the land department. According to

the DC, Mafia district has a single land officer.

Dr Mabula promised to work on the matter, insisting to ensure all the public servants allocated in the district report to their work stations. She said the department requires a good number of staff to be able to perform accordingly.

"The land department should have a surveyor, evaluator and several others to perform accordingly. I will make sure you get all the needed staff since its difficult to rely on a single officer", said Dr Mabula.

DC Nnunduma said the district has made various efforts to get extra land officers, but they have not reported.

"We have a list of seven officials who have been relocated to Mafia, but none of them have showed-up. This affects our performance in dealing with land issues", said the District Commissioner.

Mafia Member of Parliament, Mbaraka Dau said the district also faces various challenges including lack of the district land council. He said that absence of the land council forces the residents to seek services in neighbouring district-Mkuranga.



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (in glasses) leads members of the district's security committee yesterday in a hunt for tour guide Samwel Gildati Mhina, who is feared to have drowned in Lake Momela following the cyclonic wind that hit parts of Arusha Region on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Three Tanzanians among 2019 most influential young Africans

By Guardian Reporter

THREE young Tanzanians have been named among the 2019 100 most influential young Africans list by Africa Youth Awards.

The list which annually recognises the works of young Africans who have impacted lives across the continent, features young people from 32 African countries.

Among the Tanzanians include Felix Manyogote who is a founder of Mama Afya Initiative, Petrider Paul, a renowned Girls and Women's rights defender, and an influencer for promotion of children's

rights and Kennedy Mmari,

The list which annually recognises the works of young Africans who have impacted lives across the continent, features young people from 32 African countries, organizers disclosed in a statement issued in Nairobi on Wednesday.

In its 4th year, the list has previously helped to celebrate and throw the spotlight on the remarkable achievements and contributions of young people towards the development of the African continent and also serving as a motivation to millions of young people across the globe.

Sharing insights on the publication,

Prince Akpah, founding president of Africa Youth Awards, mentioned that this year's list features a record of 52 females and 48 males from 32 countries and "is an attestation of the works put forth by young people who are passionate about changing the narrative of the African continent."

Notable among the 2019 honourees are Kenyans Peter Tabichi who is the winner of the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize 2019, Governor Stephen Sang, media personality Adelle Onyango, Amref Communications manager, Elizabeth Ntonjira and athlete, Beatrice Chepkoech. Others

include community based organization founder, Natalie Robi, Journalist, Larry Madowo and Founder of Green Generation Initiative, Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti.

Burna Boy, African Union Youth Envoy, Aya Chebbi, Sierra Leone's First Lady, Fatima Maada Bio, Global Teacher Prize Winner, Peter Tabichi, Davido, African Fashion Fund founder, Roberta Annan, Governor of Nandi County in Kenya, Stephen Sang and Sudanese activist Alaa Salah.

Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Ghana lead with representations on the list with 15, 11, 9 and 8 honourees respectively.

Amendment to EAC Customs management Act in the offing

By Guardian Reporter

A Proposal to amend the EAC Customs Management Act, 2014, to extend the time for removal of bulk containerized goods from the port(s) of discharge, is in the offing, in a move likely to reduce the cost of doing business in the region.

In the regard, the Assembly has granted Abdikadir Omar Aden, leave to introduce a Bill to amend section 34 (5) of the existing Customs Management Act, 2014, to realise the above objective. With it, the Assembly

further adopted a motion to amend the Act, when it received support yesterday.

The Motion moved by Aden, Chair of the General Purpose Committee and seconded by Hon Dr Abdullah Makame, was moved under Article 49(I), 59(I) and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the House. At the moment, under the existing Act, the entry of cargo is required to be made within twenty-one days from the date of discharge of the vessel failing which the goods contained in the cargo begin to attract a charge or demurrage.

However, Aden avers that extending the time for removal of large consignments from the port of entry would eliminate demurrage charges and hence goods more affordable and allow for longer storage period to facilitate clearance.

In the EAC, all cargo coming in to the region enters through the designated ports but mainly through the ports of Dar es Salaam in the United Republic of Tanzania and Mombasa in the Republic of Kenya.

"I am concerned that the limited time provided for

entering and clearing bulk consignments is increasing the cost of doing business for East Africans engaged in the business of importing goods who are passing on the cost of the consumer of the imported goods", Hon Aden said.

Under Article 59(I) of the Treaty, any Member may propose any motion or introduce any Bill in the Assembly. The Rules of Procedure of the Assembly also requires that a Private Members Bill shall be introduced first by way of Motion to which the proposed draft of the Bill shall be attached.



NMB central zone manager Nsolo Mlozi (2nd-L) pictured yesterday presenting a delivery bed to Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Mukunda for use by a health centre in the district. The bank also extended 10m/- in support to Mpalanga Primary School. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Three engineering students laud Dar varsity on support

By Guardian Correspondent

THREE engineering students who were in India for studies under the sponsorship of St Joseph University have said that they have acquired enough skills on how to produce low price electricity by using solar panel and wind mill.

Penina Angolo, Modester Ndelwa and Sonia Sillas arrived yesterday in Dar es Salaam at Julius Nyerere International Airport Terminal III, where they were received by parents, guardians and St Joseph University officials.

Speaking on behalf of colleague, Penina Angolo said India have advanced in technology so they have learnt a lot which they can practice here in Tanzania and help others especially the production of cheap electricity which can help citizens get affordable and

reliable electricity.

She said because currently Tanzania is heading to middle income and industrial economy there is a need to find other means to produce much and reliable electricity to be used in industries to produce goods which can be sold in outside and inside market.

"The knowledge we got has come at a right time during which the country need enough electricity so we think if we get space and capital for investment we can produce affordable and reliable electricity to help our own country in industrial economy," she said

Either, she said they have learnt practically a lot of things especially the production of electricity by using wind meal and solar panel which has been the major means India is using to produce electricity and

supply to its citizens urban and rural areas.

She said the production of electricity by using this two ways need medium capital to start but eventually has a lot of benefit because the electricity produced is reliable and affordable.

"We managed to visit different government institutions to get experience of what they do in construction technology. We have learnt different technologies in constructions and we assure our fellow Tanzanians that the knowledge we got would help the country to move forward," he said

Modester Ndelwa commended St Joseph University for the programme saying that it help a lot to expose students from different things and it add value in their carriers.

"We thank the University for this exposure because we are now different. This program is so important and we advice the university that they should take more students abroad because there are a lot of things to learn from developed countries," she said

On his side, St. Joseph University Dean of Students, Mathew Ngulugulu said the college have the programme to send the students abroad for exposure and learn more things in their professions.

"We started this programme ten years ago, we sent 56 students at once in 2008 but this time we managed to send three students of engineering department. We thank got they arrive safely with knowledge that would help our country," he said



The bank that listens

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT OF A USER NETWORK FOR NEW HEAD QUARTER FOR CRDB BANK PLC

- CRDB Bank Plc has set aside funds for its operations during the financial year 2019. It is intended that part of these funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for design, implementation and support of a user network for its New Headquarters building.
- The Bank is seeking Expression of Interests from qualified Firms or Consortia to Supply and Implement Network for its New Head Quarters. The scope of work will include but not limited to Data Network, Unified Communication, Wireless LAN, and Audio Visual System.
- Interested firms or consortia must provide information indicating that they are qualified to plan, design, supply the necessary equipment and implement an enterprise office network by submitting documents covering the following information - company profile, relevant experience, description of similar assignments undertaken, availability of qualified staff with requisite skillsets, knowledge and experience, and business partners / sub-contractors that will be engaged in the project.
- CRDB Bank Plc is now inviting all eligible, competent and experienced firms to express interest plan, design and implementation of an enterprise office network for its New Headquarters building. At the minimum the scope is expected to cover the following :
 - New Headquarters Local Area Network (LAN)
 - Unified Communication Systems - VOIP, Contact Centre and Other Standard Enterprise Office Collaboration Applications
 - Smart Meeting Rooms and Audio Visual Facilities/Amenities
- Tendering will be conducted in line with to CRDB Bank Plc Procurement Policy and Procedures. Only shortlisted Vendors will be eligible for invitation of Request for Proposal (RFP) stage.
- Preliminary selection criteria shall be as follows: -
 - Legal & Regulatory Compliance**
 - Submission of all applicable registration certificates from relevant authorities
 - Submission of valid business license and certificate of incorporation or an extract from Registrar of Companies
 - Submission of TIN, VAT, and tax clearance certificates
 - Current physical location with valid lease agreement
 - Submission of certified litigation history certificate
 - Company capabilities, competence and eligibility.**
 - Show evidence of at least FIVE (5) years' experience in the relevant field on similar project and magnitude
 - Submission of relevant CV and copies of professional certificates and certification status for key personnel and technical staff
 - Submission of reference sites and letters of recommendation from previous similar projects and magnitude
 - Submission of partnership level and partnership status with reputable vendors
 - Submit at least THREE (3) years of latest AUDITED financial statements
 - Demonstrate capability in terms of Resources, skills and technology
- For any clarification you may contact office of the secretary, CRDB Bank Plc Tender Management Committee, situated at 1st Floor, CRDB Head Office, along Azikiwe Street, Office Accommodation Scheme Building, opposite New Post Office from 08:00hrs to 16:00hrs Monday to Friday except on public holidays.
- All Tenders in one original, duly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the Tender Box on the 1st Floor, CRDB Head Office, along Azikiwe Street, Office Accommodation Scheme Building, Opposite New Post Office, P. O. Box 268, Dar es Salaam before 1500 hours' local time on 10th October, 2019. All Tenders clearly marked should be addressed to the Secretary Management Tender Committee, CRDB Bank Plc, P. O. Box 268, Dar es Salaam.
- Tenders will be opened in public on the same date at 1500 hours and in the presence of Bidders' representative who chooses to attend the opening at CRDB Bank Plc Head Office, First Floor Meeting Room.
- Late Tenders, a portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

The Managing Director
CRDB Bank Plc
P. O. Box 268
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2019

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

Change should complement the law in efforts to stamp out illicit liquors

HEALTH sector activists and a portion of the media have been marking World No Alcohol Day, celebrated each October 2 since 2008, with a call to the government to be more proactive in combating the drinking of harmful local brews.

It is abundantly clear that the government is aware of this problem and over the past year in particular it showed intense resoluteness in putting out of circulation harmful strong liquor in tiny packets for years sold publicly all over.

The appeal comes from the Tanzania Public Health Association (TPHA), the local hosts to the global activist event, which has quoted World Health Organisation figures as showing that around three million people die annually from consumption of illicit liquors.

The association says three-quarters of those deaths are of male individuals, but it has not been said how many come from East Africa as a whole and Tanzania in particular. Still it is not easy to collect such data as deaths related to alcohol consumption can come in many forms, where organ failure is the most prevalent symptom but on no account the sole indication.

Looking up data about illicit liquors in the worldwide web, there is greater reference or recognition of the place which spirits occupy in alcohol-related deaths, as many harmful types of liquor are in actual fact legal.

That is the point of departure of how complicated it is for the government to make an explicit effort in that direction as it isn't due to the private initiative of 'liquorprenuers' that illicit drinks exist but rather more owing to the demand.

There are times when demand for

quick intoxication by purchasing less such liquor is so high that dangerous innovation like lacing a drink with methanol comes up. This is exactly how 172 people died in north east India in February 2019.

As is evident even from the Dar es Salaam city scene, those wishing for strong intoxicants and those out to meet that demand to make a living have found ways to go around the ban on liquor sold in plastic sachets.

For one thing, the stated reason for abolishing the sale of liquor in sachets was more the bags than the liquors, which explains why the liquors are now offered in tiny cups with the volume-dispensing kits in place.

The urge for strong liquors in part arises from liquor dependency and low incomes, where other facets of healthcare like diet and medication fail to tame the danger from hard spirits, or illicit liquors in our case.

There is no evidence that governments around the world have had resounding success in combating this problem even in countries where religion forbids the consumption of alcohol.

There are times when the urge for intoxication shifts to the use of drugs when hard liquor is nowhere to be seen, and thus eventually the problem remains the same - or actually worsens.

Where a person has an occupation and must perform, the urge for intoxication correspondingly declines. However, where collective frustration prevails, it is channelled into bizarre forms of happiness. All these facts must be considered in seeking a workable and constructive way forward.

Construction of communication towers exemplifying public private partnership

TELECOMMUNICATION networks in Tanzania are undergoing rapid widening and deepening, with the government recently moving to set aside 65bn/- for the construction of communication towers in a number of regions.

The Works, Transport and Communications ministry has lately underlined the need for all parts of the country to be part of an improved communication network, as this is vital if the country is to promote its economy to middle-income status.

This initiative was enabled by the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF), which by the middle of this year had spent around 118bn/- for that purpose, the projects envisaged already expected to cover 94 per cent of the Mainland with communication towers and thus ensure access to all-round communication.

The various providers share the services of rural towers while tending to build towers in major urban areas to ease expansion plans in densely populated areas. This way, there are more synergies being created between and among the stakeholders and public authorities, and investment in the sector is optimised in a win-win context.

The ministry says that largely thanks to the UCSAF support, the government will install a total of over one thousand communication towers in 521 wards across the country.

There is doubtless much for the government to show for this programme in that it promises to make much difference in the lives of our people. Indeed, it makes development a tangible concept for ordinary people when they see their lives improving from one moment to another.

Communications free people, as mobile phones complement good roads to open up rural areas and bring in new actors including traders, land buyers and social workers from non-state actors.

A substantial part of the work, in the form of seeking to bridge the communication gap between rural and urban areas so that more and more under-served people are reached, has largely been accomplished.

What is still being done is more or less putting the finishing touches and also to enable the various channels to use the towers set up for communal or regulated use in common.

Hardly any part of Tanzania is unreachable by mobile phone services at the moment, whether at divisional, ward, or even village level.

That makes plenty of sense, as it enables people to live wherever they want, therefore blending talent and initiatives from different parts of the country in the pursuit of social, educational and economic development.

The use of communication towers in villages is already proving a boon supporting other social initiatives as rent related to land use makes a difference.

For instance, an official in a village recently visited by a deputy minister said that the communication tower installed there a few years ago had enabled a range of economic initiatives and was also injecting 3.6m/- into the village in annual revenue.

That is vital as stop-gap or supplementary financing in crucial areas, especially the health and education sectors, where small financing gaps like purchasing of key drugs, cotton or writing material for schools means an immense lot in day-to-day activities.

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Journalism schools need to make media entrepreneurship a priority

By Patricio Contreras

A decade after leaving a legacy media job in Caracas to return to her hometown of Ciudad Bolivar to teach at the local university, Venezuelan journalist Albor Rodriguez used a crowdfunding campaign to start her own digital news outlet.

Launching La Vida de Nos in 2016 didn't just renew Rodriguez as a journalist. It also inspired her to turn the reporting workshop she was teaching at Andrés Bello Catholic University into a media entrepreneurship class, for which she would prioritise discussion and analysis about the media industry's transformation.

"My way of thinking, precisely because I come from traditional media and I knew the era of splendour of these organisations, is that we have to overcome grief for what we had and lost, and we must invent things with the resources we have now," Rodriguez said in a 2018 interview for "Starting Point", a report produced by Sembramedia and the Google News Initiative in Argentina.

The report sought to identify how journalism school (J-school) professors from Ibero-American universities addressed the entrepreneurial mindset in their classrooms, and how they viewed the state of entrepreneurial instruction inside their educational institutions.

The diagnosis wasn't good. A majority felt that media entrepreneurship is not a priority within their universities - and that, when it has a space, it's isolated from the rest of the curriculum.

Entrepreneurial journalism professors deal with a lack of knowledge about the subject among their students, and disinterest in it among their colleagues. This has contributed to a complete detachment from the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The disconnect between J-schools and media entrepreneurship is indicative of major tension between journalism in academia and the professional industry.

At least in the US, this rift has historically been stronger and more persistent than in other disciplines, as a 2013 report published by Columbia University, "Educating Journalists: A New Plea for the University Tradition," revealed. While the professional media industry demands a more practical focus, emphasizing skills and applied research, universities have instead prioritised academic research.

J-schools and news organisations, however, converge in one aspect: their

struggles in the digital age. Both have resisted and, in turn, had difficulty adapting to technological disruption.

They've experienced a loss of trust in their work, and have been forced to search for new business models. One of the most cited analyses on this subject is "Post-Industrial Journalism", and it is also addressed in the Reuters Institute's Digital News Reports.

Other factors are at play with universities, too, including institutional rigidity, long processes of accreditation, resistance among academics, and students' perceptions that the media industry remains as stable as it was in 1980.

Neither are J-schools secondary actors nor do they operate in a parallel universe. They are an integral part of the journalism ecosystem, together with both legacy and digital native news organisations, professional journalists and "the people formerly known as the audience", as New York University professor and media critic Jay Rosen once described the proliferation of voices producing news and media content today.

Not only should journalism programmes help rethink the trade, how it is carried out and how it can be improved; they must also work to strengthen the industry. J-schools are a forgotten link today when it comes to entrepreneurial journalism.

Some experiences, however, demonstrate a shift in how universities are approaching the entrepreneurial spirit. Take Betty Tsakarestou, for example. She heads an advertising and public relations lab and teaches a graduate course on Leadership and Entrepreneurial Journalism at Panteion University in Athens, Greece.

Tsakarestou began to introduce her students to entrepreneurial journalism and media innovation in 2015. "I followed the prototype of incubators and accelerator programmes, going through all the methodologies like lean models and design thinking, and connecting students with entrepreneurial journalists or media innovators in Greece, Europe, or other countries through Skype calls," she explained.

For the past two years, Tsakarestou's class has collaborated with a legacy media partner, Antenna Music, to address innovation challenges focused on prototyping startups around audio, radio and music.

Together, they have also used Startup Weekends - multi-day events where attendees pitch startup ideas

and build teams and present prototypes - to bring students, professionals and local community members together in Greece.

Meanwhile, in 2010, Miguel Carvajal, a professor at Spain's Universidad Miguel Hernández of Elche, did a post-doctoral stay in New York. He investigated new business models for journalism and met media entrepreneurs and professors like Jeremy Caplan and Jeff Jarvis at one of academia's epicentres of entrepreneurial journalism: the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York. Today, Carvajal heads his own master's programme in Journalism Innovation, one of the few of its kind in Spain.

"By focusing on innovation, we can incorporate the creation of both startups and innovative entrepreneurial projects," Carvajal said in an interview for "Starting Point".



My way of thinking, precisely because I come from traditional media and I knew the era of splendour of these organisations, is that we have to overcome grief for what we had and lost, and we must invent things with the resources we have now

According to Tsakarestou, this trend has evolved simultaneously in North America and Europe both as a theoretical conceptualisation and a discipline that has incorporated initiatives like hackathons, innovation boot camps, incubators and accelerators. Various actors in journalism, including universities, can use similar models.

What happens to the rest of the world, in Latin America, Africa and Asia? What do we think can be done differently? The findings in "Starting Point" offer insights that can be applied to other regions of the world:

Teaching entrepreneurial journalism is a recent phenomenon - very

different from traditional courses covering the news business - and there is still ample opportunity for journalism schools to get involved in the topic.

Seventy-six per cent of the professors we interviewed began teaching such courses between 2012 and 2018. In addition, we identified only about 50 Latin American universities - of more than 1,700 where journalists are trained in the region - that offered courses of this type.

The combination of experience is important: we found that 64 per cent of the professors had backgrounds as entrepreneurial journalists. If universities don't have professors trained in this area, they can look for practitioners in the local media ecosystem.

Almost half of teachers believe that their students don't want to start news outlets because they lack financial resources and management skills. J-schools can develop workshops to introduce their students to an entrepreneurial mentality, while also establishing synergies with universities' economics programmes.

Expert guests are necessary, but they must diversify: 80 per cent of professors had invited an entrepreneurial journalist to their classes, but few had invited a media investor. There exists opportunity to establish stronger links with the local entrepreneurial community, generating a transfer of knowledge, technologies, networks and concrete opportunities.

These suggestions are not mandatory. Every journalism programme, however, must think about its formative hypothesis: what kind of journalist does it want to educate?

J-schools cannot be left out of the discussion about the present and future of journalism. They should not self-exile either. Today's journalism must be reformulated, in newsrooms and classrooms alike, because students will either work in a weakened media ecosystem or they won't have any work at all.

It's up to us to contribute to a more auspicious future for them, for news organisations, and for the people formerly known as the audience.

Patricio Contreras is a Chilean journalist, university professor and Coordinator of Academic Initiatives at Sembramedia. This Sembramedia article was first published by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

Still planning and on the map...in wonderful Zanzibar!

By Cynthia Stacey

The Guardian last visited Zanzibar-based café owner Yaseer Yussuf in December 2017 and he said, happily, that ... the gamble had paid off and he was still pleased that he took a leap into a new lifestyle after working in a very different sector at a mobile phone service provider.

He was only a few months into his new business then and starting a food outlet next to a popular restaurant was risky, given the restaurant's long term expertise – and his lack of it.

But with something of an odd twist, the said restaurant had been operating from the very building which now houses Yaseer's Ma Shaa Allah Café.

He tells us this is because he was born and brought up in that very building when it was their family home, as it is once again, after it was leased to the restaurant. But both parties are now happy with the current neighbourly agreement on Mkunazini Street in the Stone Town, and Yaseer says it's comforting to be on 'home ground'...literally.

Most people don't know the difference between a restaurant and a café, but Ma Shaa Allah Café is one of the few with an 'à la carte' menu, which gives diners a bigger choice, including inter-continental dishes. There's also a full Indian cuisine, which is definitely the 'Star' of the menu, Yaseer tells us.



Yaseer Yussuf exchanges greetings with the Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohammed Shein at the Zanzibar Tourism Show awards last year. Ma Shaa Allah Café was runner-up in the event. File photo

He says: "This sets us apart from a few other eating places, but we have to balance what's right for our regular customers and the visiting ones, who are of course the tourists... But these usually want to sample local foods as well."

Yaseer has also installed a BBQ at the side of the new veranda, and says he loves this 'outdoor' cooking show.

When starting out, the café owner said: "In the beginning, all your care, thoughts and ideas go into the food and turning out the best there is seems all important. But you have to remember the other work, which is not so interesting, like doing the books and similarly necessary tasks."

The café owner admitted that some

methods can fail. For example, he explained, they once tried to work out their daily expenditure based on the sales figures, which wasn't successful. But now they've established more efficient controls as well as a system to improve services and monitor sales growth.

He said they started out with a clean but plain interior in the café, since the locals seemed satisfied with it, but foreign visitors wanted Ma Shaa Allah to have a

more pleasing interior with some character to it, which he believes they've achieved and thus won approval from everyone, the staff included.

He recalls that local people used to think that the more attractive a trading outlet was, the more expensive it would be, and this particularly applied to the catering business.

But this doesn't always have to be the case, he reports, so their 'décor upgrade' (including an ultra-

clean washroom) isn't reflected in the menu prices, he smilingly assures us.

The café owner says the catering market is currently big enough to accommodate more such restaurants and other food outlets.

In fact, as newcomers, they would be welcomed because having a street dominated by eating places will give the area a definite identity, and hence a greater visibility, which is slowly already happening, and could eventually become a bigger attraction for visitors, just as has happened in similar places.

As regards their future, Yaseer says their goals have become more specific since expansion is not an option, "but that doesn't mean that we should restrict other aspects of our growth, as there are various other ways to advance".

It's now the high tourist season in the Isles. But Yaseer says every year during the low time they review the previous year and decide on changes that could help them raise their standards.

He says one of the highlights of 2019 is being 'put on the map', literally, by Google. The company's 'street view' with 360 teams did a project with the Zanzibar government on digitalising busi-

nesses on the Isles.

He says: "We were fortunate enough to be one of the establishments taken as an example, and were interviewed on the subject, which is an exciting one."

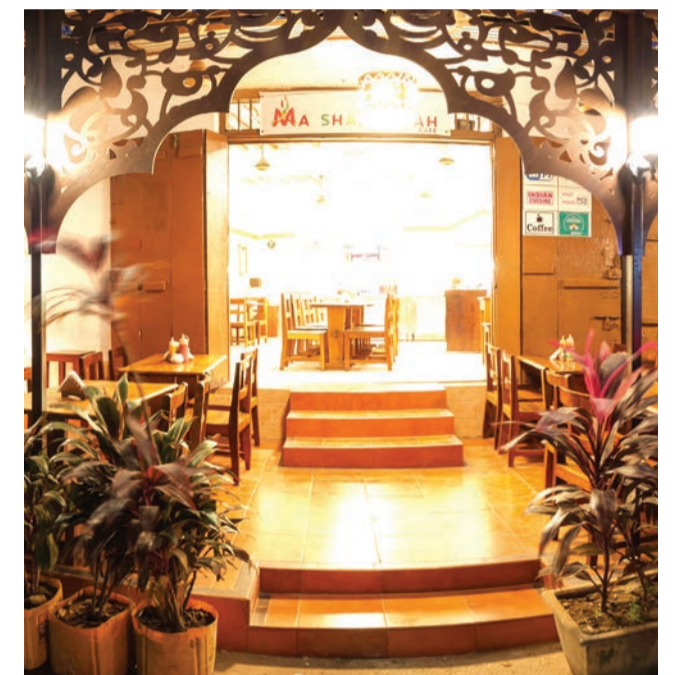
He explains that they are now looking forward to the Stone Town food festival next month, and have just finished taking part in the Zanzibar tourism show, "which was even better this time because there was greater participation".

Another highlight for them earlier this year was

being part of the Sauti ya Busara festival catering on the VIP side, which Yaseer says they learnt a lot from and found interesting and hectic at the same time.

As always, Ma Shaa Allah Café's owner says, this popular festival was a success, "just as was our little business foray into it ... and over the years 'Sauti' has put Zanzibar on the map".

"... and now, thanks to Google, we are on it also... but in a different way," he notes.



Looking good... The newly renovated entrance to the Ma Shaa Allah Café. File photo

NEW YORK

Salvaging the SDGs: New thinking to spur action takes shape

FOR the first time since a new development agenda was adopted in 2015 to make the world a better place for everyone, government leaders assembled at the United Nations in late September to take stock of progress. The verdict of this summit was not good.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the centerpiece of Agenda 2030, were on life support in the eyes of many experts in and around the high-level UN sessions. Some goals were in danger of reversing earlier gains.

A new strategy, however, devised by a team of international development experts, was presented for governments to consider to turn around the bad news about the faltering goals.

"Our goal to end extreme poverty by 2030 is being jeopardized as we struggle to respond to entrenched deprivation, violent conflicts and vulnerabilities to natural disasters," Secretary-General António Guterres wrote when the latest data on the SDGs were released in July 2019.

The numbers provided background to the meeting of world leaders in New York during the opening of the 74th General Assembly.

"Global hunger is on the rise, and at least half of the world's population lacks essential health services," Guterres wrote. "More than half of the world's children do not meet standards in reading and mathematics; only 28 per cent of persons with severe disabilities received cash benefits; and women in all parts of the world continue to face structural disadvantages and discrimination."

"It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals."



Guterres reiterated his message of urgency when he opened the high-level review of the SDGs on Sept. 24. Speaking the next day, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed was more optimistic about what she saw as "the boundless potential of humanity to create a better future for all." Mohammed, however, who had shepherded the goals into their final form in 2015, acknowledged that progress was off track.

The data report in July revealed that despite some gains, many millions of people among the world's 7.7 billion people were living in shocking conditions. That included the 785 million people without basic drinking water services and three billion people still lacking clean cooking fuels, contributing to poor health.

Fewer than half of the people in the world had access to safe sanitation, and 673 million were forced to defecate in the open, according to the latest statistics from 2017.

"Achieving universal access to even basic sanitation services by 2030 will require a doubling of the current annual rate of progress," the secretary-general has noted.

Separately, a UN special rapporteur on human rights, Urmila Bhoola, reported that more than 40 million people are enslaved worldwide, a quarter of them children, and that the numbers are expected to rise.

More than 60 percent of those in forced labor work in the private sector, with women and girls disproportionately affected. Almost all of them – 98 percent – have experienced sexual violence, said Bhoola, who reports on contemporary forms of slavery.

Against this dismal panorama, a new report emerged with talking points for the gathering of government officials on the SDGs during the UN General Assembly session this month. The report challenged current assumptions and thinking on the planning and implementing of development projects.

Titled "The Future Is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development," the report does not attempt to rewrite the 17 development goals or their mind-numbing 169 targets.

Instead, the authors, a team of 15 experts in social and natural sciences assembled in 2016 from developing and industrial countries, concluded that goals could be interconnected or clustered to promote synergistic exchanges for greater effectiveness and should not be isolated in 17 silos.

Leading the group as co-chairs were Peter Messerli, director of the Center for Development and Environment at the University of Bern in Switzerland, and Endah Murniningtyas, a former deputy planning minister of Indonesia. The UN's Department of Social and

Economic Affairs published their report. (For a global projection of how far off the targets are,

The scientists recommended six areas that could be collaboratively transformative: issues of human well-being and abilities; sustainable and just economies; sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition; energy decarbonization; urban and peri-urban development; and the global environmental commons. They named four "levers" that could be used to spur action: governance, economy and finance, individual and collective action and science and technology.

The underlying importance of science, including the professional collection of credible data, is a theme that runs throughout the report. Governance is also given prominence in both identifying and implementing the goals.

In "The Future Is Now" report, the scientists appeared to conclude that new thinking was needed.

"Every country and region should design and rapidly implement integrated pathways to sustainable development that correspond to their specific needs and priorities, and contribute also to the necessary global transformation," the authors said.

Using one issue, childhood nutrition, the authors described

how their report's "entry points" can be linked: "For instance, changes in food habits towards more healthy diets may result from individual and collective action, which is informed by scientific knowledge that can directly influence choices made by families, while supporting governance initiatives such as mandatory food labelling and schools limiting students access to sugary drinks."

The emphasis on collaboration and interaction within and among countries suggests that the current lack of such links reflects not only failures of governance but also the impetus and structure of the SDGs.

David Malone is the rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo and a former president of Canada's International Development Research Center. He was asked by PassBlue why the SDGs have faltered while the Millennium Development Goals that preceded them were more successful.

"The Millennium Development Goals arose from a desire of the developing continents to refocus the UN on development issues after the decade of the 1990s had focused the UN very much on peace and security," according to Malone, who has been Canada's ambassador to India, Nepal and Bhutan as well as deputy chief of Canada's UN mission.

"They offered the considerable benefit of being simple and clear, few in number (8) with few accompanying targets and indicators," he said in an email response. "They were not developed by member states, but rather in the office of Secretary-General Kofi Annan several months after the Millennium Summit."

"That they were mostly attained owes a great deal to the manageable nature of the package, so to speak. But it probably owes more to a very significant growth spurt in both Asia and Africa and to a strong focus on social development in Latin America between the years 2000 and 2015."

"The members states of the UN very much wished to develop the successor platform, the SDGs, themselves," he added. "The result was a fairly political approach including compromises that were essentially additive – each country's

or region's pet priority being somehow accommodated – with little attention to the ability of many governments to implement complex schemes developed internationally".

The SDGs involve 17 goals, 169 targets and over 200 indicators by which those targets can be measured.

"After their adoption, it became clear within two years that many governments, particularly those with limited administrative capacity, while celebrating the goals, were not actually using them in planning or budgeting national priorities. The UN Secretariat has signaled several times now that on current global economic growth trends, many of the SDGs are unlikely to be attained. Politics nationally, regionally and globally are hardly cooperating either. And SDG success is very much hostage to both sets of factors."

A significant difference between the SDGs and the MDGs is that the former should apply to every nation, not only developing countries, and that all governments are expected to declare their aspirations, plan their appropriate policies and track their national progress.

That has not happened in numerous places. One of the most glaring examples is the United States. A State Department website on the topic qualifies it by an advisory that it "is a work in progress" and mostly devoid of US-specific information or commitment.

Among other advanced economies, the Europeans have done much better, with a number of related websites, beginning with an overview of regional policies.

On Sept 24 at the UN, a panel of European Union and developing-country partners in the 79-member African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States announced a new commitment to the 2030 Agenda, backed by about \$32 million, from the Europeans.

Canada, with numerous websites introduced by a comprehensive policy statement, is also active, as is Japan. It has multiple online sites, including one following the work of its national task forces carrying out the sustainable goals.

Safety in the Red Sea corridor cannot be taken for granted

BY OMAR S MAHMOOD

The Red Sea and the adjacent Gulf of Aden face many potential threats to free movement, ranging from the presence of non-state armed groups (such as the Houthis in Yemen) and organised crime outfits, to ongoing territorial disputes and environmental concerns. Yet maritime traffic has largely gone undisrupted in recent years.

The hitherto safe passageway of the Red Sea should not be taken for granted though, and the area has attracted significant geopolitical interest. New initiatives concerned with the shared maritime space are being conceived, including a Red Sea Forum championed by Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The African Union (AU) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are also taking a greater interest. All these actors aim to address a perceived gap in management of the Red Sea space.

A new ISS report examines the developments, threats and unique nature of the Red Sea area. It also outlines maritime approaches developed in other complex environments, to find lessons for the Red Sea.

One of the first lessons is that mistrust and competition must be limited for any regional arrangement to succeed. The inability to overcome tensions can lead to a duplication of efforts or



As geopolitical interest in the Red Sea grows, lessons from other maritime regions will be key to its stability. File photo

the non-participation of key states. For example the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (Asia agreement) has been useful in reducing these crimes in East Asia, but its wider success has been hindered by Malaysia and Indonesia's refusal to join.

Such dynamics are often linked to questions of

national sovereignty. In the Asia agreement example, Indonesia argued that piracy was more of a domestic than international issue, and thus limited its involvement.

Measures to offset inevitable sovereignty considerations include consensus based decision making, and flexible tiers of member state engagement. The Djibouti Code of Conduct, a 2009

agreement among 20 Indian Ocean nations that tackles piracy, has adhered to the former, ensuring that decisions are not binding on members. The Sea Surveillance Co-operation Baltic Sea (SUCBAS) allows members to participate at three different tiers of engagement, according to their comfort levels.

A second lesson is that many other successful

arrangements have started small, and expanded over time. This is both in terms of membership and scope, as confidence is developed and the relevance of activities shown. Both SUCBAS and the Djibouti Code have followed this approach.

SUCBAS emerged out of an initial bilateral agreement between Finland and Sweden. The Djibouti Code in 2017 adopted the Jeddah Amendment, which

greatly expanded the realm of maritime crimes covered (although three of the original 20 signatories didn't sign the Jeddah Amendment). Membership of the Asia agreement grew to include nations as far away from East Asia as the United States and Denmark, given their shipping interest in the maritime space and the strategic value of the route.

Two other lessons described in the ISS report are the need to build around a common set of principles or concerns, and to prioritise coordination to avoid the proliferation of initiatives and competition between them. The lack of a common definition or assessment of the threats can also lead to divergent proposals.

During the development of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct in Central and West Africa, a question over priorities emerged. Some coastal nations downplayed the threat of piracy in favour of the destruction of local fishing livelihoods.

Any organisation requires a certain level of common interest to function. Cooperation among parties tends to increase when threat levels are perceived to be high, with interest waning as threats recede. Yet cooperation must be maintained consistently to

minimise challenges.

The Djibouti Code has done well in this regard, including by developing the Jeddah Amendment - a key outcome considering that while incidents of piracy in the Indian Ocean have dropped, the threat of piracy and other maritime crimes remain. This is particularly relevant for the Red Sea, as concern is high right now due in part to Yemen's civil war - yet a resolution of the conflict may in turn dampen some actors' overall enthusiasm for cooperation.

Coordination also helps prevent potential competition or overlap. Some important initiatives have suffered in this regard. Norway for example doesn't participate in SUCBAS, but rather has championed a similar initiative in the BarentsWatch project. Malaysia also declined to join the Asia agreement as it saw the development as duplicating an existing reporting stream.

Given the variety of approaches emerging for the Red Sea, and the involvement of countries in potentially overlapping regional initiatives, coordination will be key. The Red Sea is a unique maritime environment, but lessons from elsewhere can improve its maritime management.

Omar S Mahmood is Senior Researcher, ISS Addis Ababa

Western democracies are at risk of normalising notions of apartheid

By Marius Oosthuizen

The past decade has been marked by the rise of populism, protectionism and majoritarian attitudes in the West. To many elites in the establishments of Western democracies, this came as a surprise and caught them off-guard as populists rose to the fore.

Most analysts would agree that the combination of rising inequality within states, the economic malaise of the post-global financial crisis, and terror-related insecurity, created a socio-psychological swoon in which divisive rhetoric thrived in domestic political processes.

Trumpian nostalgic notions of "make America great again" and Borisian calls to "take back Britain", sounded to frustrated upper middle classes like revolutionary leadership, on the cusp of a new patriotic nationalism.

In some ways, the rise of the right in the West represents a return to pre-World War II nationalism, dressed up in the language of "the protection of sovereignty" and the "people's interests". In the final analysis, the political tide is rising against the globalism and inter-state openness that has marked the last half-century.

The end of post-World War II multilateralism?

President Donald Trump's trade war, understandable as a tactical manoeuvre in response to the rising global economic influence of Chi-



na, signifies a fundamental departure from the US's free trade posture which set the tone for multilateralism post-World War II. Even if President Trump is impeached, or fails to be re-elected, which is unlikely, the chances are that the US will be unable to regain its foothold as the global leader.

In a twist of irony, China's expansive economic diplomacy, embodied by the One Belt One Road policy, is likely to replace the role of the US at the forefront of global integration. Only, the resultant inter-state connectedness it will produce will set a fundamentally different tone in the world.

The pax-Americana, on the one hand, was marked by a democratic-capitalist value system, which used the big stick of US military capability around the world as a leviathan to coerce rogue states into compliance

with a rules-based order, defined by liberal values. China, in alliance with Russia, Turkey and the likes of Iran, may instead export a utilitarian pragmatism, which prioritises development over liberty.

This does not mean multilateralism is dead, but it does mean that Western-style multilateralism will either be relegated or morphed into a system of "dealing for development", even at the cost of rights and freedoms at the centre and at the margins. This approach is epitomised by China's domestic handling of the Uighur Muslims, conceptually justified by the party in the interests of their common good.

Trump, Brexit and immigration

Against this backdrop, the West will struggle with internal political polarisation, acutely centred on identity politics and

aimed at symbolically significant issues such as immigration.

As the UK's new Home Secretary Priti Patel argues, the goal is to "end the free movement of people once and for all". The irony that Ms Patel does not hail from Yorkshire is lost on an audience reasoning from fear and a sense of lost pre-eminence in the world.

Instead, an elite home secretary from an immigrant family is the perfect symbol of fidelity to their principles of openness, without the substantive commitment to their implications.

Similarly, the anti-immigration sentiments that have taken root in the US are unlikely to subside in the coming decade, only worsen as the working class takes greater pain, inflicted by a short-sighted

trade war that itself fails to address the underlying problem of declining competitiveness in productive sectors of the US economy.

Is it a leap to say the West is normalising notions of apartheid?

Apartheid was neo-democratic

First, one must understand that apartheid, the system in South Africa of racial segregation and "separate development", was at its core a neo-democratic experiment. To those who benefited from the system, the social fabric was democratic in almost every sense: elections were held, subsidiarity in local government was realised, freedom of religion protected, etc.

Apartheid's second-class citizens, people of colour who were aliens in their

own land simply by virtue of their skin colour, were free to come and go - within the tight confines of the police state that deemed them so. If they stepped outside the lines, the borders of control, their rights were arbitrarily infringed under the guise of security.

Trump's border wall and concentration camps for children now share this basic logic.

What began as a project of Afrikaner nationalism ended as a crime against humanity. How this happened is that the creeping autocracy of illiberal democracy eventually justified any manner of abuse in the pursuit of an ideological vision which in practice was untenable - that the haves could make the rules and that the have-nots would serve their interests, without demanding a fair and equal franchise.

At the global level, the Pax Americana that has marked the international system since the 1950s has been a system in which the rich world, whether by enticement or coercion, made the rules. The moral and leadership high ground, assumed by the powerful states, did deliver some benefits akin to the infrastructure and public administrative systems the apartheid government paternalistically afforded their oppressed.

However, once the West no longer represents the ideal and most effective model for delivering on the aspirations of the majority of citizens, the geopolitical order will become untenable and the soft power and influence of the West will wane even further and faster.

That is not to say that the basic premise of the democracy and capitalism of the West - individual liberty and consequent rights - has diminished in philosophical attractiveness. Rather, the alternative represented by China's rise, a utilitarian pragmatic collectivism, masking its deficiencies through efficient state-craft, will appear more desirable to the frustrated masses.

In the process, as the West adopts an increasingly nationalistic and populist posture, if it continues to withdraw from the world into a short-sighted attitude of self-preservation, it will find itself enacting policies that assume that separate development between the rich and poor states is possible.

If anything, the mass migration into Europe from North Africa and the Middle East of the last few years showed that separateness is a fallacy. But it is an attractive fallacy to a populace who believes that they are not getting their fair share of progress and feel insecure to boot.

If the West normalises notions of apartheid, it will not only lose its global role, but will be unlikely to recover in the battle of ideas, as internationalism is eclipsed by regional power blocks seeking to broker networks of aligned states that serve competing geostrategic ends. It will mark the beginning of an era that feels an awful lot like the Cold War, only the consequence might not be the West's relative advantage as was the case then, but its relative decline.

Agriculture key in increasing women's participation in global trade

By Guardian Reporter

RECENTLY, there has been a widespread recognition towards agriculture as an engine of growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. Yet the sector keeps underperforming in many parts of our continent and other developing countries.

Globally, women produce 50% of global food products and comprise, on average, 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries according to FAO statistics.

In African countries, according to the UNDP, the economic and social discrimination against women actually costs Africa USD 105 billion a year or 6% of the continent's annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In Tanzania, agriculture is a principal source of income and livelihood for about 65% of the population contributing an estimated 30% to the GDP. There is a greater participation of

women than men in the sector split 81% and 73% respectively - the number increases to 98% for women in rural areas.

Many of the world's poorest countries rely on traditional agricultural crops for export however; it has been proven that participation in high-value export commodity chains such as horticulture and fisheries provides considerable opportunities for growth and poverty reduction. An analysis conducted by International Trade Center Non-Tariff Measures Surveys across 20 countries in 2015 revealed that when it comes to gender parity, far fewer women owned businesses are engaged in international trade than those owned by men.

Diversification into high-value agricultural exports has been cited as a key means of linking the world's rural poor to global markets. But how do we unlock this potential of agriculture for improved livelihoods in our own country?



Experts met last week in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, where they discussed and deliberated on the inclusive participation of women

in trade for sustainable development at Trademark East Africa's annual research symposium on Sustainable and Inclusive Aid for

Trade (SIAT). The basis of the discussions was a groundnuts case study from Malawi which revealed that sanitary and phytosanitary

(SPS) requirements are the leading impediment to export of agriculture commodities citing a huge skills gap (technical know-

how) by women owned SMEs and compliance costs. The study also showed that one is required to get seven different documents from six different agencies to be fully compliant.

The situation in Malawi is no different from many other African countries, Tanzania included. In order for global trade to enable the economic empowerment of women in Tanzania, they should be educated on market conditions and local regulatory authority requirements to equip them to engage in export business.

The market dictates what it wants and suppliers must 'up their game' to meet the demand for quality products, consistent supply, quantity and competitive prices. A practical way of doing this would be to implement our own food safety standards to ensure the quality of our produce. However, in order for agribusinesses to compete on the global market, experts suggested the need for African governments to do

more to create an enabling environment for businesses to prosper by reducing compliance costs.

Tanzania is making progress in this regard through the blueprint for regulatory reform which seeks to harmonize duplications in the ecosystem. Recent developments include issuance of export permits for food and cosmetics from Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) to Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

In the words of the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), 'All evidence suggests that when you give equal economic opportunities to women it results into beneficial outcomes for the whole society. What society gives to women; they can give back ten times over.' Our government needs to prioritize policy reforms and investments that will foster women's economic empowerment and increase the power of the purse.

EALA urges partner states to duly set up trade remedies committee

By Guardian Reporter

THE delay of the region to institute the Trade Remedies Committee and amend a critical article of the Protocol of the Customs Union is negatively affecting the business community, prolonging resolution of trade disputes and impacting on intra EAC trade, a report of the regional Assembly has said.

EALA has thus affirmed the need for the Partner States to speedily amend the said Article 24 (2) (a), whose ratification has taken a decade and for the same instrument to be deposited with the Secretary General by February 2020.

The regional Assembly also wants the Council of Ministers to operationalize the Committee on Trade Remedies by April 2020, saying any further delays were jeopardizing the integration process. In effect, the House is similarly recommending for sanctions against any Partner States that will not meet the set dates.

The report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on the status of the ratification of the amended Article (24)(2) (a) of the Protocol on the Establishment of the EAC Customs Union was recently presented by the Chair of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment, Deng Gai to the house.

According to the Chairperson, the Trade Remedies Committee which is to be constituted of members, qualified and competent in matters of trade, customs and law, was anticipated as a

body designate to investigate on disputes in the industry, recommend measures to prevent injury and to ensure timely fulfilment of all requirements by parties to the dispute, while providing advice as may be necessary.

According to the Customs Union Protocol, the Trade Remedies Committee is to handle matters dealing with rules of origin, ensure regulations on anti-dumping measures provided for are adhered to and that of safeguard measures. The Committee is also expected to look in to the subsidies and countervailing measures. According to the EAC Trade and Investment Report 2016, intra-EAC exports declined from US\$3.2 billion in 2015 to US\$2.6 billion in 2016 representing 17.4% due to an inadequate trading regime which restricts the export of certain commodities to Partner States. Lack of product diversification and existence of Non-Tariff Barriers in the region have continued to affect intra-regional trade among other factors.

The House was informed that at its 10th Ordinary meeting of the EAC Heads of State Summit, the Summit of EAC Heads of State approved the amendment of Article 24 (2) (a) of the Protocol of the EAC Customs Union. The amendment removed the word "nine" from paragraph 2(a) of that article in effect, causing the Committee's Membership to be open-ended. The Report observes that while there are some initiatives undertaken by the relevant EAC organs, the Partner States were yet to ratify the

amendment of Article 24 (2) (a) of the Protocol.

"In a letter dated 18th January 2013, the then Director General, Customs and Trade, Mr. Peter N. Kiguta (acting on behalf of the Secretary General) wrote to the Partner States requesting them to nominate members to the EAC Committee on Trade Remedies. Between April - July 2013, all the five Partners States (the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, and the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) submitted the names of Persons to constitute the EAC Committee on Trade Remedies," the report says in part.

At its sitting of 27th February 2016, convened in Arusha, Tanzania, the Sectoral Council of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment, among others, directed Partner States to deposit with the Secretary General instruments of ratification of the amended Article 24(2)(a) of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Customs Union by 15th August 2016.

While acting on behalf of the Secretary General, in his letter dated 23rd August 2017, the Director General, Customs and Trade, Kenneth Bagamuhunda reminded all the Partner States about the above directive of the Sectoral Council of Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment and the need to deposit instruments of ratification of the amended Article 24(2)(a) of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Customs Union by 30th October 2017.



Providing equal access to health care to all citizens and making the necessary funds available is an ethical imperative for governments. File photo.

How tax commitments can help Tanzania speed up universal health service delivery

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

In the recent years, Tanzania has made significant progress in providing health care to all its citizens. However, the country's health system is underfunded, leading to gaps in health coverage.

Speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the Policy Forum's monthly breakfast debate themed "Equitable Access to Health in Tanzania: What Needs to be Done to Improve Service Delivery for the Poor?", the main presenter to that debate, Chairperson of the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity

of Creation (ISCEJIC), Bishop Stephen Munga from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania said that poor and marginalised groups were most economically and socially affected.

Providing equal access to health care to all citizens and making the necessary funds available is an ethical imperative for governments, he said.

The ISCEJIC is a high-level platform of religious leaders, comprised of Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) and Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT).

According to Bishop Munga, universal health coverage (UHC) is when all people and

communities can use the preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services do not expose the user to financial hardship.

He said in their 2018 joint report, they realised that Tanzania can reach Universal Health Coverage by way of tax revenue commitments.

"The report recognizes that there is a clear policy commitment towards Universal Health Coverage in Tanzania that is oriented to international commitments to the Right to Health and the achievement of UHC."

Despite the commitments, the report found that there

were implementation challenges. The challenges are evident in the mismatch between budget allocations, health system needs and the discrepancy between allocated budget and disbursed/ executed budgets.

Actual budget allocation to health has averaged around 10.8 per cent of total government spending annually for the past decade, but it is below the Abuja Declaration (15%) and we observe a downward trend in percent allocation. The health budget release rate has declined proportionally from 72 per cent (2014/15) to 57 per cent (2016/17). In real terms, the health budget has not increased significantly over the past years.

Current total health expenditure in Tanzania is 31 USD per capita in 2015 (including external and private expenditure), but this is below the World Health Organization (WHO) standard target of 60 USD.

He further revealed that only 32 per cent of the population was covered by health insurance schemes, leaving the majority (68%) of Tanzanians uncovered. Of the population covered, 8 per cent are covered by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), 23 per cent are covered by Community Health Funds (CHF) and 1 per cent by private health insurance providers.

There are gaps in the implementation of social assistance schemes targeting vulnerable and poor groups due to inadequate resource allocation, along with public health governance challenges including corruption.

Existing exemption systems from user fees for poor and marginalised groups are implemented randomly, leading to more barriers to accessing health care.

It is possible for government to finance health insurance cover for the remaining 68 per cent of its population by ring fencing small percentages of taxes from specific revenue sources for health insurance.

By targeting at least 17 per cent coverage of total uncovered households per year, the government can attain full coverage of the 28 per cent extremely poor and reach between 91 per cent and 99 per cent coverage of the entire population by 2025.

The current financing sources for health expenditure are government allocations (35%), development partners (37%), and private expenses (28%), showing a relative dependency on external funding.

Bank introduces three products to facilitate money-saving culture

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania has launched new products (accounts) to foster a saving culture and freedom in transactions to improve its services to its customers.

The new three accounts are known as Haba na Haba Account, Haba na Haba Plus Account which provides a platform for customers to save up for tomorrow with no monthly deductions and the third one being, Mzalendo Account which gives

customers the freedom of transacting, only charged per usage.

Speaking at the launch of the new products early today, Head of Liability- Retail Banking, Agnes Kaganda said that the products target low, medium to high income earners.

"Haba na Haba Accounts aim to meet the need of customers who want to save money for the future use. These new accounts are meant to elevate the challenges surrounding fostering better means to save up for

future needs without incurring charges that eats up the savings. Simply put, a pure savings account," she said.

According to Kaganda, the Haba na Haba Account is aimed at medium income earners with several benefits which include high interest rate, quick service at all EXIM Bank branches.

Also, provides flexibility to build savings to help customer achieve their goals and high returns with no charges while customers given an opportunity to deposit

their money through mobile phones M-Pesa / TigoPesa/ Airtel money/Zantel directly to their account.

"To open such account, one should have two passport size photos, one copy of ID (Passport, National ID, or Driving license), Residence Proof (ward letter) or Resident Permit (for foreigners) and a letter from local government authority as well as 50,000Tsh as initial deposit," she said.

Speaking on the second one, Kaganda said the new

'Haba na Haba Plus Account' is aimed for high-net worth customers who will also enjoy high interest rates.

"Similar to Haba na Haba Account, Haba na Haba Plus Account also aims to fill the need of customers who want to save money for use in future and whilst offering pure savings options," she said while mentioning the benefits of the account that include high interest rate and quick service at all the branches, as well provide flexibility to build one's sav-

ings and help a customer achieve his/her goals.

She added that the customers are also given an opportunity to deposit their savings through mobile phones and that the savings will not be eroded by charges for it has value-for-money with a spectrum of value-added services from the bank's dedicated Relationship Managers.

"To open this kind of account a customer would be asked to present two passport size photos, one copy of ID (Passport, National

ID, or Driving license), Residence Proof (Ward letter) or Resident Permit (for foreigners) and a letter from local government authority with 10,000,000Tsh as initial deposit," she mentioned.

As for the third account, namely, Mzalendo Account, this aims to facilitate customers with bank's access 24/7 for one's day to day transactions and comes with zero monthly charges and a free debit card. Mzalendo Account will have its customers enjoy an account running

with no minimum balance, zero monthly maintenance fee and a free debit card as well as being conveniently accessed 24/7, besides offering purchases at any merchant Point of Sale (POS).

"To open is account, a customer would be required to present two passport size photos, one copy of ID (Passport, National ID, or Driving license), Residence Proof (Ward letter) or Resident Permit (for foreigners) and a letter from local government authority," she said.

Preventing violent extremism isn't a job for civil society alone



BY ISEL VAN ZYL

Civil society organisations working to prevent violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin are numerous, and receive continued financial support from donors. In addition to their efforts are those of governments that tend to be security focused. Despite both types of initiatives though, violent extremist groups continue to recruit, radicalise and attack.

Since the factional split between Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in 2016, attacks on military bases and government targets have increased. Both groups' area of activity and recruitment are concentrated in the Lake Chad Basin region where vulnerability is high given the deep levels of socio-political marginalisation and poverty.

Civil society organisations have taken on an important

Terrorism is driven by deep structural problems, and tackling these is the primary responsibility of governments. File photo

role in preventing violent extremism, but can they address the structural drivers of terrorism without the help of the countries they work in? Can root causes, which make individuals vulnerable to being recruited and radicalised by extremist groups, be tackled by civil society?

The United Nations Development Programme's 2017 report cites human rights abuses, social, political and economic marginalisation, unemployment, and religious ideology as among the top

reasons for people joining groups such as Boko Haram and ISWAP.

A recent Institute for Security Studies report analysed over 133 civil society projects aimed at preventing and countering terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin. The report cites another 148 projects in East Africa. In both regions, initiatives cover vocational training and skills development, education, promoting tolerance and peace between communities, raising awareness, and providing individuals with psycho-social support.

But these efforts don't address the deep-seated problems of poverty and unemployment, marginalisation and human rights abuses in the four Lake Chad Basin countries of Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon.

The Boko Haram crisis in the Lake Chad Basin has to date led to around 2.3 million people fleeing to camps for internally displaced people. Despite the availability of these humanitarian facilities, there are still about 11

million people without food and in dire need of aid. Lake Chad is receding, affecting the livelihoods of fishermen and farmers, and adding to the high rate of unemployment. Civil society organisations cannot be expected to fully address this problem.

Although the vocational and skills training provided by civil society bodies are important, without government intervention to stimulate the job market and economy, finding jobs will remain difficult. This in itself is a driver of violent extremism. Terrorist groups capitalise on this by offering employment and livelihood opportunities to impoverished communities.

Another catalyst for violent extremism is states' failure to address injustices such as human rights abuses in their countries. Civil society organisations are trying to raise awareness of how some government actions can hurt efforts to prevent terrorism, and how their misconduct contributes to the drivers of violent extremism. For their part, governments tend to prioritise security focused, reactive counter-terrorism measures over preventive ones, and seldom fund local initiatives to prevent extremism.

Civil society organisations in the Lake Chad Basin are also empowering local communities to hold security forces and municipalities accountable for their actions. But without top-down reform from governments, groups like Boko Haram will continue to be able to justify

their propaganda and recruit new followers.

Despite their limited capacity and authority to address deep structural drivers, civil society organisations have a key role in preventing violent extremism. They are ideally positioned to access local communities, especially those who have lost faith in the state. They can help build trust between communities and government through reconciliation dialogues, supporting former combatants who return to their homes, and raising awareness on how government can prevent extremism.

To fully confront the drivers of violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin, governments need information about how to support local prevention initiatives. Civil society organisations are already doing this in their awareness-raising campaigns.

States should aim to address and resolve local grievances, increase communities' trust in government, and encourage social cohesion. Building trust also requires invigorating the job market and economy, and being more transparent about government efforts to prevent extremism, especially rehabilitation and reintegration processes. It is also crucial that states address poverty and marginalisation in rural areas.

Isel van Zyl, Junior Researcher, Transnational Threats and International Crime, ISS Pretoria

By Olusegun Obasanjo

We have recently witnessed renewed xenophobic attacks on foreigners in South Africa. Perhaps they should be called "Afrophobic" attacks as their primary target appeared to be African immigrants.

This is an unfortunate turn of events for South Africa and for the whole of Africa in several respects. There are only two countries in Africa that have "Africa" as part of their names: Central African Republic and the Republic of South Africa. You would think this would suggest an embrace of Africa and its people.

Instead, bands of marauding South Africans violently assaulted their fellow Africans - and Asians - and destroyed many businesses.

Of particular concern is the failure of these events to attract any serious sanction. As far as I am aware, no person has been tried, convicted or jailed for this violence despite the fact that much of it was recorded by private citizens and the mainstream media.

While there have been encouraging signs that some leaders distance themselves from these events, their condemnation has not been loud enough and has sometimes been qualified by comments about some of those who were attacked being "illegals", as if this makes them sub-human and not worthy of the protection of the law.

If you read between the lines, this sort of equivocation is a silent nod of approval to the attacks and it makes those who fail to take a strong stand against them an accomplice in such attacks.

Nigeria's contribution and my own personal contribution to the struggle against colonialism in southern Africa and apartheid in South Africa is well known. I must also commend others in South Africa who have taken a similar position in the overall interest of Africa.

We in Nigeria, if I may speak particularly for Nigeria, fought for liberation in different parts of Africa, particularly in southern Africa, including getting rid of apartheid in South Africa, because we believed it was our obligatory duty to do so as Africans. We, as black people, believed and still believe that we would be second-class citizens in the world if we allowed any black people anywhere in the world, not to talk of Africa, to be treated as second-class citizens because of the colour of their skin.

This is because of our belief in human dignity generally and especially African dignity. We were motivated and guided by principle and not by possession, position or praises. We were not doing it for reward or material benefit. We did it because we were convinced that it was our duty, our responsibility and our obligation to humanity and to the black race.

That is why we, in Nigeria, despite our distance from the frontline of the struggle against colonialism in southern Africa and apartheid in South Africa, became, in terms of our participation, contribution, commitment and sacrifice, effectively members of the frontline states. Whether that is recognised and appreciated or not does not matter. We believe that when solidarity was needed, we did our duty. And, if we need to open our doors in the future, out of our humanity and Africanity, for people in a similar situation of need, we will do so again.

African solidarity means Africans living in any other part of Africa must be treated as brothers and friends. If they commit any crime, they should be treated in the way citizens of that country are treated when they commit crime, which means applying judicial process.

Moreover, the South African police and other law enforcement agencies must uphold the spirit of the Con-

Xenophobic attacks: Equivocation by South Africa is a silent nod of approval



stitution of South Africa, which stipulates that "the South African Police Service has a responsibility to prevent, combat and investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, uphold and enforce the law, create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa, prevent anything that may threaten the safety or security of any community, ensure criminals are brought to justice and participate in efforts to address the causes of crime".

There were occasions where the South African police failed to adhere to this clear mandate, standing aloof while miscreants and criminals committed crimes against fellow human beings. This must be con-

demned as it is not acceptable in any civilised society, whether it is the result of incompetence or collusion.

Political leaders should not play the game of denial, rather accept reality and work at bringing order to bear, together with the rest of Africa where necessary.

There are very serious crimes being committed that require African countries to work together. Countries in Africa are not just transit zones for drugs from sources in Latin America and Asia to be consumed by people in North America and Europe. Some countries in southern Africa and West Africa are also falling victim as their people become consumers and producers of these drugs. It requires the collaboration of producing regions, countries

working with transit regions and countries in consuming regions to deal effectively with the menace of drugs as the work undertaken by the West Africa Commission on Drugs, WACD, shows.

As it is being touted that xenophobia will give South Africans jobs, I dare say it is a fallacy. Xenophobia will make investment in South Africa a little bit more difficult which will slow job creation and perhaps accelerate the loss of existing jobs. It should also be realised that most migrants do not migrate out of their country to other countries with total emptiness. Some have education, skills, experience, expertise, entrepreneurship and sheer guts which they can bring to bear on the economy of the country they have migrated

to. What has helped most developed countries in the world is openness; receiving migrants with open hands and open minds. In any case, all of us in the world are migrants, no matter where we live, depending only on how far back you want to go.

If xenophobia is encouraged, South Africa will not earn the role of leadership, which can only be granted and conferred by the rest of Africa because leadership requires sacrifice, an attitude of understanding, compassion, kindness, brotherhood and hospitality. These are normal African virtues and attributes which South Africa must imbibe.

The lessons to be learned from all this is that our individual countries in Africa must have programmes that will provide livelihoods for

their teeming youth population to discourage youths from embarking on hazardous journeys to places where their lives will be in danger in search of greener pastures that may not be there. Our youth too must learn that when they are in any country, they must be law-abiding, actively productive members of their host country.

At this juncture, there is a need for fence-mending, reconciliation and wound-binding between South Africa and the countries whose citizens have been victims of xenophobia and Afrophobia in South Africa.

I would suggest that South Africa should send emissaries to the countries concerned to explain, apologise and agree on the way forward for mutual understanding, accommodation, reconciliation, and binding the wound to promote unity, concord, and brotherhood in Africa.

The repatriation of Nigerians from South Africa is obviously not a permanent solution. At best it is palliative and the hurt will remain for some time. Neither is revenge a desirable solution. Mutual understanding and acknowledgement of what needs to be done on all sides is imperative and getting down to doing them is the solution that will serve Nigeria and South Africa, and indeed Africa, well, particularly in this era of African Continental Free Trade Area opportunities.

Nigeria and South Africa must stand together to champion the African cause and to jointly shepherd African development, unity, co-operation, security, and progress to make the 21st century Africa's century. There are more measures necessary to ameliorate the situation that South Africa can take in addition to sending apologies through special envoys and raising the level of bilateral commis-

sion. But, if South Africa fails to initiate appropriate and satisfactory steps to demonstrate that it is unreservedly against xenophobia and will jail its perpetrators, the countries whose citizens have been victims of these attacks must consider other options.

They could come together to table appropriate motions at the AU and other multilateral bodies, as well as consider other measures if the situation is allowed to continue.

The writer is a former president of Nigeria

DM

By Property Watch Reporter

LAKE MANYARA'S TREEHOUSE AMONG TOP 10 GLOBAL LUXURY HOTELS

LAKE Manyara Tree Lodge is one of the world's top 10 Treehouse luxury hotels for this year according to Finnish based Arctic Treehouse Hotels.

In its latest sampling of leading global Treehouse hotels, Arctic Treehouse which first developed the unique type of luxury hotels in the Arctic region said Manyara's exceptional features includes teeming with groundwater forests, tropical savannas and alkaline waters.

"From a wildlife-surrounded hideaway in a Tanzanian mahogany forest to a minimalist treetop retreat in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, here are 10 of the world's best tree-house hotels, all of which come with a front-row view of nature's theatre," the Finnish based company said in its latest report.

Lake Manyara National Park is home to the lake that Ernest Hemingway described as the loveliest he had seen in all of Africa. Soak up the region's unsurpassed natural beauty from &Beyond Lake Manyara Tree Lodge, the only permanent reserve in the park. It consists of nine stilted tree-house suites surrounded by a towering mahogany forest.

"Each tree house has its own veranda that looks out on to the canopy, the perfect spot to view some of Manyara's famous wildlife. Keep any eye out for the Serengeti's famous tree-climbing lions, members of the world's largest baboon population and the dusky flamingos at nearby Soda Lake," the Arctic Treehouse report added.

Talking about the Treehouse family of luxury hotels this year, Arctic Treehouse stated, "Raise your hand if you wanted a tree house as a child. Perched high above the ground, surrounded by nature, it's little wonder



An apartment at Lake Manyara Tree Lodge.

ing with sleek Scandinavian design.

"Set on a hillside, these cabins all come with a north-facing glass wall for expansive forest views. Light pollution is minimal, so your chances of spotting the Northern Lights are high. Eco-features are important - the hotel was the first in Finnish Lapland to get the Green Key eco-label and all the buildings are made from local Finnish wood, a traditional, sustainable and renewable material," the report noted.

In Africa, another Treehouse family member on the list is Lion Sands game reserve in South Africa which lies along the banks of the Sabie River overlooking the world-famous Kruger National Park, the Sabi Sands Game Reserve guarantees some of the world's best wildlife-spotting opportunities.

"Guests at Lion Sands's River or Ivory Lodges can spend the night getting closer to nature with a stay in either the open-air Chalkey Treehouse or the enclosed Kingston Treehouse," the Arctic Treehouse report stated.

Other Treehouse luxury hotels included on the list are: Four Seasons Golden Triangle in Thailand; Treehouse Bure at Matangi private island resort in Fiji; Hapuku Lodge in New Zealand; Tulum Treehouse in Mexico; and Chewton Glen in England.

so many of us harboured some kind of tree-house fantasy as children. And as adults, the idea of bedding down high in the leaves, hidden from the world below with only birds for company, is still incredibly enticing."

Fortunately, there are plenty of tree-perched abodes out there that offer travellers the chance to live out their childhood fantasies, all while experiencing the levels of luxury you'd expect from a five-star hotel stay, the report explained.

Other Treehouse hotels included on the list include: Treehotel in Sweden which is nestled among the pines in northern Sweden and offers a range of accommodation options. "Pick from the Mirrorcube, a dazzling reflective box that dangles between the trees, or the Bird's Nest, a spherical haven that looks exactly as it sounds and camouflages you in nature," Arctic Treehouse stated.

Mamole Tree House in Indonesia is next on the list and is described as being frequented by travellers in search of the perfect swell. Sumba Island offers undiluted natural beauty, perfect sandy beaches, turquoise waters and low limestone hills.

"Located about 1,000 kilometres east of Bali, Mamole Tree House at Nih Sumba is the place to stay to reignite those childhood dreams," the report noted.

Then follows the home of Treehouse hotels, the Arctic Treehouse Hotel in Finland which like something from the pages of a Nordic fairy tale, the Arctic Treehouse Hotel in the capital of Finland's Lapland combines tree-house liv-

Morogoro-based Epanko Graphite to pay Treasury about 2.3trn/- in 20 yrs

By Property Watch Reporter

AN operating Epanko Graphite Project in Mahenge district of Morogoro region will contribute over US\$1bn (about 2.3trn/-) in direct taxes, royalty, fees, dividend and employment in 20 years.

Australian based Kibaran Resources Limited said in its latest annual report that another US\$3bn (over 6.8trn/-) will be injected in the country's gross domestic product with 300 locals being employed directly while another 4,500 jobs will also be made indirectly.

"Epanko is forecast to make a significant positive impact on the Tanzanian economy, with key benefits that include: Construction of new community housing, school facilities, church and medical dispensary, together with the provision of social supports such as health insurance and training programs to build lasting local partnerships," Kibaran's Board Chairman, Robert Pett said in the report dated September 2019.

Pett further noted that the long-term nature of the project will provide for inter-generational social and economic development within the country and support the government's industrialisation goals by facilitating the establishment of new carbon product industries that require natural graphite feedstocks.

He said Kibaran submitted its inaugural local content plan and integrity pledge to Mining Commission which demonstrates the company's extensive social planning that has been undertaken to satisfy rigorous corporate social responsibility standards and expectations.

The Kibaran Chair noted that during the year, community activities undertaken included construction of a classroom at Nawenge Secondary School, a funding campaign for construction of a secondary school in Ulanga launched by the Regional



Chinese made Neo electric car uses a lithium-ion battery with a graphite component.

Commissioner of Morogoro and meetings with the Mikumi Vocational Education Training Authority to arrange the next intake of sponsored students from the surrounding communities.

On progress made towards construction of lithium-ion battery manufacturing plants in Australia, Pett said Kibaran completed the EcoGraf optimisation study in Germany, which confirmed the successful application of its non-hydrofluoric acid purification process to natural flake graphite supplies sourced from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

"Ongoing test work confirmed the process could consistently produce graphite to battery anode manufacturer specifications. Validation of the process on a range of natural graphite supplies demonstrates the potential to commence operations without reliance on graphite feedstock from the company's Epanko project," Pett said in the report.

"Successful application of EcoGraf purification to other feedstocks was a milestone achievement and the basis of developing EcoGraf as a standalone business. The optimised

flowsheet developed during the test work program was incorporated in an updated global patent application, containing refinements to the 2017 process to satisfy the highest physical and chemical specifications required by anode manufacturers," the Kibaran annual report added.

The report stated that strong interest from potential customers during the 2018 product test work program led Kibaran to evaluate various ramp-up options for the first manufacturing facility, focusing on supporting the existing markets of South Korea, Japan and China.

"Growth in the electric vehicle market has resulted in higher forecast anode demand and Kibaran incorporated these requirements into design plans for the initial EcoGraf production plant. A new spheronising batch plant in Germany was successfully commissioned during March, and is consistently producing high quality spherical graphite to support prospective customer and partner testing programs," the report noted.

The report explained that 2019 has seen unprecedented global investment in lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity to support

the paradigm shift in transport technology to electric vehicles and battery storage for the renewable energy sector.

"We are all familiar with the narrative on electric vehicles, battery storage and the growth in demand for battery minerals. This is the very understandable rationale for strong market focus on battery minerals in recent years. We hear a lot about cathode minerals, lithium, cobalt, nickel and manganese which together make up the composition of the cathode in a lithium-ion battery. We hear less about the anode which is 100 percent graphite and represents almost half of the total minerals in a lithium-ion battery," Pett explained in the report.

Once established, Kibaran will operate a diversified graphite portfolio, supplying high quality Tanzanian natural flake graphite products through TanzGraphite to established markets in Asia and Europe, together with EcoGraf, a multi-hub development commencing in Kwinana, Western Australia that will provide a global new supply of environmentally responsible battery graphite for lithium-ion batteries, the report concluded.

KRA has focus on real estate firm directors in Sh20bn tax probe

NAIROBI

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) says it is poring through bank records, tax returns and other transaction details of more than 30 real estate companies in effort to recover up to Sh20 billion.

Among the firms on the KRA radar are Banda Homes, Greenspan, Superior Homes Kenya and Nexgen Office Suites, Muga Developers and Chigwell. Concerns that developers are cheating the tax system have also been raised by the Lands ministry, which processes all transfers of land and buildings.

Taxation of capital gains has however remained a sticky issue even as the government moved to more than double the levy on gains from sale of property to 12.5 percent this financial year, up from five percent.

The taxman says holding individual directors accountable will facilitate the collection of taxes on all gains made in constructing and selling of homes and commercial buildings that are currently being lost in fraudulent schemes.

"We have unearthed elaborate schemes involving the formation of separate companies to develop homes and use of different ones to sell the same as a means of erasing the traceability of earnings from the business," said Mr Edward Mbugua, a deputy commissioner in the department of domestic taxes.

Realtors have frequently blamed

poor sales for the underperformance of the segment that has lately been flagged for increased loans defaults that has seen many half-done houses being auctioned. Mr Mbugua said the use of multiple entities to transact real estate businesses is helping tax cheats to condense the magnitude of the housing projects, depress profit margins and the resultant tax liability.

He cited investigation from the KRA officials showing that most off-plan housing projects fold up phony companies as soon as the developers are done with construction when the properties are transferred to different entities to complicate the tax recovery process.

Landlords are also said to reduce number of units or declare those being occupied as vacant so as to avoid paying monthly rental income. Mr Mbugua said that the KRA officers were mapping houses and have acquired data bases to link from the ministry of lands, Kenya power and various water utilities.

"There is also non-payment of taxes on development of huge real estate projects where the government is denied three percent withholding tax on contracts by the contractors and other real estate professionals. Most contracts also fail to declare income earned from real estate development in the annual tax return," he added.



We have unearthed elaborate schemes involving the formation of separate companies to develop homes and use of different ones to sell the same as a means of erasing the traceability of earnings from the business

LARGEST BANK TAKES 'OUR FARMING, INDUSTRIES, ECONOMY' CAMPAIGN TO CASHEW-NUT REGIONS

By Property Watch Reporter

ONE of the country's largest commercial banks has taken its campaign of 'Our farming, industries and economy' to cashew-nut growing regions of the southern regions promising to continue backing government efforts to industrialise.

CRDB Bank Plc's officials are currently conducting the campaign in Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions as the cashew-nut season approaches to support the leading crop's value chain aimed at value addition.

Briefing Lindi Regional Commissioner, Godfrey Zambi this week, CRDB's Southern Zonal Manager, Jeniffer Tondi said the campaign is targeting cashew-nut primary cooperatives which need various products and services from the lender to modernise farming.

"Under our campaign, we are focusing on three areas: agro-inputs credit, operations and market linkage but also basic financial literacy and investment," Tondi told the Lindi RC whose region is one of the cashew-nut main growing areas.

She pointed out that the bank has devised a strategy that backs government's efforts towards revolutionising the agriculture sector as a precondition for industrialization as the country strives to become a middle income economy by 2025.



Lindi regional commissioner Godfrey Zambi (R) had a word with CRDB Bank Plc's Southern Zone Manager Jeniffer Tondi (L) when her delegation made a courtesy call at the RC's office to brief him on the 'Our farming, industries and economy' campaign earlier this week. Centre is the bank's Commercial Officer for Southern Zone, Leevan Maro. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

The CRDB Zonal Manager further noted that last year, the lender disbursed 16.9bn/- in loans to the cashew-nut growing regions in support of the entire value chain from agro-input procurement, storage, transportation, storage and supplying to markets.

Mtwara CRDB Branch Manager,

Arnold Rwamutoga said they have been mobilising farmers to make use of Faharikilimo Account which is specifically design to cater for farmers' needs which including receiving their payment from commodity buyers.

"Immediately after opening this account, a farmers' is registered with

SimBanking which allows them to transact digitally without limitations but also get a TemboCard which also gives them access to all banking services," Rwamutoga said.

Mtwara and Masasi Cooperative Union's acting General Manager, Potency Rwiza commended CRDB Bank for organising the campaign

because it mobilises farmers to seek credit for agro-inputs to successfully modernise their cultivation.

"This initiative by CRDB is very well received by farmers who have been over exploited by private agro-input lenders," Rwiza said while noting that as a result farmers earn more from the commodities.

Lebanese tycoon sues KPC for Sh13.2bn after Uhuru freeze order

NAIROBI

A Lebanese tycoon is suing the Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) for Sh13.26 billion after State House froze payment to his construction firm over cost escalation during the building of the Mombasa-Nairobi pipeline.

Abdallah Zakhem, through his construction firm, Zakhem International Construction, filed the suit at the High Court against KPC and is seeking prompt payment of \$128.8 million that he says is owed for the construction of the 450-kilometre pipeline.

The firm is demanding \$67 million (Sh6.9 billion) for unpaid works, \$59.2 million (Sh6 billion) for delays and \$2.6 million (Sh267 million) as interest for delayed payment, pushing the total claim to \$128.8 million (Sh13.26 billion).

The fightback comes after State House allegedly blocked KPC from making further payments to Zakhem amid claims that the cost of building the pipeline had been inflated way above the agreed Sh48 billion.

"The plaintiff prays for judgment against the defendant for a declaration that the plaintiff is entitled to prompt payment of the sum of \$126,255,812 due and outstanding under the agreement," Zakhem said in court documents.

"The defendant's wilful refusal to pay the sum owing and due to it is high-handed and capricious. No reason was given for the refusal and none exists in law." Petroleum Cabinet Secretary John Munyes had in July told the Public Investments Committee (PIC) that the Presidency stopped payment to Zakhem pending an independent review of the pipeline construction costs.

The order from State House came as KPC was preparing to pay Zakhem Sh4.4 billion to cover the four years' delay of the project. When the firm won the tender in 2014 to build the 20-inch pipeline, it promised to complete the work in 18 months, or on February 9, at a cost of Sh48 billion.

That target was not achieved and Zakhem instead demanded additional billions for the contract delays, triggering a parliamentary investigation and intervention by State House. If Zakhem succeeds in pushing for extra payment, the pipeline construction costs will jump to Sh61.9 billion given that KPC has already paid the Lebanese firm Sh48.7 billion.

In its court documents, Zakhem seeks to justify the jump in costs and blames KPC for events that led to it, including expenses linked to delays in completion of the project. The Lebanese firm says the delays were caused by amendments to the design, a dispute over who was to pay Sh240 million regulatory fees to the National Construction Authority and a suit opposing the award of the contract to the company.

"Despite demand and notice to sue being issued, the defendant has failed, neglected or refused to make good the plaintiff's claim," Zakhem says in the court papers. "The plaintiff has had to pay out of its pocket the expenses arising from and incidental to the works undertaken."

Gambia's economic recovery could be hobbled by Thomas Cook collapse

BANJUL

The collapse of Thomas Cook Group is jeopardising the efforts by one of Africa's smallest countries to revive its fortunes after the end of a dictator's two-decade rule.

Gambia, a \$1 billion West African economy surrounded by Senegal aside from its access to the Atlantic Ocean, depends on tourism for nearly a third of its gross domestic product. Thomas Cook typically flew in 45 per cent of tourists that visited its white-sand beaches during the six-month peak season, according to official data. The company, which filed for liquidation in the UK on September 23, had operations in Gambia for more than two decades.

Its failure could be a blow to the government of President Adama Barrow, which has earmarked tourism, infrastructure and trade to boost economic growth that slowed to 0.4 per cent in 2016. That was the final year of former leader Yahya Jammeh's rule, a period characterised by rising poverty, corruption and human rights abuses.

The travel operator's demise couldn't have come at a worst time, weeks into the holiday season that starts on October 15. "The GDP figures may be revised downwards because of Thomas Cook's absence," said Nyang Njie, an economist with consultancy firm Knowledge Bank Consortium Gambia. The country "doesn't have time to adjust because the tourism season is starting," he said.



Passengers board a rapid transit bus in Kigali.

CoK prioritises affordable housing, public transport in new strategy

KIGALI

Authorities are working on a five-year strategy to consolidate the activities of all the districts that make up the City of Kigali.

This is the first strategy since the introduction of the reforms that give the City of Kigali the responsibility to coordinate the planning functions of its three districts namely Nyarugenge, Gasabo and Kicukiro.

Speaking at a validation of the integrated development strategy on Tuesday, City Mayor Pudence Rubingisa

said the strategy is critical in the process to centralise all activities in Kigali. Under the strategy, city authorities plan to spend Rwf100 billion in the first year with 70 per cent of it allocated to infrastructure development.

"We now have one budget for the city as a whole, which means we are consolidating efforts. The city will determine the budget for each district. The districts will be acting as implementing agencies," he explained.

The strategy, which runs through 2024, places

a strong emphasis on providing decent affordable accommodation and convenient transportation for citizens as city authorities try to keep pace with the changing demands of the population.

It also seeks to ensure safety and security for both the residents and investors and to make Kigali a more vibrant city. "The strategy will also help us to easily approach investors, banks and other stakeholders in case we need them (for financing) while implementing the city's

development projects," he said.

Jean de Dieu Musoni, the City's Director-General for Planning, said the City of Kigali, was keen on addressing the persistent challenges in project implementation. "For instance, there were projects that used to be implemented to benefit the community of one district but end up causing problems to the community from a neighbouring district," he said. "Since the planning is about the City as a whole, we believe such kinds of issues

won't happen again because there won't be limits or borders while implementing certain projects."

The strategy also proposes approaches to ensure better coordination and communication, monitoring and evaluation in addition to guidelines that will ensure proper use of existing resource and mobilise even more resources. The strategy awaits the City Council's approval before its implementation and it is expected to come into force January next year.

CONSTRUCTION

HILTON SEEKS TO BRING 41 NEW HOTELS TO SAUDI ARABIA BY 2030

RIYADH

How does a country implement tourism infrastructure in 2019, when it hasn't yet been open to widescale tourism?

That is the immediate question facing Saudi Arabia, after the kingdom introduced tourist visas for the first time on Friday. The country's current tourist infrastructure is fledgling to say the least, aside from the pilgrimage regions associated with Hajj, meaning international investors are pouring in billions of dollars to develop hotels, restaurants and entertainment facilities.

So, as Saudi officially launched its new visas at a glitzy event at the Unesco-listed site of Ad Diriyah on the weekend, it also used the occasion to announce a monumental investment in its tourism infrastructure.

That night, Saudi Arabia's General Investment

Authority (SAGIA) and the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH) announced agreements with regional and international investors worth 100 billion Saudi riyals. One of those investors was Hilton, who will quadruple the number of hotels they have in the kingdom by 2030.

"This is our key market in the Middle East," Rudi Jagersbacher, president for Middle East, Africa and Turkey, tells The National, before he publicly pledged the group's commitment to the country.

Jagersbacher had watched the Saudi tourism market transform in recent months, especially the international one. Fewer Saudis were heading abroad to seek entertainment and experiences they couldn't get back home, he says.

"The number one customer for us in the UAE was Saudi until last year," Jagersbacher explains. "More people are staying,



The Hilton Riyadh opened this year.

there are more cultural events and more things to do." Hilton currently has 13 hotels in the kingdom, after first entering the market in 1993 with a hotel in Makkah. That was a "pivotal change" for the company, Jagersbacher

says, as they'd not yet catered to religious tourism.

But on Friday, the company signed off on the development of 41 new hotels in the kingdom in the next decade, an investment by Hilton's development partners (the

company operates an asset-light model where they don't own their buildings) of \$5 billion.

The hotels would be mostly located in "strategic business locations", Jagersbacher says, and not necessarily tourist

hotspots. Sixteen new Hilton hotels will be built in Riyadh, several in secondary cities with a focus on the eastern provinces, and also in places like Jazan and Madinah. Jagersbacher would not confirm whether the company

would enter any of Saudi's giga projects, such as Neom, but said they were "looking into it".

But they say they're not necessarily building solely for the luxury market, which many of Saudi's new giga projects and developments seem to be geared towards. Instead, Hilton is focusing on mostly four-star hotels. They will also be establishing another hotel in Makkah, this time a 2,500-room Hampton Hotel.

"We are also catering to the domestic tourism [market] and for the outgoing market, too," Jagersbacher says. The project will require a huge influx of staff. An extra 41 new hotels will take Hilton's existing staff base from around 2,500 to an estimated 10,000 by the time all of the hotels are completed. International staff will be flown over to get things up and running, but Jagersbacher says Hilton will also be focusing on having Saudis

running the hotels, and encouraging women into the workforce and into leadership roles.

"We want local people running local businesses," he says. Saudi Arabia expects to increase international and domestic visits to 100 million a year by 2030, attracting significant foreign and domestic investment and creating a number of jobs. The kingdom aims to increase tourism sector's contribution towards gross domestic product to up to 10 per cent by 2030, from just 3 per cent today.

On Friday, the country also signed a memorandum of understanding, worth 20bn Saudi riyals, with Majid Al Futtaim for a mixed-use shopping and entertainment destination that will create 12,000 jobs and feature the region's largest indoor ski slope and snow park. "Opening is the easy bit, now it's showing people they are open that's next," Jagersbacher says.

Meet the Dubai 'moonlighters' building their business by night

DUBAI

A growing army of 'moonlighters' are working through the night to get fledgling businesses off the ground while holding down full-time jobs during the day.

They are part of a new generation of professionals turning their back on the traditional office environment in favour of shared working spaces. It is becoming a viable option for many in Dubai who are looking to avoid the pitfalls of working from home without having to subscribe to a rigid nine-to-five office environment.

Firms such as AstroLabs are capitalising on the demand by renting out spaces to companies, and individuals.

Better flexibility, lower overheads and the opportunity to work in a more creative environment were just some of the reasons why so many were choosing shared workspaces, said Mohammed Mekki, who co-founded AstroLabs in Jumeirah Lakes Towers.

"When you combine the hidden costs of starting up a business it makes sense," he said. "People don't have to worry about how much they have to allocate for utilities, cleaning or other things, they might have not have taken into account, like repairs.

"Plus it's an opportunity to work in a more creative environment with people from different companies right beside you." AstroLabs, which is aimed at tech entrepreneurs and start-ups, currently has 250 people working from its two sites.

Membership starts from Dh750 a month for what Mr Mekki calls 'moonlighters'. These are people that work through the night on using the facility to work on setting up their own companies. More often than not, their daytime is spent working for someone else.

They are able to spend their



Muhammed Mekki says many of the entrepreneurs at AstroLabs have day jobs and work on their own business by night.

evenings and nights building their own companies because visa issues, over having a second job, are not applicable until their new companies are up and running. Contrary to popular belief, it is not against the law to work for two employers in the UAE.

Anyone living here on a work

visa can apply for a second one, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation. That would allow them to work for another employer, for no more than eight hours a day.

But working for a company without that can lead to fines of up to

Dh50,000. And when the time

comes to get the company off the ground, start-ups must ensure they secure a business licence. Desk space, at AstroLabs, for companies that are fully licensed, can cost up to Dh3,500, with additional fees for new members of staff who join the team.

AstroLabs' most famous alumni

is Deliveroo Mena, which began life there with just one employee. "So far we have helped 300 companies get started up in the region," he said. "It's usually when teams reach a number of 10 [staff] that they move out into their own offices."

One person who has taken advantage of shared workspaces is Edward Daou, 29, co-founder of digital advertisers Acquisit. There are nine people in his company, all working from AstroLabs.

"From a pure business model it makes absolute sense," said the French-Lebanese entrepreneur. "It is good seeing so many different people and it feels like we are less on our own." British freelance copywriter Jessi Smith, 34, is one of the legions of people in Dubai who have made the move to working from a shared space.

She decided to go freelance when she had her baby, wanting more than the 45-day maternity leave her company offered her. "I worked from home at the start and would literally prop my baby on my lap and balance a laptop on my knees," she said. "Then as my child's needs changed and my reputation grew, I needed to work full-time and decided to opt for a co-working space."

She was working from a shared space in the Rove Hotel in Dubai Marina when The National caught up with her. "Using a shared working space gives me somewhere familiar to work from without the distractions of home or the politics and time-wasting of an office environment," she said.

"At home I have a beautiful desk that creates a great work space, but I also have a toddler and the fridge, combined they probably demand between four to five hours of my attention a day." However, she warned shared workspaces were not without their shortcomings.

"It can be costly. Many of the spaces that I use are in F&B outlets in hotels, so you can end up spending a lot of money on food," she said. "I also spend between Dh490 and Dh800 per month on rental, depending on where I sign to."

Dawn Barnable, managing director of PR firm The B Collective, works with her team at The Co Dubai, which was set up to offer flexible workspaces for entrepreneurs. "It's been great from a networking point of view as there are many different types of companies, brands and individuals sharing the space either in an office or out in the communal working areas," said the 38-year-old Canadian. "If we need to scale up or down in terms of office size, we're able to do that easily at a reasonable cost and no fuss."

Contractor CCC to send as many as 2,500 core staff out on open leave

ATHENS

Consolidated Contractors Company, the 17th-biggest international contracting group globally by turnover, and largest in the Middle East, is sending up to 2,500 of its core staff on extended leave until the market for new projects picks up.

CCC, based in Athens but which carries out 65-70 per cent of its work in the Gulf, sent an email to employees stating that, due to the cyclical nature of the construction business, some of its staff would be sent on open leave.

The company remains "confident that they will rejoin the CCC family very soon, perhaps in a very different capacity than their current post", it added. Samer Khoury, CCC's co-president of engineering and construction, told The National, that while he remains confident about the market's long-term prospects, a lack of new contract awards regionally has forced the company to place between 2,000 and 2,500 of its staff on open leave.

"We have today 145,000 people. Out of these, there is about 13,000 core staff. I'm not talking about the labour — labour comes and goes. The core staff will drop by about 2,000 within the next six months," he said. Mr Khoury said the company delayed its decision for as long as possible, and as a family company it would look to soften the blow to employees, but that action was necessary.

"This year our revenue is \$4.2 billion, next year it's going to drop to \$2.5bn. So it's natural to downsize an organisation when things happen like that," Mr Khoury said.

He said that staff who are being placed on open leave will receive payments for any leave accrued over their period of service and will then receive a reduced payment over a six-month period to cover items such as housing costs and childrens' school fees. The level of payment depends on a number of factors such as age, marital status, number of children and performance-related measures, among other factors, "because we know we are going to need them again in June [next year]."

"We are a family company. Some of these people have been with us for 30-40 years. I cannot just tell them go home," he said. CCC was set up in 1952 by Said Khoury and his cousin Hasib Sabbagh, prominent Palestinian businessmen and philanthropists. They moved the company's headquarters to Greece from Beirut after Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975.

Indonesia scrapping plans to close Komodo Island to tourists

JAKARTA

Plans to close Komodo Island to tourists in 2020 have been scrapped, Indonesia's environment minister has said.

It was announced in July that the eastern island would close to protect the dragons from tourists who were said to be interfering with the mating and hatching process. The initial

plan would have seen tourism to the island cease for around one year. Other islands in Komodo National Park, a 173,300-hectare Unesco World Heritage Site, were set to remain open.

However, on Monday, September 30, Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said data shows the population

of Komodo dragons - the largest living species of lizard - has been stable for more than a decade. She said there has been no threat of decline between 2002 and 2019.

According to government data, 1,727 Komodo dragons currently live on the island. Rinca, another island in the national park, is home to a further 1,049 dragons.

Komodo island will now become a special conservation tourism destination with different arrangements compared with Rinca, the ministry said. More than 176,000 tourists visited Komodo National Park in 2018, with many visitors coming just to see the dragons, which are only found in the wild in eastern Indonesia.

WORLD

In Italy, Mike Pompeo says he listened in on Trump's Ukraine call

ROME

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo publicly acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that he was on the phone call in which US President Donald Trump pressed Ukraine's president to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden.

In Italy on the first stop of a long-planned four-nation tour of southern Europe, Pompeo forged ahead with his miss

ion to show support for current and soon-to-be NATO allies. But he was unable to escape the growing furor over Trump's possible impeachment that has rocked Washington and now embroiled the secretary himself and the State Department.

"I was on the phone call," Pompeo said in response to a question a joint news conference in Rome with his Italian counterpart. The disclosure highlighted his earlier deflection of similar questions about the call, which is at the center of the impeachment inquiry by House Democrats.

Democrats have called on Pompeo to recuse himself from any involve-

ment in Ukraine-related elements of the inquiry because they say his participation in the call represents a conflict of interest.

Pompeo would not say whether he thought Trump's comments in the July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy were inappropriate or whether he believed they warranted the complaint of an intelligence community whistleblower that triggered the impeachment probe.

Yet his acknowledgment of participating in the call raised new questions about whether Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani had State Department backing to press Ukraine to investigate Biden's son, Hunter, for corruption.

"The phone call was in the context of... what the American policy is with respect to Ukraine," he said. "It's been remarkably consistent, and we will continue to try to drive those set of outcomes."

Pompeo said he was proud to work with the State Department's Ukraine team - including former special envoy Kurt Volker, who connected Giuliani to a top Zelenskyy aide - to help the coun-



US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, left, and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio pose for photographers in Rome, on Wednesday. (AP)

try fight corruption and combat Russian aggression. Volker resigned last Friday and is expected to be interviewed by House committee staffers this week.

"It was about helping the Ukrainians get graft out and corruption outside of their government and to help now this new government in the Ukraine build a successful, thriving economy," he said.

Trump on Wednesday used a series of harshly-worded tweets as well as the stage of a joint press conference with the visiting Finnish president to defend himself against the ongoing impeachment inquiry, reports Xinhua.

"This is a hoax," Trump said of the impeachment inquiry during the joint press conference with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto at the White House. "This is the greatest hoax."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff held a press conference earlier on Wednesday, at which Pelosi said her chamber had "no choice but to go forward" with the impeachment proceedings.

Schiff said the White House's attempt to stonewall the investigations currently being undertaken by six House committees "will be considered further evidence of obstruction of justice."

In a Sept 22 interview with ABC News, Pompeo

had evaded questions about the call. Asked then "what do you know" about a report of the conversation between Trump and the president of Ukraine, Pompeo said he hadn't seen either the report or the whistleblower complaint and went on to talk about how the US has provided military support to the government of Ukraine in its fight with Russia-backed separatists.

Pressed by the ABC interviewer to respond to Trump's defense of the conversation with Zelenskyy, the secretary again sidestepped the issue by saying the Ukrainian government had issued a statement saying no pressure was applied during the conversation. Pompeo then went on to say it would be inappropriate to release a transcript.

Three days later, however, the White House released a rough transcript of the call confirming that Trump had in fact pressed the government of Ukraine to work with Giuliani to investigate Hunter Biden's work for a Ukrainian energy firm.

Pompeo is under increasing scrutiny from House Democrats leading the impeachment inquiry against Trump. On Tuesday, he pushed back on House demands for interviews with State Department officials about the administration's dealings with Ukraine that are at the center of the inquiry.

Agencies

Turkey says Syria 'safe zone' efforts are not yielding results

ANKARA

TURKEY does not think its effort with the United States to form a "safe zone" in northeast Syria will yield the results it wants and is ready to carry out a military operation, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was quoted as saying yesterday.

Ankara and NATO ally Washington have agreed to establish a zone on the Syrian border that Turkey wants to be 30 km deep and cleared of the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which it sees as a terrorist

organization.

Turkey says up to 2 million Syrian refugees can settle in the zone, but it has repeatedly warned of unilateral military action if efforts do not meet its expectations or are stalled.

President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday that Turkey had no choice but to act alone given the lack of progress made with the United States, in his most direct indication yet of a military incursion.

Speaking to broadcaster A Haber yesterday, Cavusoglu said Turkey had not seen sincerity from the



United States. "We think this ongoing process with the United States will not take us to the point we

desire. The information coming from the field proves this," he was quoted as saying by A Haber.

Ties between the NATO allies have been strained over a host of issues, including Syria policy and the looming threat of U.S. sanctions over Ankara's decision to buy Russian defense systems.

While diplomats, analysts and Turkey's main opposition say Ankara would be unwilling to anger Washington with a full-scale military incursion as the allies try to repair strained ties, Turkey has been pressing for efforts to be stepped

up.

U.S. and Turkish troops have so far carried out half a dozen joint air missions over the zone in northeast Syria and two land patrols, but Washington has warned Turkey that unilateral action would not serve any country's security or benefit.

Cavusoglu reiterated Ankara's warning that it was ready for an offensive. "We must take steps to clear the terrorist organizations from our vicinity and return refugees there," he said.

Agencies

AU calls for concerted efforts against Ebola outbreak as death toll reaches 2,133

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) on Wednesday urged concerted efforts against the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the death toll climbed to 2,133.

According to the 55-member pan African bloc, a total of 2,133 deaths were reported due to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in DRC as of September 29, in which the overall Ebola fatality ratio has reached 67 percent, the AU said in its periodic bulletin issued on Wednesday.

Figures from the AU also indicate that a total of 3,191 Ebola cases were reported as of July 27, in which some 991 people have recovered from the deadly disease as of the stated period.

The AU Commission, through the

Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), also stressed that it's presently reinforcing its support to the Ebola response in the DRC and its neighboring countries.

The AU also disclosed its plan to convene a fundraising forum of African private sector and donors, dubbed "Africa Against Ebola Solidarity Trust Fund," on October 15 to support the ongoing response against the Ebola virus outbreak in the DRC.

This is an opportunity for business owners, philanthropists, corporate and philanthropic organizations, donor agencies, member states, nations, associations, groups, and individuals to support the response in the DRC through financial donations, the AU said.

The continental bloc also stressed



that the Regional Collaborating Centers continued to support preparedness in member states, including sharing information and discussing preparedness plans.

It also stressed that 24 of the 30 new volunteers recruited by Africa CDC "have been cleared

for deployment," and will be deployed as soon as deployment order is received from the government of DRC.

Africa CDC volunteers and experts have so far supported tracing of 1,918 contacts and investigation of 1,682 alerts, including active case-finding for 943 suspected cases, it was noted.

The AU, however, stressed that security-related challenges are affecting the effective Ebola virus response efforts in parts of DRC.

Last week, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that security-related challenges have posed "a serious impact on the response activities on the ground, and it could lead

to gaps or delays in the reporting of new Ebola Virus Disease cases in this hotspot area."

"Overall, these incidents underscore the need for continued and proactive engagement and sensitizing of local communities throughout areas with Ebola Virus Disease transmission and high-risk areas that may not currently be affected," the WHO said last week.

The high-level continental forum "Africa Against Ebola Solidarity Trust Fund," slated for October 15 at the AU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, mainly aimed to mobilize resources for the continental Ebola response efforts.

Xinhua

Democrat Warren vows to boost worker protections, strengthen unions

SACRAMENTO, Calif.



PRESIDENTIAL candidate Elizabeth Warren would make it easier for employees to join unions and make rideshare drivers and other gig economy workers eligible for overtime, the latest effort by a Democrat to court the country's deep-pocketed labor unions.

Warren's plan, released yesterday in advance of an appearance before a labor group in Los Angeles, comes as she is catching up to frontrunner Joe Biden in the crowded field of 19 Democrats seeking their party's nomination to take on Republican Donald Trump for the U.S. presidency in November 2020.

Organized labor, though greatly diminished in membership and power after decades of manufacturing decline and Republican-backed changes to state and federal employment laws, remains a potent force in U.S. politics, providing millions in donations and an army of grassroots volunteers to knock on doors and get out the vote for candidates that unions have endorsed.

With many union members defecting to vote for Trump in 2016, it is particularly important to Democrats to field a candidate who will win the support of labor organizations.

In her plan, Warren pledged to increase protections for home healthcare workers, a growing segment of the workforce, as well as immigrant employees who are undocumented. She would roll back Trump-era restrictions on the power of unions representing federal workers and work to restore public employee bargaining rights that have been reduced in several states.

Warren would end exemptions limiting the rights of domestic and farm workers and make it harder for companies to classify people as independent contractors instead of employees.

She promised to appoint judges to the U.S. Supreme Court who have records of supporting labor and would broaden employees' ability to sue their employers.

Under her plan, companies with \$1 billion or more in annual revenue would have to allow employees to elect 40% of the members of their boards of directors. **Agencies**

US reopens embassy in Somalia after nearly three decades

MOGADISHU

THE United States has announced the reopening of its embassy in Somalia after 28 years when the country plunged into civil war. Donald Yamamoto, U.S. Ambassador to Somalia said the re-establishment of the embassy in Mogadishu is another step forward in the resumption of regular U.S.-Somali relations, symbolizing the strengthening of the two countries' relations and advancement of stability, development, and peace for Somalia, and the region.

"Today (Tuesday) we reaffirm the relations between the American people and the Somali people and our two nations," said Yamamoto in a statement issued on Wednesday evening.

Since the closure on January 5, 1991, Washington has maintained its partnership with the Somali people, including the re-establishment of a permanent diplomatic presence in Mogadishu in December 2018 with the U.S. Mission to Somalia. Yamamoto said the re-opening of the embassy a significant and historic day that reflects Somalia's progress in recent years, and another step forward in regularizing U.S. diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu since recognizing the government of Somalia in 2013. **Xinhua**



A suspected rebel of the Rwanda National Congress arrives at a military tribunal in Kigali on Wednesday. Rwanda's military tribunal charged 25 suspected rebels of the Rwanda National Congress (RNC), a terrorist organisation formed by Rwandan dissidents according to the government, with belonging to an illegal military outfit, treason, forming an illegal military force and conspiring with foreign countries to destabilise Rwanda. (Xinhua)

Exhibits show 70 years of great national achievements

A GRAND exhibition of achievements in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China opened to the public on September 24 at the Beijing Exhibition Center where visitors told the Global Times they felt proud and excited about the country's accomplishments.

Sprawling over 155,000 square meters in downtown Beijing, the exhibition showcases China's achievements over the past 70 years in chronological order.

A letter from former North Korean leader to chairman Mao Zedong and a Chinese scientist's Nobel Prize medal are among items on display.

The Chinese nation has stood up, grown rich and become stronger over the past decades, President Xi Jinping said during his visit to the exhibition on Monday, September 23.

Xi, also general secretary of the Com-

munist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, stressed the importance of holding such an exhibition as it encourages the whole Party, the whole nation and its people to make continuous efforts for the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

Xi also said that the historic achievements China has made in the past seven decades and the historic changes it has undergone fully demonstrate that only the CPC can lead China; only with socialism can we save China; only with reform and opening-up can we develop China; develop socialism and develop Marxism; and only with the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics can we lead China toward prosperity and strength.

Wang Qiusheng, a 73-year-old Beijing-

er, told the Global Times after visiting the exhibition that "I feel very proud and excited China has gained so many achievements. The Party has led us to win independence, lift us out of poverty, and led us to enjoy a colorful life."

"I'm really grateful to the Party's efforts in bringing such a better life to us," said Wang.

Grand achievements The exhibition features the socialist path with Chinese characteristics and building a socialist modern country. It comprises five chapters showing how Chinese people, under the CPC leadership, established and developed socialism and worked to build a modern socialist country.

The exhibition displays materials related to each national congress of the CPC, important plenary sessions of the CPC Central Committee and five-year plans.

It also selected 150 fields where China has made the top. The Beijing-Jiujiang-Kowloon railway that opened in 1996 is the longest dual-track railway China has ever built.

In 2007, the first unmanned Chinese lunar-orbiting spacecraft Chang'e-1 was launched.

In 2015, Tu Youyou won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the first time a Chinese woman won the Nobel Prize. Tu Youyou's Nobel Prize medal and relevant documents are displayed at the exhibition.

The original return capsule of China's first human spaceflight mission, launched in 2003, and the first Chinese national flag taken into space are also on display.

Tan Hualin, director of the Human Resource Department at Beihang University, took dozens of teachers, faculty

members and students to the exhibition on Tuesday.

Tan told the Global Times the exhibition shows the great development made by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Party, clearly demonstrates the political superiority of the Party's leadership and China's socialist system, and reveals the profound truth behind the great changes in China over 70 years.

After viewing Chinese aeronautic and astronautic achievements, Tan said the university would continuously cultivate talent and help build the country stronger.

Tan noted that the university would organize more students to visit the exhibition. A letter to Chairman Mao Zedong from former North Korean leader Kim Il-sung is displayed at the exhibition.

The letter requested China to deploy

its army for assistance in the Korean War (1950-53).

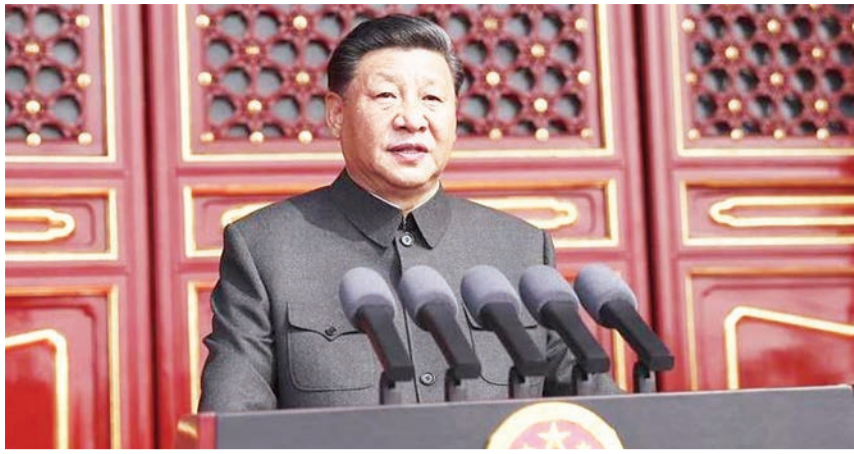
The telegram sent by Mao to Kim and Mao's draft order to form the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (CPVA) and assign Peng Dehuai as the commander are also displayed.

Inspiration for development

Deng Xin, 64, daughter of Deng Hua, CPVA deputy commander during the Korean War, said the exhibition could help people recall the spirit of fighting and encourage them to continue to be patriotic, work hard and never fear the bully from foreign powers.

"The exhibition also inspires us to continue to innovate for a better future," Deng told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Organizers hired museum guides from across the country and also students from Peking University as volunteer guides. **Global Times**



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers a speech at a grand rally to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, on Tuesday. (XINHUA)

President Xi Jinping's speech receives global applause

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's speech on Tuesday's National Day celebrations has earned wide praise from overseas officials and scholars as he pledged that China will stay on the path of peaceful development, and pursue a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up.

"We will continue to work with people from all countries to push for jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity," Xi said in his speech.

Echoing China's commitment to world peace and development, Dmitry Novikov, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee on Foreign Affairs, said he is confident that the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity helps China create favorable conditions to ensure the successful realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Jose Luis Robaina, a researcher at Cuba's Center for International Policy, a think tank, said that Xi's speech conveyed Beijing's visions of peaceful coexistence, win-win cooperation, and a community with a shared future for humanity to the world.

"China's foreign policy was orient-

ed in building a peaceful world where cooperation is the driver of international relations," said Francesco Maringio, an Italian China expert.

The Belt and Road Initiative and other multilateral platforms launched and hosted by China in the past years, said Maringio, "give us the possibility to measure our ideas and proposals into a new dynamic and cooperative framework."

Anri Sharapov, associate professor of the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, said that China's development experience in the past 70 years "can be very useful" for Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan.

China's vision of jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity is "of strategic importance in the further development of international and interstate relations," he said.

B R Deepak, a sinologist and professor at India's Jawaharlal Nehru University, said that Xi's pledge that China will stay committed to peaceful development indicates that "China will continue to work with other nations adhering to the policy of win-win cooperation, common prosperity and common security."

Xinhua

Somalia urged to focus on security, law review

MOSCOW

INTERNATIONAL partners ended a two-day meeting in Mogadishu on Wednesday with a call to Somalia to step up stabilization efforts, adopt an electoral law by December, and complete a constitutional review by June 2020.

Participants at the Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF) stressed how Somalia committed to successfully conclude current security operations, undertake further operations against al-Shabab, and complete priority reforms in the area of security, as well as justice and human rights institutions.

"In 2020, the focus of these will be jointly identified and planned, to ensure that all stakeholders can align their efforts and resources to agreed locations," the delegations said in a communiqué released by the UN mission in Somalia (UNSOM).

The partners committed to supporting the generation of human rights-compliant security forces, the stabilization of newly-recovered areas, including access to justice, and key reform processes, including human resources and payroll reform of the Somali security forces.

The partners noted lauded the government for the significant progress in implementing reforms including improved public financial management and revenue generation, consultations on a new National Development Plan.

They also hailed the government for successful operations to retake and stabilize territory previously held by al-Shabab, increased delivery of social services, and progress towards local reconciliation in some areas.

"At the same time, a number of challenges remain, including the need to generate jobs and economic growth, continue the fight against al-Shabab, respond to humanitarian crises and build resilience, lay foundations for inclusive politics and strengthen respect for the rights, participation and representation of women and minorities," the partners said.

The forum brought together Somali officials and several of the country's Federal Member States, and representatives from more than 30 countries and various international organizations.

Xinhua

Zimbabwe to introduce new currency in November - official

HARARE

THE Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe will introduce a new currency in November, a member of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee, Eddie Cross, has told State broadcaster Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC).

ZBC News Online reported Thursday that Cross, a renowned economist, had said the new currency would be introduced in a move set to curb current cash shortages in the country.

"He commended President (Em-

erson) Mnangagwa for taking a bold decision to freeze accounts of companies suspected of fueling the instability of exchange rates, saying what is needed now is to act on such economic saboteurs," the broadcaster reported.

Zimbabwe's last currency, the Zimbabwe dollar, became moribund in 2009 following a spell of hyper-inflation and was replaced by a basket of multi-currencies which included the U.S. dollar, the British pound, South African rand, Botswana pula, Japanese yen and the Chinese yuan.

The U.S. dollar remained the domi-

nant currency but became scarce over time and pushed the central bank to introduce bond notes and bond coins in 2016 to plug the resultant cash gap.

The bond notes and coins were at par with the U.S. dollar at their introduction but have over the years continued to lose value and are currently trading at around 14 to 1 U.S. dollar at the interbank rate.

The government also re-introduced the Zimbabwe dollar in June, albeit in electronic form, to run at par with the bond notes and RTGS dollars, and banned the use of foreign currency as units of trade.

Xinhua

UK PM waiting for EU leaders' verdict on his final Brexit plan

LONDON

A NAIL-BITING waiting game started on Wednesday after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sent a letter to Brussels which outlined his final deal to break the three-year impasse over Brexit.

Johnson's proposals

Johnson proposed that British-controlled Northern Ireland and European Union (EU) member state Ireland should remain in an all-Ireland regulatory trade zone to avoid any need for checks.

Johnson told delegates on the final day of the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester that the proposals sent to the EU are a compromise by the UK. "I hope very much that our (EU) friends understand that and compromise in their turn."

"If we fail to get an agreement because of what is essentially a technical discussion of the exact nature of future customs checks when that technology is improving the whole time, then let us be in no doubt that the alternative is no deal," he said.

Johnson added that a no-deal Brexit is "not an outcome we want ... but it is an outcome for which we are ready."

Reactions

European Commission said in a statement that negotiation teams from the EU and Britain will meet in Brussels over the coming days to discuss details of the proposals.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker spoke to Johnson by phone on Wednesday, saying that he welcomed Johnson's determination to advance Brexit talks ahead of the European Council meeting on Oct 17.

Juncker "acknowledged the positive advances" while noting that "there are still some problematic points that will need further work in the coming days."

With regard to preventing a hard border, Juncker spoke of the need to protect the EU's single market and Ireland's place in it.

"The commission will now examine the legal text objectively, and in light



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

of our well-known criteria," Juncker said. "The EU wants a deal. We remain united and ready to work 24/7 to make this happen, as we have been for over three years now."

The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said "there is progress" after receiving Johnson's proposals to remove the Irish backstop, adding that he was willing to work to reach a deal.

The Irish government said Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar spoke to Johnson by phone on Wednesday.

It said that while "the proposals do not fully meet the agreed objectives of the backstop," Varadkar would study the proposals in further detail.

British Labour's Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell described Johnson's proposals as neither credible nor workable.

"They are a cynical attempt to force through a No Deal Brexit," McDonnell said. "Boris Johnson has neither the intention nor ability to negotiate a deal or protect jobs and communities across the United Kingdom."

McDonnell called for a snap general election and a new Brexit referendum.

There was also a downbeat response to Johnson's plan from Scotland's Constitutional Affairs Secretary Michael Russell.

"It looks like these proposals are designed to fail and that the UK Government is intent on pursuing a 'no deal',"

Russell said.

"This plan does not appear to be a serious basis for negotiation. The UK Government is pulling back from previous undertakings and demanding the EU makes concessions on its fundamental principles, which it will not accept," said Russell.

Another prorogation of parliament sought

Yesterday, the Downing Street said in a statement that the government will seek another prorogation of parliament next Tuesday ahead of a Queen's Speech on Oct 14.

The move comes over a week after the British Supreme Court ruled an earlier five-week suspension of parliament unlawful.

This time, the suspension is for just a few days to pave the way for Queen Elizabeth II to open a new session of parliament.

Downing Street said Johnson had set out a "fair and reasonable compromise" for removing the Irish backstop and securing Britain's exit from the EU.

Carolyn Fairbairn, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry said: "No Deal would be a historic failure of statecraft. We urge all sides to keep the door open on the chance to get Brexit done with a deal."

Xinhua

US provides 257 mln USD in humanitarian aid to Somalia, refugees

MOGADISHU

THE U.S. government has announced nearly 257 million dollars additional humanitarian assistance for Somalia and to help Somali refugees in neighboring countries.

Diana Putman, USAID deputy assistant administrator Diana Putman said in a statement issued on Wednesday evening that the funds will address

life-threatening hunger and acute malnutrition and provide safe water, emergency health care, education, and protection to people affected by ongoing conflict and recurrent drought inside Somalia, and to Somali refugees in neighboring countries.

"This additional financial commitment is representative of our resolve to support the Somali people in their time of need, and we encourage other

partners to join us in stepping up their own commitments so that we can collectively close the humanitarian Response Plan's financing gap," said Putman.

She said Washington remains concerned about the ongoing crisis in Somalia and the lack of sufficient humanitarian funds to address it.

According to Putman, large-scale assistance is urgent to prevent condi-



Kremlin calls Steinmeier formula acceptance by Kiev 'positive'

MOSCOW

THE acceptance by Kiev of the Steinmeier formula envisaging elections in eastern Ukraine is a "positive fact" paving the way for a settlement in the separatist region, the Kremlin said Wednesday.

"The very confirmation of the Steinmeier formula, which was incidentally accepted by all the members of the Normandy Four, including Ukraine, several years ago, is a positive fact and, of course, is an important step towards the implementation of those agreements that were reached earlier," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The Trilateral Contact Group on the peaceful settlement of the Donbass situation, including diplomats from Ukraine, Russia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on Tuesday agreed on the plan named after incumbent German President and former OSCE Chairman Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The implementation of the formula will require changes in Ukraine's legislation.

Peskov said that it was not clear yet when a meeting to firm up the formula between the leaders of the Normandy Four - France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia - might take place.

"Now, of course, all interested parties and representatives will work on the prospects of holding such a summit. We hope that in the near future some clarity will come here," Peskov said.

Agencies

China shares the value of prioritising development

"WE need more investment, more political action, more priority for a fair globalization", UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a recent interview.

The UN chief made the remarks as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit opened at the UN headquarters in New York on September 24.

The General Debate of the UN General Assembly kicked off on the same day, with the theme of "Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion".

Development is the eternal theme of human society. Four years ago, the UN Sustainable Development Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, opening a new chapter in global development cooperation.

It is a common responsibility of all countries to work together to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set by the UN. No country should be left behind.

While the world is confronted with numerous challenges and difficulties, development serves as a good method for problem solving. As global development is threatened by unilateralism and protectionism, how to effectively guarantee the right of all countries to develop and ensure that development benefits more people is a major test facing the world.

To achieve the sustainable development goals, it is imperative to firmly support multilateralism and the core role of the UN in the international

system. As economic globalization deepens, countries are in a community of shared future.

In recent years, the rise of the refugee issue, climate change and terrorism has made people deeply aware of the "butterfly effect" caused by global development inequality. In the face of global problems, countries must galvanize global efforts and come up with global solutions.

Only by upholding multilateralism and deepening global partnership for development can all nations achieve the sustainable development goals. Any attempt to stay immune and ignore the development rights of other countries while pursuing one's own development will ultimately harm the

common development of the world.

To achieve the sustainable development goals, countries should continue to explore development paths suited to their national conditions. Four years ago, Chinese President Xi Jinping set forth a course of equitable, open, all-round and innovation-driven development at the UN development summits.

The Chinese president proposed to build up capacity for development, improve the international environment for development, update the partnership for development and strengthen the coordination mechanisms for development at the summits.

The world can see that China is committed to the people-centered development concept fea-

turing innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, making every effort to achieve high-quality development. The Chinese model has provided important experiences for sustainable development of the world.

China makes its biggest contribution to global development by managing its own affairs well and enabling 1.4 billion people to live a happy life. From providing adequate food and clothing to its people, to basically becoming a moderately prosperous society, and then to setting the goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, China has always given top priority to development in the past 70 years since the founding of the Peo-

ple's Republic of China.

China lifts the largest number of people out of poverty in the world. It is also the first developing country to meet the UN's Millennium Development Goals target of reducing the population living in poverty by half ahead of the 2015 deadline, contributing over 70% to global poverty reduction.

After eradicating absolute poverty next year, China is expected to achieve the first sustainable development goal 10 years ahead of schedule and being recognized by the UN as the global leader in achieving SDG goals.

China is committed to green development and is fulfilling ahead of schedule the commitments made in the Paris Agree-

ment. China was the source of a quarter of the global increase in green leaf area from 2000 to 2017. Stephen Roach, a senior research fellow at Yale University, believes that China's sustainable development strategy is a global example as it shifts the economic development model and the focus from quantity to quality.

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and the world has seen China embark on a new development journey.

The world dream depicted by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is closely linked to the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. This opens a shining chapter as China and the world shares the value of prioritizing development.

People's Daily



SportPesa Jackpot winner, Scolastika Ngwalueson, receives a cheque of 260,319,980/- from Chairman of SportPesa's Board of Directors Tarimba Abbas in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

SportPesa awards 260m/- to first female Jackpot winner

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

A Dar es Salaam resident, who became the latest winner of the SportPesa Jackpot game and the first woman to win the game, has been presented with cash prize of over 260m/-.

Scolastika Ngwalueson, a local food vendor who resides at Mbagala Chamazi, won the jackpot of 260,319,980/- after predicting 13 matches correctly last week.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam after receiving her cheque from SportPesa Tanzania Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, Scolastika said that she started betting with the company few months ago.

She noted she was enticed to bet after seeing two Jackpot winners receive 825m/-.

"Last week I placed three Jackpot bets of 2,000/- each with the help of my brother. I lost two bets and won one which made me a millionaire. I am not well experienced when it comes to football matters so I normally seek for my brother's help," Scolastika, aged 28, noted.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank SportPesa for changing my life. Growing up to now I had lived a very difficult life but from now I know I will do a proper

business to earn more income," she disclosed. "When I first received a call from SportPesa I did not believe though I knew since I was tracking the games but my brother was following up more and knew earlier."

Edger (22 years), the winner's brother, said: "I and my sister normally support each other in betting. She deposits the money to her SportPesa account and I help her bet. At least one of us in our family is now rich. I'm sure that our living standards will never be the same again. I thank SportPesa for changing our lives."

Abbas congratulated Scolastika for emerging the lucky Jackpot winner.

He disclosed: "It is impossible and rare to believe that for the first time ever, Scolastika has won our Jackpot, this shows that our company is trusted by both men and women. With SportPesa, you can bet on different sports and options of play. Our platform gives the best user experience with instant payment on daily games."

"Apart from giving out more than 260m/- to this week's Jackpot winner we awarded other people who predicted 10-12 matches correctly. SportPesa continues making more millionaires," he said.

Permitting reckless tackling of the city rivals shall ruin Taifa Stars in due course



Kagera Sugar players conduct a short prayer prior to their recent clash in the Vodacom Premier League, which took place at Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba. Midfielder Zawadi Mauya has been recruited by the outfit for the league and the Federation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

BY MICHAEL ENEZA

SOCCER pundits have been expatiating at length in sports chatter corridors in social media as to the manner in which referees handle Premier League matches, apart from secondary tournaments at various levels. The most recent incident which sparked debate was the manner in which referee Emmanuel Mwandembwa handled an incident of unacceptably negative play on the part of Kagera Sugar midfielder, Zawadi Mauya, who repeatedly kicked Simba forward Ibrahim Ajibu in a tussle for the ball, as the Simba player rounded the defender to get away. Frustrated, he resorted to kicking for times actually, mindlessly.

It was after the fourth kick and while Ajibu had lost the ball as he was no longer stable on his feet after repeated kicking, that the whistle was blown for a foul. Whether it was due to this inadequate treatment of the matter or out of ordinary distaste for his actions, not to say disgust for his behavior, some Simba players rushed to the Kagera Sugar offender to remind him, physically, as to the need to play the game in an acceptable way. The referee though was not up

to the demands of the situation, as he blew the whistle for a foul and then flashed a yellow card, as if it was one kick to the leg - and even softly for that matter.

The question that pundits have been posing is whether there is a rule about the use of yellow and red cards, or merely a rule about yellow card and if it is flashed a second time, the red card goes out. Still it is well known that not every foul deserves a yellow card as some fouls acutely need to be used as a point of reference on how not to play the game. The Simba-Kagera Sugar match incident was a textbook example of when to flash out a straight red, as the player in no way merited to remain on the pitch after that note of contempt on all rules of play, to wit, fair tackling and avoidance of violence in a clear and visible manner.

As the Simba forward was kicked four times, it begs belief that the referee did not notice that foul play was evident until after the fourth kick. His poor handling of that incident led to the scuffle, as failing to notice a foul in the first instance led to repeated kicks before the whistle was heard, hence it is not failure of eyesight but of decision making, which leads to other chronic

problems in premier league soccer. For instance it was big news everywhere that Simba won the match 3-0, breaking an unwritten rule of the home team winning or forcing a draw, rather than being soundly beaten by visiting top club opponents.

While there have been moves to take on Young Africans SC head coach Mwinyi Zahera for lately turning up for a match in casual beach attire, not recognizable sports gear, nothing has been heard on how the referee misconduct in the Simba-Kagera Sugar incident. Failure to instantly discipline the player by a straight red card shall fortify the feeling in certain circles of the premier league where rogue coaches are in charge, to 'take no prisoners.' The top clubs with most national team players will be the most targeted in terms of rough tackling abetted by purposeful leniency of upcountry referees to assist home teams battling the city giants. That kind of attitude would obviously have an impact on injuries in the teams, just as in the national side.

One reason for this sort of error is a lingering impression that the premier league becomes a livelier event or situation when the city giants face difficulties, or are actually

beaten by upcountry teams or less renowned city outfits like Azam FC or at present, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC. It is this sort of impression which could in a way explain a change of mind on the part of a referee not to signal offside when the ball is being lifted to a player situated in front, and then he becomes offside after he has the ball and is rounding off players. It was not his position that worried the referee but when the impression cropped up that he could even score.

Still, while this attitude is puzzling but it apparently exists, it can be said that it is nurtured directly or indirectly by existing culture in the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), in the sense that they look with dislike at foreign players, wishing to limit their recruitment as drastically as they can. In like manner TFF judges - referees - look with dislike at the city archivals with scores of foreign players, wishing to reduce their chances of victory as drastically as they can. It is precisely that same attitude, where TFF targets recruitment of foreign professional players while upcountry clubs target city archivals beefed up by money bagging professional imports.

R&B singer R. Kelly now gets May 2020 trial date in sex abuse case



In this Sept. 17, 2019 file photo, R. Kelly appears during a hearing at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago. A federal judge in New York City has denied bail to the R&B singer his sex-abuse case. Kelly didn't attend the hearing on Wednesday, Oct. 2, on a defense motion asking for his release on bond. (Agencies)

NEW YORK

SINGER R. Kelly will face a May 18 trial on charges that he recruited underage girls and women to have sex with him, isolating them and controlling what they ate and when they went to the bathroom, a U.S. judge ruled on Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly set the date for next year's trial, which had been agreed on by prosecutors and Kelly's lawyers, at a hearing in federal court in Brooklyn.

The 52-year-old R&B singer, known for such hits as "I Believe I Can Fly" and "Bump N' Grind," was arrested in Chicago in July on separate sets of charges brought by federal prosecutors in Brooklyn and Chicago. He has pleaded not guilty.

The singer had denied abuse allegations for decades before the latest charges. In 2008, he was tried on child pornography charges and found not guilty.

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn say Kelly and his entourage invited women and girls backstage after concerts, kept them from friends and family and made them dependent on him financially.

The Chicago prosecutors said Kelly had sexual contact with five minors and recorded sexually explicit videos of some of them. They also accused Kelly of obstructing justice by using threats and bribes, including payments of hundreds of thousands of dollars, to keep his victims quiet.

A trial in Chicago has been scheduled for April 27.

The federal charges were brought after seven women, including his ex-wife, appeared on a Lifetime network television documentary which aired in January and accused him of emotional and sexual abuse.

Kelly has been in jail since his July arrest, despite his lawyers' repeated efforts to have him released on bail. Judges in both Brooklyn and Chicago would need to sign off on his release, and Judge Donnelly on Wednesday refused to do so, saying there was a substantial risk he would flee the country.

In addition to the two federal cases, Kelly is facing charges from state prosecutors in Illinois and Minnesota. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges as well.



Mac Miller

3 charged with providing drugs that killed rapper Mac Miller

LOS ANGELES

THREE men arrested during the investigation into rapper Mac Miller's deadly overdose last year have now been charged with providing the drugs that killed him, U.S. prosecutors said Wednesday.

A grand jury indictment that was unsealed in Los Angeles accuses the men of conspiring and distributing cocaine and oxycodone pills laced with fentanyl that caused Miller's death in September 2018.

Cameron Pettit, 28, of West Hollywood, California; Stephen Walter, 46, of Los Angeles; and Ryan Reavis, 36, of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, were previously charged with drug-related offenses. Wednesday's charges add the allegation

that their drugs led to Miller's death.

Miller, 26, died of an accidental overdose of the powerful opioid fentanyl, along with cocaine and alcohol. Fentanyl has contributed to an epidemic of opioid abuse in the U.S. that has claimed thousands of lives, including those of other musicians, such as Prince.

The men face a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in federal prison and the potential for life without parole if convicted of either of the charges related to Miller's death.

All have been arrested in recent weeks and remain in custody, and none has entered a plea.

Attorneys for Pettit and Walter declined comment. It's unclear whether Reavis

has a lawyer.

Pettit and Walter, who was also charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition, were scheduled to be arraigned on the new charges on Oct. 10. Reavis, who was arrested last week in Arizona, does not have an arraignment date set yet.

The indictment alleges the men continued to distribute drugs through August 2019.

Miller's beats and rhymes, with their frank expressions of drug use and depression, made him a beloved and respected figure among fans, including some of the biggest names in hip-hop.

The Pittsburgh native, whose real name was Malcolm James Myers McCormick, was in a two-year relationship with Ariana Grande that ended earlier in 2018. After his death, the pop star posted a loving video of him on her Instagram page and released a song, "Thank U Next," that affectionately mentioned him.

The indictment alleged that Walter supplied the fentanyl and cocaine that Pettit sold to Miller and that Reavis, who lived in the Los Angeles area until earlier this year, acted as a middleman for the fentanyl sale.

Pettit on Sept. 5, 2018 sold Miller cocaine, Xanax and 10 blue pills that appeared to be oxycodone but contained fentanyl after the two had exchanged text messages a day earlier, according to the indictment.

In the texts, Miller proclaimed his love for oxycodone, or "percs" for the brand name Percocet, and also asks for "bars" of Xanax and a "ball" of cocaine, according to a previous court filing. Miller also asked Pettit, "When can u get em?" according to previous court filings.

Two days later, Miller's assistant found him dead at his Los Angeles home. AP

REUTERS

Klopp now warns Liverpool of Vardy threat as Leicester loom

LONDON

LIVERPOOL'S defence could be ripped to shreds by Leicester City's in-form striker Jamie Vardy in Saturday's Premier League clash if they switch off like they did in the Champions League victory over Salzburg, manager Jurgen Klopp has said.

European champions Liverpool let a three-goal advantage slip at Anfield on Wednesday before Mohamed Salah struck in the 69th minute to seal a 4-3 win over Austria's Salzburg.

"I'm sure Brendan Rodgers thinks if we protect like we did tonight then Jamie Vardy will probably run through five times alone on the goalkeeper," Klopp told reporters.

"Christian Fuchs was here as a pundit and all of the others (Leicester players) were on the sofa and watched the game, so that's slightly different preparation for that game.

"For tonight it's done but the job will be similar on Saturday and we have only three days to recover."

Klopp said that the Premier League leaders had to learn from their mistakes quickly as they prepare to take on third-placed Leicester who have impressed under Rodgers with four wins and two draws from seven games this season.

Vardy, in particular, has thrived since Rodgers took charge of his first match in March, scoring five league goals this season and 14 in 17 matches under the Northern Irishman.

"We'll learn but we have to learn quick. It is not for us that it is completely new, it is usually a strength of ours, but tonight for some reason we didn't show that," Klopp added.

"We have to go again... and that we

showed character, I'm the last one who would be surprised by that."

Meanwhile, Liverpool almost paid the price, in embarrassing fashion, for taking their foot off the gas as they let a three-goal lead slip against Salzburg at Anfield on Wednesday but manager Jurgen Klopp said he felt no anger after this team's 4-3 win.

The European champions played sparkling football as they flew into a 3-0 lead after 36 minutes, but on the hour mark they were pegged back to 3-3 before Mohamed Salah saved their blushes.

"It's better to learn the lessons during the game than talk about it after it," said Klopp, who gave credit to Salzburg's American manager Jesse Marsch for changing their tactics.

"I thought we were outstanding in the first 30 minutes. We did everything they don't like at high speed, scored the three goals and could have scored more.

"Then the Salzburg system changed and we lost the ball so that caused us problems," said the German.

"The momentum changed and it was really difficult to get a foot in the game. We changed for some reason the approach a little bit. Some (players) were in a controlling mode, some in an attacking mode. Some were too hectic," he added.

Still, after losing their opening game at Napoli, Klopp was pleased his team found the resolve to get the three points.

"It was a very important lesson for us to learn. Now we won 4-3, learnt from it and so I am fine. I knew before we have to improve and now everyone knows. We made it more intense than necessary. Three points, game on and now recover," he said. (Agencies)

Messi denies Barcelona rifts after Inter victory

BARCELONA

Lionel Messi insisted on Wednesday there are no problems between him and Antoine Griezmann or between the players and Barcelona's board.

Messi returned from injury to make his second start of the season against Inter Milan in the Champions League as Barca came from behind to win 2-1.

Speaking after the match, Messi was asked about his relationship with Griezmann, who had said on Tuesday it was "difficult" to establish a connection with the Argentine while he had been injured.

"Obviously we have no problem," Messi said. "There is a good relationship with everyone, the dressing room is united. We needed this victory and hopefully now we can kick on and continue in this way."

Luis Suarez scored a sensational

double at Camp Nou and it was Messi that supplied the Uruguayan's 85th-minute winner, with a pass at the end of a weaving run down the right.

Barcelona now sit level on four points with Borussia Dortmund in Group F.

There have also been suggestions of a rift between Barcelona's players and the board, with Gerard Pique implying last weekend that articles critical of the team had come from higher up the club, however Messi denied the relationship had soured.

"We are fine. The important thing is to talk about the triumph of today and against Getafe," he said.

"We have Sevilla now to finish well before the international break. We will try to win it because it creates a mess when there is no football so we want to finish well and go out on a high before the break."

AFP

Ter Stegen on Suarez: He 'shut a lot of mouths'

BARCELONA

MARC-Andre ter Stegen said Barcelona striker Luis Suarez "shut a lot of mouths" with his match-winning performance against Inter Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Suarez, 32, scored twice in the second half as Barca came from behind to beat the Serie A leaders 2-1 at Camp Nou en route to their first win in Europe this season following a goalless draw with Borussia Dortmund last time out.

The Uruguayan's brace came just a week after he was jeered by his own supporters when he was substituted in the win over Villarreal. That match was his third without a goal but he responded with a strike in Saturday's victory at Getafe and spared Barca's blushes against Inter following Lautaro Martinez's early opener.

"Suarez shut a lot of mouths with that performance," Barca goalkeeper Ter Stegen told reporters. "He is always focused, giving his best and fighting hard. We know who we have up there. He's always there to score goals for us when it matters."

Barca are now unbeaten in 33 Champions League games at home and have won their last

three matches in all competitions following a shock defeat at Granada last month.

Tuesday's win was also notable for the return of Lionel Messi. He set up Suarez's second goal as he started for just the second time this season following calf and thigh problems.

Messi hopes that Barca have now turned a corner and can put their worst league start in 25 years behind them, although he conceded the team's preseason tours of Japan and the United States have proved counter-productive.

"We've struggled to get going, but we're getting there in the end," the Argentine international told reporters. "We knew we were in a tough moment but, if we look at it, it's been difficult for all the big teams in Europe because of preseason."

"I don't mean that as a criticism. We're a little out of shape, [on the tours] you don't train as well with the travelling, that's the reality. But it's necessary for the club to organise those type of games. All the big teams do tours and little by little we're re-adapting to the competition."

(Agencies)

Salah saves Liverpool after incredible Salzburg comeback, Suarez downs Inter

PARIS

CHAMPIONS League holders Liverpool came out on top of a 4-3 thriller with Salzburg on Wednesday after throwing away a three-goal lead at Anfield before Mohamed Salah's winner, while Luis Suarez fired Barcelona to a comeback victory over Inter Milan.

Salah won the Group E match for Liverpool with his second of the night in the 69th minute, denying Salzburg a point after teenage sensation Erling Braut Haaland had stunned the Reds when he completed an incredible fightback with his 18th goal of the season.

"When we were winning three, we needed to score a fourth, fifth and sixth. It's a little bit bad because the human mind says 'OK we are going to win this'," Salah told BT Sport.

The hosts looked to be cruising in the 36th minute when Egyptian Salah had added to goals by Sadio Mane and Andy Robertson, but Heechan Hwang's brilliant strike shortly before the break gave Salzburg hope.

Two goals in four second-half minutes from Takumi Minamino and 19-year-old substitute Haaland left the home crowd stunned.

However, Salah spoiled their evening with his sixth goal of the season in all competitions, putting Liverpool level with Salzburg on three points, one behind Napoli after their disappointing goalless draw at Genk.

"They made it a game for us but we are happy to get the three points. That's the most important thing," added Salah.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores their fourth goal against FC Salzburg during their Champions League - Group E match at Anfield in Liverpool, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS/

- Suarez sinks brave Inter -

Suarez saved Barcelona's blushes at the Camp Nou after Lautaro Martinez had scored early for Inter, who then failed to capitalise on their first-half dominance in the Group F clash and lost 2-1.

Barca moved up a gear in the second half and were deservedly level when Suarez crashed home a superb shot just before the hour mark, and the Uruguayan was at his sharpest to win the match with six minutes remaining.

Lionel Messi, a surprise inclusion from the start, suddenly warmed up and skipped past two challenges before laying on Suarez, whose perfect first touch allowed him to sink Inter and draw Barca level

on four points with group leaders Borussia Dortmund.

"Those are a big three points," said Suarez, who has recovered from a frustrating start to the season with three goals in his last two games.

"When you're the number nine, you always try to help the team with goals and assists. Sometimes it doesn't work, but I always work hard. Don't give up in difficult times."

Dortmund came out on top at Slavia Prague thanks to a pair of counter-attacking strikes from Achraf Hakimi, whose clinical finishing led Lucien Favre's side to a 2-0 win in the Czech Republic.

The 20-year-old -- on loan from Real Madrid -- burst onto Julian Brandt's pass in the 35th minute and charged

towards the goal, skipping past Petr Sevcik and goalkeeper Ondrej Kolar before rifling home the opener, and repeated the feat in the 89th minute with a neat left-foot finish that made sure of the win.

- Flamboyant Ajax shine again - Ajax took control of Group H with a big 3-0 success at Valencia that put them top with a perfect six points and showed again that they could yet repeat last season's heroics.

Hakim Ziyech opened the scoring for the Dutch champions with an incredible dipping strike on just eight minutes, and Quincy Promes doubled their lead 11 minutes before half-time with his second in as many Champions League games, punishing Daniel Parejo for smashing a penalty high over the bar.

Donny van de Beek sealed the points for last season's semi-finalists when he finished a beautiful passing move in the 67th minute, putting Erik ten Hag's side three points clear of Valencia and Chelsea, who won a tough encounter at Lille thanks to Willian's 78th-minute volleyed winner.

Tammy Abraham had given Frank Lampard's side a deserved 22nd-minute lead with his first ever Champions League goal before more slack set-piece defending allowed Victor Osimhen to level not long after, but the Ligue 1 outfit are bottom without a point after two defeats.

Zenit St Petersburg top Group G after seeing off Benfica 3-1 in Russia, level on four points with Lyon after their 2-0 win at RB Leipzig.

AFP

Inside Tottenham's collapse: Tensions grow as players question Pochettino's tactics

BY JULIEN LAURENS, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

ONE by one, the Tottenham players left their brand-new stadium late on Tuesday night after the embarrassment of their 7-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League. Groggy and shocked by what had happened to them a few hours earlier, they had stayed in the dressing room for a long time after the final whistle, sitting in quiet contemplation, not really realising what had hit them.

Never in Tottenham's long history had the club conceded seven goals at home in any competition. Bayern taught them a lesson; the Germans were not only more clinical, but also more organised. On the other hand, Spurs were a mess, and once again the flaws that they have been showing since the start of the season appeared. But what went wrong?

Sources have told ESPN FC that tension are high between senior players in the squad, which has been together for about five years. For some of them, there was only one place to go after reaching the Champions League final last season: down.

Others wanted out. Christian Eriksen, for example, failed to orchestrate a move out of the club, while other players have expressed frustration behind the scenes that Spurs didn't sign enough players this summer, with only Tanguy Ndombele, Ryan Sessegnon and Giovanni Lo Celso arriving in North London. Sessegnon has been injured since joining, while Lo Celso has played just 44 minutes in all competitions so far.

The transfer market has created problems between manager Mauricio Pochettino and chairman Daniel Levy and the board. The manager angrily reminded everyone, once more, at the end of July, that he was not in charge of transfer dealings and that he was not a manager as such but more of a head coach.

The players are also questioning their manager's tactics, adding to the tensions.

Sources have told ESPN FC that some senior players are not happy with the tactical systems, starting with the diamond midfield 4-3-1-2, recently used by Pochettino. It enables Son Heung-Min and Harry



Mauricio Pochettino

Kane to play together up front but the midfield is more exposed, as are the flanks, and Spurs have only kept two clean sheets this season (against Crystal Palace and Colchester) in 10 matches in all competitions.

Then there is the flat 4-4-2, also used this season, which left Tottenham too weak in central midfield, as we saw against Arsenal. Against Bayern, Pochettino started with a

4-3-1-2 and then moved to a 4-4-2 after 30 minutes when his team started to struggle. Neither worked. "We get tired too quickly physically when we play with a diamond midfield," Mousa Sissoko admitted on French TV channel RMC Sport on Tuesday night.

The players also don't understand why Pochettino has told them to dial back the pressing, a tactic that was a success last season.

Some of the manager's team selections have not paid off. Dele Alli was picked ahead of Christian Eriksen against Bayern, and also against Olympiakos, but was poor in both encounters. The decision to leave Son on the bench for 73 minutes against the Greeks was also hard to understand.

But not everything so far this season is Pochettino's fault.

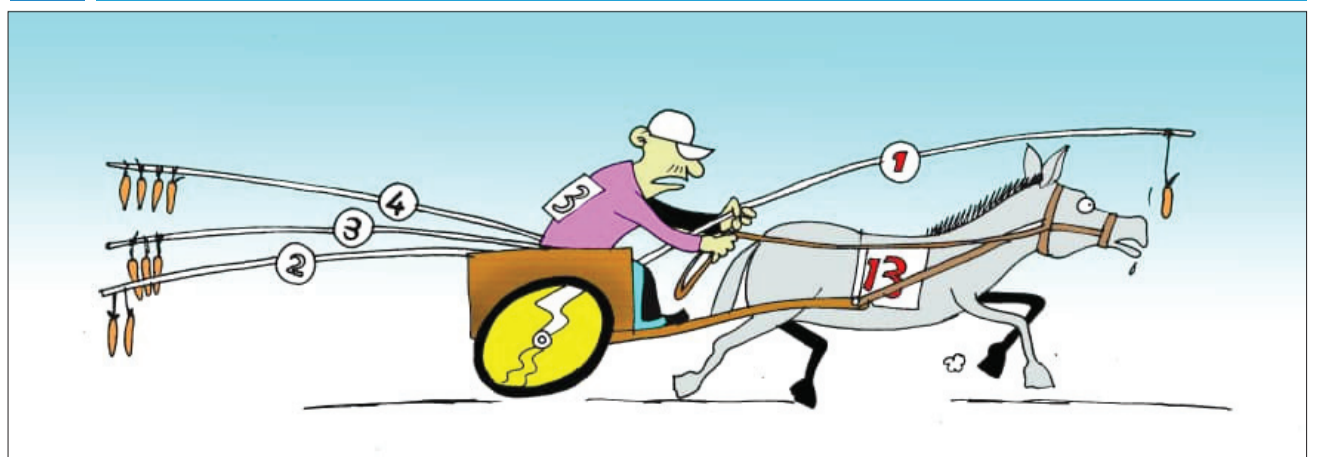
The players have to take some of the blame, and Sissoko lamented after Tuesday's disaster: "We gave up too quickly tonight." But are the tensions in the squad adversely affecting the team on the pitch?

A troubling pattern has emerged this season: the players tend to drop their concentration on either side of half-time. Against Bayern, Spurs conceded a goal in the 45th minute, and then in the 53rd and 55th minutes.

At Arsenal in the Premier League, they went 2-0 up but were caught out by Alexandre Lacazette's goal just before the break and allowed their bitter rivals to snatch a 2-2 draw. Then, two weeks ago, they were up 2-0 against Olympiakos before the Greeks scored in the 44th and 54th minutes to equalise.

Now Pochettino is under even more pressure to find the answers to his team's problems. The players have one more game, away at Brighton on Saturday, before the international break, to put things right. But the battering by Bayern Munich, and its consequences both on and off the pitch, could have a big impact on an already difficult season.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Messi denies Barcelona rifts after Inter victory

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Radio Planet Bongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELKTI
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MUADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL) is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national team forward, Simon Msuva, celebrated his 26th birthday on Wednesday by scoring in Difaa al Jadida's win while youngster, Nickson Kibabage, was handed his competitive debut for the Moroccan club.

Msuva's goal in first-half was enough to give Difaa Hassani Jadida a 1-0 win away against FAR and qualify for the quarter-

Msuva shines, Kibabage makes competitive debut at Jadida



Simon Msuva

finals of the Throne Cup, the Moroccan equivalent of the Federation Cup.

Difaa went into the game

having started the season unconvincingly with three goalless draws in the league and another one in the first leg of the

Throne Cup last 16 round.

But Msuva pulled the iron out of the fire when he tapped home a pass from Mehdi Karnas, giving

Jadida a surprising first win of the campaign.

FAR Rabat desperately fought for an equalizer forcing Msuva teammates to retreat into their half to preserve the scoreline to the final whistle.

Kibabage, who joined Jadida from Tanzania's Mtibwa Sugar earlier this season, got his chance in the second half.

With this results, Jadida have booked a quarterfinal date with CA Khenifra, and with giants Raja Casablanca, Wydad and RS Berkane already out, they will feel they have a good chance of going all the way and ending their six-year trophy drought.

They last won the trophy in 2013 but were losing finalists in 2017.

The other quarter-finals pairings will see surprise package, TAS Casablanca, who are rock bottom in the Morocco's second tier league, play host to IZ Khemisset in an all Botola 2 affair.

MA Tétouan, a home to another Tanzanian professional, Maka Edward, will host RC Oued Zem. IR Tanger versus HUS Agadir clash complete the draws for the last eight stage of the tournament.

Winners of the Throne Cup represent Morocco in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Ismaili Community cricketers lift GP Gymkhana Shield tourney trophy

By Guardian Reporter

ISMAILI Community cricket team were crowned this season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's champions after notching 23-run win over defending champions, Caravans, in a pulsating final which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Dar e Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Cricket Section hosted the competition, with matches taking place at the club's oval.

Ismaili Community team's veteran skipper, Ayzaz Jessani, elected to bat after his side had won the toss with the pitch showing signs of being a batsmen's haven.

They were given a solid start by openers, Jitendra Gariya and Akbar Khan, in the first six overs. Gariya posted 18 runs, which included a four, Khan scored 18 runs, which consisted of three fours.

Khalil Rehemtullah, the outfit's best performer in the semi-finals who batted at number three in the final, was once again in fine form, scoring a quick 50.

His exploits set the stage for a late onslaught by youngster, Harsheed Chohan, who recorded 25 runs not out.

Youngster Abdallah Jabir chipped in with 18 runs and Ismaili Community ended their 20 overs with 151 runs for five wickets.

Caravans started their reply in fine form and were pushing the run rate close to 10 in an over at the start of their innings.

However after hammering Harsheed for three fours in an over, Caravans' Ivan Ismail gave away his wicket, which started the uncertainty within the Caravans squad.

Unfortunately for Caravans, their two in-form players, Ismail and Kassim Nassor, pulled up with match ending injuries which hampered their efforts to chase Ismaili's total.

At one point Caravans were going on well despite the challenges they faced, but a fine over from Ismaili's spinner Aryaan Premji, who was voted the best bowler of the tournament, frustrated the defending champions' chase.

The young bowler took the key wicket of Jitin Singh, who was voted the best player of the tournament.

Singh's dismissal ended all hopes for Caravans, when it came to getting down to successful chase.

Singh was Caravans' top run getter, registering 38 runs which included three fours.

They were eventually bowled out for 128 runs in 19.2 overs. The bowling performance belonged to Malik Alsani, who came of age and bowled an outstanding spell of three overs, 16 runs and five wickets for Ismaili Community team.

His performance eventually won him the man of



Ismaili Community cricket team in a group picture after the final of this season's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Ismaili Community grabbed victory over Caravans in the final to emerge as champions. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

the match prize, as well as catapulting his team to the win.

Athuman Siwa was awarded the tournament's best umpire, Jain Sangh's skipper, Abhik Patwa, got the tournament's best batsman award.

Ashish Shah took the competition's best upcoming

player award.

The DGC Cricket Section Captain Ashish Nagewadia stated that the tournament was a huge success and he was impressed with the quality of cricket played during this year's competition.

He further congratulated

Ismaili Community squad for being crowned champions and applauded Caravans' efforts to book a place in the competition's final for the second consecutive year.

He further appreciated all support given to the tournament by the sponsors.

General Petroleum were the competition's main sponsors, with Premium Refinishes being the event's co-sponsors.

The tournament was also supported by Mgen Tanzania, Sayona Drinks, SBC Tanzania, JayKey Trading, AFRO Turk, ASAR Limited and I&M Bank.

Gymkhana to host social tennis competition

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Tennis Section is tomorrow set to organize a competition, known as Social Mix-in Singles.

Sanjay Chokshi, the DGC Tennis Section Captain, said all is set for the competition.

He said the tournament is mainly meant for adults, but advanced junior players are also encouraged to participate, it is also open to DGC members and non-members.

"As per our promise we are again organizing Social Mix-in Singles tennis tournament, as we all know, it is a fun group activity for anyone at any playing level looking for a fun way to burn calories and interact with each other outside of the gym," he said.

He further said tennis is naturally a social activity.

"Unless you are standing alone on the tennis court, there is at least one other person that you need to interact with," said part of information from Chokshi.

"Playing tennis also changes the way your brain works. When you exercise, your body releases endorphins and serotonin."

Chokshi said there will be awards to be presented to winners.

He said those who are interested can contact DGC offices for more information.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

